

The background of the entire page is a photograph of footprints in sand. There are four footprints visible, arranged in a path that leads from the top right towards the bottom left. The sand is a warm, golden-brown color, and the footprints are slightly indented, showing the texture of the sand and the shape of the feet.

# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

JANUARY 2004

**Everyday**

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CHRISTIANITY





Liz Johnson  
Living Hope  
St. Michael, MN

“I have to remind myself to keep persevering, and to keep surrendering myself over to the Lord.”

James 1:2-4 says, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

Real faith is always tested. James 1:2 doesn’t say, “*if* you face trials ...” it says, “*when* you face trials.” Trials *will* happen. We can’t avoid them. But we can triumph over them. We have to realize three things about trials:

- Trials are used to test our faith (2-3).
- Testing works *for* us, not against us (3).
- Trials, rightly used, help us develop maturity, character and completeness (4).

Take, for instance, my family. I’m the oldest of eight children. I’m not saying that having younger siblings is a pain, but it’s a lot of responsibility. I have a lot of people looking up to me and following my example. It’s a struggle for me to always be a godly witness for them, and sometimes I want to give up. This is something God is working on in me. He is teaching me that I don’t have to be a victim when I could be a victor.

First, to triumph over a trial I need to **count it all joy**. “Counting it all joy” doesn’t mean that I’m happy all the time, even when I’m hurting. It’s not being joyful *because* of a situation; it’s being joyful *in* a situation. Christ’s joy will work through us and in us when we’re facing a trial.

Second, I need to **persevere**. When we persevere we are strengthened in our faith. James 1:12 says, “Blessed is the man who

perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.” The crown of life isn’t the only thing that I will receive when I persevere. When perseverance has finished its work in me, I will be mature and complete. I won’t lack anything. That gives me a lot more joy, confidence and contentment as I live my life.

Third, I need to **ask**. Many of us lack God’s wisdom because we don’t ask for it. I don’t often ask God for wisdom because I think that *my* wisdom is sufficient, which it definitely is not. I need to fully surrender my will over to the Lord, and let Him do what He wants with it. God’s perfect wisdom will get me so much farther than I can get on my own.

Last, I need to **believe**. A lot of Christians struggle with doubt. James 1:6-8 says, “But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.” Doubt gets in the way of our relationships with Christ. We shouldn’t ask God for something, then go away thinking, “Oh, there’s no chance that this will ever happen. I shouldn’t have even asked.” We need an undoubting heart that believes.

I don’t always handle trials the right way. I fail. I’ve set a bad example for my little brothers and sisters. I’ve disappointed the people who expect me to be a perfect pastor’s daughter. I have to remind myself to keep persevering, and to keep surrendering myself over to the Lord. God is still working on me; let Him continue to work on you.

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## THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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Most of us have spent our Christian lives learning what we *can't* do instead of celebrating what we *can* do in Jesus.

— Michael Yaconelli

Nothing commends the gospel more eloquently than a transformed life, and nothing brings it into disrepute so much as personal inconsistency.

— Manila Manifesto

We're to spend our heart's energy not looking for ways to enter and exit the marketplace with the least amount of involvement, touching, presence; we're to enter the marketplace looking for ways to bring God's kingdom, light, healing into it.

— Mark Buchanan

“Your God is Too Safe”

If our life with God becomes real everyday Christianity, then we shall by that very life *win* our fellow men for God.

— O. Hallesby

“God's Word for Today”



# Reason to believe

By Jonathan Strand

<sup>8</sup>Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. <sup>9</sup>But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul took the disciples with him. He took the disciples with

Over the past half-century North American society has become considerably less Christian. Christian perspectives that once dominated are now minority points of view. Our universities, and hence our legal systems and governments, have become less and less Christian and more and more anti-Christian. Fewer people in our society even know what Christianity teaches, to say nothing of actually believing it.

No doubt there are many reasons for this, and the whole story is probably quite complicated. But I believe that *part* of the explanation for this calamity lies in the fact that we Christians have made relatively **little effort to actually offer non-Christians, or even Christians with doubts, any good reasons why they should believe.**

The central claims of the Christian faith — e.g., that God became a human being, allowed Himself to be crucified, and then rose from the dead, to reconcile God and man — are naturally incredible. They are not the sorts of things that people would naturally say “of course” to. They are the sorts of claims that people would, and perhaps even *should*, naturally be skeptical of. There are so many contradicting religious claims out there, why should they believe these rather amazing ones?

But we Christians have generally made little effort to actually give them good reasons to believe. No wonder relatively few without a Christian upbringing convert to Christianity, and most Christians in our society are simply those who have been raised Christian and haven’t lost their faith. Many other Christians, on the other hand, do lose their faith when confronted with skeptical questions (especially in college). Since we’ve made relatively little effort to respond to those skeptical questions, this is entirely predictable.



Of course we know that whether or not a person believes is not just an intellectual thing; it is not just a matter of whether the available evidence has convinced him or her that it is true. For one thing, people are highly motivated *not* to believe the claims of Christ. Believing obliges one to repent of one's sins, which flies in the face of our sinful nature.

We also know from Scripture that saving faith is a supernatural gift from God, which He gives through His Word. So God can, and perhaps frequently does, give that gift quite apart from evidence and arguments.

But God generally acts in this world through natural means. And, our intellect — the way we evaluate claims using reason and evidence — is an important and very good God-given part of our nature. It would be odd for God to give us such a capacity for evaluating claims but not expect us to use it when deciding what to believe about the most important things, or for God to expect us to believe these things when our God-given intellectual faculties tell us *not* to.

Indeed, Scripture reveals that the greatest evangelists did, in fact, give people reasons to believe. When they proclaimed their messages, they frequently offered evidence indicating to their audience that what they were proclaiming was true.

The greatest Christian missionary, Paul, for example, did not just proclaim the gospel without evidence, expecting people to take it or leave it. He continually argued for the truth of his claims, supporting them with evidence. (See Acts 9:22, 29; 17:2-4, 16-31; 18:4, 19, 29; 19:8; and 26:22-29.) In his epistles he continually argued for — provided evidence demonstrating the truth of — his claims (e.g., I Corinthians 15 and Galatians).

In his Gospel, John says he recorded many of the “signs” Jesus performed precisely so that his readers would believe (20:30). And in his first epistle John emphasized that he was an eyewitness to Jesus’ deeds (1:4). John provided his readers with evidence that his claims about Jesus were true.

