Liberty Theological Seminary

Multiplication/Evangelism

Vision Project

A Paper Submitted To

Dr. David Wheeler

In Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for the Course

EVAN 565

Submitted By

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Table of Contents

[What’s new for me? 2](#_Toc261860776)

[What’s my vision and how will I minister to others? 7](#_Toc261860777)

[Where does true biblical evangelism fit into my future ministry? 8](#_Toc261860778)

Back to Basics Report [10](#_Toc261860779)

**What’s new for me?**

What have I learned this semester about evangelism as it relates to my Christian walk that has changed my perception and challenged my thinking? First, I have changed my mind about church. I had thought that the most important role of our church was to give comfort, protection and its holy rituals. However, I’ve changed my whole thought about church. Church is not a just building or place to give those I’ve mentioned, but incarnational organism. I used to think that church was just place to give us comfortable or peace. This concept leads us misunderstanding, that is, we just see the church something for only Sunday and organization led by the expert. However, the Bible says that the church is the body of Christ. All we have to do is for organism, not organization. Every activity is for God’s glory such as a football school, or even holiday activities. This concept makes real multiplication (2 X 2, not just 2 + 2). As Dr. Wheeler has said, if we make this multiplication all people in the world will be evangelized in 3 months. That’s why changing mind about church is very important in our spiritual life. For example, every year there are several satanic activities in Korea. Every time they come we just used to avoid facing them, but I’ve changed my mind. That is, during the satanic parade I can offer lots of food for them with church’s name. I believe that wherever we go, the church can expand its influence with Jesus. Go and share Jesus with others even though they come to see satanic activities. We can sing this song, “Preach the Lord’s love even at the fire!” We can also shout this phrase, “The party under the hell has canceled because of its fire” (The sign of Faith Alliance Church on July 18, 2010).

Second, circle of evangelism shouldn’t be ceased. That is, like Jesus talked about farming analysis (Jn. 4:35-38), there is the circle of evangelism; plowing (prayer), planting (gospel seed) and harvesting (God’s role). Someone has been plowing and someone has planting through the Holy Spirit, and God has been harvesting its fruits. In my experience lost of prayer makes sharing gospel easy and effective. Furthermore, Fay says that we have reached almost there according to 7.6 principle, so we shouldn’t give up. From this concept I’ve found my vision that is to be a pastor who wants to make evangelism as a life style. Especially, I want to apply “minister to others” to the church for the Life-Evangelism (this is the title I want to call as evangelism in my life). In week 3 “Assessing Ministry Needs, Impacting Hurting People” I’ve learned what the church should be like for the circle of evangelism. That we should not stay just in the church, but go out to find where the needs are. Then according to the needs we have to make a plan, work as the plan, and complete the task perfectly. I believe that the church today really needs this kind of evangelism because Jesus did by Himself. John 4:4 says that Jesus had to travel through Samaria, that is, Jesus was willing to go where the needs were. Then Jesus focused on the woman; He began with the woman’s physical need (water) and probed her heart to assess her greatest need (salvation). From this I’ve also learned that we have to be willing to see the needs to assess what the needs are. For seeing needs, we have to deeply care for people and to feel their pain with love. After knowing the needs, we can make a ministry plan for them, but we should remember that it’s all up to God, not us. All we have to do is to trust God to meet the needs through us and then just work as the plan without hesitation, without considering long, and without fear. However, we should be patient and waiting until God works through their needs and us.

Third, as a part of assessing the needs learning to listen is a vital approach to evangelism in today’s culture. As we have known, Jesus intentionally traveled through Samaria to meet the woman and people who needed salvation. Jesus was willingly to speak with the Samaritan woman, but the disciples were rude and refused to acknowledge her. Jesus affirmed her humanity and value because she never realized that she was created for God’s glory, but the disciples didn’t affirm the woman’s humanity and didn’t care of her value. Jesus helped her come to the reality of who she was for God as Father (Creator). We don’t know any clue about her, but God exactly knew who she was because God was her heavenly Father and she was valuable to God. Jesus obviously cared more about the woman’s soul, but the disciples didn’t affirm the eternal value of the woman’s soul. Here we must remember what the active listening is because Jesus practiced it as a tool for reaching people. Listening people is similar to loving people. Listening is a good method to make relationship. Listening is a part of process to open their minds. The key here is to be empathetic, that is, when they weep share their sorrow; when they have pain share their pain. Where is Samaria in my life? Who am I most like right now in my life, Jesus or disciples? Am I willing to stay, no matter the cost in time, reputation, or pain? What kind of view point I have about evangelism, negative or positive?

