



"Send us to bring them in"

REFLECTIONS

by Colleen Wheeler



As the year of 2004 came to an end, I spent some time reflecting on both my personal and ministerial aspects of my life. I thought about the goals I planned to achieve but never started; all my accomplishments, my defeats, my victories, and pondered the "what ifs." I discovered that most of the year was spent on seeking God's will as I explored new ways to create a balance between being a church member, ministering in my home church and as an itinerant evangelist. I believe

many strong gifted ministers struggle with similar issues that tends to place them outside the box of the regular church structure. My hope is that this article will shed more "light" on the topic.

SQUARE PEGGING IT - Part of an evangelist's responsibility is to exhort Christians to "go" out into the world and make disciples." This message shakes the majority of the church out of their comfort zones; especially when the word "go" in relation to the "Great Commission" is repetitive, it can put a damper on relationships in the evangelists home church.

Evangelists have an extraordinary passion and zeal to reach the lost, which can often be misunderstood as self-promotion or immaturity. Their hearts cry out, "Lord, touch the hearts of your people to reach the lost." When there is not much response, they end up feeling frustrated and alone in their callings, wondering why the majority of the church does not share their passion to reach the lost. Therefore, they often feel like a square peg trying to fit into a round hole.

During times like this, feeling discouraged, they might think about giving up; to stop exhorting the church, leave their church family, or even withdraw from their ministry. However, this reaction would be contrary to Scripture; thus every Christian must belong to a local congregation, for they are not to forsake assembling together, no matter how strong their gift or office. The question is: "How should evangelists and other strongly gifted ministers fit in with their local church fellowship, without compromising their passionate gift and fiery zeal, while still maintaining peaceful loving relationships with those who reject their



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primary message?" This is not an easy task for visionaries who are zealous to do the Lords will.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. (1 Corinthians 12:4-6 NASB)

Depending on each person and their calling, gifting and anointing; degrees of tasks will vary. For instance Reinhard Bonnke is a mass evangelist but not all evangelists are called to mass evangelism; he also struggled fitting in at his local church: *He wrote, "I wanted to do evangelism, and (those in leadership over me) didn't want me to do it. When God spoke to me and said that I should obey Him more than man, then His blessings began to follow."*

EVANGELIST - "a bringer of good news." This sounds simple enough right? Wrong! There is much more to the calling of an evangelist. ***The word "evangelist" only appears three times in the New Testament, therefore, it is worth spending time digging deeper into the Scriptures for more revelation. Let's look at those three Scriptures:**

- **The Office of an Evangelist - *And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ... (Ephesians 4:11-12 NASB)*** Here we see the office of the Evangelist as one of the distinct five-fold gifts sent to the church, to equip the saints for the work of service and to build up body of Christ. You might be familiar with an allegory that refers to the "the human hand" as a map; each finger represents one of the five fold gifts, the middle finger reaches out the furthest, which could only be the Evangelist.
- **Doing the work of an Evangelist - *But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (2 Timothy 4:5 NASB)*** Timothy was mentored, trained and labored on Paul's apostolic team, (see 1 Thessalonians 1:1 & 2:6). Even so, Paul exhorted him to do the work of an evangelist (see Ephesians 4:11), which implies he was to take the gospel out further into Ephesus. Paul also told him to be sober and to endure hardship! Hardship is right, the combination of ministry and relationships are not easy for those who do the work of an evangelist.
- **Philip the Evangelist - *And on the next day we departed and came to Caesarea; and entering the house of Philip the evangelist... (Acts 21:8 NASB)*** Philip is the



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only named evangelist in the entire Bible! This is why when exploring the ministry of an evangelist we must glean from Philip's life. Combined with Ephesians 4:11, we learn that evangelists have two major tasks they must learn how to balance and fulfill to the church and to the lost. However, not forgetting they must also keep their relationships intact as they minister the powerful and convicting message of the gospel!

TWO MAJOR TASKS -

1st The Lost - Philip worked, lived and fellowshiped with other five fold ministers; both Paul's apostolic band and the prophet Agabus visited his home where he lived with his four daughters who were prophetesses. Even though Philip was connected and linked with the apostolic and prophetic leaders he was also very sensitive to the Holy Spirit and moved from place to place under God's authority.

Philip was ordained as a deacon and later moved into the office of an evangelist. He went to Samaria, and preached "Christ." He performed miracles of healing and deliverance; many believed, were saved, and baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. When the Jerusalem Church found out, they "sent" the apostles Peter and John to help. It is interesting to note that the apostles were "sent," they were already "sent ones". The Scripture does not tell us if Philip was "sent", it says that after Stephen's martyrdom, he "went" to Samaria. Also, Philip, like Jesus, ministered to "many people at once" and sometimes to "only one person," he also labored "with others" and sometimes "alone."

