



GO Team Training Manual

Gospel Outreach International



Gospel Outreach International



“Reaching the World in this Generation”

How to make the most of this manual:

This manual has been put together to help equip people to share the Gospel and train others to do the same. To make the most of this resource please read through each section systematically and apply it to your own life first. Once you are actively sharing the Gospel yourself you can begin to train others. It is best to start with just a few trainees. By teaching others you are beginning the process of multiplication found in 2 Timothy 2:2. The potential of this is incredible!

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Section One

Vision and Strategy

Vision

“To help reach the World with the Gospel in this Generation through multiplication”

Strategy

1. Provide culturally relevant evangelism resources
2. Train Christians around the world to use the resources effectively and equip them to train others
3. Set up teams who are equipped to saturate their town/city with the Gospel message through outreaches

The Bible says:



“How, then, can people call on someone they have not believed? And how can they believe in someone they have not heard about? And how can they hear without someone preaching?”

~Romans 10:14

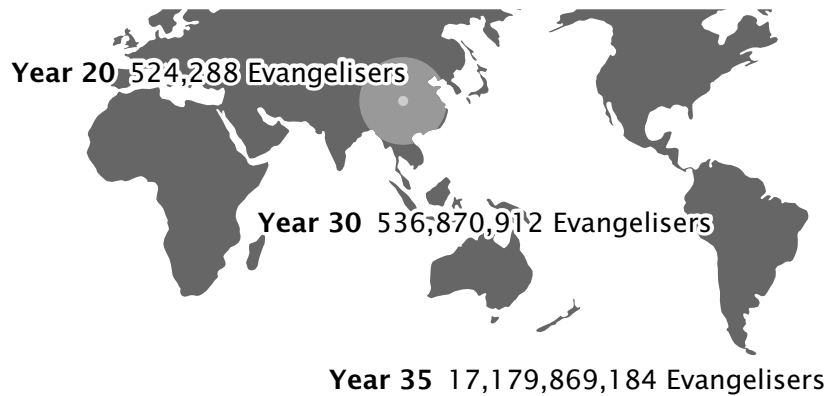
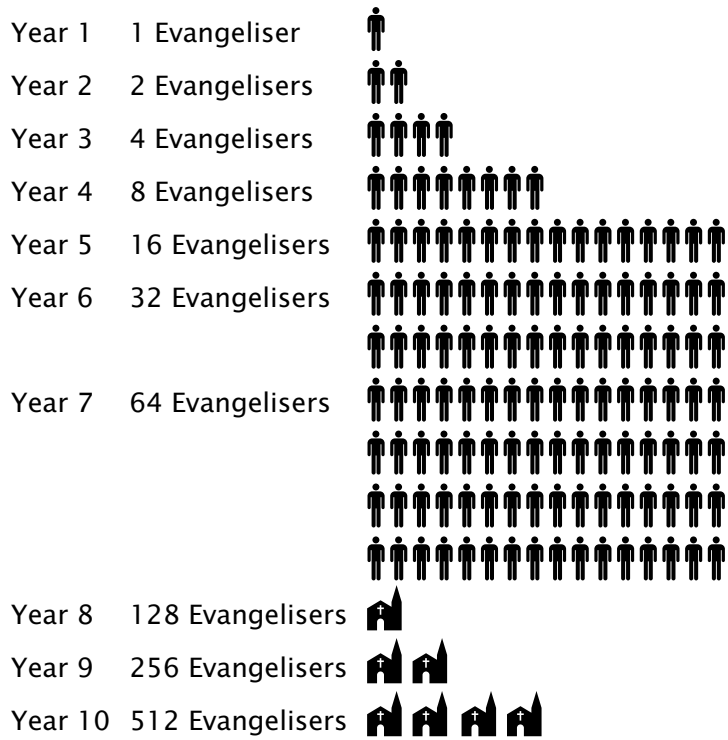
As a ministry we want to help reach people with the Gospel message clearly and graciously.

With this in mind...

We have produced a range of evangelism resources to help Christians reach the lost. The resources include Gospel tracts, one on one evangelism tools, a flip chart and a multi media presentation.

We are seeking to equip and train Christians in every town/city to use these tools effectively to reach the lost with the Gospel message. Those who have been trained will seek to train and equip others who will help saturate their region with the Gospel. The power and potential of this multiplication is incredible...

The Power of Multiplication!



Section Two

Spreading the Gospel with Tracts

Why use Gospel tracts?

1. The main reason to use tracts is that God works through them to save people.
2. Tracts can get inside homes and stay there. You can't.
3. Tracts never lose their temper or become involved in arguments.
4. Tracts never flinch or show cowardice.
5. Tracts can stick to the point without compromising.
6. Tracts never get discouraged.
7. Tracts are willing to travel anywhere.
8. Tracts can work 24 hours per day.
9. Tracts are not expensive.
10. Tracts can be read many times over.
11. Tracts contain portions of Scripture, which God will use and bless (Isaiah 55:10, 11).

What can I do with Gospel tracts?

1. Leave in phone booths.
2. Put in greeting cards.
3. Give to attendant at fast food drive through.
4. Put on car windows in parking lots.
5. Leave on sitting areas of shopping malls.
6. Pass out door to door.
7. Stick up on bulletin boards.
8. Put in pockets of used clothing given away.
9. Display in church foyer, on tables at the exits
10. Pass out at parades, festivals, and special events.
11. Leave in city parks on benches, etc.
12. Leave at funeral homes.
13. Hand out at stadium entrances, etc.
14. Mail out to names in a telephone book.
15. Leave in Laundromats.
16. Give to attendants at garages, etc.
17. Leave in motel rooms (in the drawers, telephone book)
18. Leave in glove compartment of car you test drive.
19. Give to students at Sunday school.
20. Include in bills paid by mail.
21. Slip in pump handles at self-serve gas stations.
22. Hand to store employees, check-out clerks.
23. Leave in returned library books.
24. Put in magazines in waiting rooms.
25. Send to relatives/ friends.
26. Put in correspondence to prisoners, etc.
27. Leave in bank where deposit slips are.
28. Leave in restrooms at restaurants, etc.
29. Leave with tip in restaurants.

Section Three

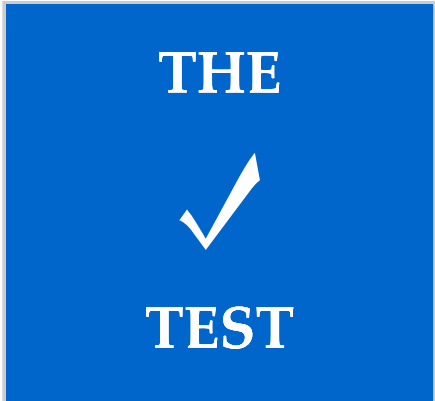
Sharing the Gospel with 'The Test'

Why use 'The Test' tool?

1. The Test concept connects with people
2. It contains diagrams and pictures which helps understanding
3. It uses plain everyday language
4. It is a simple way of starting a conversation with someone
5. It is easy to learn
6. It is not too long
7. It is theologically accurate
8. It honours God
9. It can be easily taught to someone else for multiplication
10. It helps keep the conversation on track
11. It lowers the intensity for both the person sharing and the person listening as the tool is the focus
12. It is engaging
13. It gives a balanced message of law and grace
14. It can be practiced and used over and over again
15. It helps build confidence as you know what to say and where the conversation is heading
16. It includes a link to the Questions of Life website which answers commonly asked questions
17. It contains the most explosive message on earth (The Gospel)

Sample script for 'The Test' picture tool

Hi there, have you done the test yet?



Hold up the cover of the laminated booklet.

It's the good person test, it only takes a few minutes and you just have to be honest.

First question:

Do you consider yourself to be a good person?

OK, here's The Test... just be honest...

Open booklet to the test page and read the questions out.

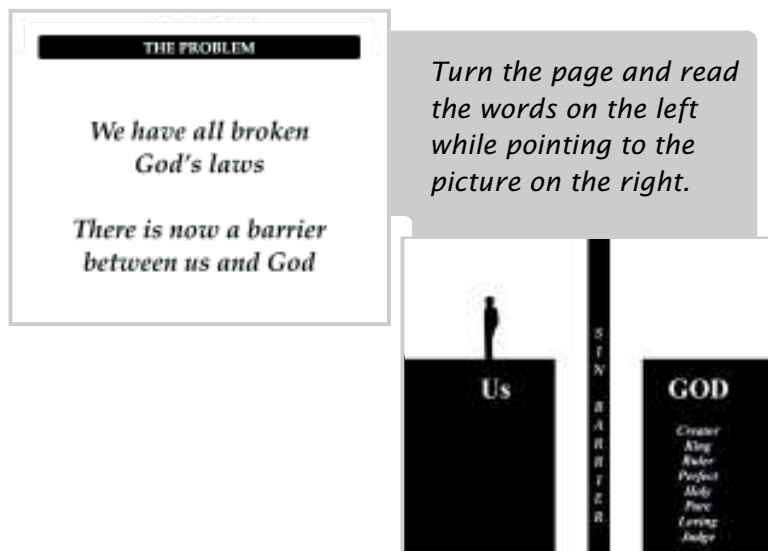


Now you may know this but we have just looked at 5 of the Ten Commandments.

Have you heard of the Ten Commandments?

Sadly, if I'm honest with you I also have to tick all the boxes, I'm no better than you.

So here's the problem...



“We have all broken God’s laws”, “All of us are guilty”.

When we break God’s laws we are saying to God that we don’t respect Him and want to live for ourselves. Because of this attitude there is now a big barrier between us and God.

Turn the page.

“If this barrier remains up at death there is only one place left for you... Hell”.

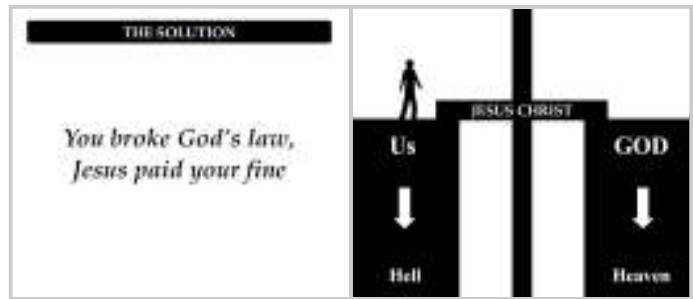
It is a tragic place and is what you and I deserve...

Point to the barrier and the word 'Hell' as you mention each.



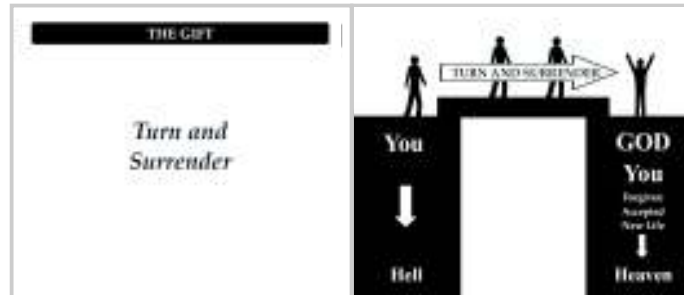
That's the bad news but here's the Good News...

Turn the page.



Even though you deserve Hell God wants to forgive and save you. To do this He sent his Son Jesus Christ to the earth. Jesus lived a perfect life and then died on a cross to take the punishment we deserve on Himself, we broke the law and Jesus paid our fine. 3 days after He died He rose to life again, removed the barrier and made a bridge for us to cross over back to God.

Turn the page.



To cross the bridge you simply have to do two things.

Firstly, be willing to turn away from what you know is wrong. You won't be perfect but you need to turn away from those things that offend God.

