

# GOD'S WARRIOR GIFT: THE EVANGELIST

By  
Evangelist  
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## Dedication

I dedicate this book to Professor Tom Johnston of Midwestern Seminary. Tom showed interest in the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists in 1999 by coming to our retreat before the SBC that year. We met and became fast friends. His teaching on translating the Greek word evangelize as evangelize as was done in the 1382 translation of the Bible into English opened my eyes to God's extreme emphasis on evangelism. This emphasis has been lost in modern times to many.

Dr. Johnston opened my eyes to the rich history of evangelists, such as the French Huguenot, Claude Brousson, who was strangled to death in the 1690's because he would not stop giving a public come forward invitation. He further showed me that the sinner's prayer which has been used since New Testament times came under attack at the Council of Orange around 530AD. Thank God it was not stopped. His work revealed that the public invitation to receive Christ, just as Simon Peter did on the day of Pentecost, continued throughout the centuries. He showed me how the Inquisition tried to stop this Bible method, but the records indicate it did not work.

In addition to the head knowledge Tom imparts is the heart for telling others about Jesus. Tom is a personal soul-winner and leads his students by example. Furthermore Tom believes in the biblical office of the evangelist. Twice he has used me in churches where he has served as interim. Tom has allowed me to co-teach the vocational evangelist class with him at Midwestern on several occasions. Each time I learned from him. I can call him anytime and receive scriptural answers. He is a walking encyclopedia of evangelism. His books, articles and website are a constant source of inspiration and knowledge. Thank the Lord Jesus Christ for Tom Johnston! [www.evangelismunlimited.org](http://www.evangelismunlimited.org)

# Prologue

## Ephesians 4:7-16

*Now grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of the Messiah's gift. For it says: When He ascended on high, He took prisoners into captivity; He gave gifts to people. But what does "He ascended" mean except that He descended to the lower parts of the earth? The One who descended is the same as the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things. And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, **some Evangelists**, some pastors and teachers, for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into a mature man with a stature measured by Christ's fullness. Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit. But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into Him who is the head—Christ. From Him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building up itself in love by the proper working of each individual part.(HCSB)*

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# FOREWORD

## The Office of the Evangelist

God has chosen people such as Paul, you, and me to evangelize this world with the Gospel.

When God created the church of Jesus Christ, He also determined how He would nourish it. He *"gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, **some to be Evangelists**, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ"* Ephesians 4:11–13

Evangelists are wonderful, gifted people. They are vitally important to our churches, for our Creator knew what the church would need to bring it into balance and maturity. **One pastor said** "I have often thought about what kinds of tools or helps could be found to make the pastor more effective. All of us have attended ministers' seminars and conferences, read the latest books, and sought out clues from how other successful pastors are doing their work. All this is good, but sometimes we miss some of the perfect advice given in the Scriptures: using the gifts God has given to the Church.

Evangelists are a tool (Warrior Gift) in the preacher's toolbox given to the church as a resurrection gift! Use them.



One of these tools is the gift of the Evangelist. Like pastors, Evangelists are unique gifts to congregations. We need to utilize every tool God has created to make our churches work effectively. We are a team with various players doing their jobs. All the team members have the same goals in mind; namely, to help the lost come to Christ and to help the saints come to maturity in Christ. The Evangelist inspires the church to good works.”

Certainly the church that works with an Evangelist in pre-crusade or single-meeting preparation will have better results when the meeting is concluded. Many Evangelists have Plan Books that advise how to invite a non-Christian to the meetings, how to pray for the services, and how to follow up effectively. Follow-up is so important for those who were saved, came to get their baptism in order, transferred a letter, joined by statement, answered the call to fulltime service, rededicated their lives to Christ, needed assurance, or those who responded to the invitation in other ways. The pre-crusade preparation and the follow-up work together in assimilating the new Christian or visitor into the Lord’s Church.

Selecting the right Evangelist for your church is another important factor. For example, if you need a children's Evangelist, some Evangelists specialize in communicating with children. If you need an Evangelist who will speak in a multiple-service crusade, you need one who is gifted in reaching all ages in the church. If you are sensing that the church needs messages on eschatology, faith, repentance, etc., Evangelists are available who have unique abilities to communicate in one or more of these areas.

The Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists provides a list with the names, addresses, and specialties of Southern Baptist Evangelists at: [www.sbcEvangelist.org](http://www.sbcEvangelist.org).

Look through this site and check out each person’s website. You will find a sense of the different gifts these leaders have.

If your church has not utilized the gift of the Evangelist, may I suggest that you do? Pray and think carefully about the results you would like to see. Ask other pastors, friends, or the state convention about Evangelists they would recommend. Speak to your congregation about the need for utilizing the gift of the Evangelist and what you are praying about concerning the upcoming special meeting/crusade. God will bless you and the congregation.

Evangelists focus on evangelism and messages that will stir up faith. They have a God-given, unique passion for those without Christ. They sometimes see things pastors do not see—people in your community whom you might have overlooked or forgotten. They hear a “heart’s cry” that an overfull schedule and other demanding voices possibly have shut

out. They sense negative attitudes in your church that, because of weariness, you might have learned to live with, and they challenge you to get stirred up and fight for the faith that perhaps has grown lukewarm with many of your members.

One Evangelist said, "While women weep, as they do now, I'll fight for souls; while little children go hungry, I'll fight; while there is a drunkard left, while there is a poor lost girl upon the streets, where there remains one dark soul without the light of God—I'll fight! I'll fight to the very end spreading the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ and His power to save, renew and sustain!"

Evangelist Jesse Hendley **defines the Evangelist**: "The person God uses for revival must be called of God for this work. 'And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God,' NKJV(Heb. 5:4).

**All true believers are 'called saints,'** that is, are saints by divine and personal call and are called to witness and to win souls. **But Evangelists are Christ's gifts to the church for soul winning revivals (Eph. 4:11), and they obtain this office by divine call!** Paul was "a called apostle" (Rom. 1:1, Greek), called to the specific work of reaching the Gentiles. Even Christ was "*called of God as high priest*" (Heb. 5:10). Out of the original seven who were chosen by the early church to serve tables, only Philip was called 'the Evangelist' (Acts 21:8). The others were not so called. Evidently God called him to this work after his call to serve tables. Paul urged Timothy to "*do the work of an Evangelist*" (II Tim. 4:5). He did not urge him to leave his charge and go out from place to place for revivals as called Evangelists did, but as a pastor-teacher to promote revival and soul winning on his field **between the comings of the Evangelists!** He was to keep the fires of evangelism blazing all the time! But he was not set apart by God and gifted for that special work of the Evangelist. His special call was to teach (II Tim. 2:2).

Samuel was called as a boy to a special work, as was Moses, Jeremiah, Isaiah and other men of God! The "called Evangelist" will have success as he obeys his call and abides in the Lord. God has no unsuccessful servants who are called and chosen and faithful."



# INTRODUCTION

In 1847 a California ranch owner caught gold fever. He heard Gold had been discovered in the southern part of the state. He sold his ranch to a certain Colonel Sutter. He headed south and never returned.

Sutter placed a mill on the ranch. One day his daughter brought some wet sand into his house. As she stood before the fire she strained some of the wet sand between her fingers. Sparkles of real gold were seen in that sand falling to the floor. This was the strike that started the 1849 Gold Rush.

The former owner had gold fever. He had gold on his property, but he sold it. More than \$38 million worth of gold was taken out of a few acres. The man in essence, rejected the gold under his feet. How senseless to reject real gold, for fool's gold.



Sometimes Christians reject the very gifts given to them by Christ for their own benefit. In this modern era, some are rejecting the office of Evangelist. I intend to warn you of the wiles of the devil. The tricks of Satan that will stop you from using a tool God has already given to you, the Evangelist. Fool's gold is found in the reports of man, especially when man's survey is contrary to the Word of God. Satan delights in this type of deception.



