

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

JOHN W. RAWLINGS SCHOOL OF DIVINITY

Evangelism Development in a Multigenerational Rural Church

Submitted to Dr. Terry Faulkenbury

In fulfillment of the requirements for the completion of
the Doctor of Ministry Degree

Department of Christian Leadership and Church Ministries

by

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March 2024

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CHAPTER 1: MINISTRY PROBLEM AND JUSTIFICATION OF MICRO-PROJECTS

Introduction

Evangelism is essential to the church. From its inception, the responsibility to share the gospel with people from every background, culture, and age group has been evident. This understood responsibility has allowed for the Holy Spirit to guide and develop followers of Christ into individuals who seek to ensure that every age category of unbelievers is reached with the gospel of Christ. Unfortunately, this responsibility has become neglected, and thus created a lack of emphasis and passion on evangelism training and implantation. This portfolio, all four distinct parts, has been created to address that problem within the context of a local church in Rockville, Virginia.

Ministry Context

Berea Baptist Church was founded in 1846 and had maintained a long-standing tradition of conservative ideology and theology for the first 150 years of its existence. Liberal theology became common place around the year 2000, and thus little emphasis was placed on repentance, discipleship, the saving power of Christ, and reaching the lost. Primarily, emphasis had been placed on maintaining the traditional processes and structures that the church had developed during its first 150 years of existence and on ensuring that no one was offended by the teachings being given. This reality led the church to a place of spiritual starvation, whereby there was no biblical teaching or preaching taking place. The result was catastrophic. There was not any training in evangelizing the lost taking place, no matter what age bracket the unsaved individuals may have been a part of. Therefore, there were few people surrendering their lives to Christ and even fewer people following the Lord in obedience by being baptized. The church began to see a large exodus of the believers, because church life dissipated to activities taking place on

Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. The church was dying because there was no desire to share the gospel. While the church was dying, the city of Richmond was slowly creeping towards the community. In 1995, the edge of the city rested 10 miles away. By 2000, the edge of the city was only 3 miles away. The church still rests in a rural community, but the city is slowly making its way around it. Sadly, as the rural population increased, and the opportunities for evangelism were passing by the church every day, there was no effort being made to connect with those passersby and share the gospel.

Ministry Problem

The problem this student is seeking to address is that Berea Baptist Church of Rockville, Virginia lacks a multigenerational means for evangelism. This student is the pastor of this church and recognizes that the community structure and religious involvement is changing quickly. The community has become increasingly more humanistic and secular, with an increase in the number of people who are Islamic and Hindu. There are multiple religious facilities being built within several miles of the church building and the church community. These new religious institutions and the rise of secular humanism have rapidly increased the need for the ability of the church to train believers in sharing the gospel with people of every age category. Without a clear understanding of the responsibility and a very specific means of teaching each member within the church how to evangelize the lost, the false ideologies that are increasing around the church will have the ability to overtake the church and deem it irrelevant. The four microprojects that have been selected are essential to ensuring that the church body remained connected and involved in the community, so that the gospel can be effectively shared.

Explanation and Justification of Micro-Projects

Each of the four microprojects is essential to developing a sense of stability and a clear understanding of the responsibility of each believer to share the gospel. The first microproject is to create a Ministry Development Plan. The purpose behind this plan is to develop an evangelistic means that will be utilized within the church to train believers what it looks like to share the truth of the gospel and how one can proceed forward in sharing the gospel through various conversations and outreach opportunities.

This plan begins by selecting a leadership team. This team will be gathered by invitation and will have the same understanding that evangelism is necessary to fulfill the commands given to the church by Jesus. This team will work together to create a training program and schedule that can be carried out over the course of year. Each team member will be responsible for ensuring that specific areas of focus are being addressed, and any questions answered that may arise during the implementation of the training program.

This type of leadership structure is rooted in the example Christ gave to the world with the twelve disciples. Each of those individuals was uniquely and individually chosen to be a part of the gathering Christ placed around him. Each member brought unique gifts that would be utilized during the ministry of Christ. For example, Andrew was able to connect with individual people in a one-on-one interaction. He consistently brought individuals or small groups of people to Christ so that they might be impacted by the work and words of Jesus. This leadership team will be responsible for training others in how to share the gospel. This strategy will allow the church to experience exponential growth through the movement of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those who have chosen to follow Him through this project.

The second microproject will have the ability to be utilized within the context of the Ministry Development Plan, as well as being utilized outside of that plan. This project involves the development of a podcast. The title of this podcast is *Dwelling In Possibility*. We live in a society and culture where technology has been increasingly used at an exponential rate. Areas of life where technology seemed unnecessary before are now being bombarded with new ideas and understandings. This rise in technological development and use has created a vacuum of communication. This vacuum has the potential to create isolation and division if the church is not willing to embrace new forms of communication and learn how to speak the language of the culture, which is technology. In the Acts 2:5-8, we recognize the importance of sharing the gospel with people in the language in which they speak. The Holy Spirit arrived, and everyone was able to understand the truths being presented in their own language. On that day, thousands were saved. It is necessary to understand how to utilize the technology in the culture to communicate with the world that is increasingly more humanistic and secular.

Developing a podcast provides this student with the opportunity to communicate truths with the church body as a whole and the unbelieving world. The podcasts that are to be generated will be useful in several ways. First, it will contain the information and insight that is needed to ensure that the body of the church understands how to evangelize the lost. Thus, it becomes a tremendously useful training tool that the leadership team created in the Ministry Development Plan will be able to utilize to provide biblical and practical content. Second, the information will be always easily accessible. It will not be necessary for an individual to arrive at a group training session at the church to gain the insight and understanding necessary to evangelize. That information will be available on a phone, tablet, or computer, thus providing access any time and anywhere that a person has an internet connection. Third, the unbelieving

world will also have access to content that will provide them with a clear understanding as to the necessity of Jesus in their lives.

The third microproject will have the ability to be utilized within the context of the Ministry Development Plan, as well as being utilized outside of that plan. This project involves the development of a blog. The title of the blog is *It Is Time*. We live in a culture and society where technology and social media have become the dominant forms of communication. Creating a blog provides insight for the readers into the content that is being presented. The focus of the blog will be on evangelism development. This format of communication can ensure that the content is always available to the individual so that if questions arise, they can be quickly answered.

With nearly 4 billion people accessing the internet throughout the world, there has never been a greater time to ensure that biblical content is available. The availability of the content also provides an opportunity for exponential growth as the accessibility of all people to that content can ensure that the truth of the gospel is always presented to as many people as possible. This project is rooted in the biblical understanding that Jesus would often train large groups of people, and then go into a deeper understanding about that truth with a smaller group. This model can be utilized with a blog. Large numbers of people can access the information. However, smaller groups can then be developed that will have the capability to dig into the richness of that truth on a much deeper level.

The fourth microproject will have the ability to be utilized within the context of the Ministry Development Plan, as well as being utilized outside of that plan. This project involves the development of a website. The website will be called *Restoration*. Once again, recognizing the necessity of being able to utilize the communication capability and technological

developments that the world possesses, developing a website will give this student one specific location to manage every one of the projects that has been developed. The Ministry Development Plan can be laid out on the website. Those who would like to be a part of the training can be guided to that website and given the dates and information necessary to be a part of the classroom evangelism education process.

The website will also provide links to both the podcast and the blog so that individuals will not have to consistently search throughout the internet for the information regarding training that they are looking for. This website will provide updated information and content so that the church is aware of new opportunities for training as well as the opportunities for reaching out into the community to share the gospel. This information will always be available to an individual if that person has access to the internet on his or her laptop, iPad, or cell phone.

The idea for the establishment of the website is rooted in the understanding that can be gained from Mark 6. In that chapter, Jesus feeds thousands of individuals. Whenever one reads a miracle like that, the question arises: Why would Jesus do something so amazing? The answer to that question is easy. The people were hungry, and He was the only one who could take care of all of them. This student lives in a world where people are spiritually hungry. They are longing for the bread of life, and believers can provide them with the truth of the gospel of Jesus that is found in Christ alone. The website is a tool that will allow this student the opportunity to spiritually feed as many people as possible so that they may know who Christ is.

Conclusion

The development of these microprojects has been a challenging task, but one well worth the work that has gone into it. The opportunity to utilize the communication and technology capabilities that exist in this day to train believers how to share the gospel, provides the church

with an authentic and applicable ability to share the gospel in a way that can be understood by a lost and dying world. This work provides guidance, clarity, and direction, through the movement of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the leadership team. This movement of the Spirit will bring about a restoration and healing that only He can. All glory will go to the Lord for all that He will accomplish through this work.

CHAPTER 2: MICRO-PROJECT ONE

Justification

The problem I seek to resolve is that Berea Baptist Church of Rockville, Virginia lacks a multigeneration means for evangelism. Berea Baptist Church is very effective at preaching and teaching the truth but lacks the training that is essential to engage lost people from every generation. A lack of an effective opportunity for multigeneration evangelism training within the church can lead to complacency and isolation. Individuals may lack an understanding of what evangelism means and how it is to be carried out. That lack of understanding can lead to a lack of desire to engage and to reach every generation of individuals. The growth of this type of approach to evangelism, where there is a lack of conviction and urgency, will lead to the death of the church. Developing training opportunities for everyone in the church body will foster a sense of unity and community that will lead to excitement, purpose, and growth.

The micro-project that this student will be focusing on is a Ministry Development Plan. This Ministry Development Plan will revolve around the utilization of a podcast, a blog, and a website to develop and implement an effective means of evangelism training in a technologically focused culture. This plan is essential to establishing a cohesive and comprehensive means of evangelism training that will effectively engage every age group within the church body to share the gospel of Jesus. The objective is to utilize more effectively the spiritual gifts of the church body that is growing at a rapid rate.

This student is in the Evangelism and Church Planting Cognate. This student chose that cognate because there is a tremendous need within the church body where he serves as Pastor, and the community in which the church serves, to create an effective means of training for the

church body so it becomes possible to reach unbelievers of all age groups who do not have a relationship with Christ. The community surrounding the church has become increasingly more humanistic and secular, accompanied by a rise in other religions such as Islam and Hindu. There are multiple religious facilities being built within several miles of our church building and church community. These new religious institutions have rapidly increased the need for an effective means for evangelism training.

The microproject that has been chosen is biblical because there are multiple facets of the project and strategy that must be developed, along with many individuals who will be needed to make the plan successful. This reality necessitates a highly organized plan. A lack of planning would stand in opposition to the words of Jesus who says “For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him,³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’” (Luke 14:28-30, English Standard Version). It is essential and biblical to ensure that a proper, clear, flexible, and usable plan is developed and implemented.

This course is designed to assist the student in determining what Biblical evidence is given to support addressing the problem that exists within the church setting. This understanding insists that I work to ensure that this plan has a clear purpose, goal, and target group. The church body itself is growing, as the power of the Holy Spirit works among the people. That growth has the potential to become wasted if the giftedness of the people is not developed and coordinated within the context of a strategy that ensure all believers can share the gospel with unbelievers of every generation.

There is no doubt that the completion of this course work will be a challenge. This student has established several steps that he will follow to ensure that the work is completed on time:

- First, this student has established 3 hours during the day on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday morning, as well as Sunday evening, to ensure that the work is done.
- Second, this student has secured an office space in my home that will give him the space to work diligently and quietly.
- Third, this student is a pastor of a church here in Richmond. He has let the Deacon board and other staff members of the church know that his schedule will be very busy for the next few weeks. They have agreed to take over performing several tasks while he works on this project.
- Finally, this student has committed to spend time in prayer each day for his family as they travel this journey with him, the church body as they seek to be open to how God wants to work in and through them, and for those whom the church will have the opportunity to meet during this entire process. Prayer has been and will continue to be the foundation upon which this student functions. Without this time in prayer, this student is certain to fall into feelings of despair and frustration, which could lead to a desire to want to quit. This student will persevere no matter what comes along during these times of study.

Peer Review

The process of putting together this project has been an arduous one. This student knew from the very beginning that it was going to be challenging, time consuming, and even frustrating at times. Dr. Brown even pointed out in our online meeting together that he was going to grade the students sternly for the purpose of making them better writers. However, this student also knew that it was going to be very rewarding. For all these facts, this student has found himself truly grateful.

This student has encountered several challenges during this process. The first challenge revolved around the focus of the project itself. This student is working on developing an evangelism strategy in a multigeneration rural church that is growing at a very rapid rate. The objective is not to create a strategy in the hopes that it will bring life into a church that is dying. Instead, the objective is to create a strategy that will bring some focus into the church body and create a sense of unity that will enable evangelism to continue in the community and allow the church to continue to grow. Part of that strategy will involve defining the group or groups of people that the church will be focused on.

As this student began to share his strategy with the class, one of his classmates began to present several valid and pointed questions: “John, what is your defense for a multigenerational evangelism program? Do you have statistics for church demographics and how the church’s current ministries integrate for mission? What is lacking in this integration that warrants a new evangelical ministry?” Each of these questions has been a guiding force in how this student is organizing this means of evangelism training. This student has collected a tremendous amount of demographic data. This data has assisted this student in recognizing where the need is within the community for the gospel to be shared, what locations that target groups lives and work in,

and to what extent they are already involved in a church setting. This information is essential in defining how the student is going to develop the training that will be presented to the church body.

In addition to recognizing what the target group will be, this student was forced to examine the current ministries of the church. That examination has provided a tremendous insight into the reality that there is a lack of coordination within the church body on how the ministry should be developed. Part of the coordination problem is rooted in how quickly the church has grown over the last four years. The church has grown from a church that had only one service on a Sunday morning with roughly 70 people in it, to a church that has three services on a Sunday morning with roughly 900 people in those services. The drastic growth in numbers alone creates a reality that many people do not know each other and therefore are unaware of everything that the church has to offer.

The other part of the coordination problem is rooted in a lack of communication between the deacons, staff, and various ministry leaders already operating within the church. All this information has been essential to developing a plan that will be efficient and effective in combining every ministry of the church into one strategy that will allow every generation of believers the opportunity to engage the community with the gospel of Jesus.

The second challenge that this student has encountered has to deal with defining the motive of the ministry strategy. Again, this student was blessed with some insight from one of his classmates who pointed out that “one of the biggest problems with many modern Christians' evangelism efforts is that they don't know how to ask questions.” This insight has been beneficial in tailoring the strategy in such a way that individuals feel valued as the gospel is shared with them, and not belittled or demeaned in any way.

The final challenge that this student has had to deal with involves punctuation. This is the most frustrating part of the work. The content and the development of the strategy are exciting and provide the student with the motivation to continue working diligently on the project. The punctuation and citations that are necessary as the student works provides him with a tremendous amount of anxiety and stress. The student shared that challenge in one of the discussion questions, and has been blessed with some tremendous insight that has eased his concerns. One of his classmates offered to send him the formatting sheet that he uses so that the student does not waste time attempting to navigate the various types of citations that are found online. Dr. Brown sent the student the link to the various citations that he can access anywhere that his phone or computer will pick up internet. Each of these pieces of information has greatly benefitted the project develop phase that this student has been working on.

As this student sits back and examines the work that he has done so far, he is excited about the challenges that have been encountered and overcome. Coming into this class, he knew that there was going to be a learning curve. He did not think that anyone was fully prepared for the magnitude of that learning curve. Thankfully God has blessed him with a tremendous teacher and classmates who have shared their insight and wisdom in this project, which have made the learning process much more manageable.

