

Inspire

A Lifestyle Expression of Faith

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Picture that scene on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. I can imagine Jesus lifting two freshly caught fish out of Peter's boat and saying to the future disciples, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men". What He said would have been relevant to all those standing around, especially the people who had just been fishing!

In July of 2008 I did a series on building a lifestyle expression of faith. For two of the messages I used a barbecue as my pulpit. Firing it up I proceeded to put on the snags and the onions, while sharing with the people that sometimes evangelism or sharing our faith can feel quite daunting and scary. This is the reason why some believers never engage in it. They think it is too confrontational.

But evangelism is simply everything we say and do that effectively projects the truth of the gospel into the hearts and minds of those that don't believe. In fact it is even more than that! It's who we are as individuals and as a group of people. It's our DNA, our culture, our flavour or expression. It's the things that make us attractive.

So maybe evangelism is far more than sharing the four spiritual laws with people or explaining how they can get to heaven. Maybe it is who we are and what we do. Maybe it is accepting people for who *they* are. Maybe it is having a meal or a coffee or a beer with a mate down at the local. Maybe it is taking out a neighbour's bin when they forget, or cutting their lawn when they're busy. Maybe it is just doing life with them in some way.

During that morning service I pointed to the barbecue and said, "Maybe it is this—firing up the barbecue, pulling out a six pack and inviting the neighbour over." To keep in sync with my message and drama that morning I just had to crack a beer open and have a sip...no doubt to the joy of some and the disgust of others. As for me, I am sure it was 12 noon somewhere in the world!

I could just see Jesus looking over the barbecue while He was grilling at it, and saying to the Aussie Church, "Follow me and I will help you influence people to God".

Following Jesus in a Lifestyle Expression of Faith

We find this story in Matthew 4:19: "*Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."* Then, through the next few chapters He gives us keys that show us how to become fishers of men. So, what is involved in following Jesus in a lifestyle expression?

In Matthew 4:23, 25 it says He:

1. Taught in church,
2. Preached the Good News throughout the community,
3. Healed people and cast out demons.

He taught on lifestyle expression of faith

If we want to see evangelism increase in our church and our groups we must teach on it, because signs and wonders follow the teaching of God's Word. People will start moving in it. This is why churches like Willow Creek and Saddleback see people saved; they teach on it. They build it into their people and they make it such a high value, priority and principle in their walk with God that it just flows naturally in their lives. Let's face it, it is the great commission. It is the main reason Jesus came, so let's teach it regularly.

He preached the Good News

If we want to see people saved, we have to preach the gospel and share our faith with other people. *This* is the power of God to a person's salvation! The Good News. As much as I share that evangelism is far more than just words, we still need to look for opportunities to share the Good News because that is where the power is. We just need to learn to do it sensitively and naturally in our everyday life.

He Healed People

Jesus moved in God's power to see lives touched and He did it a lot.

We need not to be ignorant concerning the way the Holy Spirit can flow through us or how He can flesh Himself out in us but we need to be open to praying and laying our hands on people so that the power can flow.

But for you and me to share our faith with others, or have opportunities to pray for them, things need to happen on other levels. As I've already said, evangelism is far more than what we say; it's about who we are and what we do. With that in mind, let's look at the chapters that follow Jesus' statement of wanting to make us fishers of men. Let's follow Him into the next chapters.

Chapter 5 - Attitude

Chapter five speaks about attitudes that we should have because we are the salt and light of the world. Our attitude and the flavour of our lives cause people to look and ask. It's having an attitude that is big, positive, embracing, forgiving—one that goes the extra mile (verse 38, 42). We've all heard of the mile high club, but I reckon that we ought to join the second mile club. Jesus is looking for more members—people who want to go the extra mile when it comes to attitude and action of our expression of faith. This will cause people to ask the bigger questions.

Chapter 6 - Actions

Chapter six starts with encouragement about giving to the needy—having actions that bless and help people around us.

People may not be really keen to read the Bible, but they *are* quick to read you and your actions. They might say, "What is the church doing to help people?" Well, our church feeds 700 meals a week to the needy of the inner city of Newcastle and provides training for about 40 people a year in hospitality. We see about 200 people a week use our premises for AA and GA, and we provide counselling and care for dozens of people each week. We help people find accommodation when they are unable to access it through usual channels.