Roy Fish said: "Two things which are in a sad state of neglect today are the number of revival meetings held in Southern Baptist churches and the use of vocational Evangelists for these meetings. **Without a doubt, this is one reason why the number of people baptized in our churches has been declining.**"

I want to warn you about the spiritual dangers of rejecting the office of the Evangelist. When you yield to this temptation you reject a gift from the "Risen Christ." This kind of mistake brings

diminished growth and blessing to the church. Please, do not reject this “Warrior Gift” God has placed in your hand.

# Overview

## *Godly advice for the Pastor, Church, and Evangelist!*

From his study of Ephesians 4 Evangelist Don Womack said, "It is a sin of commission to reject the divine office of the Evangelist: a sin of omission to ignore the office; and a sin of transgression to abuse the office."

# TO REJECT THE OFFICE OF EVANGELIST IS:

## *Criminal Unbelief*

To reject the office of Evangelist is Criminal Unbelief in the Word of God. Christ's method of evangelism includes Christ's gift of the Evangelist and is clearly stated in the Word of God. To reject the office the Lord Jesus Christ gives to His church for her up building and maturation in Ephesians 4 is to say to the Lord Jesus, "You do not know what You are doing." Such a slap in our Lord's face will not go unpunished.

## *Thankless*

To reject the office of Evangelist is to be thankless for the ("doron") gift Christ has given. Every good gift comes from Him. The Lord Jesus gives the Evangelist in conjunction with his sacrifice and resurrection. Do not choose to operate without this special resurrection gift Jesus has given to His church. To refuse to use an Evangelist is to be unthankful for the Great Commission and the practical tool (the Evangelist) Christ has given the church to reap a harvest and to incite the church to do the same.

## *Man's plans above God's*

To reject the office of Evangelist is placing man's plans above God's plans. It is clear that Paul decided that only a clear presentation of the Gospel of Christ is the way to reach people under any circumstances. God's way is that "*faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.*" While every Christian is to witness and pastors are to do the work of an Evangelist, God

still has given certain harvesters (Evangelists) to the church to lead out in the harvest. Junior Hill says, “Using an Evangelist is like using a combine in the harvest as opposed to a single ingathering. There is a mass ingathering when God’s gift is used.” Using an Evangelist forces the local church to get out and bring the lost to church so they will be under the hearing of the Word in a revival meeting. The more wheat (the lost), in front of the combine, the greater the harvest will be.

Some time ago I was asked to preach the pilot BAPTISM ASSISTANT PROJECT for the North American Mission Board. It was originally called the LOW AND NO BAPTISM PROJECT. This project helps low and no baptism churches to utilize the office of the Evangelist. Dr. Tom Johnston clearly gives the circumstances of this inner city church in the following e-mail.



It sure was a blessing to have Keith preach a revival at Central Baptist Church. It is a church that has been a mission church since its inception in 1950, due to its location. First it was an Italian Mission. Now it is in a changing neighborhood with 60 nations and 27 languages at the local public elementary school (Garfield Elementary School).

1. I have preached at Central Baptist since July 4, 2004, and not long after I began preaching, they asked me to be their interim pastor.
2. The community has a very strong ethnic population (60 nations as mentioned above). The predominant ethnicities are Somali and Sudanese. I have been told that the Somalis are organized into tribes with 5 chiefs in our area (a friend of mine met with them last year). We have made some inroads into the young Sudanese “Christian” population, but have had more difficulty in reaching the Muslims (especially the Somali). I use a Somali Bible that I found online for free (at e-Sword.net), and seeing their language intrigues the Somali. Therefore I include the Bible portion on which I am speaking in six languages (including Arabic and Somali), as well as on leaflets that we hand out door-to-door.

3. The church had three people in attendance when I first preached on July 4, 2004. One of those men went to a retirement home and moved his membership. We have been averaging 29-32 for the past 6 months on Sunday morning, and we began giving to the cooperative program in January, 2006. We go out weekly in door-to-door evangelism, and have made numerous positive contacts for the Gospel. It has been very hard work.
4. As a professor of evangelism, I have my notes that I teach on the gift and role of the Evangelist. This weekend with Keith Fordham opened my eyes to the harvest potential of a God-called Evangelist, in conjunction with the **emphasis on soul-winning stemming from a planned revival**. This combination was fantastic and fruitful. As a professor of evangelism I lead out evangelism teams weekly to other local churches for door-to-door (so far 32 churches in the KC metro), as well as lead weekly door-to-door at Central. I always give an invitation and seek to keep the Gospel primary. However, even with that constant emphasis on evangelism at our church, the revival provided for an even greater focus on evangelism. I am grateful that the response of the church and the neighborhood went beyond my expectations. I am also grateful for the 16 saved (at our church field) and the 10 who were baptized. This church had not baptized for over 30 years because their baptismal leaked, perhaps people were not being saved, and they may have morphed into a social ministry due to the huge physical needs of the neighborhood.

I am truly grateful for Keith's ministry among us!

Gratefully in Christ,

Tom Johnston

*Please note: Central Baptist increased to over 90 in attendance after the Revival.*

The following is a portion of an article from the Christian Index (Georgia Baptist State Paper) sheds additional light on how well the church prepared for the meeting.

**NAMB, Southern Baptist Evangelists strategize to help churches with no/low baptisms**

## **By J. Gerald Harris, Editor**

Published August 3, 2006

...Georgia Baptist Evangelist Keith Fordham ... to conduct revival services at Central Baptist Church in Kansas City, Mo. Central had not baptized anyone in 30 years.

Tom Johnston, assistant professor of Evangelism at Midwestern, is the interim pastor of Central and asked Fordham to come to Kansas City to teach a class on vocational evangelism. ...Johnston mobilized all the evangelism classes to go out into the streets of Kansas City to witness and pass out flyers in Arabic, Somali, French, Vietnamese, Spanish and English.

Twenty-eight members of Macedonia Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo. joined nearly 50 faculty and students from the seminary in the outreach effort, which included an abbreviated version of Vacation Bible School on Saturday afternoon. As a result of these efforts 16 people were saved and Central Baptist Church baptized 10 of the new converts.

A tent was set up on the church property for the VBS and for the Friday and Saturday night revival services. A new convert, Danny Friedrich, was lifted from his wheelchair and placed in the cattle trough to be baptized at the Friday night service. It was the first baptism for Central Baptist Church in more than 30 years.

Johnston said, "The outdoor baptism sent a spiritual tremor throughout the neighborhood." Indeed, it did, because many people from the neighborhood came to the services on Saturday and Sunday. Many rededications and public professions of faith followed that first baptism.

Fordham commented, "All of our efforts were blessed by God. Door-to-door visitation and old-fashioned revival work in inner cities with multilingual people. Preaching and talking about Jesus works anywhere, anytime. It worked for the Apostle Paul in an unseeded gentile society; it works today." <sup>1</sup>

During the meeting Keith was asked by the media "How will you change the message to reach the crime ridden people of the inner city who have no idea what a revival is?" He said, "I will

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<sup>1</sup> NAMB, Southern Baptist Evangelists strategize to help churches with no/low baptisms By J. Gerald Harris, Editor, Christian Index Published August 3, 2006

preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified, risen, and coming again just like Paul did to pagan Greeks and Romans. There is no changing of the eternal message of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

## ***Not Desiring God’s Best***

To reject the office of Evangelist is not desiring God’s best. Jesus is God’s best and His gifts to the church, are God’s best including the Evangelist. Malcolm McDow points out concerning revival, “In the Southern Kingdom every national revival occurred during one of three required Feasts: Passover, Pentecost, or Feast of Tabernacles. One explanation for this association was that the festivals allowed the people to assemble as a nation. It is interesting to note that the revival at Pentecost in Acts 2 ignited during this festival.”<sup>2</sup>

The Holy Spirit has allowed Baptists to come together on a smaller scale in local revivals. Every ministry of the church comes together for a common goal in one accord. It is important for the Children’s ministry, Student Ministry, College and Career age, Young married couples, Midlife couples, Singles again, and Senior adults to all come together in the same service for the same purpose of renewal and evangelism. Revival is the only week in the year where this occurs. Some churches even call their revival a festival. Sometimes Associations, small towns and even entire counties, unite together many churches, use an Evangelist to bring in the harvest, and all work together to reach an entire area for Christ. Baptists will join with other denominations to send a spiritual tremor through entire communities.

