



WindSong NOTES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Formerly Sixth and Izard

SERVING THE GREATER LITTLE ROCK AREA

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Being Yourself and Being Evangelistic Part 7

Bobby B. Boaldin

Over the past six months, a number of methods for evangelism have been examined and one would think that in that amount of time a passage from Acts, two would have already been explored. However, if you have been following the content of this series closely, you will have noticed that **Peter's Confrontational Approach of Evangelism** has not yet been dissected. This delay was intentional. When many people think of evangelism, and being evangelistic, what is often pictured is a person preaching. I have tried in this series of articles to dispel this vision of an effective evangelist. One need not be a preacher, or even a public speaker/teacher, to be an effective soul winner. In fact, given the current climate of antagonism toward "organized religion" coupled with the credence given to anything that is not considered "orthodoxy," the preacher as an evangelistic model may be the most ineffective method. That being stated, I am nevertheless confident that one can learn a great deal about evangelism from what Peter and the other apostles did and said in Acts, two. The next two months will be dedicated to considering this approach.

Let's begin by noticing the context of the apostles' proclamation. Specifically, Peter and the other apostles are gathered together with Jews from the world over from "every nation under heaven." Something different is noticed about these Galileans. As the apostles speak, people are able to hear the word of God in their own language. Scholars are divided on whether or not the miracle was in the hearing or the speaking. Ultimately it does not matter. What matters is that people were hearing the wonders of God in a way they could understand.

This is the first lesson to learn from Peter's approach. To be an effective soul winner, one must be

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A TRAIN WHISTLE

I didn't realize how much I missed it—a train whistle, that is. I grew up in the oil-field town of Odessa, Texas. A town enlivened by constant train whistles signaling the carrying of petroleum in every direction, and warning of the danger in crossing the tracks.

Some three years ago we moved from Little Rock to the bedroom community of Maumelle. Then I heard it late at night—a distant train whistle with its lonesome, but welcome sound. I now find myself straining each night to hear it again. Why? Because it lures me back to precious memories of the past. It speaks of parents long gone, a loving home life, and the precious days of childhood. It yields thoughts of church, and a large group of young people who now faithfully serve as leaders in the body of Christ. That whistle calls me to remember, and provides a soothing path to sleep.

Strange, isn't it, how a sound designed for warning can come to mean something completely different! Or, there's another possibility. The warnings can become so familiar that we cease to pay attention. As far as we are concerned they have lost their original intent. Take for instance the following:

"Remember Lot's wife."

"You shall not follow a multitude to do evil."

"And what I say to you I say to all: Watch."

"Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong."

"Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise."

These, and many more, are spiritual train whistles designed to warn us of danger. Wisdom dictates that we heed them.

JOHN GIPSON
WindSong Church of Christ



Lifting Eyes and Seeing Opportunities

Bill McDonough

Jesus said *"Lift up your eyes and look on the fields for they are white already unto harvest."* Opportunities are everywhere.

Today we were called to another village to preach. The village chief-tain said, "I want my people to hear the gospel." When we got there we were told that the people "couldn't come today", but we were asked to return on Monday, which we will plan to do.

We drove to a nearby village where there is a congregation meeting and visited a man that had fallen from a fifty-foot palm tree three weeks ago. He landed on a sharp bamboo stick that left a ten inch gash in the calf of his left leg. The gash became infected and his leg had swollen to three times its normal size. We had already sent antibiotics and dressing for the wound, but we wanted to check on him. This young man's leg is healing nicely, and he will be back to work soon, high in the sugar palms.

From that village we went to another where the church meets to check on a six-month-old who had been identified when the feeding truck was in the village earlier this week. The baby girl had a terrible skin rash over her entire body. We asked the mother if she had any soap to wash the baby. As we had anticipated, the answer was "no". We bathed the baby with water from a well you helped provide, cleaned the infected areas, and left a bar of soap and triple antibiotic cream to treat the rash every day.

Wishing we had a medical person with us to diagnose and treat, we drove home thankful that we were able to provide a little relief to those two among the thousands who are suffering here without treatment. Thanks to **Don Johnson, Jane Gault, Max Baker** and a couple of physicians who advise me on the internet, we haven't done anyone

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harm yet. Yet, we are very hesitant about playing doctor. Soon we can send those in need to "The Ship of Life."

We were shown opportunities today to relieve suffering and Monday, if it is His will, we will return to share the Gospel knowing that **HE CARES**.



David and the Giant

Joe Chesser

You may have heard this story before. Many years ago in the days of the kings, Israel went to war against their old adversary the Philistines. David, who's heart was sold out to God, joined in that battle even though many thought that he shouldn't have been there. A giant fought for the Philistines that day, a giant who was sporting a new suit of armor and whose spear tip weighed more than twelve pounds. As David went out to meet the giant in battle, he became exhausted and weak, couldn't stand up any longer, and collapsed to the ground. The giant seized this rare opportunity and rushed in to kill a helpless David.

