

Transfired Ministries

TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN

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The Heart of Evangelism

The great 19th century American evangelist, Charles Finney, once said, "It is the great business of every Christian to save souls. People often complain they do not know how to take hold of this matter. Why, the reason is plain enough – they have never studied it. They have never taken the proper pains to qualify themselves for the work. If you do not make it a matter of study, how you may successfully act in building up the kingdom of Christ, you are acting a very wicked and absurd part as a Christian." Why would Charles Finney actually say that any Christians who are not learning how to share their faith and then actually going out and doing it are being "wicked"? The reason simply is because God has commanded every Christian to preach the gospel to all people (Mark 16:15).

When I minister my school of evangelism one of the things that I teach is that evangelism is not a gift given by God to some Christians, but rather it is a command given by God to all Christians. Every Christian, regardless of their personality type or what spiritual gifts they have or have not been given, is commanded by God to spread the Gospel everywhere they go and with as many people as they possibly can. When

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SENDING IN FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Please remember the following when sending in financial support for Transfired Ministries:

- 1.) Make all checks payable to: **Centerpoint**
- 2.) Send support to: **12836 Salem Redford, MI 48239**
- 3.) Make sure that on the memo of the check you write, "**Transfired Ministries**". This will be very helpful to the accountant in identifying our financial support.
- 4.) At the end of the year everyone who has supported us will receive a financial statement to use for tax purposes. *Thank you so very much!*

Andrew & Tammy Lapins - Evangelists

Transfired Ministries

Tear a Summary of the Gospel

The following is from my friends at Living Waters. This was a little too long to include in the Tool Time section of the newsletter. This is a very creative and effective way to get someone's attention and present a clear presentation of the gospel. I have done this a number of times and it works extremely well.

Get a sheet of paper . . . it will be well worth your while. Go on. This will be ideal for what I want to show you - you will have to trim the edge straight though (if you make a jagged edge while ripping it out).

Do exactly what I tell you (this may seem complex, but it is very simple). Fold the paper, from the top, down one third. You should now have a square piece in your hand.

Fold the left top corner into the middle and crease it down. Fold the right corner down and crease it, as though you are making a paper plane. You should now have something that looks like a house with a pointed roof.

Continue making a plane by folding the paper in half. Crease it down the center. You should now have something that looks like a paper plane before you fold the wings down. Now turn the point of the plane toward the ground, with the shorter edge to your left. Starting at the top left side, place your thumbs and fore-fingers a little more than a third across to the right, and carefully tear downwards in a straight line, until you have torn the piece off altogether.

Place the torn piece on a table where it won't blow away. Then rip off another (little more than a third), vertically (rip it as straight as you can). Place this piece with the other, then

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Jesus gave the Great Commission (Mark 16:15, Matthew 28:19-20) He did not identify any specific group, personality type or spiritual gift. He gave a blanket command to the entire Body of Christ to be actively involved in evangelism.

God expects us to share our faith with non-Christians whether we feel like it or not. How many people do you think actually “feel” like going to work when they get up in the morning? Probably very few. Well why do they go then? Because they have a responsibility to their employer and also to their family to provide for their needs. When they accepted the job they made a commitment to be on time and to do their respective job. When you and I became a Christian we also made a commitment to obey our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, whether we felt like it or not. We died to ourselves and our own selfish desires and we now live to please our Savior.

Each Christian should understand that evangelism is a non-negotiable commandment that they need to follow, but we should also strive to develop the correct heart of evangelism. This has to do with our attitude and the motives of our heart. A motive is the reason why we do what we do. Motives are very important to God and something that He takes special notice of in our lives: *Proverbs 16:2* “All a man’s ways seems innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord.” *1 Corinthians 4:5* “He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men’s hearts.” God not only cares about what we do, but he also cares about why we do what we do.

