

Name: _____

奧克蘭華人長老會
AUCKLAND CHINESE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Being a 3D Witness

Andrew Cox

Inspired by *Just Walk Across the Room*, by Bill Hybels

1. DEVELOP FRIENDSHIPS

Trends indicate that most adult converts lose contact with their _____ within two years after their salvation. The longer a person attends church, the fewer evangelistic conversations he engages in. Believers subconsciously bargain with God by inundating themselves with Bible studies, ministry projects, and volunteerism, thinking that engaging in all this activity absolves them from their duty to share their faith.

A. Taking the Initiative in the _____

“I listened to a Muslim tell his story of how he came to Christ. He was at a party, standing alone, when a Christ-follower from the other side of the room broke away from his clique of friends and introduced himself. The two became instant friends. Over the course of time and after many spiritual conversations, the Muslim felt compelled to pray to God, and He gave His life to Jesus Christ. This happened all because a follower of Christ was willing to walk ten steps across a room.” - Bill Hybels

Ever experienced something like this from / to others?

Who was the one person who walked across the room to tell you the gospel story? Are you ready to walk across the room to help someone else find Jesus?

Being a 3D Witness involves listening to and cooperating with the _____.

- Acts 1:8
- Galatians 5:25

We keep our eyes open daily for God ordained opportunities. We listen for the Spirit's whisper each day: “Speak to that person....Go help that

person....Take a walk.” We wake up each day and pray, “Spirit, use me today to point someone to You.”

“My objective is to walk when He prompts me to walk, talk when He says to talk, fall silent when I’m at risk of saying too much, and stay put when He leads me to stay put.” Bill Hybels

B. Building _____

What qualities might you see in a good friendship?

What are some ways to move from acquaintance to friend?

C. Redemptive _____

“I have a dream of church being family. Of everyone being accepted, loved and valued - where everyone is an uncle and aunty to the youngest and the smallest; where kindness is a lifestyle and forgiveness is always offered. I have a dream that the young will take their place as the church of today and leaders of tomorrow.” - Nigel Dixon, Village without Walls

Sharing our faith is a “team sport”! God’s plan to reach the world is through communities of love and truth who develop redemptive relationships with their communities. We do this by holding on to our church family with one hand and on to our not-yet-Christian friends with the other, and do what we can to draw them closer together.

One great way of doing this is by holding “_____”. When Matthew left the tax collecting business, he didn’t abandon his ungodly friends. He threw a party that included Christ-followers as well as his lost buddies. He included people that the religious leaders would have deemed outcasts.

When we hold a Matthew Party, we put ourselves in social settings where believers can mingle and build relationships with those who have yet to embrace Christ.

Here are some ideas:

- Invite a family over for dinner or dessert
- Have a BBQ and invite some neighbours
- Host a holiday party (Christmas, Queen's Birthday, Guy Fawkes, etc.) for people you know from work, school or neighbourhood
- Have a Test Match party
- The sky's the limit!

D. Try _____!

Read Colossians 4:2-6. What principles do you see?

Pray for those you know who may not yet know Jesus. The Apostle John wrote the following words:

And we can be confident that He will listen to us whenever we ask Him for anything in line with His will. And if we know He is listening when we make our requests, we can be sure that He will give us what we ask for. (1 John 5:14-15, NLT)

Jot down on a "Prayer-Care-Share Card" the names of those you know personally who are not yet believers. Pray for these people, that God will work in their lives and He will give you greater compassion for them and greater motivation to see them come into a relationship with Christ.

PRAYER-CARE-SHARE CARD	
1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____
5.	_____

E. The _____-_____Rule

The _____-_____Rule is a way of identifying your personal
 “_____”.