Implementation

Why This Ministry Development Plan Is Needed

The problem this student seeks to resolve is that Berea Baptist Church of Rockville, Virginia lacks a multigenerational means of evangelism. Berea Baptist Church was founded in 1846 and has a long-standing tradition of conservative ideology and theology. Liberal theology had become common place in the past 20 years, and there has been little emphasis on the saving power of Christ and reaching the lost. Primarily, emphasis had been placed on maintaining the traditional processes and structures. This reality led the church to a place of spiritual starvation, whereby there existed a lack of evangelism training that is essential in any church for that church to carry out the Great Commission and share the gospel with unbelievers of all ages.

Understanding the Need for This Specific Ministry

There is a great need for the gospel to be preached in this area, and not simply to be preached, but to be preached correctly and lived out daily in the lives of the leadership. Dr. Alvin Reid pointed out:

1. 80% of Southern Baptist Churches reach 0 or 1 person for Christ per year. Berea Baptist Church was part of that 80% from 2005 to 2017. In the last three years, the church has baptized over 250 people, who range in age from 7 years old to 91 years old. This reality illustrates that there is now a tremendous need to develop an evangelism strategy that will utilize the giftedness of each age group within the church.
2. 78% of unchurched people are willing to talk to someone who is grounded in their faith, whether that person is a Christian, a Muslim, a Hindu, or whatever religion that person may claim.¹ There has been a sharp rise in the number of people in this area who are God-fearers but are not believers in the Lord Jesus. There is only an emphasis placed on

¹ Reid, Alvin. Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary Conference: March 22, 2017.

a relationship with Him, when difficulties arise, or someone passes away. Paul defines this in 2 Timothy 3: 5 as "having a form of godliness but denying its power" (2 Timothy 3:5, English Standard Version).

Based upon this information, there is clearly a need to develop an evangelism plan that will be utilized and led by all generations, implemented over the course of a year, as well as have the capability to reach all generations with the gospel.

Plan for Communicating the Vision for the Ministry

Communicating the vision for the ministry will be essential to the success of the ministry. The vision will be communicated through several formats. First, it will be shared with the Deacon Board of the church, who will have an opportunity to provide input as to the methods that will be used. Second, the Deacons will be asked to share the vision with the ministry teams that each deacon assists in leading. Third, the ministry teams will share the vision with the church committees, who will then share with their respective team members. Fourth, the vision will be posted on every social media platform that the church operates, as well as on the church website. Fifth, the vision will be written out and posted in every Sunday School classroom on the church campus. Finally, the vision will be posted in the weekly church bulletin as well as the monthly church newsletter. This order of communication will ensure clarity for the entire church.

Invitation for Participating in the Ministry Launch

Volunteers for this project will be secured through personal invitation. Each of Jesus' disciples possessed a uniqueness to their character that was utilized to share the gospel. Andrew possessed the capability of bringing individuals directly to Jesus. He did this on multiple occasions: first with his brother Peter; second with the little boy who had a few loaves of bread and a few fish; and third with the Greeks. A personal invitation will be given to no less than 10

individuals. Those individuals will be given the opportunity to examine the vision, ask questions about the vision, provide creative ideas that can expand and improve the vision, and develop a passion for what God will be doing through that vision. Those individuals will then be responsible for securing no less than two more volunteers who will join in the work of carrying out and sharing the vision. This pattern of sharing and developing leaders will ensure that there is the potential for exponential growth, as well as a tremendous opportunity to develop even more creative aspects of the vision.

Purpose of the Plan

Positioning the Ministry

The positioning of this evangelistic opportunity is determined by the attitude of the leadership within the church body, those individuals who are willing to participate, and the definition of evangelism being used. Mark Teasdale points out that if evangelism is defined as specific actions, with specific outcomes, then one is likely to miss the contextualized situations that exist in every relationship and culture.² It is essential and appropriate to establish a strategy for evangelism that will fit context of the community in which the individual is working.

A leadership team is a necessary driving force for this ministry. Dana Horrell points out that a leadership team will consist of a “small group of people with complementary skills who are committed to a common purpose, performance goals and approach for which they are mutually accountable.”³ The leadership team of the church will be the catalyst to provide encouragement, motivation, vision, and age inclusive involvement for the evangelistic outreach

² Mark R. Teasdale, “A Bias for the gospel.” *International Bulletin of Mission Research*, 47, no. 1 (2023): 69–77. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23969393221100770>.

³ Horrell, Dana. “Start a Project.” In *Engage: Tools for Ministry in the Community*, 19–24. 1517 Media, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv8pzc60.6>.

opportunities. This fact will establish multiple truths. First, it will necessitate a strategy that has never been utilized at Berea and will therefore eliminate the possibility of redundancy or boredom. Second, it will challenge each member of the church body to utilize the spiritual gifts that he or she has been given in a creative and Christ-honoring way to engage individuals of each age group. Finally, it will allow the church body to embrace opportunities to carry out ministry with individuals in each generation. This will prevent any one age group from dominating the direction of the ministry opportunities and will force every person involved to embrace a habit of strong communication.

Understanding the Value of the Ministry

This ministry would have tremendous value because of the changing dynamic of the church body and the community surrounding the church. This community has seen a large increase in population growth, cultural ideology, and industrial development. The church no longer sits on the corner of two rural roads that have limited traffic. Although the church is in a rural community, it finds itself positioned in the middle of a heavily traveled highway corridor that impacts cities and communities within 20 minutes of the church. The presence of more people provides value for the ministry opportunities

The Covid pandemic over the last four years has significantly impacted the approach that churches take to evangelism. Pew Research pointed out in March 2023 that the number of “adults who say they generally attend religious services once a month or more has dropped slightly, from 33% in 2019 to 30% in 2022.”⁴ Of those 30% who are still attending once a month, even those have not been attending in person: “As of November 2022, 20% say they are

⁴ Justin Nortey and Michael Rotolo, “How the Pandemic Has Affected Attendance at U.S. Religious Services,” *Pew Research Center*, March 28 (2023), <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2023/03/28/how-the-pandemic-has-affected-attendance-at-u-s-religious-services/#:~:text=The%20November%202022%20survey%20shows,%2C%20while%2046%25%20watched%20virtually%20>

attending *in person* less often On the other hand, 15% say they are participating in services *virtually* more often.”⁵ Rachel Pfeiffer from *Christianity Today* pointed out in April 2023 that “pastors are rethinking how to minister to the higher numbers of digital worshipers.”⁶ With all these changes taking place, there is no question that the value to an evangelistic movement and ministry like this is essential to the growth and health of Berea Baptist Church.

Samples of Similar Ministries Elsewhere

The Baptist General Association of Virginia has been working with churches throughout Virginia to establish an evangelistic ministry opportunity that is very similar to what is being proposed here. The idea being presented by the BGAV is that all churches that find themselves positioned in a post-Christian community would have the opportunity and knowledge to re-mission themselves. The objective is to establish effective evangelistic opportunities in communities that have shifted in church involvement, age, and socio-economic structure. This ministry, known as V3, is providing training for church leaders. The training provided will incorporate a four-step strategy to establishing an effective evangelism ministry: discover, design, develop, and deploy. The benefit to this type of ministry work is the ability to work in collaboration with different churches and church leaders who are at various stages of this process and to utilize the one-year or two-year plan that is being presented. The challenge that this ministry is encountering is the lack of extended participation by churches who initiate the strategy, but then lack the perseverance to maintain the plan through one or two years.⁷

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Rachel Pfeiffer, “Online Church Attendance Retains Some of Its Pandemic Boost,” *Christianity Today*, April 7 (2023), <https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2023/april/online-worship-pandemic-digital-church-attendance-pew-minis.html>.

⁷ “V3 Movement Training: Developing New Competencies,” Accessed June 1, 2023. <https://thev3movement.org/training/#remission>

Revive Church RVA is utilizing multiple community outreach opportunities to connect with the people who live close by their church building. This church plant is working within a community that has transitioned away from Christianity. To address that shift, the leadership within the church has made it the goal of the church to share the love of Christ with all people, regardless of whether they believe in God. The members of the church have carried out multiple evangelistic outreach opportunities and chosen to live life with the community by establishing “hang times” in the city. This gives the community and the church an opportunity to interact together. This ministry has been successful because it allows the church to meet the needs of a specific location of people. The challenge is having the volunteer base that will allow for the successful implementation of this evangelistic strategy.⁸

Working Outline for the Plan

Assessing the Situation

Ministry Summary

The ministry will focus on developing followers of Christ who are utilizing their spiritual gifts to evangelize the community with the gospel of Jesus.

Leadership Summary

The ministry will be organized by the Senior Pastor of Berea Baptist Church, in coordination with the Minister of Music, the Associate Pastor of Media and Congregational Life, the Director of Children’s Ministry, the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and the twelve members of the Deacon Board. Each of these individuals will be essential to ensuring that every age group within the church body is utilized in reaching the community with the gospel.

⁸ “Revive Church RVA,” Accessed June 2, 2023. <https://revivechurchrva.com>.

Defining the Problem

The problem this student seeks to resolve is that Berea Baptist Church of Rockville, Virginia lacks a multigenerational means of evangelism training. This lack of a training creates a generational of believers who lack the knowledge and confidence to share the gospel with people of all age groups. Over the last 20 years there has been a congregation shift taking place, where evangelism has not maintained a position of priority within the church. There are several characteristics that define the congregation at Berea and necessitate this strategy development.

1. The church has gone through a major age shift in the past 10 years. The average age of the congregation in 2005 was 51. There were 31 students involved in the youth group and 35 children in the age range from newborn to 6th grade. By 2015, the average age had increased to 65, with 15 children in the youth group, and 7 children in the age range of newborn to 6th grade. In 2023, the average age remained at 65, but there were now 144 children in the youth group, and 133 children in the age range of newborn to 6th grade.
2. There has been a drastic shift in attendance. In 2005, the average attendance to weekly Bible Studies was 180. The average attendance to Sunday Morning worship was 210. The church performed 15 baptisms that year and saw 284 people involved in mission projects throughout the community. By 2015, the average attendance to weekly Bible Studies was 88 and the average attendance to Sunday Morning worship was 65. The church had performed 2 baptisms that year, and only 75 people were involved in mission projects throughout the community. In 2023, the church performed 108 baptisms, had an average Sunday Morning Worship attendance of 804 and had 526 involved in Bible studies throughout the week.

3. There has been a shift in the amount of tithing that occurs. In 2005, the total giving to the church was 470k. In 2015, the total giving to the church was down to 365k. In 2016, that was able to rise again to 385k. In 2023, the overall giving was 1.6 million.
4. There has been a shift in community activities. In 2005, the church was involved with 10 community-based projects during the year. These projects ranged from building an access ramp at a disabled individual's home, to painting an exterior shed, to providing a personal business shredder in the church parking lot where people from within the community could come and have all their personal documents shredded by a company that was hired to professionally handle the task. In 2015, the church was involved in one community building task: Trunk or Treat. In 2023, the church was involved in 14 different community projects, as well as providing space to allow other community organizations to utilize the space that the church owns.
5. There has been a shift in the perception of the church. When talking with several members of the community, who do not attend Berea, but who have lived in the community for no less than 20 years, those individuals stated that in 2005, the church was seen as a central point of the community. They themselves would attend functions in the church because the church was actively involved in caring for the people in the community. However, by 2015, the church was seen as a closed off organization that had very limited involvement with anything in the community, and in truth seemed to want to be isolated from all the housing developments being created around it. In 2023, the church is now seen as a central point of community life once again.

Proposed Solution to the Problem

The proposed solution is to develop a team strategy that will combine the giftedness of each member of the church body, so everyone may make an impact on the evangelistic outreach of the community and work to reach unbelievers from every age category.

Analyzing the Details

Demographic Data

Here is a list of the physical statistics for Hylas, Virginia:

1. There are 17,800 people within 3 miles of the church.
2. There are 30,100 people within 5 miles of the church.
3. There are 70,000 people within 8 miles of the church.
4. 33% of the population is between the ages of 20 and 44.
5. 48% of the population have no affiliation with a church or faith center at all.
6. 80% of the population attended church or faith center at one point in their life.
7. 85% of the populations believes that there is a god.⁹

SWOT Analysis Presented

Strengths

- There are many people within proximity of the church between the ages of 20 and 44 who live near the church and have no connection with a church.

Weaknesses

- The lack of people who have a connection with a church may increase the difficulty of providing a meaningful biblical connection.
- A lack of clear training will cause frustration and abandonment of the evangelistic work.

⁹ Dover Association Census Report

Opportunities

- The lack of people with a connection to the church will offer the church the opportunity to be creative, intentional, and specific in how they connect with the community, with a constant reminder that the job of the individual is to be obedient to the Word of God. It is the Lord's job to save people.

Threats

- There is the potential for frustration if evangelistic efforts do not produce the response that individuals are expecting.

Defining the Target Audience

The target audience will be every unchurched age group from that lives within proximity to the church. Every group within the church body will have the opportunity to evangelize that age group since their needs can vary from need community interaction as adults, to interaction with their children, to encourage by older generations who can guide them in their career and family endeavors.

Review of Other Faith Communities

There are 22 different churches within a 10-mile radius of the church. There are also 4 different parachurch organizations that are utilizing their resources to share the gospel with the community. None of the church or organizations are combining both the meeting of physical needs and the training of the disciple into their ministry strategy.

Asset Identification

Key Leader's Required Strengths

The individual must have a love for Jesus; a desire to serve; a love for people; a willingness to share his or her faith.

Key Leader's Required Skills

The individual must be able to communicate effectively with individuals and groups; utilize Scripture in the sharing of the gospel; the capability to utilize technology to present information; a willingness to learn; and an attitude of grace with the capability of being corrected if necessary.

Key Leader's Required Experiences

The individual must have previous experience in sharing his or her faith; previous experience teaching in a small group or Bible study; experience working through difficult circumstances and situations; and experience persevering through the desire to quit a task.

Reflective Statements**Position Statement**

This ministry is unique in that it prioritizes the evangelism of the masses by impacting the individuals in the church body. This strategy was incorporated by Jesus and the disciples but has been lost in church culture. This strategy will teach the church body how to meet specific needs, how to establish opportunities for conversation and how to live life together with people of all ages, as well as how to incorporate large gatherings to embrace the gospel.

Mission Statement

The mission of this ministry is to teach the church body how to guide people to the truth of the gospel, so that the power of the Holy Spirit can transform individuals to become more like Christ. In a world that is consumed by darkness and blind to what God longs to do in the hearts and lives and minds of each person, it is necessary to bring that light into clarity for all to see.

Vision Statement

The vision for the ministry is to develop a means for evangelism within the community of Christ followers who have a love for God, a love for people, and who makes disciples.

Values Statement

The church must clarify who the people are as believers and in particular a church. According to Andy Stanley, this clarity must come from evaluating the past decisions made by the church, recognizing present situations of the church, and looking forward into a future hope based upon the vision that God has given to the church.¹⁰ There must be clear expectations that are created based upon the understanding of who the church is, as given to us in Scripture. The ministry team has established a vision and a mission about who believers are here at Berea, and what this team will want to see accomplished.¹¹ There are three aspects to both the vision and mission of the church that must be defined before we can begin developing a strategy:

1. The church must define who it is.

Here at Berea, the believers have started to define themselves as Devoted Followers of Jesus Christ, who have a definite and specific desire to follow all that Jesus has taught believers to do; Acts 17: 10-12.

