



Lively Stones | PETER 2:5

Holding forth the word of life

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Dear Readers,

The Lively Stones' theme for the year is "Passing on the Baton", it is our prayer that we will encourage younger Lifers to grow in Christ, become matured Christians and serve Christ in their daily lives. A simple way to do something for Jesus is to share the good news and follow-up with a new believer. We hope that this article will spur us to actively tell the people around us about Jesus and God's plan for redemption.

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EVANGELISM & FOLLOW-UP

"Me? Evangelise? But I don't know what to say! I don't even know how to start!"

How about this:

"Follow up with that new believer? That sounds like the right thing to do, but how do I go about doing it?"

Many of us may have uttered these words, thought these thoughts or even experienced these feelings personally! How exactly does one go about evangelising and conducting follow up? There is certainly no lack of materials on these subjects, but the very volume of material suggests that there is no fool-proof method.

Hence, this article does not attempt to provide a magic formula, but just to share some tips and suggestions, mostly from personal experience, on how to go about evangelizing and conducting follow up.

Going About Evangelizing at Work, School or Play

Many people often wonder, how does one actually start going about evangelising? Perhaps before we even consider the task of evangelism, let us consider the person in charge of this great work, the Lord of the Harvest, our Lord Jesus Christ.

When we begin our examination of evangelism by focusing first on the Lord, we begin to realise that as Jonah said in Jonah 2:9b, that salvation is "of the Lord". **It is God who is the one in control of this work.**

The first principle in evangelism is, **Remember that God is in control.** We are simply his instruments that are given the privilege to share the gospel to those around us.

Whenever we do the Lord's work, let us remember to seek the Lord in prayer. When we come to this great work ahead of us, and we are uncertain of what to say, fear not! God has promised in James 1:5, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him". The Lord further gives us assurance that when the time and need arises, He will give us the words to speak. Recall what the Lord promised us in Matthew 10:18-20,

"And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you".

The Lord has promised us His wisdom, and the Holy Spirit will give us the words to speak of the gospel for our Lord.

Thus, the second principle in evangelism is, **Seek the Lord's blessing and guidance for any evangelism that you are about to do.**

There is no difference between us evangelising at home, school, work or elsewhere. Jesus calls us to "go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in...". We are called to look for opportunities to share the gospel with one and all whom we come into contact with. All we need to remember is that our role is to just speak a word for Jesus, and He will do the rest.

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Getting Started

Having considered some preliminary thoughts on evangelism, let us look at how we may get started on it. There are many ways to begin, but the Lord gives us the divine pattern in Acts 1:8, where he taught his disciples to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the world.

Jesus taught the disciples this principle of “starting from home”. Based on this divine pattern, we can begin the work of evangelism within our own homes. Are there any family members who do not know the Lord Jesus? Share the gospel with them first. Thereafter, we may share the gospel with those in our Judea i.e. our relatives, neighbours, colleagues, close friends, etc. Finally we can share with people in the “uttermost parts”. One good way one can do this is come for our church’s monthly evangelism with the E-Band on the first and third Sunday of every month, or come join the YF or YAF on Thursday and Saturday evenings for our evangelism sessions along Orchard Road.

Identifying An Opportunity

How does one go about “finding that chance” to share the gospel? Actually, I believe the Lord does give us ample opportunities and will certainly overrule so that various people can be brought into our lives, for us to share the gospel with. What then can we do? Peter exhorts us that we must be always ready with an answer, seeking a chance where we might share the gospel:

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness

We are exhorted to be ready to give an answer or an explanation of our gospel faith.

and fear” (1 Peter 3:15)

Another good lesson can be learnt from this verse as well. When we live our lives with a sense of joy and hope, the Lord may ordain it such that people will be drawn to us, wondering, what exactly makes this person so happy and so confident in life? Brethren, therein lies the opportunity for all of us to share the glorious gospel of hope.

Are we seeking to ensure that we have the best Christian testimony to all those around us? Let us be reminded that we must be careful about how we live our lives, or how we speak, or even our attitudes

towards even the normal, seemingly innocuous things in daily life. All these can certainly affect our testimony and the chance to share the gospel with someone.

With this in mind, be prayerful and seek the Lord and He may give you the opportunity by bringing you into contact with someone who needs to hear the gospel.

Useful Scripture

Here are some suggested scripture texts that can be used to share the gospel. The list is by no means exhaustive, but is simply a starting point.

Idea/Point Being Brought	Scripture Text
All of us are sinners	Romans 3:23
God is absolutely righteous and must deal with the sin	Genesis 18:25
The only due payment of our sin is death	Romans 6:23
Our own good works cannot save us from eternal condemnation	Isaiah 64:6
God demands absolute standards which we can never meet	James 2:10
God has provided his son to die for our sins	Romans 5:8
God calls one and all to repent, believe and we shall be	John 3:16, Romans 10:9-10

Remembering Our Role in Evangelism

As we carry out the Great Commission, let us never get too caught up in the work, lest we forget who is really in charge. At times, we may have the tendency to become too zealous, and seek to argue our point or win the argument, in our hope to convince the other party of the gospel.