In Nehemiah 8:14-18 *They found written in the law how the Lord had commanded through Moses that the Israelites should dwell in booths during the festival of the seventh month. So they proclaimed and spread this news throughout all their towns and in Jerusalem, saying, "Go out to the hill country and bring back branches of olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees to make booths, just as it is written." The people went out, brought*

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<sup>2</sup> Malcolm McDow points out in FireFall: How God Has Shaped History Through Revivals on page 63, by Malcolm McDow and Alvin Reid published by Pleasant Word, a division of Wine Press Publishing, PO Box 428, Enumclaw, WA 98022 printed 2002



*back branches, and made booths for themselves on each of their rooftops, and courtyards, the court of the house of God, the square by the Water Gate, and the square by the Gate of Ephraim. The whole community that had returned from exile made booths and lived in them. They had not celebrated like this from the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day. And there was tremendous joy.* (HCSB)

Tremendous joy comes to God's church when we set aside a time to pray, prepare, witness, and come together under a God called Evangelist for revival and evangelism. Having a revival allows us to return in obedience to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. With true repentance, God restores the great joy of our salvation. Thus our service to God is once more joy and not drudgery. Our fellowship is electric and even the lost people want to be a part that kind of fellowship.



## ***Arrogant Pride***

To reject the office of Evangelist is arrogant pride. To say that you do not need the office of the Evangelist is to say that you do not need God's method or gift. Your church is operating in a mode that does not need God's Word or way. Pride goes before a fall. *"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."*

## ***Following False Doctrine***

To reject the office of Evangelist is following false doctrine. The false doctrine is to say that the gift of the Evangelist no longer exists or that it ended in New Testament times. **Until time ends the Lord Jesus will see to it that certain men are saved, called and given to His church to fill the office of Evangelist.**

## ***Actively Ignore The Harvest***

To reject the office of Evangelist is to actively ignore the Harvest. It is to say "I will not witness and I will not plan to harvest the fields which Jesus has said *"are already white unto harvest."* There is only one thing worse than being lost. It is to be lost and to have the only people on earth God has sent searching

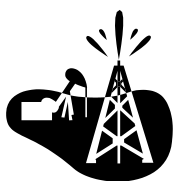
for you to reject the very warrior tool (the Evangelist) God might use to call you to Jesus.

## ***A Sin Of Commission***

To reject the office of Evangelist is a sin of Commission. In rejecting the Evangelist you are actively going against the revealed will of God. This is among the greatest of sins for a Christian.

# IGNORING THE OFFICE OF THE EVANGELIST

A farm owner in Pennsylvania decided to seek employment from his cousin collecting coal-oil. He was wearied with farm work and wanted a change. His cousin would not hire him because he didn't know anything about the coal-oil business. He decided to go to school and learn everything he could about coal-oil. At the University he learned how coal formed. He discovered that coal-oil drained off rich beds of coal. He learned how to recognize coal oil from sight, smell, and taste. He learned how to refine it. He told his cousin what he had learned. He sold his farm for \$833. He moved to Canada and went to work for his cousin.



For 23 years this man had used a board to separate clean drinking water for his cattle from a smelly scum that the cattle would not drink. He was actually holding back a flood of coal-oil. Ten years later it was discovered that the coal oil on his former farm was worth over \$1 billion. He had been fooled by his interest in change. He could not see the obvious wealth that he had lived with for 23 years. Even so, many ministers today are not using Evangelists. Some are allowing surveys, opinionated deacons, the economy, and men's ideas stop them from using the office of the Evangelist. Do not be tricked by Satan. Believe the Bible and utilize God's gift, the Evangelist for your church. Do not neglect this weapon Christ has given His church. The reason there is a shortage of Evangelists, is that God's people are not crying out for more. Go boldly before the throne of grace and ask God for more Evangelists. Put feet on your prayer by only using Evangelists for Revivals and Harvest Days.

# TO IGNORE THE OFFICE OF EVANGELIST IS:

## *To Have Blood On Our Hands*

To ignore the office of Evangelist is to have blood on our hands. When we ignore the Office of the Evangelist we will not do all that God has asked us to do and equipped us to do to reach the lost. Dr. Darrel Robinson in his book *Total Church Life* shares the testimony of a Father's effort to save his son. The following is an account: "A hurricane hit the Gulf coast of Texas! ...The floods subsided by Wednesday night when we gathered for prayer meeting... they were searching Vines Bayou for the body of a fourteen year old boy, Eddie Meek, who had made a profession of faith a month earlier at one of our church's bus ministry youth services.

The next morning I sat across from Eddie's father, Leroy Meek. He looked like a bum... He had been fishing the bayou for his son's body all night. Leroy began to tell the story. "I am a foreman for a large construction company. I did not go to work yesterday due to the flooding. We have eight children. I told them not to go outside to play. But, while I took a nap, three of the boys slipped out and made a raft of Styrofoam material and began to float down the bayou. The raft broke up. Two of the boys were able to get out, but Eddie could not get out. The other two raced home and awakened me. I jumped into the pickup truck and sped to the bayou. I tried to reach Eddie, but the concrete sides were steep and the water was rushing and I couldn't get to him. He was screaming, 'Daddy, help me! Help me, I can't hold on much longer!'

"I ran back to the pickup truck and grabbed a rope. Eddie screamed, 'Somebody help me! I can't hold on much longer!' I threw him the rope, but the rope was too short!"

As I listened to Leroy, a chill went down my spine. I choked back tears as I visualized the scene he described. It was like God was speaking to me and showing me the multitudes of hurting

people near our church. Like Eddie, they were clinging to whatever they could hold on to. They were crying, "Help me! Somebody help me! I can't hold on much longer." And Christians and churches were throwing out ropes, but the ropes were too short to reach the world.””<sup>3</sup>

Sometimes it takes a tragedy for us to see our responsibility to get the preacher and God's people in gear to reach the community. Brother Robinson led Leroy Meek, a man who could not read and had never been in church with his children, to Christ. Twenty five adults and young people accepted Christ as Darrell preached John 3:16 at the funeral.

Darrell told his congregation on Sunday morning, “Multitudes of hurting people are clinging to whatever they can, hold on to. They were crying, “Help me, somebody help me. I can't hold on much longer!”

We are throwing out ropes that are too short to reach today's world. What are some of these short ropes?

- **Social Religion**
- **Mere Morality**
- **Empty Talk**
- **Mere Human Effort**

**These ropes are too short.**

Some are reaching out for ropes that are too short- the ropes of religion rather than relationship with Christ, of wishful thinking, of dependence on morality. But there is a rope that is not too short. It is Jesus! He came all the way from the glory of heaven to each one of us.”<sup>4</sup>

The invitation lasted one hour and forty minutes. One hundred and sixty seven were saved. The church became a soul winning station for Christ where people were disciplined and then they disciplined others. Leroy Meeks led over fifty people to Christ that year because he found that Jesus is the rope that is not too short. When it came time for Leroy to die he knew where he was going. All this happened because Darrell Robinson made sure that the

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<sup>3</sup> Total Church Life by Darrell Robinson p 11

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. p13

blood of that community was not on his hands. **Yes he even called in Evangelists to help.** Today Darrell is an Evangelist.