The believers recognize that vision and passion come from the Holy Spirit, and He has given to believers His Word to lead them along the way.¹² The Bible gives a great example of what a Berean looks like. This example is seen in Acts 17. When Bereans are willing to be humble, receive the message given to them through the Holy Spirit, and spend time studying God's Word, there is a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This outpouring of the Spirit leads to the growth of the church, both spiritually

¹⁰ Andy Stanley, *Ask It: The Question That Will Revolutionize How You Make Decisions*. (Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah Books, 2015), 25.

¹¹ Aubrey Malphurs, *Look Before you Lead: How to Discern and Shape your Church Culture*. Baker Books: Grand Rapids, MI. 2013, 83.

¹² John Stott, *Basic Christian Leadership*. (Downersgrove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2002), 57.

and numerically as people come to know the Lord as their Savior. This same truth exists today.

2. The church must define how it will live out its daily life.

Here at Berea, there is a recognition of the power of prayer, the need to make it a part of the daily lives of all believers, and an expectation that God will answer those prayers.

Believers have committed to becoming a people of prayer and expectation. David Claydon points out the necessity of being a people of prayer, and that each person should be engaged in this daily activity: believers are “encouraged to...motivate the local church into effective prayer.”¹³ The church has a desire to join Him in His work, not because He needs this body of believers, but simply because He wants these believers to be a part of His work, to glorify Himself and His kingdom. The greatest task present is to be in prayer; James 1:5-8 and Hebrews 11:6.

3. The church must define its purpose within the community.

Here at Berea, believers recognize that to have an impact in the community, they must be a people of integrity. That means that they must be a people who care about others. This reality will be reflected in how they carry out evangelism and community outreach.

Strategy Statement

The church will examine each tool of evangelism utilized so that believers are not persuaded or bound by old traditions, but instead are humbled by the constant study of God’s Word, a willingness to serve all people in every social economic aspect of life, and the desire to utilize whatever means that are necessary, not in opposition to God’s Word, to reach the lost for Christ. Lewis Chafer points out that, “The evangelist who fearlessly judges, before God, every

¹³ David Claydon. *A New Vision, a New Hear, a Renewed Call, Volume 2*. Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization: Pattaya, Thailand. 2005, 39.

method he employs—judging them as to their exact value or possible harm in their influence on immortal souls, will find many methods in evangelism to be more about habit than a necessity.”¹⁴ These characteristics will exemplify Christ and give validation to the unchurched that this body of believers desires nothing more than for them to experience the saving power of Jesus; 1 Peter 1: 13-16.

Proposed Team Members

The proposed team members will consist of the Senior Pastor of Berea Baptist Church, the Minister of Music, the Associate Pastor of Media and Congregational Life, the Director of Children’s Ministry, the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and the sixteen members of the Deacon Board.

Proposed Budget

The budget will consist of finances needed for the projects that will be proposed. Each member of the leadership team is already on salary here at the church. As part of their contract with the church, he or she is to engage in evangelistic strategies that will advance the kingdom. This agreement gives them the freedom to work in this project at no additional increase to their salary. The finances that will be needed will revolve around the purchasing of the supplies such as wood for wheelchair ramps, 45k pounds of potatoes for a potato drop, and groceries for the community. In 2023, Berea Baptist Church used nearly 35k in local mission’s projects. For this ministry to continue to expand and meet the needs within the community, the budget for 2024 is going to need to be 50k. This number falls under the mission’s budget goal for the year, which is 10% of the overall budget. Right now, that budget stands at 1.5 million. This projected need is

¹⁴ Lewis Chafer, *True Evangelism*. Gideon House Books: Dallas, TX. 2016, 47.

only 3.3% of that budget, which provides a large amount of funds that can be utilized should they become necessary.

The locations on campus that will be utilized are Sunday school classrooms and the Family Life Center. Each of those locations has already been secured through our church administrative assistant. She is responsible for scheduling the usage of space.

The parking lot has been blocked off for the potato drop so that there will not be any confusion or chaos during that period.

Uniqueness of the Plan

There is no other church or parachurch organization within a 10-mile radius of the church, that is utilizing a strategy that meets both a physical need of the people and the mental desire of the individual to understand the truth of the gospel. This uniqueness will give us the opportunity to attract individuals from all walks of life.

Scriptural Foundation for the Plan

There is a biblical foundation for evangelism that begins with the development of disciples by Jesus. There are two models of evangelism that Jesus utilized taught his disciples: the Attractional Model and the Conversational Model.

The attractional model is designed to generate a large gathering. The model generates many people gathering in one location. Once the people have gathered, they experience a time of worship which can be guided through a specific need being met or a biblical based message being presented. There are many examples of this model being used throughout Scripture:

- Matthew 14, Jesus fed 5000 people as they followed him throughout the countryside.
- Mark 5: 21-40, Jesus brought back to life a small girl and provided healing to a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years.

- Acts 2, the power of the Holy Spirit arrived, Peter preached a short sermon and 3000 people were saved.

The Conversational Model focuses on opportunities for intimate communication. This model will allow each person the opportunity to share the Gospel of Christ with another person. This model is seen the life of Jesus disciples, specifically:

- John 1:39-42, Andrew brings his brother Simon Peter to meet Jesus for the first time.
- John 6: 8-9, Andrew brings a boy with a few loaves and a few fish directly to Jesus. Jesus takes the gifts of that boy, blesses them, and feeds thousands.
- John 12: 20-22, Andrew took the time to introduce many Greeks to the Lord.

Action Plan

One key point that Andy Stanley makes regarding establishing an action plan is that the church must remember to utilize each believers' strengths and develop them, so that they are utilizing the limited amount of time they are given. This will ensure that they are efficient and effective in carrying out God's vision for each believer.¹⁵

Here at Berea, the first action that the church must take is to establish a culture that has a passion for local mission work and has a desire to share the gospel with the neighbors who are close by. To share the gospel, each person must have a genuine relationship with Christ, and a character that is grounded in integrity and rooted in God's Word.¹⁶

The second action is to focus on specific generations of unbelievers. A survey will be given to the church body to allow them the opportunity to address any concerns that they have within the church setting, about how to reach each specific age group of unbelievers.

¹⁵ Andy Stanley, *Next Generation Leader*. (Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah Books, 2003), 10.

¹⁶ David Dockery, *Christian Leadership Essentials*. (Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 2011), 294.

The third action that must be carried out is to establish goals for the church in their pursuit of a positive and constructive evangelistic outreach plan. These goals are both quantitative and qualitative in nature and will be utilized to effectively motivate each member of the church towards growth.¹⁷

The quantitative goals will focus on the need to address how many people and within what age group people the church is going to seek to actively involve unbelievers who are become new believers within the different ministries of the church. These goals will be broken up into varying categories: Bible Study attendance, Local Missions participation, and Worship attendance and participation on Sunday morning:

- Bible Study: Attendance will be at 750 people throughout the week by the end of 2024. This number will include Men's Bible Studies, Women's Bible Studies, Children's Bible Studies, and various other training opportunities throughout the week. The goal for the church will be to have at least 65% of the church body involved in a weekly Bible Study.
- Local Missions Participation (weekly): Attendance in these activities will be 100 people per week. The church has established several missional opportunities that are maintained every week: a back pack program for children in need at the local elementary school; a blessing box that contains food and basic supplies and is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; a clothes closet that assists local families in meeting basic clothing needs during both the winter and summer months; a firewood ministry to assist those in need of firewood during the winter; and several trips to the inner city of Richmond to feed the homeless during each month. These missional opportunities will be utilized by the church to connect with unbelievers so that the gospel can be shared.

¹⁷ John Adair and John Nelson, *Creative Church Leadership*. (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2004), 19.

- Worship: Attendance will be at 1000 people per Sunday morning by the end of 2024.

Qualitative goals have also been established so that believers within the church may be allowed the opportunity to put into practice the message of God's grace that is being taught in the various weekly Bible Studies. Individuals of all ages will be allowed to serve throughout the church, to connect with unbelievers in the community, to grow deeper in their faith, and to share the gospel of Jesus.

1. There will be 19 Missions/Community Outreach Events throughout the course of the year, with at least 550 people involved:
 - a. January to March. There will be a yard and/or home clean-up for an elderly or disabled person in the community.
 - b. April to June: the church will host a Stop Hunger Now Event.
 - c. July to September: the church will host a Potato Drop.
 - d. October to December: the church will host a Fall Festival.

The fourth action is implementation. Steps must be taken to achieve the goals that have been established. These actions are very specific and are given direct dates of implementation so that they can be organized, prepared, and then evaluated. This plan has been put created so far:

Bible Studies and Discipleship Training will be encouraged throughout the congregation. This training will encourage the use of the spiritual gifts that each believer has. Morgan points out that it is absolutely essential for a person to locate the passion that he or she has in ministry, and then use the gifts that he or she has been given, to fulfill that passion: "but the man who has this passion must exercise it, he must use it."¹⁸ Without a person's willingness to follow his or her passion, there will be no growth or spiritual maturity.

¹⁸ G. Campbell Morgan, *Evangelism*. (2016), 83.

Here is a list of the specific Bible Studies and Training opportunities that will begin in 2024:

- a. The Baptist Faith and Message. This Bible Study will begin May 29th and will run for 12 weeks.
- b. Bible Study/Life Group Facilitator Training. The purpose of this training will be to give confidence to individuals who are not certain that they possess the ability to teach or preach, so that they will be better equipped to lead in a small group setting.¹⁹ There will be 3 sessions that are 2 hours per session. They will be held on July 17th, July 31st, and August 21st.
- c. Evangelism Training—This training session is for believers in Christ in all age groups and will give them the opportunity to develop skills that will assist them in effectively developing relationships and conveying the Gospel message in a clear manner. Dr. Reid's book, "Sharing Jesus Without Freaking Out" and Robert Coleman's book, "The Master Plan of Evangelism" will be utilized as teaching resources during these training sessions. There will be 3 sessions that will last 3 weeks per session. This training will take place from September 10th-24th, October 1st –15th, and November 5th –19th.
- d. Apologetics Training— These training sessions will utilize "Defending Your Faith" by RC Sproul, and "Case for Christ" and "Case for Faith" by Lee Strobel. There will be 3 sessions that last 3 weeks per session. This training will take place from August 15th, 22nd, and 29th; September 5th, 12th, and 19th; and October 3rd, 10th, and 17th.

¹⁹ Aubrey Malphurs, *Being Leaders*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2003), 74.

- e. Partnership Luncheon— a Luncheon will be offered once every 3 months. This luncheon will be for individuals who are considering joining the church or the ministries of the church and will offer information about the ministries that the church is currently involved with.

Evaluate

The church will put into place a process that will evaluate the plan.²⁰ There are several steps that must be carried out in the evaluation process:

First, there will be a large emphasis placed on the vision that has been created and the need to carry out the goals that have been established. This will place continued ownership in the hands of all people within the church and create a sense of accountability.²¹

Second, there will be an opportunity to clarify the vision of the church each week. Every week the pastor and the deacon of the week will meet in the church café to answer questions.

Third, there will be an opportunity every 3 months to come together and evaluate the vision. These meetings will have three main purposes:

- It will give every church partner the opportunity to address concerns that he or she may have.²²
- It will give every church partner the opportunity to evaluate the quantitative goals that were established.

²⁰ Anthony Lopez, *The Legacy Leader*. (Mustang, OK: Tate Publishing & Enterprises, 2010), 233.

²¹ Jared Dees, *To Heal, Proclaim, and Teach*. Ave Marie Press: Notre Dame, IN. 2016, 24.

²² Jay Dennis, *Leading with Billy Graham: The Leadership Principles and the Life of T.W. Wilson*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2005), 135.

- It will give every church partner the opportunity to evaluate if the goals that had been established. Thom Rainer points out that clarity “will involve certainty, and it eliminates confusion.”²³ The meetings will be Sept 7th and December 7th

Analysis of the Micro-Project

Every project that is created will need to be examined to determine its efficacy.

There are multiple aspects that must be discussed to give a clear picture of the potential success or failure of the project.

- **Purpose:** the purpose of this project is to develop a multigenerational mean of evangelism training that will give the church the capability to maintain a sense of unity and direction while simultaneously allowing the church the opportunity to maintain the growth that it has been experiencing by sharing the gospel with people of all age categories. The purpose of this project is clear and concise. While it does cover a vast group of people, it also provides a clear direction for that group. It is also necessary to involve such a large group of people, because it is the only way to gain a clear insight into the unity of the church body. If a small subsection is separated from the whole, then the information gathered and utilized will not provide an accurate description of the health of the church or the ability of the church to continue to grow.
- **Leadership:** The leadership of the church will be tasked with casting the vision and ensuring that each member of the church body who chooses to participate in the evangelism training will be equipped to share the gospel. This student believes that

²³ Thom S. Rainer and Eric Geiger, *Simple Church*. (Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 2011), 70.

the leadership here at Berea Baptist Church is very capable of training, teaching, and leading the church body. Their work ethic, focus on scriptural truth, and love for Jesus have been exemplified in everything that they do.

- **Financial Support:** The finances of Berea Baptist Church are going in a very healthy direction. That movement will provide the needed resources to invest back into the people and community to ensure that needs are met, and the gospel is shared. There is no opposition apparent right now within the church body to utilizing 10% of the budget for the development of this program.
- **Volunteer Support:** The volunteer base of Berea Baptist Church is the strongest volunteer base that this student has ever had the opportunity to work alongside. Every week, there are many volunteers who step into various positions of the church ranging from cooking dinner on Wednesday Night, to helping in the Nursery on Sunday morning. Each week the church encounters more people who have a desire to serve and are looking for ways to use their spiritual gifts to bring glory to Jesus. The church has developed a link on the church website that makes it much easier for volunteers to get involved.
- **The Implementation of the Plan:** The strategy that is being presented for Berea Baptist Church gives detailed instructions for how to implement this plan. The biblical foundation is given, the leadership team is defined, the budget is requested, the specific bible studies are shared, the opportunities for involvement are expressed, and the process for evaluating the work that has been done is put into place. Each of these steps is essential to ensuring that this project will provide the outcome that is desired.

The success of a plan comes down to two main ingredients. First, there must be details discussed, agreed upon, and carried out. This student believes that this plan provides all of that. Second, there must be a movement of the Holy Spirit among God's people. As this student examines the work that has been done, he knows that he has prepared to the best of his ability with the information that he has in front of him. He is also aware of the fact that information may change, and flexibility will be necessary. However, most of all, he is aware of the truth that if God is not working in and through all of this, it is going to fail miserably. So, as the project is put into place, he will begin by covering it in prayer. He will continue by covering it in prayer. He will finish by covering it in prayer. Through every phase of the process, he will trust that God's perfect plan is being worked out, and even if the results are not what he had hoped or thought that they would be, he will know that God is working out His perfect will in each situation and is transforming him to be more and more like Jesus. Prayer will not be an afterthought, or simply a preparation for a greater work. As this strategy is carried out, this student will ensure that all people will know that prayer is the greater work. Yes, everyone can plant the seeds, but only God can bring forth the harvest. The prayer of this student is that through this work, God's harvest will be great, His church will be grown, and His name will be glorified.

