

World Evangelism

**Mobilizing the Local Church to
Impact the Global World**



Louis van der Vyver

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Rom 10:13-15

King James Version

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

William Tyndale 1526 Translation

For whosoever shall call on the name of the lorde shalbe safe. Howe shall they call on hym, on whom they beleved not? How shall they beleve on hym off whom they have nott herde? Howe shall they heare with out a preacher? And howe shall they preach except they be sent? As hit is written: howe beautifull are the fete of them which brynge glad tydynges of peace, and brynge glad tydynges of good thynges.

French Louis Segond

Car quiconque invoquera le nom du Seigneur sera sauvé. Comment donc invoqueront-ils celui en qui ils n'ont pas cru? Et comment croiront-ils en celui dont ils n'ont pas entendu parler? Et comment en entendront-ils parler, s'il n'y a personne qui prêche? Et comment y aura-t-il des prédicateurs, s'ils ne sont pas envoyés? selon qu'il est écrit: Qu'ils sont beaux Les pieds de ceux qui annoncent la paix, De ceux qui annoncent de bonnes nouvelles!

German Luther Bible

Denn "wer den Namen des HERRN wird anrufen, soll selig werden." Wie sollen sie aber den anrufen, an den sie nicht glauben? Wie sollen sie aber an den glauben, von dem sie nichts gehört haben? Wie sollen sie aber hören ohne Prediger? Wie sollen sie aber predigen, wo sie nicht gesandt werden? Wie denn geschrieben steht: "Wie lieblich sich die Füße derer, die den Frieden verkündigen, die das Gute verkündigen!"

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Introduction

HOW CAN WE, in a world that is getting smaller and smaller, mobilize the Local Church to have an impact on the world? How can the Local Church be more effective to make a difference in this world? How can we get the attention of people that need God? In a world that is moving so fast, people are so busy and it is getting harder and more difficult to get the attention of people.

Ask yourself the question: Are many of the things that I do to keep myself busy in life, really so important. The worries of life and the worries about tomorrow and the future can keep one so busy that you can miss the things that are really important. If we believe the Bible and things that are written in the Bible, we should act and do what the Bible says. The Bible also makes it clear that, where your treasure is, there your heart will also be. (Mat 6:21) The danger is that we are so busy with the unimportant things, that the important things are almost pushed out of the way. The reality is that most of the intrinsic value of what we do, what we work for and try to protect, is very low. The everlasting value of that which is urgent and important to us, is often very low. It is important to us to save up for the future, to work and earn a great salary and to be able to buy a house and nice clothes and, of course, a new car. But all these things are mostly like chasing wind and the value is soon gone. When we die and are buried, what will we really have attained?

Will our walk on this earth really be of any eternal significance? Will all our labour just be like emptying a glass of water on dry desert soil? Will our lives be like a flash of lightning that was only for a moment and then it is no more - without a definite purpose, without any impact and empty of any real meaning? Will all the time that we lived, be time that was wasted? Will the time that we have spent on earth be meaningful and would it make a difference for this generation and possibly for the generations to come. The best investment that you can make, is an investment in people. By impacting and changing another person's life with the power of the simple Gospel message, is one of the greatest things you can do. The immediate results are not always so visible, but the impact can change individuals, families, cities and even nations. It is the only thing that will last, it is the only thing that has real meaning and purpose and an everlasting reward.

The Beginning

I T ALL STARTS with the individual. It starts with you and me. God's plan is to do a work in you, so that he can use you as a tool in His hands. If a tool wants to follow its own way and do its own thing, how do you handle a tool like that? There is a lot that God wants to do in us to be able to use us better. Most of us are not willing to surrender to God. To really follow God, is to surrender and to be willing to follow Him, no matter what the cost. To follow Jesus, like

the disciples of old followed Jesus on earth, means you must surrender and be willing to die to yourself, be willing to die to what you want, and be willing to sacrifice. You will have to be willing to walk against all that the world, the systems of the world and even unsaved family and friends may tell you. You will have to be totally committed to God, totally committed to listening to Him and be radical in obeying the voice of God; not to obey your own desires, your own lusts, but only to obey God.

What Can the Local Church Do?

THE LOCAL CHURCH is a group of believers that comes together with the purpose to make a difference in a broken world. No Local Church is perfect. But we can learn something from all people, even from a little child, and therefore all churches and denominations that believe in the basic truths of the Bible, are relevant. How can the Local Church be the best Local Church and impact the world in the most effective way? How can we bring the lion of Judah into action, even if the lion is very sleepy? How can we mobilize the soldier that is resting somewhere in every believer? How can we come together as a mighty army and fulfil the purpose that God has for us: for the individual, for the family, for the church, the city,

every country and for the whole body of Christ walking on this earth. There is almost always some kind of intervention needed to take action. To invade another kingdom you need some kind of plan, soldiers that are ready and trained. At some stage the army must be mobilized and brought into action.

How can we do the will of God and mobilize without just doing our own thing? God wants to use every believer. Every believer should and can play a role. The roles may be different, but there is a place and purpose for everyone. If the individual is available, God will use him. If the Local Church is ready and open, God will use it. If the people in a nation are ready and open to obey God, nothing is impossible.

How Can the Local Church Walk in God's Purposes?