## ***To Work Without God's Provision***

To ignore the office of Evangelist is to work without God's provision. You have to go out of your way to get the lost under the preaching and invitation of the Evangelist. It is easy to ignore the responsibility because of the effort it takes and also the financial cost. We do not want to put out the effort to get lost people in front of the Evangelist so he can harvest the wheat. It is like the men who ignored the Gadarene Demoniac "Let's not think about reaching this man, let us take care of our own business. It is cheaper for us that he remains lost and demon possessed."

## ***To Be Under The Curse Of Meroz***

To ignore the office of Evangelist is to be under the curse of Meroz! Judges 5:23 "*Curse Meroz,*" says the Angel of the Lord, "*Bitterly curse her inhabitants, for they did not come to help the Lord, to help the Lord against the mighty warriors.*"(HCSB)

Generally in scripture we think of the Lord helping men. Here we have just the opposite taking place. Twice in one verse men are accused of not helping the Lord. It is talking about them not coming to help Deborah or Barak against a great enemy. Israel was God's covenant people and had a responsibility to act on God's behalf. In the New Testament, God's church is given marching orders to win the world to Christ. Every member of the church is to be an active witness of the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Evangelist witnesses and stirs the church to boldly witness.

## **FEAR**

Some of the reasons given for Meroz not fighting are identical with reasons some Christians are not witnessing today. First, fear is one reason. Fear means we do not believe in the power of Christ to save. We cover the name of Jesus and place a drape over the power of God when we need to be turning the Gospel loose; "*for it is the*

*power of God to salvation.*” Not witnessing is scandalous unbelief in what Jesus can do through us.

## AT EASE IN ZION

Secondly, we are at ease in Zion and do not want to get out of our comfort zone long enough to obey the Great Commission. We miss God’s purpose when we fail to seek and save the lost. One of God’s greatest offices in the battle to win the world to Jesus, are His Evangelists. The itinerant roving ministry of the Evangelist is to be used by every church. To refuse to go out of the way to do whatever it takes to have an Evangelist, a Christ given man, in your church is iniquitous unbelief. It is serving God your own way as Cain did. No wonder there is a curse of deadness on our churches.

## FIGHTING GOD

Thirdly Jesus said, in Luke 11:23 *“Anyone who is not with Me is against Me, and anyone who does not gather with Me scatters.”* (HCSB) We are in essence fighting God himself when we do not utilize all the gifts Christ has given us to win the lost. Evangelists are listed in scriptural order even before the pastor. Any church or pastor who stays only in his own village and is not willing to step outside of his own interests long enough to not only pray for God’s Warriors, Evangelists, but to support and use them is under the curse of Meroz. The curse of Meroz is a bitter curse.

## NOT GIVING PUBLIC INVITATIONS AND NOT HOLDING REVIVALS

Fourthly, It was to *"to help the Lord against the mighty warriors."* (Judges 5:23c) There are a minority of large Baptist churches and small Baptist churches that are not giving public invitations and not holding revivals. **Southern Baptists are the keepers of the invitation**, and know how to hold local revivals and area crusades. When I preach small town crusades, the other

denominations say, “You Baptists know how to hold Evangelistic meetings and we do not.”

Baptists are personal soul winners. Phillip, the Evangelist, left the great Samaritan Crusade and witnessed to the Eunuch. Baptists in my lifetime have effectively used these Bible methods from house to house and to large crowds. Peter preached to crowds on Pentecost to win the lost. When Baptists forget God’s methods we will not only plateau, but die. We will disappear from history as Meroz did. Baptists have more Evangelists than any other denomination in America. But instead of the 500 we have, we actually need 5,000 for every church to utilize one or two a year. Our enemy is great, but our Lord Jesus Christ is greater. Never forget that truth.

## ***LACK OF AGGRESSIVE WITNESS***

Fifthly, the attitude that says “I will allocate others to aggressive witnessing,” when the world is headed for hell is unethical. Not only should we be taking our places in the battlefield for Christ, but we need to turn loose of funds and employee God’s chosen men (Evangelists) to assist us in the battle for souls. Marching orders have been given, the Great Commission, and we need to take part in this war. We should fight with all we are and all we have. Our arsenal includes God’s Evangelists.

Yet some say “The day of the Evangelist is over.” A few say, “My church is in such a great spiritual condition, that we do not need a revival, much less an Evangelist.” We are saying we do not believe in God’s methods. Like Meroz we need to be a part of God’s overall plan. God is fighting for souls and needs us to join His forces seeking to save the lost.

## ***LISTENING TO THE WORLD & NOT GOD’S WORD***

Sixthly, Meroz may have listened to all the polls that were conducted. They may have said, “God’s people can fight the battle as God says, but Man’s survey says that God’s way is not right.



We will use the man's methods. Since we have not offended the enemy; there is no need for us to join in the battle."

Well **Paul took a survey in Corinth** and the results of that report are given in 1 Corinthians 1:21-25 says *"For since, in God's wisdom, the world did not know God through wisdom, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of the message preached. For the Jews ask for signs and the Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles. Yet to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is God's power and God's wisdom, because God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength."* (HCSB)

My friend, Baptists have believed too many surveys. Stop wasting time and be obedient to God's Word. *Preach Christ and Him crucified!* To those who respond in belief, it is the power of God to salvation. House to house and in crusades, preach Jesus. In so doing, revival will come and souls will be saved. And the **curse of Meroz will be removed from our churches.**

## ***Not God's Perfect Will***

To ignore the office of Evangelist is to operate in God's permissive will and not in His perfect will. God's perfect will includes the Evangelist. If this were not so, the Perfect Lord Jesus Christ would not have given the Evangelist to the church. A church cannot have godly growth and maturity without the ministry of the Evangelist. For a church to go even one year without using an Evangelist is to be outside of God's perfect will. When you look at an Evangelist, men like me; you may not be able to figure out the "why" of God's will. But God always knows best. God's second best is better than the devil's "any best!"

However, we still lose spiritual power and effectiveness when we operate in God's permissive will. In making Saul, King, there were many consequences; paying taxes, removing their sons and daughters from their homes and placing them in the Kings service etc...Saul was a Benjamite. The King was to come from Judah. But Judah's sin with his daughter-in-law also had consequences. According to Deut 23:2 *"No one of illegitimate birth may enter the Lord's assembly; none of his descendants, even to the tenth*

*generation, may enter the Lord's assembly,"* This would not allow a descendant of Judah to be king until the tenth generation. In Matthew Chapter one, we discover that Jesse was the ninth generation and David was the tenth generation. Allowing Saul to be king was God's permissive will, and not His revealed perfect will. God's permissive will had consequences to the entire nation and to the world. The same is true of any church that rejects the office of Evangelist today.

## ***Lukewarm***

To ignore the office of Evangelist is to be lukewarm. Rev 3:16-17 *"So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of My mouth."* We should not only witness, but bring a firebrand Evangelist in the midst of the congregation and see what God will do. In *Pilgrim's Progress*, John Bunyan again and again, gained a blessing every time Evangelist was around. When you have an Evangelist to preach before your congregation you will find the same to be true among your people. I often hear men and women who are new Christians say, "I did not know what a revival or an Evangelist was until this week and I did not miss a service!" Others say, "This revival gives me a chance to make up for times I missed sitting under the Word of God earlier in my life!" An Evangelist is one of God's catalysts for revival and evangelism. Let the fire fall.

## **Who Am I?**

I never was guilty of wrong action but on my account lives have been lost, trains have been wrecked, ships have gone down at sea, cities have burned, battles have been lost, governments have failed and souls have gone to hell.

I never struck a blow nor spoke an unkind word, but because of me homes have been broken up, friends have grown cold, the laughter of children has ceased, wives have shed bitter tears, brothers and sisters have forgotten, fathers and mothers have gone broken-hearted to their graves, and I have blood on my hands.

I have intended no evil, but because of me talent and genius have come to naught, courtesy and kindness have failed, the promise of success and happiness has yielded sorrow and disaster,

and hopelessness has reigned.