CHAPTER 3: MICRO-PROJECT TWO

Justification

The problem this student seeks to resolve is that Berea Baptist Church of Rockville, Virginia lacks a multigeneration means for evangelism. Berea Baptist Church is very effective at preaching and teaching the truth but lacks the training that is essential to engage lost people from every generation. A lack of an effective opportunity for multigeneration evangelism training within the church can lead to complacency and isolation. Individuals may lack an understanding of what evangelism means and how it is to be carried out. That lack of understanding can lead to a lack of desire to engage and to reach every generation of individuals. The growth of this type of approach to evangelism, where there is a lack of conviction and urgency, will lead to the death of the church. Developing training opportunities for everyone in the church body will foster a sense of unity and community that will lead to excitement, purpose, and growth.

The micro-project that this student will be focusing on is podcasting. There exists today a society and culture where technology is increasingly utilized in every facet of life. The use of podcasting will give this student the opportunity to connect with people through the course of the day, whether they are driving to work, or spending time in the gym. This evangelistic strategy will exponentially increase the opportunity that this student must share the gospel with people, because the capability of connecting with people in various places throughout the world is magnified. Additionally, the use of podcasting will allow him the opportunity to connect with people with varying backgrounds, cultural upbringings, and views on the church in a way that is neither threatening nor intimidating, thus opening ways of communication that often do not exist.

This student is in the Evangelism and Church Planting Cognate. This student chose that cognate because there is a tremendous need within the church body where he serves as Pastor,

and the community in which the church serves, to create an effective means of training for the church body so it becomes possible to reach unbelievers of all age groups who do not have a relationship with Christ. The community surrounding the church has become increasingly more humanistic and secular, accompanied by a rise in other religions such as Islam and Hindu. There are multiple religious facilities being built within several miles of our church building and church community. These new religious institutions have rapidly increased the need for an effective means for evangelism training.

The microproject that was chosen is biblical because there are multiple facets of the project and strategy that must be developed, along with many individuals who will be needed to make the plan successful. Berea Baptist Church is very effective at evangelism within age groups. This truth, while effective, can be divisive and detrimental to the health of the church. The Bible does not isolate individual groups within a church setting based upon how old or young they are. A lack of an effective multigeneration evangelism training plan that teaches believers how to share the gospel with people of all generations by utilizing modern technology can lead to animosity and division that is clearly rooted in a lack of communication. Podcasting can produce a sense of unity in purpose because it will not be focused towards one age group of individuals, but instead will work to utilize the strengths of all age groups of believers to present the truth of the gospel.

This course is designed to assist the students in determining what Biblical evidence is given to support addressing the problem that exists within the church setting. This understanding insists that this student work to ensure that this plan has a clear purpose, goal, and target group. The church body itself is growing, as the power of the Holy Spirit works among the people. That growth has the potential to become wasted if the giftedness of the people is not developed and

coordinated within the context of a strategy that trains believers how to share the gospel.

Podcasting will assist this student in developing disciples who are knowledgeable of what the scriptures say and how it applies to their lives, as well as in evangelizing those who have no relationship with Christ.

One of the greatest hindrances of creating an effective means of evangelism training is the inability of the church to share the gospel in a way that those who are unsaved will understand the hope that is found in Christ. Clear and effective communication is essential. Podcasting will give this student a tool that can be utilized in such a way that all will understand the truth of Christ. In the book of Acts, the church was born when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the people, and they all could understand the truth of the gospel in their own language: “Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷ And they were amazed and astonished, saying, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?’ ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?” (Acts 2:5-8 English Standard Version). Those who were lost were confused by the reality that they could understand what each person was saying. That confusion brought a sense of curiosity. A few verses later, Peter preaches a short sermon that guides people through a clear understanding of what the gospel is. Once he finishes, Peter is asked by the thousands who have been listening, what they must do to be saved. Peter responds, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” (Acts 2:38-39 ESV).

That day, 3000 souls were saved, and the church was born. Believers in the church must speak in a way that they understand the truth of the gospel of Jesus.

Peer Review

The process of putting together this project has been an arduous one. This student knew from the very beginning that it was going to be challenging, time consuming, and even frustrating at times. Dr. Wilhite gave some tremendous insight as this student began the project. He provided a perspective of imagining the student was attempting to sell the ideas being created to someone who would utilize what the student was presenting. He stated that the student should be creative and concise. That advice has been a guiding factor in this project that has allowed this student the opportunity to embrace the entire project and be as creative as possible.

This student has encountered several challenges during this process. The first challenge revolved around the focus of the project itself. This student is working on developing a podcast in a multigeneration rural church that is growing at a very rapid rate. The objective is not to create a podcast in the hopes that it will bring life into a church that is dying. Instead, the objective is to create a podcast that will bring some focus into the church body and create a sense of unity that will enable evangelism to continue in the community and allow discipleship to continue to grow within the church. Part of that process will involve defining the characteristics of the podcast.

As this began to share his podcast with the class, one of his classmates began to present several valid and pointed questions, which led to challenges that he has had to address: First, "What is the Length? That would determine the objective to accomplish. How often?" That question is vital because as personal experiences have been shared, many have stated that any podcast beyond thirty minutes tends to cause someone to lose interest in the topic.

However, if the content is worth it, people are willing to listen. In addition, having a podcast each day is a bit excessive and can become a bit repetitive. Having something once a week provides the appropriate time for continued interest in the content.

Second, “What is the benefit of a podcast?” In a culture and during a time when church attendance seems to be dropping quite a bit, this can be an avenue through which the church can connect with a broader range of people, some of whom are simply unable to get to church. However, on the opposite end of that spectrum, it can magnify the lazy Christian mentality that seems to be becoming more popular. That type of involvement in the church negates the opportunities that naturally exist to encourage one another, learn from one another, and correct one another when necessary. This type of fellowship, when neglected can be fatal for a church.

Third, this student has been forced to examine the target group and how to connect with that group. Since his desire is to establish a podcast that can be utilized by every age group, he was forced to examine the current ministries of the church, and how the church currently communicates and coordinates with those ministries. In a church that has grown from roughly 70 people to a church that has three services on a Sunday morning and well over 900 in the last few years, communication is one of the greatest challenges that is encountered on a weekly basis. Classmates gave the student some tremendous insight into several avenues of communication that can be utilized to ensure not only that the congregation and community are aware that the podcast exists, but also that they have access to the content that is being presented. These communication tools will greatly benefit this ministry development and allow the student the opportunity to expand his reach within the community.

The fourth challenge that the student encountered must deal with defining the motive of the podcast. Again, he was blessed with some insight from one of his classmates who pointed out

that “Some of my favorite podcasts are hosted and produced by leaders who do not pretend to have all the answers but who connect me with guests, ideas, and organizations that provide resources to deal with the issues I am wrestling with.” This insight has been beneficial in tailoring the strategy of the podcast in such a way that individuals feel valued as he shares the gospel with them, and not belittled or demeaned in any way. It also ensures that he is not making the podcast about himself as an individual or even any of the guest speakers who are invited to be a part of it. The objective is always to make sure that no matter what question is being answered or what issue is being addressed, sound biblical insight and direction is being provided. This student wants this podcast to guide people in establishing a biblical worldview.

The final challenge that this student has had to deal with involves his own personal frustration. This is the most difficult part of the work. The content and the development of the podcast are exciting and provide him with the motivation to continue working diligently on the project. The concern he has is ensuring that he maintains that motivation. One of his classmates pointed out to him: “In our journey, we are all acquainted with the tribulations accompanying our chosen path. However, your unyielding commitment, clear through this discussion, is undeniably imbued with the presence of the Holy Spirit, empowering you to accomplish His work for His glory.” He was reminded that this podcast is not about him. It is about Jesus. He cannot embrace the hardships and difficulties as a judgement upon himself, but embrace the truth that God is working in ways that he cannot fully grasp.

As this student sits back and examines the work that he has done so far, he is excited about the challenges that have been encountered and overcome. Coming into the second mini project he was curious as to how he would approach the new project. He has been blessed with a

tremendous teacher and classmates who have given him a sense of confidence in seeking to establish a podcast that can be shared with the community to expand the gospel of Jesus.

Implementation

Why This Ministry Is Needed

The problem this student seeks to resolve is that Berea Baptist Church of Rockville, Virginia lacks a multigenerational means of evangelism. Berea Baptist Church was founded in 1846 and has a long-standing tradition of conservative ideology and theology. Liberal theology had become common place in the past 20 years, and there has been little emphasis on the saving power of Christ and reaching the lost. Primarily, emphasis had been placed on maintaining the traditional processes and structures. This reality led the church to a place of spiritual starvation, whereby there existed a lack of evangelism training that is essential in any church for that church to carry out the Great Commission and share the gospel with unbelievers of all ages.

Understanding the Need for This Specific Ministry

There is a great need for the gospel to be preached in this area, and not simply to be preached, but to be communicated correctly and lived out daily in the lives of the leadership. The church leaders must be able to share the gospel in a way that all people will understand who Jesus is, and that He died for them. Dr. Alvin Reid pointed out:

3. 80% of Southern Baptist Churches reach 0 or 1 person for Christ per year. Berea Baptist Church was part of that 80% from 2005 to 2017. In the last three years, the church has baptized over 250 people, who range in age from 7 years old to 91 years old. This reality illustrates that there is now a tremendous need to develop an evangelism strategy that will utilize the giftedness of each age group within the church.
4. 78% of unchurched people are willing to talk to someone who is grounded in their faith, whether that person is a Christian, a Muslim, a Hindu, or whatever religion that person

may claim.²⁴ There has been a sharp rise in the number of people in this area who are God-fearers but are not believers in the Lord Jesus. There is only an emphasis placed on a relationship with Him, when difficulties arise, or someone passes away. Paul defines this in 2 Timothy 3: 5 as "having a form of godliness but denying its power" (2 Timothy 3:5, English Standard Version).

Based upon this information, there is clearly a need to develop an evangelism plan that will be utilized and led by all generations, implemented over the course of a year, as well as have the capability to reach all generations with the gospel. A podcast is the perfect tool to provide all that insight.

Research and Process Involved in Launching the Podcast

The structure and make-up of the podcast is going to be essential to its success. There are several parts of the podcast that must be addressed to launch the podcast. First, there must be a name given to the podcast that has the potential to grab the attention of the listener, as well as well as keep them invested in the topics that are being discussed.²⁵ This podcast is rooted in Christ. For that reason, the name will create a sense of curiosity and motivation for someone who needs a much deeper and more intimate relationship with Jesus.

The name of this podcast is going to be "Dwelling In Possibility". This title provides the listener with the opportunity to recognize that no matter what he or she may be enduring daily, God is still at work. God still has a plan and a purpose. God still wants to use the gifts and talents that He has given to them.

²⁴ Reid, Alvin. Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary Conference: March 22, 2017.

²⁵ Alban Brooke, "How To Start a Podcast: Complete Step-by-Step Guide [2023]," Accessed September 3, 2023. <https://www.buzzsprout.com/blog/how-to-start-a-podcast?>

Second, this student will utilize introduction music and a narration that will be added to the podcast. Here is the statement that the announcer will make before the podcast begins: “Welcome to Dwelling in Possibility with Pastor John Baldwin. This is where hope and direction can be found as we explore the places, people, and passages of the Bible. In this journey through scripture, you will learn how you can bring clarity and purpose to your life. You will see that every day you are dwelling in possibility because we serve a God who specializes in the impossible, and now here is your host Pastor John Baldwin.” This introduction will provide the listener with the clarity that they are looking for regarding the content that will be shared.

Third, this student will develop cover art for the podcast.²⁶ He has chosen to avoid any type of podcasting equipment as part of that artwork since it is unnecessary and provides no clarity to the content that will be on the podcast.²⁷ He has chosen to emphasize a dandelion that is blowing in the wind. The bible tells us in John 3:8 that Jesus had a conversation with Nicodemus regarding the truth that to be saved, a person must be born again. Nicodemus struggled to grasp that truth, so Jesus gave the image of the wind: “The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8, English Standard Version). The point of that statement was to illustrate that although he may not understand how the wind does what it does, he can very clearly see that there is an impact being made because of the power of God moving. The same truth exists with the image of the dandelion. As the wind blows, the seeds are moved. No one knows where those seeds will end up or the impact that they will have. All that is known is that the wind, which is guided by the power of the Holy Spirit, is what will move

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

them to where God wants them to be. The dandelion symbolizes what it means to be dwelling in possibility.

Fourth, this student will establish a vision for the podcast.²⁸ That vision will be established in the first Episode and will be rooted in the truth that believers are to Love God, Love People, and make Disciples. That vision is designed to provide some clarity as to what it means to be a believer as well as to emphasize the hope that is found in Christ. This is what the script will look like for the introductory episode:

Day 1--“Last year, our family had a chance to go on vacation. To be very honest with you, vacations are hard for me. Not because I don’t like them, but primarily because I love what I do so much. My wife tends to say that I am a workaholic, and I think there may be some validity to that statement. Anyway, last year, while we were at the beach, it rained every day that we were there, except for the last day. That shouldn’t really deter any of us since our objective most of the time when we’re at the beach is to get in the water and get wet. Well, the water was so rough that the local authorities placed red flags out on the beach, indicating that no one should get in to swim.

During one particularly harsh storm that seemed to erupt very quickly, I remember looking out of the window of the home we were staying in and seeing the streets covered with rain as the water ran to the beach. I remember watching trash cans tip over and the trash from those cans blowing down the street. I even saw one person get caught out in the rain, going for a nice jog. The person debated for a few seconds whether he would continue going forward or return from the direction he just came. Finally, he decided it would be best to retreat home. For

²⁸ Jill Thomas, “How Often Should You Release Podcast Episodes?” Accessed September 12, 2022. <https://hurrrdatmedia.com/podcasting/podcast-episode-frequency/>.

about 30 minutes, the weather was rough. No one was at the beach. No one even ventured outside. For 30 minutes, the goal was to avoid the storm at all costs. During that time, I thought about our spiritual lives. Often, storms seem to arise in our lives very quickly, without any warning or knowledge of their approach.

We feel as though we are tossed around, sliding through circumstances without control, or caught in the middle of a situation that we cannot change and have no clarity about which direction to go. We simply feel lost amid darkness, and we forget who we are, and why we're here.

Amazingly, after the harsh rain and strong winds passed by the sun emerged. For the first time all week, the sun burst onto the beach and lit up the sand as it dried out. The wind felt like a smooth breeze caressing our face, as we stood on the balcony and enjoyed the amazing view. The waters seemed to calm down, and illicit and invitation to everyone to come and enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

And it was amazing to watch what happened next.... NOTHING! You would think that at the beach, when the sun comes out, people would remember why they were there and begin to pour out onto the beach like ants on a picnic lunch. But it didn't happen. I remember standing out on the balcony wondering if anyone was going to come out. The sun was beaming down, the sky was bright blue, the wind was calm—a perfect day to be at the beach, but there was no one there. I began to wonder why.

I asked my boys if they wanted to go down to the beach, and without hesitation, they all said "NO". They were good in the house. I asked why. The weather was perfect. One of them quickly responded, "Dad did you see how quickly that last storm came up. It might look good right now, but in 2 minutes, it could be pouring again. We're staying inside."

I began to imagine that everyone else was thinking the same thing. For an hour the beach was empty. Finally, one by one people began to emerge, and by the middle of the afternoon, the beach was so filled with people that there was hardly a place to sit.