When Jesus came to the earth He knew that He had a responsibility to His Father to fulfill the will of God. Jesus laid down His own will to put the will of the Father into action in His life: *Luke 22:42* “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” But even while Jesus was completing the plan of God for His earthly life, He was also doing it with pure motives that were pleasing to God. Why Jesus did what He did was just as pleasing to His Heavenly Father as what Jesus did. Consider the following verses to see what the motive was for why Jesus ministered to people: *Matthew 14:14* “When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.” *Matthew 15:32* “Jesus called his disciples to him and said, ‘I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and

have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry or they may collapse on the way’.” *Mark 1:41* “Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. ‘I am willing,’ he said. ‘Be clean!’” *Mark 6:34* “When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.” Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry and preached the gospel to the lost all because of one primary motive: compassion. The word “compassion” is defined in the dictionary as “sympathetic consciousness of others’ distress together with a desire to alleviate it.” The basic reason why Jesus did everything that He did was because of love. Jesus loved God so He obeyed His Father. Jesus loved people so he did everything He could to meet their needs. This is the heart of evangelism. Christians should be actively involved in evangelism because of the very same reason.

One of the most powerful and profound reasons why a Christian will share his or her faith with others is because they love Jesus Christ: *John 14:23-24* “Jesus replied, ‘If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching...He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.’” A genuine Christian will be happy to obey God because of their sheer gratitude for their salvation. They will be so thankful for the unmerited mercy and grace of Almighty God and glorious work of salvation and eternal life that Jesus purchased on the cross that they will delight to do the Father’s will. Gratitude for our own salvation and what God has done for us is a significant part of the true heart of evangelism. Our obedience to God is the proof and fruit of a genuine love for God: *1 John 5:3* “This is love for God: to obey his commands.”

When the Apostle Peter was writing to the elders of a church he briefly cautioned them to make sure that they possessed the proper motives for doing ministry: *1 Peter 5:2-3* “Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.” Peter was basically telling these ministers that their attitude shouldn’t be “I have to do this”, but rather it should be “I want to do this!”

The heart of evangelism is love for God and compassion for people along with an attitude that wants to joyfully do the will of God.

WEB-SITE & E-MAIL

PLEASE CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB OR
FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US VIA EMAIL.

WEB SITE: www.transfired.org

EMAIL: alapins@transfired.org

SPEAKING SCHEDULE

- **June 13** – New Life Assembly of God – Flushing, MI – Speaking AM only
- **June 20** – Trinity Christian Life Center – Harrison, MI – Speaking AM only
- **June 27** – East Tawas Assembly of God – East Tawas, MI – Speaking AM only
- **July 3-10** – Morningstar Christian Fellowship – Toronto, Canada – Toronto Challenge Outreach
- **July 11** – Cornerstone Assembly of God – Beulah, MI – Speaking AM & PM
- **July 18** – Central Michigan Christian Church – Mt. Pleasant, MI – Speaking AM only
- **July 25** – New Life Assembly of God – Geneva, OH – Speaking AM & PM

Cutting Quote

Some fear witnessing because they don't feel confident enough in their persuasive powers or their ability to answer all imaginable objections to the gospel. But the power for evangelism is not in our ability; it is in His gospel. You may have never imagined that an unbeliever could actually be born again by hearing of Christ from your lips. But that's not humility. It's doubt, a denial of God's blessing upon His gospel just because it is spoken by you. Don't doubt the power of God to add His blessing upon your words when you speak of Christ.

Donald Whitney

put the remaining (long) piece on the table, away from the other two strips. Now open the two pieces, and carefully make them into letters. You will find two "L's," and the other pieces of paper will form the letters "E" and "H." When you put them all together, you will have the word "HELL" (if you have been careful to do exactly as I said). The remaining long piece, when opened, will form a perfect cross.

Here is the story that goes with this: A Christian was once talking to an atheist and someone who went to church. The atheist said he didn't believe in God, Heaven, Hell, the Cross (as you are telling this story, begin folding the paper). The Christian warned him that he would have to face God whether he believed in Him or not. The church-goer said he believed everything the Bible said, but he hadn't repented as yet.

While the Christian pleaded with them both, a truck came around the corner, up onto the sidewalk and killed all three of them.

As they stood before the Judgment Throne of God, the ex-atheist looked down and saw a piece of paper in the Christian's hand. He said, "That's a ticket to get into Heaven, give it to me!" The Christian said, "I'll tell you what I will do. I will give a third of the ticket to each of you" (this is where you tear off the two strips, and place the longer one away from them. Then you pick up the two pieces) and say, "So they took their tickets, and gave them to God. He said, 'Let's see where the tickets say you are to go.'" As you open them, they spell the word "HELL."

Then you say, "The Christian walked up to the Throne and gave his one third of the ticket to God, Who said, "The only way to get in, is the way of the Cross," and you open the third piece, revealing the Cross.

