



**Being Yourself  
and  
Being Evangelistic  
Part 3**

Bobby B. Boaldin

This month, the series on evangelism I began a few months ago moves on to examine the specific styles of evangelism used by different individuals in the New Testament. It is important to remember that the premise behind this series of articles is: people with different personalities and backgrounds can (and probably should) be evangelistic in different ways. Rather than trying to fit into the mold of how someone else conducts evangelism, we should, instead, be ourselves.

Consider Matthew's early evangelistic approach. In Matthew chapter nine, the former tax collector is a brand-new follower of Jesus. He certainly doesn't understand everything about Christianity. What he does know, however, is that this rabbi, named Jesus, has called him to be one of his disciples. The first thing that Matthew does is host a dinner, apparently in honor of his new Master, and invites his friends and associates to attend. Randy Becton identified this as **"Matthew's Interpersonal Approach."**

Let's break down what Matthew did. First, he put his friends and acquaintances in a position to have contact with, and be influenced by, Jesus. He allowed people he cared about to see why he had had a change of profession and a change of heart. Second, he did this in a way that stayed inside the comfort zone of those he was trying to influence. In other words, he did not invite them to a synagogue assembly or church service. Instead, he did something he had no doubt done many other times—he invited his friends to his home. They would feel both comfortable and safe in their surroundings because they had been there before. Third, even though Matthew had a change of lifestyle and behavior, it is clear that he is not judgmental and critical of those who are living the life that he has left.

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## Thank You God for Blessed New Beginnings



**Madelyn Hall**



**Andrew Milam**



**Joseph Shields**

*...for it is to  
such as these  
that the  
kingdom of  
God belongs.  
Truly I  
tell you,  
whoever does  
not receive  
the kingdom  
of God as  
a little child  
will never  
enter it."*

*Luke 18:16-17*



**Drew Hatman**



**Dyllan Priest**



**Joshua Wade**



**Noah Walker**

## A NEW BEGINNING

Would you like a challenge? Take a garment, any garment that is scarlet or crimson and try to dye it white. If you have any luck, let me know. Yet, that which is impossible with man is possible with God.

*Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord:  
though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;  
though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.*  
(Isaiah 1:18)

Sin is a stain so dark we cannot get rid of it on our own. It's as open and glaring as crimson. Yet some of us, as those of old, believe that if we follow the correct ritual in religion all will be well. Not so! Remember certain Jews under the Old Covenant who assembled for worship and were asked by God why they were trampling His courts? They brought their sacrifices and offerings, but God did not delight in them. They were worthless! And when they spread forth their hands to pray, God hid his eyes from them and would not listen. Why? It was all empty ceremony, and the Almighty would have none of it.

A change had to be made. A change in character. "*Cease to do evil,*" God said. That's the beginning place. But mere negation is not salvation. There must be life unto God as well as death unto sin. "*Learn to do good.*" Only then will God make our scarlet sins as white as snow, for this seemingly impossible act is conditioned upon us being "*willing and obedient*" (Isaiah 1:19).

In the gospel of Jesus Christ, remission of sins is a cardinal doctrine (Matthew 26:28; Luke 24:47; Acts 2:38). Even the worst kinds of sin — idolatry, impurity, murder, lying, rebelliousness, etc., are forgiven and the stain is removed!

Truly, God is "*plenteous in mercy.*" He is able to save to the uttermost, and He will save you! "*Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.*" Thanks be to God who offers a new beginning.

JOHN GIPSON  
WINDSONG CHURCH OF CHRIST



### Looking Back at 2005

Bill McDonough

In our annual report to the Cambodian government, which is required to maintain our “NGO” status (Non-Government Organization), we are reminded of the many worthwhile things you helped accomplish in 2005.

- Nearly every church has grown numerically and all are making progress spiritually.

- The Bible School has been upgraded and the direction of it transferred to the North Heights church in Batesville, Arkansas.

- Two village church leader seminars were completed teaching fifty-six men from sixteen congregations.

- More than one hundred fifty university students came to the Partners In Progress Study Center to study with the thirty plus American and European Christian teachers for a three month course using World English Institute study material.

- The WEI material was edited and new lessons were written to meet the unique needs of the Cambodian religious culture.

- Much progress was made in moving the Mekong Project toward full operation.

- The orphanage was built and opened.

- The rice cooperative continued into its 2nd year.

- Five large reservoirs were dug to store water during the dry seasons.

- Sixteen fresh water wells were drilled for villages that had no clean water source.

- A short-term medical team visited five different villages and treated more than 1500 people.

Your prayers, gifts and personal involvement have made this happen.

Visit our web site at:  
[www.partnersinprogress.org](http://www.partnersinprogress.org)



### Conservative Versus Liberal

Joe Chesser

I'm pretty sure I have a good idea about what came to your mind when you read the title to this month's article. Just so you know, this article has nothing to do with all the hot topics and buzz words our heritage likes to throw around, or the current political scene. It actually goes much deeper.

I recently came across this quote in the November 2005 newsletter by Summit Ministries. “Americans like their churches conservative...more and more Americans are abandoning liberal churches that reject tradition and orthodoxy, and are flocking to ones that uphold conservative beliefs. Why are churchgoers rejecting this new vogue of liberal Christianity that embraces a homosexual clergy, abortion, sexual freedom and “tolerance” as the highest virtues? In an increasingly secular age, it would appear that such liberal denominations would be gaining in membership. Not so, says (Dave) Shiflett, who...wrote *Christianity on Trial*. Shiflett contends that it is precisely this liberal attitude that has turned off so many Americans from mainline Protestant churches. Instead, these churchgoers prefer to hold fast to tradition and orthodoxy. They want their church to adhere to central dogma such as the virgin birth, the resurrection, and the trinity. They also aspire to a higher level of spirituality that demands sexual restraint and commitment to the Ten Commandments.” Shiflett goes on to say, “Americans are becoming appalled by left-wing sermons, intellectual fads and political correctness trumping dogma and tradition.”

