



OPEN AIR EVANGELISM BENEFITS THE CHURCH

The headlines today are full of ISIS, Obama, and horrific reports of Planned Parenthood. In spite of it all, God is at work in our dark nation!

I have been doing evangelism at some level since 2004 and I have never seen people being drawn to the Gospel like we have this year. We are facing verbal and, at times, physical persecution for the Gospel. In the middle of this tornado of sinful confusion, people are making confessions to follow Jesus and the church is beginning to stand in one of our Nation's darkest hours.

People are hurting and confused, and the Gospel is the ointment that is needed on the open wound of the rebellious human heart. As always, our hope is that this newsletter will encourage you and challenge you to go proclaim the Gospel to see a life transformed.

Thank you all for reading and being a part of what God is doing for His kingdom through Gospel of God Ministries. During a recent trip to Massachusetts with one of my disciples, we saw God working in four obvious ways through Open Air Evangelism. Let me first give a definition of what I consider Open Air Evangelism to be. *Open Air Evangelism occurs when an individual Christ follower goes out into their city for the specific purpose of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with people.* Open air evangelism can be carried out in a variety of ways, which I won't explain in depth here. The focus of this article is to show four ways in which engaging in Open Air Evangelism benefits the church.

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Open Air Evangelism Encourages the Church

I recently had the opportunity to preach at Redemption Fellowship in Fall River, Massachusetts. After the sermon, many people approached me to express their interest in Open Air Evangelism. The pastor at Redemption Fellowship does a lot of Open Air Evangelism in that blue collar city. The next day, nineteen people from the church showed up to join us in doing Open Air Evangelism. Pastor Tom, George, and I preached from the Bible and proclaimed the Gospel through open air preaching. While the preaching was being done, some people had one-on-one conversations, some handed out tracts with the Gospel message, some shared their testimonies, some invited people to church, and others quietly prayed.

They were loving the ones in their city by going beyond the four walls of their church for the expressed purpose of sharing the Gospel. They had neither an ice cream social nor a free car wash. Although these things are not bad - they are not Open Air Evangelism. Personally, I love ice cream and I definitely like to have my car washed for free. Evangelism is all too easily overlooked because of the tendency to focus on service because of the fear of offending somebody. In Open Air Evangelism the focus is one thing - sharing the Gospel. All other objectives take a backseat. Fear is pushed down for the glory of God and concern for the souls of others.

As I hope that you are, the folks at Redemption Fellowship are beginning to realize that people are not three-headed monsters waiting to chomp our heads off at the first mention of Jesus. They are beginning to get a small glimpse of the lostness around them. The majority of Christians in our country never challenge themselves in the area of Open Air evangelism. If you do challenge yourself in this area, you will be invigorated, rejuvenated, and ignited again with the Gospel message. ("If I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,' there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot." Jeremiah 20:9)

*Therefore do not be
anxious about tomorrow,
for tomorrow will be
anxious for itself.
Sufficient for the day is
its own trouble.*

Matthew 6:34

Open Air Evangelism Glorifies God

Scott Smith, a mentor of mine, once told me *"Tommy, we have the privilege to share God's truth with those who God brings. The majority of the church misses that honor."* It truly is an honor. Why? God is glorified as we stand for Him in the public arena. We are exalting God and glorifying Him as we proclaim biblical truth in the open air. If more Christians were involved in doing Open Air Evangelism, Christianity would not be so easily marginalized by our dark and dying culture. If more God-fearing Christians went out into their cities to lovingly stand for Jesus, we would begin to outnumber those wing-nut evangelists that diminish the Glory of God.

What is holding *you* back from bringing more glory to God through Open Air Evangelism? Fear? (Read 1 John 4:18) Worry? (Read Mathew 6:34) Go against the norm and share the glorious Gospel. It only takes one person that is willing to go and glorify their King!

Open Air Evangelism Saves Souls

If you have a garden in your backyard, then you know you will have fresh vegetables lining your table come late spring and early summer. What did you have to do in order to enjoy those lovely vegetables? You had to go out and do the work of putting the seeds in the ground, tilling the land in preparation, and ridding your vegetable garden of weeds. What if you never put a seed in the ground? What if you just stood there holding the seeds in your hand? What would happen? The same things sleeping rocks dream of - nothing!

How can you, as an individual, expect our culture and our cities to be different if you are not out in them sharing the Gospel? If you are not engaging the rebellious sinful heart and mind with the truths of the Gospel message?