I have no color except grey, no sound but just my silence, no cause but self, no progeny except grief and disaster. I cause church pews to be empty. You may not on the instant call me by name, but surely you are personally acquainted with me. I am Neglect.

## *Neglect Of Duty*

To ignore the office of Evangelist is a neglect of duty.

During the course of a normal year a pastor has so many good things to do, but he often is forced to attend to the “squeaky wheel.” Even doing the important tasks leaves little time and energy. Exhaustion makes it easy to neglect the Great Commission in our own Jerusalem.

When an Evangelist is called and a time set aside on the calendar, it encourages the pastor, staff and church body to unite in one accord for preparation and soul winning. It encourages Sunday school teachers to call the entire Sunday school roll. “Pack-a-Row” or “Men’s Steak Dinner” gives God’s people an excuse to invite their lost friends to come and sit under the hearing of God’s Word. The Evangelist challenges all to place their faith in Christ. To call in the Evangelist stirs the congregation to take advantage of “God’s stirring tool”. When the congregation understands the gift of Evangelist, they will put out extra effort to bring the lost under the influence of the harvester.

## *Treason*

To ignore the office of Evangelist is treason! As an ambassador for Christ it is our duty to present the Gospel God’s way. Utilizing an Evangelist is one of those ways. Not to do so is treason against our Lord Jesus Christ. You may say Jesus can save men without an Evangelist. Yes, He can and He does, but thank God He chooses to use Evangelists! **Since He chooses to do so, “Why don’t you?”**

# I will



# A WORD TO THE WARRIOR

## TO ABUSE THE OFFICE OF EVANGELIST IS:

### *To Feed The Flesh Like Esau*

To abuse the office of Evangelist is to feed the flesh like Esau, for a moment and lose a lifetime of blessing. We are discussing the abuse of the office by Evangelists. Through the years a few Evangelists have given up their ministry for an illicit relationship with a woman, or have allowed alcohol or drugs to take away their witness. For some they were caught in a moment, for others it was a lifestyle. Only God knows the heart of a man. God hated Esau because of his sin. God hates men who commit such sin. With greater influence for Christ comes a greater responsibility. To run the risk of God's hatred is a greater price than any man can pay. Evangelist friend, do all you can to protect God's calling on your life. Even those who are restored never again reach the influence for God they once had.

### *Lose A Reputation*

To abuse the office of Evangelist is to lose a reputation you cannot buy back. While you may find God's forgiveness, you will, like King David, suffer the consequences for the rest of your life. It is like getting drunk and losing your arm and a foot in a car wreck. You can be forgiven for getting drunk, but on this earth you will never get the arm and foot back. This holds true in the spiritual realm. You will never again be used as you would have been,

because of your sin. You will have permanently lost influence and trust.

## ***Sin With Finances, Females, Fame (Pride), Family, And/Or Jealousy***

To abuse the office of Evangelist is to sin with finances, females, fame (pride), family, and/or jealousy (which causes us to speak in an evil manner against fellow ministers).

The devil will see to it that every Evangelist is tempted in the above mentioned areas. Evangelist Billy Graham took an offering into his room in the Atlanta crusade in the 1950's. It was photographed and he never again touched the offering money. He abstained from the very appearance of evil. He has in fact taken far less money than he deserved. The majority of Evangelists do not have enough income to be tempted to steal. It is reasonable and proper for an Evangelist to live on a salary and set up an organization that is non profit, and be above board in all ways.

However the desperate need of funds may cause finances to be on the Evangelist's mind continuously. This can cause Evangelists to give pastors the idea that all they are interested in is money. Clearly let churches and ministers understand your financial needs. Churches should try to meet your budget requirements. **Most pastors care about your ministry needs and are very gracious in asking their people to give.**

God uses you, and you see men and women's lives changed; there is a temptation for you to think that you did it. Always remember that God allows you to be present, but only He can save. You have to put your pants on one leg at a time just like any other man. You are man and Jesus is God. Remember this truth. Do not get haughty and think you are better than other men. God's grace places you where you are. If people's lives are changed it is the Lord Jesus Christ who did it. If their lives are not changed it is their sin that kept it from happening. Your job is to preach the Word and draw the net. The Holy Spirit will take care of the rest.

Fatigue from so much travel can often cause you to lose contact with your family. I took my family on the road with me. It is very

difficult. It was difficult for my wife and I, but not for the Lord. While many Evangelists have ministered to others, their families have been without a father and husband. God can handle that circumstance as well, but you need to do all you can to let your family know how God is using you; and why what you do is so important. That takes extra effort. Contact them every day and speak with every family member and show interest in their lives.

My children missed ball practices, ball games and all kinds of other events for church revivals where I preached. When parents who would come up to me during those revivals and say, “We will not be at the revival tomorrow night because of a ball practice.” I would reply “My child is missing their ball practice tomorrow night for your church’s revival. If my kids are missing practices over 40 weeks a year for somebody else’s church, it is not too much for me to ask for your kids to miss one game for your own church’s revival once a year.” I got the handle, **THE “NO EXCUSE EVANGELIST.”** Today, our daughter, son in law and granddaughter are extremely active in their local church’s ministry. Our Son is pastoring a church along with our daughter in law and two grand children. That is after being in church for at least five preaching services every week for years. But they were a part of our ministry and saw what the Living God was doing.

Fatigue can cause you to dislike being around people and cause you to struggle emotionally or financially. You can be jealous of other ministers. You can speak ill of others when you should not. And all of us can act like the devil when we are sick and exhausted. Ask the pastor to allow you to rest. He will generally understand. Learn to say no to meetings and do not preach yourself into complete exhaustion. I have been extremely guilty in this area. I collapsed in the year 2000 from sheer exhaustion. I left a revival meeting and canceled a meeting for the first time in over 1000 revivals. My wife said “You are trusting yourself for our income and not God.” She was right. God miraculously provided for our needs. It is easy to forget that God supplies all our needs. Most men think we provide. It is not true! God provides the air we breathe, our strength and our finances. He even provides jobs and retirement income. God does it His way and we should never usurp His provision by providing our own way.

## ***Despise The Ministry God Has Called You To***

To abuse the office of Evangelist is to despise the ministry God has called you to. Jonah despised his ministry and the revival God sent on the people of Nineveh. He despised the way God used him to bring to his enemies to repentance. God forced him to be obedient. Even so, God sends out Evangelists. Matthew 9:36-38 *“When He saw the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were weary and worn out, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out (ekbálee) workers into His harvest.”* “Ekbálee” means cast forth or out, drive out, expel, pluck (pull, take, thrust) out, put forth and send away. Jesus has all authority and told us to win disciples. He can move us out through persecution or we can be compelled by love and relationship with Christ. We can make it a chore or get revived and witness gladly.

We become as Vance Havner said, “As straight as a gun barrel theologically, but just as empty spiritually.” That means we are not filled with the Spirit. We are operating only on head knowledge, and physical effort. We must operate in God’s power and strength. In college we would pray before a revival service and say “Lord, Thank you for the beating we are about to receive.” We knew that the Evangelist was going to get on us for not witnessing. The conviction was so strong and lasting that if I did not lead someone to Christ during a given week, I would fall on my knees and repent, wondering why it had not happened and how I might have quenched the Holy Spirit.

When we serve the Lord out of head knowledge, and not out of the overflow of the Spirit of Christ, we will get angry, bitter and end up like Jonah as far away from lost people and God’s people as possible. We care more about a gourd, or doctrine or some petty thing than the lost souls. Jesus said, *“Love your enemies.”* Sometimes enemies are church members. But let the love of Christ propel you through to victory and joy. Do not end up bitter and miserable like Jonah.

