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Becoming Disciples

Jesus' last words to His disciples instruct His followers to help others know what He had taught and how He lived. This is the process we are all in together. You have taken significant steps in the process of becoming a disciple of Jesus.

“Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

You have made a commitment to _____.

You have followed Jesus Christ with a commitment of your life to Him by faith. You have become obedient to identify with Christ through baptism. You have made a significant commitment to the Mountain View family. These are all important commitments.

You have made a commitment to _____.

You have agreed to build into your life the habits necessary to maintain stability and consistency in your Christian walk; the habit of taking in God's Word, the habit of a daily quiet time, the habit of prayer, the habit of sharing Christ, the habit of fellowship, and the habit of putting Christ first in your finances. Again, these indicate a serious desire on your part to follow Jesus.

You have made a commitment to discover your _____.

Really, really cool. You have learned something about your S.H.A.P.E. and how God wants to use you in a ministry which He has custom designed for you. You are no accident but are God's perfect plan from the beginning. All of this has prepared you for what is to come.

Now, you are making a commitment to discovering and building your

_____.

In particular, we are focusing today on Jesus' last words before he ascended into heaven:

“When the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere...” Acts 1:8 (NLT)

Part of building your life-mission is getting the tools together in order to be successful. As a result of meeting together today, you will gain an understanding as well as a confidence in how to share the most important person in your life - Jesus.

THE PRINCIPLES UNDERGIRDING THIS C.L.A.S.S.

1. **Evangelism is built on _____ not _____**

Implication: A canned approach to evangelism often short-circuits what the Holy Spirit wants to accomplish in the life of the unbeliever resulting in tremendous anxiety in both the messenger and the one needing the message. A _____ approach often creates more distance and builds barriers between the individual and Jesus. A _____ approach removes barriers and bridges the distance between the individual and Jesus.

2. **Evangelism must be _____ not _____**

Implication: There is a huge _____ between a believer and an unbeliever. Our world views are entirely different. Our activities and lifestyles are different. The unchurched must understand why we do what we do (ex. attending church) or they will simply see us as 'religious'. Our 'lifestyle evangelism' (living a godly life) can do more harm than good if it is not coupled with an explanation of our motivation for living such a life.

3. **Evangelism is a _____ not an _____**

Implication: Many small decisions need to be made and many questions need to be answered before a person can adequately respond to the Gospel's message. This involves a strategy of _____, _____ and then _____.

4. **Evangelism is a _____ not a _____**

Implication: It is a liberating experience when you understand all the resources God has working on the unchurched individual. The _____ has been drawing this person to Himself for a lifetime. The _____ has an incredible power to convince the lost person of the truth of Jesus. The _____ who lives the truth, speaks the truth and prays has the power of God working through him or her. This is not a sales job. This is a supernatural activity which God alone can do.

5. **Evangelism is a _____ not an _____**

Implication: Encouragement as well as effectiveness stem from the body working in harmony in the evangelism process. The witness enjoys the prayer support as well as the participation of others within the body. The unchurched get to see a clearer picture of Jesus Christ when they get to know other members of His Body.

CHAPTER 1:

DAVID WASN'T EDUCATED IN THE GIANT RULE

**(FORGETTING WHAT WE
SHOULD HAVE NEVER
LEARNED)**

THE UNLUCKY GIANT

Poor Goliath. How was he to know? I mean what are the odds? Everyone knows the rules, don't they? Giants are the biggest so they win. Everyone else is smaller so they lose. Simple. Goliath had relied on this strategy for years and it always worked. At least until now.

How was Goliath to know that a pink-cheeked adolescent named David had never been formally educated in the creeds and customs of giant warfare? David, with seemingly little thought to the size discrepancy, approached the dreaded opponent with panache. Had no one told him? Did he not know that giants win and pink-cheeked boys loose? With the eagerness with which David trotted out to Goliath, apparently not.

After the worlds shortest recorded battle (the time it took for Goliath to hurl several insults and David to hurl a single stone), a lesson was taught, not only to the Philistines, but to the generations which would follow. The lesson is this, not every rule we know is correct. Not every rule we know is even helpful. Some of the rules we have used to guide our lives we would have been better off not knowing.

Tonight, for the sake of your unchurched friends and family, we want to help you forget some rules which have done no one good. Remember, David wasn't educated in the giant rule. And he won.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Take five minutes and answer the questions below. After completing the questions, find a partner and share your responses to questions 3-6.

1. *What picture or image comes immediately to your mind when you hear the word 'evangelism'?*
2. *Why do you think many Christians feel inadequate or fearful about evangelism?*
3. *Who was most influential in your decision to follow Christ?
What was your relationship to that person (friend, teacher, parent, etc.)?*
4. *What did that person **do** which influenced you?*
5. *Describe how that person made you **feel**?*
6. *What did that person **say** which influenced you?*

How should the answers from questions 3-6 change the 'image of evangelism' we have in question 1?

How should the answers from questions 3-6 affect our 'fears of evangelism' as stated in question 2?

When it comes to the subject of evangelism, what do you think you need to unlearn?

STAKING OUT YOUR OIKOS

Until now, you probably have never heard of the word, 'oikos', but when it comes to evangelism, it is one of the most important concepts to know. It is a Greek word which translates '_____'. When we as Canadians think of household we think of those living under our roof - such as immediate family. The ancient understanding of oikos is much broader and includes relatives, servants, friends and family.

'Oikos' is a significant concept when asking the question, 'who am I most likely to influence?'. Your circle of influence, or oikos, is your community of relationships unique to you. No other person in the world is as strategically placed for building witnessing relationships with your oikos than you are.