When the Spirit of the Lord told Philip to go to Gaza he did not go out "two by two" or ask for a man's permission, he obeyed the Spirit. Can you imagine the Holy Spirit telling you to go into a bar or to a dry lonely desert and talk to someone from a different culture about Jesus? Would you submit to God or call your pastor first? If Philip had consulted with men, he would have missed the divine appointment God had pre-ordained. Philip's obedience to God had opened the door for the Ethiopian to be "saved and baptized." Philip was faithful to the Holy Spirit and was transported supernaturally to his next assignment!

2nd The Church - God has given the Church five distinct ascension gifts to equip the saints for the work of the ministry. This means that evangelists are to use their special gift to teach, preach and motivate Christians to reach the lost. However, this does not mean they are exclusively constrained to their home church; to the contrary evangelists are called to go to other churches, places, and wherever the Holy Spirit leads them in obedience to God. The two main tasks of an evangelist are to the lost and to the church and I wrote a summary of some



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of my personal ministry experiences as I sought to achieve these tasks for the Lord.

It is clear that the Evangelists responsibility is to the church and to the lost. As a fivefold minister I continue to learn about my calling as an evangelist and fitting in with "today's" local church.

BABY HUEY ANOINTING: I first came into the Church as an adult knowing very little about Christianity.

However it was not long before the Holy Spirit poured out a huge anointing upon me and called me into the ministry. My Pastor and his wife took me under their wing and carefully guided my walk with the Lord as I pursued the calling of God on my life as an Evangelist. I was told that I had a "Baby Huey" anointing. Baby Huey was a cartoon character of a huge lovable duck that wore a diaper and carried a huge pacifier or baby bottle. The Lord had poured a huge anointing upon me for "soul winning" but I had to grow up all over again. Since God had blessed me with a full-blown choleric temperament my growing pains were very intense. However God had blessed me with a Pastor with a strong character, which was just what I needed. God must have given him wisdom about how to handle my personality type; he was firm so that I listened but also loving so I would not be discouraged. As the Holy Spirit began to work through me, my Pastor gave me a lot of freedom to go and flow in the anointing while he provided accountability.

Lord of the Harvest Ministries was birthed from this anointing. I learned all the foundational tools I needed to lay a solid platform for my walk with Lord. These teachings would keep my focus on Jesus no matter what trials I would face. After receiving on the job training in the school of the Holy Spirit, I could hear the voice of God; minister in prayer, deliverance, prophetically, and in servanthood and love. Also, learning how to overcome the ins and outs of ministry, I had to learn how to accept the fact that others did not want to help me with evangelism tasks; then learned how to love my brothers and sisters regardless.

God showed me that He had to place an evangelistic conviction deep within their hearts to stir them to win souls, but I had to keep my eyes fixed on Jesus and on what He was telling me to do, then obey His leading and the prompting of His Spirit. I found that when I regularly exercised and pursued ***righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart (2 Timothy 2:22 NASB)*** I was able to resist the temptation of becoming frustrated with others.

Nudged From Mothers Nest:

Four years later the Lord began to show me through dreams and visions that I had to move on. It took two more years to discern if I was making the right decision. I waited as the Lord continued to nudge me to "go." I knew I had to obey God but I fought His nudging because I did not know where He was leading me. Besides, I was on staff and felt a loyalty to the pastor and was committed to discipling a beginner's group. Even though I had matured and grew into the anointing, I did not know how to leave a church I only knew how to be rooted there. Therefore I did not budge until the nest got very uncomfortable. Like a mother bird nudges her baby out from the nest to learn to fly, God had nudged me too. I had to obey God and "Fly."

I ARRIVED! SO I THOUGHT

Around this time I received a prophecy during a prophetic leadership meeting. My calling was confirmed again and I felt more direction where God would send me. After several supernatural encounters I ended up "flying" to a huge church. It was a privilege to be hired on staff in a church of over 2000 people as an Evangelist. However, one of my biggest concerns was what would happen to "Lord of the Harvest Ministries." They gave me a job description and I gave them a two-year verbal commitment to accomplish it. Quite honestly, at that time, I thought I had arrived at the peak of my calling (smile). I was able to carry my title with honor and respect, function in my giftedness and get paid for it! This was like a dream come true!

However, after a year of intense hard work, I realized that "Lord of the Harvest Ministries" would have to be laid down completely if I chose to stay there much longer. The job description caused me to devote one hundred percent of my time and energy. I was losing all my prior contacts and was neglecting the ministry God gave to me.