IT'S EASY TO TELL people what to do and sometimes it's difficult to explain how to do it, but the most difficult part is to do it yourself. It is easy to talk and talk, but in times like these, action is needed. To stop evil and all the negative, God gave us authority that is opened when speaking and declaring the truth. Preaching the Gospel, is telling people about what Jesus did and who God really is. We can all play a part to make Jesus a reality in the lives of other people. The Word

of God and the message of the Gospel can be a greater reality than the physical world, but it only becomes a reality to the individual when the Gospel is preached and something happens in the heart of that individual.

To be able to tell someone about a saviour called Jesus, we sometimes must create opportunities to be able to do so. It is only when we, like Paul and Peter are available and GO and walk out in the streets, that God can place someone on your heart. There are many ways that the Local Church can create opportunities to mobilize believers to move out and make an impact in the world. There are no excuses why the smallest Local Church cannot cause a big impact. There are no excuses why a small Local Church cannot impact a foreign nation. There are no excuses, because with God on our side, all things are possible. With God's help and guidance, we can make an impact in a way impossible for the human mind to preconceive.

How Can We Create Opportunities to Evangelize?

I **F WE DO** nothing, the result will bring forth nothing. With nothing you can do nothing and in the end your life will mean nothing. Nobody wants to be called a nothing, so let's trust and seek God and let our lives have meaning and purpose by doing something worthwhile.

There are many ways that we can create a platform or use a situation so that we can spread the Gospel message. With a bit of imagination and inspiration from the Holy Spirit, each one of us can be a love warrior in Christ, ready for action.

The following is a short list of ways how we can impact our world:

- Start an outreach team that travels to a needy country once a year.
 - Use balloon modelling as an evangelism tool.
 - Use puppets to minister to children.
 - Start a ministry team to reach older people.
 - Start an evangelism team to do street work.
 - Start a Muslim Evangelism action.
 - Start a ministry to support the poor and homeless.
 - Run a soup kitchen.
 - Adopt a country and pray for that country.
 - Start a Bible study group in your neighbourhood.
 - A Local Church can start a skills development project.
 - Adopt a poor congregation somewhere in Africa and support it.
 - Visit a poor country as a spiritual team.
 - Start a drama and mime evangelism team.
 - A Local Church can start a church-planting project.
 - Use small planes to drop pamphlets/tracts over cities in closed countries.
 - Send pamphlets/tracts in food parcels to starving communities.
 - Send pamphlets and tracts through the post to closed countries.
-

From the list we can see that team ministry is important. Teams going out or travelling to another country can make a great impact. One person can only do so much, but a team that moves out and starts to build relationships can have an everlasting and far more effective impact. By moving out from the Local Church, that church can become the mission's instrument that God has purposed it to be.

Evangelism: Pas pour moi!

(Not for me!)

WHENEVER I SPEAK to people about evangelism, I get a reaction like: It is not for me! I just cannot do it! For most of us just the idea of sharing the Gospel with someone is outside our comfort zone. To speak to a person you don't know and to tell him about Jesus is even more frightening.

The secret when you start with evangelism, is not to allow people to force you into sharing. Start out by just going out in a group. We don't have to start by sharing, just observe, learn and support. Evangelism, like so many other spiritual disciplines, is something that you learn by practicing.

We can definitely disciple and inspire Christians to become more evangelistic, effective and fruitful. There are also many ways that you can just be available and don't have to confront people openly. Many a time, if we just go out and are available, God will send someone across our path that will ask us a biblical or God-related question. We can also learn from Jesus who had a way of speaking to people, using the physical to explain the spiritual. A great example of an evangelist in action is Jesus and his conversation with the woman at the well in John 4. Jesus started in the natural, with the water in the well. He then took it further and explained the spiritual, by using the water as symbol of living water, explaining the Holy Spirit.

Evangelism should not be forced. It should be comfortable like a conversation between two friends. If you can speak to people and friends, you can evangelize. If you can have a conversation or enjoy conversation, you can evangelize. The more you do it, the easier it becomes.

To overcome our fear, we can start by giving out a good biblical based tract or pamphlet. In many cases the written word is just as powerful a witness as the spoken word. The use of the written word is totally underutilised as an evangelism tool. For example, if you live in a housing complex, you can start by handing out a pamphlet or tract to every house in the complex. God is not always looking for a major ability, but for availability. By starting where you are, you can make a difference and have an impact.

Some of the main reasons for our inability and unwillingness to evangelize, are because we are selfish, self-seeking, insecure and fear-stricken. The result is that we are disobedient in becoming the witnesses that the Gospel commands us to be. The problem is that we all just love to sit on the Gospel, keeping it to ourselves, and also that the greater percentage of our Gospel-preaching is focused on believers. Are we seeking the visible in-front-of-people ministry, or are we truly following Christ by going out and reaching out to people where they are? There is a place to teach and disciple the believers, and it is good and must happen, but there is also a greater need to go into the world and tell people about a Saviour whom they desperately need. There should be more preaching in bars, on flea markets, in the streets and perhaps less preaching to fat, over preached believers. Sometimes we need less services and more service by going out into the streets, the highways and the byways. The following words of Jesus are still true today: “The labourers are few”. (Luke 10:2)

Look at the prostitute on the street corner! Look at all the young people partying and drinking till early morning! Look at the world that still needs a Saviour! Let’s be open and allow the Love of God to motivate us. If you are a believer and are filled with the Holy Spirit, you have no excuse not to evangelize. Even if your personality, shyness or inability to speak make it impossible, the Holy Spirit in you can give you the words, the wisdom and the ability to speak. God only needs a willing and available vessel and tool in His hand. If God can use a donkey, He certainly can use you and me. We must decide if we are willing to be available and obedient. Every Christian should be a witness! Every Christian should at least be a “little evangelist”!

