

GOSPEL OF GOD MINISTRIES

PROCLAIM to TRANSFORM

The first quarter of this year is over. However, Jesus is still giving and sustaining our lives on His beautiful Earth. It may be scarred by sin, but it is still an amazing gift to have life in His creation and to have the opportunity to point others to Him. As always, this newsletter will have news of lives that have been transformed by Christians simply stepping out and sharing Jesus.

After much work during the entire month of January, Gospel of God Ministries now has a new office space in the basement of our home. Boy, I am glad that's over! In February we worked with Sports Fan International at our fifth Super Bowl in Houston. Sports Fan International has asked us to do some training in Charlotte this May. We will be training new evangelists as they begin their Open Air Preaching journey. Already this year 36,000 people have heard the Gospel from our teams, 48 teams have gone out sharing the Gospel, at least two babies have been saved from the murder of abortion, and a young man made a profession to follow Jesus. We hope you are encouraged and enjoy the content of our newsletter. Remember; go proclaim the Gospel to see a life transformed. - Tommy Waltz

Super Bowl Update

We made it back from preaching at the Super Bowl in Houston in February. We were among 105 faithful messengers proclaiming the glorious Gospel that transforms lives. I had the privilege of leading twelve of them. I also had the opportunity to train ten new evangelists in Open Air Preaching. The training covered two major topics: First, the importance of prayer in the Christian's life and their evangelism efforts. Second, how to have open air dialogue that leads to more people stopping to listen to the Open Air Preaching. During our time in Houston, we were equipped by two professors, one from Dallas Theological Seminary and the other from Reformed Theological Seminary in Houston. I will share a few stories from the streets and share what we were taught.

A little bit about Houston, TX: "Houston is the 4th largest city in the United States and the largest in Texas. The city also has a global economy and only New York City has more Fortune 500 headquarters. The 2010 Census showed that Houston was home to almost 2.1 million people within 599 square miles, although this number since increased. The estimated population for 2016 is 2.2 million." (www.worldpopulationreview.com)

It is estimated that over one million people flocked into Houston to be a part of Super Bowl LI. By God's grace, we

were there in the middle of the mass of humanity sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our encounters on the street varied from the lost who couldn't have cared less about Jesus Christ, some who were willing to listen, and others who would consider themselves saved. My team gave out over 10k tracts and twenty Bibles to hungry souls. Here is Demetrius' story. As he walked past the preaching, he made eye contact with me and his pace slowed a bit. I asked him the question that I have asked a thousand times before: "Is your soul right with God?" Demetrius answered, "You betcha! I love God." I responded with my common follow up question, "Could you explain to me how I could be saved." He stared right at me, stepped a little closer, smiled and spoke the infamous three little words, "You do good." If I have heard this once, I've heard it a thousand times. I began to explain to him the Gospel and how he could be saved and know with certainty. He told me that on Christmas Eve he was shot five times and that, according to the doctors, he should be dead. I told him that he was a walking miracle and he needed to get right with God before it was too late. He said he would be back but never returned.

There were several protest groups in Houston protesting anything and everything. We had a little interaction with them. They shouted to us that they did not want our white Jesus. I thought to myself "neither do I" because...

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Sandy Stinnett describes her first time doing evangelism with GGM, and the impact it has had on her life.

H eart pounding, palms sweaty, nervously looking around and shifting from side to side trying to blend into the brick and mortar all around me. Oh no! Is he approaching me?! I know, I'll look away. I won't make eye contact. Better yet, I can pretend I'm reading the 'Good Person Test' Gospel tract I'm clutching tightly in my hand. He's standing right in front of me. What now?! Quick, thrust the tract into his hands and he'll go away. Oh no! My worst fear! He's asking me what the tract is about. I silently say a prayer and begin to speak....

Downtown Raleigh used to be a place that I visited only a couple of times, and those times, in the daylight. Last spring I started going downtown and participating in the street evangelism on Friday nights - passing out Gospel tracts, praying for those preaching, and sharing the Gospel with those who have been led by Our Great Savior to pause and ask life-changing questions. Sometimes, as the person walks away I am left with the hope that a seed has been watered and/or planted.

I would like to be able to tell you that I have been doing this sort of evangelism since I became a believer - going on 48 years ago - but, that wouldn't be true. I am ashamed to say that sharing the Gospel in this way never even occurred to me until recently. I always thought sharing the Gospel in this way was for preachers and evangelists. After all, I shared the Gospel by simply letting the lost see "this little light of mine" so I never had to actually tell someone the "Good News". Right?