On this scale, a _____ represents a heart and life that are sizzling hot for reaching out to those who don’t know Jesus. We pray often, we notice people who are disconnected, we make time in our schedules to be with those who are far from God (and we enjoy it), we speak of our faith to unbelievers, we share stories of what God is doing in our lives, and we share the gospel (the message of Jesus) in natural ways. On the other end of the scale, a _____ represents a heart that is cold when it comes to outreach. We don’t pray for lost people, we’re too busy for people who are outside of God’s family, we walk past opportunities to let the light of Jesus shine and we hardly notice it, we rarely tell others about our faith and are apprehensive about communicating the gospel of Jesus.

Take a moment to identify where you might be on this scale. Don’t worry if it’s low. Truth - honest evaluation - is the beginning of progress. So what is your evangelistic temperature? Then ask the next question: “How can I raise my evangelistic temperature by one degree today or this week?” Share you goal with someone. Then see what happens!

-
1. Compassionate acts are tangible ways to _____ those we are called to love. We live in a broken world. This takes a thousand forms: poverty, pornography, the sex trade, starvation, illiteracy, oppression. We are called to go and “bind up the broken-hearted”.
 2. Compassionate acts serve as a corrective for the _____ perception many non-Christians have of Christians. Good Deeds build a bridge over which the Good News can travel.
 3. Compassionate acts create _____ to communicate the gospel message to those we serve and serve alongside.

“It takes between 12 and 20 positive bumps [refreshing encounters with the church] before people come to Christ. Our presence in the public square through service gives us opportunities to provide these refreshing encounters.”

Dave Workman, Vineyard Community Church

What practical ways of demonstrating God's love do we learn from Jesus?

What are some practical ways you can demonstrate God's love to others?
What can you do this week for one person on your prayer list?

Ideas:

- Do a service project (visit www.servantevangelism.com for ideas and resources).
- Deliver groceries to people in need.
- Hold a free garage sale.
- Help with church hospitality or visitation - visit a person in the hospital who does not yet know Jesus, someone who has begun to attend the church and is wanting more information, an unchurched spouse of a regular attender, etc.

2. DISCOVER THEIR STORIES

A. Lessons from Jesus (John 3 & 4)

In John 3 and 4, Jesus encounters two radically different people - a wealthy, powerful, educated, influential, Jewish leader named Nicodemus and an outcast, powerless, thirsty, Samaritan woman. Here are some lessons that Kevin Harney, author of *Organic Outreach*, points out:

_____ - Jesus talked with each of them about what was on their minds. Nicodemus was interested in who Jesus was. The woman was interested in water. We should take time to talk about whatever is on the minds and hearts of the people in their life.

_____ - He wanted Nicodemus to be born again and move from empty religion to a vital relationship with God. He desired the woman to drink living water that would quench her soul for the rest of her life and for eternity. All of our outreach must be driven by a love for God and for the people who need to know his amazing grace.

_____ - Nicodemus and the woman had questions and Jesus not only listened, but he heard them. As we help people move toward God, we need to listen, invite questions and really hear what people are wondering about.

_____ - The Master looked at Nicodemus and asked, “You are Israel’s teacher, and do you not understand these things?” Ouch! The last thing a religious teacher wants to hear is, “You don’t get it.” Jesus gently asked the woman, “Can I meet your husband?” In both cases, the hard questions moved the conversation forward and deeper. We need to ask tough questions, but do it with a gentle heart.

_____ - Jesus told Nicodemus that unless he was born again, he would not see the kingdom of heaven. He told the woman that she would never have her thirst quenched until she came to the source of living water. We need to gently, but clearly speak the truth.

_____ - Nicodemus thought he needed theological clarity and more information about Jesus. This was true, to a degree. But what he really needed was to be born again. The woman came believing she needed water. This was true, but she was satisfied with water for a day and Jesus wanted to give her water for eternity.

As we learn about people's felt needs, we should see the real needs that God wants to meet.

B. _____ Conversations

Some folks believe that a conversation has been unsuccessful unless the _____ has been clearly explained. What do you think?