Evangelism Techniques

FOR MOST PEOPLE it is difficult to share the Gospel. Most of us need some kind of help to be able to share the message that Jesus Christ died on the cross as the Saviour for our sins. The following are some evangelism techniques that could be a help to share the Gospel with someone else. These techniques are like a modern day parable. You use something known as a symbol, to explain the Gospel. The physical is used to explain the spiritual. The techniques sometimes just help to get the attention of a person. Once we have it is easier to share. But it is never the technique that works, but the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit enabling us to speak into the hearts and the lives of people. When you speak into the heart of someone, you don't have to convince him or her, as the Power of God does something in the heart of the person. It brings forth a change that you cannot do in your own strength. Remember that salvation is often a process in the life of an individual and not always just the perfect ending to a simple prayer.

Use the South African Flag to Share the Gospel

THE SOUTH AFRICAN FLAG is a great visual tool that can be used to explain the Gospel. You can approach a person by asking if he or she knows the meaning of the different colours of the South African flag. The flag helps you to get the attention of a person.



Yellow: God created heaven and earth and saw it was good.

Black: Through the choice of man, sin and darkness came in the world.
Rom 3:23 All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Because of man's sin, we live in a broken world.

Red: Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood for our sins. Repent, turn away from a sinful life and believe and trust in Jesus as your saviour.

White: Through the death of Jesus, all our sins are washed away and we become as white as snow. Joh 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Blue: The Holy Spirit is our helper. We are filled with the Holy Spirit so that we can live holy lives and become a witness to the reality and goodness of God.

Green: Growth - To grow in your spiritual life you need to:

- Pray
- Read your Bible
- Have fellowship with other Christians
- Witness to others.

Wordless Book

THE WORDLESS BOOK is a book with no words, but with only gold (or yellow), black, red, white, blue and green blank pages. The wordless book is used to explain the gospel to children, but works just as good on adults. The wordless book is used in the same way as the South African Flag. You can make your own wordless book with normal coloured 160g board.

Rope Tricks

THERE ARE DIFFERENT rope tricks that can be used as a visual aid to preach the Gospel and to evangelize. For the following rope trick you need three pieces of rope: short, a medium and a long rope.



You can ask a person if you can introduce him to your three friends. You then take out the short rope and call him Mr Little Sinner. You then explain that Mr Little Sinner is not such a bad guy. He doesn't sin too much. You then explain that you want to ask Mr Little Sinner a question. Then look at Mr Little Sinner and ask him: Mr Little Sinner, if you die today, do you know what will happen to you?

Then hold Mr Little Sinner against your ear as if you are listening to him. Then explain that Mr Little Sinner is saying that he will definitely go to heaven. He doesn't sin so much and he is a good person.

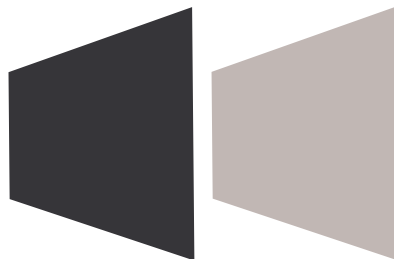
Next take the medium length rope and introduce him as Mr Medium Sinner. Ask Mr Medium Sinner the same question and also listen to his response. Then explain that Mr Medium Sinner is not quite sure what will happen to him. He made some stupid mistakes and he just doesn't know if he would go to heaven.

Lastly take the long rope and introduce him as Mr Big Sinner. Also ask Mr Big Sinner what will happen to him when he dies. Listen to Mr Big Sinner by placing him next to your ear. Respond as if what he said, shocked you and then explain that Mr Big Sinner said that he will definitely go to hell and he will meet all his old friends there.

Next explain that it doesn't matter if we are a small, a medium or a big sinner, we all need Jesus as our Saviour. It is not by works or just by being a good person that we can be saved, but only by accepting and believing in Jesus as our Saviour.

Which one is Bigger?

CUT TWO SHAPES as shown below out of coloured carton. The shapes should be exactly the same size.



The shape on the left always looks bigger than the one on the right. These two shapes can be used to approach people in the street. Just walk

up to someone and ask the person which one is bigger (holding the two pieces as above). If the person points to the left black shape, move the grey shape to the left. Ask the person again which one is bigger. This time the grey shape will look bigger

Then place the two shapes over each other and show the person they are the same size. Next explain that, in the same way when God looks at us, we all are the same and we all need a Saviour.

Jesus Film

THE JESUS FILM is an amazing tool that can be used in evangelism. In an open-air meeting, people will walk past, stop and be drawn to the movie. The movie is available in many languages on video projector, video, DVD, etc. The Jesus Film is the story of Jesus according to the Gospel of Luke. The film is used all over the world in a very effective way to impact the lives of people. Normally the film is shown and afterwards an invitation is made to accept Jesus as Saviour. The Jesus Film is used very effectively in Africa where people don't always get the opportunity to go to the cinema. The film can be screened in open air, in a tent or a building if available. The advantage of open-air showing is that people that walk past would just stop and watch a free movie.