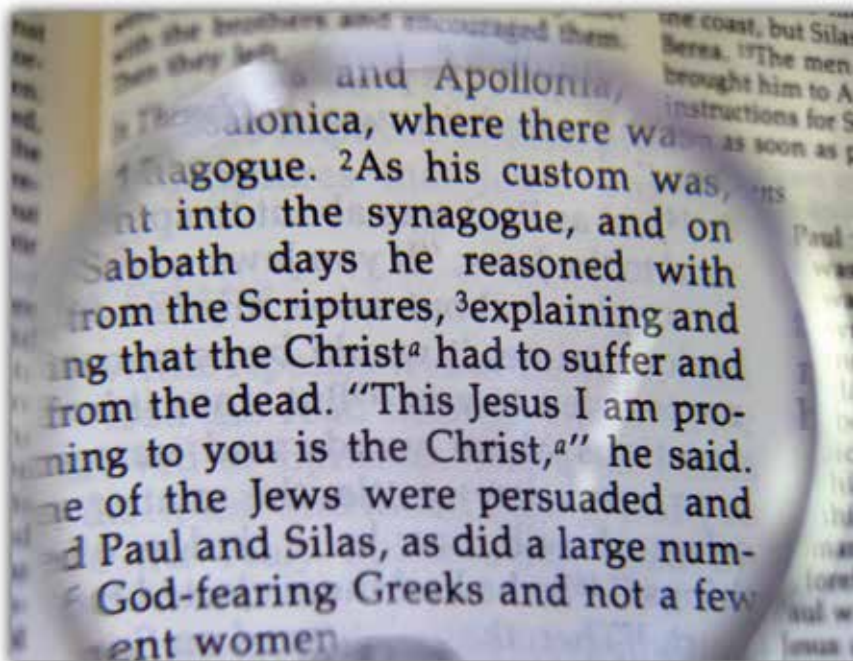
Luke emphasized that his Gospel was based on eyewitness testimony and careful investigation (1:1-4). In Peter’s sermon at Pentecost (Acts 2), he cited evidence to prove that Jesus really was “Lord and Christ.” Even Jesus himself used reasoning and provided evidence to support His claims. (See, Matthew 22:29-32, Mark 2:5-12, John 10:25 and 20:24-31). Indeed, this was one of the primary reasons why Jesus performed miracles. God did the same in the Old Testament to prove to His people that His prophets were preaching the truth (I Kings 18).

If we are to follow the examples set for us in Scripture, then **we should be prepared to offer reasons and evidence to people who wonder why they should believe what we**

**believe.** This is not to say that we shouldn’t share the gospel unless or until we feel we can make a good case for it or can answer the skeptics’ objections. On the contrary, we should share the gospel at every opportunity, regardless. But we will be *better* witnesses if we are able to offer supporting evidence and can answer the skeptics’ questions. God has chosen to reach out to this world primarily through us, and through natural means.

Scripture endorses and offers three basic types of reasons to believe. **First**, the existence and nature of the universe provide evidence of the existence and nature of God (Romans 1:18-20, Psalm 19:1-6, and Acts 14:16-17).

**Second**, historical evidence supports not only Christianity’s teachings about God, but also and most importantly, its claims about Jesus (Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 2:22,



32). **Third**, there are practical reasons to believe; if it is true, belief is the key to an eternal relationship with God, a relationship which unbelief renders impossible (John 3:18, 36). Many Christian publishers (InterVarsity Press in particular) offer excellent resources to help Christians make the case and answer skeptics’ objections.

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and respect” (I Peter 3:15).



*Dr. Jonathan Strand is an associate professor of philosophy at Concordia College of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada.*





# Are you a Christian?



**E**very so often remarkable conversions occur. That which I will now tell about seems to me to be one of the most marvelous I have heard about. It almost sounds too good to be true, but not withstanding that it is no less a reality ...

The man wanders about pointlessly in the capital city's streets with no definite goal. The sound of songs can be heard from one of the city's stores. Almost before he even realizes it he finds himself sitting together with the kind of people he hates. During the service the man sitting next to him turns to him and asks, "Are you a Christian?" In a careless voice he answers no. The one who had asked the question hands him a pocket Testament and says, "Be so kind as to take this Testament and read it." He says thank you, opens it and his eyes fall upon a verse which was written on a blank page, and which reads: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Then he leaves the place without any special impression having been made on him.

Some days later we see the same man on the way to a neighboring town to agitate for the communist system. Since he doesn't have money for transportation, he has to walk these 24-30 miles. The weather is nasty. He begins to realize that he is tired and hungry and thinks: "Where can I find a place where I can go in and rest?" He looks to right and left. At length he decides to try to find the home of a workingman.

The wife comes out with a smile and bids him welcome. The first thing he sees when he comes inside is a Bible verse in glass and frame, which hangs on the wall: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." His inner being becomes restless and a feeling of fear grips him. What can this be? The husband comes in and soon they are talking a little about this and that. Then he turns to the visitor and asks: "Are you a Christian?"

"No that I certainly am not."

They talk a little more with each other, he expresses appreciation, says farewell and goes on his toilsome journey.

In deep thought he moves along. He walks faster. "Will I get to the meeting?" he asks himself. Everything seems to get harder and harder. Weariness begins to overcome him. A truck comes rapidly along the road. He puts out his hand and the driver stops.

"Would you be so kind as to let me have a ride with you to —; I am so tired."

"Yes, welcome, sit up in the cab with me."

Glad and thankful, he steps in and soon the truck is up to speed once more. They talk to each other about all sorts of things. The speed diminishes. The driver turns to his companion, and since he steers with one hand, he lays the other on his shoulder and asks, "Are you a Christian?"

"No!"

He is shaken to the core of his inmost being. Then the driver says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

And then everything crumbles for him. The truck stops and we see them both on their knees beside the road in prayer to God. Then and there light breaks out for him and salvation's peace fills his soul.

They get up and drive on. Then the newborn says, "What shall I do now? Shall I go to the meeting where I am to speak or not?"

"Yes, go, but you must witness to them about your new life."

He goes, and before the largest gathering he tells about the Lord's marvelous leading and the glorious experience of salvation.

From that day he witnesses at Christian meetings with life and warmth of spirit.



"The Remarkable Conversion of a Communist Agitator," from *Evangelisten*. Translated from the Norwegian by Pastor Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn.



# The catch

By Dr. J.B. Friberg





**T**hough I am neither a pastor nor the son of one, I nevertheless hold that calling in the highest regard. My mother, years ago, when the choice of a profession for me was still under consideration, suggested that I consider the ministry.