Leave it to the pros? Sounds like a good idea – especially when you know who the pros are. The following study might surprise you:

Win Arn of the Church Growth Institute has conducted a variety of surveys asking over 14,000 believers this question; "*What or who is responsible for your coming to Christ and the church?*". The percentage of responses have been:

A Special Need:	1 - 2 %
Walk In	2 - 3 %
Pastor	5 - 6 %
Visitation Program	1 - 2 %
Sunday School	4 - 5 %
Evangelistic Crusade	0.5 %
A Church Program	2 - 3 %
Friend or Relative	75 - 90 %

Leave it to the pros? We think so. At Mountain View, we recognize that the most effective people in evangelism are the ones who know and love the unchurched. The ones who take the time to serve and share their lives with them. Remember who influenced you? In God's strategy to see your oikos come to know Him, you are the pro!

‘OIKOS-ing’ IN THE BIBLE

Scripture reveals the same truth we see revealed in research and personal experience. All throughout the New Testament we see examples of people influencing their *oikos* (circle of relationships) toward Christ.

1. Who did the tax collector and new disciple of Jesus, Matthew, invite to his home to meet Jesus?

“That night Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to be his dinner guests, along with his fellow tax collectors and many other notorious sinners.” Matthew 9:10 (NLT)

2. Who became Christians along with Lydia after hearing Paul's message?

“Lydia ... listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying. She was baptized along with other members of her household, and she asked us to be her guests.” Acts 16:14-15 (NLT)

3. Who followed the Philippian jailer in receiving Jesus?

““Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with your entire household.” Then they shared the word of the Lord with him and all who lived in his household. That same hour ... he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. Acts 16:30-33 (NLT)

4. Who heard the Gospel message with the Roman army official, Cornelius?

“In Caesarea there lived a Roman army officer named Cornelius, who was a captain of the Italian Regiment... Cornelius was waiting for him and had called together his relatives and close friends to meet Peter... [Peter preached the gospel message] ... Peter asked, “Can anyone object to their being baptized, now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?” So he gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.” Acts 10:1, 22-24, 46-48 (NLT)

What do these examples from Scripture teach us about the oikos principle?

(For further reading, other examples of the oikos principle of evangelism are illustrated in Luke 8:38-39; John 1:40-41; John 1:44-45; John 4:49-53; Acts 18:7-8.)

WHAT DOES YOUR *OIKOS* LOOK LIKE?

God's plan for us is that we influence the unchurched members of our *oikos* in a positive way toward Jesus Christ. In order for that to be a possibility, we must first identify whom God has placed in our circle of influence who does not yet know Him. This will be your unchurched *oikos*. And remember, you are the pro!

Take a few minutes and write the names of your unchurched *oikos*:

I. **Family** (people related to you by blood or through marriage).

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

II. **Friends** (people whom you have affinities with or common interests).

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

III. **Neighbours** (people who live nearby)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

IV. **Peers and Colleagues** (people you see regularly at work or school).

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

Pray over this list and write down the names of three people who you sense an immediate need to begin building a witnessing relationship with.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

The next chapters will flesh out a strategy on how to proceed.

CHAPTER 2:

KLINGONS, ROMULANS and YOUR ENTERPRISE

**(THE DIFFERENT WORLDS
OF YOU AND YOUR
NEIGHBOUR)**

SPACE, THE FINAL FRONTIER?

And so goes the many voyages of the short skirted, pointy sideburned crew of the U.S.S. Enterprise. A five year mission to seek out new life and new civilizations and to boldly go where no man (or Vulcan) had ever gone before. So what can we learn from the immensely brave Captain Kirk, or the ever-logical Mr. Spock?

In reality, for many of us the final frontier might not be the delta quadrant. The new civilization many of us should be exploring might be the house next door. The neighbour who cuts their lawn just like you. The co-worker who puts in a honest days work and then goes home to his family - just like you. The cousin who laughs at all your jokes at the family barbeque. The sister who walks pigeon-toed, just like you. Everyone seems so similar and yet we know that beyond the surface, the differences are worlds apart.

The culture gap that exists between you and your unchurched *oikos* is no small chasm. Worldview's and philosophies of living are completely different between you and your neighbor. Values and sources of authority have little in common. The differences in your worldview and that of your unchurched friend is the culture gap that must be bridged. This never happens on accident. This bridge-building always takes prayerful planning and effort. And something else about bridge-building, it always starts on your side of the canyon.

Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock explored their Hollywood galaxies from a 1960's crafted soundstage. Cheesy by today's standards. Sometimes even comical. Nevertheless, that story has captivated the imagination of 'trekkies' worldwide. The final frontier for your lost *oikos* is not a pleasant one. Allow God to capture your imagination with the possibilities of reaching your neighbour in his galaxy. Beam yourself aboard the cloaked vessel of the unchurched and allow God to show you how to boldly go where no man has gone before. Its a mission worth taking. Its God's way to seek out new life.

WORLDS APART

Its hard to communicate with someone who speaks a completely different language. Even though you may have grown up in the same neighbourhood as your unchurched oikos, you live in different worlds. Your job is to break down the cultural barriers that exist between your friend and the Gospel.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN YOU AND UNBELIEVERS

What are some differences in values between you and your unchurched oikos?

	<i>Believer</i>	<i>Unbeliever</i>
Finances		
Career		
Honesty		
Sexual Behavior		
Priorities		

What is the underlying philosophy behind those values?

	<i>Believer</i>	<i>Unbeliever</i>
What is the authority for truth?		
Who is in charge of my life?		
Why am I here on this planet?		

Obviously, our worldview or underlying philosophy of life affects our values, and our values affect our behavior. Why a person acts in a particular way is a direct result of our worldview.

How is this understanding important in evangelism?

BIBLICAL SNAPSHOTS

Before:

“Once you were dead, doomed forever because of your many sins. You used to live just like the rest of the world, full of sin, obeying Satan, the mighty prince of the power of the air. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passions and desires of our evil nature. We were born with an evil nature, and we were under God's anger just like everyone else.” Ephesians 2:1-3 (NLT)

What descriptions are given for an unbeliever's worldview?

