

The Role Of The Evangelist

Submitted by J. Mark Jordan

Enfolded in the middle of the word, evangelist, is *angel*, a God-commissioned messenger. Evangelists spread the Good News. They dig out, shape up and deliver the raw material for all other ministries in the church to operate. We can attribute the phenomenal growth of the United Pentecostal Church, International, from 126 passionate pioneers in 1916 to over 10,000 licensed ministers, 45,000 congregations and 4 million constituents worldwide to dedicated evangelists and to those who “do the work of an evangelist.” (2 Timothy 4:5.)

Every victorious army relies on scouts and rangers to provide intelligence for the troops to move forward. The first wave then confronts the enemy outposts, establishes beachheads, and clears the way for the advancing lines of soldiers to overcome the opposition and occupy the land. In conducting spiritual warfare, evangelists engage the enemy and initiate the outreach to souls who are caught in the web of sin. Their boldness, compassion and skillful use of the Word of God invades the kingdom of darkness and rescues lost souls from Satan’s clutches. Without them, the church loses its arm of growth. It is time to acknowledge the vital role of evangelists in the UPCI.

Evangelists enjoy a rich Biblical heritage.

You cannot read the Book of Acts without noting the evangelistic efforts of the early church to reach the world with the Gospel. Philip’s outreach to the Samaritans in Acts 8, the Apostle Peter’s unprecedented visit to the gentiles in Acts 10, and the Apostle Paul’s open intention to broaden the parameters of evangelism to Cyprus, Pamphylia, Antioch, Lystra, Derbe and on and on, all testify to the significance of evangelism. Also, evangelism was not confined to the leadership of the church. Ananias, Aquila, Pricilla and many others did evangelistic work. Indeed, the work of the entire New Testament rests upon the foundation of evangelism.

Evangelists refocus the church’s vision from maintenance to outreach.

Local churches often grow so encumbered with the mundane, the daily grind and servicing the individual needs of the people that they fail to remember that the world needs Jesus. The evangelist shakes up their priorities and gets them to elevate their vision to the “regions beyond” once again. He not only motivates them to outreach, he can provide training and techniques to get the job done effectively.

Evangelists revitalize the church’s passion for souls.

Successful churches greatly emphasize discipleship, as well they should, but they need to refuel and re-fire their desire to see the lost saved. Evangelism is the precursor to discipleship. The birth of new spiritual babies in the church brings joy and purpose to

the congregation. Most importantly, it affirms the mission of Jesus who proclaimed that He came to “seek and save that which was lost.”

Evangelists connect with the hearts of the unchurched.

While the pastor’s specific job is to shepherd and nourish the saints, the evangelist gears his message for the lost. He speaks the language of the lost, so they can understand the truth of the Word. He chooses his subject, crafts his wording and aims laser-like attention directly to the needs of people who may not have a clue about Jesus. He can connect to people in a way that those in other ministries cannot.

Evangelists bring a fresh perspective to the preached Word of God.

Although the evangelist may use the same verses and deal with the same topics as the pastor, his marked difference in preaching galvanizes the church into action. Traditionally, we associate revival with evangelism. The true purpose of evangelism is to reach the lost, but that effort is enhanced when the church experiences new life and a reenergized sense of mission. The evangelist stirs up the gift of God within the saints.

Evangelists possess a purpose distinct from church administration.

The outreach programs of many churches become stale and ineffective over time. Outsiders tend to wall off the message of church people whom they suspect are merely emissaries of the church. Evangelists do not represent the institution of the church per se, but the love and power of Jesus Christ. They deliver a spark, a fire and a sensitivity to the felt needs of people. This fresh, personal approach often succeeds where programmed efforts are rebuffed.

The United Pentecostal Church, International must acknowledge, celebrate and employ the vital services that evangelists provide for the church at large. We not only recognize their special giftings, but also, we affirm the integral part they play in the five-fold ministry. “And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11 (NKJV). Moreover, the church has been established by Jesus Christ to fully support the ministry—including evangelists! Those who administrate the resources of the church must keep the evangelist in mind. Their role is scriptural, their ministry is vital, and their employment is the lifeline to the church!

The Role Of An Evangelist

Submitted By Doug Klinedinst

Spiritual growth, manifestation of the miraculous, and conversion of souls from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God is the result of the flow of the Holy Spirit in the church. This flow of the Spirit is demonstrated in Ezekiel's prophetic vision of the river. The river began at the altar and progressed through the sanctuary to the door and into the street. The spiritual flow provides a marvelous view of an unfolding revival.

Spiritual Flow

- Revival begins at the Altar of Consecration.
- Proceeds through the Sanctuary of Worship.
- Overflows the Threshold at the Doorway of the Miraculous
- The forward momentum carries the flow outward into the Streets of Evangelism.
- The waters become so broad and so deep eventually the flow is Waters to Swim in. This is the flow of the divine nature, which is wisdom over the head or beyond the intellect of man.