It was through no effort of my own that I changed from passively and contentedly not sharing the Gospel to actively and regularly making an effort to share the Gospel. Give God our Savior the glory! The Holy Spirit convicted me in two areas as a believer. First, I was being disobedient to His command, "You did not choose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last" (John 15:16). Secondly, how could I proclaim that I loved the lost but had never really shared the Gospel with them?

How could I continue being with friends and family who were lost and not share the Truth with them? After all, I would take the time to discuss the weather and other mundane, non-eternal topics with them: exchanges that will never lead to fruit that will last.

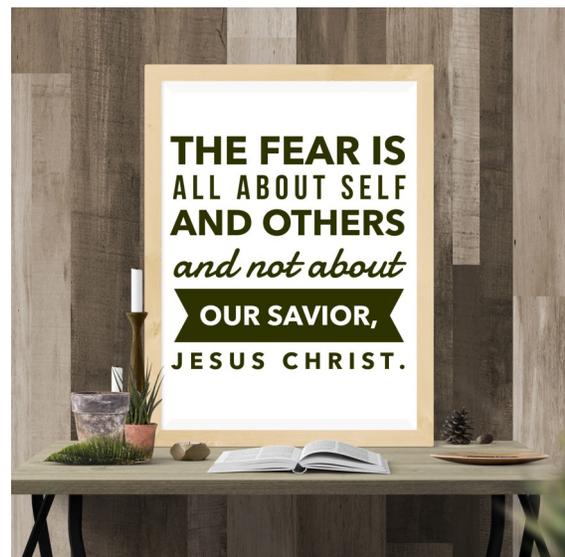
What did I learn about God while standing on that street

corner in downtown Raleigh? He is Sovereign! He is Majestic! He is Faithful! He is Kind! He is Merciful! He is Patient! And so much more.

What have I learned about myself on that street corner? First, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13). That's right - it's about Christ and it's not about me or mankind. I realized I was missing out on so much because of fear. And let's face it; the fear is all about self and others and not about our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Secondly, my God didn't let me stay in my "unavailable" attitude but provided in my life, at the right time faithful believing friends who have a passion for sharing the Gospel. They encouraged me and are willing to help me be better equipped by sharing with me their tools and techniques.

Thirdly, sharing the Gospel isn't about me or anyone else: it's about Jesus Christ. I don't have to worry about whether the person I'm sharing with will be convicted. I just have to share the Gospel and how He has changed my life, just like the Woman at the Well.



The rest of the story is... I survived my first time participating in street evangelism and every time since that first moment of stepping out in faith and obedience to God our Savior. Psalm 27:4 says "One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after". The Lord has changed my heart and my attitude about sharing the Gospel.

There is no time like the present to be committed and intentional about sharing the Gospel.

Benefits of Having an Evangelist in Your Local Church / Andy Davis

God has set before every local church two journeys for the sake of his glory. First is the journey of sanctification; that each individual Christian member of that church should grow more and more Christ-like, more and more holy, more and more knowledgeable of scripture, more and more faith-filled, more and more loving to God and to one another, more and more obedient to his commands. Second is the journey of Kingdom advancement; that the church should spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ more and more to the lost, both in local evangelism and in missions to the end of the earth. Every local church is called by the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) to these two journeys. Progress in each is very hard, and can only be done by the power of the Holy Spirit. And they are absolutely intertwined. We cannot make progress in sanctification without being active in evangelism and missions; and we will not continue to be active in evangelism and missions if we are not growing in holiness.

The local church exists to glorify God by making continual progress in both of these journeys. And Satan fights us every step of the way. God has gifted some people in particular with the gift of evangelism —not only that

they are sharing their faith, but that they are unusually bold and fruitful in this, and they are excellent leaders and mentors to others in that church who are weak in the area of outreach.

Our church has been richly blessed by many godly people who have this gift. They have motivated me, strengthened me, set a good example for me... and not only for me but for all that know them! While every Christian is called on to evangelize, those with this spiritual gift greatly empower others toward skill and faithfulness in this responsibility. I would be far less active and far less fruitful in evangelism if it weren't for these gifted church members. So, pray for God to raise up people with the gift of evangelism who will take on the role of "evangelist" in your local church. This will unleash the whole church membership in far greater fruitfulness than you have ever seen before!



