

Can you imagine for a moment a medical researcher who has spent years investigating a cure for a particular cancer? So after years of painstaking research this person not only discovers a cure for the particular type of cancer, but for all forms of cancer. For the researcher there is an overwhelming burden, passion and vision to spread the good news. The researcher's driving motivation to share this news is the joy, relief and hope that such a cure brings.

DEVOTIONAL **Acts 2:14-41** SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

PRAISE

the Lord for:

- ★ The ongoing harvest of souls coming to know Jesus through the use of the paper
- ★ The wonderful people God has led to partner with us from around the world
- ★ The ever growing outreach opportunities with the paper in prisons around the USA
- ★ Successful trip thus far to USA for Carl and John. Due back in Perth early April. Continue to pray for their safety and health as they have been on the road since February 24th

So it is with the gospel, where we have the one and only cure for the awful cancer of sin. The sad thing is that we are not grabbed by the urgency of making known this cure.

However, we must not forget that what we have to share **IS** good news. So over the coming months we will look at a few things to assist us to gossip the gospel ... clearly, appropriately and effectively.

1. WALK NEEDS TO MATCH YOUR TALK v14-15

Amazing things were happening as the fledgling church started it's journey. There were strange noises, divided tongues of fire and people speaking in tongues, languages unlearned. The reaction of doubters was to accuse Peter and his fellow labourers of having too much to drink. Peter



was quick to refute that he and the other believers were intoxicated, giving testimony as a transformed man of what was happening.

- Sharing your testimony can give you an important starting point. Your testimony should be kept simple. It does not need to be a minute-by-minute account of your story.
- Your story needs to be relevant and can be changed to fit into the occasion. Paul did this at least three times in the book of Acts. Your story should always point to Jesus, and how He drew you to Himself.
- Your testimony should present the gospel clearly. We might use words like repent, grace, salvation and the like, but need to understand that what we are communicating may not have clarity.

Continued over

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PRAYER

needed for:

- ★ Our partner organisations around the world. Pray the relationship will deepen and be more effective in the development of the paper
- ★ Our team here in Australia as we work together and seek God's direction for each edition we produce
- ★ Our July Impact Africa team stands at 14 and we would love to have at least 28 which allows for varied ministry while in South Africa
- ★ Our Board as they look at future projects both overseas and locally.

We often witness with our lives before we witness with our lips. So our lives need to be marked by authenticity and credibility. Put simply BE REAL. When we talk about our walk matching our talk we need our actions to be in sync with our words.

2. LEARN TO USE THE BIBLE V16-21

Romans 10v17 tells us; "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." The Word of God is critical to our effectiveness in witnessing.

Peter presents scripture. After clarifying what was happening to inaugurate the New Testament church, he moves to scripture to explain what was happening. Peter quotes from the Book of Joel as to the prophecy of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

He declares the relevance of God's Word by quoting the Old Testament. It is as if he is saying that just in case his audience thinks the day's happenings holds no relevance, well here is the accurate prophecy in the Old Testament.

When witnessing it is so important to use relevant scripture.

Use of scripture does not need a seminary degree, but discipline is important. When witnessing it is good to have relevant scriptures memorised. This allows us to include the Word of God in our conversation with the person we are speaking to.

Now you may find memorising verses difficult, so instead mark gospel verses you want to use. Perhaps get the person you are sharing with to read the relevant scriptures to help them grasp what it is you are trying to communicate.

Some Christians may feel more at ease using gospel tracts such as the *Four Spiritual Laws* or *Bridge to Life*. Other ways of using scripture can be through books, emails, websites, CDs and DVDs and of course conversations.

Our sharing is made more effective by presenting the Word of God. Hebrews 4:12 reads: "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart".

{ CARL CARMODY
EDITOR CHALLENGE }

To be continued



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