Secondly, surrender yourself to Jesus, ask Him to forgive you and enter your life. When you do this He takes you from this side to the other side. You can't cross over yourself, only Jesus can get you across.

Turn the page.



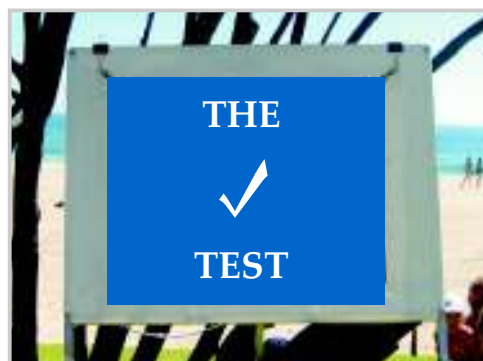
Last question, **If you die tonight, what side would you be on?**

“Would you like to turn and surrender to Jesus right now?”

Section Four

Sharing the Gospel with the 'Flip Chart'

Excuse me, have you done the test yet?



*Point at
'The Test'
cover page.*

It's the good person test, it only takes a few minutes and you just have to be honest.

First question: **Do you consider yourself to be a good person?**

OK, here's the Test... just be honest...

*Turn the cover page over
to show the first picture*



This first picture has two parts to it. The first is a picture, the second is a word.

Can you see the picture? (*a face*)

Can you see the word? (*the word is 'liar'*)

The question for you is **“Have you ever told a lie?”**

If they answer Yes...

Say that you too have told a lie, **and what does that make us? Liars.** It's not very nice, but it's true.

Next picture...

*Point at
their image*



What do you think this picture is conveying? That's right, theft.
Have you ever stolen anything (the value is irrelevant)?

If they answer Yes...

Say that you too have stolen something in your life (if you have) **and what does that make us? Thieves.**

Turn to the next image



Last picture. You can see that this person is very angry.
Have you ever been angry and hated someone, even for a moment in time?

If they answer Yes...

...explain to them that the Bible says if we hate someone in our heart **we are murderers at heart.**

Ok, we have only looked at three of the Ten Commandments.
The question is...

“If God judges you by the standard of the Ten Commandments when you die would you be innocent or guilty?”

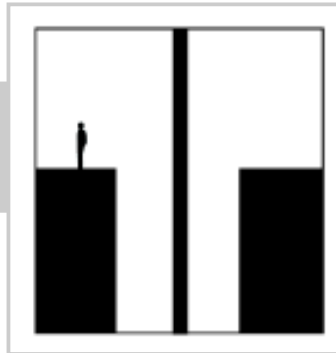
You would be guilty and so would I.

So here's the problem...

Turn the page and point to the diagram on the top left of the page.

“We have all broken God’s laws”, “All of us are guilty”...

Point to image of person on diagram



When we break God’s laws we are saying to God that we don’t respect Him...

Point to box on other side of the diagram.

...and want to live for ourselves.

Because of this attitude there is now a big barrier between us and God.

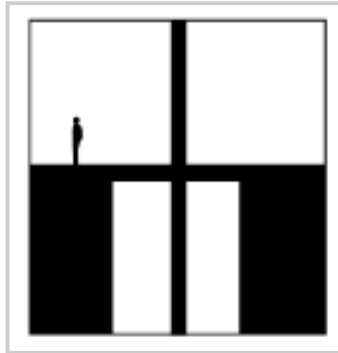
Point to the barrier.

“If this barrier remains up at death there is only one place left for you...Hell”.

It is a tragic place and is what you and I deserve.

That’s the bad news but here’s the Good News...

Turn to the second diagram...



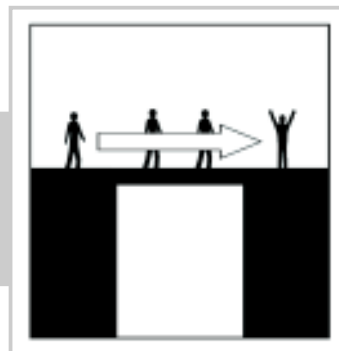
Even though you deserve hell God wants to forgive and save you. To do this He sent his Son Jesus Christ to the earth. Jesus lived a perfect life and then died on a cross...

Point to the cross on the diagram.

...to take the punishment we deserve on Himself, we broke God's law and Jesus paid our fine. Three days after He died He rose to life again, removed the barrier and made a bridge for us to cross over back to God.

Point to barrier and bridge on the second diagram...

...then go to the third diagram at the bottom left of the page.



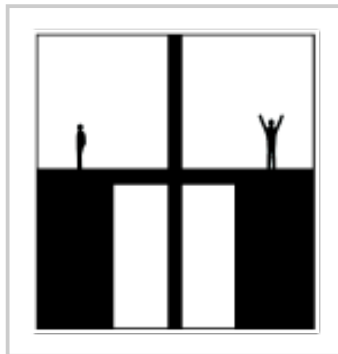
To cross the bridge you simply have to do two things. Firstly, be willing to turn away from what you know is wrong. You won't be perfect but you need to turn away from those things that offend God.

Secondly, surrender yourself to Jesus, ask Him to forgive you and enter your life. When you do this He takes you from this side to the other side.

You can't cross over yourself, only Jesus can get you across.

Point to the diagram as you explain this then go to the last diagram at the bottom of the page.

Last question,
if you died tonight, what side would you be on?



“Would you like to turn and surrender to Jesus right now?”

Section Five

Keys To Good Communication

Practice, Practice, Practice!

There is nothing that can take the place of practice. Learning any skill takes time and effort so it should be no surprise that learning to share the Gospel will require work. Unfortunately, there is no shortcut, magic pill or special prayer that will take the place of good old hard work and commitment. The more you practice the more comfortable and confident you will be when you share with someone 'live'. The better you know the presentation the more you can focus on the person you are sharing with.

Be Prepared

Before approaching someone to share the Gospel make sure you have everything you need (laminated booklet open to the right page and follow up booklet). The laminate should be clean and the follow up booklet in good condition (not bent, creased etc).

Breath and Body Odour

These are basic considerations but if they are neglected the effect is disastrous. The chance of someone staying and listening to us if we have bad breath or body odour is remote at best. By keeping some chewing gum handy and applying deodorant we can avoid these issues.

Appearance

There are times when we may be turned away from speaking with someone because we are not presented in an appropriate way. It is important to look as 'normal' as possible. We might like wearing multi coloured flared pants with a pink shirt but if we are trying to reach businessmen with the Gospel it will cause problems. Dressing in a similar way to those you are wanting to communicate with increases the chance of them staying to listen.

Choosing the right situation to share

Not everyone is going to be suitable for a one on one encounter. A large part of making sure we have a good encounter with someone is simply to choose a good time to share with them. A good opportunity would include the following:

- The person looks like they have time on their hands
- They are not surrounded by others who could overhear the conversation
- There is room to sit next to them
- They are not preoccupied watching children, sports etc
- There is not a lot of noise around so they can hear clearly
- There is enough space around them so they don't feel trapped

Body Language

Basic etiquette is important when sharing the Gospel. Respecting a person's space is another way of helping them feel at ease. When approaching a person it's important to give them time to see you coming by getting eye contact early and starting with a greeting from a distance. Once the initial contact is made you can position yourself closer so they can see the booklet.

Tone of voice

Our tone of voice plays an important role in making the person feel comfortable. By being gentle and relaxed we can help put them at ease. If our speech is as natural as possible we increase the chance of the person connecting with us and staying to listen.

Angle of the booklet

We must remember that the booklet is primarily for the benefit of those we are sharing the Gospel with. They must be able to see it clearly so make sure the angle is towards them.

Intensity Level


By trying to connect with a person's emotional level we will better be able to communicate to them i.e. someone who is a bit hyperactive will need us to speak a little quicker and be a bit more expressive than someone who is just chilled out and may prefer we speak a little slower and come across relaxed.

Speed of Delivery

Ideally, we want to be able to work through the Gospel message in a way that flows, without stops and starts etc. This can only happen through practice. Once a person senses that the presentation is moving along and won't take all day they will be much more relaxed and ready to listen.

Eye Contact

Eye contact is important when you first approach the person and when you say goodbye but should be kept at a minimum during the Gospel presentation. By keeping your eyes on the booklet and only making eye contact occasionally with the person you're speaking to you minimise the intensity and increase the chance of the person concentrating on the presentation and hearing the message.

 Which of the keys do you need to improve on?

Section Six

GO Outreaches and GO Teams

GO Outreaches Goal

“The goal of the GO Outreaches is to saturate an area with the Gospel message. We want everyone to receive the Gospel through a tract or hear it clearly through a one on one presentation or flip chart.”

GO Teams Goal

“We want to set up a GO Team in every town/city. GO Teams offer training and the opportunity for others to set up further outreaches in their area.”

GO Outreach Checklist (Beginners)



How many of these can you complete during the GO Outreach?

- I turned up for the outreach.
- I prayed that God would guide and work through me today.
- I watched someone share the Gospel one on one.
- I watched someone share the Gospel using a flip chart.
- I prayed for those who were reached with the Gospel.
- I signed up for training.

I left a tract...

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> On an ATM machine | <input type="checkbox"/> In a letter box |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In a phone booth | <input type="checkbox"/> With a person |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In a bus stop | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In a returns slot | |

To find out more about our training program:

Email: info@gospel-outreach.org

GO Outreach Checklist (Advanced)



How many of these can you complete during the GO Outreach?

- I turned up for the outreach.
- I prayed that God would guide and work through me today.
- I shared the Gospel with someone one on one.
- I shared the Gospel using a flip chart.
- I prayed for those who were reached with the Gospel.
- I took a new evangelist with me and helped train them.

I left a tract...

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> On an ATM machine | <input type="checkbox"/> In a letter box |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In a phone booth | <input type="checkbox"/> With a person |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In a bus stop | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In a returns slot | |

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Section Seven

Personal Disciplines and Accountability

“Means to an end, not an end in themselves.”

“Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.”

NSAB

Throughout the New Testament we are told that we can do nothing of spiritual value in our own strength.

Jesus highlights this truth in John 15:1-8 where he says in verse 5 “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”

While it is true that we can perform all sorts of ‘good’ works in our own strength (including evangelism) and look very spiritual in the process, Jesus says unless we are intimately connected to him and allowing the Holy Spirit to control our lives we are unable to produce true spiritual fruit. With this truth in mind, the following disciplines are not to be an end in themselves but a means to an end - a closer, more intimate relationship with God... Father, Son and Spirit.

Bible Reading



“Man does not live on bread alone, but every word that comes from the mouth of God.”
~*Mathew 4:4*

This is one of the fundamental practices of the Christian life. If we want to know God's will for us there is no better place to start than the Bible.

By reading and obeying it consistently we will become much more effective in our witness as our lives become more like Jesus Christ. The Bible has been described as spiritual food for the Christian so we must make sure we are having regular 'meals' if we want to be spiritually strong and stand up to the attacks the enemy throws at anyone who wants to share the Gospel.



Set goals and outline a Bible reading plan you will commit to:

Nutrition



“...so you must honour God with your body.”

~1 Corinthians 6:20

What we eat has a big effect on how we feel, our energy levels and our mood etc. A good balanced diet is essential to have a healthy body and mind which we need if we want to maintain a consistent evangelistic lifestyle.

It is recommended that we take at least 5 or more servings of fruit/vegetables daily, drink plenty of water (6-8 glasses), avoid high sugar/fat foods (sweets, cake, takeaways etc) and generally eat a healthy/balanced diet. Just like a car, our body needs to be well maintained and given enough good fuel to keep going. If you want to know more about having a healthy/balanced diet please visit your local nutritionist.