After:

But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so very much that even while we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's special favor that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ, and we are seated with him in the heavenly realms--all because we are one with Christ Jesus. And so God can always point to us as examples of the incredible wealth of his favor and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us through Christ Jesus. God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:4-10 (NLT)

What descriptions are given for a believer's worldview?

BOLDLY GOING . . .

Think of an unbeliever in your *oikos*:

1. What are some of their values, habits, or attitudes about life that hinder them from understanding or being drawn toward the Gospel?
2. What feelings or deep desires might they have that would give the Holy Spirit a window of opportunity into their lives.
3. From this understanding, how should you pray for your unbelieving friend?

CHAPTER 3:

**YOU AIN'T
ARTHUR FONZARELLI**

**(UNDERSTANDING
THE PROCESS)**

WHAT WAS IN THE BRYLCREAM?™

Has the world ever seen anybody as cool as the Fonz? What kind of guy could punch a jukebox and get it to play music from Bill Hailey and the Comets? What was his secret? Who else could get a girl like Pinky Tuscadero or like the Hoopla Triplets? Certainly not Potsie. Obviously the Fonz was no mere mortal. What other explanation can there be?

As entertaining as the sitcom “Happy Days” was, it is also symbolic of how some people approach the subject of evangelism. The Fonz punched the jukebox, and apparently it triggered a series of mechanical movements, one upon the next, until it ended in a bee-bop song emanating from the speaker. The series of mechanical motions are not seen, just the punch, Fabian’s voice and a satisfied ‘Heyyyyy’ coming from the greasy guy in leather.

Unfortunately, when it comes to sharing our faith, it appears that many of us have enrolled in the Arthur Fonzarelli School of Evangelism. We think that if we hit things just right, we too will see results like Fonzie. So off we go, giving tremendous effort and energy to our task - but finding different results than we wanted. The music never comes, and what’s worse, those who we are trying to help seem to be running away from all our cool moves.

What the Fonz didn’t teach us was the process. It wasn’t the Brylcream™ that gave him success - it was the process. When it comes to evangelism, a slick (even greasy) presentation is not what attracts people to Jesus Christ. The person must first be open to the messenger before he will ever be open to the message. Many barriers must be cleared away before your unsaved friend can make an intelligent choice regarding Christ. Emotional, intellectual and volitional questions must all be answered. Cultivating and sowing must take place before we can ever expect to harvest.

You are not the Fonz, but you are the one that God has chosen to influence your *oikos* toward Jesus. The next time you and your friends go for pizza, look at the jukebox and remember the process that you are in. Won’t it be cool to hear the music!

UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

The three stages of evangelism are _____, _____ and _____.

Mark 4:1-20 illustrates the importance of understanding the process.

"A farmer went out to plant some seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it. Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The plant sprang up quickly, but it soon wilted beneath the hot sun and died because the roots had no nourishment in the shallow soil. Other seed fell among thorns that shot up and choked out the tender blades so that it produced no grain. Still other seed fell on fertile soil and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted." Mark 4:3-9 (NLT)

1. God calls us to be _____, not _____.

"A farmer went out to plant some seed..."

Implication:

2. God's Word (the seed) is the _____ - the quality of soil is the _____.

"As he scattered it across his field..."

Implication:

3. Unprepared soil requires _____.

"some seed fell on a footpath ... Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock ... Other seed fell among thorns..."

Implication:

4. Cultivation is the _____ of farmers, it requires:

a) Breaking _____

- creating trust
- removing emotional barriers to messenger

b) Picking _____

- growing deeper in relationship
- removing intellectual barriers to the message

c) Pulling _____

- focusing interest
- removing distractions
- answering volitional questions

5. Fruitfulness is dependant upon the _____ of the _____

"Still other seed fell on fertile soil and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted."

Implication:

EVANGELISM DEFINED

Have you noticed that some people are excited to talk about the Gospel while other people are totally indifferent or even openly hostile?

What accounts for the different attitudes? _____

THE DEFINITION:

“Taking the _____ in the power of the _____, to help a person move _____ closer in the _____ of coming to Christ.”

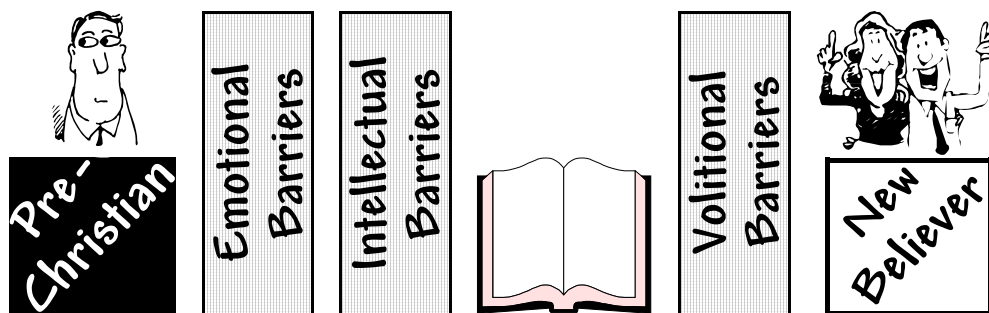
THE KEYS TO THIS DEFINITION:

INITIATIVE: God never intended evangelism to be a _____ event. God honors prayerful and deliberate effort on behalf of those who have not yet experienced God’s grace.

HOLY SPIRIT: It is God who convicts people of the _____ of Himself. Your job is to be living proof of God’s truth.

ONE STEP: There are _____ between the unchurched person and Jesus Christ. The witnesses’ job is to help his oikos see an accurate _____ of Jesus by removing one obstacle at a time.