At that time two factors came to the fore. In the first place, I have always found it difficult to stand before a large crowd of people in order to expostulate something that I hold seriously in my mind. Another factor was this: my father was a quiet man with the well-reasoned mindset that a conscientious doctor of medicine can do a world of good no matter where he hangs his shingle to practice medicine. And so to follow his footsteps I chose medicine.

No matter how convinced I was that medicine was the field in which to serve, there was, recurring in my mind again and again, the thought that busyness in medicine was no excuse for neglect of matters relating to the last and final decree of history and the joyous thought of our admission into the Celestial City.

Now to turn to the matter of fishing. My mention of fishing refers to the fulfillment of that injunction of the great Galilean when he told his disciples that they were to become fishers of men.

I had a problem: how was I to become a fisher of men? I quickly concluded that bait was needed. So, this is what I did. To my formal office stationary I added at the bottom of each page something catchy that might raise eyebrows and call for an explanation from the letter-writing physician. Over many years I have developed some eight different letter formats, one of which was instrumental in catching a fish of significant size.

Many years ago I was asked to examine in my office a patient who had been in a severe auto accident and who came to see me at her lawyer's behest, seeking a critical evaluation of permanent injuries. My reply was sent to this well-known lawyer on office stationary. At the base of the prime side there appeared this startling assertion: "If you are born once you will die twice; if you are born twice you will die once."

Having sent my reply I considered my involvement in this case to have been completed. But not so! The lawyer in question wrote a friendly reply, which warmed my heart. The wording of the letter from the lawyer follows:

"Doctor, there are five lawyers in our office: two Roman Catholics, two Jews and one Anglican. I have shown your letter to my associates asking each one what his interpretation of the addendum at the base of the doctor's stationary

might be, that is, the meaning of the reference to one or two births."

Further, the lawyer wrote that from his five associates there were five different interpretations, all simply guesses of what Jesus meant when he met a short-statured, very inquisitive Jew named Nicodemus, who got things straight when entertaining Jesus in his home. According to the Word of the Lord Jesus there is only one death for him who has been born again (John 3:1-21).

To get off the hook of serious responsibility

in the matter before us I should have invited one or all of the lawyers to tea, which would have given me a good opportunity to show them the utter adequacy of the second birth in Jesus. One solution to my unfulfilled obligation came to me: why not write an unhurried letter explaining to all five interested lawyers what it means to be born again. This I did, hoping my obligation to spread the good news was now fulfilled. But before the story is considered finished, something good took place.

Ten years after the death of Mao Zedong, I was able to convince my wife, Eileen, that it was high time to visit China, the land of my birth and the site of my first 12 years of life. On returning to the casual life of the Twin Cities, I was asked by a dentist-friend to show slides from our recent trip to China; the audience was made up of businessmen at a social get-together. After my modest presentation there was a time for questions. A likeable lawyer later came up to me and reminisced about the past encounters that had affected the two of us. Why yes, he was one of the five joint lawyers that were unable, at one time, to see the genuine worth of a second birth. Since I last had contact with him he had found the new birth in Christ, and was now for sure headed for the Celestial City.



*Friberg is a member of Vision of Glory Lutheran, Plymouth, Minn.*

**... there was, recurring in my mind again and again, the thought that busyness in medicine was no excuse for neglect of matters relating to the last and final decree of history and the joyous thought of our admission into the Celestial City.**



# GROW!

By Pastor Gary Haug

**E**vangelism is all about Jesus and our love for Him growing a love in us for other people. So evangelism isn't optional in a free and living congregation.

The converted soul yearns to find a way to share the freedom of forgiveness of sin and the joy of the Lord with others who need that same forgiveness and hope. The lover of God's Word has a deep desire to see others come to appreciate the direction and assurance that comes from aligning our lives with ultimate *truth*. Believers want to know that *life* has genuine and eternal meaning and purpose. All these godly drives in us have their root motivation in helping others to say yes to Jesus.

He Himself said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me" (John 14:6). So evangelism is the Church's response to that truth and to our Savior's command: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spir-





it, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20).

Although evangelism isn't optional, there are decisions to be made about what form these evangelistic efforts should take. There are choices to be made from personal friend-to-friend evangelism all the way to major proclamational events. Deciding what to do, or perhaps deciding what not to do, depends on prayer, prayer, and more prayer.

There are at least five factors that God led members of Emmaus Lutheran to consider as we chose to plant a new congregation in the Minneapolis area.

First, we felt certain urgency because we believe time is short and there are many who need the Savior. We considered increasing the size of our own church building and grounds, but that became completely infeasible due to city building codes and skyrocketing land values. Emmaus had become a "land-locked" church. That door seemed closed.

Second, a logical opportunity seemed to be a church plant somewhere in the metro area. Studies show that Christ-centered church plants are usually successful because they show a commitment to the local community, allow for ease of invitation of the unchurched, and are poised to meet the spiritual needs of young families.

The vision of a church plant was perhaps first glimpsed in the mind and spirit of Pastor Don Richman when he served Emmaus as our senior pastor nearly 20 years ago. Then, our evangelism-minded council, encouraged by Pastor Jim Ritter, included planting a daughter congregation as part of its five-year ministry plan.

Soon God brought two catalyzing factors for a church plant together. Emmaus Lutheran had itself begun ministry in 1950 as a church plant of the Lutheran Free Church. Thousands of souls have been impacted for Christ through the local ministry, outreach and the world missions fervor of that courageous step of faith back in 1950. A church plant in another rapidly growing outlying area seemed the perfect way to commemorate Emmaus' 50th anniversary.

And I personally came to a knowledge of Jesus Christ at an AFLC Home Missions church plant in Park River, N.D., in 1986. What a joy it was to watch and be part of God's hand growing and maturing that church plant at Victory Free Lutheran. During the 1990s, my family also had the privilege of observing and encouraging AFLC church plants in Edinburg, N.D., and Mesa, Ariz. So I was convinced that God would bless and grow a church plant in the Metro area, too, if it was in His will and His Spirit led us.

The third factor was similar to the first — finding an open door to ministry through focused prayer. A core group of Emmaus members and potential leaders of a church plant had been meeting off and on for more than two years to pray for God's will to be seen clearly. Now those praying gathered weekly to seek God's hand in the decisions to be made about where to locate a church plant and when.

Fourth, the calling of a pastor to lead the project and plant the church was necessary. God had provided for that challenge, too. Emmaus' youth pastor, Bob Halvorson, had grown up at Emmaus, matured in faith here, and was experienced in many of the ministry areas critical to planting a church in a young, growing community. He and his family, we found out, had felt God's call to such a ministry for a number of years. By the late winter of 2002, Halvorson was spending most of his time researching, planning and recruiting a core congregational group.

