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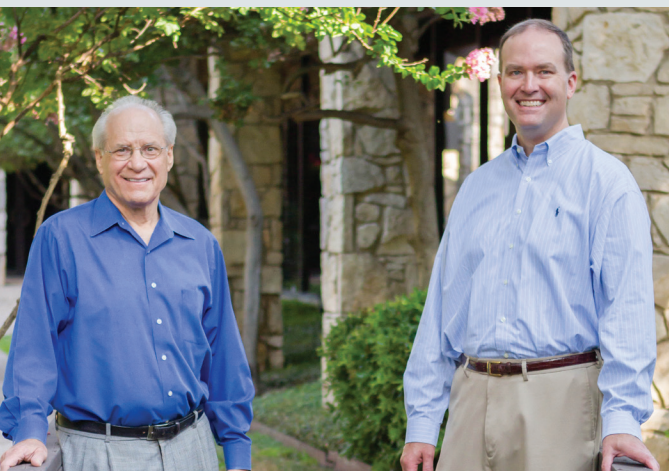
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Join **Larry Moyer** and **David Souther** at the Christian Leadership Conference as they present a workshop on "Leveraging Leadership for the Gospel."

WHERE: Dallas, Texas

WHEN: April 4–6th

Register: outcomesconference.org

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TOOLBOX

EVANTELL'S

SPRING 2017

Looking for Evangelism Opportunities?

BY DAVID **SOUTHER**
President, EvanTell

Christians often say, "I just don't have enough opportunities to witness" or "I don't know any non-Christians."

One Bible story that should encourage us and serves as an illustration is Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 11:29–37. It contains some often-overlooked principles that can help us widen our circle of relationships and increase our opportunities to share Christ.

1. Our best opportunities often come during our daily schedules. The Samaritan encounters a helpless man while traveling during the day-to-day grind of conducting business. He meets him at his point of need, right where he is, outside of the church (temple or synagogue) walls.

This is an important point about outreach. Sometimes we can become stuck in our routines, thinking that Sunday is the day we go and minister in a church building to those who might darken the door. Yet, as this parable illustrates, Christ's call to love and reach others should extend to our entire week, integrating ministry and outreach into our daily lives beyond our church walls.

While certainly we cannot stop for everyone, we can ensure that we live our lives in such a way that we are open to the Holy Spirit's leading by not being held captive to our schedule with our own agendas. We should always be open to the possibility that God may want us to talk with someone or meet a need. Look around, hurting people are everywhere.

2. Our greatest need is not necessarily more knowledge, but putting what we already know into practice. Sometimes we become paralyzed in evangelism, thinking we have to know more about the Bible, other religions, or advanced apologetics to do a good job. Because of our hesitation, we miss opportunities.

But the passage suggests that the effective evangelist is not always the one who knows the most. The priest and the Levite were experts in the law and could probably quote and defend large sections of it. The person that Jesus points to may not have had much knowledge, but he put what he knew into practice by loving his neighbor enough to stop and get involved.

Being ready and available at any time to put what you know into practice, can radically increase your opportunities in evangelism. Simply pray something like, "Lord, open my eyes to the people and opportunities around me and help me put what I know into practice." Then be prepared to watch Him bring you opportunities and use you for His glory.

OUTREACH TO THE UNLIKELY: A FRESH TAKE ON MATTHEW

BY DAVID SOUTHER
President, EvanTell

Christ's ministry was characterized by reaching and ministering to "the least of these"—those who were overlooked, ignored, or deemed unimportant by the world, but who were valuable to God. Matthew highlights and emphasizes this throughout his Gospel.

He begins by listing Christ's genealogy through His earthly father Joseph. Notice, however, two unusual things for biblical genealogies. First, four women were mentioned: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba. Second, these women were unlikely ancestors for the Messiah.