*“But Jonah was greatly displeased and became furious. He prayed to the Lord: “Please, Lord, isn’t this what I said while I was still in my own country? That’s why I fled toward Tarshish in the*



*first place. I knew that You are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to become angry, rich in faithful love, and One who relents from sending disaster. And now, Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." The Lord asked, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Jonah left the city and sat down east of it. He made himself a shelter there and sat in its shade to see what would happen to the city. Then the Lord God appointed a plant, and it grew up to provide shade over Jonah's head to ease his discomfort. Jonah was greatly pleased with the plant. When dawn came the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, and it withered. As the sun was rising, God appointed a scorching east wind. The sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he almost fainted, and he wanted to die. He said, "It's better for me to die than to live." Then God asked Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" "Yes," he replied. "It is right. I'm angry enough to die!" So the Lord said, "You cared about the plant, which you did not labor over and did not grow. It appeared in a night and perished in a night. Should I not care about the great city of Nineveh, which has more than 120,000 people who cannot distinguish between their right and their left, as well as many animals?"'" (HCSB) Jonah 4:1-11*

## ***To Do Great Damage To the Church***

To abuse the office of Evangelist is to do great damage to Christ's body (the church). When an Evangelist sins or abuses the office which God has called him to, he does not fulfill God's plan and purpose to mature and upbuild the church. Morale in an army is more important in battle than nearly any factor. You, dear Evangelist, are Christ's gift to the church. Your attitude should lift the morale of any pastor, teacher, or laymen who is seeking to serve the Lord. When you sin or become bitter or ugly in attitude or in spirit, you hurt Christ's body. Preach and call men to Christ with the authority of God. But do not abuse or use the authority for yourself. The Power of the Holy Spirit in you is to be used for the Lord Jesus and His Church.

## ***Push Men Away From Christ***

To abuse the office of Evangelist is to push men away from Christ. When an Evangelist abuses the office, he pushes lost men away from Christ. They see you and your sin. They get their eyes off Jesus. When we catch fish for Jesus, He will clean them. Point men to Christ and do not get in the way. Some will reject the Lord; it should not be because you hindered them. Some years ago a television-Evangelist, not an itinerant Evangelist, but a man who pastored a church, had a moral failure. He remained in his pulpit for a time, even though he was asked to step aside. For the next three years many lost people would bring up his name up as an excuse for not trusting Christ.

Recently an Evangelist had a moral failure that turned out to have been going on over a period of years. A pastor said, “The people who were saved under his preaching at my church wondered if they were really saved. It took several weeks for me to remind them that Jesus saves no matter the circumstances of how they came to know Christ.” Sin causes confusion and when the man in the pulpit sins, it is hurtful to everyone in God’s work.

Honor the Christ given office of the Evangelist and Christ’s purpose to seek and save the lost will be fulfilled everywhere you go. Abuse the office and great damage will be sustained in your personal life, your family, God’s family the church, and in the lost world. Souls will go to hell and the blood of many will be on your hands.

# Modern Parable

*Dear Saul Paul,*

Itinerant Evangelist

Corinth, Greece

Dear Paul:

We recently received a brochure from you for revival in our church. It is our policy to be as frank and open-minded as possible with all our itinerant speakers. We have made an exhaustive survey of your case. To be plain, we are surprised that you have been able to "pass" as a bona-fide Evangelist. We are told that you are afflicted with severe eye-trouble. This is certain to be an insuperable handicap to an effective ministry; our Church Council, deacons, and elders require 20-20 vision.

At Antioch, we learned you opposed Dr. Simon Peter, an esteemed denominational secretary and actually rebuked him publicly. You stirred up so much trouble at Antioch that a special Board meeting had to be convened in Jerusalem. We cannot condone such actions.

Do you think it seemly for an Evangelist to do part-time secular work? We hear that you are making tents on the side. In a letter to the church at Philippi you admitted that they were the only church supporting you. We wonder why?

Furthermore, you have not graduated from our seminary, and you know we cannot have our mission board represented by one who is not a graduate from a recognized university. We cannot recognize the three years you spent in Arabia and Damascus because the schools are unknown. Our Board does not recognize private tutors such as you claim you have had.

Is it true that you have a jail record? Certain brethren report that you did two years time at Caesarea and were imprisoned at Rome. You made so much trouble for the business men at Ephesus that they refer to you as 'the man who turned the world upside down.' Sensationalism, in evangelism; is uncalled for. We also deplore the lurid over-the-wall-in-a basket-episode at Damascus.

We are appalled at your obvious lack of conciliatory behavior. Have you ever suspected that gentler words might gain you more friends?

Again you have disclosed sordid personal affairs of your past life, such as punishing the saints. This borders on sensationalism. I enclose a copy of Darius Carnegus' book, *How to Win Jews and Influence Greeks*. In one of your letters you refer to yourself as 'Paul the aged.' Our new evangelism policies do not envision a surplus of funding and we will not take love offerings for your ministry.

We understand you are given to fantasies and dreams. First you said a 'bright light from heaven' caused you to fall to the earth, and then you heard a voice calling your name. And at Troas, you say 'a man of Macedonia' called you and at another time you were caught up to the 'third heaven,' and even claimed 'the

Lord stood by you.' We reckon that more realistic and practical minds are needed in the task of world evangelization.

You have caused much trouble everywhere you have gone. You opposed the honorable Greek women at Berea and the leaders of your own nationality in Jerusalem. If a man cannot get along with his own people, how can he serve foreigners?

We learned that you are a snake handler. At Malta, you picked up a poisonous serpent which is said to have bitten you, but you did not suffer harm.

You admit that while you were serving time at Rome, that 'all forsook' you. Good men are not left friendless. Three fine brothers, Diotrophes, Demas, and Alexander the copper smith; have notarized affidavits to the effect that it is impossible for them to cooperate with either you or your program.



We know you had a bitter quarrel with a fellow Evangelist, Barnabas. Harsh words do not further God's work.

You have written many letters to churches where you have formerly held revival. In one of these letters, you accused a church member of living with his father's wife, and you caused the whole church to feel badly; and the poor fellow was expelled.

You spent too much time talking about the Second Coming of Christ. Your letters to the people at Thessalonica were almost entirely devoted to this theme. Put first things first from now on.

Your ministry has been far too flighty to be successful. First you went to Asia Minor, then Macedonia, then Greece, then Italy and now you are talking about a wild goose chase to Spain. Concentration is more important than dissipation of one's powers. You cannot win the whole world by yourself. You are just one little Paul.

Another episode of yours we do not approve of is that forced diet you placed upon all those soldiers and the ship's crew. You called it a fast, but you should know that doctors say that total abstinence from food is very harmful to the body.

In a recent sermon, you said, 'God forbid that I should glory in anything save the cross of Christ.' It seems to us that you also ought to glory in heritage, our denominational program, the unified budget and the World Federation of Churches.

Your sermons are much too long at times. At one place, you talked until after midnight, and a young man was so asleep that he fell out the window from the third story and was taken up dead, but you were reported to have restored his life by falling on him and embracing him. Do you expect us to believe that? We want practical men. You should have called a physician and had a rigid physical examination made and not been so inhuman. 'Stand up, speak up, and shut up' is our theme.

Dr. Luke reports that you are a thin little man, bald, frequently sick and always so agitated over your churches that you sleep very poorly. He reports that you parade around the house praying half the night. A healthy mind in a

robust body is our ideal for any Evangelist. A good night's sleep will give you zest, a zip, you will wake up full of zing.

We find it best to call only married men into Revival-Evangelism service. We deplore your policy of persistent celibacy. Simon Magus has set up a matrimonial bureau at Samaria where the names of some very fine widows are available.

You wrote recently to Timothy that 'you fought a good fight.' Fighting is hardly a recommendation for man of God. No fight is a good fight. Jesus came, not to bring a sword, but peace. You boast that 'I fought wild beasts at Ephesus.' What on earth do you mean? Do you think that the office of Evangelist is a battle? Are you fighting for souls?