People don't always want to come to church services, but a movie draws a crowd and during or at the end of the movie the people can be challenged to follow and serve God. When you work in teams, people can be sent out to evangelize and invite people to the film. We showed the Jesus film in Sunnyside, Pretoria, and it was wonderful to see the kind of people that reacted to the movie and the invitation afterwards: people from different parts of Africa, who had never heard the Gospel before, a lady who worked at a strip club was reached, and many more. We showed the Jesus Film once in Botswana and night after night the tent was filled with people who came to watch. After showing the Jesus Film in a squatter camp, the local pastor said that it was the first time that his church building had been so full.

For more information on the Jesus Film visit www.jesusfilm.com.

Technology in Evangelism

TECHNOLOGY CAN and should be used as an aid in evangelism. During open-air evangelism, a DVD, with Christian music, can be shown on a wall or screen to draw people's attention. Christian music can also be played to draw a crowd. When you do evangelism, you can also set up a website and put the website address on a tract where people can get more information. Many shopping centres also have public performance areas that can be hired and used for an outreach. When showing a DVD or

video, evangelistic pamphlets and tracts can be placed strategically on a table for people to take.

Creative Evangelism

WITH A BIT OF HOLY IMAGINATION and Godly inspiration, ask God to give you an idea to generate a platform or way to create opportunities to evangelize. Many people around us walk through life without certainty of salvation. God needs people that will be willing to do something and who will not feel threatened to move out of their comfort zone. Creativity in arts, drama, nature and every day objects can be used to share the Gospel. A few examples are:

- You can use the roof of a house to explain that God protects his children.
 - You can use a tree to make a comparison between humans and trees, some bear fruit and others don't.
 - You can use a car to explain that sometimes a car needs a service to work properly. In the same way, God needs to do something in our hearts so that we can work properly.
 - What is a door used for? A door is used to enter into a room. In the same way there is a door that you can use to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus is that door. (Joh 10:9)
-

Use things that surround us daily to explain the Gospel. Jesus did it, why can't we do the same?

Pamphlets and Tracts

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE the power of the written word. The writings of Martin Luther spread all over Europe and the paper became the preacher. The writings of Paul are still being preached today. A pamphlet or tract that is placed in the hands of an unbeliever, can have a great impact. In modern western society it is, at times, difficult to approach and confront people that you don't know. A pamphlet or tract can be the preacher when we don't have the opportunity to speak or when we're in a foreign country where we don't understand the language or even when we're in countries where it is illegal to preach the Gospel. A pamphlet or tract that draws attention and makes people curious, can have an effect and can be a great tool in evangelism. When you do something like street evangelism, it is also important to have something like a pamphlet with a map or directions to a good Bible preaching church. This way you can empower a person to get involved, take responsibility and help himself.

There is no reason why every Local Church cannot start a paper-based outreach project. Pamphlets and tracts can be sent into foreign countries

and even closed countries. Good quality, scripture-based pamphlets and tracts can be used to impact countries all over the world. A Local Church could start a project where, for example, only the Gospel of John is printed as a small little book and this one Gospel could be sent to strategic persons. An evangelistic website can also be developed and the website address can be printed on the pamphlets and tracts.

Your Personal Testimony

YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY is one of the most effective ways of sharing the Gospel with another person. Paul used his personal testimony in the Bible when he shared his experience on the road of Damascus. A person may also identify with your life story or with where you come from. Your personal testimony can show a person that God is a reality in your life.

In a personal testimony it is important to keep the focus on what God did and what was the effect on your life after your conversion experience. If you had a very rough and shocking life before Christ rather don't go into too much detail. It can also help you structure your testimony if you write it down. When you share it, it is important to keep the focus on God and His goodness. Also be sensitive in what you share. Whenever you share or witness, trust in God and allow the Holy Spirit to give you an idea or

line of thought to share. The more you do it, the easier it will become: practice makes perfect!

Puppets

PUPPETS CAN BE a very effective way of drawing attention. Everybody loves puppets. Children cannot stay away from a puppet show. It is important to learn the correct way of handling a puppet. The correct hand movements and keeping the puppet so that it has direct eye contact with the children are very important. If you want to use puppets in ministering to children, the best idea would be to get training to do it to the best of your ability.

Drama and Mime

DRAMA CAN draw attention and a drama can bring across a message in a very practical way. It is important to present the drama and then follow it up with a short evangelical message and an invitation. A short five to ten minute drama can be very effective and is a great tool to draw a crowd. It can set the stage and draw a group of people to be able to share a short open air Gospel message. The preparation for such a short drama could be done in an hour or two. You also only have to use two to five people

in the drama. Drama or mime can give people the opportunity to get involved in evangelism on a different level. People are drawn like a magnet to an open-air drama. A small drama can be a live “soapie” that could forever change the lives of your audience.