List ways you could improve your diet. What foods do you need to cut out/add?

Exercise



“For physical training is of some value...”
~1 Timothy 4:8

Regular exercise has proven to prevent many of the diseases we face today. It helps strengthen the heart, increases circulation, flushes out waste, improves our immune system and generally increases our energy levels and quality of life.

If we want to be active in ministry for a long period of time exercise is a key. If you haven't exercised in a while a good brisk walk for 30min 3x a week would be a good start (you could distribute tracts in letter boxes on your way). At least 30min of activity that gets your heart pumping (jogging, weights, sports etc) 4 times a week is ideal.



Set goals and outline an exercise plan you will commit to:

Integrity



“Choose a good reputation over great riches, for being in high esteem is better than having silver or gold.” ~Proverbs 22:1

This has been described as “What a person is when the lights go out”. In other words what a person does when no one else is watching is who they really are.

We all want to be people that are genuine, transparent and real. One way of making sure we become these people is through accountability. The graph on the following page is one example of an accountability system you could use. Remember this is not to be legalistic but simply a tool to help you. Feel free to print off copies.



Set goals and outline an integrity plan you will commit to:


Accountability Report

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Bible							
Prayer							
Outreach							
Exercise							
Health							
Integrity							

A shaded square signifies that I've completed that discipline for the day.

Examples:

- Bible Have read at least 4 chapters during the day
- Prayer Have spent time in thoughtful prayer
- Outreach Have shared the Gospel message with someone
- Exercise Have spent at least 20 minutes exercising
- Health Have had a fruit / vege shake during the day
- Integrity Have avoided immorality (TV, Internet, DVDs)



Who could you ask to be your accountability partner? Are there other disciplines or areas you want to be held accountable for?

Section Nine

Apologetics and Key Scriptures

Answers to commonly asked questions

"I don't believe in God; prove to me that God exists"

Do you see that building over there (point to a building), have you ever met the builder to that building?...no. Do you agree that it was built by a builder?...yes. Do you know of any building that didn't have a builder?...no. Have you ever seen a painting that didn't have a painter?...no. As I look out on the complexity and beauty of Creation, I am compelled by common sense and logic that it was created. Building-BUILDER, Painting-PAINTER, Creation-CREATOR. There is no question as to whether or not God exists, as everything made has a maker. The fact of the existence of the Creator is axiomatic (self-evident). That's why the Bible says, "The fool has said in his heart 'There is no God'" (Psalm 14:1). The professing atheist denies the common sense given to him by God, and defends his belief with the thought that the "Who made God?" question can't be answered. This, he thinks gives him license to deny the existence of God.

"If God gives me some 'sign,' then I will believe."

The unsaved often want a "sign" from God. Highlight to them the signs God has already given to them...the testimony of creation, their conscience, the Bible and the fact that you (a Christian) are sharing with them at that time/place.

"Who made God?"

There is no question as to whether or not God exists. Every building has a builder. Everything made has a maker. The fact of the existence of the Creator is axiomatic (self-evident). That's why the Bible says, "The fool has said in his heart 'There is no God'" (Psalm 14:1). The professing atheist denies the common sense given to him by God, and defends his belief with the thought that the "Who made God?" question can't be answered. This, he thinks gives him license to deny the existence of God. The question of who made God can be answered by simply looking at space and asking the question, "Does space have an end?" Obviously, it doesn't. If there is a brick wall with "The End" written on it, the question arises, "What is behind the brick wall?" Strain the mind though it may, we have to believe (have the faith) that space has no beginning and no end. Exactly the same applies with God. He has no beginning and no end. He is "eternal."

"Doesn't the 'Big Bang' theory disprove Genesis?"

Try and think of any explosion that has produced order. Does a terrorist bomb create harmony? Does a car explosion result in a shining new Ferrari? Big bangs cause chaos. How could a big bang produce a rose, apple trees, fish, sunsets, the seasons, hummingbirds, polar bears - thousands of birds and animals, each with its own eyes, nose and mouth?

Here's an interesting experiment: Empty your garage of every piece of metal, wood, paint, rubber and plastic. Make sure there is nothing there. Nothing. Then wait for ten years and see if a Mercedes evolves. Try it. If it doesn't appear, leave it for 20 years. If that doesn't work, try it for 100 years. Then try leaving it for 10,000 years. Here's what will produce the necessary blind faith to make the evolutionary process believable: leave it for 250 million years.

"New scientific revelations about supernovas, black holes, quarks, and the big bang even suggest to some scientists that there is a 'grand design' in the universe." (U.S. News & World Report, March 31, 1997). A child can see that there is "grand design" in Creation.

"Seeing is believing. If I can't see it, I don't believe it exists."

We believe in many things that we can't see. Ask a skeptic if he has ever seen the wind? Has he seen history? Has he ever seen his brain? We see the effects of the wind, but the wind is invisible. We have records of history, but it is by "faith" we believe that certain historical events happened. Television waves are invisible, but an antenna and a receiver can detect their presence. The unregenerate man has a "receiver." However, the receiver (his spirit) is dead because of sin (see Ephesians 2:1). He needs to be plugged into the life of God, and then he will come alive and be aware of the invisible spiritual realm.

"There is no absolute truth. You cannot be sure of anything!"

Those who say that there are no absolutes are often very adamant about their belief. If they say that they are absolutely sure, then they are wrong because their own statement is an absolute statement. If they are not 100% sure, then there is a chance that they are wrong and they are risking their eternal salvation by trusting in a belief that could be wrong.

"When you are dead, you are dead."

What if you are wrong? What if God, Jesus, the prophets, the Jews, and Christians are right and you are wrong? If there is no afterlife, no Judgment Day, no Heaven and no Hell, then God is unjust and each of the above are guilty of being false witness. It means that Almighty God couldn't care less about the fact that a man rapes a woman, then cuts her throat and is never brought to justice. If you are right, and there is no ultimate justice, you won't even have the joy of saying, "I told you so." However, if you are wrong, you will lose your soul and end up eternally damned. You are playing Russian roulette with a fully loaded gun.

"Why is there suffering? That proves that there is no 'loving' God."

1. Let's face it - most of the suffering around the world is caused by people. Why is there starvation and death in so many countries? It is because of selfish people who are not prepared to share their wealth with the needy. How much of your money have you given to a needy person lately? Why don't you sell what you have and give it to the poor if you are so concerned about them? We shouldn't blame God; we need to look at ourselves.

2. The Scriptures inform us that we live in a fallen creation. In the beginning, God created man perfect and he lived in a perfect world, without suffering. It was Heaven on earth. When sin came into the world, death and misery came with it. However, this is not the end of the story. God promises a new Heaven and a new earth. In that coming Kingdom there will be no more pain, suffering, disease or death. We are told that no eye has ever seen, nor has any ear heard, neither has any man's mind ever imagined the wonderful things that God has in store for those who love Him.

3. Draw a line. Explain that if this line represents eternity and you place a dot on the line representing a persons life it would not even register. Compared to eternity our lives are incredibly brief. However, our brief time on earth decides where we will spend eternity (with or without God). God wants all people to turn to Him while they are alive but knows that for some people the only way He can get through to them is to allow suffering to occur in their life to make them realise their need of God and repent. At times it is God's mercy that allows us to suffer if ultimately we turn to Him. CS Lewis said "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

4. There is a real devil and demonic forces at work in the world. They are focussed on destruction.

"I think you are intolerant to say that Jesus is the only way to God; are all the other religions wrong?"

1. Jesus was the One who said that He was the only way to God. For Christians to say that there are other ways to find peace with God is to bear false testimony. In one sweeping statement, He discards all other religions as a means of finding forgiveness of sins. This is in line with other Scriptures: "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12), "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5).

2. All religious beliefs cannot be true as they vary so much. While appearing superficially the same they are at their core fundamentally different. You simply cannot be a Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Buddhist at the same time. We believe that the Christian world view (based on the Bible) is the truth.

"Why are there so many different religions?"

It has been well said that "religion" is man's way of trying to deal with his guilt. Different religions have different ways of attempting to rid themselves of sin and its consequences. They fast, pray, deny themselves legitimate pleasures or chasten themselves, often to a point of inflicting pain. This happens because they have a conception of what they think God (or "the gods") is like. They then go about establishing their own righteousness, being "ignorant of the righteousness which is of God." The "Good News" of the Christian faith is that no one need suffer the pains of religious works. The blood of Christ can cleanse our conscience from the "dead works" of religion (Hebrews 9:14). Jesus took our punishment upon Himself, and He is the only One who can save us from sin and death. See Acts 4:12.

"Are you saying that Christians are better than non-Christians?"

The Christian is no better than the non-Christian, but he is infinitely better off. It is like two men on a plane. One is wearing a parachute and the other is not. One is not better than the other, but the man with the parachute on is certainly better off than the man who is not wearing a parachute. The difference will be seen when they jump. Jesus warned that if we "jump" into death without Him, we would perish.

Our great problem is a law that is even harsher than the law of gravity. It is the Law of an infinitely holy and just Creator. The Scriptures warn us, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God." They tell us that we are His enemies. The truth is that of all the different opinions out there, they cannot all be right. (There has to be something that is true and Jesus said He was the Way, the Truth and the Life and that no-one comes to the Father except through Him.)

"Religion has caused more wars than anything else in history."

It is true that man has used religion for political gain. Hitler had "God with us" engraved on the belts of Nazi soldiers. America said, "Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition." The law may even allow you to start the Christian Nazi Party, if you so desire. You can become a "reverend" for a few dollars through the tabloid classifieds and then further your political agenda with the world's blessing, no matter how much it smears the name of Christ.

If Jesus told His followers to love their enemies, and someone puts a knife into someone's back in the name of Christianity, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that something isn't quite right. If we human beings can detect it, how much more will God? He will deal with it on Judgment Day.

"What about all those people who have never heard the Gospel? Will they all go to Hell because they haven't heard about Jesus Christ?"

1. God wants people to be saved far more than anyone else (including the person asking you the question). He has numerous ways of reaching out to people who have yet to hear the Gospel (missionaries, dreams/visions etc) so there will be no-one on judgement day with an excuse. As for you, have you committed to Jesus?
2. No one will go to Hell because they haven't heard of Jesus Christ. People will go to Hell for murder, rape, adultery, lust, theft, lying, etc. Sin is not failing to hear the Gospel, "sin is transgression of the Law" (1 John 3:4). If we really care about them, we will become missionaries and take the good news of God's forgiveness in Christ to them.

Arguments against the theory of evolution...

1. Something cannot come out of nothing. The most common evolutionary theory for the origin of the universe is the Big Bang theory. The logical fallacy behind this is that it means that in the beginning there was nothing and then nothing exploded. Where did the cosmic dust / energy which exploded in the Big Bang come from? Nothing cannot explode.
2. Order does not come out of chaos. Our universe is not random and chaotic. Our earth is perfectly balanced in its position in the Solar System to support life. Explosions create chaos and disorder. The implication of the Big Bang theory is that the universe is proceeding from disorder to order. The opposite is true. The Second Law of Thermodynamics says that the universe is becoming more random and disorganised, not more organised.

3. Life does not come out of non-life. The study of genetics is showing that even the most simple organisms have incredibly complex DNA. There is no possibility that life with the ability to reproduce itself could come out of an explosion or chemical reaction. Evolutionary scientists are coming up with more and more bizarre ideas for the origin of life, like the idea now being promoted on the BBC that simple life forms originated in distant parts of the universe, survived crossing the universe on the back of comets which then crashed into the earth and produced the life of this planet.