Spiritually, how many of us go through a storm, and do everything we can to survive, only to forget what God has told us about ourselves and the plan He has for us?

Each day we are dwelling in the possibility and the reality that God wants to do something in and through us. There will be times when difficulties arise and our emotions may cloud our view of God, but His Word has told us that we can trust in Him. You may be struggling with a relationship and can't figure out how to work through it because you're in the dark and you can't see it. You may be struggling financially, and desperation has darkened your reasoning. You may be questioning the purpose behind everything that is going on in your life right now. Whatever the situation might be, remember who you belong to! You are about to embrace a journey that will guide you in the darkness. Trust in Him. Believe in Him. Worship Him and allow Him the opportunity to change you. I am praying that you will open your heart and mind to Him right now! You are not alone! You are not aimlessly wandering! You are literally Dwelling in Possibility—and that is where anything can happen!”

From that point forward, the student will begin to examine specific words in scripture and how those words can be applied in each individual life. Here are samples of the next three episodes:

Day 2-- “Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26 ESV)

Dwell In Possibility

Have you ever thought about the word “**dwell**”, and what all it involves? If we are honest, the answer to that question is “no”. It’s not a word that is generally part of our everyday vocabulary. So, let’s see what it means. **Dwell** is defined as to “live in or at a specified place.”²⁹ The idea of dwelling is that a person simply exists in a certain location for an extended period. To stay unmoving from a location is to **dwel** there.

What about the word “**possibility**”? What does that mean? **Possibility** is defined as “a thing that may happen.”³⁰ To Dwell in Possibility means that we are constantly in a state of recognition where we understand that anything is possible. With God, that statement should resonate hope and peace, knowing that no matter what your circumstances might be, there is always the potential to see the impossible become possible.

As I prayed through that statement recently, I found myself drifting towards a Biblical story that many of us know. The story of Job is fascinating on so many different levels.

- We are intrigued by the reality that God pointed out His servant Job to the devil.
- We love to recognize that nothing happens outside of God’s permission, and we are broken to see the pain that Job went through.
- Job encountered terrible heartache. Job endured loss so horrific that he had no idea what to do. His family was taken from him. His career was taken from him. His health was taken from him. Even his wife and friends blamed him for the hardships that fell upon him. Life was difficult, and yet he did not sin.

In fact, he grew deeper in his relationship with the Lord. My favorite chapters of the book are the last few chapters, from 38-42. If you have time, take a few minutes, and read through them. Up to those chapters, God has been questioned quite a bit. Job is longing to have some

²⁹ “Dwell.” Accessed November 6, 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/dwell>.

³⁰ “Possibility.” Accessed November 6, 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/possibility>.

understanding about the situation that he has found himself in, so he is seeking clarity. That in and of itself doesn't seem unreasonable. We all have longed to understand why we go through certain situations, because we have convinced ourselves that if we really can understand the reason behind it or for it, then we can endure it better. Job was no different. He wanted to know the "why" behind all that he had endured.

Beginning in Chapter 38, we find God answering those questions, and flipping everything upside down on Job. Instead of directly answering all the questions that Job has for Him, God begins to ask Job about the universe; wanting to know where he was when everything was put into place. He is very specific, wanting to know where he was when the stars were put into place, the lines were drawn in the sand, and the water was told that it could go no farther on the land. He asks Job about the animals that walk on land, those that swim in the oceans, and even those that fly in the sky. There is an intensity to how God is responding to Job, not because He is vengeful and spiteful, but because He wants Job to clearly understand an essential truth to the Universe: God is God, and He alone has the power and authority to create something out of nothing and set everything into motion. He wants to make sure that Job is very clear about the kind of power God has. Twice God tells Job to be prepared for the answer that He is about to give him, and each time Job is clearly reminded of the reality that nothing is impossible with God. My favorite verses--Job 42:1-6 ESV—

“Then Job replied to the Lord: ²“I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’ Surely, I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. “You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.’ My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore, I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.””

By the end of these verses, Job has finally recognized the complete and total power of God; the strength that only comes from Him; the wisdom that only He can give; the Glory that belongs solely to Him. He sees all of that and feels complete and total shame. He despises himself because he knows and finally sees the righteousness of God. So, what does He do? How does he respond? He REPENTS! In sackcloth and ashes!

We are stepping into a season and a challenge that is designed to bring us into a much deeper relationship with God. The purpose of this challenge is to remind us of the power of God, and how He is completely and totally worthy of our trust. This will not be an easy challenge! If we are being honest with ourselves, and spending time seeking him, we will be pushed beyond our comfort zones, and guided into unfamiliar territory. But don't get frustrated and don't give up! Keep moving forward—each day! Remember that we Dwell in Possibility—anything can happen!

Day 3--“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.”

(Proverbs 17:17 ESV)

Last week your challenge was to REPENT. The idea of sitting down and reliving some of the sins that we have committed is not always a pleasant task, and yet we know that it's a necessary task. Repenting of those sins that have bound us, gives us a freedom and joy that we can't experience any other way. Today, we are going to experience some encouragement. I don't know about you, but Language Arts was never my favorite subject in school. I always struggled to work through diagramming sentences and understanding the usage of each word. Spelling was never a strength of mine, which is why I absolutely love Spell Check on the computer—it has reduced my stress levels in writing immensely. (I can't tell you how red my paper has been already as I write this— thank you LORD for spell check)

Take for example the words THEIR, THERE, THEY'RE. Each one of them sounds the same, but each one of them is spelled differently, and each one of them has a different meaning. All of them are valid, and all of them have a purpose, but how often do people get them confused. Well today, we are going to just focus on one of them: **THEIR**. What does that word mean? **THEIR** is defined as “belonging to or associated with the people or things previously mentioned or easily identified.”³¹ This word shows a relationship between people. It defines a proximity, not just in physical relationship to a person, but also in emotional, intellectual, and spiritual understandings and beliefs.

In Mark 2, we find this word being used in connection with a man who was paralyzed. We may or may not know this story, but there is a man who cannot walk. There is a crowd that has gathered around Jesus who is teaching in someone's home. The crowd is so large, that no one can make it close to him. Some people might have seen the crowd and assumed that they never would have been able to see Jesus, but this man and his friends, were determined to see Him and unwilling to allow the circumstances and the crowd to deter them from the mission that they were on.

These four men climb to the roof of the house that Jesus is in carrying their paralyzed friend. They cut open a hole in the roof and lower him down into the room where Jesus was teaching. Can you imagine what everyone was thinking when the dust started falling from the roof as they were cutting open the hole? There must have been some confusion as to what was happening, and then, if you own the house, a little bit of frustration that they literally destroyed your ceiling. But these men were determined.

Then, something amazing happens: *“When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed*

³¹ “Their.” Accessed November 6, 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/their>.

man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'" (Mark 2:5 ESV)

Notice the importance of friendship here, and the connection between all these men. There was a close bond. How do I know that? The word **THEIR** is used. Jesus looked at the paralyzed man, and saved him, because of THEIR faith. You can't say that friends don't matter. Growing up, my parents used to always remind me that it was important to surround myself with people who love Jesus. Who we surround ourselves with absolutely has a drastic impact upon our own lives. The faith of this guy's friends literally brought about hope and restoration. A few verses later, Jesus tells the paralyzed man to get up and walk. But notice the order of events. First, the man's spiritual life was addressed, and then his physical need was addressed. The same reality exists with us. Last week, we addressed the spiritual need of repentance in our lives. Today, we have a chance to experience hope and encouragement—how can we do that? Maybe through the lives of those whom God has allowed us the chance to share life with!

Day 4—"So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant".(1 Kings 19: 21 ESV)

Have you ever wondered what the word "abandon" means? When we hear that word, immediately we step into a negative mind set. It doesn't sound as though it could be encouraging or even lead to anything positive at all. And yet, today, we are going to recognize how positive total abandonment can be. According to the dictionary, **abandon** is defined as "giving up completely (a course of action, a practice, or a way of thinking)."³² It's a recognition of the futility in continuing the same course of action in life.

³² "Abandon." Accessed November 6, 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/abandon>.

I happened to be walking across a bridge over the James River a few weeks ago. As I crossed over, I found myself reading the historical quotes of people during the end of the Civil War that were laid out on the boards on the bridge. In April 1865, the war was coming to an end, the city was burning, and uncertainty loomed ahead. One gentleman, Confederate Naval Secretary Stephen Mallory, ordered the men under his command to destroy the naval ships that the confederate government had been building in the shipyard near Richmond. They knew that there was no way to continue moving in the direction that they were going, and so they destroyed the only thing that they had known, so that they might find purpose ahead of them.

That quote on the board (command that he gave), reminded me of the story of Elijah and Elisha in 1 Kings 19. Elijah was the prophet of God. The time had come when God was going to point out and set aside who Elijah's successor would be as the prophet to the people of God. Chaos had erupted among God's people, but now He was bringing about restoration. There was going to be a great season of rebirth and renewal. Elisha was going to be part of that restorative plan, but it was going to take a willingness on his part to look forward and trust.

Elisha was wealthy. He came from a background that was financially very successful. How do we know that? In chapter 19, Elijah comes to Elisha while he is working the oxen in the field. At first glance, that might not sound like a big deal, but we must remember the time period and the culture. To have one set of oxen to work your field, clearly illustrated that person was wealthy. Yet, Elisha didn't have just one set of oxen. He had 12. Not only was Elisha wealthy, but he also had more wealth than just about anyone around him. Elisha would never have to worry about anything financial in his entire life. It was almost sickening how much material wealth he possessed.

While Elisha is working in the field, Elijah simply walks up to him and throws his cloak over him. At that moment, Elisha had a choice to make. He had to decide if he would continue to follow down the path of life he was on right then, which no doubt would have seen tremendous wealth and material prosperity; or he would surrender to the path that God was laying out for Him, filled with uncertainty. In a split second he had to make a decision that would alter the course of his life forever.

Elisha chose the path of complete and total abandonment. He surrendered to God and followed Him, even with the reality of an uncertain future. When he had the oxen killed and the plows destroyed, He threw away every possibility of retreat. He knew that He was going to follow God and His plan forever or die trying. There was a trust that what God had for Him was going to guide him to the purpose for which he was born!

Today, too many of us are unwilling to throw away and destroy every possibility of retreat. We see the word “**abandon**”, and we immediately head down a path of death and destruction, as though God has no idea what He is doing. We assume that when He asks us to live a life of abandonment, it will only lead to our demise. My friends, God is calling us forward, and that requires abandonment. We must abandon our ways of doing things that stand in opposition to God. We must be willing to move forward even if we don’t see a way of retreat! I want to encourage you to embrace God’s plan for your life. Live life with a total abandonment to your own ideas and thoughts and embrace the purpose for which you were created--to Glorify God!

In addition to focusing on those words and biblical stories, this student will have various speakers throughout the year who have gone through the loss of a loved one or a difficult trial such as cancer. This student already has four interviews lined up, and they will take place every

fifth episode: Sam Stone lost a son; Rebecca Wood had breast cancer; Kyle Soderberg is a former navy seal; Juliet Baldwin battled abuse as a child; Dana Holman lost a daughter.

Evaluation of Similar Podcasts

Dwelling in Possibility is a podcast that this student believes is needed in our culture today. There are many different types of podcasts, and even some that are like the one this student is proposing. For example, this podcast, <https://www.5minutediscipleship.com>, is focusing on an individual's walk with God, but lacks the emphasis made on personal application of biblical principles. This podcast, <https://podcasts.apple.com/np/podcast/the-legacy-discipleship-podcast>, focuses on the definition of disciple, and does a good job of creating an understanding of why believers are responsible for evangelizing and discipling other believers. However, this podcast lacks the clear biblical mandate that as a disciple of Christ, evangelism should be an essential part of how we function as a believer.

The Bible is to be studied and applied. The podcast that this student is putting together will provide its listeners with the opportunity to glean insight from the Bible as they study the scriptures in context, and utilize the words already presented to them. This strategy will exponentially increase the opportunities to connect with individuals on a local and national level and either establish or enhance their personal walk with Christ. It will provide individuals who have never surrendered to Christ the opportunity to surrender, while simultaneously developing a deep desire within believers to ensure that evangelism is a key component of their discipleship.

Moving Forward

The first podcast has been created and published for *Dwelling in Possibility*. Here is the link to the first episode: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/2252201/13644071>

Now that people throughout the world can access and listen to the podcast, this student will have to make sure that he is able to track how successfully it is impacting the community by analyzing who is listening. There are several ways to do track this information.

First, the student must make sure that the podcast has been downloaded to multiple platforms. For this podcast, he has added it to Apple podcast, Spotify podcasts, and Google podcasts. Each of those platforms provides a dashboard or manager that will give him information about the audience. He will be able to see who has listened to the podcast in the last 7 days, and which of the podcasts have received the most listens. Buzzsprout provides information about where the download of the podcast took place. This site gives him the information from each of the platforms where it is downloaded. Within the first day of downloading the first episode, he had 25 downloads of the podcast. 22 of them were on an apple phone; one was on an android; one was on an apple computer; and one was on a windows computer. He was also able to see that 88% of those downloads took place off the Buzzsprout link that was shared.³³ This information clearly indicates that listeners have the potential to access this content while on the move, which means it can be heard in a car, on a walk, or in the gym. This information indicates that the content is easy to process and applicable to daily life. It also clearly indicates that people prefer a link that can be clicked rather than going to have to search for the podcast.

Second, he must find ways to advertise the podcast on locations in addition to Facebook and Instagram. Apple podcast manager provides marketing tools that can be utilized to capture the attention of potential listeners. The manager also provides ways to advertise each podcast in

³³ Alban Brooke, "How To Start a Podcast: Complete Step-by-Step Guide [2023]," Accessed September 3, 2023. <https://www.buzzsprout.com/blog/how-to-start-a-podcast?>

an efficient and effective way such as a QR code or simplified link.³⁴ Google Podcasts Manager provides the input for every episode that is posted to it, as well as the average length of each listener. It allows a person to know if the person listened to the entire podcast or stopped listening about halfway through. It also allows you to know when the podcast was heard, so that you can see if it was popular in the beginning of the study, or if it has maintained its relevance throughout the work, because you are attracting new people to the podcast each week.³⁵ Each of those platforms has a large following of people, so the ability to connect with additional listeners is increased exponentially each week.

Third, he will invest financially into sharing the content. Part of sharing the gospel is being willing to spend money to utilize the technology that is now available to us. He will spend money on social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram to share each podcast as it is created, as well as the overall podcast itself. He has set it up that he will spend \$1 a day for the next 60 days to publish this podcast. Social media will generate an additional audience of 565 people per day in my community. Facebook will also provide tracking information about the audience and will allow me to know the location, age, and gender of those who access the podcast.

All this information is essential to developing a structure within the podcast that will bring people back because they find the content easy to comprehend, applicable to their own lives, and interesting enough to share with friends. During this process, he must pay attention to the patterns of the audience, the location and age of the audience, as well as the length of each podcast that they listen to. As the patterns emerge, he will adjust the structure, without changing the content so that he is still proclaiming the Gospel of Christ while doing so in a way and in a

³⁴ “Apple Podcasts,” Accessed September 6, 2023. <https://tools.applemediaservices.com/podcasts>.

