

ME-5001 FOUNDATIONS OF EVANGELISM

Wi/Sp Semester 2008, Tuesdays, 5:30—8:00pm
Jay Halley, DMin (Sr Assoc Pastor, The Chapel)

COURSE SYLLABUS

A. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To examine the biblical/theological foundations of evangelism.
2. To learn how to present the gospel effectively in a variety of contexts and as a way of life.
3. To understand the role of the individual, the local church and the church leader in evangelistic efforts.
4. To gain the ability to integrate evangelism into the broader scope of making disciples.
5. To examine and appreciate opportunities for outreach in the context of post-modernity.
6. To exit the class with a healthy mindset and effective methods...in balance.

B. METHOD OF STUDY

1. “Small group” interaction and a form of accountability.
2. Discussion-oriented classroom presentations.
3. Reading of the Bible, articles, book excerpts and books on evangelism.
4. Evangelism in the field. “Learning by doing.”

C. READING

1. Required:

Kimball, Dan. 2007. *They like Jesus but not the church: insights from emerging generations*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. (272 pages)

THIRD BOOK TO BE READ FOR CLASS

Packer, J.I. 1981. *Evangelism and the sovereignty of God*. Downers Grove: IVP. (120 pages)

FIRST BOOK TO BE READ FOR CLASS

Petersen, Jim and Mike Shamy. 2003. *The insider: Bringing the kingdom of God into your every day world*. Colorado Springs: NavPress. (232 pages)

FOURTH BOOK TO BE READ FOR CLASS

Pritchard, Ray. 2000. *An Anchor for the soul*. Chicago: Moody Press. (144 pages)

SECOND BOOK TO BE READ FOR CLASS

2. Other really good books to read but *not* required:

- Barna, George. 2005. *Revolution: finding vibrant faith beyond the walls of the sanctuary*. Tyndale House Publishers.
- Carson, D.A. (ed) 2000. *Telling the truth: Evangelizing postmoderns*. Grand Rapids, Zondervan.
- _____. 1996. *The gagging of God: Christianity confronts pluralism*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- Chamberlain, Paul. 1996. *Can we be good without God?* Downers Grove: IVP.
- Donahue, Bill and Russ Robinson. 2002. *The seven deadly sins of small group ministry: A troubleshooting guide for church leaders*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- Downs, Tim. 1999. *Finding common ground: How to communicate with those outside the Christian community--while we still can*. Chicago: Moody Press.
- Evans, C. Stephen. 1996. *Why believe? Reason and mystery as pointers to God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Gorman, Julie. 2002. *Community that is Christian: A handbook on small groups*. Grand Rapids: Baker.
- Green, Michael. 1987. *Evangelism in the early church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Hull, Bill. 1990. *The disciple making church*. Old Tappan: Fleming H. Revell Company.
- Jacks, Bob and Betty Jacks. 1986. *Your home, A lighthouse*. Colorado Springs: NavPress.
- Barna, George. 2005. *Revolution: finding vibrant faith beyond the walls of the sanctuary*. Tyndale House Publishers.
- Carson, D.A. (ed) 2000. *Telling the truth: Evangelizing postmoderns*. Grand Rapids, Zondervan.
- _____. 1996. *The gagging of God: Christianity confronts pluralism*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- Chamberlain, Paul. 1996. *Can we be good without God?* Downers Grove: IVP.
- Donahue, Bill and Russ Robinson. 2002. *The seven deadly sins of small group ministry: A troubleshooting guide for church leaders*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- Downs, Tim. 1999. *Finding common ground: How to communicate with those outside the Christian community--while we still can*. Chicago: Moody Press.
- Evans, C. Stephen. 1996. *Why believe? Reason and mystery as pointers to God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Gorman, Julie. 2002. *Community that is Christian: A handbook on small groups*. Grand Rapids: Baker.
- Green, Michael. 1987. *Evangelism in the early church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Hull, Bill. 1990. *The disciple making church*. Old Tappan: Fleming H. Revell Company.
- Jacks, Bob and Betty Jacks. 1986. *Your home, A lighthouse*. Colorado Springs: NavPress.

- Larimore, Walt and William Carr Peel. 2003. *Going public with your faith: becoming a spiritual influence at work*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- Mittelberg, Mark. 2000. *Becoming a contagious church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- Newman, Randy. 2004. *Questioning evangelism: engaging people's hearts the way Jesus did*. Grand Rapids: Kregel.
- Pollard, Nick. 1997. *Evangelism made slightly less difficult*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Pritchard, Ray. 2000. *An anchor for the soul: Help for the present, hope for the future*. Chicago: Moody.
- Rainer, Thom S. 2003. *The unchurched next door*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- Stott, John R. W. 1964. *Basic christianity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- _____. 1975. *Christian mission in the modern world*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- _____. 1969. *Our guilty silence*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
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- Larimore, Walt and William Carr Peel. 2003. *Going public with your faith: becoming a spiritual influence at work*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- Larson, Knute. 1997. *The ABF book*. Akron: Chapel Press.
- Mittelberg, Mark. 2000. *Becoming a contagious church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- Newman, Randy. 2004. *Questioning evangelism: engaging people's hearts the way Jesus did*. Grand Rapids: Kregel.
- Pollard, Nick. 1997. *Evangelism made slightly less difficult*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Pritchard, Ray. 2000. *An anchor for the soul: Help for the present, hope for the future*. Chicago: Moody.
- Rainer, Thom S. 2003. *The unchurched next door*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- Stott, John R. W. 1964. *Basic christianity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- _____. 1975. *Christian mission in the modern world*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- _____. 1969. *Our guilty silence*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

D. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS/REQUIREMENTS

1. Initiative evangelism contacts (20%)

To be discussed (See Appendix A)

2. Assigned reading (5%)

The student, at the start of certain classes, will simply acknowledge that the assigned reading has been completed in full. The class will interact on assigned readings during class.

