

Resources for Late-modernity Evangelism (as at 4 February 2011)

These resources are those that have been found helpful by those working with:

- *People whose culture and historical background is related to yours but is different;*
- *People with a church background but who now stay away from church;*
- *People whose culture has been partially shaped by Christianity but who have no church background;*
- *People with a spirituality that is not Christ-centred;*
- *People you may initially feel a little bit at home with, but not completely;*
- *A context with some similarities to the evangelism within 'Judea and Samaria' in the Acts of the Apostles..*

The Anglican Communion Office can take no responsibility for the appropriateness of the content of these resources, but the following have been recommended by Anglicans who are involved in evangelism and church growth

1. **Noise** - *The concept behind noise is that Christians go out into the community to bring a blessing to that community, normally in quite unexpected ways, simply as a service. In doing so they clearly identify themselves as Christians and make it obvious that they are open to conversation about their motivations, faith, Jesus, etc.*

Two examples: (1) One church community went out on a Saturday afternoon in the summer to a large park, set up a BBQ and began cooking hundreds of hotdogs. The smell wafted over the crowds in the park and then to everyone's surprise the group started giving out free hotdogs. In the relaxed atmosphere of the park, conversations start, faith is shared. (2) The men (it could have included women!) of another church spent a day on the streets of their urban neighbourhood, picking up litter, mending broken fences, cutting back overgrown trees, washing pavement seats and removing graffiti. Local residents were amazed, thankful, interested, and got into conversations about what Jesus followers do.

A description of what one church did as 'noise' can be found at

http://www.citylifechurch.net/Articles/1115/City_Life_Church/church_life/The_Noise/Making_a_loud_Noise.aspx

2. **STREET PASTORS Or ANGELS** - *Similar to 'Noise' but much more specific and now a growing phenomenon in Britain is the training and deployment of Street Pastors or as they are called in some towns 'Angels'. The centers of many western European towns and cities become very lively places in the evenings, particularly at weekends, between 10pm and 4am. Young people fill the nightclubs and pubs and many are tempted to drink too much, use illegal 'recreational' drugs and put themselves at risk in other ways. Street pastors seek to be a Christian, caring, presence on the streets – not to judge behavior*

but rather to listen, to assist and to represent Jesus amongst these people. In practical terms they may provide water, flip-flops for girls unable to walk in high heels, counseling, a friendly chat, or advice on detox, STD, relationships etc. There are training schemes for street pastors and they always have a prayer team working in parallel with them. They do not preach but theirs is a strong witness to Jesus' love when the party turns to tears – or even when the party is still going well. More information at <http://www.streetpastors.co.uk/>

3. **Alpha & Youth Alpha** - These two courses are so well known that little needs to be said here except that I have used the course in middle class Oxford, inner-city Wembley and the forests of Sarawak amongst Iban youth and each time with some success. I have also helped to adapt Alpha for use in Orthodox churches in Romania and Russia and I know it is used widely by Roman Catholic churches. But it is not appropriate everywhere. It did not work, for some reason, in my parish in Newcastle. Much more information of course at <http://www.alpha.org/home>
4. **Body Mind & Spirit Festivals** - Interest in formal religion may well be on the decline in western Europe but interest in spirituality is certainly not – witness the number of books on rail station bookstore shelves, references in TV soap operas and films (Harry Potter?) and the internet trade in crystals, tarot cards, etc. Those who are more serious enquirers into spiritual realities frequent the growing number of 'Body, Mind and Spirit' Festivals. Increasingly Christians are booking space as 'exhibitors' at such events and offering anything from 'free prayer' to 'massage and counselling' and 'Christian card readings' (telling the gospel using a set of cards in a similar style to tarot cards). For an interesting reflection on this ministry by Jonny Baker see http://jonnybaker.blogs.com/jonnybaker/2006/06/reflecting_on_t.html My local TV station recently featured a local church who set up a stall in the high street of their small town offering "Free prayer for healing" – they were not short of customers!
5. The **Jesus Film** - has been used in almost every country in the world and is now available in hundreds of languages. In addition to the original film there are now a couple of other versions, one specifically for children telling the story of Jesus from the viewpoint of children. <http://www.jesusfilm.org>
6. The book **The Stranger On The Road To Emmaus** (by John R Cross) - which has now been translated into dozens of languages and brought many people of a Muslim background to discipleship of Jesus. Several mission agencies have undertaken the production of specific editions for a particular people group, e.g. the Chechen people of the North Caucasus. There are reviews of the book at <http://www.goodseed.com/products/str-eng-book> which can be purchased at <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Stranger-Road-Emmaus-John-Cross/dp/1890082147> or downloaded as a PDF at <http://www.goodseed.com/products/str-eng-book-ebook> It is also available as a set of DVDs with workbook at <http://www.the-tabernacle-place.com/bible-study-resources-tools-dvd.aspx>
7. **Just walk across the room** - Is a course/book/DVD by Bill Hybels, it is centred around building relationship with people, not to push a God agenda but to demonstrate God's love by building relationship with people.

