

Ammi News - July 2017

Be ready in season and out of season because we are “living epistles”

Over the years, I have developed the habit of personal evangelism. I am motivated by the Lord's second great command “to love your neighbor as yourself.” As I meet people, I know that unless they have trusted in Jesus before they leave this earth, they will spend eternity in Hell separated from all that is good. Some people joke about Hell and say they will be there with all their friends. They don't realize what they're facing. Hell is a place that has the total absence of anything good, beautiful, decent, and the blessings of God. Jesus described Hell as a place of “**wailing and grinding of teeth**”, and a place of “**utter darkness**”. Dear believers let this sink in as you meet people around you, and may you be motivated to go beyond your comfort zone for the Lord's sake, by planting gospel truth in the hearts of people you meet in everyday life.

Here are some examples of my recent evangelism experiences this past week.

N. is a handyman came and give estimates for work we need done. He's a young man and seemed to be very knowledgeable about the repairs we need. It turned out that he spiritually searching as we learned in later conversation. He was raised Catholic, but is not practicing Catholicism. I spoke with him and shared the gospel, and answered some questions about the Lord. I'm normally hesitant to encourage people pray without a further understanding of the gospel, but since he's been having discussions with his Protestant girlfriend, I sensed it was appropriate to ask him if he wanted to pray to ask Jesus into his heart. He readily agreed and we prayed together. As he was leaving I gave him the Gospel of John in the New Testament. He gave us his contact information. Please pray they'll be even further opportunities to disciple N., and help him find a Bible believing church community.

I was having breakfast with one of our board members and we were discussing the difficulty that many Christians have sharing their faith. At that point I gave an example of how simple it is by asking our waitress how my wife and I could pray for her. At first she was a little hesitant, and had to think about it, but then she asked us to pray for her grandmother, and for her studies. I followed up by asking her what she was studying. She answered she was training to work with special needs children. I explained that I adopted a special needs child, and how his faith in Jesus had miraculously transformed him. I asked if she went to church and read the Bible, and she answered no. She went to church when she was young, but didn't read Scripture. I explained the availability of grace and relationship with God through Jesus. And, our need for forgiveness was great because we all sin. I noticed tears began coming in to her eyes. I encouraged her to read the Gospel of John. The next time I go to this restaurant I will bring John and a Bible to give to her. Please pray for A.

I needed technical support for my computer. The tech-support guy I spoke to was living in Manila, Philippines. After he finished helping me, he asked “Is there anything else I can do for you.” I asked him if he ever had read the fourth book of the New Testament called the Gospel of John. He responded that he had not. I explained how important it was to understand who Jesus is, and this part of the Bible is where He spoke the most about himself. I explained the problems we all have with our creator because of our sins, and how Jesus died for our sins so we are forgiven before the holy and pure God. I encouraged him to read John for himself by going to www.biblegateway.com, where he could find a version of the Scriptures in his own language. While I was speaking to him he looked it up on the computer and found the website. He promised that he would read John and thanked me for mentioning this. What a privilege to plant a seed that we pray will bring forth the fruit of

salvation. Always remember, that when you're speaking to someone, you have an opportunity to point them to Jesus.

That same day, a service man come to do a regular maintenance tune-up on our air conditioning. His name is K. I appreciated his thoroughness in explaining what he was doing step-by-step, and we had an interesting conversation while he was servicing our unit. While he was getting the paperwork together for me to sign, I spoke with him about his spiritual condition. He said he didn't go to church, and saw how the world was becoming more confused and divisive. This gave me an opportunity to explain the spiritual foundation for a society's success or failure. I mentioned that John Adams, the second president of America, stated that the experiment of our republic would only last as long as there is a moral and religious people. The founders of America based the constitution on their biblical understanding of morality and mankind's sinful human's nature. Kevin does not read the Bible. I explained the central theme of the Bible regarding mankind's separation from God because of sin and the grace of forgiveness he offers us through Jesus. I didn't want to hold him up from leaving, and mentioned that, but he said that it was OK to go on and continue our conversation. Eventually I explained it was up to him, to seek the truth. When it was time for him to leave I gave him the Gospel of John, the New Testament, and a pamphlet I wrote on Isaiah 53. Please pray that K would read and pray to know the truth. He will be our regular serviceman for our heating system.