Fifth, we needed to grow the previous prayer group into that core congregational group and prepare to launch a new church.

The core group began worshipping weekly in June of 2002, and Living Hope was launched in September of that year. Now, some 16 months later, God is growing Living Hope to a weekly attendance in excess of 175 people, most of who are from local St. Michael area families who had not been committed to any church previously.

Emmaus members love to see the Spirit of God growing a love for Jesus in more and more people through Living Hope. And because evangelism isn't optional, there's a new core group forming already to seek God's leading to plant yet another local congregation.



*Pastor Haug serves Emmaus Lutheran, Bloomington, Minn.*

The lover of God's Word has a deep desire to see others come to appreciate the direction and assurance that comes from aligning our lives with ultimate truth.



# *Close encounter*

**By Chaplain Mark Benz**



Our paths first crossed in the busy dining facility during the rush of lunch. I quickly noticed a soldier in the desert-colored BDUs (battle dress uniform), indicating that he had just returned from Iraq. His patches told me more about him, a young soldier in his early 20s. The parachute with wings said he is a paratrooper and his unit patch signified the 82nd Airborne Division, both points of connection for me. From this brief visual conversation with him, I learned a lot. Other factors made me guess that he was an infantryman (another connection) who might be here for a checkup before going home.

I was in a hurry, so I walked over to the salad bar, loaded up on the fixings and went to the shortest register line. As the line was slowly moved forward I noticed the same soldier in an adjacent line, and our eyes met for the first time. We made a visual hello.

My intent was to go to my office and have a working lunch. But on my way out of the dining facility I crossed paths again with the soldier as he was sitting alone at a table. I felt a tug from the Holy Spirit to slow down and be available to him, so I asked if I could join him. He cordially welcomed my request, but with little expression. As we engaged in some introductory remarks, I sensed a distant, sad and somewhat lonely person, so I became more attentive to his remarks and expressions to learn more from his story. I respected his state, and we started a trusting relationship by sharing some of our common connections, which progressed to more personal information but still remained at a surface level. I realized that I was initiating more of the conversation so I gave him some space and we ate in silence until he was ready to continue, which he did. As I listened more attentively, I could hear a deeper story about this young warrior.

While we ate and talked, I inquired about his beliefs, and he told me about his church background and some of his personal experiences. I was wondering how his relationship with God was now since he had tasted the realities of war, lost his innocence, and broadened his life experience. So I asked him, which drew a long pause. I realized that I had touched a nerve and told him so — and after a minute I gave him the option to address or not. We simply looked at each other, allowing time to pass us by. I was praying for the Lord to do His work in our conversation.

The soldier dropped his eyes from mine and spoke more freely about some of his experiences during the past few months, like the loss of some good friends. Still, his expressions were minimal, and I wondered if there was something more he was reluctantly waiting to tell someone and if now was the time.

In his short vignettes, he left out answering my

question about how he and God were getting along. I gently brought God back into our conversation, which evoked another pause. And then he told me about why he came home: his older sister, who has two young children, has cancer and her doctors cannot stop her bleeding. I could feel his pain and agony — and even more so when he told me that he wished that he could switch places with her. When I asked him if he had mentioned this to any one else, he said, “No.” I thought about the powerful burdens this young man was carrying inside with no one to share it.

Realizing that he has his own wife and young children, I brought the Lord into the picture. He said that God had been giving him the strength to keep going. My heart went out to him. I then asked him if there was a Bible passage or hymn that gave him strength. He said there wasn’t, so I asked him if I could share some with him. I respectfully responded with some of the struggles I had faced as a young man like him and how God proved Himself to be a strong refuge throughout my life as I faced various trials, even cancer. I encouraged him to with the picture of how God’s Word is like a spiritual IV giving our souls the strength to keep hope alive and keep looking forward. At this visual picture, I sensed a short but deeper connection with him when his face lit up and he smiled. Oh yes, how the power of the gospel can affect us all so we really know that we have a God who is not far off and who will not let us go through any trial alone. We closed our time with a short prayer.

Stories and opportunities like this abound here at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. I encourage you to learn from those you encounter. The time will come when our Lord will open the door to tell the old, old story. Many times in my life, the door has been opened with soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen and women — all having their own specific situations. Similar stories could be told of the many family members, staff workers, nurses, surgeons, and doctors. So I solicit your many fervent prayers for our leaders, for those serving in our military, and for their families so that our great God and Savior will be exalted in it all.



*Chaplain Benz serves in the Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.*



# the coveted prize

Jesus told Peter and Andrew to follow Him (Matthew 4: 19) and He would make them fishers of men. Paul tell us that of those who run, only one receives the prize. We must run in a way that we may obtain it (I Corinthians 9: 24,27). Paul also reminds us in II Timothy 2: 5 that the prize goes only to the winner *if* he or she runs the race accordingly to the rules.

As a former athlete and coach it became obvious to me that these biblical directives

provide the best expertise in achieving my spiritual goals. The directions we have in Scripture are a direct command to help us — and someone else — win the coveted prize: eternal life in heaven.

While Christians have this goal for themselves, many don't feel they have the ability to help someone else find the way. But we are living in a time when God has given us many tools for evangelism.

As a high school coach starting back in the 1960s, I was very fortunate to have been involved in Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). What an exciting tool for Christ. One of my former students is a missionary in Africa, with his sons' families and a daughter joining him and his wife to share about the Lord. They are fishers of men.

As a farmer, I recently became a member of the Fellowship of Christians Farmers International. Like FCA, members of FCFI have developed useful evangelism tools that

are easy to use. One of the tools of evangelism I have used — there are many — is a wordless walking stick. Attached to the stick are colored beads that help tell the story of salvation. Almost every farmer will readily accept a yardstick. Most are willing to have the beads explained, thus hearing the gospel.

