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BY LARRY **MOYER** Founder & CEO, EvanTell

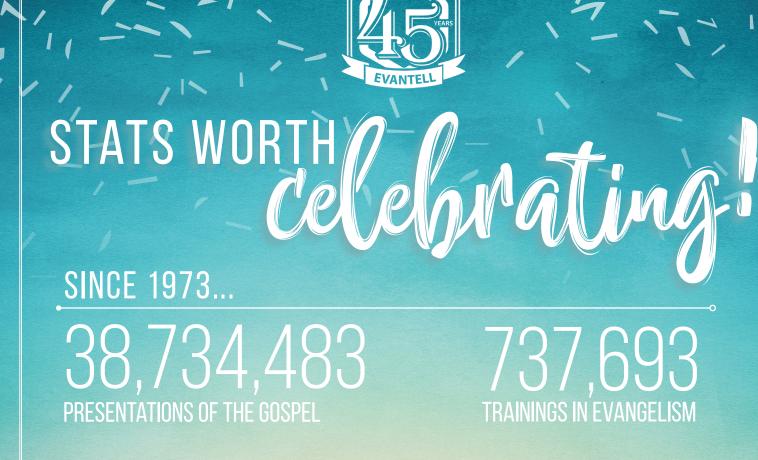
No matter the size of the yard, sprinkler systems are essential in Texas. Otherwise, you would spend every evening with a garden hose trying to keep your yard alive.

When my wife and I moved into our first home, limited funds required us to put the sprinkler system in ourselves. Although raised on a farm, this was new territory for me. Thankfully, an experienced friend said, "Look, I'll lay out the whole thing for you and get you started." He did just that and then said, "Now I've started the task. It's up to you to finish it."

Ever think that is what the Lord said to us? "I've started the task, now it's up to you to finish it." Think about the last thing Christ ever said to His disciples: "You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

A witness is someone who tells what he knows. Witnesses are people—ones just like you and me who have a powerful story to tell.

Why is it essential to have witnesses? The task is Will you say to God, "Yes, Jesus you started the task. I will be part of your plan to finish it. Use me today to tell unfinished. Jesus has finished the work of the gospel. (John 19:30) But sharing that Good News is not finished someone about you." until He returns. That is something He left for you and



## THE UNFINISHED TASK

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me to do. He is in heaven; we are on earth. Unless we tell them, they will never find out what He did for them.

The following fable illustrates God's plan: When Jesus ascended to heaven after His mission on earth, the angels asked, "Did You accomplish Your task?" The Lord answered, "Yes, it is all finished. I paid for the sins of the world." The angels asked, "Has the whole world heard of you?" Christ responded, "No, not yet." They wondered, "What is your plan?" Jesus explained, "I left twelve men and some other followers to carry the message to the whole world." The angels then asked, "If that doesn't work, what is Plan B?" Jesus responded, "There is no Plan B."

That's right! There is no plan B. You and I are part of Plan A. God is depending on us to spread the ten words of the Gospel—Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead-to everyone, everywhere. All need to hear: your neighbor, co-worker, relative, bank personnel, doctor, mechanic, carpenter, nurse, college roommate, friend at the supermarket, and parking attendant. It's all about people reaching people!

## A STRATEGY WITH O BOUNDAR | ES

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Someone who tells you to do something and doesn't tell you how can be very frustrating. If the task is of any magnitude and size, you need direction.

That is one of the many things that made Jesus Christ such an outstanding leader. He not only gave us the task, He gave us the needed direction to finish what He started: "You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

They were to start at Jerusalem, the lead city, the very city where Christ had been rejected and crucified. They were then to go from there to the local area of Judea. With Samaria mentioned and Galilee implied, this meant the outer area of Palestine.

They were then to go to "the end of the earth." To the disciples this would have likely been Rome, the capital of the empire and the place where people gathered from every corner. A direct line from Judea to Rome would have been more than 1400 miles long.

The book of Acts records this progress of the gospel, first in Jerusalem (Chapters 1–7), then in all Judea and Samaria (Chapters 8–12), and finally to the worldwide Gentile sphere (Chapters 13–28). What a plan! What more detail is needed?

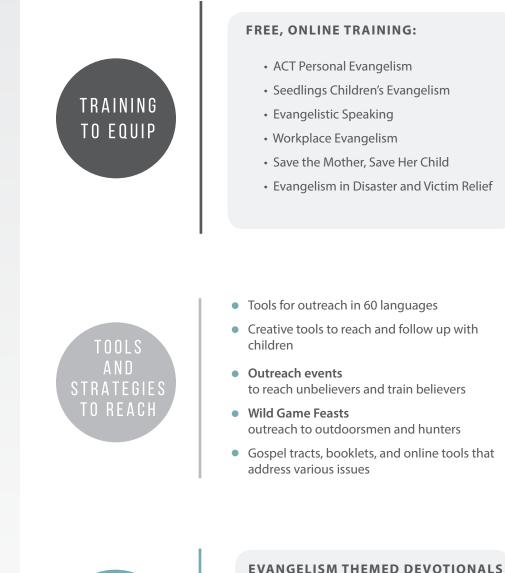
Two things are worth noticing. The entire world needs the gospel. That means your local neighborhood, not just the people overseas. A church's mission should be an extension of their local evangelism, not an excuse for not evangelizing at home. It's not either/or; it's both/and.

Second, put yourself in the disciples' shoes. The phrase "all Judea and Samaria" must have struck a note of discomfort as Jews typically stayed clear of Samaria. A Samaritan woman once said to Christ, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman? For the Jews have no dealings with Samaritans" (John 4:9).

The point was clear. We are to take the Gospel where it is needed. That often means to the people who are not like us or with those whose company we don't prefer. We must remember, though, we are not there for them to meet our needs, we are there to meet theirs.

Christ gave us the plan. Start at home and go worldwide. The gospel has no boundaries. Neither should we.





RESOURCES

**TO INSPIRE** 

AND

ENCOURAGE

- - 31 Days to Contagious Living
  - 31 Days to Living as a New Believer
  - 31 Days to Walking with God in the Workplace



YOUR MISSION IS OUR MISSION!

- What EvanTell offers in Evangelism...available at evantell.org
- Authentic Life Training equipping you to reach upcoming generations
- **SEEDS** 12-Week Small Group Study
- EvanTell Instructor Certification equipping you to train others
- Seminar for Workplace Evangelism
- "Show Me How" Series of Instructional Books
- 21 Things God Never Said addresses misconceptions about evangelism



- Evangelism Bonanza—a weekend to inspire and equip your church
- Blog posts and downloadable resources
- The Evangelism Study Bible
- 101 Tips for Evangelism
- Follow-up Bible Studies