

To be loving and genuinely interested often leads to a deepening discussion. Eventually, spiritual hunger exhibits itself and then there is a place to Velcro the gospel in a natural, unobtrusive way. I have seen this happen over and over throughout my life. I do not have the gift of evangelism, but I do hold evangelistic interest as a high value. I am glad those who first shared the gospel with me did as well. Furthermore, I have tried to learn from my mistakes and grow, through practice, at getting better at this very important spiritual discipline. Christianity is missional. All of us are called to let others know they are loved unconditionally by God and that there is no failure in life that he cannot forgive. Context provides opportunity, every day, to the person alert to the heart of God for others we meet in the normal activities of life.

Third, there is friendship evangelism. Many say that contact evangelism and context evangelism is beyond their comfort zone. They prefer to keep their evangelism in the realm of talking with friends. But friendship evangelism also has its challenges. Often, the friendship has grown and developed, sometimes for years, and the topic of spiritual things has never percolated to the surface. In time, the friend may know things about us that makes it seem hypocritical if we bring up the topic. Sometimes, after long silences about these matters, it becomes difficult and awkward to speak about what might have been embarrassing for us to have addressed up until now.

There is one organization, Cru, that has a very effective way to address these circumstances and bring the gospel into the conversation. Simply remark to your friend, *You know, I was thinking about our friendship the other day and I became embarrassed about my failure before you. I have known you for years. I know so much about you: your favorite sports teams, your favorite restaurants, even the names and interests of your children. But I realized we've never talked about spiritual things. I know nothing about your spiritual story. Do you think, sometime, we can talk about this? I'd love to hear your story.*

Cru found that about 90 percent of people respond with, "Yes, we can do that sometime." The next time you have small talk with the friend, don't bring up the topic. But the following time you talk together, recollect that you both thought that "sometime" you might have this conversation so you can hear your friend's spiritual story. Set up a lunch or breakfast appointment and listen. Ask appropriate questions to go deeper. After you hear the story, inevitably you will be asked, "Tell me your story." This provides opportunity to tell of your own pilgrimage to faith. You will be able to connect your story to the felt need in evidence in your friend's story. If you see deep interest, do not be afraid to ask, "Is there any reason why you wouldn't want to trust Christ right now?" If your friend has some obstacle in the way, don't let that be a conversation stopper. Note that it is a worthy objection, question, or conundrum, and ask if he or she would mind if you nosed around to find if there is an answer to the troubling questions. It is likely that he or she will be open to this, and the conversation about spiritual things becomes a thread woven into the fabric of the friendship.

Keep praying. In time, it is likely you will really be doing friendship evangelism. These three types of contexts for evangelism are easily accessible and incredibly fun. I say fun because few things are more enjoyable than being in partnership with the God of the universe and sensing in your life that he is loving others to himself through you.

I pray what you have read and heard today will help you. Please remember what has already been said, "People are looking for better methods but God is just looking for willing people. People are God's method! Romans 10.14-15, *"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*

Tupos

STUDENT MINISTRIES

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES...



Come out to Pioneer Park this Saturday and support Tupos.

Registration @ 8

Run @ 9

Come to run or to cheer.



SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 2018

Morning Worship Service

581 We Have Heard the Joyful Sound

Scripture Reading & Prayer
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
Choir

52 He Leadeth Me!
O Blessed Thought

Glorious Day & Break Every Chain
Guest Speaker - MEL HEAL
285 Wherever He Leads I'll Go

Evening Worship Service

277 Take My Life,
and Let It Be Consecrated
Invocation & Welcome

192 Soon and Very Soon
282 Living for Jesus

Worship Through Testimonies & Prayer
410 It Is Well with My Soul



DANGERS OF
DISOBEDIENCE
Hebrews 3

296 Jesus Is Lord of All

Easter is over but not its impact, we are celebrating Easter every Sunday and everyday, or should be. How can we better share our faith? This is a question I hope this article and today's guest speaker will help with. This was an article in Outreach Magazine last month written by Jerry Root, professor of evangelism at Wheaton College and director of the Evangelism Initiative at the Billy Graham Center for Evangelism. He notes 3 main situations in which evangelism occurs.

First, there is contact evangelism. This is the kind of situation similar to what is depicted in the passage in Acts 17, where it speaks of Paul in Athens talking to anyone he happened to meet in the marketplace. Paul is there to talk to people and share the gospel. Unique to this context is the fact that the one with a heart to share the love of God and his offer of forgiveness in Christ goes out and encounters whoever happens to come by. The context is one of intentionality. This is going to a place like Walmart with the intentional purpose of making a contact and sharing the gospel.

