



## Pastor's Reflections - Rethinking Evangelism and Missions.

Now that we have defined evangelism and missions, perhaps we should rethink evangelism and missions. It is evident in our churches today that far too many Christians find themselves living in a culture that they do not understand. We must first recognize that there are serious problems even communicating the Gospel in the 21st century post-modern world.

According to J.P. Moreland "a major cause of our current crisis consists of a world view shift from a Judeo-Christian understanding of reality to a post-Christian one."

Moreland is correct and the shift has left us with at least 3 major obstacles to overcome: *First*, "Truth" is becoming an unwelcome stranger in our current culture, so much so that even the appreciation of and the ability to reason critically is being lost. *Second*, "Truth" is increasingly fluid, arrived at depending on the given situation and one's individual experience. And since there appears to be no absolute Truth, it varies from one community to the next. *Third*, there is widespread skepticism and even outright rejection of universal moral absolutes, thus abandoning objective absolute truth. It is difficult to proclaim the forgiveness of sins to people who believe that since morality is relative, and there is no absolute truth, they have no sins to forgive.

This is the world of the 21st century and the culture to which we are called to make the name of Christ known. So where do we begin? I think that reading "Conversational Evangelism" by David and Norman Geisler would be a great place to begin. It lays out clearly the obstacles and then paints a picture that will help the reader to "Connect with People to Share Jesus."

More to come on Evangelism and Missions

*Pastor Ed*

### Commentary - Be Still

Christian worship is not a concert! Nor is it a performance. It is not about us! Indeed we are told in God's Word to *make a joyful noise unto the Lord* (Ps. 100: 1-3). But this doesn't mean that *only* the music and singing is *worship*. That is **NOT** biblical.

In Psalms 4:4-5 tells us; "Tremble, and do not sin; Meditate in your heart upon your bed and be still. *Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, And trust in the Lord*" (italics mine). Again, in Psalms 46: 10, God declares, "*Be still, and know that I am God* (italics mine). I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

God *will be exalted*. He is to be glorified—not you and not me. Our very lives are to be worship. Indeed Paul writes in his letter to the Roman Church:

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, **to present your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship (Romans 12:1 ESV).

The 21st century Church is really hung-up on ourselves. We think we have something God needs. God needs; wants nothing from us! We need to be silent and listen for His Voice, He is speaking—if you listen, you will hear.

Jesus speaking to His disciples told them,

And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. . . . But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you (Mt. 6: 5-6).

A.W. Tozer states, "[The Christian] Religion has accepted the monstrous heresy that noise, size, activity, and bluster make a man dear to God." (*The Pursuit of Holiness*, p.76).

The creation account in Genesis begins, "And God said." So, we need to be still . . . and listen to our RISEN SAVIOR. [The Heart of Worship](#) *click →Turn Speakers On* *D. D. Edwards*

## Welcome Aboard-

**Mary Beth Deal**



**Candace Kritz**



## Happenings-

## Independence Day



## Luncheon

### UP COMING EVENTS...

Shoreline Women of Faith, Tuesday, August 9 @ 6:30pm

Men's Monthly Luncheon Thursday, August 18 @ 11:30am – Join us for a time of fellowship and great food at **Fixins**, Oak Island

**COMING SOON** Southern Gospel Concert & Benefit Dinner For Thailand 2023 - Sept. 4 @ 6pm

Our Next Thailand Mission Trip Meeting **Sept. 11 @ 2PM** at Shoreline

**"Fishing for Christ"** Sat., Sept 17th, 9-12 **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** contact Gary McDaniel @ 540-392-1693

**Scripture** - *Come, let's worship and bow down, Let's kneel before the LORD our Maker. For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts . . .* Psalms 95:6-8 NASB

### The Pruitt's New Harbor



**1308 N. Fisher King Dr. SE  
Bolivia**

