

## On Evangelism (What's your great Commission?)

D E Wasake Esq.

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### Information notice board

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### Looking for a ministry to partner with (pray, volunteer, give)?

Consider the evangelistic ministry below whose core purpose is: *to cultivate Christ-honoring transformation in communities where He is yet to be worshiped.*

<https://www.christar.org/>

*The above ministry/website has not paid us to provide this recommendation and so the views expressed here do not necessarily represent the views of the ministry promoted above. Likewise the views therein do not necessarily reflect those of this ministry.*

## Basics

Were it not for an evangelist called Gloria inviting me to read the bible for myself, I wouldn't be here!

Now Gloria wouldn't probably consider herself an evangelist, she is after all a full time mother of 5 children and together with her husband David, they are not on TV but just regular Christians yet they are the ones who led me to discover my own good news and here I am. It is therefore no wonder that the bible says this about evangelists:

*"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings..."<sup>i</sup>*

Men and women of good cheer everywhere hear me and the good news I bring! As Christ's ambassadors, God makes his appeal through us. We therefore beg you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.<sup>ii</sup>

But what is it are we appealing to you about?

- Are you thirsty? Come and drink and living waters will flow out of you. <sup>iii</sup>
- Are you hungry? I am the bread of life. <sup>iv</sup>
- Are you tired and burdened? I will give you rest. My yoke is light and easy.<sup>v</sup>
- Do you sit in darkness? A great light has dawned.<sup>vi</sup>
- Are you afraid of death? I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live even though they die.<sup>vii</sup>
- I am here to proclaim good news to the poor, give freedom to prisoners, give sight to the blind and set the oppressed free.<sup>viii</sup>



- I do not come for those who think they are well, I come for those who are humble and know they are sinners, those who are being oppressed by the devil.<sup>ix</sup>
- In me you will live life in all its fullness.<sup>x</sup>
- Look! I stand at the door and knock, if you hear my voice, let me in and I will come in and we shall eat a meal together as friends.<sup>xi</sup>

The above are not my words. Whose are they? Who would issue such beautiful words?

## Examples from the bible

If you live in our sceptical generation you might say about the Jesus, the author of the beautiful words I read: Wasn't he just a man? Wasn't he a Carpenter's son? Didn't they call him a friend of sinners and a glutton and a drunkard<sup>xii</sup>? Isn't it all a myth, a made up story?

No this man Jesus, the Christ, actually called himself by a very interesting title - he called himself "Son of man" over and over again. What did he mean?

Two beautiful gems of scriptures in the Old Testament will suffice:

*But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, **whose goings forth are from old, from Everlasting.** Micah 5: 2 (NKJV)*

*"In my vision at night I looked, and there **before me was one like a son of man**, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; **all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.** Daniel 7: 13 (NIV).*

Now the phrase "son of man" is translated from the Aramaic word "*bar enash*" which literally means *human being*.

So this Jesus was uniquely a man – but also God, whose origins are from everlasting ages. This is He who the Ancient of Days (God) ordained to rescue us from ourselves.

Rescue us from ourselves? Why?

## Our Generation

In our generation we believe we are GENERALLY good.

*"Yes, we lie (a little), we help our neighbours (some times), Sister Jokeline (that WH\*\$%) really doesn't deserve forgiveness, Oh come on, that girl was so hot, we had to sleep with her, even if we are married, she was begging for it, how can a dog not eat a bone? Eat too much? Nah, how can that be a sin? Homosexuality? Now that's just being ancient, to each his own. Besides it's not like we are rapists, murderers or thieves. Look we are essentially good, we just need to work on ourselves and we will get better, we don't need a saviour."*

Interestingly, in a [Guardian Newspaper article](#) the director of a new play focussing on UK Pub life described his experience about being taken to pubs from a young age:

*“There’s so much that as I kid I really shouldn’t [have seen]. There was a lot of violence, there was a lot of fighting, there was a lot of cheating and sex and drugs and rock’n’roll. It was constant, **but part of me looks back at it and goes, ‘You know what? It was nice, though.’** Because at least it was a community. **It might have been sh\*\*, it might not always have been great, but quite a lot of the time it was fun.**”*

Not too far off from our own attitude today huh? We actually don’t like Good things. We think they are boring. We would prefer to “live life on the wild side”.

But who is God and what does he say about us, what does he require of us, being our creator?