Personal Evangelism

THE INDIVIDUAL BELIEVER is one of the best tools to spread the Gospel. Personal evangelism over a period of time can bring forth a great harvest. Often the individual works with unbelievers, has contacts in shops, markets and other places and meets people daily that perhaps never would attend a church meeting. The individual believer is also more available to disciple new believers and, through the process of multiplication, one can become two, two four, four eight and over time, thousands. One believer, with a heart for evangelism, can indirectly impact more people over a period of time than perhaps a mass evangelist. The power of the quiet witness of the individual believer must never be underestimated. Therefore, if we can help and equip the individual believer to be a better evangelist, the Local Church can be more effective and have a greater impact. The Local Church can be seen as the base from where the soldiers and warriors are sent out into the community to impact the community. When evangelizing in an organized way, it is always wise and easier to go in groups of two or more.

According to one source, only 2% of Christians share their faith outside their Local Church environment. If this is true, every Local Church should address this issue. It is the main reason why we don't impact and change our communities and simply it means that 98% of us are disobedient to the Great Commission. (Mat 28: 19-20)

Prophetic Evangelism

PROPHETIC EVANGELISM is when you are specifically directed by God to share the Gospel with a specific person. Many a time the heart of God is to go after the one lost sheep and not always the multitudes. Philip was specifically directed to go and speak to the man from Ethiopia. God still wants to reach specific individuals and, if we are available, He will use us. To be used in this way, you have to be open, sensitive, ready and willing to respond. This could happen in the shopping mall, at work or in any place where we move.

City Evangelism

THE CITIES ARE THE PLACE where most of the people are. In the inner cities you sometimes find the poor, the lonely and the needy people. The inner cities are some of the best places to do street evangelism and open air services.

It is also the place where immigrants from other countries stay. Some of these have never heard the Gospel. There is no greater satisfaction to share the Gospel with someone and that person tells you that it is the first time that he or she has heard the message. Many of the immigrants from West Africa and other African countries have not been as exposed to the Gospel as the South Africans. Another interesting observation is that many of the black church leaders in Hillbrow, Johannesburg, are French speaking West Africans.

In the inner cities you will find street children, prostitutes and homeless people. The needs of these groups of people are a challenge, but also opportunities to the Local Churches. The Jesus film, drama and mime and evangelism techniques are being used with great success in the inner cities. There is just a great need for more Christian labourers and more local churches to get actively involved in evangelism. To reach the people, we need a greater focus on evangelism-driven ministry.

As the cities are the place where the people are, let's go into the cities and evangelize and establish groups of local believers that are on fire to

change the shape of their world. A greater emphasis on evangelism in cities is also needed to establish and plant churches through evangelism and not through transfer. Close to cities we also find squatter camps with thousands of people whose hearts are open to receive the Gospel. Without planning and a God-given strategy, nothing will happen. Therefore we need to mobilize the Christian army to move out into our inner city areas. Reaching the nations starts by reaching the people where we are. Impacting the nations starts by impacting the individuals that we are in daily contact with. If we are fruitful in Jerusalem, then God can trust us and provide for us with what we need to be fruitful in Judea, Samaria and the rest of the world. (Acts 1:8)

Rural Evangelism

I**N THE RURAL AREAS** and many African countries, people still live a very simple and self sustaining life. These people are mostly very open to the Gospel, but must also be approached with respect and cultural sensitivity. As South Africans we are in Africa, but sometimes we live as if we don't see Africa. Short-term outreaches into Africa are an opportunity to expose us to a different culture and a different way of living. Greater involvement of every believer in reaching the African continent, could also help to free us from a culture polluted by rampant materialism and individualism. Whatever your evangelistic method or approach, Africa is open and the harvest is ready. Local Church members could be more actively mobilized to get

involved in short-term team outreaches into Africa. There is also a great need in training leaders and helping local churches in Africa to be fruitful and impact their world.

Muslim Evangelism

THE MUSLIM WORLD and communities are some of the most unreached and least evangelised parts of the world. To be able to share the Gospel, especially to devoted Muslims, we need some kind of background on their religion and practices. Amongst the Muslims you find many that are just a Muslim by name. In these cases you are normally able to share the Gospel in the same way as with any unbeliever. The devoted and truly religious Muslim needs a more informed, trained and experienced believer, but this should not stop us from sharing with any Muslim.

You can also easily identify Muslims by the clothes they wear and, in this way, recognize the opportunity to share the Gospel, with them. The best way to get an open door to share the Christian faith, is by showing respect and an interest in the Muslim faith. Never belittle or degrade the Muslim faith or the Koran. Respect, friendship, Godly wisdom and speaking into the heart of the person are the keys to reach the Muslim. A course in Muslim Evangelism can also be a valuable tool in equipping the individual or Local Church to evangelise Muslim communities.

The big difference between Christianity and Islam is that Muslims see Jesus just as a prophet. They don't believe that He has been crucified or that He is the Son of God.

Large communities of Muslims live in cities in Europe, like London and Paris. There are more than a million Muslims living in mostly the eastern areas of London which gives great opportunities to evangelize and share the Gospel. In contrast to many Muslim countries, there are no legal restrictions to preach the Gospel in London. These communities are also still in contact with their countries of origin and this could open doors to spread the Gospel into these countries.

If a Person Trusts and Believes in Jesus as Saviour

IF A PERSON GETS to a point where he/she trusts and believes in Jesus as Saviour, it is important to give him/her some kind of guideline to help him/her to grow in faith. Many times, when doing evangelism, there are plans to do follow-up. Unfortunately, due to different reasons, it sometimes happens that follow-ups do not take place. That's why it's very important to share all the necessary information with a person that shows a desire or an interest in following Christ. It is even better if you can put it in writing and place it in the person's hand. Sometimes we want to share so much information

that the best way of making sure the person gets all the information, is to give it in writing. You can also prepare a map, sketch or directions to a couple of good Bible believing churches in the area. This will empower the person to take responsibility for his own life.

