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Can I Get a Witness?

BE A MISSIONAL MOM.

WHETHER I AM SHOPPING at the grocery store or waiting at the doctor's office, I can strike up a conversation with a stranger. It takes only a few minutes before I mention my husband or my children. However, I am usually long gone from the conversation before I realize I could have mentioned Christ.

Telling others about Jesus ought to be the most natural thing in the world for a Christian. For some reason, however, it is not. "Christians have made the soul-winning process far more difficult than God ever intended," says David Morel, author of *Secret to an Open Door*. Attributing much hesitation to past experiences of rejection, Morel explains, "Most people have tried to share Christ and they got a

brick wall in response. Anything is fair game to talk about except Jesus, so we naturally shy away from it." Morel says there are three keys to personal evangelism that will begin to open doors to sharing the gospel.

1. Prayer is a green light.

"When we really cry out to God for the lost, He opens doors for us that have previously been closed," Morel notes. Because Morel prays consistently for open doors and has seen God respond so many times, he has come to a place in his life where he expects open doors on a daily basis. For busy moms who already are multitasking, he offers this idea as a memory trigger for help in learning to pray for the lost: "When you're

Ask God for open doors and for the courage to walk through them.

Living It!

Missions + Intentional = Missional

While our sons were warming up before their baseball game, the moms had congregated on the bleachers to talk. As usual, our conversations were interrupted with smatterings of cell phone rings. But when Amanda* answered her phone, it was obvious something was wrong. With tears streaming down her face, she sobbed, "My dad just had a heart attack! He's in Las Vegas on vacation with my mom!" Her voice was rising with panic. "How am I going to get there? What am I going to do?"

"Amanda," I said, putting my arm around her, "first, let's pray." I had never prayed for Amanda before or had any kind of spiritual discussion with her. But prayer was all I knew to do! I did not have time to consider how she might receive it or what others might think. I just knew she desperately needed God's help. As the two of us bowed our heads, an amazing thing happened. Other moms quietly joined us, murmuring prayers, covering Amanda with the comfort of Christ's love. When we were finished, she was thinking clearly and ready to tackle her father's illness with newfound strength.

Praying for a friend? That is missional. Preparing a meal? That is missional. Caring for others in a way that shares the genuine love of Christ and seeks to meet another's need wherever you can? That is missional. Moms live lives of missions and ministry every day, inviting acquaintances to church, caring for family and friends, praying for co-workers, and building relationships in all aspects of their journeys. God can use every connection as an opportunity to share His love with the people you know — and with strangers, too. Ask God for open doors and for the courage to walk through them.

*"Amanda" is a pseudonym.

driving, every time a stoplight turns green, pray for the lost. This is a way to bring prayers for the lost to your mind on a regular basis."

How should you pray?

- * Create a list of lost people to pray for. Remember your unsaved children, other family members, co-workers, and neighbors.

- * Pray for open doors of opportunity, in conversation and in service.

- * Pray for a greater love for people that will press past inconvenience and discomfort in order to share Christ.



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2. Scriptures reveal truth.

"If I share the gospel with an unbeliever, it makes no sense at all," shares Morel, "until God reveals Himself." Christians who are familiar with the gospel message often forget how incredulous it sounds to someone who is lost. The Bible explains, "The revelation of Your words brings light and gives understanding to the inexperienced" (Psalm 119:130). It is a mystery that only can be revealed by the truth of God's Word. "You can't share the gospel apart from the Word of God," Morel explains. How can you get Scripture into an unbeliever's hands?

- * Invest in greeting cards that include Scripture verses. Send an encouraging note.

- * Give Bibles as gifts.

- * Start a neighborhood Bible study in your home.

3. Faith means taking a risk.

A pounding heart, a dry mouth, a nervous stomach — perhaps the most

GETTING PERSONAL: ONLINE EVANGELISM

For Kelsey Kilgore, her shy personality is limiting. "Cheerfully sharing the good news of Christ has always seemed impossible for me," she admits. "I know the importance of the message, and I genuinely want people to hear it, but from me?" Yet Kelsey has found a way to share her testimony in a technologically progressive way. She blogs!

When she started blogging, her motivation was to build a name for herself as a writer by creating an audience of potential readers and using her site stats to entice a publisher to give her a book deal. "I didn't expect this blog to turn into ministry," she says. "I forgot that ministry comes from relationships, and blogs certainly create relationships."

Soon, Kelsey, online at www.holymama.org, noticed something happening in her interpersonal relationships as well as her online ones. "Sharing my faith so freely and regularly with my readers increases my willingness and confidence in doing the same thing in person when similar opportunities arise."

The first few months Kelsey began to blog, a woman wrote asking her faith questions. Kelsey found out later this woman also was writing other Christian bloggers, asking them the same questions and comparing their answers. "It was through this process that she decided to accept Christ as her Savior," Kelsey shares. "God really can and will use anything in my life that I surrender as His."

anxiety-producing component of sharing faith is faith itself. "When the opportunity to throw God into the conversation comes around, you have to be willing to take it," Morel smiles. "This gets you out of your comfort zone."

- * When dining out, tell your server you will be saying a blessing for the food. Ask him if he has any needs for which you may pray.

- * Call a lost friend or family member for whom you have been praying. Start the conversation by apologizing for never telling her about your relationship with Jesus.

- * See a new family visiting at church? Invite them out to eat. Lay the groundwork for a new relationship over a meal.

A Genuine Love

"You've got to love people," reminds Morel. "If you don't love them, you've really cut your chances for sharing the gospel." Loving people means we have a genuine concern for their eternal destination. That is the same concern that Christ had for us. Sharing your faith is all about loving others enough to help them find the truth that you have found. Remember the three keys:

It begins with prayer, it is grounded in God's Word, and it springs into action with your faith. □

All quotes taken from personal interviews conducted by Rebecca Ingram Powell.

"Missional" Resources

- *Secret to an Open Door* by David A. Morel (Morel Publishing, 2002)
- *Breaking News* by J. John (Authentic Media, 2006)
- *The Way of the Master* by Ray Comfort and Kirk Cameron (Bridge-Logos Publishers, 2006)
- *Evangelism for the Tongue-Tied* by Chap Bettis (Pleasant Word, 2004)



Rebecca Ingram Powell is a pastor's wife, mother of three, and the author of *Baby Boot Camp* and three Bible studies for teenagers: *Wise Up!*, *Get Real!*, and *Dig Deep*. Visit her Web site at www.rebeccapowell.com.