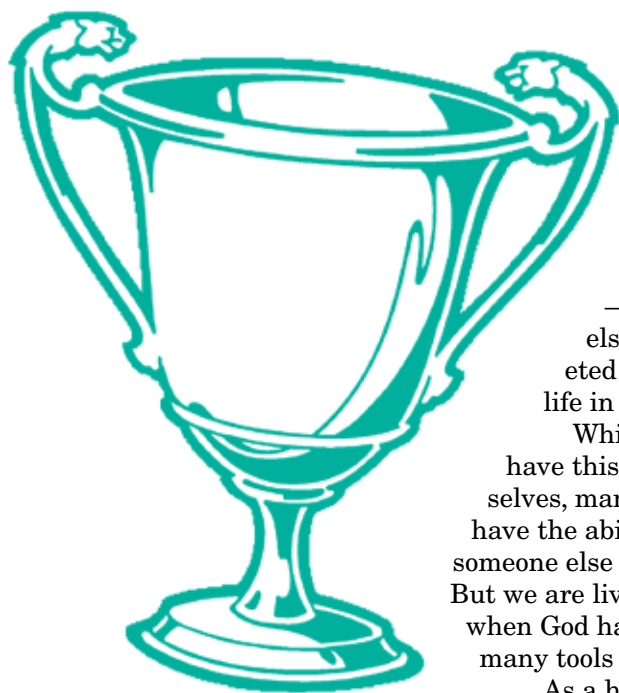
Many souls have been won for the Kingdom when FCFI hosts booths at both U.S. and Canadian farm shows and at the national Future Farmers of America conventions. FCFI also sponsors trips throughout the U.S. and to other countries for members to work and share the gospel.

There are many other Christian organizations available for anyone's interest. At a recent FCFI conference a speaker described Hebrews 11 as the Hall of Faith. This chapter should encourage all Christians that we have this "great cloud of witnesses," and we do not struggle alone. Living the Christian life is not easy. Winning the prize takes much work. It requires us to give up whatever may endanger our relationship with our God. We must focus on Jesus, run patiently, and struggle against sin, which can only be done with the power of the Holy Spirit. We need to be running for Christ, not ourselves, and always keep Jesus in our sight.

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) gives Christians clear command. We all can and must do something. All can pray. Most can support evangelism programs financially. God has someone for *you* to witness to.

God can use our fumbings and mumbings, but he *cannot* use our nothings. Check out all the possible tools, especially those available through the AFLC Commission on Evangelism ([www.aflc.org](http://www.aflc.org)). Pray. Ask for God's guidance. Wait for His answer and obey His instructions. Then be prepared for the blessings of the Holy Spirit!

— Dean Hobelmann  
Commission on Evangelism  
Abiding Word Lutheran  
Deshler, Neb.





# Always ABOUNDING

## [World Missions]

**T**he Apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit and talking about death, the Christian's resurrection and life eternal, said in his concluding statements to the Christians in Corinth, "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:45).

A victorious, happy Christian life is a life that has as its purpose the serving and glorifying of our Savior. I know there are several reasons for this. One, it is always satisfying to help others and in so doing witness of our love for Christ. Two, all people are eternal souls and God's Word tells us they will live forever either in eternal separation and suffering or eternal togetherness with our Savior in joyous activity and praise. Therefore we need to help others know Christ and decide for Him so that they may be with us in Heaven.

In serving we need patience and at the same time persistence to run the race and gain the victory. James 5:8 says: "Brethren, be patient, strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand." Psalm 90:12 tells us: "So teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

Many of you who read this are older as my wife, Ruby, and I are. You may not have many years or even much time to be "abounding in the work of the Lord." But it is truly a wise heart which says: "I know the Lord is coming soon — for me and for all the saved — so I want to give what I can, while I can for the salvation of others and the glory of the Lord." It is important that we find a way to serve and are willing to have a part in sharing and spreading the gospel.

It is encouraging to our Brazilian churches when new congregations are started. Such was the case this past March in Londrina, Brazil, where we had our first of three tent evangelism campaigns. It was on the heart of Pastor Jose Coelho to target a new housing development about three miles from his church, where three couples from his church were building their homes. The new housing area had 50 homes, but no church. We set up the tent in a vacant lot next to the home of one of these couples. During the nine-day campaign, 33 decisions were made for Christ. The following week Pastor Jose and his church council purchased a nearby corner lot to start a new church. Now, home Bible studies are being held and a project has been approved by the AFLC World Missions Committee to help them put up a first unit building. Members of the Northwest district of the AFLC have taken on the project of raising \$10,000 to assist Brazil AFLC in building this new unit.

As Ruby and I return to Brazil (leaving Jan. 21) for three and one-half months, we are praying that new tent evangelism campaigns will encourage our Brazilian churches and even result in the planting of new groups in needy areas. Pray that the project, called Primavera (meaning springtime), will result in new spiritual planting and growth. If you can, make a trip in the near future to visit your missionaries in Brazil and give them a hand in the many projects and needs in this challenging land.

— Pastor John Abel

**“It is important that we find a way to serve and are willing to have a part in sharing and spreading the gospel.”**

For more information on John and Ruby Abel's trip to Brazil this month, call them at (218) 962-3458 before Jan. 21.



# HeLP us to be FAiTHFUL

**The simple truth is that none of us can begin to meet the needs of hurting people in our own strength. But it is so wonderful to know the God of mercy who can meet every need by His glorious power and love.**

**N**othing brings us to a realization of our weakness more quickly than coming face to face with major life crises. Have you been there? I am challenged more than ever with life circumstances beyond my strength and ability — or perhaps I am just recognizing the fact more.

A significant number of those “impossible” situations come into my life through the times I am called on as a volunteer law enforcement chaplain. How do you console a mother whose 6-year-old daughter’s life was snuffed out when she accidentally backed the family pickup over her? What comfort do you bring to a young lady who has just found the limp body of her boyfriend who hung himself in the aftermath of a fight they just had — on the eve of his 28th birthday? Where are the words for the young mother who holds the lifeless body of her 18-month-old baby boy in her lap — accidentally strangled with the curtain cord near his bed? Is there something to offer to the parents of a 14-year-old boy who seemed so popular and happy with life — until the day he took his life with a gun?

The simple truth is that none of us can begin to meet the needs of hurting people in our own strength. But it is so wonderful to know the God of mercy who can meet every need by His glorious power and love.

The role of the law enforcement chaplain is to be a visible and tangible presence of that love to people from all walks of life, in all types of circumstances. Sometimes those ministered to are Christians who are grateful for the prayers;

they also wish to receive the assurance from God’s Word that He still loves them and is in control. More often in my experience, however, there is no opportunity to verbalize a verse of Scripture or even a simple prayer. Are those instances failures or wastes of a Christian pastor’s time? I don’t believe so. They are still powerful opportunities to allow God’s love for a lost world and every person in it to flow through us.

I believe deeply that it is God’s will for His believing children to serve in such ways — both to honor Him and to be used by Him as doors of opportunity to share Jesus openly. And who will meet the people’s needs? Be assured, God will, by the power at work through His servants. Our responsibility is but to be available and faithful.

