

## *Our Evangelism efforts in Charlottesville – Part 1*

[www.ncvchurch.com](http://www.ncvchurch.com)

**Introduction:** Evangelism is a core work of a local church.

- A. Jesus gave the great commission before His ascension. **(Mt 28:18-20)**
  - 1. He also gave the steps in *how* this commission was to be fulfilled. **(Acts 1:8)**
  - 2. There were *many factors* that would lead to explosive growth in the 1<sup>st</sup> century.
- B. Local churches *were key* in the spreading of the gospel.
  - 1. The greatest spread came from the effort of *Paul among the Gentiles*.
  - 2. Where did *this effort start?* **(Acts 13:1-3)**
  - 4. From where did *the church at Antioch start?* **(Acts 8:3-4; 11:19-22)**
  - 5. The work of the church is Jerusalem in grounding disciples to use their influence and speech to lead others to become Christians! **(Acts 2:41-42)**

### ***I. How should we prepare for our evangelism here?***

- A. We need to pray with a focus asking for God's help! **(Acts 13:2; Col 4:3-4)**
  - 1. This is a great work, but also one that is filled with *many dangers and challenges*. If we are effective, we will have *both* joy and sorrow! **(2 Cor 7:5-6; 13)**
  - 2. Evangelism will test how strong our relationship is *with God* and *with each other*. Young evangelists have learned the importance of a strong leadership!
- B. We are told to pray for open doors. *What is a door?*
  - 1. It is an open heart that can be taught. God can *give us doors*.
  - 2. How may He give us these doors? It often comes in the form of *a problem or a rejection!* We also can take planned action to teach publicly.
  - 3. When we are truly serving God and pointing to the truth, there will be a few that notice. We must *walk by faith and act on principle*. **(Jn 8:31-32; Gal 1:10)**

### ***II. An overview of our TV ads***

- A. We are going to be producing *30 second ads on the local television station* very soon. We are basing our approach on the efforts made in Columbus, GA.
  - 1. A link was sent out a few months ago with several of the ads run by the church in Georgia. If you need me to send it to you again, let me know.
  - 2. They had *numerous visitors* from that effort and saw significant growth.
  - 3. Their results from a market in the Bible belt will *likely be different* from what we will see. Let us pray that God might use this to give us some open doors!
- B. We are targeting people that *believe in the Bible and have a desire to learn more* or to stand with like thinking people. **(Acts 18:9-11)**
  - 1. We will be quoting scripture and making very basic points.
  - 2. We may *later change the kind of ads* we run to appeal to a different group of people!
- C. Consider some of the scripts from our 30 second spots. Each ad will close with this: "Seeking and serving, God's way – the North Charlottesville church of Christ"

### Light for a Dark World (30 sec)

(Scene – Train Tunnel)

This world can be a very dark place. That darkness can lead to mistrust, disappointment and anger. Jesus came to give us light! John wrote: “in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1:4-5 NRV)  
Jesus Himself said: “... ”I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

### Seasons of Life (30 Sec)

(Getting off Riding Mower and walking to Garage – Martin’s House)

It’s time to mow the grass! A few months ago, the mowers were in storage and soon we’ll be searching for leaf rakes, and maybe even a snow shovel!

Seasons continually change and so do the seasons of life. There is one thing that never changes, God. And I find real comfort in that.

God said: “For I *am* the LORD, I do not change;” The New Testament proclaims: “Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

### Trusting In Political Leaders (30 Sec)

(Scene - Statue of Thomas Jefferson)

“Hope and Change”- “Make America Great Again” These are campaign slogans. Sadly, men often disappoint us.

The Psalmist wrote: “Do not put your trust in princes, Nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help.” (Psalm 146:3)

Let’s trust God and His ways!

The Psalmist also wrote: “And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.” (Psalm 9:10)

### God’s standard (30 Sec)

(Office – Bible – Ruler)

This is a ruler. It’s a simple standard of measuring distances.

This is a Bible. It’s a simple standard of measuring Godly behavior.

When we use a standard to measure something, we can get a preciseness and an accuracy as to whether its correct.

And just like when we use a ruler to measure distance, we can use the Bible by laying our lives next to it, to determine whether or not we are meeting the standard God expects.

### Building Faith in our Children (30 sec)

(Scene – Playground)

How do we introduce God to our children? Our child’s first concept of God will be what he sees in his parents.

Consider the greatest commandment: “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, ....” (**Deuteronomy 6:5-7**)

What will our children hear and see?

### Discussion

1. Where do we start in our teaching with one that is seeking? Give examples.
2. What kind of reaction might we see from these ads? What did Paul see as he taught?
3. What efforts are needed in a local church to make evangelism effective?