A Lifestyle Expression of Faith - Continued

We help others by facilitating legal aid and detox, and providing recovery courses and so on. And we also provide for our community a brilliant venue for some of Australia's finest musicians about four times a year, along with degustation dinners and art exhibitions. That's what we do on a corporate level. On an individual level there are hopefully dozens of random acts of kindness taking place across our community as our folk put the gospel into practice by meeting needs within their sphere of influence—at work, in neighbourhoods, schools and social groups. It's actions like these that will cause people to want to know more.

Chapter 7—Acceptance

This chapter starts off by warning us not to judge or look for specks in people's eyes. Yet sadly the church seems to be full of judgmental people, people who like to find the slightest thing wrong with you. I personally find it all quite ugly. It is something that keeps me away from certain groups of people. I reckon we ought to be known for our acceptance, forgiveness, grace and restoration. We ought to be known for our outrageousness in these qualities. It is

actually interesting to note the things we often judge others about. Usually it's about unimportant things—things that are preferences and not principles.

All over the world people have cultural preferences or tastes, things that, when it comes down to it, aren't really that important.



In Acts 10:14, Jesus came to Peter in a three-fold vision. He saw a sheet containing food that Jews could not eat for religious reasons. Through this, Jesus showed Peter that He wanted him to accept the Gentiles' culture in order to evangelise them. As soon as Peter understood and accepted their way of life, a knock came to his door. It was followed by an invitation that rocked his world, brought an increase in the rate of conversions and changed the social behaviour of the church forever.

Peter received this vision while he was in a trance. A trance is a displacement of the mind, a shift of thinking. Jesus wants to do this in us—shift us in our thinking so He can download His thoughts on the matter. It's an amazing thing that when He does that and we accept the change of thinking, knocks on our door and invitations into other people's lives will come.

So let's add to our gospel message a good attitude toward outsiders, actions that care and an acceptance for them so generous that it won't be long before they ask what it is we have. So go on, get out there!

Love,
Kevin



Changes to the OzReach Conference

Our apologies for the change of direction for our conference.

This conference is open to senior ministers that relate and are a part of Ozreach and those considering connecting to OzReach. The purpose of this conference is to hang out and spend time together praying, eating and socializing with others that have a common spirit.

It will be held at Café Church, 14 Port Stephens Drive, Anna Bay.

If you are interested in attending please contact Kev on 0407 467 798 or Martyn Webb on 0412 979 874. or email Life Church at info@lifechurch.org.au or Café Church at admin@cafechurch.com.au

From Friday at 2:00pm until Saturday at 12:00noon

Profile Fred & Janet David

How long have you been married?

15 years

How long have you been in ministry?

13 years

Favourite things you like to do?

Fred: Sport

Janet: Adult Conversation

What do you like about OzReach?

Relational, casual and my friends are there.

What other work have you done?

Fred: Mechanic

Janet: Nurse

What's the hardest thing you find in ministry?

Job profile is not that hard but to be the person doing the job is the hardest thing.

When are your birthdays?

Fred: October

Janet: April

What's your favourite food?

Fred: Asian food

Janet: Baked dinner



South Coast City Church Central

For how long have you pastored the church?

11 years

What things are running well in your church?

Our future plans and vision and our leadership that's going to take us there.

What is your vision statement?

Developing community, deepening spiritually and demonstrating compassion.

What things can you improve on?

Our services could be better, and our ability to communicate where we are going.

What makes your church unique?

Very down to Earth



Kev's Trip to Cambodia

Cambodia is an amazing country, a country full of poverty and crime. There's not much interest in religion, yet there is, as in all nations, an underlying spiritual hunger. Yet they haven't quite worked out in what spiritual direction to reach out. I think the reason partly stems from when the country was gutted from the genocide some thirty years ago when over 2 million people were tortured and executed.

My trip to Cambodia was diversified. I met with a number of Donna's friends from various missions organizations over lunch or dinner. On one of the days I got to go into Prey Sor Prison with Prison Fellowship. Linda Chisholm who is doing an awesome job with the prison ministry brings the message of Christ to thousands of prisoners. The youngest is 13, imprisoned for stealing a chicken. He was sentenced for 7 years. The oldest is 93 and is in for drug trafficking. No doubt he will die in prison.