When Donna and I are in a restaurant we always become friendly with the servers. We begin by asking their name, and since many of the young servers are going to college we ask if they're in school and what they're studying. The other night we met C. She is a Catholic and teaches a Sunday school class, yet does not believe the Bible is the foundation of understanding spiritual reality. I challenged her presuppositions and encouraged her to read the Scriptures. It is sad that her religious studies in college have corrupted her trust of the Bible. Please add your prayers to ours that this conversation with will prompt her to read the Gospel of John and 1 John chapter 5 (she believes it's wrong to assume or know that you are saved). 1 Jn. 5:13 **"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."**

Feasts of Israel

- The warm summer months separate the remaining year from the earlier Feasts:
- The Feast of Passover (sacrifice of Jesus, The Passover Lamb, **"Behold the Lamb of God"**)
- Unleavened Bread (leaven symbol for sin, unleavened represents the absence of sin and the purity of Jesus – **"this is my body broken for you"**)
- First Fruits (Resurrection Day - 1 Cor. 15)
- Pentecost (The pouring out of the Spirit, and enabling the followers of Jesus through the filling of the spirit)

When the summer passes the fall feasts of Israel begin, the holiest time of the Jewish calendar:

The Feast of Trumpets - multiple trumpet blast are a call to repentance, the casting off of sins Micah 7:18-20, preparation for The Day of Judgment, and the return of the Lord. **"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first."** 1 Thes. 4:16 NIV

The Day of Judgment – the great white throne separation of wheat and chafe, heaven or the pit of hell. Safety in Jesus – John 5:24 **"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."**

The Feast of Tabernacle - in the temple pouring out the water and wine before God and praying for the Messiah to come. Jesus answered this call on the Feast of Tabernacle, **“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water”** (John 7:37-38). Believers in Jesus will dwell in the Tent of God forever.

Thousands view Ron’s testimony on YouTube

The testimony I placed on YouTube several years ago has been seen by 3,500 people. Forty-eight positive comments were posted, and one anti-Semitic rant. Several of the comments explain how encouraging and helpful the testimony was. Pray that God will draw unsaved Jews and Gentiles to view the video.

Gospel outreach through advertisements on Facebook

Ammi is planning to place advertisements on Facebook targeted towards Jews (including Israelis) offering free books and links to apologetic gospel articles. There are now 2 billion users of Facebook, the largest community in the world. Among them are many Internet savvy Jewish people from around the world. The ad will go out to those who have expressed an interest in Judaism, Jewish subjects, Messiah, and Israel. Our board member Geoff Robinson, is developing this new outreach effort. Please pray for him. In order for us to activate this campaign we need at least several thousand dollars. Pray we will be equipped with the funds needed to further the gospel to thousands of Jewish people through Facebook and later Twitter.

Financial Need – New Medical Expenses

Over the years, many missionaries and ministries experience a loss of support from churches and individuals. Our ministry is no exception. We are experiencing serious financial difficulties. So far this year I've only taken two months' salary. We do have Social Security income which helps towards our living expenses. Donna and I are a frugal couple, and do everything to minimize our expenses. Beyond our salary, the ministry helps us with our health insurance, and other medical expenses. Years ago the Board of Directors voted to help pay for additional medical expenses that our insurance does not cover. We now face over \$10,000 in dental expenses. Donna's treatment began today and will cost \$7,350. None of this treatment is cosmetic, but necessary for her continued oral health.

Later I will need \$3,400 of dental work. Please consider a donation above your normal giving, and please explain our mission work to other potential donors. A good way to do this is by encouraging people to look at our website: www.ammiministry.org. It is possible to donate to Ammi directly on our website. We are very grateful for your support and understand you may not be able to go beyond what you're already donating. However, please pray for God to provide through His people or any other way he chooses. We rejoice in the many ways that God has allowed us to be a witness for Him for over thirty years.

Sincerely yours,

Ron and Donna Elkin
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