



LIVING MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

AN INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY OF REACHING • PREACHING • TEACHING

WHY BE AN EVANGELIST (WHY WE NEED EVANGELISTS TODAY)

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-5

"DO THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST"

FACILLITATOR'S GUIDE

Billy Graham, speaking at the Amsterdam Conference for Itinerant Evangelists, said:

“One of the greatest needs today is for the Church throughout the world to recognize and recover the legitimacy and importance of the gift of the Evangelist”.

1. Place in the Scriptures

Ephesians 4:11 & 12; Acts 21:8; 2 Timothy 4:5

2. The Ministry of the Godhead

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|------|-----------------------------|------------|
| i. | God the <u>F</u> Ather | John 3:16 |
| ii. | God the <u>S</u> on | Luke 19:10 |
| iii. | God the <u>H</u> oly Spirit | Acts 1:8 |

3. The Fulfilment of the Great Commission

Matthew 28:18 – 20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46 – 48;
John 20:21; Acts 1:8.

4. For the Operation and Function of the Church

Ephesians 4:11 & 12; Acts 8:5 – 14.

5. The Role of Evangelists in the History of the Church.

- Pre Reformation:

1452 - 1498 – **Jerome Savonarola**

- Reformation:

1483 – 1546 – **Martin Luther** – Evangelist at Wittenburg: “*by the grace of God*”

- Post Reformation:

1509 – 1564 **John Calvin**

1703 – 1791 **John Wesley** era “*The world is my parish*”.

1714 – 1770 **George Whitefield**

1703 – 1758 **Jonathan Edwards**

1792 – 1875 **Charles Finney**

1829 – 1912 **William Booth**

1837 – 1899 **Dwight L Moody**

1862 – 1935 **Billy Sunday**

1918 – present **Billy Graham**

- **Pastor Evangelists:**

Charles Spurgeon – born 1834 – Metropolitan Tabernacle, London.

A W Toxer (1897 – 1963) Pastor Southside Alliance Church, Chicago

Oswald Smith (1889 – 1986) Peoples Church, Toronto

Paul Smith

Stephen Olford - Calvary Baptist Church, Manhattan, New York.

Alan Redpath – Charlott Chapel, Edinburgh.

6. The **Contribution** Evangelists have made to the Church and Society

i. **Christian Education**

John Rice, in his book *The Evangelist* (1968. Sword of the Lord Foundation Murfreesboro: Tennessee) states:

Not only have leading Evangelists been men of great learning, but they have done more to establish

Christian education than any other group of ministries.

A number of great institutions owe their origin to the outcome of the ministries of Evangelists.

a. **The Moody Bible Institute**

DL Moody and RA Torrey were responsible for the establishment of this great Bible school in 1886. The Institute consists of three major ministries: education, broadcasting and publishing the Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia. As at 29th August 2007, the Institute has four thousand students and a fulltime faculty of eighty three. The Moody Bible Institute Annual Ministry Report 2006 states that:

A study of Moody graduates showed that 77.6% spent all or part of their careers in fulltime ministry. Over 95% engage in part time or volunteer ministry within the Church.

b. **Spurgeon's College** – A theological institute of higher learning.

The Institute was originally named “The Pastors College” when it opened in 1857. It was named in honour of its founder Charles Spurgeon. It is located in South Norwood Hill, London.

During Spurgeon's lifetime, nearly nine hundred churches were planted in Britain; while others went on to make a significant impact throughout the English speaking world.

c. **Princeton University**

Originally founded at Elizabeth, New Jersey in 1746 as the College of New Jersey. In 1756 it was relocated to Princeton and renamed "Princeton University" in 1896. Jonathan Edwards served as the third president of the university.

Today Princeton is non-sectarian and makes no religious demands on its students; however, the university has ties with the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton Theological Seminary and the Westminster Choir College of River University.

d. **Nyack Seminary** – New York

Founded by A B Simpson in 1882, his rallying cry was:

"Evangelize the neglected peoples of the world with the neglected resources of the church".

The school celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary as the extensions of the visions of Dr. AB Simpson.

ii. Civil Righteousness, Moral Reform and Social Upliftment.

The accusation, by opponents of Christianity, that preachers are more concerned with the next world than they have no time to help people in this world is not always true. This accusation could be as a result of the prioritising of the salvation of the soul or spiritual needs, rather than the material needs of the people. Nevertheless, a closer look at the history of evangelists proves different.