Fourth, in fact Servanthood Evangelism is what we have most learned through this class. Dr. Wheeler focused on it and taught us with passion that it was all about “relationship.” God wants Reconciliation (Relationship) with us and community focuses on relationships. Somebody complained, “I’m so unhappy because although I have been in the church all of my life, none of church people know me.” Remember that the gospel moves through relationships. Every one of us is a minister and has a ministry within his or her own sphere of relationships. Wherever we go, we represent Jesus and we are Ambassadors of Christ. We can’t excuse we don’t have people who needs to be evangelized, because we can count the number of people around us almost over a hundred in 5 minutes. The reason why Servanthood Evangelism is important is because of people in the culture watching us and our sincerity for the Lord. Servanthood Evangelism is that; intentionally sharing Christ by modeling biblical servanthood; a combination of simple acts of kindness and intentional personal evangelism; not acting like servant, but being servant. I believe that evangelism is obedience for us and joy for God. We only meet two kinds of people in the world; believer or nonbeliever, so whomever we meet we should share the gospel as our obedience. The point is not who they are, but whether we are obedient. God is the God who gives us opportunities to meet people to share Jesus, and only God knows the result of that. Where does servanthood evangelism fir into our outreach strategy? Plow the fields through prayer (Ps.126:5) – Consistently plant the gospel seed (Ps. 126:6) – Bring in the harvest (1 Cor. 3:6). We live in both church and world, not separately. Like this, evangelism will be exercised everywhere, and every time.

Fifth, evangelism could be extended by networking at church. In week 4 I finally began to think about evangelism as a big picture and my future ministry, not just individual responsibility. As the goal in week 4 says, when we minster to others together we can have a greater impact for the Kingdom. As a pastor motivating church people for evangelism is important in my ministry, so I should explain why we all together participate in evangelism without a missing person. Through a partnership, volunteer organizations do what God has designed each to do and do together what they can’t do independently. Although each person plays a different role in the process, all work for the common goal of bringing others to knowledge of Christ. We are coworkers with Him, but only He gives the growth. Working with others in ministry provides greater strength, focus, and support. In addition, the reason why evangelism begins at church is that; God places leaders in the body of Christ (Eph. 4:11-12), in the local church we connect to other believers for ministry, the Holy Spirit looks in the church to identify individuals to carry out new ministry, and the church is the agent for advancing new ministry to others. As a representative for the body of Christ, we should connect our word to deed. This world considers Christians as the church, not individuals. However, don’t afraid of this world because God is always with us. This is all according to God’s purpose, and He wants us to fulfill through the church where He has placed us. Lastly, we should obey to God through our act, not just our word. So where are we in the matter of ministry to others? We should ask God to; show us where He wants us to join someone in ministry; give us boldness to talk to the individual today; show us what we need to do to get started.

Finally, I think it’s also important to know about confronting barriers against Servanthood Evangelism. As Fay said, fear of rejection could be a psychological and spiritual barrier hindering evangelism. In the book of “Minister to Others” there are several barriers mentioned. Especially, two of them gave me insight for Servanthood Evangelism; spiritual blindness and unconfessed sin. I think spiritual blindness seems to ignore or dull to the needs. That is, we automatically assume the worst without considering the vast opportunities for ministry, and the church has become a crowd of overly religious people ignoring the plight of a hurting world. “A key area of spiritual blindness for many Christians is prejudice (preconceived judgment or hostility without just grounds or adequate knowledge) – an unholy attitude toward people of other races, cultures, and economic status” (*Minister to Others*, p.31). Unconfessed sin used to be bothering me every area in my life. Especially, it reminded me as a sinner who couldn’t live for God’s glory. Of course, I know that although I have a confidence about my eternal security, consistent sin always appears in my life and resists the life God wants me to do. “If left unconfessed, this sin of self-exaltation will overtake a Christian’s life and make our hearts calloused to the needs of others” (Jn. 3:30; *Minister to Others,* p.33). That’s why I always thank God for justification, that is, God declares I am not guilty through Jesus’ precious blood on the Cross.

**What is my personal vision and how will I “minister to others”?**

What are some specific changes I will need to make in order to fulfill my vision? How might this eventually affect my family in the future? How will I relate in my community; that is, where I live, work, and play? How will adopting the role of servant impact my future ministry in evangelism? I want my vision to be His vision, that is, I want to have a vision God gives me. Through this project I had thought again and again about the vision; what God really wants me to do for His purpose. Therefore, my vision is to be a pastor who wants to make evangelism as a life style. I want to call this life style as Life-Evangelism because of two reasons. First, I want to be an evangelist although I belong to evangelizer according to the personality-based evangelism (Jeffrey A. Johnson, *got style?*). I’ll try to share Jesus without fear and without hesitation. Second, I’m sure that Evangelism is not just sharing the gospel, but the life which can save us from the eternal death. For ministering to others, I will always remember why I am living here and now. I will also remind my family the purpose God gives us, that is, “We are here by God’s appointment, in His keeping, under His training and for His time” (my family’s precepts).

In my church I want to practice SERVE as Dr. Wheeler mentioned. That is, we will seek the Father’s power and presence through our prayer and we will start everything in the church with prayer. To minister others I’ll encourage all congregations to participate Servanthood Evangelism. That is, I’ll give them several choices that they couldn’t ignore to enlist and I’ll train them for Servanthood Evangelism. Through seek God’s power and presence we will sure that all resources we need are in the God’s harvest, so we’ll never give up because of resource. I used to feel vainness before this class because my congregations never practiced as what they had heard from a sermon. Thus, I’ll encourage them to go out of (vacate) the church building to reach the lost. I am sure that God really wants us to do is not sacrifice, but obedience (1 Sa. 15:22). After all these processes, I will evaluate them with congregations for future successes. Dr. Wheeler said, “Servanthood Evangelism is not a program, but a process.” I agree with him and I will focus on its process to make Life-Evangelism for the church. If it is a just program it will affect on a few people, but if it is a process in my church it will be spread to all congregations. Above all I must and will show our church people His life and truth consistently demonstrated through me, through my family, and through more church people.