In some communities, a role like law enforcement chaplain may only be open to those with pastoral training. If your pastor senses a prompting of the Holy Spirit to serve in such a way for a limited number of volunteer hours, I encourage you to prayerfully consider releasing him to that work.

Yes, the world is full of hurts far beyond our ability to meet. But what a wonderful Savior we have to represent and share. He alone meets every need. Shine for Him wherever He has placed you!

**— Pastor Rick Long**  
**Atonement Free Lutheran**  
**Arlington, Wash.**

*Serving since 1993 as volunteer  
sheriff’s chaplain in Snohomish  
County, Wash.*

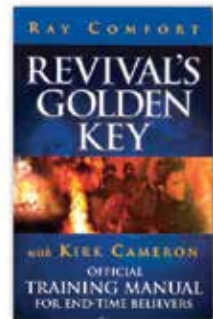


# Evangelism ReSOURCES

## [Parish Education]

### Revival's Golden Key

What happens when a gospel of happiness is preached rather than of righteousness? Looking for a better life and a way to escape life's problems, many may have some kind of religious experience without ever being confronted with their sin. This book emphasizes the necessity of the Law in evangelism to bring conviction of sin and show our hopelessness apart from Christ. \$8



### How to Respond Series

Insightful series equips Christians with detailed information on non-Christian religious movements, comparing them with Scripture and showing how to respond with a clear gospel presentation. \$4.95 each

The Cults	Jehovah's Witnesses
Judaism	Latter-Day Saints
The Lodge	Muslims
The New Age	Satanism

### The Compact Guide to World Religions

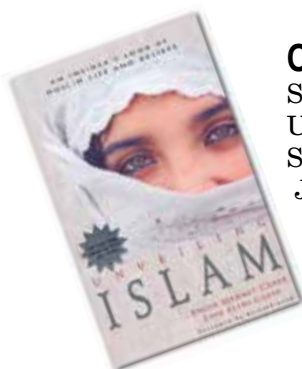
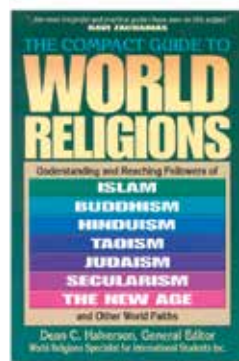
Succinct, easy-to-use chapters provide an excellent guide to understanding Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Taoism, Confucianism, Animism, Shintoism, and the New Age. \$10.50

### Do the Work of an Evangelist

Representing the best of evangelical Lutheran Pietism, Dr. Carl Wisloff writes with clarity and earnestness regarding the Biblical meaning of evangelism. \$5

### Witnessing with the Word

This Word-centered study in evangelism teaches believers how to use the Word in witnessing to people with varied backgrounds and problems. Student Book \$4.25 Study Notes \$2



### Other evangelism resources available include:

Sharing Your Faith with a Muslim \$10.50  
 Unveiling Islam \$11.00  
 Sharing Your Faith with a Hindu \$10.50  
 Jehovah's Witnesses Answered Verse by Verse \$10.50  
 Mormons Answered Verse by Verse \$10.50  
 Who Is This Jesus – Is He Risen? (video) \$19.95

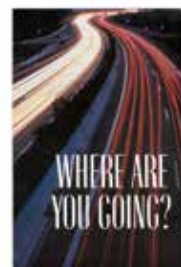
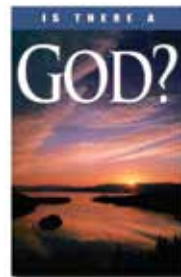
*These and other resources  
available from*

### Ambassador Publications

AFLC Parish Education  
 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd.  
 Minneapolis, MN 55441  
 phone: (763) 545-5631  
 fax: (763) 545-0079  
 email: [parished@aflc.org](mailto:parished@aflc.org)  
 website: [www.aflc.org](http://www.aflc.org)

### Tracts and Pamphlets

- Can I Be Forgiveness? \$.15
- Christianity, Cults, and World Religions foldout pamphlet \$3.95 Spanish \$2.95
- The Cults — Where They Go Wrong \$.15
- Do Good People Go to Heaven? \$.15
- Do You Have Eternal Life? \$.25
- How Can I Find Peace with God? \$.25
- Is There a God? \$.15
- The Spirit of Truth and The Spirit of Error — Cults \$1.50
- World Religions \$1.50
- Steps in Growing \$.10 (for children)
- What Does It Mean to Be a Christian? \$.25
- Where Are You Going? \$.15
- Wordless Book Bracelet Tract \$.10 (for children)





**If we can impact them for Christ, what an influence they can have on their own countries and, possibly, national policy.**



Vukonich, center, with two exchange students: Maria from Austria (left) and EunNa from Korea.

**T**he great melting pot of America continues to add more immigrants each year, some of who come to our country for a short time as exchange students. I have heard that many international college students will someday be leaders in their own countries. If we can impact them for Christ, what an influence they can have on their own countries and, possibly, national policy.

Living in rural America, the group I am most interested in is international high school students. Although they are here for only a year, it is a time of great excitement, a time to experience new

things and to adjust to a new way of life. Where else but in a small town can you be a front-page celebrity in the newspaper just by moving there?

As Christians, we have a phenomenal opportunity on our doorsteps. It's a chance to just be ourselves and open our hearts and homes to these students. This is my fifth year of student exchange, having placed 33 kids from different parts of the world. It has been a challenging yet rewarding job. It's my prayer that while they are in the U.S., these students will encounter true Christianity and desire a relationship with Jesus.

Church youth groups are such a positive way to impact the lives of these students. They are able to make good friends with those who care about them personally, as well as their eternal destiny. Some students have accepted Christ while they were here.

As a child, I had the privilege of having a Sunday school teacher who was a missionary to Bolivia. Her

hunger for souls was contagious, and I was fascinated by different cultures around the world. What an impact it made on my young life. I still remember the songs we learned in vacation Bible school:

"Untold millions are still untold.

Untold millions are outside the fold.

Who will tell them of Jesus' love?

And the heavenly mansions awaiting above?"

Having recently traveled to Prague, Czech Republic, I imagined what it must be like for my international students who come all alone for 10 months as teenagers, thousands of miles away from friends, family and all things familiar.

There were very few in Prague who spoke fluent English who could give us directions or explain the currency. So we pointed and pantomimed our questions. I longed for something familiar and comforting, someone to smile and make me feel like, "I'm glad you're here."

Admittedly, it takes patience and understanding to understand foreign dialects. Yet I find this patience is well rewarded with my students. When we finally understand each other, it's a real sense of accomplishment, the beginning of a friendship. I know international students appreciate the effort. Sometimes we can't help but laugh together. Laughter is the same in every language.