We have our own liberal/progressive/conservative issues, and these are worthy of discussion. Yet, if Shiflett is right, there is an interest in the basics our heritage stands for. America seems to have an interest in the spiritual challenges of the Gospel and being held to a higher standard. So what can you do to help bring in the harvest? What *are* you doing to bring in this harvest?

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Rather, he is open about who he is and accepting of his friends. In fact, when the religious officials of the day witness the accepting nature of the situation, they are appalled. This affords Jesus an opportunity to instruct the religious leaders that the sick need a physician, not the healthy.

It is important to realize that this is a method any new Christian can use. To do this it is not necessary to be well versed in the Bible or be able to explain one's religious beliefs. This is also a method of evangelism that will work well for people who love to entertain in their homes. It seems to me this method is well suited for those who are “people persons” or extroverts. If you like having a lot of friends around and/or are considered a social butterfly, this method may be for you.

How can one apply the principles of evangelism employed by Matthew? Begin by exposing your circle of friends and acquaintances to your faith by having them in your dorm room, apartment or home. You do not have to preach or teach to them. Instead, simply allow them to see Christ living in you. Expose them to Jesus by demonstrating your love and acceptance of them. Don't be judgmental and critical. Instead, be loving and kind. Chances are, they will notice your lifestyle and, with time, begin to ask questions about why you are the way you are. They may even begin to ask for your advice with their problems that are caused by the sin in their lives. Be prepared to give wholesome, Christian advice but don't come across as having all the answers. The key is to be approachable, available and interested in people.

If your friends and acquaintances are honest with themselves, they will soon realize that they want what you have. God willing, you will be afforded an opportunity to share with them why and how Jesus has changed your life. Again, you don't have to know where all the Scriptures are, you simply need to be prepared to share your conversion story. If you do these things, I think you will find Matthew's interpersonal approach is an excellent way to share Jesus with your friends. While being yourself, you can still be evangelistic.

## BULLETIN BOARD

### OUR DECEMBER RECORD

Average Attendance..... 230  
Average Contribution.....\$9,970  
Building Campaign Funds....\$976,785

Membership.....**Clark Falwell**

#### *With Sympathy*

We extend our sympathy to the family of **Dr. Fred Morrow** on his death Wednesday, December 14. There was a memorial service on Monday, December 19.

We extend our sympathy to the family of **Forrest Marlar** on his death Tuesday, December 27. The funeral was Friday, December 30, followed by the interment at Rest Hills.

### Coming in January!

You are invited to a series of sermons beginning with:

## “Why Does WindSong Exist?”

In the weeks to follow, we will explore our **PURPOSE STATEMENT** and **STRATEGY**

These lessons will set the tone for **who we are, what we are about, and where we are going!**



### THANK YOU

Thank you to all who contributed auction items, purchased tickets, and helped at the Southern Christian Home Silent and Live Auction Fund Raiser. The event was a great success, netting \$24,000 for the Southern Christian Home. **Jim and Kay Strait**

We would like to thank the nice teenagers that came on the Saturday before Thanksgiving and raked our yard. It looked much better for Thanksgiving and we really appreciate it. They were great. Also, we would like to thank the church for the pretty poinsettia someone delivered last week for Burl. We are both enjoying it. **Burl and Eunice Duncan**

To all at WindSong, Once again, and so quickly, I must express my thanks and appreciation for your Christian love. It is a great comfort when you lose your loved one, “Mrs. Becky, my wife.” Thanks so much. In Christian love, **Earl West**

To my fellow Christians, Thanks for the beautiful poinsettia you brought me for Christmas. It was one among the many evidences of your love. You have been so very kind and encouraging and I love you all. Best wishes, **Jane Bale**

Dear Windsong Family, I want to thank you for **Helene Shepherd** for the flowers and gifts you gave her. She was so proud of everything and appreciated you remembering her. Her health is not good. They are moving her to the Doctor’s Rehab Unit, but the doctors are not optimistic. Please keep her is your prayers. Sincerely, **Jonnafae Hewitt**

### CONNECTIONS

Congratulations to **Shirley Jones** on the birth of a great-granddaughter, **Gabriella Nicole Liman**, on Tuesday, December 6. Congratulations also go to great-uncle, **John Jones**, and to the proud parents, **Rachel and Gary Liman**.

Congratulations to **Julie and Jason Priest** on the birth of a daughter, **Dyllan Isabella Priest**, on Monday, December 26. Dyllan was 9 lb. 8 oz. and 22 in. long at birth. Congratulations also go to big sister and brother, **Kennedy and Zachary**, and to the proud grandparents, **Bill and Adalene Green**.

Welcome to **Clark Falwell**, who recently placed membership with us. We have been fortunate to have Clark worshipping with us for some time. If you have not had a chance to meet him, make sure you do so and let him know how happy we are to have him in our WindSong family.

**Nick Thompson, George & Alice Gill’s** grandson, has returned to Great Britain from Iraq and is scheduled to arrive in the United States this month.

**Lorene Prater’s** grandson, **L CPL Chase Prater**, is coming home from Afghanistan. We all rejoice with Lorene and her family.

We are very blessed that the new office building is finished. A big “Thank You” to everyone who helped move the office furnishings from the old office to the new one.