In the spiritual flow paradigm, the five-fold ministry might be called the ***five-flow ministry***.

- Apostles initiate flow into a new area or spiritual dimension
- Prophets discern and declare the direction and intent of spiritual flow.
- **Evangelists gather in the harvest produced in spiritual flow.**
- Pastors deepen flow and broaden flow through spiritual guidance.
- Teachers affirm and correct flow through setting Biblical boundaries.

The evangelist is listed, along with the foundational purpose of ministry, in Ephesians 4:11-12 "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"

The Role Of Evangelist

The evangelist ministry distinctively emphasizes proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel is the good news of the kingdom of God, which is abundant life, healing, dominion over sin, and the reigning of Christ in our hearts, along with many other blessings. Hearing the good news of this better kingdom will produce hunger in the hearts of the hearers and a desire to enter that kingdom. The gospel of the new birth is then presented according to John 3:5 "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." The death burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ is presented as the remedy for the sinful condition, and the keys of Acts 2:38 provide entrance into the kingdom, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the

name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

The gifting of the evangelist functions skillfully and abundantly in the critical phase of the process, when it is time to bring the hunger to harvest. The evangelist is equipped to reap the fruit ripened in the flow of the spirit. This may be in a city, a church, a family, or a single individual.

“The apostle Paul and his company arrived in Caesarea, where according to the scripture they entered into the house of Philip the *Evangelist*. The ministry of Philip was easily identifiable to the church apparently exhibiting specific characteristics known to them as the evangelist.

Philip went to Samaria and began preaching Jesus Christ to that city. They found hungry hearts willing to hear the gospel. They experienced miracles and spiritual dominion. Many were water baptized and there was great joy. The apostles came down and assisted with the initial outpouring of the Holy Ghost in that area. Revival continued greatly.

The modern evangelist will help equip the body in evangelization. The various methods of evangelism, and different evangelists, may function stronger in one area or another.

Prayer Evangelism as presented in Isaiah 66:8, “Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? *or* shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.”

The Acts 1:8 Evangelistic Model

Acts 1:8 “...and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

- **Jerusalem** – This Is Personal Evangelism – Acts 16:3, “And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.” This evangelism happens close to home within your circle of family and friends.
- **Judea** – This Is Lifestyle Evangelism – 2 Corinthians 3:2-3, “Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: *Forasmuch as ye are* manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.” This evangelism happens along the way as you live life. The lifestyle evangelist will be ready at all times to share the gospel with those they come in contact with on a daily basis.
- **Samaria** – This Is Saturation Evangelism – Mark 2:1, “And again he entered into Capernaum after *some* days; and it was *noised* that he was in the house.” We might also call this advertising evangelism. Today we are learning the benefits of marketing and promoting the gospel by every means available, both traditional means and new opportunities such as internet and social media.

- **Uttermost Part** – This Is Missions Evangelism – Matthew 24:14, “ And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end shall come. Sending missionaries and opening new fields will always be the work of the church.

Diversities of operations among evangelists.

- **Exhortation Evangelist:** Most of these evangelists will travel from church to church releasing fresh words of faith and encouragement to the body of Christ. These individuals have the gift of exhortation and are used to stir up passion and enthusiasm. This evangelist will bring encouragement to the pastor and his family.
- **Local Church Evangelist:** Individuals in the local church who are specifically fruitful teaching Bible Studies, sharing the gospel, and helping people through the conversion process. These evangelists may not travel outside the city where they live and attend church. This evangelist helps build the local church.
- **Prophetic Evangelist:** These evangelists operate in the gift of prophecy, and will bring a well-timed and strategic word to the church. The prophetic word will help align the church and release the church into a season of harvest by increasing burden and passion for the lost. This evangelist is often used to bring insight to the pastor during fellowship.
- **Teaching Evangelist:** Some evangelists have a strong teaching gift. They are uniquely used to equip the church in methods of evangelism and train others in effective approaches to the harvest. This evangelist is extremely valuable in assisting the church in sending laborers into the harvest.
- **End-Time Evangelist:** God has given us ministers who strongly feel the urgency of the coming of the Lord. They clearly see the signs of the end-time and lift their voice to declare the Lord is coming soon. This particular method sounds the alarm and reaches into the harvest of souls who have known the Lord, but are asleep at the midnight hour.
- **Crusade Evangelist:** Something powerful and unique happens when a large number of churches and pastors come together for a crusade. This evangelistic outreach has the goal of people receiving the Holy Ghost. The crusade evangelists will possess unique gifting and developed skills to approach a large crowd containing a large harvest.
- **International Evangelist:** There are evangelists who have developed the ability to function effectively in a variety of culturally unique customs. This ministry is the result of both gifting and broad exposure.

The GO! Is in the Gospel!

This gospel of the kingdom must be preached to the whole world. May God bless the evangelist to keep the gospel in "Go Mode". Keep going, keep preaching, keep praying, keep stirring, keep inspiring, keep reaching.

2 Timothy 4:5 "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."