My experience of evangelism of the past was to the "lets go to the pub for evangelism" when actually we found evangelism much more effective when we just "went to the pub" and spent time with people. www.justwalkacrosstheroom.com/

8. **Christians Against Poverty** - *This is a national debt counselling charity in England working through a network of centres based in local churches. CAP offers hope and a solution to anyone in debt through its unique, in-depth service. CAP aims to show God's love in action by providing sustainable poverty relief through debt counselling, advice and practical help. CAP's unique 'hands on' approach empowers people to help themselves out of poverty and be released from the fear, oppression and worry generated by overwhelming debts. We are providing sustainable poverty relief as our service teaches clients vital budgeting skills that will last a lifetime www.capuk.org/*

9. **Missional Map-Making: Skills for Leading in Times of Transition (J-B Leadership Network Series)** by Alan Roxburgh - *Currently, churches are seeking to become less focused on programmes for members and more oriented toward outreach to people who are not already in church. This fundamental shift in what a congregation is and does and thinks is challenging for leaders and congregants. Using the metaphor of map-making, the book explains the perspective and skills needed to lead congregations and denominations in a time of radical change over unfamiliar terrain as churches change their focus from internal to external www.amazon.com*

10. **The Shaping of Things to Come** - Michael Frost and Alan Hirsch
Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003 - *This book is a gripping exegesis of culture, church and history, with some careful theological reflection along the way, Frost and Hirsch contribute to the dialogue on innovation and mission and end up with re-imagining ecclesiology against the backdrop of emerging culture.*
www.amazon.com

11. **Back to Church Sunday** - *Is national initiative encouraging churches to hold a Back to Church Sunday in late September, preceded by training in welcoming and how to pray for and encourage people to come back to church. It is most effective when it is linked with an up-coming nurture course that returners can be invited to.*
www.backtochurch.co.uk/

12. **The Ven Bob Jackson's PowerPoint presentation** - *Although some of this is related to a specific Archdeaconry, in Lichfield Diocese England, much of it makes the point powerfully about action that can lead to both decline and growth see <http://www.elmdon-parish.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2007/06/bob-jackson-solihull-deanery-synod-june-2007.pdf> The final slide refers to his books, these can be found on*

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/bob-jackson-Books/s?ie=UTF8&keywords=Bob+Jackson&rh=n%3A266239%2Ck%3ABob+Jackson&page=1>

13. **Funerals and Weddings** – *In Malaysia, these are golden opportunities for evangelism either during the occasion or during the follow-ups. It is a time of testimony and witness to the whole community.*

14. **Basic Christianity Classes** – *this is a possible and powerful tool for assimilating new people and interested people to faith in Jesus Christ. I have done this 20 years and have brought hundreds to Christ. This can be a church's legacy.*
15. **Social Concern Activities or Centres** – *Quite a bit of people came to the church through Social Concern activities or Centres organised by the churches.*
16. **Community Nights** – *A once a month Community night programme organized in church hall for the public where community related/interested topics or issues are presented or discussed. This opens a platform for contact and to connect. It can be a forum to speak for the community.*
17. **Kidsgames, Teengames, Family Games** – *This is an excellent programme for all ages. It is a 4-in-one programme with Leadership Training, Evangelism, Teaching & Bible Study, and Fun Learning. <http://www.thekidsgames.com/>*
18. **Carolling** – *Each year during Christmastide, churches will send out teams of carollers to homes of parishioners, non-church goers, and supermarkets and shopping malls to bring good tidings and joy, and to sing carols and distribute tracts & gifts. These are done with Christian messages.*
19. **Rooted in Jesus**, Alison Morgan (Editor) - *This is a discipleship growing in the Province of Southern Africa. The Diocese of Niassa already has more than 1000 small groups running! Especially good for areas challenged by literacy levels. See: www.rootinginjesus.net*
20. **Breaking News**, J. John - *A friendly course in evangelism*
http://www.eden.co.uk/shop/search.php?site_id=3015&keyword=breaking%20news%20j%20john&qclid=CPXztsjvr6cCFchO4QodAC7KQA
21. **The 10 Commandments” J. John** - *A series of talks by J. John based on the Ten Commandments which has led thousands of people to Christ. He is the “Billy Graham” of the U.K. <http://just10.org/>*
22. **Lay Witness Course** – *a practical outreach course designed by Growing the Church. Contact Trevor Pearce on trevor@growingthechurch.co.za for more information.*
23. **Questions of Life** Nicky Gumbel (2001 – Reprint) <http://www.alpha.org/resources>
24. **Evidence that Demands a Verdict** by Josh McDowell, Volume 1. - *It's a classic defence of Christian belief. It stimulates and challenges the non-believer while giving every Christian an unshakable foundation for life and faith*
<http://www.amazon.com/Evidence-That-Demands-Verdict-Historical/dp/0840743785>
25. **Knowing God** by J.I. Packer. - *It has profound and basic spiritual truths put down in a practical way. <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Knowing-God-J-I-Packer/dp/083081650X>*
26. **Know why you believe** by Paul E. Little. - *It is a clear Affirmation of the Reasonableness of the Christian Faith (1987 Printing). It helps people set aside their wills and accept Christ into their hearts. http://www.amazon.com/Know-Why-Believe-Paul-Little/dp/083082250X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1299077830&sr=1-1*