4. Complex life forms cannot have evolved. Evolutionary scientists, including Darwin himself, recognise that organs like the human eye are unbelievably complex. Darwin actually said that there is no possibility that the eye could have evolved. Richard Dawkins contradicts Darwin saying that it could have evolved over thousands of generations. But this raises a logical fallacy. While the eye was evolving the creature was blind. Blind humans cannot survive without the help of the sighted. So what happened for millions of years while the eye evolved? This argument applies to all evolutionary leaps. Without wings the average bird is not going to survive very long in the presence of the average cat. How did birds survive for millions of years while they evolved their wings? Until they had two perfectly functioning wings, the evolving wings would actually have been a hindrance not a help. Even more crucial is the reproductive system of different creatures. Think about the incredibly complex and diverse reproductive systems of birds, bees, butterflies to say nothing of humans. Every part of the system, both male and female, has to be functioning perfectly. If not, how many generations does the species have? One. It does not have millions of years to evolve the reproductive system. Either it works and the creature can reproduce itself for millions of generations. Or it does not work and the creature dies out after the first generation.

5. The missing fossil record: Despite the evidence being pathetic, even if you claim the title of World's Biggest Optimist, evolutionists still tell the story that once upon a time humans evolved from ape-like creatures.

Many years ago this argument seemed credible to a lot of people because there was so little hominid fossil evidence that it was easy to imagine evolutionary links everywhere.

But things have changed. Thousands of fossils and fossil fragments of apes and humans have now been found — and they don't show a steady progression from apes to humans at all. Fossils have been found in the wrong time-frames, put into the wrong categories before all the evidence was in, and what was once thought to be the ape-human family *tree* now actually has no trunk — just unconnected branches.

Because evolutionists can't change their theory, they are stuck with the evidence looking more confusing for them with each new hominid/homin/hominine fossil discovery. Instead of *clarifying* the alleged link between apes and humans, new fossil discoveries are making it *harder* to show which type of ape or ape-like creature evolved into a human.

Alternative view

We believe that the evidence is stronger for those who believe the Bible's account of Creation — that in the beginning God created the world and all the major types of creatures to reproduce “after their kind”.

Resources

Arguments against evolution were taken from the following:

[Http://www.creationtips.com/evoluwrong.html](http://www.creationtips.com/evoluwrong.html)

[Http://raymondjclements.wordpress.com/2011/03/21/4-reasons-why-evolution-cannot-be-true/](http://raymondjclements.wordpress.com/2011/03/21/4-reasons-why-evolution-cannot-be-true/)

General Questions: www.livingwaters.com and www.questionsoflife.com

Key scriptures for memorisation

GOD

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Psalms 19:1

Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. Revelation 4:11

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment."
Matthew 22:37-38

REBELLION

But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear. Isaiah 59:2

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,
Hebrews 9:27

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew 10:28

ATONEMENT

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” [John 3:16](#)

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”
[Luke 19:10](#)

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. [Romans 5:8](#)

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. [1 Peter 2:24](#)

But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. [Isaiah 53:5](#)

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, [1 Peter 3:18](#)

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. [2 Corinthians 5:21](#)

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. [John 3:36](#)

CONVERSION

Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” [John 3:3](#)

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, [John 1:12](#)

And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." [Acts 16:31](#)

Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [Romans 10:9](#)

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." [Romans 10:13](#)

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [Matthew 11:28](#)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." [John 14:6](#)

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." [Acts 4:12](#)

No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. [Luke 13:3](#)

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. [Isaiah 55:7](#)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. [1 John 1:9](#)

"Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." [Isaiah 1:18](#)

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](#)

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. Revelation 3:20

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

ETERNAL LIFE

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. John 10:10

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. John 6:37

Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:12-13

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, Romans 8:16

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. John 5:24

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. 2 Timothy 1:12

[Http://thisbreadalways.blogspot.com/2007/02/40-key-verses-for-evangelism.html](http://thisbreadalways.blogspot.com/2007/02/40-key-verses-for-evangelism.html)

Section Eight

The Multiplication Principle

Once you have applied the disciplines in Section Seven to your own life and are consistently living them out it is time to look to pass them on to others who will in turn be able to do the same. This principle of multiplication is found in 2 Timothy 2:2 where Paul says to Timothy

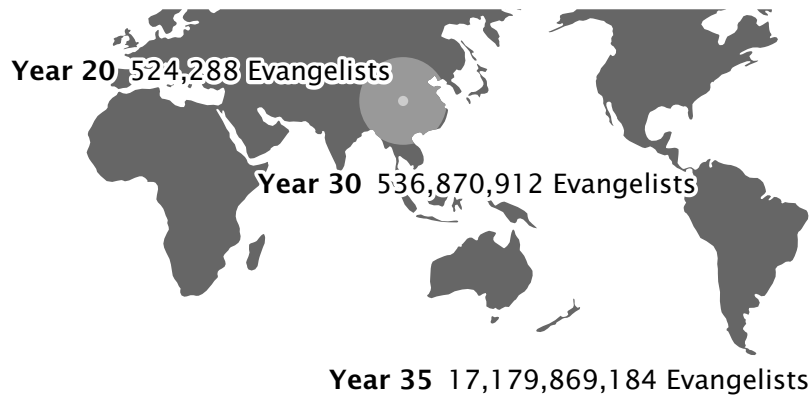
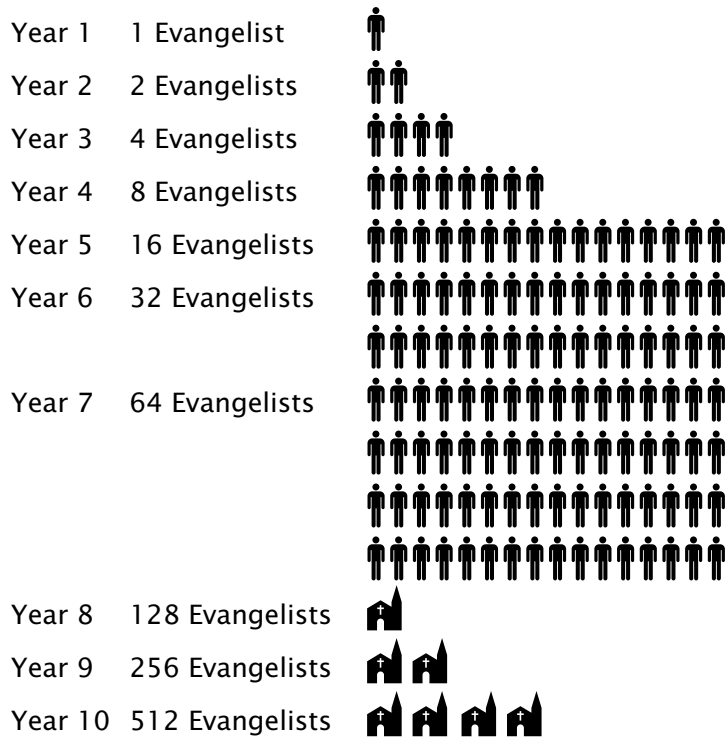


“You have heard me teach many things that have been confirmed by reliable witnesses. Teach these great truths to trustworthy people who are able to pass them on to others.” ~2 Timothy 2:2

The model on the following page reveals how powerful this principle of multiplication can be. It shows the effect of 1 evangelist training and equipping another Christian to share the Gospel over a 12 month period and then discipling that person to train someone else.

The existing evangelisers need only train one other Christian each over the following 12 month period for the process to continue. The outcome is staggering!

The Power of Multiplication!



Steps for Multiplication

Step 1: Become a GO Team Member

go
Gospel Outreach International

GO Team Member

AWARDED TO

CERTIFIED BY

DATED

go
Gospel Outreach International

🇺🇸 🇬🇧 🇩🇪 🇫🇷 🇸🇪 🇨🇦 🇦🇺 🇨🇦 🇨🇦

To become a GO Team Member you need to meet the following requirements...

1. Has taken part in at least 5 GO Outreaches
2. Has distributed Gospel tracts during the outreaches
3. Has shared the Gospel using 'The Test' tool
4. Has watched all of the GO International Training DVD
5. Has completed the GO International Training Manual
6. Has invited 5 people to participate in a GO Outreach
7. Has been mentored and certified by a GO Team Trainer

Step 2: Become a GO Team Trainer



The image shows a certificate form for becoming a GO Team Trainer. The background is blue with a world map. The logo 'go Gospel Outreach International' is in the top left. The title 'GO Team Trainer' is in the top right. The form has three input fields: 'AWARDED TO', 'CERTIFIED BY', and 'DATED'. A circular logo with the 'go' logo and 'Gospel Outreach International' text is on the left. At the bottom, there are icons for various countries: Australia, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Philippines, Sweden, Canada, South Africa, and Switzerland.

To become a GO Team Trainer you need to meet the following requirements...

1. Has taken part in at least 10 GO Outreaches
2. Is consistently distributing Gospel tracts
3. Has shared the Gospel with at least 50 people using 'The Test' tools
4. Has watched all of the GO International Training DVD
5. Has completed the GO International Training Manual
6. Has trained someone to become a GO Team member
7. Has been mentored and certified by a GO Team Leader

Step 3: Become a GO Team Leader



To become a GO Team Leader you need to meet the following requirements...

1. Has taken part in at least 25 GO Outreaches
2. Is consistently distributing Gospel tracts
3. Has shared the Gospel with at least 250 people using 'The Test' tools
4. Has watched all of the GO International Training DVD
5. Has completed the GO International Training Manual
6. Has trained 5 others to become GO Team Trainers
7. Has been mentored and certified by a GO Team Regional Leader

GO Team Member Verbal Test

Section One: Vision and Strategy

Please outline the basic vision and strategy for Gospel Outreach OZ

Section Two: Spreading the Gospel With Tracts

Please give 3 reasons why using tracts is effective

Please give 5 ways you can use tracts

Section Three: Sharing the Gospel using 'The Test' tool

Please give 10 reasons why we use 'The Test' tool

Section Four: Sharing the Gospel using the 'Flip Chart'

Please name the 3 photos that appear on the flip chart and what they represent

Section Five: Keys to Good Communication

Please name at least 5 keys to having good communication

Section Six: GO Outreaches and GO Teams

Please explain the goal of the GO Outreaches

Please explain the goal of the GO Teams

Section Seven: Disciplines and Accountability

Please name 5 keys disciplines and why they are important

Please explain the goal of all the disciplines and accountability

Section Eight: Apologetics and Key Scriptures

Please choose 3 commonly asked questions and give answers

Please share 3 key scriptures you have memorised

Section Nine: Multiplication Principle

Please explain the principle of multiplication

Section Ten: Motivation / Inspiration

What was the most motivating/inspiring story or testimony for you?

GO Team Member Practical Test

The following are key areas to focus on when sharing the Gospel after praying and preparing spiritually. To pass you must score at least 3 or more on each area...

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Be prepared | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| Breath and Body odour | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| Appearance | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| Choosing the right situation | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| Body language | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| Tone of voice | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| Angle of the booklet | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| Intensity level | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| Speed of delivery | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |
| Eye contact | <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> |

Section Nine

Motivation and Inspiration

Feedback Received From Outreach

This was sent through by text:

Hi im an alcoholic and a drug abuser. I hav lost all my friends and family becoz of my habits. I found your flyer an it gave me hope. I want 2 know god?

This is another text received:

I BLEIVE I WIL MAKE MY RECOMITMENT CHEERS PS I GO 2 WINDSOR PARK BAPTIST DROP BY

Hi Matt,

Okay, so someone else had been praying for his salvation, someone else must have sown, others have clearly been watering and lastly his mum brought him to the point of conversion. But I had the most incredible and un-deserved privilege of leading this guy through the gospel one more time and being with him as he repented, and put his trust, faith and hope in the Lord Jesus Christ! Hallelujah!

