



Post-Pandemic Evangelism

For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2).

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Pandemic Revelation

The Bible teaches that God’s time to punish the wicked has not yet arrived. Rather, we are living “in a day of salvation”—that is, a time when God is extending a warm invitation to all humans to draw close to him and be saved ([2 Corinthians 6:2](#)). One way he extends that invitation is by means of a global preaching work with a positive message—the “good news of the Kingdom.”—[Matthew 24:14](#).

A study during the COVID-19 pandemic revealed that 22% of nonbelievers were more interested in God and spiritual matters than ever before. They were reading their Bibles more, listening to sermons more, searching for spiritual answers online, and engaging in spiritual conversations with others (Joshua Fund, March 2020).

What Evangelism Is Not

- Evangelism is not outreach. Outreach can lead to evangelism, but you can have outreach all day and never announce the **good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ**
- Sharing your testimony is a great pre-evangelistic strategy – but it's not evangelism
- Feeding hungry people might serve in pre-evangelistic ways – but that's not evangelism either
 - It might have even made them wonder why you're so nice. But until you use words that articulate some very important **facts about the cross**, you've only paved the way for evangelism

Good News of the Gospel

- **The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)**
- **God became a man (John 10:30)**
- **Salvation is free (Romans 6:23)**
- **The penalty of sin is paid (2 Corinthians 5:21)**
- **Anyone can be saved (Romans 10:9-11)**
- **One way to eternal life (John 14:6)**

Facts About the Cross

- Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!” And Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with Me in Paradise” (Luke 23:42-43)
- The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again (Luke 24:7)
- But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree (Galatians 3:13)

Can We Evangelize During this Post-Pandemic Era?

Yes!

It's a ripe time to do evangelism. We may never have a more opportune time to proclaim the good news of Jesus.

The gospel has to be bad news before its good news. Sometimes we have to destabilize before offering a better way

The U.S. is becoming less religious, with one of the most significant trends being the dramatic rise of “nones,” people who claim no religious affiliation at all. In just seven years, from 2007 to 2014, the number of “nones” rose from 16 percent to 23 percent of the American population, almost four times the number of adherents to all non-Christian faiths – Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, and other world religions - combined

How Do We Evangelize During this Post-Pandemic Era?

Carefully!

- 1. Increase in Love.** When things like pandemics occur, Christ teaches that another phenomenon will be that “the love of many will grow cold” (Matt 24:15). This describes a broad decrease in genuine love not only for God but for one another as human beings. The general trend, literally speaking, will be for brotherly love to diminish greatly – it will cool down.

As believers, we should not shrink back into a self-preserving, callous lifestyle with the “many.” We should demonstrate the love of Christ instead and be the few who’s love for God, for one another, and for others in the world (Phil 1:9-11). In times like these, our worship and service to God should increase. Our words of kindness and acts of compassion to others should increase as well.

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Reports of domestic violence on the rise during pandemic, study finds

Analyzing public police records from 14 large U.S. cities—such as Baltimore, Salt Lake City and New Orleans—in March, April and May 2020, professors Emily Leslie and Riley Wilson discovered a 7.5% increase in domestic violence–related 911 calls compared to spring 2019.

They saw an even steeper increase of 9.7% during just the first five weeks of widespread physical distancing, including the time preceding official stay-at-home orders, when people stopped going out because of uncertainty about the coronavirus.

Carefully!

2. **Be a Witness.** When we experience widespread difficulties in the world (like pandemics), we should look for ways to be a courageous and compassionate witness for Christ. Christ hinted at this when he said that in the middle of the many tragic events going on in the world throughout church history, the gospel would be spreading throughout the world at the same time. He said, “This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations” (Matt 24:14)

- Masks with a Message
- Online ordering to send tracts that offer Christ
- Operation Christmas Child

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/the-journey-of-a-shoebox/#>

Personal Evangelism

“Not surprisingly, some Christians feel more comfortable with inviting neighbors to church than with sharing the gospel”

Personal and small group evangelism are going to be the key tools to sharing the gospel for at least during the history of this pandemic.* For too long we depended on the pastor and the evangelist; we’ve deemphasized personal evangelism and overemphasized church evangelism to the point where people can’t share the gospel unless their pastor is involved, and if they bring somebody to church.

Source

Michael Green, Evangelism in the Early Church (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, Revised Edition, 2004), 175.

Simple Ways to Evangelize During a Pandemic

- 1. Reach out to a lost friend.**
 - ✓ Ask how they're doing and how you might pray for them during this uncertain time
 - ✓ Praying with nonbelievers can be powerful. Offering to pray with people could propel them toward belief better than answers, discussions, or proclamations
- 2. Use technology to make social connections**
 - ✓ Start an online discovery group where unbelievers can explore what Christians believe and ask spiritual questions without judgment
- 3. Volunteer to do follow-up calls for your church or ministry**
 - ✓ You can setup a phone or Zoom call and share the gospel with those who expressed interest in spiritual things

Remember

“People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care”

- **Evangelism occurs at the intersection of the human and the divine, where people do ordinary things and God does what only he can do**
- **Evangelism starts at home. As God fearing men, we must strive to become the PROVIDER, PROTECTOR, AND PRIEST of our homes. “For if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?” (1 Timothy 3:5 ESV).**
- **The eternal salvation of a single soul is more important than anything else you’ll ever achieve in life**

Q&A