- The Sower – John 4:31-38
- The faith scale:

Pre-Christian

Christian

ATHEIST GOD-ACKNOWLEDGER SEEKER CONVERSION FOLLOWER OWNER REPRODUCER

C. Getting to know _____

- Where did you grow up? Where have you lived?
- What was your family background like for you?
- What is your current family situation? (Married, single, children, etc.)
- Where do you work? What do you like about your work? What do you dislike?
- What do you do for fun?

As you build trust with people, you can ask a non-threatening question about a person's beliefs. Here are some examples:

- "I'd be interested in hearing about your spiritual journey."
- "May I ask you about your religious background?"
- "I'd like to hear where you are in your journey toward God."

These questions allow you to assess the level of interest in spiritual things without sounding too pushy. If the response is cold or aloof, you may want to find out if the person had a bad experience with religion, or you may

decide simply to change the subject. However, if he tells you a bit about his life and beliefs, you can ask a follow-up question, such as:

- "How did your religious training affect you?"
- "What level of importance do you place on your religious beliefs?"

D. Principles for Good _____

- Tune in – look at them, show visual and verbal approval
- Use conversation expanders - WWWWWH
- Find common ground – not your pet hobby horse
- Pick up on the big issues – What are their dreams, concerns, needs?
- Ask _____ – these are questions which open up the conversation in a very interesting way! Such as “What criteria do you use in determining right and wrong?” Wondering questions:
 - Are non-threatening
 - Communicate humility
 - Allow people to discover truth for themselves

E. Getting _____

Knocking on the doors of strangers or stopping people on the street or in a mall...these methods may result in modest “successes.” Just as poor marketing strategies usually produce customers eventually, inefficient ways of witnessing will sometimes bring conversions. However, “we should be compelled to be an excellent witness.

In this post-modern age, when most of the un-churched are totally unfamiliar with true Christianity or the Bible, the Church needs a new approach to reaching these people.

Believe it or not, common conversation starters like “*Why did you move to this area?*” can be opportunities to get into faith conversations if the Christian uses open-ended answers to respond since doing so often causes a sceptic to ask more questions and share more about himself.

Read the following conversation. What principles do you see?

- *“So, what made you want to work for a software company in Phoenix?”* she casually asked, expecting to hear the standard ‘career advancement’ and ‘seeking a new business challenge’ mumbo jumbo.
- I replied, *“Well, I am on the board of a non-profit organisation that is based here, and for a while I have been thinking about moving to become more involved.”*...
- *“That’s interesting, what’s the non-profit?”*
- *“It’s an organisation that helps people understand spiritual perspectives on social issues using the arts.”*...
- She was intrigued and appeared more than a little surprised. *“That’s interesting, how did you get involved in that?”*
- *“Spiritual things didn’t interest me much for most of my life, then about nine years ago, my perspective completely changed.”*
- *“So what happened nine years ago?”* ...
- I prayed silently and responded, *“It might sound kind of weird, but I once was considered an atheist by most people’s definition until something happened to change my mind.”* ...
- I still didn’t give it all to her just yet. If God was leading her to hear about Him, I knew we would get there. I didn’t need to rush. ...
- *“What happened that changed your mind?”* ...

“The terms “Christian,” “Jesus,” and “God” may close a door for someone who is sceptical or not yet ready to hear the truth. But “when you allow a non-Christian to move away from topics that are uncomfortable, you leave the door open for him to address those issues with you in the future...the key is leaving the seeker with a question unanswered...”

Michael Simpson

3. DISCERN NEXT STEPS

Once you have heard someone's story, be sensitive to possible _____ you can take to bring the person closer to Christ. In conversation, one of the greatest temptations is to keep everything on a surface level. Most conversations will encounter a fork-in-the-road moment where there is an opportunity to move deeper.

What happens when someone asks you why you're so fired up about God? Are you ready with a well prepared response?

