

ASK – EVANGELISM

YOUTH COMING DOWN!!!!!!

INTRO

This month is about ASKING...

PRAY – LORD speak to us, use us, may we not be afraid to step out in faith,
Holy Spirit Fill us!

God has been speaking to us clearly as a church since New Year:

- Putting Him first – True Christianity
- A lifestyle of Prayer – Not just in church but at home
- **Step out in Faith – Trying new things**
- **Using our gifts – Trying new things!**
- **“Break the past fears Lord” – Trust God**

Let's read Matthew 9:35-38 (NIV):

“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness...

³⁶ *When he saw the crowds, **he had compassion** on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “**The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”***

This is where I believe we are at now as a church...

THE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE (a bit of history first...)

For 2-3 years we have wanted to set up the evangelism team (church) again

Not a team as in an isolated group!!!

This year, God has added new people without us even trying

We want the team to be:

- ...a place where people can use their gifts
- ...a place to sharing your ideas & have input
- ...a place to have a go!!!

DIFFERENT STYLES

There are so many different ways that we can reach out

2 Samuel 14:14 (CEV) says *“We each must die and disappear, like water poured out on the ground. But God doesn't take our lives. Instead, he figures out ways of bringing us back when we run away.”*

God is a creative God who devises ways to bring us to Him – THINK

Q) how is God using you to reach people?

A missionary is not someone who crosses the seas but is someone who sees the cross.

We are called to share the Good News.

In sport there is one aim: to win but there are different styles.

In Evangelism there is one aim: to win people to Christ but there are different styles.

- 1. Incarnational** – Live the Gospel everyday
- 2. Testimonial** – Share the Good News
- 3. Compassion** – Show love and mercy i.e. Apple Tree, Homeless, LWAD
- 4. Community** – Make a change i.e. Noise, Pastoral Nursing, Toddler Time
- 5. Relational** – Make friends with Non-Christians
- 6. Prayerful** – Pray for people, opportunities & boldness
- 7. Street Work** – Come out and see i.e. Healing on the Streets
- 8. Confrontational** – Being bold but loving i.e. Massi & Mike
- 9. Hospitality** – Invite people round for food and drink
- 10. Institutional** - Volunteer in schools, prisons, care homes, hospitals

We must be Intentional in what we do. *In everything you do, do it for God*

We must live our lives with purpose – *“he saw the crowds & had compassion”*

St Francis Story? – (at end)? 11:45am?

STEVE SHARES...

CARMEN SHARES...

Split into groups of 4's for 5 -10 mins:

- **Write down any ideas about evangelism:** training, events, activities, ministries, prayer, fund raising etc.
- **Write down how you want to be involved and/or your gifts.**
- **Write down your name & hand it in.**

CONCLUSION

We are going to have:

- **An evening to talk through ideas, the future, how to get involved**
- **5 or so training sessions**

- **But first we want to use the Noise as a spring board for people...**

A monk once said “When I was a young man, I wanted to change the world. I found it was difficult to change the world, so I tried to change my nation. When I found I couldn’t change the nation, I began to focus on my town. I couldn’t change the town and as an older man I tried to change my family. Now, as an old man, I realise the only thing I can change is myself, and suddenly I realise that if long ago I had changed myself, I could have made an impact on my family. My family and I could have made an impact on our town. Their impact could have changed a nation and I could indeed have changed the world.”

Q) Who here prays for the lost to be saved?

We are going to pray that we will become the answers to our own prayers.

Mark 16:14–18 says:

“Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen. ¹⁵ He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”

God is calling us to fulfil our potential! There is more out there!

Let’s pray for you: come out as we sing and be commissioned

In 1219 after 4 Christian crusades to recapture Jerusalem from the Muslims, Innocent III declared a 5th crusade to regain Jerusalem again. He started with an attack to capture Damietta in Egypt, one of the wealthiest Muslim cities around. Hundreds of thousands of crusaders went to capture the city for Jesus. They started their attack in July 1219. At the same time Francis of Assisi left Italy with his brothers and arrived at Damietta in July. He stayed there, praying for the soldiers, attending to them and praying for the battle's end. Finally after 5 months of fighting, the Muslim sultan, Malik al Kamil, retreated leaving the silent city to the Christians. The city had 80,000 inhabitants. After 5 months only 3,000 remained. When the soldiers climbed in all they found were rotting corpses, dogs and a few children crying. The survivors had given up trying to bury their dead. The soldiers were shocked at what they saw. Disease and war had killed 77,000 people. This sadness didn't last long, they plundered the city, sold the children into slavery and turned the mosques into churches. When the city was finally dedicated, the soldiers invited thousands of prostitutes to come and live with them in Damietta.

Malik who had fled into Egypt was furious and declared that anyone who brought the head of a Christian would receive gold.

Francis however went and asked the Cardinal for permission to go and witness to the sultan. He denied them because they would surely die. However they carried on asking and

eventually he let them go. Francis and his friend went by foot to see Malik, singing Psalms on their way. They were captured, beaten and taken to Malik. When they arrived Francis told Malik they were here to save his soul from being lost. Would he listen to them? If he didn't agree he could behead them. His advisers said it was wrong to listen and that he should kill them right away! However he let them stay for 2 weeks and listened to them daily. Finally he sent them back to the Christian lands. So impressed was this sultan that he gave them an escort of Saracen knights reserved normally for an emperor.

Francis risked his life because he loved the Sultan's soul.