



Greater Sydney SDA Conference Re-Thinking Evangelism

Evangelism is a process of sowing, cultivating and harvesting.

Evangelism is not complete until the converted are multiplying

Learn to exegete our culture

'Connecting people to the harvest does more for evangelism than all the training events in the world' *Bob Logan*

Small groups provide a place to find encouragement for evangelism and a place to bring those you are reaching.

Look at your ministry flowchart and pay special attention to those ministries that relate to pre-evangelism, evangelism and assimilation

Evaluate your current effectiveness

- Which activities are working well?
- What functions are missing?
- What needs improvement?

Steps Toward Instilling Evangelistic Values

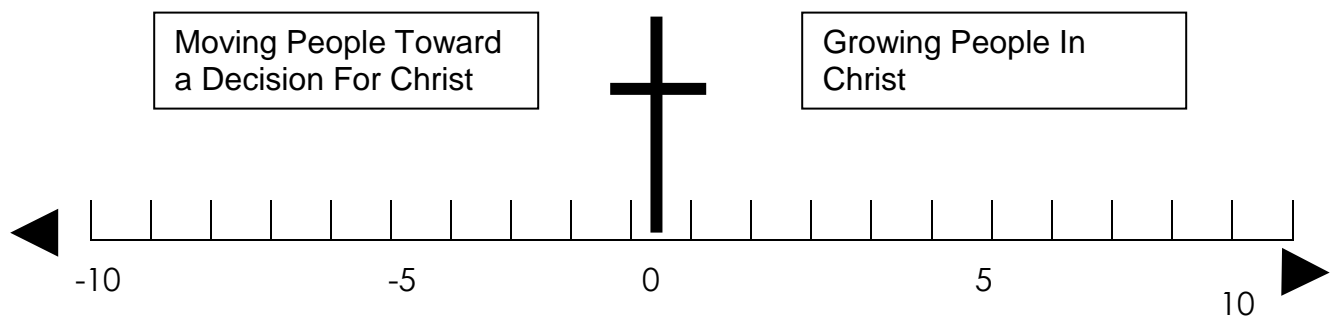
1. Pray for it
2. Lead it
3. Teach it
4. Illustrate it
5. Study and discuss it
6. Disciple it – Need to be involved in direct discipling of others
7. Inspire it
8. Personalize it – People need to see the issue on a personal level, see how evangelizing will affect the people they care about.
9. Fund it
10. Schedule it – Scheduling rooms and time slots for outreach –oriented prayer times, training, seminars, strategy sessions, team meetings, outreach events, even seeker services. Going on trips to attend effective churches and ministries, or attend vision lifting conferences and workshops.
11. Measure it – If you can't measure it, you can't manage it!
12. Reinforce it – reinforce the good things that are happening

13. Celebrate it

Elements for building a contagious church

1. Leaders fully committed to the church's evangelistic mission
2. Willingness to try fresh approaches
3. Participation of the entire church body
4. Alignment of the ministries to the church's evangelistic mission
5. Strategic co-ordination of all outreach activities
6. Sustained effort
7. Unswerving devotion to Christ and His message
8. Commitment to prayer and the role of the Holy Spirit

Satan would rather keep us busy doing anything in the world other than building a contagious church.



Steve Sjogren gives the following list of words that describe traditional evangelism in relation to an approach that is more needs-oriented. Keep in mind that the traditional approach still has its place in the process.

Monologue... ...Dialogue
Compelling Proof... ...Compelling Story
Presentations... ...Conversations
Words... ...Images
Our Language... ...Their Language
Us/Them... ... Fellow Travellers
Fishing from the bank... ...Swimming with the fish
Believe to belong... ...Belong before believing
Event driven... ...Context driven
Come and see... ...Go and be
Scripted... ...Spontaneous
Winning... ...Nudging
Gospel presentations... ...Gospel experiences
(Sjogren, Ping and Pollock - *Irresistible Evangelism*, 55)

Finding a person's spiritual address

The messages that are likely to get through to a person's heart are those that are addressed to that person's individual needs. At different points serving or friendship are the primary points and if met will allow the process to move on toward spiritual needs. Sjogren, Ping and Pollock in their book *Irresistible Evangelism* outline four needs and basic approaches to meet them.

1. Physical Needs – Active Kindness

This involves demonstrating God's love by offering to do humble acts of service, in Christ's name, with no strings attached."

2. Emotional/Relational Needs – Active Listening

This is all about genuine friendship and taking an active interest in someone's life. Taking time to understand people opens doors.

3. Directional Needs – Active Wondering

Taking the time to find out about a person, their hopes, dreams and how they view the world.

4. Spiritual Needs – Active Sharing

This is where you can have spiritual conversations and explain how God has worked in your life.

Think of these skill sets in terms of a written address with 1 being the area, 2 being the street, 3 being the number, and 4 being the name on the envelope. When the process is worked through in this way the message people get from God, through you, is much more likely to be received and opened.

"The trick of delivering God's mail to a person's spiritual address is really no trick at all; it's mostly a matter of caring enough to treat people with the kindness and respect we desire for ourselves. If you keep in mind the apostle James' advice to be 'quick to listen and slow to speak (James 1:19) you will see doors open.'" (Sjogren, Ping and Pollock, *Irresistible Evangelism*, 70)

Reflection

What aspects of your ministry could stand in the way of people responding to the Gospel?

Who are the unchurched people you rub shoulders with on a regular basis? How will you cultivate redemptive relationships with them?

What prevents you from effectively building relationships with unchurched people?

How can you help people build relationships with pre-Christians?

In what ways are you helping new converts reach their network of friends, relatives and associates?

What is the place of prayer in your evangelistic efforts?

Useful Books for Re-thinking Evangelism

Dickson, John. *Promoting The Gospel*, Blue Bottle, 2005.

Gladden, Ron. *The 7 Habits of Ineffective Churches*, AdventSource 2004

Haffner, Karl. *Out of the Hot Tub, into the World*, Pacific Press, 2002

Hybels, Bill. *Walk Across The Room?*, Zondervan, 2006

McManus, Erwin. *An Unstoppable Force*, Group, 2001

Mittelberg, Mark, et.al., *Becoming a Contagious Christian (Participant's Guide)*, 1995

Paulien, Jon. *Present Truth in the Real World*, Pacific Press, 1993

Sjogren, Steve. Ping, Dave and Pollock, Doug. - *Irresistible Evangelism* Group 2004