Cheers for the outreach pics. It was a blessed weekend!

David

Someone who used 'The Test' to share the Gospel...

"I asked him what his definition of a Christian was. He said he had no idea, so I whipped out the laminate and after I explained it to him he said that he wanted to ask Jesus into his life. He started crying as we prayed together and experienced the Holy Spirit. What an awesome night"

This was an interesting one...

I had sex b 4 marage with my boyfriend, & I got pregnant so I lied 2 my parents & had an aborshin. I feel reely guilty & I think that the only way that I cd get past this is 2 seek gods 4 givnes. I dont noe how 2 do this cos my familys not religus. I dont noe wat 2 do. Can u please help me?

"...just to let you know that I just shared 'The Test' with two 24year olds and another lady in her 30s. The first one hard, but asked me to share it with her friend. The friend gave her life to Jesus. The lady in her 30's went very sober and thanked me for sharing it with her, I could sense God all over her. She asked if she could think about it further. I just had the best morning doing this."

The following txt highlights why we must go to people with the Gospel and not wait for them to come to our church...

hey, my names kelly. I herd u speakn in Aotea 2day.lve neva been 2 chrch b4 but wot u sed realy intrestd me. So I was wonderin if u cud sugest a chrch 2 chek out

This response was to the point:

I want to find god

Had to laugh...

Hey dude, cud u do me a favor? Im trying2 quit smoking & I was wonderin if ud say a little prayer 4me. God bless, mat

These all came from the same person...

can I txt you later with some more questions I have 2 go 4 a little while

thanks so much 4 all your help! i will txt u again sometime it i have anymore questions. :)

hi its me again I was txtng u earlier about how i confused about religion, how do I givd my life 2 Jesus? Thanks 4 your help by the way.

This comes from an evangelist in Waikato:

I TOOK THE TRACTS YOU SENT ME TO FIELD-DAYS BECAUSE OAC WERE DOING AN OUTREACH. A GUY ON A STALL NEXT TO US TALKED WITH ONE OF OUR CREW AND RECEIVED ONE OF YOUR TRACTS. HE PRAYED THE PRAYER THAT EVENING AND WHEN I SAW HIM THE NEXT DAY HE SHOWED ME HIS WALLET IN WHICH HE HAD CUT OUT THE SINNERS PRAYER FROM YOUR TRACT AND WAS CARRING IT AROUND WITH HIM - PRAISE THE LORD. -BRETT

Hey matt. My name is chris, thank you for the 'test' booklet. I went through something similar and was brought to know God about 3 years ago and am loving the journey it has brought. Keep up the good work u r obviously doing - changing lives! God bless.

I work at Starbucks in Westgate. I was given a card and asked to kindly contact your organisation for feedback on this website. I am not a religious person myself but have an open mind to the world around me. I found the website very interesting and I will have to keep going back to get through all the reading. I have always asked myself; is god real? but most of all who is god? and why do so many people beleive in his good will? I now have answers and a bit more knowledge of the Bible itself.

Thank you for the great read and wish you and all your team the best of wishes.

Hey Matt,

I trust your doing well, just want to share with you of how God has used these tracks on this mission trip. We have 12 students who have made decisions to follow Christ in the last 2 weeks. They are now getting disciplined and getting connected to our local church. 1 particularly from Brazil has really been transformed its really powerful. His name is John. He said on Thursday 2 weeks ago he called out to God to show him direction in his life before he went into the drug business which is really dangerous... long story short...the next day our team from NZ had a BBQ on the Friday night next to the bar on campus and he came around to see what was happening and met us. I took him through the Aussie test and he responded that this is what he believes is what he always wanted for God to

change his life. I told him to count the cost after he said he was guilty for a few days that the following week, we preached the Gospel to him and he got saved. He's now in the Church and growing strong in the Lord. Thank you for all that you do Matt. Wanted to encourage you with that testimony. We are back in Auckland next week. God bless!!! Jarrett

Hey matt! Viv here, I'm the lady that u kindly gave a precious little book to at kfc last night. I want to thank u and ur girl-friend with all my heart. Yesterday was a very difficult day for me & u both with the lord made it real & put me back on the right path that I have missed for 20 years. I would love to attend your church this sunday, could you please send me the time & place could you also tell me your girl-friends name as her whole persona (hope I spelt that right) was amazing & im sorry the txt is so long but u two made a great indent on me & again I thank u both so much! Cheers!! Viv



Which responses did you relate to the most? Why?

The Fellowship of the Unashamed

by Dr. Bob Moorehead

In 1980 a young man from Rwanda was forced by his tribe to either renounce Christ or face certain death. He refused to renounce Christ, and he was killed on the spot. The night before he had written the following commitment which was found in his room:

“I’m part of the fellowship of the unashamed, the die has been cast, I have stepped over the line, the decision has been made- I’m a disciple of Jesus Christ. I won’t look back, let up, slow down, back away or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I’m finished and done with low living, sight walking, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed vision, worldly talking, cheap giving & dwarfed goals.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions are few, my guide is reliable, my mission is clear. I won’t give up, shut up, let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up for the cause of Jesus Christ.

I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till everyone knows, work till He stops me & when He comes for His own, He will have no trouble recognizing me because my banner will have been clear.”

St Francis of Assisi Controversy

Have you ever had someone look down on you for trying to communicate the Gospel using words? No doubt someone has 'quoted' "Preach the Gospel at all times. Where necessary, use words." This they say was spoken by St Francis of Assisi. The following article by Ray Comfort raises serious doubts about the authenticity of the heretical quote...

One hundred and fifty thousand children had been on the brink of starving to death, but thanks to the kind gift of a very generous billionaire, every child now had enough food to keep him alive. That gift had arrived in the form of one big check. The horror was now over. It was finished. It was just a matter of distributing the food using the few relief workers we had. Without them to get the food to the children, there would have been many more deaths.

Some days later, a frantic worker burst into the camp and cried, "Some of the relief workers have stopped distributing food. Masses of children are dying!"

Why would the workers stop when there was plenty of food? It didn't make sense. The distraught man said, "It's because one of them held up a sign that said, 'Feed the starving children. Where necessary, use food.' That has caused some of the workers to simply befriend the starving children without giving them food. It's insane!"

The first time I ever heard of Saint Francis of Assisi was back in 1965. It was during the surf movie "The Endless Summer." Four surfers who were chasing the sun discovered the perfect wave, at a place in South Africa called "Cape Saint Francis." The sight of the perfect wave excited me beyond words.

The Unspeakable Gift

The next time I heard of him was when I heard that he said “Preach the Gospel at all times. Where necessary, use words.” That statement upset me beyond words, because it was a philosophy that I knew sounded deeply spiritual . . . to those who were spiritually shallow. It made as much sense as “Feed starving children. Where necessary, use food.”

On 16 July 1228 Francis of Assisi was pronounced a saint by Pope Gregory IX. That’s a long time ago, so it’s a little late for questions, but if I could I would like to find out why anyone would say such a strange thing? Was it because he was fearful to use actual words to preach the truth of the Gospel? Or was it because he thought that people would see that he had good works and hear the message of salvation without a preacher, something contrary to Scripture’s “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” ([Romans 10:14](#)).

Whatever the case, 800 years since Francis we have many who profess faith in Jesus, and are no doubt using this popular philosophy to justify being speechless. To them salvation truly is an “unspeakable” gift.

Recently someone told me about a conference where 100,000 Christians gathered to worship God. When I asked if they were exhorted to go out and preach the Gospel to every creature, it was no surprise to me that they weren’t. Instead, they were exhorted to live a life of worship. Again, that sounds spiritual, but you can’t worship God without obedience to His Word, and His Word commands us to preach the Gospel to every creature.

I regularly meet those who think they can obey the Great Commission without using words. When they hear the Gospel preached that are usually offended and say things like, “I appreciate what you are saying, but I don’t like the way you are saying it.” With a little probing, they are the relationship folks, who think preaching the Gospel means building relationships with the lost, and never mentioning words like “sin,” “Hell,” and “Judgment Day.” They think that real love is to withhold the Bread of life from those that are starving to death. Remember that Jesus said, “Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and

sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels" (Mark 8:38, italics added).

According to the dictionary, a "sissy" is "a timid or cowardly person." From what I understand of Saint Francis, he was no sissy. He was a loving man who was not afraid to use words when he preached. He wasn't frightened to preach repentance to a sinful world. However, there have been times when I could have been called that name. I have felt the grip of fear and have wanted to drop words such as sin, Hell, repentance and Judgment Day when I have preached to sinners. I don't want to come across as being unloving or judgmental, but I fear God more than I fear man. So when God's Word tells me to use words, I use words, despite the consequences.

Listen to the Apostle Paul's sobering warning to his hearers: "Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God" (Acts 20: 26-27). Perhaps he spoke about being free from their blood because he was familiar with God Himself warning Ezekiel of his responsibility to warn his generation: "When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand." (Ezekiel 3:18, italics added).

When someone thinks that they can feed starving children and not use food, that's their business. But when their philosophy spreads throughout the camp, it becomes an unspeakable tragedy. If we become passive about the Great Commission because we are more concerned about ourselves than the eternal well-being of others, we may be able to hide our motives from man, but not from God. He warns, "Deliver those who are drawn toward death, and hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, 'Surely we did not know this,' does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?" (Proverbs 24:11-12).

Challenging Quotes

“The supreme purpose of every true Christian church, the chief duty of every Christian minister, the main responsibility of every Christian layman, is to present to all who maybe reached, in the clearest and most forceful way, the basic facts of the gospel of Christ, and to urge all who hear to make the definite personal response to these facts which God requires. To this, the supreme task, every other duty and activity of the church, must be secondary and subsidiary.”

~Derek Prince

"Have you noticed how much praying for revival has been going on of late - and how little revival has resulted? I believe the problem is that we have been trying to substitute praying for obeying, and it simply will not work. To pray for revival while ignoring the plain precept laid down in Scripture is to waste a lot of words and get nothing for our trouble. Prayer will become effective when we stop using it as a substitute for obedience."

~A.W. Tozer

"We Christians too often substitute prayer for playing the game. Prayer is good; but when used as a substitute for obedience, it is nothing but a blatant hypocrisy, a despicable Pharisaism . . . To your knees, man! and to your Bible! Decide at once! Don't hedge! Time flies! Cease your insults to God, quit consulting flesh and blood. Stop your lame, lying, and cowardly excuses. Enlist!"

~C.T. Studd

"God has placed you where He has placed no one else. No one else in the world has the same relationships you have. No one will stand in the same grocery store line at exactly the same moment you do. No one else will come across a starving diplomat in the desert at exactly the same time you do. God hasn't put you in those places merely to model the truth. Listen for the voice of the Spirit to whisper in your ear. Watch for the stranger on the road. And be aware of your opportunities to go where He would send you."

~Chuck Swindell

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can."

~John Wesley

"To sin by silence when they should protest, makes cowards out of men."

~Abraham Lincoln

"The salvation of a single soul is more important than the production or preservation of all the epics and tragedies in the world"

~C.S. Lewis

The Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became Man for no other purpose.

~C.S. Lewis

"Oh my friends, we are loaded down with countless church activities, while the real work of the church, that of evangelizing the world and winning the lost, is almost entirely neglected!"

~Oswald J. Smith

Expect great things from God. Attempt great thing for God."

~William Carey

"If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."

~C.T. Studd

"Some wish to live within the sound of Church or Chapel Bell. I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of Hell."