A. Paul's Spiritual _____

When Paul was in Caesarea and under arrest for his faith, he was given the opportunity to defend himself before King Agrippa. Paul told the king the story of his spiritual journey. Read the story in Acts 26:1-29. As you read, notice that Paul divided his story into three parts:

1. Before he came to know Jesus. He shared about his attitudes and actions prior to becoming a believer (Acts 26:1-11).
2. How he came to know Jesus. He explained how he came to faith in Jesus (Acts 26:12-18).
3. After becoming a Christian. He explained how becoming a follower of Jesus affected his life (Acts 26:19-29).

Look over Paul's story and answer the following questions.

1. What words and phrases in part one indicate Paul was seeking to identify with his audience (Acts 26:1-11)?
2. What words or phrases in part two indicate Paul had turned to Jesus (Acts 26:12-18)?

3. What do you see in part three that indicates Paul's life had been changed (Acts 26:19-29)?
4. What was Paul's purpose in telling his story (See Acts 26:27-29)?

Dear brothers and sisters, when I first came to you I didn't use lofty words and brilliant ideas to tell you God's message. For I decided to concentrate only on Jesus Christ and His death on the cross. —The Apostle Paul, I Corinthians 2:1, 2

B. Writing your Spiritual _____

Your Story is His Story

Every time we tell our story (or testimony) we give honour and glory to God, and He is pleased with that. Your story — regardless of how “spectacular” or “ordinary” you think it is — is a story about God’s _____. It is your _____ of how God rescued you from sin and death through Christ, and changed your life as a result. When we share our story with others we help them get to know what God is like and what He can do.

Be Ready

Whether you are in line at the grocery store, sitting with a family member or standing in front of a group of people, the Bible calls us to “always be ready” to explain our hope in Christ with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15-16, NLT).

Sometimes we like to think that because it’s our story, we don’t have to do anything to be ready to tell it. After all, we were there when it happened, and we’re living it now. Yet we can get nervous, become side-tracked or forget things when sharing our testimonies, which can be confusing or distracting for those listening. This is why a little preparation and practice can be so valuable.

Put it Together

Let's take a look at how to put your story together, section by section. There are five basic parts to your story: the opening, your life before Christ, how you came to Christ, your life after Christ, and the closing.

- ◆ **The _____.** Identify a theme you can use to frame your story. What did your life revolve around (e.g. relationships, your reputation, money) that God used to help bring you to Him? Briefly illustrate how that influenced your life.
- ◆ **Your Life Before _____.** Paint a picture of what your life was like before you came to Christ. Don't dwell too much on, or brag about, past sin struggles. Share only the details that relate to your theme — just enough to show your need for Christ.
- ◆ **How You Came to _____.** Give the details about why and how you became a Christian. Communicate in such a way that the person you are talking with, and anyone who overhears you, can understand how they can become a Christian, too. Even if your listeners are not ready for that, God could use your story and explanation of the gospel to draw them to Himself in the future.
- ◆ **Your Life After Coming to _____.** Share some of the changes that Christ has made in your life as they relate to your theme. Emphasise the changes in your character, attitude or perspective, not just mere changes in behaviour. Be realistic. We still struggle as Christians. Life is far from perfect, but what's different about your life now?
- ◆ **The _____.** End with a statement that summarises your story and connects everything back to your theme. If you want, close with a Bible verse that relates to your experience.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Pray before you write out and share your story.
- Write the way you speak.
- Don't be overly negative or positive. Be honest.
- Don't criticise or name any church, denomination, organisation, etc.
- Think about your listener(s). Avoid overly-religious terms.

- Keep it short. Aim to tell your story in three to five minutes.
- Practice telling your story until it becomes natural.

(This material is from www.cru.org - "Preparing your Personal Testimony")

C. Provide _____

Any ten-minute conversation will reveal dozens of ways you can provide resources. The key is to have a _____ to provide any resource possible to help the person better connect with God. What are some resources, course, events etc you could use to help your friends find out more?