The following are guidelines of what information can be shared with a new believer:

1. The person needs to read his Bible. In the Bible the person will get to know the will of God. The Bible will show him how he must organize his life and how he must live to become a disciple of Jesus.
 2. The person needs to pray to God. Praying is basically speaking to God and also to be open and to listen to God.
 3. The person needs to have fellowship with other Christians. God places us in a spiritual family so that we can grow, be part of a support group of believers and receive Godly advice. It will help us to run the spiritual race. It is therefore very important to get actively involved in a Local Church.
 4. One should also witness to others. When you witness to others and see their lives changing because of what you have said, it will encourage you to stay on fire for God. There is no greater satisfaction in life than to see how the simple message of the Gospel impacts and changes someone's life.
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Team Ministry

T **EAM MINISTRY** can be very effective. If you send out a group of people, it is as if you throw out a fishing net and therefore you can reach so much more. Jesus used this technique by sending out people two by two. Different people in a team also have different abilities and you can have a far greater impact. During an outreach to Botswana we worked with a group of 60 people. Everybody knew we were there and it was as if a wave of the goodness and blessing of God had hit the small village. People are so stuck in their old way of thinking and the good news of the Gospel can bring release from the lies of the devil and other strongholds. There is so much that you and I can do. We just need some kind of action plan and a process of mobilizing people into participating.

Sharing with Sensitivity

W **HENEVER YOU SHARE**, it is important to treat people with respect. You can share with a person the goodness of God, but the way you share might be arrogant and your attitude can cause people to be pushed away. People don't just listen to what you say, they also listen to

how you express yourself. If the love of Christ is your motivation and the driving force behind you, you must also act like Christ. Also respect a person's choices. If a person does not want to listen to you, just say a kind word and move on.

Servanthood

A **SERVANT** doesn't push himself forward.
A servant is supposed to be the least.
A servant seeks to please God and not people.
A servant doesn't always want to preach.

A servant keeps a low profile.

A servant stands on his own two feet.

A servant doesn't act like a baby.

A servant is not supposed to just eat.

A servant seeks what he can do.

A servant does what God seeks.

A servant lays down his life for others.

A servant is humble and meek.

A servant places God first.

A servant is slow to speak.

A servant labours in the vineyard of the Lord.

A servant acts when God speaks.

Culture

I**N OUR OWN CULTURE** we are often so used to do things in a certain way, that we are not even able to define our own culture. It is only when you mingle and get the chance to understand other cultures, that you better understand your own.

When you meet someone from a foreign culture, it is easy to judge the person without understanding his background. Someone from a more conservative culture will experience an American as loud, over-assertive and will take offense. If an African doesn't look you in the eyes when you are talking to him, you may interpret it as the person not listening to you, when it is actually a way of showing respect in their culture especially when it's an African woman or child. All cultures have different customs and different ways of doing things. If you don't understand the culture, it is easy to offend the person and it could lead to you not getting a chance to share the Gospel to a receptive heart.

It is important to reach out to different cultures with sensitivity to cultural differences. Even in one country you may find a difference in cultures between the people living in the cities and those living in the rural areas. When you enter a new culture, it is important to study the culture beforehand and to get advice from a person who knows the culture and customs. When you live amongst people in a new culture, it could also take a while to truly understand the culture.

Differences in culture may also cause what is commonly known as culture shock and reverse culture shock. It is a process to adapt to the new culture and when you re-enter your old culture, you also again go through a process. In the beginning you have a ‘romance period’ where everything is new and exciting. Then you move into a period where you feel down and you miss your home country. As you adapt and get used to the people and culture, you move into what we can call normal feelings. If you don’t understand the process, you will not understand the emotions that you are experiencing.

You will also experience something of the above process, if you just move around and experience different cultures. In many poor countries people are very friendly and actually have time for other people. In the so-called wealthy countries you experience a different way of life. We normally get so stuck in our own culture, that when you start to see other cultures, you may question your own and the so-called normal way of life. What is important in one culture, may have no meaning whatsoever in the next.

Learning a New Language

L **EARNING A NEW** language will give you an insight into a new culture that you cannot grasp without knowing the specific language. If you learn to speak someone’s language, it communicates a seriousness to understand and reach the person’s heart. If you meet someone from a foreign country and culture

and you can actually say something in his language, it creates an openness and communicates respect. It tells the person that you see him as being important and your ability to speak the person's language, is one big step in reaching the person on his own level. Even if you can say just a few words, it will draw people towards you. It will make it easier to make an impact and to reach and win the person's heart.