In his book, "How to be a World Class Christian," Paul Borthwick writes, "Reaching out to internationals doesn't require an unusual gift of evangelism; it demands only a willingness to be a friend ... Every international student needs at least one Christian friend."

**—Tammy Vukonich  
Amery Free Lutheran  
Amery, Wis.**



# Silverhill congregation dedicates new building

**A**FLC President Pastor Robert Lee presided over the dedication of a new fellowship building Nov. 23 at Zion Lutheran, Silverhill, Ala. The construction process took exactly eight months, from groundbreaking to building dedication. The fellowship building is the result of two and one-half years of prayer and planning.

Zion Lutheran Church was formally organized as a Swedish congregation in 1905. Its present worship building was completed in 1915 and is on the Historical Registry of Baldwin County. The building was renovated in 1958 and its previous building addition was dedicated in 1965.

For more information about Zion Lutheran, call (251) 945-1076. Additional church information is available at [www.lutheransinsilverhill.com](http://www.lutheransinsilverhill.com).



**Pastor Wallace Jackson**, Perham, Minn., is serving as interim pastor of Roseau Free Lutheran and Norland Free Lutheran, Roseau, Minn.

**Pastor Chris Nyman**, Beulah, N.D., was accepted onto the AFLC Fellowship Roster. Formerly serving with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Nyman has accepted a call to serve Prince of Peace Lutheran, Beulah.

**Pastor Ken Thoreson**, Sebring, Fla., has accepted a call to serve Tanglewood Church in his retirement community.

Members of **Section Ten Lutheran**, Cumberland, Wis., voted to suspend services until March or April. The congregation has been served on weekends by seminarians for several years.

Members of **Cornerstone Lutheran**, Argyle, Wis., voted recently to begin a building project. Construction will begin in April. The congregation is served by Pastor Dick Ewing.



New members were accepted at Hosanna Free Lutheran, St. James, Minn., including Robert and Heidi Cooling and their children, Hannah, Michael, Thomas and Henry; Mark and Rachel Heller and their children, Hannah, Emma, Andrew, Kristian and Nathan; Oscar and Pat Olson; Milton and Elaine Ratzlaff; Ervin Finger; and Hans and Ina Stoecklie. Pictured with the new members are Pastor Walter and Ellen Beaman.

## WMF memorials November

Dallas Severs, Dupree, S.D.  
Marian Weichert, Faith, S.D.  
... in honor of  
Adeline McCarlson

## Annual Conference housing

The Annual Conference is scheduled for June 16-20 at the ARC, Osceola, Wis. To reserve housing, call the ARC at 1-888-748-3969. Or email [arc@aflc.org](mailto:arc@aflc.org).



# Heritage Hall

## Dedication weekend



**D**escribed as a building that makes AFLBS and AFLTS a campus, Heritage Hall was dedicated Dec. 6 with hundreds attending an open house and service.

"What a wonderful blessing this ... building will be to the Bible school and seminary," said AFLTS Dean Dr. Francis Monseth. "God has used so many consecrated and gifted people. We are here today to give glory and honor to Jesus."

In his message titled, "Walking the Halls of Our Heritage," Pastor Michael Brandt, Abiding Savior, Sioux Falls, S.D., said, "We want students to have eternity in view every step of their lives."

Brandt described how he hoped the new building would be decked this season by students, staff and visitors: with the light of Jesus, the love and joy of Christ's spirit and the hope of Christ's vision.

"I pray Heritage Hall will produce men and women of vision," said Brandt.



**TOP:** Heritage Hall, a \$3.5 million, 44,000-square-foot student center on the AFLC schools' campus, was dedicated Dec. 6, during a special service. The new building houses a library, cafeteria and kitchen, classrooms, music area, faculty and staff offices.

**ABOVE:** David Ford, of Kvam Free Lutheran, Dalton, Minn., volunteered his time the first week of December along with two friends to help clean and install shelving in the new library.





**TOP LEFT:** Kinghorn construction workers install mailboxes for students, staff and faculty on the first floor of Heritage Hall a week before the dedication.  
**TOP RIGHT:** Workers put in one of the last details, a plastic shield meant to help stop smoke from traveling throughout the building in case of a fire.  
**MIDDLE LEFT:** Members of AFLBS Choir sing "God's Son Has Made Me Free" during the dedication service.  
**LEFT:** Paul Melby (left), Kvam Free Lutheran, Dalton, Minn., and his friend, George Hartman, Zion Sarbsborg Lutheran, Dalton, volunteered during the first week of December to clean and install shelving in the new library.  
**ABOVE:** The Concert Choir sang for Christmas Concerts hosted at AFLBS.



# Vision 2004 extends campus invitation

The AFLC Schools and the Vision 2004 office extend an invitation to have lunch with the deans. Visit the AFLBS and AFLTS campus and see first-hand what's happening at our schools. Come on Thursday, Feb. 19, March 18, or April 15.

Join us for coffee and fellowship at 9:30 a.m., with an opportunity at 10:10 a.m. to attend an AFLBS or AFLTS class. At 11:10 a.m. be a part of the chapel service, followed by lunch with the AFLC schools' deans and staff. A tour of the new student center, Heritage Hall, will also be given.

Come for all or part of the day; we'd love to have you visit. Call the Vision 2004 office at (763) 412-2004 or the AFLC schools office at (763) 544-9501 to make a reservation.

## [ABCDEFGG]

### What does it mean?

**AFLC:** The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, a fellowship of independent congregations, who have chosen to be interdependent for the purpose of accomplishing service in the Kingdom of God that cannot best be done alone. Founded in 1962 with headquarters at Plymouth, Minn.

**AFLBS:** The Association Free Lutheran Bible School, a two-year Bible school founded in 1966 by the AFLC with campus located in Plymouth, Minn.

**AFLTS:** The Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary sometimes called the Free Lutheran Seminary (FLS). Founded in 1964, shares campus with AFLBS in Plymouth, Minn.

**WMF:** The Women's Missionary Federation was organized in 1962 and supports AFLC missionary endeavors.

## AFLC memorials — November

### Parish Education

*Mary Lindquist*

*Marge Bischoff*

### Home Missions

*Art Larson*

*Jan Fatland*

### Vision 2004

*Ardyce Harstad*

*Sandra Fetzer*

### General Fund

*Ardyce Harstad*

### AFLBS

*Ardyce Harstad*

### AFLTS

*Elda Norgard*

*Gerald Mundfrom*

*Clarence Smith*

*Marie Olson*

*Betty Mortinson*

### World Missions

*Jim Swanson*

*Lyle Dilley*

*Woodrow Heth*

*Iva Dahl*

*Betty Mortinson*

### Youth Ministries

*Judy Hallingstad*

*... in honor of*

### AFLBS piano fund

*Don Rodvold*

## ARC hosts youth retreats in January

With the theme: "What's the Difference?" the ARC will host two youth retreats Jan. 30-Feb. 1 at its facilities in Osceola, Wis.