As God continued giving me deep revelation and discernment, He pressed upon my heart that I had to be true to my calling and would have to leave. He revealed that I was taking the easy way out and was selling Him short for a weekly paycheck. I knew God had called me to build the Kingdom and preach the gospel where the Holy Spirit leads. I could not lie to myself, or God, or those I worked with any longer because in my heart my focus was on "Lord of the Harvest Ministries." I had to trust God completely and pursue the ministry He gave me, a ministry to steward for His glory! Like Abraham, I did not know where I was going but by faith I packed my office supplies and left my accomplishments behind; I had raised up ten evangelism leaders and their teams. I was grateful to have moved on but still did not know where I was going, but by faith I knew God had a plan. " ***'For I know the plans I have for you, 'says the Lord.' They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.'*** " (***Jeremiah 29:11 NIV***)

BLUE BIRDS FLY



The following Sunday I visited a few of my friend's who had been praying for me, they belonged to a very small prophetic church and invited me to the Sunday service. I learned later that I confirmed some visions the Lord had been showing them of wounded blue birds flocking there for healing. I was one of the first blue birds to arrive. I needed some healing and the Lord planted me there for almost a year. This was the first time I had learned to rest in the Lord after six years of ministering in full force. I took timeout with minimal outside speaking engagements and experienced a deeper time of reflection, healing & deliverance and experienced a deeper revelation of God's will and purpose for my life. I was

also given the freedom to prophesy, write and preach from what God spoke to me, therefore, the prophetic gifting was renewed and sharpened. As I continued to heal, I learned more about relationships and how I perceived and interacted with my peers, friends, and family. During this time my relational emphasis was directed toward my six siblings, their spouses and children, unfortunately, we had grown distant since I was saved. It seemed I had built a wedge between them with the Bible instead of a building a bridge with Gods love. Eventually God restored the years the locust had stolen and my only sister came to the Lord! When they asked me to give the eulogy during my father's funeral, Christmas Day in 2003, they heard the gospel message. After this, I went away for a two-week writing sabbatical to finish my autobiography, "The Search." There, I realized it was about time to "fly" from the prophetic church, to separate myself from the main focus there, and continue on with the original vision God gave me for "Lord of the Harvest Ministries."

PATIENCE: Tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, which is given unto us. (Romans 5:1-5 KJV)

Once again, I landed in a huge church, but this time conveniently located near my home. I thought I would try "coming and going" without being committed to local church ministry and to avoid conflicts of interest or vision. I met with the Senior Pastor and explained that I needed to focus on Lord of the Harvest Ministries and hoped to be able to rest, soak and launch out from there. He suggested I elect a board for my ministry and was very supportive of what I had set out to do.

A few months had passed, then I became restless! Spring was in the air! I had been accustomed to giving evangelistic workshops and taking groups out to do street evangelism during the nicer weather. Even though I signed on to rest, be filled, and launch out from there, I could hardly stand the pressure of not doing something evangelistically. I asked different leaders if I could serve in various areas; an evangelistic workshop, bible study, pray for people, preach or "do" something...but I humbly learned that I would have to join their church membership first and wait for a period of time before being released to do ministry. But God worked this "time out" for His glory!

A SEASON FOR EVERYTHING: Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9 NIV)

Education: I used this time to refocus on my education and completed the "In Christ Image Training", Frances Frangipane's online courses. In July 2004 attended the onsite seminar to graduate with 300 local and international ministers. In September, I transferred from Bethel Bible Institute to Southwest Bible College and Seminary to continue my Masters Degree in Theology.

Foundational Necessities: I also used this time to work on 'Lord of the Harvest Ministries' professionally and relationally by finding a Christian web designer, we worked together to launch LOTHM web site. Then I found a Christian accountant and lawyer to get the 501(c) 3 up and running. I also took my pastors advice and formed an advisory board.

Affiliations: An associate with the Pocket Testament League, Advancing Church Ministries Association and Fisherman's Net Global Care Network. **For more information about these ministries please go to >>affiliates**

DESTINY WILL NOT LET GO: "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much...(Luke 16:10 NASB)



One of the churches I was asked to speak in was a small church in Laurelton New York. I looked forward to preach the fire and brimstone message I had spent a lot of time preparing. When I arrived, I wondered why so many children were running around in the sanctuary. I kept hoping the adults would come out from the prayer room or from somewhere. But as I stood at the pulpit gazing out upon the audience I saw a huge group of wide-eyed children and their mothers intensely staring at me from the corner of the room. I took a deep breath as I realized the adults were not coming and tried my best to water down the "fire from the brimstone" and preach so the children would not be terrified. But their mothers did not look too happy. After the service, as I was walking toward my presentation table to quickly pack my things and leave, I suddenly felt two children lunge into the calves of my legs. Bewildered, I reached down and stroked their heads. One child ran off and the other little girl kept clutching at my legs so tightly that I could hardly move. Her mother noticed and apologetically walked over to untangle her daughter's grasp. She cried loudly because she did not want to let me go. I was a bit startled and speechless until I asked the mother what the child's name was, she said, "Destiny!" Immediately I knew why God allowed the entire mishap. He was testing my faithfulness and used precious this child to let me know that DESTINY WILL NOT LET GO! I left there encouraged, knowing that God would continue what he had started in me. "Lord of the Harvest Ministries" would indeed be used for His End Time Harvest!