~C.T. Studd

This quote is from a famous speech by former United States president Theodore Roosevelt, it reads:

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

“Is This Your Life”

by General William Booth (1829 - 1912)
Founder of the Salvation Army

Editor's Note:

General Booth considered the following account to be a vision. If nothing else, it is definitely an illustrative story with biblical meaning that Christians of all generations can apply in their own lives - though any "implied teaching" in the story must only be received in light of Scriptural truth.

William Booth's Vision

In my vision I thought that so far as the world was concerned, Agur's prayer [from Proverbs] was answered in regard to me, for I had neither poverty nor riches. All my wants were supplied. I had leisure, and friends, and home, and all that was necessary to make me happy.

Then also, I thought that I was a Christian. Most of my close friends professed to be the same. We visited together at each other's homes, joined in amusements, business, politics and many other things. In short, we bought and sold, and married, and acted as though the world we were in were going to last forever.

In this vision I was one who was active in religious activities. In fact, I considered myself to be quite a shining light. I always attended church on Sunday and I taught in the Sunday school. Now and then, though not very often, I visited the sick. And in addition to these good deeds I gave a little money to support Christian work.

In all this I was quite sincere. I had no idea of playing the hypocrite. It's

true that I didn't stop to consider what Christianity really was, although I talked freely enough about it at times, and pitied people who didn't profess to be Christians.

I seldom, if ever, considered what Jesus Christ required. Nor was I very concerned about the lost, although I heard these matters occasionally discussed in my presence. I had gotten into a definite rut in thought and action and profession. And I went on from day to day, hoping that everything would turn out all right in the end.

But in my vision I thought that without any apparent warning a dangerous fever seized me. I became terribly sick all of a sudden. In fact, in just a few hours I was brought to the very brink of death. This was serious business, indeed. Everyone about me was in great confusion. And those who loved me were paralyzed with fear.

Some took action. The proper medicines were administered. There were consultations among several physicians. And the members of my family hurried to my side from far and near. Friends and acquaintances came.

I was given the best medical care possible - but all proved in vain.

I could feel that the medicines weren't helping. And yet I didn't feel anything very much. I don't know whether this was because of the suddenness of the sickness or the deadening character of the narcotics which the physicians gave me. But strangely enough I seemed to be the least disturbed person in the place.

I felt as though I were in a dream. I knew I was ill - dangerously ill - because a relative had insisted on my being informed of my real condition. And yet I was not disturbed about the fact. I thought I would recover.

Most people do, I suppose, until the hand of death is actually upon them.

And if I did not recover, I had no reason to be terribly concerned, because, wasn't I a Christian? Hadn't I been converted? Didn't I believe the Bible? Why should I fear?

And wasn't I continually hearing hymns being sung and prayers offered that I might be restored to health, and if not, that I might pass away without suffering, and have a good time of it in heaven?

But even so, disquieting thoughts did cross my mind - because I couldn't keep out questions that kept arising as to whether I had truly followed Jesus Christ and had done my duty to a perishing world with my time and influence, and money and family. And questions would come and go that were very difficult indeed to answer. Yet it was all in a dreamy way. How could it be otherwise, with the burning fever lapping up the vital current, and my brain all benumbed, and my energies laid prostrate.

So when I complained that I didn't have much joy or assurance, I quite naturally agreed readily to the suggestion that my condition prevented this. And I felt, moreover, that if I were not "ready" I had neither the time nor energy to begin so serious a business over again as the salvation of my soul. Besides, how could I confess that I had been mistaken all these years, and that my life had been a failure? No! It was too late, and I was too ill for any such confession.

One thing I could do, and that I did. I cast myself, with what force of soul I had left, on the mercy of my Savior. And again and again I repeated a verse which had always been a favourite of mine:

"I am a poor sinner, just nothing at all, But Jesus Christ is my all in all."

It was with this sentence on my lips - a sentence taken up and reproduced at my funeral service - that a cold numbness seemed to come creeping over me, and a great difficulty of breathing seized me. My friends were alarmed. I read it in their faces. Some prayed, while others wept. And my dear ones moistened my lips and kissed my brow.

Meanwhile a strange faintness seized me. I lost consciousness.

Entrance Into Heaven

My next sensation was altogether beyond description. It was the thrill of a new and celestial existence. I was in heaven.

After the first feeling of surprise had somewhat subsided, I looked around me, and took in the situation. It was way beyond anything of earth - positively delightful. And yet some of the more beautiful scenes and sounds and feelings of the world I had just left appeared to be repeated in my new experience in enchanting fashion. Still no human eyes ever beheld such perfection, such beauty. No earthly ear ever heard such music. No human heart ever experienced such ecstasy, as it was my privilege to see, hear, and feel in the celestial country.

Above me was the loveliest of blue skies. Around me was an atmosphere so balmy that it made my whole physical frame vibrate with pleasure. Flowing by the bank of roses on which I found myself reclining was the clearest and purest water of a river that seemed to dance with delight to its own murmurings. The trees that grew upon the banks were covered with the greenest foliage, and laden with most delicious fruit - sweet beyond all earthly sweetness. And by lifting up my hand I could pluck and taste.

In every direction above and around me the whole air seemed not only to be laden with the sweetest perfumes coming from the fairest flowers, but filled with the fairest forms. For, floating around me were beautiful beings whom I felt by instinct were angels and archangels, seraph and seraphim, cherub and cherubim, together with the perfect blood-washed saints who had come from our own world. They were sometimes far, and again coming nearer.

The whole sky at times seemed to be full of white-winged, happy, worshiping, joyous beings. And the whole country, apparently of limitless extent, was filled with a blissful ecstasy that could only be known by being experienced.

You may perhaps imagine my sensation. At first I was swallowed up with a sort of ecstatic intoxication, which feeling was immediately enhanced by the consciousness that I was safe, saved, to suffer and sin no more.

And then suddenly, a new set of feelings began to creep over me. Strange as it may seem, I felt somewhat lonely and a little sad, even in the midst of this infinite state of bliss. Because up to this moment I was alone. Not one of the bright beings who were soaring and singing in the bright ether above me, nor the ones who were hastening hither and thither, as though bent upon some high mission, had spoken to me or approached me.

I was alone in heaven! Then, in a still stranger and mysterious way, I appeared to feel in myself a sort of unfitness for the society of those pure beings who were sailing around me in indescribable loveliness. How could it be? Had I come there by mistake? Was I not counted worthy of this glorious inheritance? It was indeed a mystery.

An Evaluation Of My Life

My thoughts went back to earth. And all before me, as though unfolded by an angel's hand, the record of my past life was unrolled before my eyes. What a record it was! I glanced over it. And in a glance I seemed to master its entire contents - so rapidly, indeed, that I became conscious of a marvellous quickening of my intellectual powers. I realized that I could take in and understand in a moment what would have required a day with my poor, darkened faculties on earth.

With my quickened mind, I saw, to my delight, at that very first glance, that this register of my earthly existence - the Divine biography of my life - contained no record of any misdeeds before my conversion. Indeed, that part of my life seemed to be very much of a blank. I further perceived that neither was there any record of the sins I had done since that time. It was as though some friendly hand had gone through the roll and blotted out the record of the evil doings of my life. This was very gratifying. I felt like shouting praises to God, who had delivered me from the pain of having these things staring me in the face in this beautiful, holy land, among all these holy beings, where it seemed to me that the very memory of sin would defile.

Nevertheless, a further glance at my record appalled me, for there was written therein - leaving out, as I have said, the sins of commission - there was written the exact daily record of the whole of my past life! In fact, it went much deeper, because it described in full detail the object for which I had lived. It recorded my thoughts and feelings and actions - how and for what I had employed my time, my money, my influence, and all the other talents and gifts which God had entrusted me with to spend for His glory and for the salvation of the lost.

Every chapter of this record carried my thoughts back to the condition of the world I had left. And there came up before my eyes a vivid picture of its hatred for God, its rejection of Christ, its wickedness, with all the wretchedness and destitution and abomination. It utterly appalled me. Also into my ears there came a hurricane of cursing and blasphemy, and a wail of anguish and woe that stunned me.

I had seen these sights and had heard these sounds before, not too often, it is true, because I had hid myself from them. But now they blinded and stunned me. They appeared a million times blacker and more vile, more wretched and piteous, than they had ever seemed before!

I felt like putting my hands before my eyes, and my fingers in my ears to shut these things out from sight and hearing, so intensely real and present did they seem. They wrung my soul with sorrow and self-reproach, because on the "Record of Memory" I saw how I had occupied myself during the few years which I had been allowed to live amidst all these miseries, after Jesus Christ had called me to be His soldier. I was reminded how, instead of fighting His battles, instead of saving souls by bringing them to His feet, and so preparing them for admission into this lovely place, I had been on the contrary, intent on earthly things, selfishly seeking my own, spending my life in practical unbelief, disloyalty and disobedience.

I felt sick at heart. Oh, if at that moment I could have crept out of the "land of pure delight" about which I had sung so much in the past, and could have gone back to the world of darkness, sin and misery, which I had just left - if I could but spend another lifetime among the lost and dying, and truly follow my Lord!

But that could not be. My opportunities of earth were past. Heaven

must now be my dwelling forever. And contradictory as it may seem, this thought filled my soul with unspeakable regret.

And then came another thought, more wild than any that had gone before it. (You must remember that it is a vision I am relating.) It was this: Would it be possible for me to obtain permission to go back to the world, to that very part of it from which I had come, clothed in some human form, and live my earthly life over again - live it in a manner worthy of my profession, worthy of my Christ and my opportunity? Could this be?

If at that moment an answer in the affirmative had been brought to me, I would have gladly given up my heavenly blessedness. I would have gladly undergone ages of hardship, ignominy, poverty and pain. I would have given up a million dollars in money. Yes, I would have gladly given a world, if it had been mine to give! But I could see no hope for a second probation. What was to be done?

Three Visitors

I had not been musing in this way for many seconds, for thoughts appeared to flow with remarkable rapidity, when, quick as a lightning flash, one of those bright inhabitants which I had watched floating far off in the clouds of glory, descended and stood before my astonished gaze.

I can never forget the awe-struck feelings with which I beheld this heavenly being. Describe the shape and features and bearing of this noble form I cannot, and will not attempt it. He was at the same time angelic and human, earthly and yet celestial. I discerned therefore at a glance that he was one of the "blood-washed multitude" who had

"come out of the great tribulations of earth." I not only judged from a certain majestic appearance which he bore, but from instinct I felt that the being before me was a man, a redeemed and glorified man.

He looked at me. And I could not keep from returning his gaze. His eyes compelled me. And I confess I was ravished by his beauty. I could never have believed the human face divine could ever bear so grand a stamp of dignity and charm.

But far beyond the entrancing loveliness of those celestial features was the expression which filled his total countenance, and shone through those eyes that were gazing upon me. It was as though that face was only a sunlit window, through which I could see into the depths of the pure, kindly and tender soul within.

I don't know how I looked to my beautiful visitor. I don't know what form I had. I had not seen myself in a mirror since I had taken on immortality for mortality.

It was evident that he had a deep interest in me. But it was an interest which seemed to bring sadness to him. His features seemed to me to grow almost sorrowful as I sat there with my eyes fixed on him in a fascinated spell.

He spoke first. Had he not done so I could never have summoned courage to address him. His voice was soft and musical, and fitted well with the seriousness of his bearing. I understood him almost before I heard his words, although I cannot tell now what language he spoke. I suppose it was the universal language of heaven.