Tips for Witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses / Seth Richardson

The Jehovah's Witnesses will be out in the coming weeks. It will be a great time to help them think about what they have been taught and to share the Gospel with them. The most important thing is to avoid rabbit trails. Most JW's, when faced with questions that make them uncomfortable, will immediately try to get you in a discussion of the Trinity. Avoid going down this path. The goal is to plant a seed in their mind and cause the individual to think.

The following invitation to the "Memorial Celebration" is found on jw.org :

"Once each year, in thousands of locations worldwide, we commemorate the death of Jesus. We do so because he commanded his followers: Keep doing this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19) This year, this observance was Tuesday, April 11.

The serious question must be asked: What did Jesus command that we do in remembrance of Him? The answer to this question is found in the parallel verse, Matthew 26:27,28. The command was to partake. The reason that JW's disobey the command of Jesus is that the Watchtower has taught them that they are no part of the covenant that Jesus instituted with his disciples. Note the following Watchtower article for proof of this point. (2006 Feb 15 p. 24)

"Since sharing in the bread and wine passed during the Memorial involves all of this, it would obviously be inappropriate for those having an earthly hope to partake. Those with an earthly hope discern that they themselves are not anointed members of the body of Christ, nor are they in the new covenant. Were they to partake of the emblems, it would signify something that is not true with respect to them."

For this reason they do not partake; though they do attend the Memorial as "respectful observers." This information can be used as a basis for the discussion.

Tips for Witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses

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Ask Jehovah's Witnesses the following questions, allowing time for each before moving on to the next.

1. Is it true that most will not partake at this celebration?
2. Will you personally partake? Why/why not? (Challenge: Share Matt. 26:27-28 and focus on what Jesus actually commanded.)
3. Are only those with the 'heavenly hope' part of the new covenant? (Note response.)
4. Did you know that if you are not in the new covenant, Jesus is not your mediator according to the Watchtower? (Quote the reference.)
5. What is the Gospel? (Note response.)
6. Share the Gospel, including Rom.3:23, 1 Cor. 15:1-4. (Show them that they preach a false Gospel that must be rejected. Galatians 1:8, 9)
7. Summarize by explaining their hopeless state before Christ and call them to repent and believe. Explain that when they stand before Christ on Judgment Day and present their works done in faith in an organization, what can Jesus say to you except:



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Proclaiming the Gospel
to Transform Lives

"I never knew you! Depart from Me, you lawbreakers!" Matthew 7:23

Super Bowl Update

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Jesus' skin pigmentation was not white or black. They did not want to deal with the logic of their statement. A fellow preacher asked them how they could complain about anything while holding their atheistic world view. They yelled

back, "Why are you complaining?" "I'm not." The preacher responded. "I am telling you that Jesus took the wrath you deserve so that you can receive the mercy you do not deserve." There was total silence after that truth bomb was dropped. Dr. Alex Gonzales of Dallas Theological Seminary taught on the atonement of Christ from the New Testament. Dr. Duncan Rankin taught that Christ's Atonement was foreshadowed and prophesied in the Old Testament Scriptures.

I want to encourage you with one more story. Tyrone was resting on a walker and leaning against the building when I walked up and sat down beside him. He shared with me his love for Jesus while thanking me for being in his city. I asked if he had a Bible and he told me that his sight is going and he wished he had a large print Bible. I took down his address and Gospel of God Ministries has bought and sent him a leather large print Bible. If you want to send him any encouraging words please feel free to send them my way and I will make sure that he gets them. When you share the Gospel you never know what will happen. Thank you for giving us the chance to serve our Savior in this capacity! Go proclaim the Gospel to see a life transformed. Remember that the Lord blesses faithfulness. When you are faithful, He will be fruitful through you. If you'd like to join us at the Super Bowl next year, visit www.sfoi.org to learn more.

Upcoming Evangelism Opportunities

Saturday, April 22 Brewgaloo (Downtown Raleigh)

Friday, April 28 Friday Night on White Street (Wake Forest)

Saturday, April 29 Spring Daze Arts and Crafts Fest (Cary)

Saturday, May 6 Out Raleigh (Downtown Raleigh)

Every Thursday at the Abortion Clinic & NC State or Northern Wake Tech Contact Tommy 919-805-6108

Every Friday Night on Fayetteville Street in downtown Raleigh Contact Sean 919-436-8848



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