I visited a few prisoners while I was there but mainly Gordon Joung, an Aussie boy that has served about three years of a 13-year sentence. He is 19 years old at present. We had about half an hour together. Please keep praying for Gordon when you remember him. His mother attends Life church on occasions.

I had the privilege of speaking at Young Life

Leadership, an organization that has a mission to reach as many of the Cambodian schools as possible. I shared with the young people of Joshua and Deborah House for the morning then had lunch with them. Six of the kids are going through university and are doing well. Two are doing law, two are doing medicine, one engineering and one social work. This is an amazing achievement in Cambodia.

Beside all of this I got to hang out with my friends Tom and Nim who have been big supporters of Soul Café and flew from Bangkok to spend time with us. We got to go to my favourite Italian restaurant. Can you believe it...in Cambodia!

Kevin

Getting Serious about Missions includes a DVD of Soul Café, the Philippines, Argentina and Cambodia missions, plus two 20-minute sermons on getting involved with Missions. These packs sell for \$50, with all the sales going directly to these missions.



Bali - Indonesia

To any church that is considering supporting a great ministry and people in Bali, Indonesia, Australia's holiday destination, please see below. I have known Michael and Bianca for over 10 years. I personally pastored them, married them and now have the privilege of seeing them released into missions. They are the most genuine couple you could hope to meet.

Kevin Wilcock

Michael & Bianca

We wanted to write this letter to fill you in on how our plans for Bali are coming along as well as answer a few questions that we keep getting asked.

1. Why are we going to Bali?

Over the last four years we have been preparing to go to Bali. As 93% of Bali's population (of over 3 million people) is made up of Hindu believers we truly believe that God wants us to share Jesus with the Balinese through practical, community based projects and by just being a light in the spiritual darkness that surrounds the whole island.

2. What will we be doing in Bali?

In partnership with Pioneers Australia and under the leadership of Christian Surfers Indonesia we will be taking the message of hope in Christ to the people who live on the west coast of Bali.

For the first couple of years our time will be focused on building relationships and trust in the community as well as further developing our language and culture skills and being strong examples of people who love Jesus. From there we hope to set up a place or project that enables indigenous Indonesian Christians to lead community-based programs such as the Balinese Community Youth Centre. This centre has been set up to help meet the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of Indonesians through social welfare, education, vocational training, recreation, and evangelism.

3. When do we leave?

Over the past four years we have been doing a lot to get over to Bali. So far we have:

- ◆ Been to Bible college;
- ◆ Undertaken language studies;
- ◆ Had psychological and medical testing;
- ◆ Completed leadership training;
- ◆ Established an accountability board; and
- ◆ In July we have recently completed 3

Ministries in Cambodia to Support

Joshua and Deborah House

A guy's and girls' home with about 30 kids who all enjoy family life, education, good health and the opportunity to grow in God.

Donna Byham

Email: donnabyham@gmail.com

Prison Fellowship

Linda is ministering to 1000s of prisoners, serving them in many practical ways and supporting families on the outside.

Linda Chisholm

Email: Linda@pfcambodia.org

Young Life

Are reaching 1000s of young people with the gospel in high schools.

Sor Pyneath

Email: pyneath@camnet.com.kh

weeks of cultural transition training with Pioneers in Melbourne.

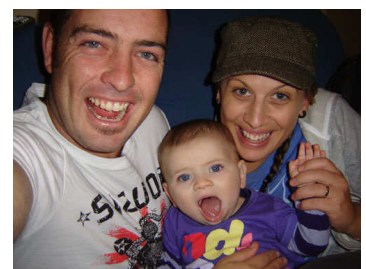
However before we leave we still have to:

- ◆ Raise prayer support; and
- ◆ Raise financial support.

We have the ok to leave in Feb '09, however this does depend on when our prayer and financial support comes through.

4. How can you support us?

Through prayer support and financial support. Before we leave for Bali we have to have achieved 100% of both our required prayer and financial support.