Let us take a step back and remember that **the job of conviction belongs to the Holy Spirit alone**, for He alone is able to make people spiritually alive and to understand spiritual matters.

Paul reminds us of this vital truth in 1 Cor 3:5-6:

“Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.”

A Final Point

“Can you please tell the court, in your opinion, what exactly happened during the incident?” Does that

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sound familiar? That is the question a lawyer would ask a witness during a trial. What is required of the witness then? Well, it certainly makes sense that the witness must be firstly, truthful and secondly, he needs to simply tell the court what happened.

So the same goes for evangelism. **God does not need us to use big words or innovative methods to share the gospel.** All he calls us to do is to simply **be truthful, and simply tell others what happened.** In this case, we can tell others our personal testimony. Share with people your personal testimony, about how you were before you met the Lord, and how the Lord transformed your life. And the Lord can certainly use that to touch the lives of those whom you share your life with.

Finally, let us be encouraged, for in the work of evangelism, God will not leave us alone. Remember what Jesus told his very first disciples? He told them, "I will make you fishers of men". It is certainly heartening to read that Christ did not simply call them to become fishers of men, but that he would make them fishers of men. No one is a born soul-winner, but the Lord promises that he will enable us to become great soul-winners for his glory. Amen.

Follow-Up

Upon a person's converting to Christianity, it is extremely important to conduct follow-up with this new Christian. The Bible tells us that when a person first accepts Christ, he is a babe in Christ. (Hebrews 5:13). **The new Christian babe needs protection from the wiles of the Devil and the influences of the world.** How do we then follow up with a new Christian?

Immunisations from the World

Just as a new born babe needs immunisations at the hospital after he or she is born, the new Christian needs at least these five immunisations or assurances for their new life in Christ.

Immunisation / Key Truth	Scripture Text
Assurance of Salvation	John 10:27-29, 1 John 5:11-12
Assurance of Forgiveness of Sin	1 John 1:19
Assurance of Answered Prayer	John 16:24
Assurance of Guidance	Proverbs 3:5-6
Assurance of Victory over Temptation and Sin	1 Corinthians 10:13

Teaching Major Doctrines of the Bible

The next step would be to go through a Bible study series on the major doctrines of the Bible. Key doctrines like; The Person of God, The Work of Christ, The Holy Spirit, Quiet Time, Prayer, The Church, Baptism, Witnessing for Christ, etc.

One good resource for doing a systematic follow up is the "Design for Discipleship" series of booklets, published by the Navigators. This series of 7 books will **take the user through systematic lessons each week, covering the major doctrines and give the new Christian the basic grounding in the faith.**

Introduction to Other Christians

Besides conducting personal follow-up with new believers, it is also important that they be introduced to other fellow Christians of their age group. This would help them to integrate into the life and activities of the church. Our church has fellowship groups that cater to various ages. Once a new believer is brought into the fellowship of other godly Christians, they can also help to follow up with this new believer by befriending them and helping them to learn more and more about Christianity. **This key principle of fellowship and mutual exhortation is taught to us in Proverbs 27:17 and Hebrews 10:24-25.**

Conclusion

These are just some of the steps to take when following up with a new believer. Once again, just like evangelism, there is no set method in the follow up process. Also, let us remember the same principle from evangelism which is also applicable in the follow up process. We are called to simply do our best, **and the Lord is the one who will give the increase.**

Mark Liu
Chairman, Youth Fellowship

Read your



everyday

You will grow, **Grow, GROW!**

Palm Sunday Reflections

Today is Palm Sunday. As we take this week to ponder upon the work of our Lord for us, let us thank God for giving us His Only Begotten Son. All the wars, all the empires and all the natural disasters that have passed have not affected the life of man as much as this ONE SOLITARY LIFE.

ONE LIFE

One life, one solitary life, to change the course of history.

One man, one very special Man, to fill a very special need.

One love, one pure and perfect love, alive in spite of all the odds.

One plan, one very simple plan, uniting all mankind with God.

One life, one solitary life; but what that single life has done.

One Man, one ever-living Man, who gives new hope to everyone.

I do not claim to understand it;

I only know that it is true.

The entire world was changed by that one solitary life.

Marshall Lawrence

Announcements

- Please note that there will be NO Sunday School classes on the following dates:
 - ⇒ 16 April—Combined Easter Worship Service at 7am.
 - ⇒ 23 April—Combined Service at 9 am & Annual Congregational Meeting at 10.45am.
- The Editorial team welcomes contribution from the congregation. Please send contributions to kohjulia@starhub.net.sg. The editorial team reserves the right to edit any articles to be published.