



Pastor's Perspective — An Instrument God Can Use

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

I'm often reminded that telling people about Jesus is more about being ready than well-rehearsed—more about responding to the promptings of the Holy Spirit than about being prepared with an elaborate outline. Such a reminder is the account of George Cutting.

Bicycling down the street of a 19th Century English village, George Cutting passed a certain cottage and felt impelled by the Holy Spirit to call out: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!" Then he repeated it.

Six months later, Cutting was evangelizing that area, visiting from house to house. He came to one cottage and asked the woman who came to the door if she knew Jesus Christ as her Savior. Joyfully she replied: "Oh, yes! Six months ago, I

was in great distress about the salvation of my soul. I pleaded for God's help. Then a voice cried, 'Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.' I asked God to repeat what He had said, and the voice came again." George Cutting had been that voice! Because he had been sensitive and obedient to the Holy Spirit's urging, God used him as an instrument through which to speak His Word to that needy heart.

God will probably never lead you or me to witness in exactly the same way. He has many different methods by which He can speak through us—and will, as we are sensitive and obedient to the leading of His Spirit.

We all meet heavy-hearted, sin-burdened people who need to know the Savior. Let's be the voice that tells them the story of Jesus, the Lamb of God who can take away their sins.

Perhaps today there are loving words
Which Jesus would have me speak,
There may be now, in the paths of sin,
Some wand'rer whom I should seek;
O Savior, if Thou wilt be my Guide,
Tho' dark and rugged the way
My voice shall echo the message sweet,
I'll say what You want me to say.
--Charles E. Prior

International Students Come to Virginia

We will be hosting international students from Purdue University this month—the 16th year we have participated with Paul and Geri Briggs in an adventure that has allowed many students from across the world to hear the Good News and tour the Washington D.C. area.

The Briggs work with Salt and Light Christian Fellowship and are supported by our church. Their goal in this month's trip is to bring students to an area they are eager to tour, but to also spend the time becoming friends with them, letting them feel Christian hospitality and sharing Bible studies with them in the evenings. The group arrives the evening of Saturday, March 9, and stays until the morning of Thursday, March 14. Hosting guests involves providing a place to sleep, preparing breakfast all mornings and spending one evening feeding them dinner and leading them through a Bible study.

The impact is great. The following testimony of a student who came a few years ago shows how great.

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I grew up in a priestly Hindu family in India who believe in many different gods and goddesses. But, for some reason, I could never put my faith in the Hindu deities, although I was drawn towards the philosophical aspect of the Hinduism, which taught that through many lifetimes of meditation and good works one can work out the way to heaven. I believed that it would give me great spiritual abilities. I was deemed praiseworthy in

my own proud eyes and my deepest desire was to be admired by my friends and family. I didn't want to believe in God or His judgment, as deep down I didn't want to face the unpleasant consequences of my selfish acts.

But towards the end of my high school years, there was an increasing sense of emptiness growing inside me. I was not performing the way I used to and that led me to depression. God had suddenly stripped me of my idols of success and influence that were the sustenance for my pride. During my undergrad years, I came to know about the teachings of Buddha. It offered me a passive way of living to escape the reality and responsibilities. But soon I realized the futility of complicated chants. Whatever I did to make my life better, disappointed me in the end.

I came to the US in fall of 2009 in Detroit. A year later, in December 2010, when I was visiting my boyfriend in Lafayette, he asked me whether I would like to come to church for a Christmas service. I had never attended any church service before, but I came anyway. That night I went back home feeling quite moved by the worship and hymns. But I kept telling myself that there was absolutely no way that I would believe in Christ. This was because when I learned about Christ's claim to be the only way to God, I found it too imposing and self-asserting. And I didn't want to believe in Jesus' claim to be God as I believed that God doesn't exist. On top of that, the word "Christians" used to conjure up Spanish conquistadors in my mind—who killed multitudes and converted many by force

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and threat in the name of Christianity. But a trip to Washington DC during last year's spring break turned out to be an eye-opener as I met my host family and other people from the church at Virginia. Seeing their everyday gestures of kindness and putting other people first, I realized that my history books' violent-Christians and the real Christians were a world apart, literally.

I went back to Detroit with many fond memories but still didn't want to believe in Jesus. Just a few weeks later, on one April night last year, I saw a strange dream where I was in hell. I saw that one by one, everything and everyone that I cherished have departed from me as if they never existed and I was left in this desolate dark place where there is no hope and no peace for me, for eternity. As I went through the ordeal of being in eternal despair, I saw a contour of a man appearing out of nowhere in front of me. He was wearing a long robe that reached his feet. As I saw this man, I remember me kneeling down in front of Him in as if He was my only hope out of that eternal pain and I thanked Him for the bread and the wine. As

soon as I gave thanks, I was relieved of the hellish torment.

So far in my life I never believed in hell and I did not know why on earth I would thank any man for bread and wine. I came to believe in Christ as God and the Redeemer thereafter. I took up a Bible that was lying at a corner in my apartment and started reading. I came to realize my desperate need for Christ's mercy in His self-sacrifice and resurrection. I felt truly alive for the first time in my life and as if a great burden had been lifted from me.

In awe and reverence, when I think of how God chose me to know Him even before I was created, how He loved me beyond measures in spite of my detestable acts, and how His mercy alone has saved me from dying in my sins, makes me pour out in repentance... I remember Jesus' prayer for a sinner like me just before being arrested and crucified, "I do not ask for these only but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

March Calendar



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| Mar. 6 | Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal (6:30 PM) |
| Mar. 9-14 | International Student Ministry |
| Mar. 12 | Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM) |
| Mar. 17 | Love Offering for Paul & Geri Briggs |
| Mar. 23 | Church-Wide Work Day (8:00 AM) |
| Mar. 31 | Easter Morning Breakfast (9:00 AM) |
| Mar. 31 | SE Asia Ministry Report (6:00 PM) |

March Scripture Memory Verse Challenge



The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" ~ John 1:29

Money Matters

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| February Giving Per Week (General Fund) | \$4,407 |
| Weekly Need | \$5,229 |
| Year-to-Date General Fund Giving | \$35,441 |
| Year-to-Date General Fund Need | \$41,832 |

Couples' Night Out

Everyone had a wonderful night on Friday, February 15



We will be receiving a special love offering for Paul and Geri Briggs on Sunday, March 17, for the purpose of helping this missionary family with the shortfall in their monthly support. Please pray the Lord will enable us to cover this shortfall for several months.

Fellowship Baptist Church

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