This was the substance of what he said: My arrival was known

throughout a certain district of the celestial regions, where were gathered the ransomed ones who had come from the earthly neighbourhood where I had lived. The tidings of my arrival had been flashed through the heavenly telephone, which spoke not in one ear only, but in every ear in that particular region. My name had been whispered in every hillside and echoed in every valley, and had been spoken in every room of every mansion. It had been proclaimed from every tower and pinnacle of the stupendous temple in which these glorified saints day and night present their worship to the great Father.

All who had known me on earth, all who had any knowledge of my family, my opportunities for helping forward the Kingdom of Christ, whom they worshipped and adored, were burning to see me and hear me tell of the victories I had won and the souls I had blessed while on earth. And all were especially anxious to hear if I had been the means of bringing salvation to the loved ones they had left behind.

All this was poured upon my soul. I didn't know which way to look. Again and again I remembered my life of ease and comfort. What could I say? How could I appear with the record of my life before these waiting ones? What was there in it except a record of self-gratification? I had no martyr stories to tell. I had sacrificed nothing worth naming on earth, much less in heaven, for His dear sake!

My mind was running in this direction when I think my visitor must have discovered something of what I was thinking, and felt pity for me. Seeing my consternation, he spoke again.

"Where you find yourself is not actually heaven," he said, "but only its forecourt, a sort of outer circle. Presently, the Lord Himself, with a great procession of His chosen ones will come to take you into the Celestial City itself. There is where your residence will be if He deems

you worthy; that is, if your conduct on the battlefield below has pleased Him.

Editor's note:

The paragraph above is not intended to imply that a person can earn their way into heaven. At the end, it will make sense why this was said in the context of the story.

"Meanwhile, I have obtained permission to come and speak to you concerning a soul who is very dear to me. I understand he lives in the neighbourhood where you recently lived, and from which have just come. Our knowledge of the affairs of earth is, for our own sakes, limited, but now and then we are permitted to get a glimpse.

"Can you," he said, "tell me anything about my son? He was my only son. I loved him dearly. I loved him too much. I spoiled him when a child! He had his own way. He grew up wilful, passionate and disobedient. And my example didn't help him."

Here a cloud for a moment came over the beautiful brow, but vanished as quickly as it came. "Memory has been busy, but that has all gone," he said, as though talking to himself. And then he finished the story of his prodigal son. He, the father, had been rescued, washed, regenerated. He had learned to fight for souls, and had won many to the blood-stained banner. Then he had suddenly been taken in death by an accident at his work and was taken to Heaven.

"And now," he added, "where is my boy? Give me tidings of my boy! He lived near you, and had business dealings with you. What did you do for him? Is there hope? Tell me what his feelings are today."

He stopped speaking. My heart sank within me. What could I say? I

knew the boy. The story of the father's death and his prodigal son had been told me. I had never spoken one serious word to the boy about his soul or about his Saviour. I had been busy about other things. And now, what could I say to his father, who stood before me? I was speechless!

The cloud that I had noticed before again came over the face of my visitor, but with a dark shadow this time. He must have guessed the truth. He looked at me with a look in which I felt that disappointment to himself and pity for me were combined. He then spread his wings and soared away.

I was so intently gazing after his retreating form that I hadn't noticed a second fair being, who had descended from above, and who now occupied the place abandoned only a moment before by my last visitor.

I turned and looked upon the newcomer. This was a spirit of the same class, of the same ransomed multitude who once were dwellers on earth. There was a dignity of bearing, the same marvellous expression of inward power, purity, and joy. But in this case there was a beauty (which I could have imagined) of more delicate and enthralling mold.

Beautiful as I thought my first visitor to be, more beautiful than conception or dream of earth could be, yet here was a beauty that surpassed it - not, perhaps, if judged from heaven's view, but judged from my standpoint, for it must be remembered that I was still a man. My former visitor I have said was a glorious man - this one was evidently the glorified form of a woman.

I had, when on earth, sometimes thought that I could have wished for the privilege of beholding Eve in the hour when she came forth from the hands of her Maker. And I had imagined something - only

something, of what her beautiful form must have been as she sprang into being on that bridal morning, young and pure and beautiful - the fair image of her Maker - perhaps, the sweetest work of God. Now, here I saw her - I saw Eve reproduced before my eyes as young, pure and beautiful, even more beautiful than her first mother could possibly have been, for was not this His finished work?

But I was soon awakened from my dream by the voice of the fair creature who, from her manner, evidently wished to speak to me on some matter of great importance.

She told me her name. I had heard it on earth. She was a widow who had struggled through great difficulties. Her husband's death had resulted in her conversion to Christ. Converted, she had given herself up unreservedly to fight for the Lord. Her children had been her first care. They had all been saved, and were fighting for God, except one.

The mention of that name brought the same saddening cloud on her lovely face which had dimmed the bright face of my first visitor. But the cloud vanished almost as soon as it came. That one, that unsaved one, was a girl who had been her mother's delight. She had grown up beautiful, the village pride, but alas! had gone astray. It was the old story of wrong, and of being seduced into evil ways. And then of utter abandonment to that way of life, and all the consequent train of miseries.

I listened. I had known some of the sad story on earth, but I had turned away from hearing any more about it as being "no concern of mine." Little did I ever think that I would be confronted with it in heaven!

And now the bright spirit turned those eyes on me that, beaming with love and concern, were more beautiful than ever. She said again: "My

daughter lived near you. You know her. Have you saved her? I don't know much about her, but I do know that one earnest and determined effort would save her, and win her to Christ."

And then again she asked me, "Have you saved my child?"

I must have cried out in agony. I know I put my hands over my eyes, because I could no longer bear to meet her intent look, which now turned to one of pity for me.

How long she continued to look on me, with an expression of concern almost greater than she had shown for her lost child, I do not know. But when I uncovered my eyes, she was gone, and the silvery sheen of her white wings marked her out to my seeking eyes like a speck on the distant blue.

Then I cried out, "Oh, my God, is this heaven? Will these questionings go on forever? Will the meanness and selfishness of my past life haunt me through- out eternity? What shall I do? Can I not go back to earth, and do something to redeem myself from this wretched sense of unworthiness? Can I not live my life over again?"

This question had hardly passed through my mind when there was another rush of wings, and down beside me alighted another form, surprisingly resembling the first that had spoken to me, and yet, oh so very different! But I will not take time to describe him; you must imagine it.

He introduced himself much in the same way as my former visitors. He had been a great singer, but was awakened and won to Christ only a short while back. Having had much forgiven, he had loved much. All his desire after his conversion was to get free from the entanglements

of business and to devote himself a living sacrifice to the saving of men.

When just on the threshold of the realization of his wish, he had been sent to heaven. And here he was, a spirit of glory and joy, coming to inquire of me concerning the church group among whom he had laboured, and of the crowd of companions he had left behind. Was I acquainted with his little church? Their place of worship was near my place of business. Had I helped them in their difficulties and in their service and testimony for Christ? Had I done anything for his old mates, who were drinking and cursing their way to hell? He had died with prayers for them on his lips. Had I stopped them on their way to ruin?

Again I could not speak. What could I say? I knew his church. But I had never given them any encouragement or help. I knew of the hovels in which his old mates lived, and the dens of hell in which they spent their time and money. But I had been too busy, or too proud, or too cowardly to seek them out with the message of the Saviour's love.

I was utterly speechless. He guessed my feelings, I suppose, because with a look of sympathy he left in sadness - at least in as much sadness as is possible in heaven.

As for myself, I was in anguish - strange as it may appear, considering I was in heaven. But so it was.

The King's Procession

Wondering whether there was not some comfort for me, I involuntarily looked around. And I saw a marvellous phenomenon on the horizon at a great distance. All that part of the heavens appeared to be filled with

a brilliant light, surpassing the blaze of a thousand suns at noonday. And yet there was no blinding glare making it difficult to gaze upon, as is the case with our own sun when it shines in its glory. Here was a brilliance far surpassing anything that could be imagined, and yet I could look upon it with pleasure.

As I continued to gaze, wondering what it could be, it appeared to come a little closer. Then I realized it was coming in my direction. I was still reclining on the banks of the beautiful river.

And now I could distinctly hear the sound of music. The distance was a great many miles, after the measurement of earth, but the atmosphere was so clear, and I found my eyesight so strong, that I could easily see objects at a distance which, on earth, would have required a powerful telescope.

The sound came closer. It was music, beyond question - and such music as I had never heard before. But there was a strange commingling of other sounds which all together made a marvellous melody, made up, as I afterwards discovered, by the strains that came from the multitude of musicians and the shouts and songs that proceeded from innumerable voices. This phenomenon was approaching rapidly. But my curiosity was so strongly aroused to know what it was, that a few minutes seemed an age.

Finally I was able to make out what it was. It was astounding! But who could describe it! The whole firmament was filled, as it were, with innumerable forms, each of beauty and dignity, far surpassing those with whom I had already made an acquaintance. Here was a representative portion of the aristocracy of heaven accompanying the King, who came to welcome into the heaven of heavens the spirits of men and women who had escaped from earth, who had fought the

good fight, who had kept the faith, and had overcome in the conflict as He had overcome.

I stood filled with awe and wonder. Could it be possible? Was I at last actually to see my Lord and be welcomed by Him? In the thought of this rapture I forgot the sorrow that only a moment before had reigned in my heart, and my whole nature swelled with expectation and delight.

And now the procession was upon me. I had seen some of the pageants of earth - displays that required the power of mighty monarchs, and the wealth of great cities and nations to create - but they were each, or all combined, as the feeble light of a candle to a tropical sun in comparison with the tremendous scene which now spread itself before my astonished eyes.

On it came. I had sprung up from my reclining position, and then had fallen prostrate as the first rank of these shining heavenly spirits neared me. Each one looked in himself, to my untutored eyes, like a god, so far as greatness and power could be expressed by the outward appearance of any being.

Rank after rank swept past me. Each turned his eyes upon me, or seemed to do so. I could not help feeling that I was somewhat an object of pity to them all. Perhaps it was my own feelings that made me imagine this. But it certainly appeared to me as though these noble beings regarded me as a fearful, cowardly soul, who had only cared for his own interests on earth, and had come up there with the same selfish motives.

On they came. Thousands passed me, yet there appeared to me to be no diminishment in the numbers yet to come. I looked at the procession as it stretched backwards, but my eyes could see no end to

it. There must have been millions. It was indeed a "multitude that no man could number."

All were praising God, either in hymns expressive of adoration and worship, or by recounting, in songs of rapture the mighty victories which they had witnessed on earth - or describing some wonderful work they had seen elsewhere.

And now, the great central glory and attraction of the splendid procession was at hand.

I gathered this from the still more dignified character of the beings who now swept by, the heavier crash of music and the louder shouts of exultation which came peeling from all around.

I was right, and before I could prepare my spirit for the visitation, it was upon me. The King was here! In the centre of circling hosts - which rose tier above tier into the blue vault above, turning on Him their millions of eyes, lustrous with the love they bore Him - I beheld the celestial form of Him who once died for me upon the cross. The procession halted. Then at a word of command, they formed up instantly in three sides of a square in front of me, the King standing in the centre immediately opposite the spot where I had prostrated myself.

What a sight that was! Worth toiling a lifetime to behold it! Nearest to the King were the patriarchs and apostles of ancient times. Next, rank after rank, came the holy martyrs who had died for Him. Then came the army of warriors who had fought for Him in every part of the world.

And around and about, above and below, I beheld myriads and myriads of spirits who were never heard of on earth outside their own neighbourhood, or beyond their own times, who, with self-denying

zeal and untiring toil had laboured to extend God's Kingdom and to save the souls of men. And encircling the gorgeous scene, above, beneath, around, hovered glittering angelic beings who had kept their first estate, proud, it seemed to me, to minister to the happiness and exaltation of these redeemed out of the poor world from which I came.