- a. **George Whitefield, John and Charles Wesley** made a profound impact in Britain and the United Kingdom. According to Leighton Ford in the Christian Persuader, Charles Wesley formed societies, opened chapels, examined and commissioned aid charities, prescribed for the sick, helped to pioneer the use of electric shock treatments for illnesses, superintended schools and orphanages. His charities were limited only by his means. George Whitefield built an orphanage in Georgia, USA.
- b. **William Booth (10th April 1829 – 20th August 1912)** was a British Methodist preacher who founded the Salvation Army and served as its first general (1878 – 1912). This Christian movement, with a quasi-military structure and government, but no physical weaponry, spread from London, England to many parts of the

world and is known for being one of the largest distributors of humanitarian aid.

Its objectives are: the advancement of Christian religion as promulgated in the religious doctrines... which are professed, believed and taught by the Army and, pursuant thereto, the advancement of education, the relief of poverty, and other charitable objects beneficial to society or the cause of mankind as a whole.

From its early beginnings in England in 1865, the Salvation Army now operates in over sixty countries worldwide and has thousands of churches (corps, hall or citadels) in these countries.

c. **Charles Gaddison Finney (1792 – 1875) – United States of America**

Apart from being an outstanding evangelist, he became president of Oberlin College (1851 – 1866). Oberlin was a major cultivation ground for the early movement to end slavery, and demand the American colleges to co-educate blacks with the white men.

d. **Charles Spurgeon – Britain**

In the footsteps of George Muller (greatly admired by Spurgeon), Charles Spurgeon founded the Stockwell Orphanage for boys in

1867 and for girls in 1879. This orphanage, Child Care, still exists in London today.

e. **Billy Sunday (1862 – 1935) – United States of America**

Between 1896 and 1935, this flamboyant preacher delivered in the region of twenty thousand sermons, at an average of forty-two per month with over a million people responding to his invitation to receive Christ.

Sunday was a strong supporter of Prohibition. He once said:

I am the sworn, eternal and uncompromising enemy of the liquor traffic. I have been, and will go on, fighting that damnable, dirty, rotten business with all the power at my command. (Dorsett L W 1991:113 – 114 Billy Sunday and the Redemption of Urban America Grand Rapids: W B Eerdmans)

He played a significant role in arousing public interest in Prohibition and in the passage of the Eighteenth Amendment of 1919. When the tide of public opinion turned against Prohibition, he continued to support it. After its repeal in 1933, Sunday called for its reintroduction according to William McLaughlin in “Billy Sunday was his Real Name” (1955: 232 – 234. Chicago: University of Chicago Press).

f. **Billy Nicholson (1876 - 1959) – Ireland**

His hellfire and judgement preaching had a profound impact on the morality of Ireland. (Rice, John).

iii. **Christian Literature**

a. **John Wesley (1703 – 1791)**

Wesley was a logical thinker and expressed himself clearly, concisely and forcefully in his writing. His written sermons are characterized by spiritual earnestness and simplicity. They are doctrinal but not dogmatic:

- Notes on the New Testament (1755)
- Sermons
- The Wesley Journal – originally published in twenty parts, London 1740 – 1789; new edition – N. Curnock, London & New York, 1909 1911.
- The Doctrine of Original Sin (Bristol, 1757)
- An Earnest Appeal to Men of reason and Religion (originally published in three parts; second edition, Bristol 1743)

b. **Charles Finney (1792 – 1875)**

In his book The Consuming Fire, Oswald J Smith said:

“Charles Finney is looked upon by authorities both in Great Britain and the United States of America as the greatest revivalist of all time”.

Among his many writings, his autobiography and revival lectures are classics of Christian literature:

- The Complete Works of Charles Finney
- Holy for a Reason, Set Apart for a Purpose (Diggory Press ISBN 978-1846857416)
- Lectures on Revival
- Lectures to Performing Christians
- Systematic Theology

c. **D L Moody (1837 – 1899)**

Founder of the Bible Colportage Association (now the Moody Press), he also founded the Colportage Library which has sent out millions of copies of inexpensive Christian literature, many of them Christian classics.

Moody married Miss Emma Revell. Her brother, Fleming Revell, largely through the influence and inspiration of D L Moody, founded the Christian publishing house of that name, and, his company published books of the great men that Moody brought from England to America.

Moody also published his own books and that of R A Torrey, T Wilbur Chapman and other

famous Evangelists. Moody, the Evangelist, was most likely the most experimental man of his generation in Christian literature, according to John Rice in his book *The Evangelist*.

- *Heaven* – Diggory Press ISBN 978-1846858123
- *Prevailing Prayer – What Hinders it* - Diggory Press ISBN 978-1846858031
- *Secret Power* - Diggory Press ISBN 978-1846858024
- *The Ten Commandments*

d. **Charles Spurgeon (1834 – 1892)**

He was known as the “Prince of Preachers”. By the time of his death in 1892, he had preached almost thirty-six hundred sermons and published forty-nine volumes of commentaries, sayings, anecdotes, illustrations and devotions.