D. Telling _____ Story

As we seek to help people know Jesus, what is it we need to communicate? We can gain ideas by looking at what the Apostle Paul communicated when he interacted with others about his faith. As you read the following passages, write down the essential components of the message Paul shared with those he was seeking to reach.

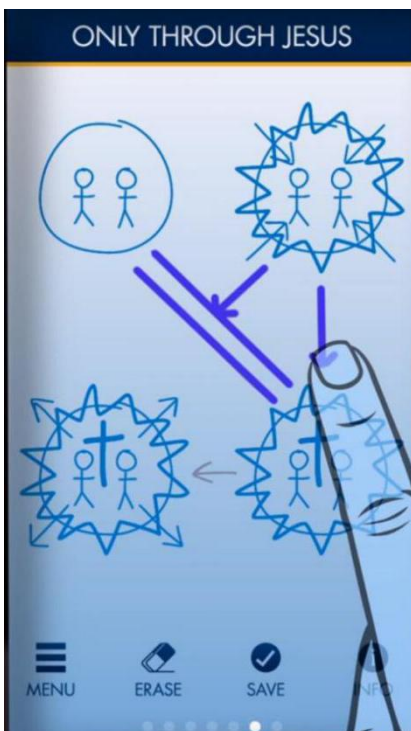
- Acts 13:26-39

- Acts 17:1-4

- Acts 17:16-34

The ____Story app

The Big Story Gospel Presentation app from InterVarsity Christian Fellowship is a great way to share the gospel. It's based on material from "True Story" by James Choung. There are four "worlds": (1) Designed for ____, (2) Damaged by ____, (3) Restored for ____ and (4) Sent to _____. Suggested dialogue and Scripture references are included for each world to help you explain the gospel as you draw. You can offer people the opportunity to make a decision for Jesus Christ and join his mission to heal the world.



Only Through Jesus

Once these worlds are explained, an important question is asked:

Why can't we just jump to the last world in the diagram?

We might like the mission Jesus is talking about, but we want to do it without faith or spirituality. Even if we could do this - which we can't - we'd be missing out. The world's problems are infinite. We are bound to get overwhelmed if we try to take care of it on our own. Plus, our anger, prejudices and self-righteousness will compete with our service, limiting the amount of healing we can offer.

We need resources like Christian community and God's presence, the Holy Spirit, which we can get only through Jesus.

E. Simply be _____

Since a witness tells others about Jesus, consider an example from Jesus' own life - the time a rich young ruler asked Him how to inherit eternal life. When the man "went away sad," Jesus let him walk. No arguing or coercing

or applying quiet tactics. He just turned to His disciples and commented on the difficulty rich people have entering the kingdom of heaven.

Obviously, this man's wrong choice was not the Saviour's personal failure. Jesus must have known that the ruler wasn't ready for wholehearted commitment since He asked the young man to give up the one thing he wasn't willing to lose his wealth. Love is a choice and Jesus did not force regeneration upon this inquisitive young ruler.

Jesus never ran after anyone. Instead He made Himself available to those willing to wholeheartedly seek the Way to God.

Homework Assignment

Ask a friend: "I need your help. Our church is doing a series on Communicating the Big Story at the moment. To help us, we are using an app / tool that summarises what Christians believe - the Big Story. I need to practise with someone! So I was wondering if would you be free to meet with coffee / lunch this week so we can take a look at it?"

You may offer to buy the coffee, lunch, or breakfast. You may also need to ask more than one person before you find someone who can meet with you.

Catch up as you would with any friend. Then introduce the app and explain again that you'd be keen to get their feedback. You're a learner, not someone with all the answers. As you share, give time for your friend to give their opinion where appropriate. Be sensitive to his/her level of openness to a relationship with God. Be clear about the essence of the gospel, but do not be pushy.

Be sure to thank him/her afterwards. Leave plenty of time for feedback. Ask questions such as: *"Do you have any questions about the things we covered?" "If you were me, what would you have done differently?"* and *"What suggestions do you have for improving my communication?"*