This is an excellent way to conclude a time of witnessing to someone, as it sums up visually what you have been saying. If they die in their sins, and face the Law, God will give them Eternal Justice and they will end up in Hell. If they shelter in the Cross, He will give them mercy, and everlasting life.

Ten for Training Partnerships

The "Ten for Training" program allows you the opportunity to become a vital part of Transfired Ministries and also enter into an exciting partnership with our ministry. "Ten for Training" partners commit to financially supporting Transfired Ministries with \$10 each month and with their faithful prayer support as well. Your participation in this important program enables us to continue helping pastors and strengthening churches by conducting training in regards to biblical and personal evangelism, as well as producing gospel tracts and other resources to help people reach others for Jesus Christ. Instructions for sending in financial support can be found in the box in the lower left hand corner on the front page of this newsletter. Please make all financial support checks payable to: Centerpoint (our home church) and write "Transfired Ministries" in the memo area of your check. Please let us know of your desire to partner together with us in this program and we will add your information to our monthly prayer partner list. We greatly value your support and partnership in the gospel with Transfired Ministries!

TOOL TIME

Practical tools and tips for personal witnessing and evangelism

Tool/Tip of the Month: 4TH OF JULY EVANGELISM

The 4th of July holiday is fast approaching. Many people around the country will be going to parades, attending carnivals and spending time at parks and beaches. Many of the events associated with this holiday present Christians with some effective opportunities to share the gospel. This year the 4th of July is also on a Sunday. If your church isn't already planning some form of evangelistic outreach for that day I would encourage you to speak with your pastor, or someone in leadership at your church, about organizing some form of outreach. If your city or town has a parade many times churches can get involved and build a float to use in the parade. Christians can walk next to the float and throw out candy and hand out gospel tracts as the float goes down the road. If your church does not have a float in the parade you could also organize a group of people from your church to walk down each side of the parade route and hand out gospel tracts and information about your church. Obviously tracts that have a patriotic look and theme would work best. Our Great American Myth tract has a very patriotic look and many people have used it at Memorial Day and 4th of July events. If you are friendly and smile most likely everyone will gladly take the tracts from you. You could also give out free bottles of water along with gospel tracts. Some people will ask you why you are doing that and you can witness to them.

Questions & Objections

(Taken from "The Evidence Bible" by Ray Comfort, Bridge Logos Publishers)

God made me like this. Sin is His fault!

If this won't work in a civil court, it certainly won't work on Judgment Day. Even with an expert defense lawyer, it would take a pretty inept judge to fall for the old "God made me do it" defense. We are responsible moral agents. The "buck" stopped at Adam. He tried to blame both God and Eve for his sin; Eve blamed the serpent. It is human nature to try, but it doesn't work with God.

I'm doing fine. I don't need God.

Many people feel this way because of the modern gospel message. It says that Jesus will help their marriage, remove their drug problem, fill the emptiness in their heart, give them peace and joy, etc. In doing so, it restricts the gospel's field of influence. If the message of the cross is for people who have bad marriages, are lonely, and have problems, those who are happy won't see their need for the Savior.

In truth, the forgiveness of God in Jesus Christ is for people with bad marriages and people with good marriages. It is for the happy and the sad. It is for people with problems and for those without problems. It is for those who are miserable in their sins, and for those who are enjoying the pleasures of sin for a season. Those who think they are doing fine need to be confronted with a holy Law that they have violated a multitude of times. Then they will see themselves through the eyes of the Judge of the Universe and will flee to the Savior.

God made me to be a homosexual, so He doesn't want me to change.

Homosexuals argue that they did not make a conscious decision to be that way, so it must be natural. They are born that way—just as all of us are born with a sin nature and sinful desires (Ephesians 2:1–3). Tell them that it is natural for them, and for all of us, to be tempted to do things that God says are wrong. In the same way, pedophiles and adulterers (alcoholics, drug addicts, etc.) don't make a conscious decision to "choose" that self-destructive lifestyle; they simply give in to their sinful desires. However, although sin is natural for unbelievers, that doesn't mean God wants them to remain that way. God can set them free from their sinful nature (Romans 7:23–8:2), give them new desires (Ephesians 4:22–24), and help them withstand temptations (1 Corinthians 10:13).