PROCESS: Obstacle _____ takes time. Cultivating, sowing and harvesting are all part of the process of evangelism.



What are some of the obstacles between your friend and Jesus?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

THE PROCESS OF EVANGELISM

CULTIVATION (Speaks to the <i>heart</i> through relationships)	
OBSTACLES: <i>Indifference, Apathy, Antagonism</i>	
EMPHASIS: <i>The believer building a friendship bridge.</i>	
PICTURE: <i>The Soil = Human Hearts</i>	
EXAMPLE: <i>Nicodemus - John 3; Samaritan Woman - John 4</i>	
Going his or her own way	-12
Aware of the messenger	-11
Has a positive attitude toward messenger	-10
Aware of difference in messenger	-9
First aware of Bible's relevance to life	-8
SOWING (Speaks to the <i>mind</i> through God's Word)	
OBSTACLES: <i>Ignorance, Error, Misconceptions</i>	
EMPHASIS: <i>The believer gives explanation of the gospel.</i>	
PICTURE: <i>The Seed = Gospel Truth</i>	
EXAMPLE: <i>Ethiopian Eunuch - Acts 8; Samaritan Woman - John 4</i>	
Has a positive attitude toward the Bible	-7
Aware of the basics of the gospel	-6
Understands the implications of the gospel	-5
Has a positive attitude toward the gospel	-4
HARVESTING (Speaks to the <i>will</i> for a faith response)	
OBSTACLES: <i>Indecision, fear of unknown, love of darkness</i>	
EMPHASIS: <i>Encouraging a meaningful decision of faith.</i>	
PICTURE: <i>The Grain = New Life in Christ</i>	
EXAMPLE: <i>Philippian Jailer - Acts 16; Samaritan Woman - John 4</i>	
Recognizes personal need	-3
Decides to act personally	-2
Repents and believes	-1
New creature in Christ	♥
MULTIPLYING (Speaks to the <i>whole person</i> for Christlikeness)	
OBSTACLES: <i>Isolation, Inward Focus</i>	
EMPHASIS: <i>Participation, Integration into the Body</i>	
PICTURE: <i>The Crop = Christian Community</i>	
EXAMPLE: <i>Jerusalem Converts - Acts 2:40-41; Samaritan Awakening - Acts 8</i>	
Faith confirmation and grounding	+1
Assimilation into a Home Group's caring community	+2
Growing and maturing into Christlikeness	+3
The evangelized becoming evangelists	+4

LEAVING THE FONZ BEHIND

The Arthur Fonzarelli School of Evangelism places the responsibility of the Holy Spirit upon the evangelist. The Fonz produces the results by all of his cool techniques. So should you.

Unfortunately, playing 'God' with our unbelieving *oikos* only leaves a trail of bruised casualties running in the opposite direction of Jesus Christ. Its time for a different approach.

Who's responsibility is it to convict the unbeliever of sin, righteousness and the judgment? _____

What implications does that have for us? _____

Conversion is a _____. Every time your friend or neighbour confronts a obstacle it forces him or her to make a decision. The believer's _____ with that person, as well as the Holy Spirit's work, will draw that individual past that barrier and bring about a clearer picture of Jesus Christ.

Very few of us make this decision in one huge leap. For most of us it was a series of _____ - _____ that prepared our hearts to receive Jesus. Your job as an evangelist is to do nothing but help in those mini-decisions through the witness of your life, the testimony of your experience and the power of prayer.

CHAPTER 4:

THE TIM ALLEN SPECIALTY

(FINDING THE RIGHT TOOLS)

THE TOOL MAN

One of the most popular television shows of the 1990's has been "Home Improvement." Each week, actor Tim Allen plays the host of a television program that is built around the viewers' interest in do-it-yourself home repairs and remodeling. Tim and his sidekick Al routinely introduce the latest and most powerful 'Binford' tools for accomplishing a particular task. Often, the tools are more powerful than needed or expected, accomplishing unintended results of slapstick hilarity.

Often we err in the other direction in approaching the witnessing relationship. We sometimes fail to use the tools that God has made available to us, and thus end up either unwilling or ill-equipped to develop our witness within our *oikos* (i.e., our circle of influence).

Today, we will examine some tools that God has made available to you to develop your witness to Him within the relationships that He has given you.

OUR SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

Jesus stressed the importance of influencing those in our oikos. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). The motivation is God's glory, not our own! But how do we "let our light shine"? By what means? It is in this chapter that we examine some of the tools that are available to the Christian in building relationships and in sharing a verbal witness.

FOUR PIECES OF SPIRITUAL EQUIPMENT:

1) THE _____

In many evangelism texts, the role of the Holy Spirit in witnessing is treated almost as an afterthought or an addendum to the core material. However, Jesus said that it is the Spirit that gives us the words we should say (Luke 12: 12) when we are bearing witness to Him. He also proclaimed that it is the Spirit who gives life, and that unless the Father draws them, nobody can come to Christ (John 6: 63-65).

Therefore, we treat the role of God's Spirit as primary in our study of sharing our witness and living a life that draws people to our faith.

What do the following passages of Scripture have to say about the importance of the Holy Spirit to who we are and to what we say?

I Corinthians 6:19 _____

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own." (NIV)

Ephesians 5:18 _____

"Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, let the Holy Spirit fill and control you.." (NLT)

Romans 8:9-11 _____

"You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you."(NIV)

Galatians 2:20 _____

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."(NIV)

2) _____

We know as Christians that we are to "pray without ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5: 17), which speaks of a life orientation and attitude as much as of an activity. But with regard to evangelism, how are we to pray? The Bible is abundantly clear throughout the New Testament that we must pray in faith, but with respect to evangelism, faith in what?

We can always believe the promises that God has made in His word. A relevant promise from God which spurs our faith when praying for the lost is that "**the Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance**" (2 Peter 3: 9).