If you have any questions, please call or email us anytime: 0403 330 009 or Email: zietsch@mailsnare.net Michael, Bianca & Jiah

MIDDLE EAST MISSION

AFTA update

(Arabs for the Arabs)

Greetings once more from Amman, Jordan. After so much travel in the early summer, I have been able to spend more time in Jordan. Pastor Waleed and I have been working on our strategy for the coming months.

I was also privileged to spend a week in Cyprus, where I recorded a number of radio messages that will be broadcast to encourage and disciple the new believers in Yemen and Gulf States.

Before I begin my travels, I do want to extend my sincere and heartfelt thanks to you for your prayers and gifts that make this ministry possible, and to update you on what is happening with AFTA.

JORDAN UPDATE

I spoke to you in my last update about the building we have found that is so well suited to meet our needs for the Sweifeiya Church and AFTA Training Centre. The building is still available to us and we continue to trust God for His provision.

We do want to thank each of you that have given toward this project, and to those of you who stand by us in praying that we will be able to possess this building.

We are far from our target amount, but are not discouraged. The Psalmist reminds us "How blessed are the people whose God is the LORD," and we continue to believe that we will soon be able to report on God's blessed provision of a facility suitable for the church and training program!

In other news, Pastor Butros and I, along with our families, hosted the youth for a follow-up day at the campsite in early August.

We praise God for repeated testimony of how God has used the retreat to speak into the lives of many.

A TRIP DOWN UNDER

I am leaving on Monday, 8 September, for a few weeks down under in Australia. I have been invited to preach, teach, and share AFTA's vision to reach the Middle East during that time.

I am grateful to everyone involved in organizing this trip. They have planned a very busy schedule for me from meeting with house groups to ministering in several Christian conferences.

Please pray for both stamina and good health for me. Pray also that I will be God's messenger there, and that the challenges of this region will speak to the heart of the Church in Australia.

ANOTHER SPECIAL TRIP COMING UP

The leaders of a house church movement in a major city of Yemen have asked me to come and offer training and assistance. The leaders have a desire to organize themselves more efficiently as house churches. This training will take place in early December. Please begin to pray now for this incredible opportunity.

SUDAN UPDATE

Partnering with other ministries, our team in Sudan is helping to train 14 Sudanese church planters through three months of intensive, full-time training. They have asked me to come and help train, but my schedule will not allow me to join them.

Brother Philemon, our worker who is church-planting among the displaced workers, has been ordained by his local church. This group is growing. Philemon also spends one day a week ministering in Sudanese prisons.

**Sunday night
6:30pm
Life Church
15 Denison Street
Newcastle West**

Afeef Halasah will be sharing on his work in the Middle East and his mission AFTA (Arabs for the Arabs).

Come and hear how Afeef puts his life on the line for Jesus every day and hear his testimony of victory in the face of persecution and death threats.



Latest Resource & Training Material



6 Pack No. 1
Titles include:

1. Why Are There other Religions
2. Supernatural
3. God in Skin
4. How Fragile We Are
5. Why Does Evil Happen
6. Beating the Blues



6 Pack No. 2
Titles include:

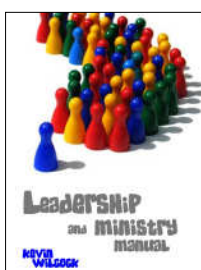
1. From Dope to Hope
2. Suicide
3. The Supernatural
4. Jesus - What Will You Do with Him?
5. Divorce
6. Dealing with Evil



6 Pack No. 3
Titles include;

1. Dealing with Grief
2. Dealing with Sin
3. Deliverance
4. Did Adam Have a Belly Button
5. Where Are the fathers?
6. Johnny Lee Clary's

6-Packs include six 20-minute messages that are designed for you to pass on to your friends. They will help them overcome any arguments and preconceived ideas they might have about God and hopefully help them to believe or come a little closer. Cost is \$20.



Leadership & Ministry Manual

Kev's new 400-page manual which he has been writing for the last 20 years is finally available to purchase for \$30.00 Ph 4961 0211 or email info@lifechurch.org.au Kev also has 20 cd packs available.

To order any of the above products phone or email Life Church on (02) 4961 0211 or info@lifechurch.org.au