Paul is talking to those he meets also using the signs he observes in the culture. Consequently, he is brought before the intellectuals of Athens as they gather at Mars Hill. Here, Paul's observation of Athenian culture provides further points of contact and he is able to open the door wider, enabling him to share the gospel also in the context of growing curiosity. In this context, it should be noted that the one sharing the gospel is intentional about it. At times, one who has a heart for winning others for Christ may want to ask a complete stranger, "I'm out talking to people about Jesus, would you be willing to talk?" This puts all the cards on the table and gives the person an opportunity to say "Yes" or "No". My personal experience is that approximately 60 percent of the people I ask are willing. I think, in part, the openness is due to two things. First, since Jesus said, "The fields are white unto harvest," (that is, there are people out there who want to know about him), he has already prepared the hearts. So I pray, "Lord, if you are preparing people to hear about you, I am here willing to share about you. Would you be so kind as to lead me to those whose hearts are ready to talk about these things?" If somebody says he or she has no interest, I thank that person for his or her time and move on. Nevertheless, I always find people interested and even eager to talk.

The second reason why I find this is because I believe our culture is spiritually hungry. Our secular society remains by-in-large silent about serious talk about spiritual things. I think Augustine was right when he said, "Our hearts are restless. O God, until they find their rest in Thee." When a person is open to talk, introduce yourself to that person and ask him or her if he or she is a person of faith. Listen to his or her story. Ask God to guide you. When it comes time to actually present the gospel, you will know a little bit about the felt need of this person and can connect the good news at the very place of felt need. Of course, not all are as wired to engage in this method used by both Jesus and Paul, but there are at least two other ways remaining.

Second, there is context evangelism. This occurs when a person finds himself or herself in a context thrown together with another person through circumstance. This might include sitting next to someone on an airplane, riding in a taxi or Uber, or in the waiting room at the doctor's office. In these situations, it is relatively easy to begin a conversation drawing on the context itself for discussion. On a plane, it is travel. In a taxi, it is asking if the driver is from that city, or how long he or she has been driving. Sometimes, you can even ask the person to tell you the story of his or her most unusual driving experience. These are sometimes very funny and open the conversation up. Begin by asking public questions: "What is your name?" "Is this the city where you learned to drive?" Listen to the answers. Any new bit of information gives you permission to ask more deeply about what is disclosed.

Two WILL BECOME *One*
MARK 10:7-8

Happy Anniversary

April 11

James & Cindy Hartley

April 13

Bill & Beth Jernigan



Happy Birthday!

April 13

Roy Shaw

April 14

MaryAnn Wilson

Sunday Services

Nursery.....27
Morning Worship..230

Wednesday Services

Adult Bible Study.....7
Students.....16
GA/RA (elementary).....28
Mission Friends (pre-s).....13
Nursery.....4
Women's Study.....13
Leaders.....18
Total.....99

Giving Record

Budget Needs/Week\$7,056.00
Tithes & Offering\$5,895.00
Difference.....-\$1,161.00
Designated..... \$749.00

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Rev. Christopher M. Bishop - Senior Pastor - 781-5572 (Cell)
Rev. Marc Pollard - Student Pastor - (318) 286-5032 (Cell)
Rev. David E. Radford - Minister of Music - 781-9675 (Cell)

April 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
8 Guest Speaker Mel Heal	9 6pm Stewardship Meeting	10	11 Business Meeting 6:30p	12 Meal Delivery: Cyndi Fischer	13	
15	16 	17	18	19 Meal Delivery: Alma Durrance	20	
22	23	24	25	26 Meal Delivery: Pauline Hendrickson	27	28
REVIVAL Rev. Robert Roberts						
29	30	1 <i>May</i>	2	 Meal Delivery: MaryAnn Wilson	4	5
6	7 7pm Deacon's Meeting	8 House & Grounds Meeting 7PM	9	10 Meal Delivery: Sue Mannery	11	12

COUNTING COMMITTEE - APRIL 2018
Talmadge Albritton, Sheena Benbow, Alecia Hughes

WEEKLY CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Sundays

9:30 A.M. Media Center Open
9:45 A.M. Sunday School - Education Building
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship Service - Sanctuary
Kids' Church K-5
6:30 P.M. Evening Worship - Sanctuary

Wednesday

5:00 P.M. Women's Bible Study
6:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Live (TUPOS)
G.A.'s, R.A.'s, Mission Friends - Kids Bldg.
Women's Bible Study
Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study - Ed. Bldg.

USHERS OF THE WEEK

Winston Smith
Kole Robertson
Matt Chapman
Binky Graham

DEACON OF THE WEEK

April 8-14
Daniel Moore 781-1565
April 15-21
Bobby Calves 381-6921



If you're visiting us for the first time, we invite you to fill out a visitor packet in the pew in front of you and drop it in the offering plate.
We're so glad you're here!

REVIVAL

Saturday, April 21st

6pm - Fish Fry

Sunday, April 22nd

9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship Service
12:15pm Dinner
6:30pm Evening Worship

Mon-Wed, April 23-25

6:00pm Dinner
7:00pm Revival Services



100%
of your gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering* supports North American missionaries.

Raised to date \$1,340.00

OUR GOAL: \$2,500