Tamar was a Canaanite Gentile impregnated by her Jewish father-in-law. **Rahab** was a Gentile refugee who had been a harlot. **Ruth** was a Gentile refugee from Moab, a country infamous for its scandalous beginnings. Finally, **Bathsheba**, though possibly Jewish, was originally married to a Gentile and was involved in one of the greatest scandals in Scripture.

The point is that these women were the least likely to be in the genealogy and bloodlines of the Messiah (these were Mary's ancestor's too), yet God not only used them, He inspired Matthew to single them out.

Matthew goes on to highlight the ministry of Jesus. Notice Jesus' strategy. When He visited a town, He typically started with the poor, the outcasts, the sick, the lame, the homeless, the lepers, the demon possessed, those with questionable pasts, immigrants, etc. In other words, Jesus started with the least likely people imaginable.

This emphasis can also be seen in Jesus' parables. In one of them, Jesus stated, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it unto Me" (Matt. 25:40). The point being we should be willing to help anyone in need whom God is calling us to reach, regardless of their status or importance in the eyes of the world.

Throughout Matthew and the other Gospels, Christ has a huge heart for "the least of these," including the forgotten, overlooked, counted out, or least likely people the world would consider. They are in His genealogy. They are in His DNA. They are found throughout His teaching. They were a ministry priority.

Shouldn't the truth throughout Matthew's Gospel, influence how we approach Christ's Great Commission "Go, therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Matt. 28:19)?

In your personal witness and ministry, as well as that of your church, is reaching "the least of these" a priority? Sometimes we get stuck in a rut, only connecting with those who look like us and act like us. Other times, we focus on reaching "the least of these" in foreign missions, but overlook those right in our own cities.

While we should be burdened to reach anyone and everyone with the gospel, let's not overlook the ones Jesus went to first. Who are "the least of these" in your community—those whom the world and possibly the church are overlooking? What can you do to reach them?

stories of hope

MINISTERING TO THE MARGINALIZED

Through our various partnerships, God has provided opportunities for EvanTell to reach those in need who have been forgotten, neglected, or overlooked.

MEDICAL OUTREACHES IN MANILA

EvanTell partners with "What the Bible Says Community Church" in Manila, as well as other churches in the Philippines. A key part of their outreach strategy is opening their doors to those in their community who need health care. During these outreaches, they address each person's physical needs for healthcare. They also meet their spiritual needs by integrating a gospel presentation and discussion into their process.



EvanTell trained believers sharing the gospel during a medical clinic visit in Manila, Philippines.

PRISON MINISTRY IN MYANMAR

EvanTell's ministry partners in Myanmar reach out to people in prison and work camps to share the hope of the gospel. Prisoners must share cramped cells, and their daily food ration is a bowl of rice, often stale or infested with parasites. It is expected that the families of the prisoners will help provide their other needs, including nutritional food, blankets, clothes, etc. However, many prisoners don't have anyone who is willing or able to provide.

God has given our partners an open door by the prison leaders to provide the basic physical needs of those whose families cannot or will not provide. In doing so, they also share the hope of Jesus Christ.



Our ministry partners in Myanmar have an open door to share hope with those in prison.

PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTERS

All 700+ pregnancy centers of EvanTell's Save the Mother, Save her Child (SMSC) evangelism ministry are experts at providing care and support for those who need it most.

Clients give high praise for SMSC centers:

"These ladies do a great job in educating you with options and even pray for you & your baby. They also give you a gift bag with diapers, wipes, clothes, & a beautiful bible! I love this place & will recommend it to everyone! Keep up the great work ladies!"

— *Metroplex Women's Clinics, Arlington, TX*

"I think the Dad's Night Out events with the Stronger program is exactly what men who are trying to become more of a man need: meaningful and fun guy time--with free food!"

— *Tri-Cities Pregnancy Network, Kennewick, Washington*



SMSC centers in the Tri-cities Pregnancy Network have introduced the "Stronger Dads Program," offering mentoring and support for new dads.