Thus, we see that we can pray in faith for God to work in the lives of those who need to come to repentance. Based on the following Scriptures, for what others should we pray in the evangelism process?

I Corinthians 3:5-9 _____

"Who is Apollos, and who is Paul, that we should be the cause of such quarrels? Why, we're only servants. Through us God caused you to believe. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. My job was to plant the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God, not we, who made it grow. The ones who do the planting or watering aren't important, but God is important because he is the one who makes the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work as a team with the same purpose. Yet they will be rewarded individually, according to their own hard work. We work together as partners who belong to God. You are God's field, God's building--not ours." (NLT)

Luke 10:1-2 _____

"The Lord now chose seventy-two other disciples and sent them on ahead in pairs to all the towns and villages he planned to visit. These were his instructions to them: "The harvest is so great, but the workers are so few. Pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest, and ask him to send out more workers for his fields." (NLT)

Matthew 5:16 _____

"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (NIV)

John 6:63-65 _____

"It is the Spirit who gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But some of you don't believe me." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who didn't believe, and he knew who would betray him.) Then he said, "That is what I meant when I said that people can't come to me unless the Father brings them to me." (NLT)

3) THE _____

Many witnessing programs which are based more on presentations than on relationships have been constructed using various Scripture verses and passages along with suggested presentation techniques. Often there is an implicit presumption that the person to whom you are speaking is a complete stranger. This is evident by the acronym "FIRE", which has been widely used to encourage Christian witnesses to ask some initial questions about the "prospect's" family, interests, religious background, plus a couple of exploratory questions. Some of these systems of verbal presentations are helpful in overcoming a fear of speaking up, but they perhaps are misused in that they are treated as a complete approach when they are not. Some of these approaches include "Evangelism Explosion," "Continuous Witness Training," and others. There is nothing inherently wrong with these approaches. They simply put the spotlight on the presentation rather than on the relationship. When used in this way, they represent what we will later see as the "confrontational approach."

In addition to or instead of memorized witnessing presentations, many people use tracts to assist in a verbal presentation of the gospel. Some popular ones include "The Four Spiritual Laws," "Steps to Peace with God," various versions of "The Roman Road," and others. These tracts can be helpful in taking a step-by-step look at the gospel through selected passages of Scripture, as well as in giving something tangible for a friend to take with them and use for reflection and contemplation. Again, the major misuse of this approach is in its treatment as being complete in itself. We are emphasizing here a more rounded approach to evangelism, as a lifestyle rather than a program.

However, the role of God's Word in witnessing must never be underestimated. The Word is "as sharp as any two-edged sword" in the verbal witness, and it teaches us in preparation for witnessing through our lifestyle. We will deal with specific passages of Scripture that are helpful in sharing a verbal witness when we get to chapter 7, "*I Don't Know Nothin' 'Bout Birthin' No Babies!*" and with Scriptures that assist in lifestyle preparation in chapter 6, "*You Look Marvelous!*" Suffice it to say here that among God's equipment, the Scripture is "*profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*" (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Question:

What are the major flaws in the use of prepared presentations or tracts in presenting a verbal witness?

4) YOUR PERSONAL _____

Your own experience of God's grace is a crucial component of the equipment that God has given you to share His good news with others. Of all the things you might say to a friend, neighbour, relative, or acquaintance, your own experience is something that they cannot and generally will not attempt to refute. If you are successfully building relationships with them through God's grace, you probably won't need to worry about them trying to refute your experience of God anyway. Sharing something that is meaningful and personal to you can furthermore foster a mutual trust that is a key ingredient to an effective witness.

Many textbooks and programs on witnessing recommend a memorized or "canned" approach to sharing your personal testimony. While this approach can be helpful in overcoming your own fear, it assumes that you are only willing to talk and not to listen. Each person with whom you speak has been through a different set of life experiences and has developed a different paradigm of the things that are important to them. You may find it helpful to listen to *their* story, and then emphasize those aspects of your own experience with Christ that have some relevance to the situation of the person with whom you're sharing.

Given this framework, here are some helpful hints for sharing your personal testimony:

1. Spend some time _____ in prayerful reflection on the following three questions:
 - a) What was my life like _____ I became a Christian?
 - b) _____ and _____ did I become a Christian?
 - c) How has my life been _____ by Christ?
2. Pray earnestly that God will _____ _____ in sharing His good news, both in your "*walk*" and your "*talk*". Also, pray frequently for those people with whom God may lead you to share.
3. Cultivate _____ _____ with those who don't know Christ. These may lead to a verbal witness, but be sure that you cultivate the relationship for the sake of the person, not the sake of their conversion. Always respect the other person's individuality and free will.
4. Be as willing to _____ as you are to speak and vice versa.
5. Be _____ and _____ when sharing your testimony with others.
6. Seek God's _____, not your own.

7. When you are presenting a verbal witness, keep as much to your _____ as possible.
8. Never speak out of _____, instead "*speaking the truth in love.*" (Ephesians 4: 15)
9. Speak using words that are _____ to the listener, not just church jargon (for instance, it's probably best not to talk about "justification" and "sanctification").
10. Remember that coming to know Christ is a _____, not strictly an event. You might be planting seeds that may bear fruit years later in the life of another. With the apostle Paul we can say, "***I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth***" (I Corinthians 3: 6)

CHAPTER 5:

THE PROBLEM WITH THE ODD COUPLE

(RECOGNIZING AND RESPECTING OUR DIFFERENCES)

THE ODD COUPLE

In the 1970's there was a movie (starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau) followed by a television show (starring Tony Randall and Jack Klugman) that chronicled the comical situations experienced by a pair of roommates named Felix Unger and Oscar Madison. The two were dubbed "The Odd Couple" because of their diametrically opposite personalities. Felix was a meticulous, clean-cut "neat freak" while Oscar smoked cigars, left garbage all around, and was an undeniable slob. The differences in their attitudes and their behaviors led to a constant tension within their lives under the same roof.

