



LIVING WORD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MAY 2021 | LANGLEY, BC

Announcements

Happy Mother's day!

LWCC wants to honor all of our LWCC mothers, you are appreciated and loved! We thank you for all you do!

In person Sunday Services!

Until further notice, LWCC is holding outdoor Sunday services. Don't forget to pre-register on our website! www.lwcchurch.ca

Sunday School

As long as in person Sunday Services are available, Sunday School will also be held in-person!

Young Adults

Weekly young adults meeting have resumed! Contact Pastor Austin for more info!

Tithes and Offering

Don't forget, you can still e-transfer your tithes through e-mail! A box is also available during our in-person Sunday Services!

Ministry Spotlight!

Worship Ministry

LWCC would like to introduce you to our Music Director, Graceleen Cruz

What do you like to do in your free time

I like to take care of my plants, make coffee or tea, and make Pinterest boards of DIY things.

What is your favourite food?

My favourite food is anything Japanese or Korean.

What is your favourite color? Yellow!

What is your favourite bible verse and why?

My current favourite Bible verse is Ephesians 2:8, “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” This verse humbles me and reminds me of where my hope comes from — that there is nothing I can do, nor anything on this Earth that can save me from my sins other than through Christ and what he did on that cross for me and the rest of humanity.

What challenge do you have in your ministry?

A challenge that I have in my ministry is figuring out how to best utilize this ministry to accomplish the Church’s mission and vision outside of Sunday service.

What would you like to see in your ministry?

I would like to see music continually being used as an effective evangelistic tool during and outside of Sunday service. I want our congregation to be singing more songs that are rich in sound doctrine and proper theology — after all, we are singing together in worship of a holy God, our Father in heaven, and our music and instruments must reflect songs that are true and worthy of his presence.



Want to be part of the Worship ministry? Feel free to contact her!

Pastor's Corner!

What? Me an Evangelist?!!!

A few days ago I attended the School of Orientation. Attendance (via Zoom) at this two day event was one of the requirements for me to be credentialed with the Baptist General Conference of Canada. The "School of O" was most helpful in acquainting me with the Conference, our beliefs, priorities, and practices. The core Mission Statement of our Conference is "building a network of churches that make disciples who live and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ in their communities, Canada, and the Nations." At LWCC this should resonate deeply. Evangelism is a significant value and practice for us. Many members of our family have started taking prayer walks, asking God to draw people to himself. The Evangelism and Mission Team has been preparing materials to help with evangelism. They have been brainstorming ways to better help us connect with people in our community and ways to become more intentional about global ministry. In July we will be having a seminar about being equipped for evangelism, with a number of presentations from our leaders.

I don't know what kind of feelings are generated within you when you hear the word "evangelism" or when you are told you need to "evangelize" or be an "evangelist." I suspect for many the first response is fear, or trepidation, or anxiety. You may think that this responsibility is best left to the Pastors, or Elders, or Sunday School teachers. Let me try to encourage you and bring you some sense of calm by taking a very brief look at an encounter between Philip and an Ethiopian official. Please read Acts 8:4-8, 26-40 and then I will show how you, and every Christian, can calmly and confidently be an evangelist.

Now that you have finished reading, keep your Bible open and consider the following guidelines. To do evangelism, or be an evangelist, you should:

1. Value the simple opportunities to talk to others about your faith and your relationship with Jesus (compare vs. 4-8 with v. 26). Philip spoke before large crowds and his message was accompanied by many miracles. It is just such an endeavor that probably strikes fear in the hearts of most of us. We are not confident enough for such a high profile evangelistic presentation, but thankfully most of us are not called for such a thing either, so we can relax. Public, high energy events are best left to a very select few. The better fit for us is in the desert of verse 26, on the quiet backroads, in the chance or planned meetings with one other person. Opportunities can present themselves when speaking to a neighbor over the fence, or with a co-worker during coffee break, or with a buddy you've been pumping weights with at the gym, or with a relative you are taking a walk with.
2. Pray and then step out in obedience (vs. 26- 27). Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see or hear the opportunities that are available for sharing the gospel in everyday, normal activities. Respond to the inner promptings that will come to you. With God everything becomes an adventure, if you will become sensitive to his leading. Philip responded to a strange command. It didn't make a lot of sense to leave the center of action to walk a hot, dusty road, but he obeyed and God used him to help a person find faith.
3. Share your life cross-culturally (vs. 27-28). Philip was very comfortable speaking to the Ethiopian chief financial officer. In our culturally diverse city we receive many newly arrived people from nations all around the world. These people are often desperate for help in getting settled in and acquainted with their new home. They are looking for friendship. Keep your eyes open for new people coming to your neighborhood, or school, or place of employment and offer your friendship and assistance to them. Out of this will develop natural opportunities to also offer your own understanding of and experience with the gospel.
4. Trust the Holy Spirit (v. 29). As in point 2, so here – continually ask the Spirit for his help. We are never alone as we share our lives and our words with others.

5. Interact with the need that is presented (vs. 30-34). You know that certain religious people like to knock on your door (usually as you're getting supper ready) and try to fabricate an opportunity to speak about their beliefs. As a Christian you don't need to be manipulative or disruptive. As you develop a growing sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, you will be able to take notice of what is happening in the life of a friend or acquaintance and will be able to respond naturally and appropriately. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, look for openings to share your faith, rather than trying to manufacture openings. You will be surprised at how naturally opportunities will present themselves.
6. Know how to explain the Good News of Jesus (v. 35). When you have a natural opportunity to interact with a friend and respond to a need, you will want to know how to comfortably share your faith, how to speak the good news about Jesus. Be able to explain your personal story of meeting Jesus. Share some Bible verses about Jesus and the gift of salvation. If you don't know how to do this yet, you'll want to attend the seminar in July. Please understand that the primary key in evangelism is not about being able to refute *all* the objections or answer *all* the questions. Trying to know *all* will only heighten your anxiety. The primary key is being able to simply share about Jesus and your life-transforming friendship with him.
7. Never underestimate your "Spirit-led" impact (vs. 36-38). One of the best antidotes to our fear or anxiety in being an evangelist comes from knowing that we do not and cannot ever convince or convert another person. We only need to share and the rest is up to the Holy Spirit. God is always working in people's lives and God is responsible to save them. We just need to share, and then like Philip, we get to witness how God uses our Spirit-led sharing to impact another person. People will be saved. Like Philip you may be on hand personally to witness conversion, but on many other occasions you may only be a small part of a much larger process. If you don't have the privilege of personally introducing a person to Jesus, do not make the mistake of doubting your "Spirit-led" impact. Lieighton Ford tells of a young pastor friend who was used by God to lead a hardened criminal in jail to Jesus. The new convert said "Now preacher, don't get the big head because I have accepted Christ. You are just the twenty-fifth man." On asking what that meant, the pastor was told that at least 24 others had witnessed to the criminal about Jesus and that his conversion was the effect of all of these together. So be faithful to share. The Holy Spirit will use your evangelism in some way to impact others in their journey towards Jesus.
8. Expect to be surprised (vs. 39-40). Our God is full of surprises. We too often underestimate him. We too often confine him. We too often doubt him. But we shouldn't. What is really of interest to me in the conclusion of this encounter is that Philip is "beamed" or transported sci-fi-like to a new destination. Remember that Philip initially had to walk to this divine appointment in the desert. Why wasn't he supernaturally transported to the Ethiopian? I think it may be because God was first looking for obedience from Philip. He could have "beamed" him to his appointment, but that mode of transportation would not require Philip's agreement or obedience. Only when Philip was willing to obey and walk did surprising events follow – the events of an Ethiopian being transformed and filled with rejoicing and Philip being carried miraculously away to Azotus. Only when Philip was willing to obey and walk was he then given more opportunities to share the gospel in many other towns and the Ethiopian was able to take the good news of Jesus to another country and another continent.

The next time you think about evangelism, or being an evangelist, don't think "What? Me an evangelist?" Instead, say "Yes, why not me!" and with calm assurance allow the Holy Spirit to guide and help you as you interact with others and share your faith in Jesus with them.