EVANGELISM OPPORTUNITIES:

After this occurrence once or twice a month I was called out to minister in various churches some of them were ethnic Christian churches in the N.Y. Metro area with Spanish and Indonesian interpreters. I shared about the importance and urgency to share the gospel; gave workshops and simply exhorted the church to "Go." During the altar call, people were responding to the gospel. I also received an invitation to go to Pakistan through the web, but after much prayer, and counsel from wise Church Fathers, declined.

Then "New Jerusalem City Church" in Brooklyn asked me to speak about evangelism. They immediately invited back to participate in an evangelistic outreach in Coney Island in Brooklyn where they would begin a new church. During the outreach, the Lord revealed a strategy to me to reach a harvest of souls by hosting an evangelistic movie in the garden located right next to the new church. After a month of praying and planning the first movie outreach, we opened the garden gate and over 70 seeking people attended!

I felt led by God to "fly" back to the gold mine of souls in Coney Island and minister with the local church and launch out from there. Even though I still struggle with balancing the local church and itinerate ministry, my relationships are easier today. I simply bring the teaching and let God raise-up His laborers, in His timing. Also, I pursue outside co-laborers who have the same burden for souls. These are just a few who have caught the vision and have come forward to help 'Lord of the Harvest Ministries' with outreach events, street evangelism, outdoor movie events and festivals.

- **In August:** "Extreme Youth Ministries," from Lancaster, PA, co-labored with LOTHM to canvass the area with tracts and movie invitations.
- **In October:** during our "Harvest Garden Festival." "Alpha & Omega" worship team from Hempstead Long Island, "Mama Sadie" (Audrey Taylor's one woman show), and a variety of local gifted individuals joined in to serve. About 100 seekers attended this event! After the altar call over 25 kids raised their hands to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, along with 6 adults.
- **In November:** during the Thanksgiving Love Feast, a wonderful gifted teacher from Bethel Bible Institute, **Sister Sadie Alvarez**, volunteered to rally people from her church to make 4 turkeys and other plates of food to feed the homeless at Coney Island Lighthouse Mission. We fed over 70 people and several people received the Lord.
- **In December:** I spend time reflecting and resting in the Lord, studying, praying, writing and researching funding for the ministry.

**Lord of the Harvest Ministries:
2004 Itinerate Ministry**

Iglesia Cristiana Unida Hempstead/Pastor Leslie Gomez
New Jerusalem City Church Brooklyn/Apostle Vince Fusco
Coney Island Lighthouse Mission Brooklyn/Apostle Vince Fusco
ICU Ministries in Richmond Hill/Reverend Steve and Debbie Kulish
Lighthouse Baptist Church Laurelton/Pastor Desmond P. Thomas
Living Waters Brooklyn/Pastor Ron Mandile
Latter Rain Ministries Flushing/Pastor Hank & Yin Widjaja
Hope Chapel Astoria/Pastor Peter & Margo Kempt
Bowery Mission NYC/Pastor Reggie Stutzman

And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his home town, and in his own household." (Matthew 13:57 NASB)

EVANGELISM
TRAINING
IS NEEDED!

**LET'S TAKE THE
TRAINING INTO
THE HARVEST FIELD!**

And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!" (NKJ Romans 10:15)

CONCLUSION: My walk with the Lord has taken many flights, launchings, and landings. The gospel is an offense, to those who are perishing *and* to those who do not obey the "Great Commission." Conflict is certainly inevitable! Most churches can not contain the consistency of their "on fire" evangelist for very long. It is a strong call that creates a lot of church activity. Therefore, in order to preserve the evangelists blazing fire and sanity, they need to be raised up, and released to "come and go."

PASTORS NOTE:

When I speak in various churches, colleges, and Bible groups I always ask how many people are familiar with the Romans Road and for a show of hands. The response is negatively shocking! One time an entire class of thirty people from various Evangelical Churches did not know the Romans Road! 90% of Christians do not know what the Romans Road is or how to use Scripture to lead a person to faith and only 10 percent of Christians regularly share their faith. We need more evangelism training in our churches today!

The biggest miracle of all is in the salvation of souls! Therefore, when a zealous on fire evangelist is in your midst, nurture their anointing. Fan into flame that gift! An evangelist without a church base to work from is incomplete in their ministry. They may seem to be like a square peg trying to fit into a round hole; regardless, let's teach them the importance of working with the church, not solely on the street, as they need the church to bring in the new convert. The more evangelists that are raised up, the more training will go forth. **Therefore let's recognize, nurture, and release the evangelists in the midst of the church and send them into the world to win souls!**