3. Class attendance and participation (10%)

Because of the nature of this class and the way it is structured, the student must come to class ready to participate in discussions. The best way to make this happen is for the student to come with all reading and evangelism assignments fully accomplished. Notation will be made of each student's full *attendance* and thoughtful *interaction*.

4. Personal story (5%)

We live in a culture that loves a good story. Combining a personal story with God's story is a powerful sharing tool. The student will be asked to prepare and present a four-minute personal story according to guidelines provided in class. The story should be written for the ears of your Sunday morning church service. (Because of class time and other considerations, exceeding four minutes will detract from the grade.) Write it out according to guidelines given—*then time yourself*.

5. Packer (5%)

Read Packer carefully. One page with three observations made from the book. Be prepared to share.

6. Pritchard (10%)

Provide a one-page paper that gives one aspect of the book that helped you most in understanding the gospel story *and* one aspect of the book that will likely help you in communicating the gospel to others.

7. Petersen/Shamy (15%)

Read, then provide a three to four page plan on what must happen in your own life for the "insider" mentality and practices to take place. Answer questions such as: What must I change in the way I think...spend my time...look at people...look at God...look at myself? What should I put into place now to make this a reality in my life? That is, how will I live my life in mindset and method as a result of reading this book?

8. Kimball (10%)

How has this book opened your eyes to the mindset of the unchurched and to the role of the local church and individual believer in reaching them? Three pages.

9. Tools/Concepts Test (20%)

Appendix A

Initiative Evangelism Report # 1

Name: _____ Date _____

1. CONTEXT

- A. Person(s) shared with: _____ Location: _____
- B. Accompanied by: _____ alone
- C. This outreach opportunity came about as a result of:
 - an appointment (explain) _____
 - a referral (explain) _____
 - a "way of life" situation (explain) _____
 - talking with individuals "at random" other: _____

2. INTERACTION

- A. What did you learn about this person?

- B. How did you transition into the gospel?

- C. Evangelistic tool/specific gospel presentation used: _____
- D. In your opinion, how clear was your explanation of the gospel message?
clear as mud 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 crystal clear
- E. What key issues and/or questions surfaced during your conversation?

- F. How did you address them?

- G. complete/thorough presentation.
 I did not give a complete presentation because: _____

- H. We had a Christ-centered religious discussion, but I did not present the gospel.

3. CONCLUSION

- A. I called for a decision.
 I did not call for a decision because: _____

- B. Response:

- C. If the person did not respond positively, what do you think is preventing him/her from receiving Christ?

- D. What plans did you make to talk again?

4. SELF-EVALUATION (include your partner's thoughts)

- A. What did you do well?

- B. What would you do differently?

Appendix A

Initiative Evangelism Report # 2

Name: _____ Date _____

1. CONTEXT

- A. Person(s) shared with: _____ Location: _____
- B. Accompanied by: _____ alone
- C. This outreach opportunity came about as a result of:
 - an appointment (explain) _____
 - a referral (explain) _____
 - a "way of life" situation (explain) _____
 - talking with individuals "at random" other: _____

2. INTERACTION

- A. What did you learn about this person?

- B. How did you transition into the gospel?

- C. Evangelistic tool/specific gospel presentation used: _____
- D. In your opinion, how clear was your explanation of the gospel message?
clear as mud 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 crystal clear
- E. What key issues and/or questions surfaced during your conversation?

- F. How did you address them?

- G. complete/thorough presentation.
 I did not give a complete presentation because: _____

- H. We had a Christ-centered religious discussion, but I did not present the gospel.

3. CONCLUSION

- A. I called for a decision.
 I did not call for a decision because: _____

- B. Response:

- C. If the person did not respond positively, what do you think is preventing him/her from receiving Christ?

- D. What plans did you make to talk again?

4. SELF-EVALUATION (include your partner's thoughts)

- A. What did you do well?

- B. What would you do differently?

Appendix A

Initiative Evangelism Report # 3

Name: _____ Date _____

1. CONTEXT

- A. Person(s) shared with: _____ Location: _____
- B. Accompanied by: _____ alone
- C. This outreach opportunity came about as a result of:
 - an appointment (explain) _____
 - a referral (explain) _____
 - a "way of life" situation (explain) _____
 - talking with individuals "at random" other: _____

2. INTERACTION

- A. What did you learn about this person?

- B. How did you transition into the gospel?

- C. Evangelistic tool/specific gospel presentation used: _____
- D. In your opinion, how clear was your explanation of the gospel message?
clear as mud 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 crystal clear
- E. What key issues and/or questions surfaced during your conversation?

- F. How did you address them?

- G. complete/thorough presentation.
 I did not give a complete presentation because: _____

- H. We had a Christ-centered religious discussion, but I did not present the gospel.

3. CONCLUSION

- A. I called for a decision.
 I did not call for a decision because: _____

- B. Response:

- C. If the person did not respond positively, what do you think is preventing him/her from receiving Christ?

- D. What plans did you make to talk again?

4. SELF-EVALUATION (include your partner's thoughts)

- A. What did you do well?

- B. What would you do differently?