Many witnessing programs implicitly assume that all Christians are "wired" the same way. Instead, we need to understand that God makes each of us with a different SHAPE (spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality, and experiences). These differences lead to different witnessing styles and methods.

In this chapter, we will look at some ways to recognize and respect differences between believers in their style of witness, as well as differences in methods that may be effective in reaching the lost members of our oikos.

OSCAR OR FELIX?

Paul tells us in Romans 12: 4-8 that not all Christians are wired the same way or serve the same function:

"For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. and since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."

Romans 12: 4-8

Since evangelism is a team sport and not just an individual event, we can see that even in the one function of evangelism, a church is not complete without the different parts of the body. Each has different spiritual gifts, which lead each member of the body to accomplish evangelism in different ways, using different styles and different opportunities.

DIFFERENT WITNESSING STYLES

As each of us has a different SHAPE, we may be suited different styles of evangelism. The different styles in part reflect the different spiritual gifts noted in the passage above from Romans 12, but also the other aspects of our SHAPE: our heart, abilities, personality, and experiences. We have chosen to categorize six witnessing styles. You may recognize more or fewer; these are intended only to point out that it can be okay to be different. All parts of the body are needed in a team approach.

1) THE _____ APPROACH (e.g., Peter at Pentecost)

Peter was always willing to speak his mind. He often "stuck his foot in his mouth" with Jesus. After being empowered with the Holy Spirit, Peter's natural tendency was enhanced by a sense of conviction and boldness. At Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection, Peter preached to the crowds until they were "pierced to the heart," and Peter told them to "repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 2: 37-38). Peter's forthright approach is the one most often commended by evangelism programs, but it is only one of many when the focus is on relationship rather than on presentation.

2) THE _____ APPROACH (e.g., Paul at Athens)

In Acts 17: 15-34, Paul was able to introduce Christ to the philosophers of Athens by appealing to their own methods of understanding and schools of thought. The modern term for an appeal to rationality for reasoning through faith issues is "apologetics." Some Christians are gifted in presenting the gospel through academic methods. We must, however, remain true to the revealed word of God when appealing to the intellect.

3) THE _____ APPROACH (e.g., the blind man Jesus healed)

The Gospel of John recounts a wonderfully inspiring episode in chapter 9, in which a man who was born blind came to faith Jesus as the Messiah. He moved through a progressive understanding of who Jesus was. After receiving his sight, the man gave his testimony to some unbelieving Pharisees. "He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see." (John 9: 15). Those who are willing to tell others joyfully what Jesus has done for them exercise a testimonial approach.

4) THE _____ APPROACH (e.g., Andrew)

Andrew was introduced to Jesus by John the Baptist. Andrew's first reaction was to go and bring his brother Simon (Peter) to Jesus (John 1: 40-42). He told Simon that Jesus was the Messiah. In today's church, one can introduce unbelievers to the Christian faith by bringing them into contact with other Christians. This approach fits well with the team concept of evangelism.

5) THE _____ APPROACH (e.g., Martha)

Poor Martha. She is always seen as the harried woman who, for the sake of her household preparations, couldn't take time to visit with Jesus (Luke 10: 38-42). However, we see elsewhere that Martha trusted Jesus, and Jesus loved Martha (John 11: 20-36). After Jesus raised Lazarus (Martha's brother) from the dead, Martha showed her devotion to Jesus by serving the people who were there with Jesus and Lazarus (John 12: 2). Many Christians today are able to show the love that Jesus has given them by showing hospitality to others.

It is quite possible for an individual Christian to use several approaches to witnessing at different times and with different people. For instance, the blind man switched from a testimonial approach to a confrontational approach when the Pharisees insisted that Jesus was a sinful man.

Let the Holy Spirit be your guide in any given situation. However, you should question any sense of compulsion to use an approach that does not fit the SHAPE that God has given you.

DIFFERENT WITNESSING OPPORTUNITIES

Here are some ideas for finding opportunities to bear witness of Christ's love to those in your oikos:

- 1) Share a personal testimony or a direct presentation of the gospel.
- 2) Keep an eye out for _____ signs and moving vans, and welcome new residents to the neighborhood. Take them some homemade food as a greeting. Volunteer to watch their kids or unload boxes.
- 3) Invite friends, neighbors, and family to Christian meetings and events, such as church services, home groups, concerts, Sunday School, etc. Offer to give them a ride whenever possible.
- 4) Take a friend to a recreational or social event where they can meet Christian friends or leaders.
- 5) Volunteer to assist in educational or vocational endeavors where your experience could be helpful. Lend your expertise as a tutor or as a sounding board.
- 6) Give away Christian books and literature that have been a blessing to you.
- 7) Minister to people in a time of _____, such as hospitalizations, loss of a loved one, divorce, etc.
- 8) Pray for them and yourself. Pray that God will open _____ eyes to opportunities to influence them..
- 9) Take an interest in people's _____.
- 10) Host a _____ or a short-term Bible study in your home and invite people from your oikos to attend.
- 11) Write letters and notes, especially birthday cards. If you're part of the Information Age, send an encouraging e-mail.

Often, the types of opportunities that you are most likely to take advantage of will be related in some way to the types of style or approach that best fit your SHAPE.

QUESTIONS:

1) What are some other opportunities that you can use as a witness for Christ?

- a)
- b)
- c)

2) What is / are your witnessing style(s)?

- a)
- b)

3) What were the styles of those most influential in your coming to Christ?

- a)
- b)

4) How do the "parts of the body" in Romans 12: 4-8 relate to the different approaches to evangelism?

5) Do you see other types of approaches used by the different members of the body?