Here are some of his written works:

- *2200 Quotations from the Writings of Charles Spurgeon* compiled by Tom Carter
- *Able to the Uttermost*
- *According to Promise*
- *All of Grace*
- *An All round Ministry*
- *Around the Wicket Gate*
- *Barbed Arrows*

- C H Spurgeon's Autobiography

e. **Dr. RA Torrey**

He was a great evangelist, and also a prolific writer. Some of his works have been spread around the world. Here are some of the books he has written that are world famous:

- How to Pray
- How to Work for Christ
- What the Bible Teaches
- The Holy Spirit – Who He Is and What He Does
- Soul Winning Sermons
- How to Promote a Revival

iv. **Great Hymns of Faith**

Evangelists and music evangelists, out of a burning passion to offer salvation through song, wrote many of the great hymns of faith.

a. **Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748)**

Isaac Watts played a vital part in the extension of the eighteenth century revival as the author of thousands of hymns. He was recognised and honoured by George Whitefield and the Wesley Brothers and many of his hymns were included in the various books they produced for the Methodists.

It was the great Charles Wesley that introduced the rise of the great music Evangelists. Though Charles was equally effective as a preacher, he had a special gift for poetry. Some of his finest Gospel hymns were written especially for the open-air congregations in Bristol. The combination of the gifts of preaching and music by the Wesley Brothers made a formidable combination.

- b. **D.L. Moody** and **Ira Sankey** ministered together from 1873 and made a formidable team. They made three visits to Britain in 1873 – 1875, 1881 – 1884 and 1891 – 1892.
- c. **R.A. Torrey** and **Charles Alexander** teamed up in 1903 to conduct extensive ministry in Britain. While the Billy Graham and George Beverley team have proved to be a vital force in evangelism.
- d. **Fanny Cosby**, born in 1820 lost her eyesight at the tender age of six weeks due to the negligence of a doctor, went on to overcome her handicap by establishing a style of poetry that characterises Gospel songs. Her nearly nine thousand hymns made her familiar to her entire generation (Woodbridge John 1992. *More than Conquerors* Moody Press).

Here are some great Gospel hymns by Charles Wesley, Fanny Cosby, Ira D Sankey, Wilbur Chapman and Isaac Watts.

Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788):

- Love Divine
- Jesus Lover of my Soul
- And Can It Be
- Oh for a Thousand Tongues

Fanny Cosby (1820 – 1915):

- All the Way My Saviour Leads Me
- Blessed Assurance
- I am Thine Oh Lord
- Jesus keep me near the Cross
- Rescue the Perishing
- Redeemed how I love to proclaim it
- Tell me the story of Jesus
- To God be the glory

Ira D Sankey (1840 – 1908):

- What a gathering
- I am praying for you
- Trusting Jesus
- A shelter in the time of storm
- In the garden
- Faith is the victory

Wilbur Chapman (1859 – 1918):

- One day when Heaven

v. **Multiplying Ministry of Evangelists**

Many pastors, missionaries, evangelists and Christian workers trace their conversions and callings as a result of the ministry of the evangelist. To mention a few:

- **C T Studd**, the famous English cricketer and missionary to China, India and Africa was converted in 1878 during the D L Moody campaign.
- **Oswald Smith** was converted in 1900 at a crusade conducted by R A Torrey in Toronto, Canada.
- **Billy Graham** came to Christ at a crusade conducted by Mordecai Ham in Charlotte, North Carolina, United States of America in 1934.
- **Billy Sunday** - more than four hundred and thirty four men converted in the campaigns entered full time ministry.

vi. **Because of the Message of the Evangelist**

- **Repentance** toward God -
- **Faith** in Jesus Christ
- **Luke** 24:47

vi. **The Prophetic Connection**

Matthew 24:14; Acts 17:30 & 31;
2 Corinthians 5:11

In Conclusion:

“The body of Christ not only prospers as it has the proper ministration of the evangelists as of the other gifts which Christ gave to the church, but it also increases itself by the birth of many new-born souls when Bible evangelism is given its rightful place and evangelists are honoured as gifts to men and to the church from the ascended Christ, as the Spirit says that they are.” - John Rice

Roger Carswell in his book “And Some Evangelists” (2000) describes some of the Evangelists and their distinctive Evangelistic ministries.

John the Baptist

‘the brief Evangelist’

Andrew

‘the personal Evangelist’

Peter

‘the public Evangelist’ – Acts 2

Phillip

‘the freelance Evangelist’

Paul

‘the adaptable Evangelist’ – when he says he is all things to all men.

John

‘the author Evangelist’ – Book of Revelations

Anna

‘the woman Evangelist’

The Bethlehem Shepherds

‘the unknown Evangelists’

Jesus

‘the Divine Evangelist’

Timothy

‘the Pastor Evangelist’