Face To Face With The King

I was bewildered by the scene. The songs, the music, the shouts of the multitude that came like the roar of a thousand cataracts, echoed and re-echoed through the sunlit mountains. And the magnificent and endless array of happy spirits ravished my senses with passionate delight. All at once, however, I remembered myself, and was reminded of the High Presence before Whom I was bowed, and lifting up my eyes I beheld Him gazing upon me.

What a look it was! It was not pain, and yet it was not pleasure. It was not anger, and yet it was not approval. Anyway, I felt that in that face, so inexpressibly admirable and glorious, there was yet no welcome for me. I had felt this in the faces of my previous visitors. I felt it again in the Lord's.

That face, that Divine face, seemed to say to me, for language was not needed to convey to the very depths of my soul what His feelings were to me:

"Thou wilt feel thyself little in harmony with these, once the companions of My tribulations and now of My glory, who counted not their lives dear unto themselves in order that they might bring honor to Me and salvation to men."

And He gave a look of admiration at the host of apostles and martyrs and warriors gathered around Him.

Oh, that look of Jesus! I felt that to have one such loving recognition – it would be worth dying a hundred deaths at the stake. It would be worth being torn asunder by wild beasts. The angelic escort felt it too, for their responsive burst of praise and song shook the very skies and the ground on which I lay.

Then the King turned His eyes on me again. How I wished that some mountain would fall upon me and hide me forever from His presence! But I wished in vain. Some invisible and irresistible force compelled me to look up, and my eyes met His once more. I felt, rather than heard, Him saying to me in words that engraved themselves as fire upon my brain:

"Go back to earth. I will give thee another opportunity. Prove thyself worthy of My name. Show to the world that thou possessest My spirit by doing My works, and becoming, on My behalf, a saviour of men. Thou shalt return hither when thou hast finished the battle, and I will give thee a place in My conquering train, and a share in My glory."

What I felt under that look and those words, no heart or mind could possibly describe. They were mingled feelings. First came the unutterable anguish arising out of the full realization that I had wasted my life, that it had been a life squandered on the paltry ambitions and trifling pleasures of earth - while it might have been filled and sown with deeds that would have produced a never-ending harvest of heavenly fruit. My life could have won for me the approval of heaven's King, and made me worthy to be the companion of these glorified heroes.

But combined with this self-reproach there was a gleam of hope. My earnest desire to return to earth was to be granted. Perhaps it was in response to the longings I had felt ever since the realization of my

“A Vision Of The Lost”

by General William Booth (1829 - 1912)
Founder of the Salvation Army

On one of my recent journeys, as I gazed from the coach window, I was led into a train of thought concerning the condition of the multitudes around me. They were living carelessly in the most open and shameless rebellion against God, without a thought for their eternal welfare. As I looked out of the window, I seemed to see them all... millions of people all around me given up to their drink and their pleasure, their dancing and their music, their business and their anxieties, their politics and their troubles. Ignorant - willfully ignorant in many cases - and in other instances knowing all about the truth and not caring at all. But all of them, the whole mass of them, sweeping on and up in their blasphemies and devilries to the Throne of God. While my mind was thus engaged, I had a vision.

I saw a dark and stormy ocean. Over it the black clouds hung heavily; through them every now and then vivid lightening flashed and loud thunder rolled, while the winds moaned, and the waves rose and foamed, towered and broke, only to rise and foam, tower and break again.

In that ocean I thought I saw myriads of poor human beings plunging and floating, shouting and shrieking, cursing and struggling and drowning; and as they cursed and screamed they rose and shrieked again, and then some sank to rise no more.

And I saw out of this dark angry ocean, a mighty rock that rose up with its summit towering high above the black clouds that overhung the stormy sea. And all around the base of this great rock I saw a vast

platform. Onto this platform, I saw with delight a number of the poor struggling, drowning wretches continually climbing out of the angry ocean. And I saw that a few of those who were already safe on the platform were helping the poor creatures still in the angry waters to reach the place of safety.

On looking more closely I found a number of those who had been rescued, industriously working and scheming by ladders, ropes, boats and other means more effective, to deliver the poor strugglers out of the sea. Here and there were some who actually jumped into the water, regardless of the consequences in their passion to "rescue the perishing." And I hardly know which gladdened me the most - the sight of the poor drowning people climbing onto the rocks reaching a place of safety, or the devotion and self-sacrifice of those whose whole being was wrapped up in the effort for their deliverance.

As I looked on, I saw that the occupants of that platform were quite a mixed company. That is, they were divided into different "sets" or classes, and they occupied themselves with different pleasures and employments. But only a very few of them seemed to make it their business to get the people out of the sea.

But what puzzled me most was the fact that though all of them had been rescued at one time or another from the ocean, nearly everyone seemed to have forgotten all about it. Anyway, it seemed the memory of its darkness and danger no longer troubled them at all. And what seemed equally strange and perplexing to me was that these people did not even seem to have any care - that is any agonizing care - about the poor perishing ones who were struggling and drowning right before their very eyes . . . many of whom were their own husbands and wives, brothers and sisters and even their own children.

Now this astonishing unconcern could not have been the result of ignorance or lack of knowledge, because they lived right there in full sight of it all and even talked about it sometimes. Many even went regularly to hear lectures and sermons in which the awful state of these poor drowning creatures was described.

I have always said that the occupants of this platform were engaged in different pursuits and pastimes. Some of them were absorbed day and night in trading and business in order to make gain, storing up their savings in boxes, safes and the like.

Many spent their time in amusing themselves with growing flowers on the side of the rock, others in painting pieces of cloth or in playing music, or in dressing themselves up in different styles and walking about to be admired. Some occupied themselves chiefly in eating and drinking, others were taken up with arguing about the poor drowning creatures that had already been rescued.

But the thing to me that seemed the most amazing was that those on the platform to whom He called, who heard His voice and felt that they ought to obey it - at least they said they did - those who confessed to love Him much were in full sympathy with Him in the task He had undertaken - who worshipped Him or who professed to do so - were so taken up with their trades and professions, their money saving and pleasures, their families and circles, their religions and arguments about it, and their preparation for going to the mainland, that they did not listen to the cry that came to them from this Wonderful Being who had Himself gone down into the sea. Anyway, if they heard it they did not heed it. They did not care. And so the multitude went on right before them struggling and shrieking and drowning in the darkness.

And then I saw something that seemed to me even more strange than

anything that had gone on before in this strange vision. I saw that some of these people on the platform whom this Wonderful Being had called to, wanting them to come and help Him in His difficult task of saving these perishing creatures, were always praying and crying out to Him to come to them!

Some wanted Him to come and stay with them, and spend His time and strength in making them happier. Others wanted Him to come and take away various doubts and misgivings they had concerning the truth of some letters He had written them. Some wanted Him to come and make them feel more secure on the rock - so secure that they would be quite sure that they should never slip off again into the ocean. Numbers of others wanted Him to make them feel quite certain that they would really get off the rock and onto the mainland someday: because as a matter of fact, it was well known that some had walked so carelessly as to lose their footing, and had fallen back again into the stormy waters.

So these people used to meet and get up as high on the rock as they could, and looking towards the mainland (where they thought the Great Being was) they would cry out, "Come to us! Come and help us!" And all the while He was down (by His Spirit) among the poor struggling, drowning creatures in the angry deep, with His arms around them trying to drag them out, and looking up - oh! so longingly but all in vain - to those on the rock, crying to them with His voice all hoarse from calling, "Come to Me! Come, and help Me!"

And then I understood it all. It was plain enough. The sea was the ocean of life - the sea of real, actual human existence. That lightning was the gleaming of piercing truth coming from Jehovah's Throne. That thunder was the distant echoing of the wrath of God. Those multitudes of people shrieking, struggling and agonizing in the stormy sea, was

the thousands and thousands of poor harlots and harlot-makers, of drunkards and drunkard makers, of thieves, liars, blasphemers and ungodly people of every kindred, tongue and nation.

Oh what a black sea it was! And oh, what multitudes of rich and poor, ignorant and educated were there. They were all so unlike in their outward circumstances and conditions, yet all alike in one thing - all sinners before God - all held by, and holding onto, some iniquity, fascinated by some idol, the slaves of some devilish lust, and ruled by the foul fiend from the bottomless pit!

"All alike in one thing?" No, all alike in two things - not only the same in their wickedness but, unless rescued, the same in their sinking, sinking... down, down, down... to the same terrible doom. That great sheltering rock represented Calvary, the place where Jesus had died for them. And the people on it were those who had been rescued. The way they used their energies, gifts and time represented the occupations and amusements of those who professed to be saved from sin and hell - followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. The handful of fierce, determined ones, who were risking their own lives in saving the perishing were true soldiers of the cross of Jesus. That Mighty Being who was calling to them from the midst of the angry waters was the Son of God, "the same yesterday, today and forever" who is still struggling and interceding to save the dying multitudes about us from this terrible doom of damnation, and whose voice can be heard above the music, machinery, and noise of life, calling on the rescued to come and help Him save the world.

My friends in Christ, you are rescued from the waters, you are on the rock, He is in the dark sea calling on you to come to Him and help Him. Will you go? Look for yourselves. The surging sea of life, crowded with perishing multitudes rolls up to the very spot on which you stand.

Leaving the vision, I now come to speak of the fact - a fact that is as real as the Bible, as real as the Christ who hung upon the cross, as real as the judgment day will be, and as real as the heaven and hell that will follow it.

Look! Don't be deceived by appearances - men and things are not what they seem. All who are not on the rock are in the sea! Look at them from the standpoint of the great White Throne, and what a sight you have! Jesus Christ, the Son of God is, through His Spirit, in the midst of this dying multitude, struggling to save them. And He is calling on you to jump into the sea - to go right away to His side and help Him in the holy strife. Will you jump? That is, will you go to His feet and place yourself absolutely at His disposal?

A young Christian once came to me, and told me that for some time she had been giving the Lord her profession and prayers and money, but now she wanted to give Him her life. She wanted to go right into the fight. In other words, she wanted to go to His assistance in the sea. As when a man from the shore, seeing another struggling in the water, takes off those outer garments that would hinder his efforts and leaps to the rescue, so will you who still linger on the bank, thinking and singing and praying about the poor perishing souls, lay aside your shame, your pride, your cares about other people's opinions, your love of ease and all the selfish loves that have kept you back for so long, and rush to the rescue of this multitude of dying men and women.

Does the surging sea look dark and dangerous? Unquestionably it is so. There is no doubt that the leap for you, as for everyone who takes it, means difficulty and scorn and suffering. For you it may mean more than this. It may mean death. He who beckons you from the sea however, knows what it will mean - and knowing, He still calls to you and bids to you to come.

You must do it! You cannot hold back. You have enjoyed yourself in Christianity long enough. You have had pleasant feelings, pleasant songs, pleasant meetings, pleasant prospects. There has been much of human happiness, much clapping of hands and shouting of praises - very much of heaven on earth.

Now then, go to God and tell Him you are prepared as much as necessary to turn your back upon it all, and that you are willing to spend the rest of your days struggling in the midst of these perishing multitudes, whatever it may cost you.

You must do it. With the light that is now broken in upon your mind and the call that is now sounding in your ears, and the beckoning hands that are now before your eyes, you have no alternative. To go down among the perishing crowds is your duty. Your happiness from now on will consist in sharing their misery, your ease in sharing their pain, your crown in helping them to bear their cross, and your heaven in going into the very jaws of hell to rescue them.

Now what will you do?



Make a list of ways you can apply this vision to your life...

Contact Details



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