27. **Basic Christianity** by John Stott

http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Basic+Christianity+by+John+Stott&x=13&y=18

28. **Mother's Union Parenting Program Worldwide** by Mary Sumner House – *This focuses on parenting and family life from conception to death.*

<http://www.themothersunion.org/>

Home Group (Cell Groups or Small Christian Communities) - *Sometimes operate as a home or bible study group but function as a community of believers from the same church or congregation, where members provide spiritual, moral and social support to one another and also reach out in love to the local community – such the elderly, prison, hospital, schools, etc. The number of home groups from one parish/congregation may depend on the size of the Church/congregation.*

Home group members often invite friends to the meetings or any functions organised by the home group. Often home groups provide warm, hospitality and “safe” environment where even a “stranger” would be welcome and feels at home!

In countries like Zambia these home groups grow so big that they can develop into a congregation. Home groups have been important means for discipleship and church plant (and growth). They are very popular among most mainline churches in Zambia.

The same principle is used in the Diocese of West Malaysia where various resources have been developed.

For resource contact: Fred David: dvvmbpchaplain@gmail.com or dvvmbpchplain@gmail.com Other resources; http://scog.com/Portals/0/11_Stewardship.pdf

29. **Sharing Of Ministries Abroad (SOMA)** – *This international family of national organisations often sends teams abroad, upon request, addressing a wide range of topics. The Chairman of the International Board is The Most Rev. Dr. Benjamin Kwashi of Jos, Plateau State, NIGERIA. National contacts are as follows: Australia <http://soma.org.au/> , Canada <http://www.somacanada.ca/> New Zealand <http://www.soma.org.nz/> United Kingdom <http://www.somauk.org/> and United States <http://www.somausa.org/1129/Home.aspx> You can contact one of the above to find out more about SOMA in the following countries: Ireland; Nigeria; Singapore; South Africa; Uganda; South Korea*

30. **Kairos** - *Mark Carey explains, “Kairos is a Greek word of great significance for Christians as it speaks of the appointed time in the purpose of God. For Kairos Church this means a fresh expression of the Church of England, focusing on releasing communities of followers to live the mission of Jesus. For us this is being worked out through people who are good news in our workplaces, families and friendships. We gather together at various times and places and also operate in midsized/mission-shaped communities (MSCs).”*

“MSCs are communities of our people each of which has a distinctive vision for mission. Examples are Outnumbered focused on families with children and Wanderers, meeting people in the park and the street.” <http://kairoschurch.net/>

31. **Whole Life Discipleship** - *Whole life discipleship is a discipleship programme/tool that is aimed at equipping Christians with a holistic understanding of Christian life, that which seriously takes into account that God is interested in every aspect of human life and experience as sum total, and that our faith ought to touch every aspect of our human experience.*

Resources: London Institute for Contemporary Christianity: <http://www.licc.org.uk/> ; The Great Divide (Mark Green) – LICC; The Radical Discipleship (John Stott) - LICC; <http://www.licc.org.uk/shop/books> ; http://scoq.com/Portals/0/11_Stewardship.pdf

Alpha in work place

32. **Evangelism and Migrants** - *A reflection presented by the Revd John Kafwanka on 15 February 2011 at the Anglican Communion **Evangelism and Church Growth Initiative (ECGI)** Core Group meeting in Kuala Lumpur, based upon Acts 1: 3-8; Acts 6: 1-7: 59; Acts 8: 1 – 40; Acts 9: 31 This includes the reflection and points arising from the subsequent. Available on <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/ministry/mission/ecgi/resources/index.cfm>*

33. **Public bible reading** – *The 400th anniversary of the King James Bible is encouraging much interest in the bible and the beauty of the English prose within this translation; some congregations are running, sponsored reading of whole sections of the bible.*

- *Instead of approaching the celebration in this way, why not choose suitable narratives and passages that might touch people's lives and read these in public outside of your church or somewhere where people pass by on a Saturday?*
- *Instead of seeking sponsorship, why not have copies of a gospel to give out to those who are interested, and other biblical resource material that you can encourage people to take away, daily notes that you have already read, that people can take away and use?*
- *Why not consider other events that can be publicised, perhaps special services focusing on the bible that can be built upon this.*
- *For some, the familiarity and beauty of the King James Version will attract them to your event and is a helpful resource;*
- ***For others the KJV might be a reminder of the archaic language that first made them believe that the Christianity was irrelevant to them and will suggest that the church is still out of date and incomprehensible. The anniversary of the KJV is a reason for an event, but doesn't mean that it is the only version that you can use! Depending upon who your target audience; consider using modern versions that show that the message of the bible can be expressed in current language.***
- *If you can attract young people why not use The Word on the street (previously known as The Street Bible) <http://www.eden.co.uk/en/the-word-on-the-street-bible-online> or another version that speaks to un-churched young people? Use your young people to read and dramatise selected narratives.*