I am using the personal pronoun 'you' on purpose. Maybe you are engaging our culture. If so - keep going! If not - get out there. What is holding you back? People are everywhere in your city. Go share.

You will see people saved! We saw four people confess Jesus these past two weeks. God will use you if you are willing to go. It is not about the number of people who are saved, although God will save them. It is about our bulldog tenacity to remain faithful to share the Gospel message. Go be faithful in the open air today.

Open Air Evangelism Increases Communication

When you start doing Open Air Evangelism, your dependence and communion with God will automatically increase. You will step out of your comfort zone and fall right into the arms of your Father in prayer. You will continually cultivate a humble dependence on God to move. You will be praying, asking "Which person do you want me to talk with, Daddy? How do I need to start a conversation with this person, Daddy? Show me the person that needs to hear the Gospel message." Prayer will become second nature, like breathing. I call it soul breathing.

Here is a quick story. We pray every day before we start sharing: *Lord bring the ones that need to hear your truth and open their hearts and give us the words to speak.* One day we were handing tracts out at a traffic intersection and using the time that they were stopped at the light to quickly talk to people about the Gospel. The next day we were walking to lunch and a car pulled over and asked for directions. The driver was a lady that had run into us the previous day at the traffic intersection and had been given a tract. We gave her directions and continued to share the Gospel with her. She was a Buddhist and lumped the Bible and Buddha together in what she thought was one harmonious worship of both. We exposed her idolatry and shared with her that the one true God was trying to get her attention. We reminded her that she had pulled over to talk to us: she sought us out. She could not escape the obvious. She did not come to know Christ at that moment, but we opened our hands and cast the seed.

Open Air Evangelism has many more benefits to the universal church. These are just the obvious four benefits that God has shown me recently. Open Air Evangelism encourages the church, Glorifies God, Saves Souls, and Increases Communication with God. Go and share the Gospel to see a life transformed!

-Tommy Waltz

Lord, bring the ones that need to hear your truth and open their hearts and give us the words to speak.

TAKE A PICTURE, it'll last longer

A group of about ten GGM preachers and evangelists recently shared the Gospel at a Marilyn Manson/Smashing Pumpkins concert. The concert was part of a tour that was billed as their *End Times Tour* which provided us with a perfect opening into Gospel-centered conversations.

Many tracts were handed out as the Gospel was boldly preached to the captive audience of people standing in line waiting for the gates to open.

You can see a fellow on the left-hand side of the photo holding up his cell phone. He is doing what many people do when they are confronted by the Gospel being proclaimed in the open air. He is videoing the preacher. It is quite common to see people with their phones out either recording video or taking a photo of the preaching.

Our prayer is that the videos and pictures are shared with many friends and family. Even if it is done mockingly, the Truth is still being proclaimed!



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*Proclaiming the Gospel
to Transform Lives*

Find us on the web:
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Downloading our new mobile app is the best and easiest way to stay connected to GGM anywhere, anytime. With the app, you'll always be on top of what is going on with the ministry. You can set it up to receive notifications about scheduled preaching opportunities so you'll know how to pray for us and where you can join an evangelist that is sharing the Gospel near you. The app also allows you to financially support Gospel of God Ministries on line so that we can continue to advance the Gospel in this dark hour of America.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Here is where we will be sharing and preaching the Gospel for the rest of the year. Please pray for all these dates and events. Keep this newsletter handy for your regular prayer devotions and make a copy of this page to put in your church's prayer room. Members of the GGM ministry team will be spreading out all across the Nation taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ to lost and rebellious souls. Your prayers make a difference of either heaven or hell for people. No pressure! Thank you for holding the rope.

- September - Preaching at Bug Fest and First Friday in Raleigh, preaching in Atlanta
- September through December - Preaching at a Raleigh Abortion Clinic on Thursday mornings when in town.
- August through November - Preaching on NC State campus 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Aug 27th, Sept 3rd, Sept 17th, Oct 15th, Oct 22nd, Oct 29th, Nov 5th, and Nov 12th
- September 26 through Oct 2 - Preaching and training evangelists in Phoenix at Mercy Hill Church
- October 4 through 7 - Preaching at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church
- October 16 through 18 - Gospel of God Ministries Evangelism Conference
- November 20 through 27 - Preaching in West Palm Beach, Florida
- November 21 – Preaching at the Raleigh Christmas Parade

Learn about more events at www.gospelgm.com/calendar