

THE INSIDE RUNNING

Preach the Word! Be ready in season and out of season. You changed when you gave your heart to God. Your story has power! The truth of your experience can be compelling. We are more likely to have a conversation one to one rather than preaching. When we talk with someone, we need to be prepared to explain simply what we believe and why. God loves the person we are conversing with and it's important that our words and actions accurately reflect His love.

Are you able to tell your story clearly and concisely? Practise telling a friend your testimony and use their feedback to make it clearer. We also need to know our Bible and the responses to the common criticisms to it.

I feel like we are witnessing one of the biggest cultural changes in decades. Media are conditioning many people to view Christianity negatively. However, we really do have good news for a hurting world. If we are treated intolerantly, we can call for fairness.

Be prepared at all times to follow that small voice of the Holy Spirit leading you to divine appointments with others!



John Subritzky

Communicating Your Faith

Summer 2013

by Jim Hurn

What do you think when you hear the word "evangelism"? For the vast majority of believers something like the following happens: After an initial anxious heart murmur, when they realise they are not about to be gathered up to go somewhere and "evangelise" someone, their breathing settles back to relief mode.

Some may even bring out the well-known "awesome foursome" that is a byword for those who feel intimidated about sharing their faith...

- "I'm not gifted or called to that task."
- "Very few opportunities to evangelise are presented to me."
- "Talking to people about God is an intrusion into their lives and that's not me."
- "God can do it Himself how and when He wants to."

For seven years in the late 1960s to mid-1970s, as a worker with Teen Challenge in the ministry of street witnessing and coffee bar evangelism, I know how difficult it is to encourage Christians to move from the comfort of just being a follower of Jesus, into the exciting and challenging lifestyle of a disciple of Jesus and a communicator of the faith.

Some of my most enduring memories of excitement and enthusiasm come from this period when it seemed the norm to be involved in some form of witnessing. Reflecting back I am sure it is not the exception, but the norm for every believer.

I never considered whether I was gifted to evangelise, or how many opportunities were presented to me. I got caught up with a group of believers in the church I attended and as a new Christian of 28 years of age I followed these people out to the streets, the pubs, the parks and the marketplace to share my faith in Christ. What a wonderful foundation was being laid in my life. >

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I still recall some of our favourite sayings:

- "If you have been born in the fire you will never be content to live in the smoke."
- "Impression without expression can lead to depression."

Not much theology in them I know, but plenty of challenge that leads to commitment.

The **message** of the gospel never changes, and the **messengers** are still required to be faithful to present it. However, the **method** used to propagate the gospel has to fit into the framework of the culture where it is needed.

Presenting the gospel today is not so much an event, or crusade, or witness program, but a process where as Christians we share a "word in season" or an aspect of our faith in normal relational conversation to those we mix with. This conversation then becomes another point of reference in the spiritual journey of that individual. Other believers cross their path and hopefully are bold enough and sensitive enough to know how to share their testimony, sowing a little more of God's love and care to them, and so the process continues. Many people today come to Christ as a result of these conversational spiritual links being woven into the fabric of their lives.

This is a good foundation for sharing your faith. We also need to consider how the work of God's mighty Holy Spirit is ever active

in the seeker's heart, and how God answers the prayers of genuine seekers.

Well considered "conversation starters" can move a discussion from a secular to a spiritual nature. Even those who are timid in expressing their faith can rise up and say to themselves, "Yes, why not me?" and start nailing their flag to the mast of commitment, and begin relational communication to the many around them. These people will be eternally thankful when they discover this love of God for themselves.



My favourite Scripture when I consider communicating my faith has to be 1 Peter 3:15.

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

Pretty straightforward really...

- Set apart Christ as Lord – no mixture, I'm full on for God.
- Be prepared to answer all who ask you – I'm ready and willing, not fearful.
- Give the reason for the hope in you – my testimony, why I trust and follow Jesus.
- Be gentle and respectful to all who ask – sincerity and politeness opens people's ears.

"He who wins souls is wise."

Proverbs 11:30

What's on the DVD



FEATURED SPEAKER: Nick Tuitasi – Roadtrip: Nick has been a regular at Promise Keepers since being brought along by his brother to the first Event. Men appreciate his honest and humorous take on life. His message about reaching others is easy for most of us to relate to! 30 min

PANEL: Developing a Game Plan – Working out a successful outcome by setting great goals based on vision. 30 min

BONUS FEATURES:

- **My Story - Inga Tuigamala:** Despite success and recognition, things were going badly on the home front for Inga. He shares how the situation was turned around. 5 min 30
- **PK Music - Ten Thousand Reasons:** 4 min 30
- **Angus Buchan - Challenge to Men:** The disciples became a powerhouse for teaching others. Angus describes how God can transform ordinary people into world-changers. 6 min
- **Celebrating 20 Years:** Promise Keepers celebrates 20 years of Men's Events with a special cake-cutting ceremony. That's how we do it! 1 min

- **Pure Power 2014 Event Promo** 1 min 30
- **How to Access Extra Resources** 4 min 30

HUMOUR CLIPS: Half car; Sidewall skiing; Monkey see, monkey do; Parking in a tight spot; Zapata flyboard 4 min 30

BETTER WORK STORIES: Thrilling river crossings – We are amazed that they found a driver for this grader! 4 min

DVD EXTRA RESOURCES: Access these using Windows Explorer (PC) or Command F (Mac)

ARTICLES: Including Doug Koop - *Feel Free to Share Good News*; Frank Stirk & Kevin Trick - *Defending the Faith*; Doug Weiss - *Flirts, Wives & Workplace Porn Q&A*; Sheila Wray Gregoire - *Chatting Your Way to the Bedroom*; Derek Prince - *The Importance of Right Relationships*; Francis Frangipane - *The Valley of Fruitfulness, Two Things*; Kevin Forlong - *Keys to Failure or Success; Celebrations, Rewards, Memories & Traditions*; Ian Buckley - *Establishing a Life Objective, The Antidote to Boredom*; Nikki Bray - *Sowing & Reaping, Celebrating Christmas*

13 Powerful Articles

RESOURCES: Including Bill Subritzky's booklet - *How to Hear the Voice of God*; Weekly Studies for Men's Groups; Men's Life Stories WLG 2013; *Pure Power Advance Brochure*; Nick Tuitasi - *Roadtrip Study Questions*; Tools to Maintain Sexual Integrity Weblinks; Bible Reading Plans

MP3s Including Derek Prince - *12 Steps to a Good Year* 50 min, *Prayer Orchestra* 59 min; Mel Lawrenz - *Restoring Balance in Your Life* 44 min **PKUSA Classic:** Doug Sherman - *Your Workplace Matters to God* 36 min **PKNZ Classics:** Bevan Herangi - *Tuning In* 23 min; Nick Tuitasi - *Forged for the Future* 38 min

PROMISE #7

A Promise Keeper is committed to influencing his world, being obedient to the Great Commandment (Mark 12:30-31) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

Next Issue: POWER OF GOD