Many people are discouraged to learn new foreign words because it seems so difficult, but the more you do it, the easier it becomes. You can also use different techniques and tools to learn the new language. You can start by learning just a few words a day. You can write the new words on cards that you keep with you all day. By reading the new words just a couple of times during the day, it will help you memorize them. The basic principle of learning a new language is repetition. To keep the repetition interesting, you can use different tools. Here are a few examples:

- Computer Programs that include games;
 - Tapes and CD's;
 - Classroom Training;
 - Personal language teacher;
 - Children's Books;
 - Newspapers;
 - Written courses;
 - The Bible in the new language;
 - Radio;
 - Videos and movies;
 - Dictionary.
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In the beginning you can start with a computer programme and/or tapes or CD's. A good time to learn can also be when driving in your car or when you are cleaning the house. You can, as a matter of fact, listen to the tapes and CD's any time when you are not doing something that keeps your mind busy. Because so much repetition is involved, it is easy to get bored learning a new language. Combining your time learning a new language with some kind of work will help you not to get bored. As you start to get a basic knowledge of the language, you can do a basic classroom course or get a language teacher. A basic course or teacher helps you to discipline yourself. We all need some kind of pressure to help us to persist. The biggest problem is to keep yourself motivated. If you don't have strong motivation, it is easy to give up. Later on, as you get to know more and more words, you can start to watch videos, try and read newspapers, listen to music, etc. in the new language. The more tools you use, the faster you will get to know the language. As soon as one set of CD's starts to bore you, try a second set. When you use CD's, tapes and computer programmes, always repeat the words out loud. Even if you struggle to pronounce the words at first, keep on trying. If a child can learn the language, so can you.

No new languages can be conquered in just a few weeks or months. Most of us need a few of years to learn a new language. Especially if you don't live in a country where the language is spoken. The best way to learn a new language, is to get a basic knowledge and then go and stay in a country where the language is spoken. This is not always practical, but CD's, computer programmes and attending courses can be helpful tools to conquer the new language.

When you buy CD's and computer programmes, don't just buy any CD or programme. First look for reviews on the Internet by going to www.amazon.com or any other website.

In learning French, I found the following helpful:

French for Dummies: Computer Programme;

French Now: Computer Programme;

Learn French in your Car: Nine Audio CD's;

French classes at Alliance Francaise - a non profit organization. (You will also get some exposure to the French culture. Alliance Francaise has offices all over South Africa and of course, all over the world);

Private lessons: You do find people that give private French lessons.

I can recommend the "Learn in your Car" courses for any language. This course is designed for use while you are busy driving or doing any other kind of work. Many of us spend lots of time on the road and why not use the time more productively by learning a new language.

A new language can be used as a tool to reach people more effectively with the Gospel. Any new language will also open a whole new world and culture to you.

The Local Church and Missions

WHERE DOES THE Local Church fit into missions? The Local Church should be the heart of missions. It is the mission's instrument that God has used through the ages to impact the world. Mission starts and ends with a local group of believers that can make a difference in impacting the world.

What should the relationship be between the Local Church and missions organizations? This is a difficult issue. On the one side mission organisations have the experience of how to handle cross-cultural mission actions, how to enter and operate within a foreign culture. Mission organisations also have a zeal for evangelism and in history it was missionaries that, over time, impacted whole countries. With a world that is getting smaller, it is getting easier to travel to distant countries and to impact the world. There is no reason why Local Churches can't be mission organisations themselves. If you look at the functions of mission organisations and how they operate, there is no reason why the Local Church cannot incorporate these functions.

This brings us to the next question. What do mission organisations do? The mission organisations that I had exposure to, focused strongly on evangelism. This is done in three ways:

Short-term outreaches: Short-term outreaches last in general from a week to six months. Short-term outreaches are also done every year in the same area to build relationships with the Local Churches in the area. In the planning and organisation of a short-term outreach, Local Churches are invited to take part in the outreach. A list of short-term outreaches is published every year and Christians from all over the world are invited to join in the outreach. Outreaches focus on countries where the need is the greatest. Outreaches are organized to places like Angola, Mozambique, Belgium, Chile, France, Italy, Nigeria, Guatemala, United Kingdom, etc. During these outreaches, teams are sent out to evangelize and normally work with a Local Church or another ministry or organisation.

Medium-term involvement: Involvement lasts in general one to two years. Training and exposure are given to different kind of outreaches.

Career Missionaries: Career missionaries are trained and sent out to specific countries. Many of the career missionaries live in a strange culture and get involved in evangelism, planting churches and establishing a local presence in a foreign country. This may include learning a new language and staying for years in a foreign country. With a world that is getting smaller, there is also a tendency that career missionaries move around more and more and stay in one specific country for a shorter period.

If we look at what mission organisations actually do, there is no reason why the Local Church cannot incorporate the function of mission organisations into its structure. There is no reason why the Local Church cannot send out teams of people to evangelize in Africa, Europe or any other country.

Scriptural Model For Missions

A **N IMPORTANT QUESTION** we should ask is, what is the scriptural model for missions? We can have our own plans and our own way of doing things, but are we following the perfect will and way of God that is birthed in the heart of God and not our own scheming and way of doing things. If we believe that God is actively involved in our daily lives, we should be willing to follow his ways and not our own ideas or way of doing things.

The Bible gives us a framework on how the New Testament Church should be organized and structured. Although we don't live in the times of Paul and the other apostles, I believe we should test the way we do things and place it under the authority of the Word of God. Placing everything under the authority of the Word of God was one of the pillars of the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century.