CHAPTER 6:

**"YOU LOOK
M-A-R-V-E-L-O-U-S !"**

(LETTING JESUS LOOK GOOD)

"YOU LOOK M-A-R-V-E-L-O-U-S !"

In the mid-1980's, comedian Billy Crystal was part of the ensemble of the popular comedy show, "Saturday Night Live!" One of his many roles involved a character who had the habit of telling people, "You look m-a-r-v-e-l-o-u-s!" Throughout North America, the phrase caught on and for a short period of time it became a household phrase.

Jesus quoted from Psalm 118: 22-23 when he said in Matthew 21: 42, *"Did you never read in the Scriptures, 'The stone which the builders rejected, this became the chief corner stone; this came about from the Lord, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"*

We know as Christians that what God has done for us through Jesus Christ is indeed m-a-r-v-e-l-o-u-s, and that we should allow Him to look good in the eyes of others as they see Him in our lives.

In this chapter, we will do a study in Matthew 5:16 to examine the importance of letting Jesus be the one to look "marvelous" in our lives.

WHO LOOKS MARVELOUS?

Two distinguishing characteristics of the Billy Crystal character's "You look m-a-r-v-e-l-o-u-s!" phenomenon are that it was _____ - _____ (i.e., a "fad") and that it sometimes involved _____. We do well to examine these two characteristics when we address the issue of living out our Christian lives as light to those in our oikos. Our "works" should not be a form of insincere flattery to Christ. We do good works out of our love for God, not to impress Him or others. Likewise, our witness usually must be developed in the lives of others over a period of time, not just as a "flash in the pan."

Jesus gave his listeners at the Sermon on the Mount an important instruction about the way that they should live their lives before others:

"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

What can we learn from these words?

We can break it down into its components:

- 1) "_____" **implies that an illumination takes place.** Rather than allowing others to stumble around in the dark, our actions can provide light to guide their path.
- 2) "_____" as it is presented in the original New Testament language of Greek carries an interesting nuance that is not necessarily perceived in the English renditions. It is written in the "imperative" case, **which means that it is a command from Jesus**, not just a suggestion. When Jesus tells us elsewhere that those who love Him do His commandments, this is one of those commandments.
- 3) "_____ _____" can be as simple as a kind word or a smile, or as complex as providing food and shelter to those who have none. In this context, actions that are meaningful to others are those which are done "before men" (i.e., in a way that they take notice).
- 4) **Where does that lighted path lead? To our "_____ who is in heaven."** In John 17, we see that glorifying our Father leads to glorifying Jesus. This is the most crucial aspect of doing good works: they must point to God, not just to what a nice person we are. Jesus reserved his most indicting words for those who cared more about how their actions reflected their own goodness than about pointing to God:

"And whoever exalts himself shall be humbled, and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted. But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites,

because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from men; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you too outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness." Matthew 23: 12-13, 27-28

We must not err on the side of self-righteousness, but we must also not err on the side of worldliness. We would do well to remember Paul's admonition that ***"whatever you do, in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus..."*** (Colossians 3: 17)

A contemporary Christian song has the following words that capture the essence of living in such a way that others may glorify God through what we do:

*Our lives are living pages of what we believe
Every day the world will judge our Savior by what they see
Every day we write another paragraph
Live it line by line
While all the while they're watching and they're waiting
To make up their minds*

CHORUS: *How will they know
What will they remember
What will they see that is different in you
How will they know
Will they find any answers
In the gospel according to you.*

*Our love for one another becomes the key
To unlock the hearts of unbelievers and set them free
With every choice and every situation
Let's remember them
Let them see no matter the conditions
We find our strength in Him*

*They want to know
They're out there searching
They want to hear
The question is
Will they see Jesus in the lives that we live
Gotta make it clear*

"How Will They Know?" by Eddie Carswell, Bobby Apon, and Oliver Wells
Copyright 1990, Dayspring Music

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

- 1) In what ways can you "let your light shine" for Jesus?
- 2) In what ways might those of your oikos be "illuminated" by the light you're currently shining?
- 3) What are some practical ways that you can make sure God gets the glory rather than you?
- 4) In what ways might you avoid the obstacles that seemed to have tripped up those Pharisees to whom Jesus spoke in Matthew 23?

CHAPTER 7:

**"I DON'T KNOW NOTHIN'
'BOUT BIRTHIN' NO BABIES!"**

**(THE ESSENTIALS
FOR
SPIRITUAL BIRTH)**

"I DON'T KNOW NOTHIN' 'BOUT BIRTHIN' NO BABIES!"

In the 1939 movie, "Gone With the Wind," a slave girl named Prissy is enlisted to help in delivering a new baby. With no prior experience in childbirth, and lacking both the maturity and the willingness to help, Prissy cries out in frustration the immortal words, "I DON'T KNOW NOTHIN' 'BOUT BIRTHIN' NO BABIES!"

Sometimes as Christians we feel that we cannot help usher new Christians into God's kingdom. Although it is the Spirit of God that makes a person a child of God, we play an important role in the cultivation process.

In this chapter, we will look at the harvesting aspect of the evangelism process, particularly as it relates to the bare essentials of what a person needs to know in order to become a Christian.

BEING A MIDWIFE

We understand from Paul that ***"the gospel ... is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes"*** (Romans 1:16). But what is "the gospel"? Its key concepts can be found in many references throughout the New Testament.