**Where does true biblical evangelism fit into my future ministry as a pastor?** How does this fit into my overall theology? Finally, I have found one vision from the verses in Matthew 28. “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (vv.18-20). This should be my primary mission and the purpose of the church; Evangelism. In my church there used to be confusion between mission and evangelism, but now we are sure what evangelism is. For example, some church people disagreed with the short term mission trip because they wanted to share Jesus with their neighbors first. I believe that their thought was right. As Jesus mentioned in Matthew 28, the process of evangelism should begin with our neighbors first. However, we should give up going to the world, so that’s why the short term mission trip should be made like Joshua and Caleb’s report. Go and see God’s promise. We can just walk the place, where we will share gospel, with prayer. Also before the short mission trip they should be trained first in the homeland field.

I also find some principles from the early church (Acts 1-4) and I’ll apply them to my church ministry. First, God is always with us to minister (principle of constant presence; Acts 2:46-47). That is, we can only do God’s ministry with God and only God makes us to be able to minister. A big problem in Korean church is hard to ignore its traditions made by human because we believe all traditions of the church came from the Bible. Of course, church traditions role to keep the Word of God and to purify saints with the sound doctrine, but sometimes church traditions exceed the authority of the Bible and they underestimate God’s power and presence. Therefore, we should see the Word of God correctly and we should only minister according to His Word. Second, there is the principle of consuming power (Acts 1:8), that is the Holy Spirit. Although I know the importance of the Holy Spirit in the church, I also used to ignore Him with selfishness. I used to believe in my own ability, not His power, so I considered prayer as something useless and uncertain. However, I have repented my pride and the sin of ignoring Him, and I will absolutely rely on the Holy Spirit in all my life area. Without Him I can’t do anything for God because God wants us to do for His ministry through His power not ours. Third, I’ve learned the principle of consistent message (4:12), that is, His message is not changeable even though we are all changeable. Only way to minster for God is to believe, preach, and share His unchangeable promise written in the Bible. Fourth, like the principle of consuming power our ministry is definitely up to the principle of convicting boldness by the Holy Spirit (4:31). I’ll always pray to God for the fullness of the Holy Spirit on the church because I believe that’s the easy way to minster to God and others. Finally, the principle of contagious courage is my priority prayer request as a pastor. “For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard” (4:20). In a battle if the commander or leader of company loses his confidence, they will never defeat their enemies at the battle. Therefore, as a leader (I believe Jesus is my commander) I really need contagious courage to lead congregations to a victory and to follow Jesus without fear.

**Prayer Partners for “Back to the Basics”**

Evangelism involves a battle at the gates of hell. There is no substitute for spiritual protection and accountability in facing spiritual battles. The Bible is clear that our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against Satan and his spirits. Therefore, each student is to secure two prayer partners for “Back to the Basics”.

The student should seek to pray for and with one’s prayer partners weekly. Seek God for the lost you will contact, to work on your heart and skills related to personal evangelism, and to protect you from the schemes of Satan.

In addition, the prayer partners should keep each other accountable weekly in relation to the following things:

* + - * + Be faithful to a daily quiet time in the Word, while at the same time, keeping ***a list*** of unsaved people and praying for them every day.

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| Azar & Noseh | Apt. 342  Muslim from Iran | A daughter getting marry with an American |
| Doug & Patty | Andy’s coworker, Doug | Patty has a breast cancer which has taken a toll on their entire family. |
| Bill & Vicki | Andy’s coworkers | They pain Andy with their apparent spiritual condition. Bill grew up Catholic, and has recently lost a teenaged daughter to cerebral palsy. Vicki has any meaningful "church-related" history. She is angry and bitter. |

* + - * + ***Share your faith*** with at least one person per week with aim of drawing the harvest (50%).
        + Do at least one ***Servanthood Evangelism activity*** every two weeks to introduce people to Christ’s love in practical ways (100%).
        + During the semester, ***mentor*** at least one additional person outside of class, who is not your prayer partner, to adopt the “Back to the Basics” accountability principles (100%).

Classmate: Robert Andrew Braxton Phone: 813-716-\*\*\*\* E-Mail: \*\*\*\*@liberty.edu

Outside Partner: Alresya Kim Phone: 434-258-\*\*\*\* E- Mail: \*\*\*\*@nate.com

Mentor: Milton Brown Phone: 434-237-\*\*\*\* E-Mail: \*\*\*\*@faithcma.com

In order to get full credit for class participation, each student must sign off and turn in this sheet at the end of the class to confirm regular participation and fulfillment of all responsibilities related to “Back to the Basics”. DUE: July 30.

**Student Signature: Joengkee Bang Date: 29 / 07 / 2010**