The following are some ideas on missions:

- How did Paul and others evangelize the nations? Did Paul move out with teams, two-by-two, etc. planting churches and what is the most effective and scriptural way of evangelizing the world today?
 - Can missions be separated from church planting?
 - God works strategically. Are we seeking God's strategy and are we working with God?
 - Are we flexible and open for change?
 - By incorporating missions into the local church and actively involving every believer, will it result in a healthier Local Church and more effective missions?
 - Is the divorce between missions and the local church healthy for unity and the task of evangelizing the nations?
 - Church members that are actively involved in missions will be less materialistic and more active in their Christianity. Get them involved!
 - Seminaries and Bible Schools can focus more on missions and incorporate missions into their Bible School curriculum.
 - In what way do we allow our culture to influence the way we do things?
 - Missions is not sending out missionaries randomly in different directions.
 - Missions start at home.
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Paul's Model for Missions

IF WE LOOK AT ACTS, we'll see that Paul travelled and planted churches. He traveled with teams and, at a time, stayed in one city for a year, establishing and helping the Local Church. Paul took responsibility for the care of these planted churches and often wrote letters giving guidance and advice. These letters form a part of the New Testament Bible we have today. Missions were under the authority of Paul's apostolic calling and anointing.

John Calvin's Model for Missions

CALVIN WAS BORN in Normandy, France, and as a 25 year old he did door to door evangelism in Paris. Later Calvin had to flee France and stayed in Geneva, Switzerland for a long period. From here he properly trained and sent out teams of evangelists and pastors to France. Calvin was an organizer of the church and the teams he sent out to France, were very effective. So much so, that many provinces completely changed from Catholic to

Protestant. Calvin's strategy was to evangelize, to plant churches and then to appoint pastors to run and oversee the churches. This compares with Paul's model for missions. Many of these evangelists and Pastors died on the stake. Due to Calvin's care for all the Protestant churches of France, the 19th century historian Rev. James Wylie called him the Apostle of France.

Protestant Missionary Movement (18th Century to the Present)

WILLIAM CAREY IS REGARDED as the father of modern day missions. Carey's example, letters and work in India inspired others to form mission boards. According to the well-known writer, Richard Foster, one man's vision radically changed the focus of Protestant missions. Especially under the strong marketing and influence of big mission organizations sending out missionaries, became the model of missions today.

Could the strong focus on sending out missionaries just be a tradition and custom of our day? Should the main focus of missions be sending out missionaries or sending out church planting teams that evangelize, plant

churches and establish these churches? Should these churches be guided and cared for by apostolic authority? During the Protestant Reformation, missions, that mainly focused on church planting, changed the whole shape of Europe over a short period of time. Missions, that are church planting focused, could make the Body of Christ more effective and have an impact on this generation and possible on generations to come. If every Local Church in South Africa, or even better, every Local Church in the whole world, could send church planting teams out to evangelize, could we not change the shape of the whole world? Missions are the responsibility of the whole Body of Christ. The Local Church is the scriptural model and vehicle for organizing the church, evangelizing and missions. Missions should be focussed on planting churches, instead of placing the focus so much on the sending of missionaries. Could this focus just be an unproductive custom and tradition of our day, not impacting and changing the world, as it should?

Evangelism and Outreach Plan and Strategy

WE CAN HAVE WONDERFUL intentions, but if we don't plan and get strategy from the heart of God, nothing will happen. The following are a few ideas on an evangelism and outreach plan and strategy:

- Get strategy from the heart of God and put an Evangelism and Outreach Strategy on paper on how to take this city, this nation and the nations? Which nations are strategic to impact the world? Which countries should we, as a Local Church or group of Local Churches, get actively involved in?
 - Form church planting teams that can be sent into the nations. Instead of just sending missionaries, send Pauline-type Apostolic Evangelism and Church Planting Teams. These teams can operate, from the Local Church, as an extension of the Local Church. Like Paul and his fellow workers they can, if necessary, stay for a time in a city to evangelize, plant and establish Local Churches.
 - Evangelism and missions focused on church plantings could, through multiplication, change one Local Church into two, two can become four, four can become eight and over time there will be thousands of Local Churches all over the world. The power of multiplication can be utilized to spread the Gospel faster and more effectively, than traditional missionary type of missions can do.
 - Different Local Churches can work together to plant churches in “difficult” countries like France and Belgium.
 - Identify people with an evangelistic heart to drive and run with evangelism and outreach programmes and projects.
 - Create a budget to finance evangelism and outreach strategies.
 - If finances are limited, start with a paper based outreach. Scriptural pamphlets and tracts can be used as a tool to impact communities locally and internationally.
 - Produce pamphlets and tracts in different languages.
 - Be sensitive to cultural differences.
 - Do continuous intercession and pray for the harvest.
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- Involve all the members of the Local Church.
- The Father Heart of God goes after the one lost sheep, not only the herd.
- Don't underestimate or look down on small beginnings.
- If we are available and willing God will use us.

Conclusion

MANY TIMES WE FEEL that we don't have to go out and evangelize. Is it not enough that we have services and give people the opportunity to trust, believe and receive Jesus as Saviour? It is a fact, however, that many people will never attend a church service. It is when you go out and actively do something, that you will experience wonders. It is so easy to get so stuck in the pattern of daily living, that Christians just don't witness to others. "GO!" is not just a message for some missionary that goes into a new culture. "GO!" also means to go onto the highways and byways of your own community. You are the evangelist that should play a part in impacting your world. All the other things can be so meaningless, but changing one life or impacting one family, is the starting place for changing a whole nation.