Perhaps its most concise statement is in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians:

"Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures..." (I Corinthians 15: 1-4)

There are other key passages that shed light on "the gospel." A popular rendition of the gospel message is the "Roman Road" (Romans 3:10, 3:23, 5:8, 6:23, 10:9-10, and 10:13). While a specific set of Scripture verses is not necessary to a clear presentation of the gospel, some key components are:

- 1) ***People must understand that they are _____ in need of reconciliation with God.***
- 2) ***They must realize that God _____ for our need through Jesus Christ living a sinless life and giving himself up as a sacrifice for our sins, but exercising power over sin and death by his resurrection from the grave.***
- 3) ***They must recognize that we cannot _____ our way to God, but that he forgives us as we repent and turn to him in faith. Repentance and faith involve a life commitment.***

You should seek out passages of Scripture that you see as helpful in presenting the gospel message. However, we must keep in mind that a person's mere understanding the gospel message is not sufficient to restore a person to a right relationship with God. Jesus made it clear that what makes a person right with God is that they love God with all their heart, soul, strength, and mind (Luke 10:27). Since God has revealed Himself in Jesus Christ, the gospel message must become the core of who we are, not just something that we understand.

As we better understand and experience the process of evangelism, we can truly see that cultivation, sowing, and harvesting are involved. We must be faithful to engage in each of these activities, looking always to the Holy Spirit for guidance.

We must teach others to share the gospel message through their lives and words as well, and "beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest" (Matthew 9:38). As previously noted, "***Evangelism isn't evangelism until the _____ become _____!***"

QUESTIONS:

1) In your own words, what does "*the gospel*" mean to you?

—

2) What are some passages of Scripture that have been helpful to you in understanding what it means to be a Christian?

—

3) What does "the gospel" mean to those of your *oikos* who don't know Christ?

—

4) How can you enlighten them about any misconceptions they may have about being a Christian?

—

5) When is the evangelism process over?

—

CHAPTER 8:

THE CREMATION OF SAM MAGEE AND OTHER SUCCESS STORIES

(THE POWER OF TEAMWORK)

THERE ARE STRANGE THINGS DONE IN THE MIDNIGHT SUN...

*“There are strange things done in the midnight sun by the men who toil for gold.
The arctic trails have secret trails that will make your blood run cold.
The northern lights have seen queer sights,
but the queerest they ever did see,
was the night on the marge of Lake LaBarge,
I cremated Sam Magee....”*

In Robert Service’s poetic ballad of ‘The Cremation of Sam Magee’, we find a gripping story of a Southerner from Tennessee moving north to the Yukon in order to strike it rich in the great Klondike Gold Rush. Nobody was more eager than Sam Magee from Tennessee. Nobody was more prepared. But nobody was more alone, or in the end, more cremated either. Sam Magee’s desire for gold was never realized. His dreams never accomplished. All that is remembered about Sam Magee is his icy death.

Uplifted yet? What redeeming lesson can we learn from Sam’s tragic end? Is there one? I think so. Sam’s fatal flaw was his independent spirit. The very thing that western legends are made of was the one thing that was his undoing. Sam was battling against the cold forces of nature - alone. No one to help him. No one to learn from. No one to save him. Only one man to cremate him.

With the independent and eager spirit of Sam Magee, many ‘would-be’ evangelists go off to strike spiritual wealth in the souls of unbelievers. With the greatest resolve and the purest of motivations we attempt our task. Working tirelessly (at least for a while). Grinding away at the task of evangelism. Doing our Christian responsibility.

Some time later we look back and make a comparison. No longer are we ‘grinding away’. No longer are we eager or even interested. Something has happened to our pioneer spirit. We have quit because we have become discouraged for two reasons:

Reason number one is that we have attempted the task of evangelism alone. Sure, we knew God was with us, but really nobody else was. There was nobody to pray with us, nobody to encourage us, no one to even know. We were in this task all alone. In our isolation we became discouraged and disillusioned. Our eagerness in isolation had frozen and was cremated somewhere back along the trail.

Reason number two is that we had little or no success. We found no gold. We felt like a failure. There was something that we didn't know. We didn't know about the attractive power to teamwork. We didn't understand that if we brought out unchurched *oikos* into our Christian community, that the Body of Christ would be the best picture of Jesus that they could ever see. We didn't know. How were we to know?

AN OUT OF BODY EXPERIENCE

Have you ever attempted the Sam Magee style of evangelism? YES NO
If you have, write down two or three words to describe how you felt:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Now, describe your results: _____

The problem of _____ evangelism is that it literally is an 'out of body experience'. We are out of the Body's influence for prayer support and encouragement. Our unchurched *oikos* is out of the Body's influence of painting a complete picture of Jesus. Our lost neighbor only observes a thumb or a kneecap. The image is cannot compare with a picture of the Body, working together, loving one another, employing their spiritual gifts.

Jesus said, "*By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*" John 13:35 (NIV) Jesus was giving us a _____ for _____ . Jesus was saying, 'let the lost see you interacting together. Let them see you loving each other. Let them see you building up one another. Use the power of teamwork, let them see the Body of Christ'.

Why would Jesus' strategy be so effective? _____

A STRATEGY FOR TEAMWORK

At Mountain View, Home Groups are the basic building block of our church. These were strategically designed to be our 'ministry nerve centre'. The five functions of the church are all included in the focus of Home Groups; fellowship, worship, discipleship, ministry and evangelism. Here is the place where we can function as 'the body'.

What better place is there for our unchurched *oikos*?
How could your Home Group be used in:

Cultivating _____

Sowing _____

Harvesting _____

Multiplying _____

The two benefits of teamwork evangelism are _____ and _____ . Evangelism is a team sport not an individual event. Lone Ranger's who do the 'out of body' thing, usually end up like Sam Magee. Pray that God will use your Home Group as a farming implement in his hands to see a bountiful harvest of men, women and young people praising the Lord of the harvest.

TAKING IT HOME

- 1) Write down the name of one person in your unchurched oikos where the process of evangelism seems to be 'stalled':

- 2) On the continuum on page 19, where would that person be?

- 3) What might account for the 'stall' in the process?

- 4) How, theoretically, might the principle of 'teamwork' get that process going again?

- 5) What are some *practical ideas* of using teamwork as a positive influence in this person's life?
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
 - d)