It hurts me to tell you this, Brother Paul, but in all of my twenty-five years of experience, I have never met a man so opposite to the requirements of our Church's revival policy. If we accept you to preach in our church, we would break every rule of modern evangelism practice.

Most Sincerely Yours,  
J. Flavius Fluffyhead

**Church Council**

*Adapted from The Western Voice*

# Conclusions for the Pastor, Church and Denomination

*Dear Pastor*

Using an Evangelist is like using a combine- Junior Hill



*Dear Church and Denomination,*

- Learn who your Evangelists are.
- Go to [www.sbcEvangelist.org](http://www.sbcEvangelist.org).
- Use Evangelists on Pastor's Conferences, State Evangelism Conferences and Associational Evangelism Meetings. This is one of the few venues where pastors can hear the gifts Christ has given to them and allow them firsthand knowledge of a tool for their church.(Note each church needs one

pastor, but every church needs multiple Evangelists. This is why Evangelists need to be heard in settings where many pastors gather)

- Utilize the Evangelist's vast experiences on denominational, state and local committees to assist in Biblical strategies to reach the lost.
- Use an Evangelist to extend the invitation for VBS, Wild Game Suppers, Cantatas, Dramas, Upward Sports Award Services, etc... It is amazing at the difference it makes.
- Use the Evangelists' materials. Apply them to your local situation. They have specialties like prayer, witness and counselor training to follow-up and just plain practical advice which can be most helpful.
- Use the "Revival Method" to plant churches. It is the most effective method used over the past 60 years.(Revival Method- for 10 weeks have outside church groups do census, door to door visitation, door hangers, backyard Bible clubs, block parties, ICE teams, special events etc... In addition, do phone surveys and media free and purchased that is available. On the final week do a VBS at the new church sight in the Morning and a revival at night. Often a tent or community building is used. I know of 86 people who joined the first week in one location and 205 in another.)
- Use Mass evangelism on the local church level as well as the city to nationwide level. Nationwide unified mass evangelism will work in the local church, local Association, State Convention and nationwide. We need to work together.
- Revival should be promoted by the North American Mission Board just as Vacation Bible School is promoted by LifeWay! (Synergy of simultaneous revival boost all evangelism throughout any denomination)
- Nearly everything I have learned about, Evangelism, revival preparation, and outreach came to me through NAMB. My pastors used it and taught it to me. NAMB had 36 pieces of material for the pastor and Evangelist. Now it only has a handful. Please take up the baton for Mass Evangelism.
- Most pastors learn the practical side of what works in Evangelism in their local church through the Evangelists they have in their pulpits.
- Insights that cover an entire denomination come from Evangelists who constantly travel and work with churches. Evangelists see the need for Great Commission Education

that gives men the practical tools to work with in college and Seminary.



## *Dear Evangelist,*

Please do not abuse your office. Fight the good fight and keep the faith.

Thank God for each individual who is faithfully serving in the office of Evangelist! You indeed are a gift from God, saved, called, and supplied to prepare God's people for good works and to build up the body of Christ in every way. You are bringing us together in the unity and faith of service for Christ. You uniquely move us toward maturity in Christ.

.....Evangelist, thank you, thank you for being on the firing line for Christ! May the Lord Jesus give you souls for your hire! Never stop giving the invitation to receive Christ.

Some time ago, I told the choir director to have the choir stop singing the invitation hymn. The hour was late and everybody that I thought was going to come had already responded publicly. It was God's providence that caused the chorister not to hear me. An elderly woman turned to her husband during that verse and said, "Let's go." He replied under heavy conviction, "No, not tonight." She replied, "I mean go home." (It was 9:00 p.m.) He said, "I mean down the aisle." At that moment he came down the aisle and asked how he could be saved. A counselor led him to Christ. My exhaustion had caused me to be insensitive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. The man's wife had no idea of the deep conviction and the battle raging in her husband's heart. Yet, God reached out and used her question and a deaf ear of a minister of music to overcome my cold heart. How often has an Evangelist, or even a pastor doing the work of an Evangelist, left the field that is ripe unto harvest, because of impatience or exhaustion? The Evangelist's heart must be in tune with God as he draws the net at the close of his message. He must be ever watchful for men, women, boys and girls who are already prepared to give their hearts to Christ.

Yours for Souls  
Keith Fordham

# John Bunyan's Portrait of the Evangelist

John Bunyan, the immortal tinker of Bedford, has portrayed for all times the characteristics of God's ideal Evangelist. We find this sketched with a master's hand in Pilgrim's Progress. You will remember in the story how that when Christian came to the House of the Interpreter, he was shown a picture of the Evangelist.



"The man, whose picture this is," said the Interpreter, "is one of a thousand. I have shown you this picture first of all, because the man whose picture this is is the only man whom the Lord of the place whither thou art going hath authorized to be thy guide."

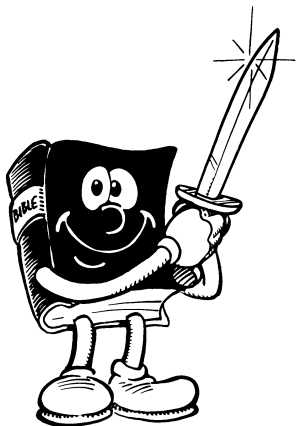
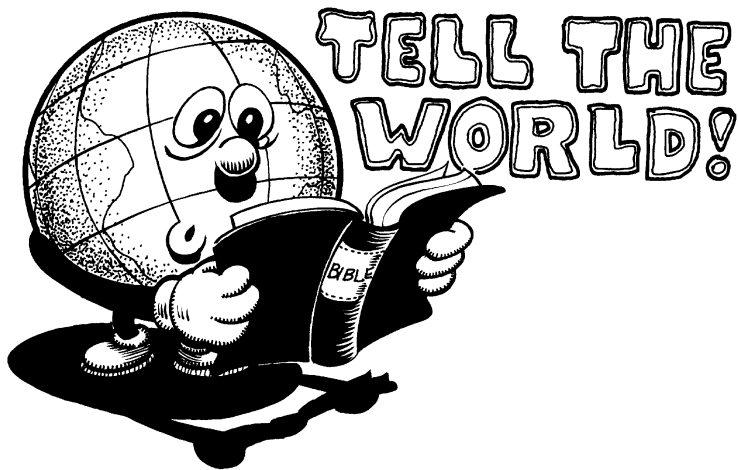


Christian, gazing at the picture, saw, as Bunyan describes, "A man, who had his eyes up to heaven, the best of books was in his hand, the law of truth was written upon his lips, and he stood as if he pleaded with men."

Parts of these words have been inscribed by John Bunyan's fellow townsmen on his statue which they erected in Bedford town, and which can be seen to this day. John Bunyan's ideal Evangelist, however, was **John Gifford**, the man who led him to Christ. In all his books, Bunyan has ever before him this

good Evangelist whom he knew so intimately. From the fertile mind of this Puritan come forth hundreds of characters, but the greatest of all is that of The Evangelist. Indeed, the Evangelist is "one of a thousand." Blessed is the man who is called of the Holy Spirit to this office, for he is the representative of God to the people. He is the one who is authorized to be the guide and to point the way to the Celestial City.

.....



I will!

# Practical Facts

Churches conducting revivals take 24 resident members to baptize one person: 24/1 ratio according to 1,795 of 3514 churches reporting.

- Churches not conducting revivals take 36 resident members to baptize one person: 36/1 ratios.
- Churches preparing for revival take 19 resident members to baptize one.

**15% to 48% of Baptisms come out of revival!**

- In recent years my home church has had as high as 85% out of revival and some churches as much as 100%.



**99% of the time an Evangelist is used public professions of faith are made!**

**100% of the time you use a Harvest Evangelist, Pray, and Prepare People are Saved and Join the Church!**

# Intentional Calling and Training of Evangelists

By Keith Fordham, President

Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists

**Freddie Gage once told a group of pastors that if they truly believed the Bible they would be using God called evangelists in their churches.** He was absolutely right. Ephesians 4:11- 13 makes that very clear. Your church will not mature properly and will have warped growth if you do not use evangelists.