Not the way you remember the story? Well, this giant happened to be Ishbi-benob, at least the second giant David faced in battle. Don't worry, 2 Samuel 21:17 lets us know that someone was watching over his friend that day; Abishai came to David's rescue just in time and slew the Philistine.

The way I see it, David was somewhere he didn't need to be, but someone had his back. That's the beauty of friendship—you mess up, get caught, your friends bail you out, and then, as in David's case, friends tell you like it is. Friends are there to help you when you fall, but they're also up in your face afterward. Because they want to punish you for your mistakes? No, because they love you and don't want you hurting yourself. Be a good friend, be there.

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able to communicate in a way that the lost can understand. This means we need to lose what some church growth gurus have coined as "Christianease" or "Church-speak." In case you haven't noticed, people who have been Christians for some time tend to develop their own language that is often a foreign language to the lost.

When addressing the unchurched, either while speaking publicly or teaching privately, we need to lose our Christianease and other religious jargon that may not communicate our intended meaning effectively. Because religious terminology is familiar to us, that does not mean it is understood by those whom we are trying to reach. In fact, they probably don't understand phrases like, "washed in the blood," "buried with Christ," and even "saved." "Saved from what?" the unchurched may wonder. Most unchurched people don't look to religion and God because they think they are "lost" and need salvation. Rather, they look to religion because they need God to help them with their immediate problems: work, raising children, spousal relationships and financial difficulties. The bottom line is this: if we are going to be effective in our evangelism, we must be able to communicate to the lost in a way they can understand about things that matter to them.

It seems to me that those who are often the most frequently guilty of using terminology that the unchurched do not understand are preachers. I write this with an accusing finger pointed directly at myself. No doubt I have been guilty of saying things in ways that were more confusing to the lost than they were helpful. This is something about which I must constantly be on guard. The reason: the success that was the result of the apostles' preaching in Acts, two began with God's word being communicated in such a way that it could be easily understood by all. If the miracle was in the hearing or the speaking, I do not know. What I know is—that miracle is not available to me. I must be clear, precise and above all understandable. Next month, we will continue our examination of Peter's Confrontational Approach.

BULLETIN BOARD

OUR APRIL RECORD

Average Attendance..... 232
Average Contribution.....\$13,091
Building Campaign Funds...\$1,002,148



Baptism: **Kenneth Hopkins** and **Joelle Wurtenberger**
Membership: **Paula Harrison** and **John & Susan Walker**

With Sympathy To...

Lynette Gilliam on the death of her aunt, **Dorothy Hardin**, of Judsonia, Arkansas, on March 31.
Tony and Freda Fowler on the death of his brother, **Lynn Fowler** of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, on April 19. The funeral was April 29, in White Hall, Arkansas.



Join us on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m as **Bobby Boaldin** concludes his series of sermons on the "Gospel of Judas" on May 7, and begins a new series entitled **The DaVinci Code: Faith, Fact or Fiction?** on May 21.

CONNECTIONS

We rejoice at the baptism of **Kenneth Hopkins** and **Joelle Wurtenberger**. Kenneth was baptized on Sunday, April 16, by **Kirk Perkins**. Joelle was baptized Sunday, April 23, by **Stuart Cash**. Welcome to our WindSong family!

A warm welcome to two new families: **John and Susan Walker** placed membership on April 2. They have a one-year-old son, **Noah**. **Paula Harrison** placed membership on April 16. Paula has a thirteen-year-old son, **Christian**.

Congratulations to **Charles and Jo Ann Burks** on the birth of a great-grandson, **Hunter Wells**, on Thursday, March 30. Congratulations also go to the proud parents, **Allen and Krista (Burks) Wells**.

Congratulations to **Russell and Gwen Hill** on the birth of a daughter, **Victoria (Tori) Elizabeth**, on April 17. Congratulations also go to big sister, **Mattison**.

Daniel Agin and **Chris Bishop** were both inducted into the National Junior Honor Society April 27. Congratulations! Congratulations to **Lacey Agin** and **Max Chesser** who both made the Third Quarter Honor Roll. Good job!

Hannah Boaldin pitched her 4th no-hitter this year on Monday, April 24, against Mount St. Mary. Congratulations! Congratulations to **Sara (Gault) Hill** who will receive her Doctorate of Pharmacy on May 20, from the UAMS College of Pharmacy. Sara is working for USA Drug.

Congratulations to **Kenneth Hopkins** who received a substantial scholarship to Washington and Lee University.

Congratulations to **Nicole Nordyke** who will graduate from Harding University on May 13, with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. In June, Nicole will be working on the Cardiac Step-Down Unit at Baptist Hospital in Little Rock.

Josh Perkins won first chair in saxophone for his trio performance at Maumelle Middle School. Congratulations!

Debbi Perkins has been accepted into the Baptist Health LPN program which will start in July. She is planning to continue in the program and receive her RN in two years. Congratulations, Debbi.

Congratulations to **Justin Powell** who graduates from Harding University on May 13, and will be inducted into Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology, on May 7. Justin will begin medical school at UAMS this fall.