Kids in grades 7 through 12 can attend Side by Side while those in grades 4-7 can attend Jr. Sno Daze.

The theme verse is, "If anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation, the old has gone, the new

is come" (II Corinthians 5:17).

Speakers for Side by Side are Pastor Wade Mobley, Pastor Jerry and Kristi Nelson, Eric Christenson, and Jeremy Erickson. Pastor Tom Gilman and senior seminarian Dale Lankford will speak for Jr. Sno Daze.

Registration is \$75 per student. For more information, call the ARC at 1-888-748-3969.

### Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

### AFLC Benevolences (11 month) – January 1 - November 30, 2003

FUND	TOTAL Subsidy	REC'D IN NOVEMBER	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% TOTAL
General Fund . . . . .	\$305,568.00	\$19,271.66	\$248,323.54	81
Youth Ministries . . .	48,154.00	5,124.03	37,424.78	78
Parish Education . . .	90,907.00	3,492.63	72,502.58	80
Seminary . . . . .	152,070.00	9,801.61	126,622.54	83
Bible School . . . . .	263,356.00	26,918.54	218,230.07	83
Home Missions . . . . .	305,087.00	11,506.24	224,205.22	73
Church Extension . . .	28,945.00	423.91	14,936.51	52
World Missions . . . . .	247,082.00	22,372.26	174,606.03	71
Personal Support . . .	301,156.00	19,127.97	313,045.38	104
<b>TOTALS . . . . .</b>	<b>\$1,742,325.00</b>	<b>\$118,038.85</b>	<b>\$1,352,755.23</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>TOTALS 2002 . . . . .</b>	<b>\$1,521,284.00</b>	<b>\$120,773.32</b>	<b>\$1,417,276.75</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Goal 92%</b>				

The Evangelism Department received \$3,964.92 in November.

The office of director of Development received \$0 in November.



# What is REaLLY NEEEdED

[Editorial]

**A**t times we think we can't be effective in telling others about Jesus the way we are. We may think our past needs to be spotless and our present perfect. We think we have to wait until our knowledge is complete and we are ready for every question. We think we have to have skills of the highest quality.



**Craig Johnson**

A lot of helpful training material is available on how to be a good witness for Jesus. But you don't have to attend a certain workshop, read all the right books, or pass some course

before God can use you. If you know Jesus and have a living, personal relationship with Him, you can be a witness for Him right now.

In Luke 2 we read of the shepherds being told that the Savior has been born. They go to Bethlehem to check it out. "When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them" (Luke 2:17, 18, NIV).

They weren't highly trained. They didn't wait until they got all the answers. They had seen the Christ and they let others know, and people were amazed.

A Samaritan woman had an encounter with Jesus. "Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 'Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?' They came out

of the town and made their way toward him. ... Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony" (John 4:28-30, 39).

She didn't understand everything that was going on, but she knew she had met someone who was unlike anyone else. She didn't have it all together. She didn't first read some books before going back to town and sharing the news. But God still used her. She told the people in town what had happened and they got curious. They met Jesus and came to faith.

When Peter and John stood before the rulers of the people, what impressed the rulers was not how complete their knowledge was or how polished they were in their presentation. Instead it says, "When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13). Common people sharing an uncommon message have great power.

We don't read of a complex, detailed plan they had developed for evangelizing the world. Jesus told them, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). They didn't respond to that call by having strategy meetings. Instead, "they all joined together constantly in prayer" (Acts 1:14). They waited for God's Spirit to come upon them, fill them and lead them. Their evangelism program was basic. They described what they were doing as: "For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). They had seen Jesus, crucified and risen again.

If you know  
Jesus and have  
a living, personal  
relationship with  
Him, you can be  
a witness for Him  
right now.

They simply went around, telling the news.

We make things so complex; we almost scare people from wanting to be involved in evangelism. We ought to always be striving to grow in our knowledge and our witnessing ability. At the same time, however, we give thanks that, if our heart is right with the Lord, He can use us today with the knowledge and abilities He has given us.

What made these different ones effective witnesses was the fact that they had all met Jesus. They had a life-changing encounter with the Lord. They spent time in the presence of the Messiah. It is the same for us.

It was clear Peter and John had been with Jesus. That is what made them powerful witnesses. The Lord invites us to spend time with Jesus and find in Him all that we need to be His ambassadors, sharing the good news with the world.



[ARC]

“Our purpose, much like the flagpole, is not to be noticed, but to make sure people see Christ in us. I believe the best opportunity for the world to see Jesus in us is when the winds of distress and trials blow hard in our lives.”

## WINDS of DISTRESS

**“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain” (I Corinthians 15:58).**

Since Sept. 11, 2001, there has been a resurgence of American patriotism. When we see someone flying the flag over his or her home, we understand that this person appreciates the freedoms of our great country.

I believe the flag is never better displayed than when a strong wind blows, the flag is fully unfurled and all of the stars and stripes are visible. It is an awesome sight! But, do you ever stop to think about the flagpole? In a strong wind the flagpole is put under a tremendous amount of stress. It's interesting that when the flag looks its best that the pole is under the greatest stress.

As Christians our purpose is to hold up the banner, or flag, of Christ. This is done when we show love and compassion to our fellow believers as well as the lost. The

verses in the passage above exhort us to “stand firm and let nothing move you.” Our purpose, much like the flagpole, is not to be noticed, but to make sure people see Christ in us. I believe that the best opportunity for the world to see Jesus in us is when the winds of distress and trials blow hard in our lives. The only way we will be able to stand these tests is to remain grounded in the Word of God and continue in close fellowship with other believers.

The next time you see an American flag flying beautifully over a business or home you will know that the owners of the property are patriotic. In the same way when we give ourselves “fully to the work of the Lord” the world will see Jesus in us.

As a side note the Association Retreat Center will be celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. It has always been our goal that people who use our facility will see Jesus in each one of us who work and volunteer here. Members of the ARC Board, the staff, and myself would like to invite each of you to visit this facility this year and see how good God has been to this ministry arm of the AFLC.

— Eric Westlake  
ARC director