**In Luke we are told at least 4 times that Jesus evangelized (4:18; 7:22; 9:6; 20:1). In Romans 1:15 we are told that Paul was eager to evangelize those in Rome. Paul said, “Woe is me if I evangelize not.” (1 Cor.9: 16). The Greek word for evangelize in verb form is a most worthy study (Strong’s Number 2097). No wonder our Convention President, Bobby Welch, is putting such an emphasis on evangelism. In the noun form of the Greek word for “evangelize” we find Phillip, the evangelist and the office of the evangelist in Eph. 4:11.**

**If our churches used every Southern Baptist evangelist available, vocational evangelists could only be in 15,000 churches a year.** The other 28,000 churches would not have an opportunity to use an evangelist. The may be one reason the vast majority of our pastors have never used a vocational evangelist. Southern Baptist Evangelists need to triple in number.

**Also in many cases, pastors do not know how to utilize or finance the evangelist.**

**Many of our singing evangelists now preach and give an invitation.** Some evangelists like David Akin (GA), Larry McFadden (FL), and Terry Veazy(Al), do both the preaching and singing. Even with music evangelists pulling double duty, we still do not have enough evangelists.

. Billy Graham (NC) Junior Hill (AL), Benny Jackson (TN), Sam Cathey (OK), Tom Cox (AR), Bailey Smith (GA), Clyde Chiles (MO) and a host of other warhorses are in the golden years of their calling. Jerry Chaddick (LA), Brian Fossett (GA) and a number of others are entering the work, but many more are needed for the harvest.

With the recent home going of Rudy Hernandez, I am especially feeling my humanity. In the year 2000, I collapsed from complete exhaustion. Another evangelist, Randal Helms has preached between 46 and 48 revivals a year. We are both trying to cut back on the number of meetings from more than 40 a year to around 30 for health reasons. In addition to the revivals there are the 100 plus days a year you travel, youth camps, VBS evangelistic services, Deacon retreats, Evangelism Conferences, banquets, witnessing clinics, soul-winning visits, mission trips at home and abroad, radio programs, television interviews, public school programs, and our annual evangelists' retreat Friday and Saturday before the SBC, which includes Crossover. It becomes easy to understand why 98% of those entering evangelism eventually drop out. The physical, emotional, and spiritual exhaustion takes a tremendous toll. The homesickness for evangelists whose families do not travel with them and the incredible exhaustion of those

who do the extra to take their families on the road make it clear that we need more evangelists.

**The cure for this problem must begin in the local church.** Student revivals should be held to spawn the young evangelists of tomorrow. Friday preaching, Saturday morning one hour witness training followed by going out that day to harvest souls prior to the Saturday night service will set the stage for more public professions of faith on Sunday. One of the students I trained visited with me on Saturday. We went to the home of a man who turned out to be a retired army drill instructor. The man told the student, “If you go get that #^%\$ longhair cut, I will listen to you.” He then handed the boy \$5. That young man went and got a GI haircut, came back and led that old Sergeant to Christ.

Witnessing training for mission trips should include a required number of visits to the lost on the home field before going to the mission field. This also encourages the commitment of those God is calling into the ministry. In the years 1975-79 Ash Street Baptist Church in Forest Park, Georgia, used this policy. The youth witnessed at home, and then went to Sells, Arizona to witness and do backyard Bible clubs. Prospects were brought into the central village for revival services. Ash Street Baptist allowed me to preach that revival nearly every trip. Usually about 30 were saved each year. But the impact on the young people from Forest Park was immense. Among those God called into the ministry was a young Danny Akin, currently President of Southeastern Seminary. God uses evangelists as a catalyst. People are saved, get right with God, and answer the call to ministry. Your youth need to be exposed both to evangelism and to the evangelists.

Young men and women are still answering the call into ministry in the droves these last five years. **Soul winning can be instilled into their hearts through practice.** Recently a seminary student told me he has never personally won a person to Christ. His home

pastor could have taken him out until he had that experience before leaving his home church. I led my first soul to Christ in conjunction with a revival meeting at age 15. My senior year of high school, I answered the call to preach. My pastor took me out and let me watch him win someone to Christ. Then he stopped on the side of the road where several young men were playing a pickup game of football. He told them, "You know Keith. You've watched him play football Friday nights. He has something he wants to tell you." I told them how to be saved and several accepted Christ. While I was in college, Bob Pittman was a youth pastor and allowed me to help lead people to Christ who came forward during a revival at his church. Invest in the future. Make soul winners out of your students.

Let the young men God is calling into the ministry in your church have a hand in preparation for revival. Let them see how you do it. If the Lord tarries they will do it to reach their generation for Christ.

The cure includes every Baptist College turning into a hot bed of evangelism, both on campus and through the BSU Impact Teams off campus. North Greenville College has set a goal of reaching their students for Christ. They begin each year with a fall tent revival on campus, and continue to have a positive influence on the student body throughout the year. They have seen many become Christians and their enrollment has jumped from 300 students to nearly 1800 in just over ten years following this policy.

In many instances BSU Impact teams have become baby-sitting teams instead of evangelistic teams. Let them impact the church field for Christ. Pastor, call BSU Impact teams to work with your youth! Have them teach a witnessing clinic, and go out with your students



to win every young person in your community to Christ. This evangelistic fervor will be the spark God uses to call more evangelists.

Because there is such a shortage of evangelists, I want to encourage our seminaries, colleges, and universities to place a greater emphasis on teaching the importance of the office of evangelist. At least once a semester during convocation include an invitation to respond to the call to vocational evangelism. Make sure that the students in our seminaries, colleges, and universities have as much influence for the call to vocational evangelism as for the mission field and church planting.

NAMB, in conjunction with the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, holds an annual retreat for evangelists. Every young man who senses the call to evangelism needs to be sent to the annual evangelists retreat by his home church. The home church should be willing to provide expenses to cover the trip to the Southern Baptist Convention in conjunction with this retreat. For contact information about the evangelists' retreat, contact Event Evangelism of NAMB.

Students need in depth, practical training on preparing the local church, association and city to use evangelists in Harvest Days, Revivals and Area Crusades for Christ. The office of Evangelist is just as much an office as is the pastor. I am calling on Seminaries and colleges to turn on the afterburners in the area of evangelism. Utilize vocational evangelists as often as possible on your campuses.

**Recently a pastor had moved from one state to another. He has a policy of not allowing anyone he has not heard in his pulpit. He asked why the in-state evangelists were not preaching and singing on the State Evangelism Conference. That is a good question. Of our 43,000 SBC churches, nearly all have a pastor. All 43,000 need to use evangelists. While exposure for the pastor to one church is important, exposure to all churches is important for the evangelist. To correct this, Mike Minnix, the Vice**

President for Evangelization for the Georgia Baptist Convention, has three Georgia evangelists preaching at the State Evangelism program this year. Several other states are doing the same thing. In order to reach a million for Christ every year evangelists need to be seen and heard by pastors.

One-way to find an evangelist for your church is from the Conference of Evangelists' website [www.sbcevangelist.org](http://www.sbcevangelist.org). You can hear audio sermons and singing on many of the individual web links. In addition, revival plan books and other pertinent information can be downloaded. Check this site out today. Use it to train a young evangelist!

1. What did Freddie Gage tell pastors?
2. Did Jesus evangelize according to the Gospel of Luke?
3. What did Paul say in Romans 1:15?
4. What is Strong's number for the verb evangelize?
5. List two reasons why churches cannot use evangelists?
6. What has caused music evangelist to preach and give an invitation?
7. Where does the cure for shortage of evangelist begin?
8. Why should evangelists be used on State evangelism Conferences?