³⁵ “Google Podcast Manager”, Accessed September 6, 2023. <https://podcastsmanager.google.com/show>.

format that is clearly understood and comprehended by those who are accessing the podcasts. He will work diligently to ensure that he is utilizing all the tools that are at my disposal to share the content with the world and work to expand the kingdom of Christ.

Analysis of the Micro-Project

Every project that is created will need to be examined to determine its efficacy. There are multiple aspects that must be discussed to give a clear picture of the potential success or failure of the project.

- **Purpose:** the purpose of this project is to develop a podcast that will give the church the capability to maintain a sense of unity and direction while simultaneously allowing the church the opportunity to maintain the growth that it has been experiencing. The purpose of this project is clear and concise. While it does cover a vast group of people, it also provides a clear direction for that group. It is also necessary to involve such a large group of people, because it is the only way to gain a clear insight into the unity of the church body. If a small subsection is separated from the whole, then the information gathered and utilized will not provide an accurate description of the health of the church or the ability of the church to continue to grow.
- **Leadership:** The leadership of the church will be tasked with casting the vision and ensuring that each member of the church body or individual in the community who chooses to participate in the podcast will be equipped to share the gospel.
- **Financial Support:** The finances of Berea Baptist Church are going in a very healthy direction. That movement will provide the needed resources to invest back into the church body and the community to ensure that needs are met, and the gospel is shared. There is no opposition apparent right now within the church body to utilizing

- 5% of the budget for the development of this podcast program along with other social media avenues that will allow the student the capability to connect with every generation.
- **Volunteer Support:** The volunteer base of Berea Baptist Church is the strongest volunteer base that he has ever had the opportunity to work alongside. Every week, there are many volunteers who step into various positions of the church ranging from cooking dinner on Wednesday Night, to helping in the Nursery on Sunday morning. Each week the church encounters more people who have a desire to serve and are looking for ways to use their spiritual gifts to bring glory to Jesus. The church has developed a link on the church website that makes it much easier for volunteers to get involved. Connecting with people who can assist in editing and producing the content for this podcast will be essential to its success.
 - **The Implementation of the Plan:** The podcast that is being presented to Berea Baptist Church gives detailed instructions for how to implement this plan. The biblical foundation is given, the leadership team is defined, the budget is requested, the biblical content has already been developed for the first 40 episodes, the opportunities for involvement are expressed, and the process for evaluating the work that has been done is put into place. Each of these steps is essential to ensuring that this project will successfully connect with both believers and nonbelievers with biblical truth that can either help that person establish a relationship with Christ, or guide that person into a much deeper walk with Christ.

The success of a plan comes down to two main ingredients. First, there must be details discussed, agreed upon, and carried out. This student believes that this plan provides all of that.

Second, there must be a movement of the Holy Spirit among God's people. As this student examines the work that has been done, he knows that he has prepared to the best of his ability with the information that he has in front him. He is also aware of the fact that information may change, and flexibility will be necessary. However, most of all, he is aware of the truth that if God is not working in and through all of this, it is going to fail miserably. So, as the project is put into place, he will begin by covering it in prayer. He will continue by covering it in prayer. He will finish by covering it in prayer. Through every phase of the process, he will trust that God's perfect plan is being worked out, and even if the results are not what he had hoped or thought that they would be, he will know that God is working out His perfect will in each situation and is transforming him to be more and more like Jesus. Prayer will not be an afterthought, or simply a preparation for a greater work. As this this strategy is carried out, this student will ensure that all people will know that prayer is the greater work. Yes, everyone can plant the seeds, but only God can bring forth the harvest. The prayer of this student is that through this work, God's harvest will be great, His church will be grown, and His name will be glorified.

CHAPTER 4: MICRO-PROJECT THREE

Justification

The problem this student seeks to resolve is that Berea Baptist Church of Rockville, Virginia lacks a multigeneration means for evangelism. Berea Baptist Church is very effective at preaching and teaching the truth but lacks the training that is essential to engage lost people from every generation. A lack of an effective opportunity for multigeneration evangelism training within the church can lead to complacency and isolation. Individuals may lack an understanding of what evangelism means and how it is to be carried out. That lack of understanding can lead to a lack of desire to engage and to reach every generation of individuals. The growth of this type of approach to evangelism, where there is a lack of conviction and urgency, will lead to the death of the church. Developing training opportunities for everyone in the church body will foster a sense of unity and community that will lead to excitement, purpose, and growth.

The micro-project that this student will be focusing on is blogging. There exists today a society and culture where technology is increasingly utilized in every facet of life. Creating an effective blog is essential for several reasons: First, creating a blog helps to establish authority. The objective of this blog will be to assist readers in how to evangelize each generation. This platform will provide the framework upon which the message of the gospel of Jesus can be shared with a church body that is lacking the understanding of how to share the gospel effectively and clearly with different age groups. Second, social media has become a major form of communication throughout the world. There are currently nearly 4 billion people connected

to the internet worldwide. Blogging allows content that is created to be quickly transitioned to social media, so that the impact and the reach of the content is far greater.³⁶

This student is in the Evangelism and Church Planting Cognate. This student chose that cognate because there is a tremendous need within the church body where he serves as Pastor, and the community in which the church serves, to create an effective means of training for the church body so it becomes possible to reach unbelievers of all age groups who do not have a relationship with Christ. The community surrounding the church has become increasingly more humanistic and secular, accompanied by a rise in other religions such as Islam and Hindu. There are multiple religious facilities being built within several miles of our church building and church community. These new religious institutions have rapidly increased the need for an effective means for evangelism training.

The micro project that was chosen is biblical because training is just as essential in the life of the believers today as it was in the life of the disciples during the time of Christ. As the disciples joined into the work that Christ was doing, there were many times where they were watching in awe and wonder at His power being on display. He would often provide a teaching for a large group of people, many of whom were only there because they wanted to see a miracle performed by Jesus, and then He would take the disciples off somewhere to discuss what He had just taught. In Mark 4, Jesus was teaching to the crowd a parable about the farmer sowing seeds. He went on to share that the seed was spread out, and some of it was eaten by the birds, and some fell onto rocky soil which did not allow it to grow deep roots, and some fell among thorns and did not produce fruit, and some fell on good soil and produced fruit abundantly. Once Jesus had finished teaching, He explained that message to the disciples, helping them to understand

³⁶ Erica Santiago, "Do people still read blogs in 2023? We asked consumers," Accessed November 2, 2023. <https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/the-benefits-of-business-blogging-ht>.

that the message of the Kingdom of God as being given to them to understand: “And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. ¹¹ And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, ¹² so that ““they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven.”” (Mark 4:10-12 English Standard Version)

Later in Mark 6, He sends them out in pairs of two to share the message that they had been given. They were given the same authority He had. They were to take all that they had been watching Jesus do, and training them to do for the many months that they had been walking with Him, and proclaim the good news: “And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.⁸ He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts... ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. ¹³ And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.” (Mark 6:7-8,12 ESV) They would return a short while later and discuss all that had happened. Jesus spent many months training the disciples to share the good news of His arrival. That tells believers that training in evangelism must be a central part of the church today, and this project will assist in making that belief a reality.

Peer Review

The process of putting together this project has been a difficult one. The student knew from the very beginning that it was going to be challenging, time consuming, and even frustrating at times. Dr. Owens has been invaluable as the project has developed, offering insight into how to focus the content of the blog so that it fits with the problem that he is attempting to solve. Creating a strategy was going to be a much larger task than he had time and space to develop it. However, focusing in on a means for evangelism, whereby the blog would be utilized to train people within the church in how to share the gospel with people of all age groups, became the clear direction that he needed to take.

This student has encountered several challenges during this process. The first challenge revolved around the focus of the project itself. He is working on developing a blog that will be a means for training a church body in evangelizing in a multigeneration rural community that is growing at a very rapid rate. The objective is to create a blog that will bring some confidence into the church body and create a sense of direction that will enable evangelism to continue in our community and allow discipleship to continue to grow within the church, as the participants gain confidence in how to share the gospel. Jeff Keleher points out that it is essential to develop a clear plan for the content so that the scope of the work can be narrowed down, and a beneficial structure can be established.³⁷ Part of that process will involve defining the specific groups that we are going to be focusing on in the blog.

The second challenge that this student encountered focused on the length of the blog itself. As he began the work, he became aware of the truth that limiting the blog to no more than

³⁷ Jeff Keleher, "Developing a Blog Content Strategy: A Step-by-Step Guide." Accessed November 7, 2022. <https://www.brafton.com/blog/strategy/blog-content-strategy/>.

1000 words was going to create a challenge when the entire objective was to teach an individual how to evangelize. As the discussions with Dr. Owen continued, the student was encouraged to divide those out to make them more interesting and manageable. The blog itself is going to be an ongoing work that will provide continual insight into things that a person should or should not do when attempting to share the gospel with specific age groups of people.

As this student began to share his own challenges with the class, one of his classmates began to present several valid and pointed observations, which led to a clear direction for the blog as well: First, his classmate focused on the visual pictures that he is going to attach to each blog. Behind each picture is a very specific story that addresses a very specific event in biblical history or the student's personal history. Each of those pictures provides insight into the content being shared and allows an individual to connect with the content in a way that will make it applicable to his or her life. Second, there was the reminder that all the work that has been done in evangelism since the time of Christ has not only been a steppingstone in developing faith today but has also been utilized to build a bridge across which every generation of individual can step into a relationship with Christ.

Second, this student recognized that his attention was focused on how he would attract each age demographic to the blog, to be beneficial to everyone. Several suggestions were made: "to reach an older demographic, you may want to print off copies of your blog or send the link to their email directly. To attract a younger audience, perhaps you can do some online marketing using a QR code or even create brochures or posters as your next micro-project." This insight has provided clear direction and purpose for this project, as well as for his final project.

Third, the question was asked, "How specifically do you plan on reaching each age demographic?" This question forced the student to focus on the approach that he would take

with the content. He was able to realize that the authority of scripture must be established in all that he does, however, he must also include strategies that an individual can use in sharing the gospel. These strategies are ones that he has utilized over the course of 13 years as a senior pastor and several years as a youth leader and have been effective in reaching every generation of believers.

The final challenge that this student has had to deal with involves his own personal frustration. This is the most difficult part of the work. The content and the development of the blog are exciting and provide him with the motivation to continue working diligently on the project. The concern he has is ensuring that he maintain that motivation. One of his classmates pointed out to him: “Results such as the one imagined above can be realized as the conviction built in you continues to spring forward. The faith of relaying this level of effective Christian presence supports believers of all ages to live out their faith at the heart of their experience and in their communities. Biblical knowledge gained from such methods can catalyze many lengthy doctrinal discussions and in-depth Bible studies.” The student was reminded that this blog is not about him. It is about Jesus. He cannot embrace the hardships and difficulties as a judgement upon him, but embrace the truth that God is working in ways that he cannot fully grasp.

As this student sits back and examines the work that he has done so far, he is excited about the challenges that have been encountered and overcome. Coming into the third mini project he was curious as to how he would approach the new project. He has been blessed with a tremendous teacher and classmates who have given him a sense of confidence in seeking to establish a blog that can be a means of teaching and training the church body on how to evangelize the lost in the community.

Implementation

Why This Ministry Is Needed

The problem this student seeks to resolve is that Berea Baptist Church of Rockville, Virginia lacks a multigenerational means for evangelism. Berea Baptist Church was founded in 1846, and has a long standing tradition of conservative ideology and theology. Liberal theology has become common place in the past 20 years, and there has been little emphasis on the saving power of Christ and reaching the lost. Primarily, emphasis has been placed on maintaining the traditional processes and structures. This reality has led the church to a place of spiritual starvation, whereby there is no training in evangelizing the lost.

Understanding the Need for This Specific Ministry

There is a great need for training in evangelism, so that the gospel is communicated correctly and lived out daily in the lives of the entire church body. Believers must be able to share the gospel in a way that all people will understand who Jesus is, and that He died for them. Dr. Alvin Reid pointed out:

5. 80% of Southern Baptist Churches reach 0 or 1 person for Christ per year. Berea Baptist Church was part of that 80% from 2005 to 2017. In the last three years, the church has baptized over 250 people, who range in age from 7 years old to 91 years old. This reality illustrates that there is now a tremendous need to develop an evangelism strategy that will utilize the giftedness of each age group within the church.
6. 78% of unchurched people are willing to talk to someone who is grounded in their faith, whether that person is a Christian, a Muslim, a Hindu, or whatever religion that person may claim.³⁸ There has been a sharp rise in the number of people in this area who are

³⁸ Reid, Alvin. Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary Conference: March 22, 2017.

God-fearers but are not believers in the Lord Jesus. There is only an emphasis placed on a relationship with Him, when difficulties arise, or someone passes away. Paul defines this in 2 Timothy 3: 5 as "having a form of godliness but denying its power" (2 Timothy 3:5, English Standard Version).

Based upon this information, there is clearly a need to develop a means of evangelism that will be utilized and led by all generations, implemented all year round, and have the capability to reach all generations with the gospel. A blog is the perfect tool to provide all that insight.

Research and Process Involved in Launching the Blog

Many steps must be followed to effectively create a blog that can have an impact for the Lord's Kingdom. First, the student had to decide what content would be shared. This is the phase of the project where he narrowed down all the content that he would be addressing.³⁹ In this blog, the student is going to focus on instructions for how an individual can evangelize each generation. The goal is to train the church body on how to connect as many people as possible with the message of the gospel. The theme that he has embraced is "It Is Time". This theme will help an individual recognize that there has never been a more important time in the history of humanity for us to share the gospel. It is time for us to embrace that responsibility.

Second, the student established the audience he wants to reach. Establishing a clear goal and purpose based upon the dynamic of the people he is attempting to reach has ensured that the content he is sharing is both beneficial and clear for their understanding. If both of those truths exist, the potential for this content to be shared on a large scale will magnify exponentially.⁴⁰

³⁹ Rebecca Strehlow, "How to easily start a blog and monetize it 2024," Accessed October 23, 2023. <https://www.wix.com/blog/how-to-start-a-blog>.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

Third, the student chose the format of the blog. There are currently 1.9 billion websites online, and over 600 million of those websites have blogs attached to them. Nearly 33% of the content on the internet is in a blog format. For that reason, it is essential to establish a format that is attractive to the reader as well as convicting in the truth that is presented.⁴¹ There are several factors that the student has considered when creating the blog. Research has shown that there is a direct correlation between the length of the blog and the number of times a reader will return to examine additional content. If a blog is roughly 500-1000 words, more people are willing to read through it. If the blog is over 2000 words, fewer people are willing to invest the time needed to read the content. In addition to the length of the blog, it is essential to establish how often someone will read a blog. According to research done in 2023, 18% of people will read a blog every day. 29% will read 1-4 blogs per month.⁴² Nearly 50% of the population is involved in consuming content on a blog at least once a month. Additionally, most readers prefer that a blog have 1-3 pictures to provide a visual clarification to the content being shared.⁴³

All this information is valuable in guiding how the student will be presenting the message of the authority of scripture to people both locally and throughout the world. He will have weekly blogs that range in length from 500-1000 words. The blog will emphasize specific scripture passages, a “word for the day” that will allow the individual to apply that scripture to his or her life and contain at least one picture. The purpose of this format is to provide a sense of curiosity that will guide the person into a much deeper relationship with Christ, while simultaneously preventing them from being overwhelmed by fear or doubt.