On 8 March 17, the first day I ever wrote in my spiritual journal, as I started to know God, 2 months after I heard the voice of Gloria the Evangelist, The Holy Spirit revealed this to me about God: The Lord my shepherd and guide: *“He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name’s sake.” Psalms 23:3 NKJV*

So the first thing I recorded was that God is good - one who takes care of us, like a tender loving father, a shepherd.

### **But why do we need to be shepherded?**

It’s because we are rebellious - often in ways we ourselves can’t see and what other humans can’t see. We rebel in our hearts and it’s the heart of stone Jesus wants to rescue us from. In fact the bible says this about our hard heartedness:

*“But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. **They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them.** For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. **Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like.** As a result, their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.” Romans 1:18-23 NLT*

So the sin of our generation, and indeed of the human race is that even if we can see God by the evidence of his creation, we rebel against him – and instead find substitutes to worship – our beauty, our money, sex, fun, our intelligence. We would rather dabble in horoscopes and witchcraft than submit to the only God.

### **So what solution does God provide?**

We needed a mediator and there is only one mediator - the Son of Man, Jesus. The One was born of Mary a virgin. As his eyewitnesses said: he lived among us and we beheld his beauty, we heard his beautiful words but sinful men put him to death, nevertheless, the grave

couldn't hold him and by the power of the Holy Spirit he rose again from the dead after 3 days in the grave and now he is sitting at Gods right hand.<sup>xiii</sup>

The bible describes it as follows:

*“When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” Romans 5:6-8 NLT*

God gave us Jesus as an example for us to imitate so that after we too have overcome by his Holy Spirit - we too can be where he is as CO heirs with Christ<sup>xiv</sup>.

### **So what must you do?**

If you believe the message: You must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”<sup>xv</sup>

If you want to step through the door, the Spirit says, Come! Pray with me, this prayer:

#### ***Prayer of confession and faith in Jesus***

*Jesus, I know that I have sinned and am in need of a Saviour.*

*I believe that when you went to the Cross, you went there for me and all my sins. I trust You to save me right now. I give you my life, please give me your Holy Spirit. Today, I know I'm saved and that You forgive me, but help me to understand what it means to live for you every day. Amen.*

### **Next steps**

And now that you are in the Kingdom, welcome!

Next go to your local church and ask to be baptised, if there is no church, find a Christian and go together to a pool of water and get baptised. Thereafter your church or Christian friend will tell you what to do next. Good Christian practice involves: Learning to read the bible, praying, learning to worship and praise God and meeting with other Christians regularly – the Christian journey was not meant to be lived solo. We are all part of one Body – Christ's.

#### **Now here is your own commission:**

Who will be in Heaven because of you? Who will you share the good news with? Think of 5 people you care for and don't stop praying for them to find salvation and be with you in heaven.

This is such an important task because, Jesus just before he went up to heaven told his disciples this:

*“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28: 18 – 20 (NIV).*

## Guidance: for Christian leaders and maturing Christians

The message contained is what is called: kerygma (,ke'ri:gmə) *n*. The essential news of Jesus, as preached by the early Christians to elicit faith rather than to educate or instruct.

The basic structure of an evangelistic message contains the following (with how this message covered that):

- the truth about who God is (**Basics, Examples from the bible**);
- why we're in the mess we're in (**Our Generation**);
- what Jesus came to do (**Our Generation**); and
- How we are to respond to him (**Next steps**).

An example of a good evangelistic message format can be found in:

1. Peter's Preaching on the day of Pentecost: Acts 2: 14 – 39
2. Paul in Athens: Acts 17: 22 – 31.

## Notes

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<sup>i</sup> Isaiah 52: 7 (NIV)

<sup>ii</sup> 2 Cor 5: 20 (NIV)

<sup>iii</sup> John 7: 37- 39 (BSB)

<sup>iv</sup> John 6: 35

<sup>v</sup> Matthew 11: 28-29

<sup>vi</sup> Matthew 4: 16

<sup>vii</sup> John 11: 25

<sup>viii</sup> Luke 4: 18-19

<sup>ix</sup> Adapted from Mark 2: 17 (NLT)

<sup>x</sup> John 10: 10

<sup>xi</sup> Revelations 3: 20 (NLT)

<sup>xii</sup> See Luke 7: 34

<sup>xiii</sup> Adapted from John 1: 14, Acts 2: 24, 32-33

<sup>xiv</sup> See Romans 8: 17

<sup>xv</sup> Acts of the Apostles 2:38 NLT