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TOOLBOX
EVANTELL'S
WINTER 2016

HOW SHOULD BELIEVERS RESPOND IN TIMES OF POLITICAL CHANGE?

By David Souther
President, EvanTell

Our recent campaign season has lasted over a year and included debates, town hall meetings, and campaign ads. The candidates cast their opponents in the worst possible light, as well as forecasted doom and gloom if their opponent were elected. Nevertheless, a new president will be inaugurated come January and a new administration will be in place.

Regardless of the results, how should believers respond?

First, don't get distracted. It is very tempting after a major change to gravitate toward fear. However, no matter the circumstances, God is still on His throne: "For the kingdom is the Lord's, and He rules over the nations" (Ps. 22:28). The work that He has done, is doing, and will do is not dependent on who is elected. His agenda will prevail. Therefore, as His servants, our primary thoughts should be, "God, how do you want to use me?" "Who do you want me to reach for you?" and "Here am I, send me!" No matter how unsettled our world may get, the light of the gospel still burns bright and often burns brightest in uncertain times.

Second, examine your witness. A negative attitude based upon who is in office can diminish our witness. In our conversations, are we focused more on politics or on Christ? Anytime a believer, church, or denomination is known more for anything other than Jesus Christ, there is a major problem. We ought to be known more for who we are for—the Lord Jesus Christ—than what we are against.

Consider these questions:

- Are you more willing to share the gospel or your political opinions in your conversations, emails you forward, or social media items you post and share?
- Do you pray for your government leaders more than you complain about them?
- When you receive a political email, do you check the facts before forwarding it?
- Have you limited your sphere of influence for the gospel by not associating with people who hold political opinions that are different than yours?

In this season of political transition, let's remember to keep the focus on the One who is in control and use this time to point people to Him.

GOD'S PLANS *Thrive* IN THE MIDST OF PERSECUTION

EvanTell partners with church networks around the world, some serving in countries where evangelism is forbidden by the governing authorities. Others serve in corrupt areas of the world with coercion and/or political upheaval. These partners demonstrate how believers are sharing the gospel in the midst of persecution. As you read the summaries below, please take time to lift our partners up in prayer.

CENTRAL AMERICA

For the past three years, San Pedro Sula—known for its drugs and gang violence—has ranked at the top of the list of the world's most dangerous cities (outside of war zones).

Josue lives in one of the worst neighborhoods in the city. Only people who live in that area may safely visit and nobody from his church congregation dares to enter.

But Josue believes this is where God has called him. As a missionary to his community, Josue has led over 30 people to Christ after taking EvanTell training from one of our Master Certified Instructors.



SOUTHEAST ASIA



EvanTell VP and CFO Paul Pham works to implement water filtration devices and provide the gospel in Southeast Asia; some faces blurred for security.

In Southeast Asia, God is at work in one of the few totalitarian countries in the world. For years, the government had tried to remove all forms of religious expression. However, the Lord's work flourished. Now, because of the integrity and witness of church leaders, the government is turning to the church for help with some major projects addressing physical needs such as clean water. EvanTell is now partnering with one of the largest denominations in this country to help provide water filtration to meet physical needs while at the same time meeting spiritual needs through the gospel.

SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA

In another totalitarian country in South Central Asia, EvanTell partners with a wide network of churches. Several years ago, church leaders recognized the need for a school where current and future church leaders could be trained. Because of the government's commitment to keep out Christianity, this seemed like an impossibility. However, God made a parcel of land available in a demilitarized zone on the border where the government could not interfere. Now that school has trained hundreds of leaders in evangelism and church growth by conversion.



Church leaders learning to share the gospel and follow up with new believers; faces blurred for security.

Because of the large number of people trusting Christ as a result of the partnership, Bibles are in huge demand. EvanTell has been invited to help provide Bibles to new believers in the surrounding areas to help them grow in their faith and witness for Christ.

By Sarah Bowler
Communications Manager

3 things THE LIFE OF DANIEL TEACHES US ABOUT TROUBLED TIMES

From foreign rulers invading his home to keeping company with lions, the life of Daniel showcases God's sovereign control. As the book of Daniel begins, King Nebuchadnezzar besieges Jerusalem and takes many of the young men back to Babylon, including Daniel.

Fast forward a few thousand years and we may not all face lions or invasion, but we do still struggle with a chaotic world.

How can believers learn from Daniel's actions?

1. Daniel didn't hide his faith, but stood by his convictions. Daniel lived a life characterized by devotion to God despite the risks. When the captives arrived in Babylon, most appeared to at least outwardly go along with the dictates of this new rule. But Daniel "purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself" (Dan. 1:8).

Late in his life, governors and satraps convinced King Darius to command everyone in the kingdom to offer prayers only to the king. Those who violated the ruling were to be cast into a lion's den. Daniel again stood by his convictions and is described in the New Testament as one who "stopped the mouths of lions" (Heb. 11:33).

As believers, our faith and convictions matter, leaving a legacy long after we've come and gone. Just as Daniel's story has inspired people throughout the ages, so our example can inspire upcoming generations to proclaim and live out God's truth.

2. Daniel interacted with the culture in a wise manner. When called upon to interpret King Nebuchadnezzar's dream concerning a statue, Daniel used the opportunity to point the king to God (Dan. 2:27-30).

As believers, choose to "walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time" (Col. 4:5). Let us make the most of the opportunities and time God has given us to point others to Him through the gospel message.

3. Daniel acknowledged God's sovereignty and control. The entire book illustrates how God orchestrates every circumstance (cf. Dan. 2:20-22), both during Daniel's life as well as in prophesied events in the centuries that follow.

As believers, not only can we put our confidence in a sovereign God, we can boldly proclaim our confidence in Jesus Christ, as well as His desire for others to place their trust in Him.