⁴¹ Si Quan Ong, “59 Blogging Statistics for 2023,” Accessed November 3, 2023. <https://ahrefs.com/blog/blogging-statistics>.

⁴² Erica Santiago, “Do people still read blogs in 2023? We asked consumers,” Accessed November 2, 2023. <https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/the-benefits-of-business-blogging-ht>

⁴³ Si Quan Ong, “59 Blogging Statistics for 2023,” Accessed November 3, 2023. <https://ahrefs.com/blog/blogging-statistics>.

Fourth, the student chose a blogging platform. There are two types of platforms. There are free platforms and there are self-hosted platforms. Each platform has both pros and cons to using them. Free platforms do not cost anything. That fact makes it appealing, but the only challenge is that it does not connect with every webhost that exists, and therefore is limited in how many people are able to view it. In addition to that fact, the blog simply does not appear to be professionally created. Self-hosted platforms have a cost, which can be a hindrance initially, but the capability of the platform to connect with webhosts, extend the reach of the message, and have a professional appearance makes the cost relatively minimal.⁴⁴ The top three blogging platforms are Wix, Web.com, and Squarespace. The student is using the self-hosted platform because he would like this blog to be accessible to as many people as possible. Wix is the platform the student chose because it provides nearly 1000 templates that can be utilized, updated, and shared online.⁴⁵

Fifth, the student chose the name of the blog. This blog will be called “It Is Time.” When we examine the book of Acts, we see in Chapter 1 that Jesus tells the disciples that they are not to leave Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit has been given to them. Acts 1: 8 states, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8 English Standard Version). As one reads in Acts 2, the Holy Spirit does come upon them and there is a boldness and power that emerges among the disciples, so that they proclaim the gospel. On the first day thousands are saved. Believers must embrace the truth that now is the time to share the gospel as the Holy Spirit moves within the believer. Avoiding or ignoring the responsibility that

⁴⁴ Jessica Knapp, “Should I choose a Free or a self-hosted blogging platform?” Accessed November 7, 2023. <https://www.bloggingbasics101.com/should-i-choose-a-free-or-a-self-hosted-blogging-platform/>.

⁴⁵ “Best Blogging Platforms of 2023,” Accessed November 6, 2023. <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/l/best-blogging-platforms>.

has been placed in front of each person will only lead to spiritual stagnation and frustration. This blog will provide insights into how to reach each generation with the gospel.

Sixth, this student chose the artwork that goes along with the blog. He chose a picture of an Olive Tree in the Garden of Gethsemane. This tree is a reminder of the life of prayer to and dependence upon the Lord that all people must have.

Seventh, the student chose the pages that appear on the platform. There are several types of pages that he utilized: Contact, About, and the blogs themselves. Each of these pages provides me with the opportunity to connect with the readers, as well as to examine what topics are of specific interest to them and provide them with an opportunity to ask questions.⁴⁶

Eight, the student has started to write the blogs.⁴⁷

Finally, the student has started to promote the blog everywhere. Every form of social media from Facebook to Instagram will give me the opportunity to promote the blog. He has invested \$1 a day for one month. This investment has allowed him to reach 1000 people per day with the content. He has reached out to various online communities promoting the blog and have added it to the church website so that the traffic that goes there will be able to see the blog as well.

The challenges are present, and the work for this blog is going to be exhausting at times. However, this student does believe that Christ will be honored and glorified in all this, as believers proclaim His Kingdom!

The first six blogs have been fully created for "[It Is Time](#)", and the content for the next six blogs has been put together in an outline form.

⁴⁶ Rebecca Strehlow, "How to easily start a blog and monetize it 2024," Accessed October 23, 2023. <https://www.wix.com/blog/how-to-start-a-blog>.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

Blog #1

Follow Me—How to share the gospel with adults.

This blog will provide insight into how an individual may share the gospel with an adult. There are several ways to approach adults with the gospel. First, believers must assume that they know about Christ. Second, believers must help them recognize that this life is not about us. This life is solely about Him. Everything we do must revolve around Him. Third, believers must work to show them that Jesus is worth following. Finally, believers must show them that following Christ will establish a strong legacy for their family.

To clarify these points, this student will use pictures of the empty tomb of Christ, to emphasize the visual reminder that the empty tomb is the greatest evidence of the resurrection of Christ. The blog will focus on Matthew 16:24 which states, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.” (Matthew 16:24 ESV)

Jesus made an important declaration to Matthew when he looked at him and said, “Follow Me” (Matthew 9:9 ESV). Matthew was not a believer at the time. He was a tax collector working for Rome. But Jesus walked up to him, looked at him and said, “Follow Me.” Matthew abruptly stepped away from that table and began to follow Christ. The phrase “Follow Me” could be translated “Follow with Me”—not follow behind Me, but follow with Me. In other words, “Let’s take a walk together.” This phrase encourages everyone to embrace the journey that Christ is setting before them as believers choose to follow Him. An individual’s ambition and desires cannot be the catalyst for what moves him or her forward unless that desire is to follow Christ alone. Adults must be reminded that their own ambition can become an idol if it impacts the movement of God in their lives in a negative way.

Blog #2

Established—How to share the gospel with children.

This blog will provide insight into how an individual can share the gospel with a child. There are several ways to approach children with the gospel. First, believers must speak the truth and not soften the message or the demands of the gospel. Second, believers must set an example for them. Third, believers must teach them the stories found in scripture that exemplify that salvation is through Christ. Finally, believers must truth in the movement of the Holy Spirit.

To clarify these points, this student will use a picture of the James River that is not far from his house. The picture is of a Blue Herron near the local rookery. The Blue Herron would circle locations in the river, looking for a good spot to land so that it can stand in the river waiting on a fish to come into its view. It would establish its feet on firm rock so that there would be some stability while the water came roaring past it. The scripture is Proverbs 16:9 which states, “In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.” (Proverbs 16:9 ESV)

The Hebrew word used there for establishes, can also be translated as “determines”, “prepares”, “provides”, “sets in place”, “directs”, “firmly decides”, and “makes secure”.⁴⁸ This word shows that God is interested in establishing a strong relationship with children so that as they grow into adults, and the hardships of the world begin to rage all around them, they will be able to stand firm and strong, understanding that God created them for a particular purpose. Believers also know that Christ has a passion for protecting and teaching children. These three passages are evidence for how important it was to the Lord: Luke 18:15-17; Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16. They are reminders to us that believers should invest our time and energy into making sure that they are trained in the truth of God’s Word.

⁴⁸ “Established.” Accessed November 6, 2023.
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/hebrew/nas/kuwn.html>.

Blog #3

Set Apart—How to share the gospel with teenagers.

This blog will be focused on how believers share the gospel with teenagers who are consistently bombarded with the ideology that they should conform to the culture around them. There are several ways to approach teenagers. First, believers must focus on the uniqueness of everyone, and understand that God has created them for a very specific purpose. Second, believers must be authentic with them. Finally, believers must be willing to spend time with them. That time provides a sense of comfort and stability.

To clarify these points, this student will use a picture from the Jordan River. This is a reminder that God is faithful. The passage that we are using is Joshua 3:5, which states, “Joshua told the people, consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.” (Joshua 3:5 ESV) The word consecrate means to be “set apart”, to be “designated for a purpose.”⁴⁹ Being set apart involves complete surrender. God tells Joshua that He is going to do something amazing, so He gives them instructions on how they will cross the Jordan River into the promised land. They had to surrender completely to God’s plan to see something amazing, and they did. The same truth exists for teenagers—they may not see a river backed up so that they can walk across on dry land, but they may see a relationship restored, a loved one come to know Christ, hearts softened to the Gospel. Believers can show them that God has set them apart for a particular time and place to carry out His purposes.

Blog #4

Trust: How to share the gospel with young adults

⁴⁹ “Consecrate.” Accessed November 6, 2023.
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/hebrew/nas/qadash.html>.

This blog will focus on how believers share the gospel with young adults who are learning who they can and cannot trust in the world. They will be shown that they can trust Christ because of what He can do and what He has already done. There are several ways to approach young adults. First, believers must work in developing a relationship that is rooted in trust. Second, believers must teach them. They are eager to learn what the truth is. We have an opportunity share with them the truth. Finally, believers must involve them in serving. It is not enough to talk about serving. They want to be engaged in the process of helping others.

To clarify these points, this student will use pictures of Caesarea Philippi. This is the location for the scripture passage in Matthew 16:18. The pictures will give a clear understanding of what Jesus was addressing with his disciples when he told them he would build his church. In Matthew 16:18, Jesus “I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” This student wants young adults to pay attention to the fact that Jesus is responsible for building His church. That means He will carry out the activities, He will wage war, He will battle for each of us, He will gain the victory, and He will get the glory. Everything rests on the shoulders of Jesus, and we all simply need to trust. Does that mean believers won’t encounter difficult times? No, that does not mean that. It means that if believers are seeking God out, He will be glorified, and His kingdom expanded by everything that is going on in their lives. The question is, are believers willing to allow Him to use us completely, even if that means going through hard times? Remember who God is. Remember who He says you are and trust Him.

Blog #5

Provision—How to share the gospel with senior adults

This blog will focus on how to share the gospel with senior adults who have always taken care of others, and who are now coming to a point where they will need to be taken care of.

There are several ways to approach senior adults. First, believers must establish a relationship with them. Many are struggling with loneliness. Believers can help fill that void. Second, Believers must be patient with them, as some are having to learn what it means to be dependent upon someone else. Finally, believers must meet them where they are, whether that is battling poor eyesight or hearing loss.

To clarify these points, this student will use pictures from the Valley of Megiddo. This student was recently standing on the hilltop where it is believed Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal. Following that victory, Elijah found himself exhausted and running for his life because the queen wanted to kill him. In his exhaustion, God sends an angel to give him food and rest. The scripture passage is from 1 Kings 19:5-6 which states, “All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.”⁶ He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.” (1 Kings 19:5-6 ESV) The story of God’s provision for Elijah is a beautiful example of how He will meet every need for the task or fears or anxieties in front of our senior adults.

Blog #6

Identity: How to share the gospel with middle schoolers

This blog will focus on how to share the gospel with middle schoolers who are attempting to define who they are. There are several ways to approach middle schoolers. First, believers must be creative, using their energy and desire to be involved to share the truth with them. Second, believers must be clear in establishing expectations. Finally, believers must be consistent. A lack of consistency will drive middle schoolers away from the message of truth that you want to share.

To clarify these points, this student will use pictures from the Southern Steps in Jerusalem because that is where the church was born. The passage will come from Mark 8:29 which states, but what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah." The same story is also recorded in Matthew 16. Jesus asks them who they say that He is, and Peter says, "You are the Messiah. The Son of the Living God." This is the single most crucial moment in their relationship with Jesus. This is the moment where they verbalize their understanding about who He is, and that they don't care who else hears them. This is the moment of deep confession to Jesus where they share what they already know in their heart. This is the moment where the thoughts of these men become the words of these men, which will eventually lead to the actions of these men and the establishment of the Church.

"It is Time" is a blog that this student believes the church needs today. There is a lack of biblical understanding in how to share the gospel with people from every generation. This lack of understanding can be remedied by teaching believers how to share the gospel with every generation. This teaching will provide a foundation for everyone to draw close to Christ.

Analysis of the Micro-Project

Every project that is created will need to be examined to determine its efficacy. There are multiple aspects that must be discussed to give a clear picture of the potential success or failure of the project.

- **Purpose:** the purpose of this project is to develop a blog that will provide a means of evangelism for the church body. The purpose of this project is clear and concise. While it does focus on reaching multiple groups of people, it also provides a clear direction and purpose for the body of believers, so that the church would continue to grow.
- **Leadership:** The leadership of the church will be tasked with casting the vision and ensuring that each member of the church body who chooses to participate in the blog will be equipped to share the gospel.
- **Financial Support:** The finances of Berea Baptist Church are going in a very healthy direction. The church has increased its budget from 500k in 2020, to 1.5 million in 2023. That blessings of the church will provide the needed resources to invest back into the church body to ensure that needs are met, and the gospel is shared. There is no opposition right now within the church body to utilizing 5% of the budget for the development of this blog along with other social media avenues that will allow the student the capability to connect with the church body.
- **Volunteer Support:** The volunteer base of Berea Baptist Church is the strongest volunteer base that this student has had the opportunity to work alongside. Every week, there are many volunteers who step into various positions of the church ranging from cooking dinner on Wednesday Night, to helping in the Nursery on Sunday

- morning. Each week the church encounters more people who have a desire to serve and are looking for ways to use their spiritual gifts to bring glory to Jesus. The church has developed a link on the church website that makes it much easier for volunteers to get involved. Connecting with people who can assist in editing and producing the content for this blog will be essential to its success. In addition, providing ample avenues and opportunities for these new and seasoned volunteers to learn new approaches to sharing the gospel with those who are lost will ensure that the Great Commission is consistently being fulfilled here at the church.
- The Implementation of the Plan: The blog that is being presented to Berea Baptist Church gives detailed instructions for how it is to be implemented among the congregation. The biblical foundation has been given, the leadership team has been defined, the budget has been requested, the biblical content has already been developed for the first 12 blogs, the opportunities for the church body to become involved and engaged has been expressed, and the process for evaluating the impact of the work that has been done is put into place. Each of these steps is essential to ensuring that this project will successfully connect with each member of this body of believers who is willing to embrace the opportunity to gain insight and understanding into how to share the gospel of Jesus with people of all ages.

For this project to truly be successful, there must be two main ingredients involved. First, there must be a plan for the blog discussed, agreed upon, and carried out. This student believes that this project provides all that information. Second, there must be a movement of the Holy Spirit among God's people, that is ushered in by prayer. As this student examines the work that has been done and the content that has been put together, he knows that he has prepared to the

best of his ability with the information that he has in front him. He is also aware of the fact that information may change, and flexibility will be necessary. However, most of all, he is aware of the truth that if God is not working in and through all of this, this blog is going to fail miserably.

As the blog is put into place, this student will begin by covering it in prayer. He will continue by covering it in prayer. He will finish by covering it in prayer. Through every phase of the process, He will trust that God's perfect plan is being worked out. Even if the results are not what he had hoped or thought that they would be, he will know that God is working out His perfect will in each person's life and is transforming all of us who have a relationship with Him, to be more and more like Him. Prayer will not be an afterthought, or simply a preparation for a greater work. As believers carry out this strategy, they will know that prayer is the greater work. Yes, believers can plant the seeds, but only God can bring forth the harvest. The prayer of this student is that through this work, through the podcast that is being put together, the content that is being developed to share, and the connections that will be made, God's harvest will be great, His church will be grown, and His name will be glorified.

CHAPTER 5: MICRO-PROJECT FOUR

Justification

The problem this student seeks to resolve is that Berea Baptist Church of Rockville, Virginia lacks a multigeneration means for evangelism. Berea Baptist Church is very effective at preaching and teaching the truth but lacks the training that is essential to engage lost people from every generation. A lack of an effective opportunity for multigeneration evangelism training within the church can lead to complacency and isolation. Individuals may lack an understanding of what evangelism means and how it is to be carried out. That lack of understanding can lead to a lack of desire to engage and to reach every generation of individuals. The growth of this type of approach to evangelism, where there is a lack of conviction and urgency, will lead to the death of the church. Developing training opportunities for everyone in the church body will foster a sense of unity and community that will lead to excitement, purpose, and growth.

The micro-project that this student will be focusing on is website development. The church exists today in the context of a society and culture where technology is increasingly utilized in every facet of life. Creating an effective website is essential for several reasons: First, creating a website establishes a common location where all resources may be pulled together. The objective of this website will be to assist internet users in how to evangelize each generation. This platform will provide the framework upon which the message of the gospel of Jesus can be shared with a church body that is lacking the understanding of how to share the gospel effectively and clearly with different age groups. There have been differing formats for training already established such as blogs and podcasts. Those forms of media will be placed on the website to provide a central location of education and communication. Second, the internet has become a major form of communication throughout the world. There are currently nearly 4

billion people connected to the internet worldwide. Creating a website allows the various forms of content that have already been created to be quickly shared in various communities throughout the world, thus, exponentially expanding the reach of the gospel among people who may not have knowledge of Christ.⁵⁰

This student is in the Evangelism and Church Planting Cognate. This student chose this cognate because there is tremendous need within the church body where he serves as pastor, and the community in which the church serves, to create effective means for sharing the gospel with people who are lost. The community has become increasingly more humanistic, secular, Islamic, and Hindu. There are multiple religious facilities being built within several miles of our church building and church community. Those facilities are not simply associated with a specific religion such as Hindu, Buddhism, or Islam, but are also humanistic in nature and purpose, such as athletic facilities that require the attention of its supporters every day of the week. These new religious institutions and the rise of secular humanism have rapidly increased the need for the ability of the church to train believers in how to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ with those who are lost and seeking, as well as those who are lost and not seeking hope in every age category.

The micro project that has been chosen is biblical because training is just as essential in the life of the believers today as it was in the life of the disciples during the time of Christ and providing the necessary resources to ensure that training is possible is exemplified in the life of Christ. One of the hindrances to creating an effective means of evangelizing all age groups of people is the inability of the church to provide the necessary resources to the church body so that everyone might grow in their relationship with Christ. Mark 6 gives us an example of Christ

⁵⁰ Erica Santiago, "Do people still read blogs in 2023? We asked consumers," Accessed November 2, 2023. <https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/the-benefits-of-business-blogging-ht>.

utilizes the tools and resources around Him to meet the needs of the people. In Mark 6, Jesus is preaching and teaching with authority the crowds that are gathering around Him. It is becoming late in the day and the people need something to eat. Jesus says to His disciples: “You give them something to eat.” (Mark 6:37 English Standard Version). Scriptures says that there were five thousand men present, which means it is possible that there were at least twenty thousand people there. The disciples have just a little bit of money, and one boy’s snack, which consisted of five loaves of bread and two fish. The language clearly emphasizes that the bread was like small crackers and the fish were like sardines. It is very clear that the disciples do not have enough food to take care of everyone, and yet Jesus used what they had to feed the multitudes. The world is hungry for truth. The church must use the resources that it has, that have been ordained by God for it to have, the Word of God expressed through technology like a website, to feed the lost the truth of Christ so that they might not have spiritual hunger anymore.

Peer Review

The process of putting together this project has been a difficult one. This student knew from the very beginning that it was going to be challenging, time consuming, and even frustrating at times. Dr. Gifford has been invaluable as the project has developed, offering insight into how to clarify the content of the website so that it clearly addresses the problem that he has, which is developing a means for training believers in how to evangelize the lost in every age bracket. Creating a concise and comprehensive website can ensure that the content which has been created can be utilized more effectively and efficiently by internet users.

This student has encountered several challenges during this process. The first challenge revolved around the focus of the website itself. This student is working on creating a website will utilize all the content that he has created for training a church body in evangelizing in a multigeneration rural community that is growing at a very rapid rate. The objective is to create a website is that will be easy to navigate and utilize. This characteristic of a website will bring some confidence into the church body and create a sense of direction that will enable evangelism to continue in the community and allow discipleship to continue to grow within the church. Joel Snider points out that a website can be an effective tool if the student works to make it easy to read and navigate.⁵¹ Engus Carter points out that, “engagement is more effortless when the contact information, including phone numbers, email addresses, and social media profiles, is easy to find. The Office of Communications and Marketing at the University of Pittsburgh provides valuable insight. "Follow the principles of 'Don't Make Me Think.' Do not force visitors to spend time reading large amounts of information or clicking through many layers of links to

⁵¹ Joel Snider, “4 Keys to More Effective Church Communication,” Google, Accessed January 25, 2024. <https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/4-keys-to-more-effective-church-communication/>.

find what they are looking for.”⁵² After an initial set up for the website, this student was encouraged to address the font in several areas as well as to ensure that all template materials had been removed. Dr. Gifford pointed out these mistakes that were present on the website so that he would have the opportunity to address them and make the website more appealing and useful.

The second challenge that this student encountered was maintaining and updating the website. It is essential to make sure that the content being presented is maintaining its relevance and applicability among the believers who will be utilizing the information and training. This student has been focusing on maintaining all that information on his own, which has forced him to examine the time that he will be investing into that work. The problem that he is running into is that there is never enough time to do all that needs to be done. When that is the problem, there are always areas of the website that will be neglected, which can lead to a lack of traffic and therefore a diminished impact upon the body of believers. Engus Carter emphasized the need to utilize the abilities of others to assist in maintaining the website: “Fresh content signals search engines that your website is active and relevant, leading to better rankings and increased organic traffic. The experts at Geekly Media offer excellent guidance on creating a process to update websites regularly. Assigning content updates and maintenance to team members is a critical factor in this process.² Sharing the workload aids in ensuring that the work does not get overlooked and that one person does not get bogged down in the repetitive work.” This idea addresses two problems that this student has. First, it ensures that the content is updated and prevents him from being completely exhausted while trying to maintain it. Second, it provides an opportunity for direct evangelism training because the team that he would engage in the

⁵² University of Pittsburgh, “Web Publishing: Best Practices,” Accessed February 11, 2024. <https://www.communications.pitt.edu/services/web-services/web-publishing-best-practices>.

process of updating the website would become aware of the content simply by bringing it to life on the website.

The third challenge that this student encountered revolved around the pages that he would have on the website. He knows that he will have a page for the podcast, for the blog, for communication, and for testimonials. He asked what it is that others thought would be beneficial to the website. Engus Carter shared a specific reminder: “Trustworthiness and security are often overlooked matters that boost people's confidence in a website. HTTPS encryption, visible privacy policies, secure payment gateways ... establish credibility and build trust with visitors.”

The final challenge that this student has had to deal with involves his own personal frustration. This is the most difficult part of the work. The content and the development of the website are exciting and have provided him with the motivation to continue working diligently on the project. The concern he has is ensuring that he maintains that motivation. One of his close friends recently pointed out to him, as he discussed his concern about a lack of motivation, that a lack of motivation simply results from a lack of focus. The friend encouraged the student to remember why he was doing the work at all. As the student pondered that reality, he was convicted once again that this website is not about him. It is about Jesus. The student cannot embrace the hardships and difficulties as a judgement upon him but must embrace the truth that God is working in ways that he cannot fully grasp.

As this student sits back and examines the work that he has done so far, he is excited about the challenges that have been encountered and overcome. Coming into the fourth mini project he was curious as to how he would approach the final project. The student has been blessed with a tremendous teacher and classmates who have given him a sense of confidence in

seeking to establish a website that can be a means of teaching and training the church body on how to evangelize the lost in the community.

Implementation

Why This Ministry Is Needed

The problem this student seeks to resolve is that Berea Baptist Church of Rockville, Virginia lacks a multigenerational means of evangelism. Berea Baptist Church was founded in 1846 and has a long-standing tradition of conservative ideology and theology. Liberal theology had become common place in the past 20 years, and there has been little emphasis on the saving power of Christ and reaching the lost. Primarily, emphasis had been placed on maintaining the traditional processes and structures. This reality led the church to a place of spiritual starvation, whereby there existed a lack of evangelism training that is essential in any church for that church to carry out the Great Commission and share the gospel with unbelievers of all ages.

Understanding the Need for This Specific Ministry

There is a great need for training in evangelism, so that the gospel is communicated correctly and lived out daily in the lives of the entire church body. If that training does not exist, and does not take place, the church will die a very slow death because there will be no new believers entering into the work of Christ in that location. The church must be able to share the gospel in a way that all people will understand who Jesus is, and that He died for them. Dr. Alvin Reid pointed out:

7. 80% of Southern Baptist Churches reach 0 or 1 person for Christ per year. Berea Baptist Church was part of that 80% from 2005 to 2017. In the last three years, the church has baptized over 250 people, who range in age from 7 years old to 91 years old. This reality

illustrates that there is now a tremendous need to develop an evangelism strategy that will utilize the giftedness of each age group within the church.

8. 78% of unchurched people are willing to talk to someone who is grounded in their faith, whether that person is a Christian, a Muslim, a Hindu, or whatever religion that person may claim.⁵³ There has been a sharp rise in the number of people in this area who are God-fearers but are not believers in the Lord Jesus. There is only an emphasis placed on a relationship with Him, when difficulties arise, or someone passes away. Paul defines this in 2 Timothy 3: 5 as "having a form of godliness but denying its power" (2 Timothy 3:5, English Standard Version).

Based upon this information, there is clearly a need to develop a means of evangelism that will be utilized and led by all generations, implemented all year round, and have the capability to reach all generations with the gospel. A website is the perfect tool to provide all that insight. A website will provide the church with a tool that it could use to establish a sense of clarity, continuity, and understanding in evangelism. The website would combine all the content created in the previous projects and communicate it clearly within the church. Individuals of all ages today connect with one another through various means of technology: text messages, emails, social media trends, and websites. Making multiple announcements before or after a worship service is no longer the most beneficial way of sharing all that is taking place within a ministry. For that reason, we must train the church body that a website is an effective tool that can be utilized to share pertinent information in learning how to evangelize those who are lost.⁵⁴

Research and Process Involved in Launching a Website

⁵³ Reid, Alvin. Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary Conference: March 22, 2017.

⁵⁴ Joel Snider, "4 Keys to More Effective Church Communication," Accessed January 25, 2024. <https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/4-keys-to-more-effective-church-communication/>.

Here is the link for the website [Restoration: Where New Life Begins](#). Many steps must be followed to effectively create a website that can have an impact for the Lord's Kingdom. First, the student had to decide what content would be shared. This is the phase of the project where he narrowed down all the content that he would be addressing.⁵⁵ On this website the student is gathering the content from the blog that he has created, as well as the podcast that he has started. Through those formats of communication, he is going to focus on instructions for how an individual can evangelize each generation. The goal is to train the church body on how to connect as many people as possible with the message of the gospel.

A website must possess several characteristics to be effective: First, the website must possess a name. This name should not be long or confusing. It must be easily remembered, so that readers can focus on the content and willingly share what is provided.⁵⁶ The name must also emphasize the audience that is being reached. Providing clarity on who this website is going to be utilized by will allow me to focus the content of the information that I am providing.⁵⁷ The name of the website that this student will be creating is "[Restoration: Where new life begins](#)." This name addresses what the website is established for.

The content provided on the website is there to teach individuals within the church how to share the gospel of Christ with a lost generation, and therefore provide them with a restoration that their hurting souls are longing for. This title is both intriguing and informational and rooted in the book of Isaiah. The prophet Isaiah had the responsibility of reminding the southern tribes of Judah that they are to seek protection and guidance from the Lord alone. Unfortunately, the

⁵⁵ Rebecca Strehlow, "How to easily start a blog and monetize it 2024," Accessed October 23, 2023. <https://www.wix.com/blog/how-to-start-a-blog>.

⁵⁶ "Online Outreach: The Elements of an Effective Church Website," Accessed January 25, 2024. <https://www.churchdev.com/online-outreach-the-elements-of-an-effective-church-website>.

⁵⁷ Dan and Steph Williams, "How to use your church website as an evangelism tool," Accessed January 25, 2024. <https://www.apassionforlife.org.uk/mission-ideas/how-to-use-your-church-website-as-an-evangelism-tool>.

people of God were not seeking God alone and instead were attempting to gain protection from foreign nations. In Isaiah 30:15, God gives the people a prescription for restoration that would bring about their salvation. The scripture says, “In repentance and rest is your salvation. In quietness and trusting will be your strength.” All these things are to be done in surrender to the work of the Lord in our lives, but the passage finishes with a harsh state; “but you would have none of that.” Isaiah continues to remind them that even though they are fast, their enemy would be faster and would overtake them. The point in all this is to recognize the need that all people have for Christ. Our job as believers is to share that truth with each generation of people so that everyone understands that salvation is through Christ alone.

Second, the website must be structured in an efficient and effective way. Those who are searching through the internet will not scroll down a page to search out content. The most important aspect of the website must be evident at the very top so that individuals will stay on the page. If they must search too much to find the blog or the podcast or the resources and other content that are being offered, they will not stay on the page long enough to navigate through the confusion.⁵⁸ There are several aspects of the website that must be addressed to create a site that is worth the time and effort it will take people to read through it and process what is being shared.⁵⁹

After providing the name of the website, the student will establish the pages that he will be using.

The website will have:

- a “Home” page that will give all of the links to the other pages in an easily navigable setting and provide a reason for why this website exists.
- an “About” page that will describe who the student is.

⁵⁸ “Online Outreach: The Elements of an Effective Church Website,” Accessed January 25, 2024., <https://www.churchdev.com/online-outreach-the-elements-of-an-effective-church-website>.

⁵⁹ Church Website Design: A Guide To Hosting, Domain Registration, Templates and More,” Accessed January 23, 2023. <https://www.hostpapa.com/blog/web-design-development/church-website-design/>

- a Contact page that will give people an opportunity to interact and connect with the student if they have any questions or insight that they would like to share.
- a “Blog” page that will be directly linked to the student’s Blog, “It is Time;”
- a “Podcast” page that will have a link that will lead people to the student’s podcast, “Dwelling In Possibility”.
- A “Testimonials” page that will give three specific stories relating to restoration. Those stories will all vary in both the individuals being involved, the story that is being discussed, and the restoration that each experienced. All three stories will assist the reader in understanding the all-encompassing work of the Holy Spirit in every unique situation, and with every unique individual.⁶⁰

Third, the website must be maintained and updated on a regular basis. Establishing a routine for when the page would be updated is essential to create a sense of stability for those who are seeking out the training content that is being provided. Those schedules will be rooted in the blog and the podcast. For example, a new podcast and a blog will be shared each week. They will not be shared on the same day. The podcast will be presented on Monday and the blog will be presented on Friday. That keeps people returning to the website and establishing a pattern that can drive their involvement with the content.⁶¹ In addition to the podcasts and blogs that he will provide, the website will have resources on evangelism development that other writers have developed and utilized, as well as testimonies from those who have experienced the power of the Holy Spirit working in their lives as they have shared Christ with different generations of people.

⁶⁰ “6 must-have pages on a website: What to include in Yours,” Accessed January 25, 2024. <https://webflow.com/blog/pages-on-a-website>.

⁶¹ Ibid.

All this information will be important to encouraging believers to continue to embrace the task that is set before the church, which is to proclaim the gospel and make disciples.

Finally, the student will choose a website platform. There are two types of platforms. There are free platforms and there are paid platforms. Each platform has both pros and cons to using them. Free platforms do not cost anything. That fact makes it appealing but can be challenging because all the updates will need to be made by the student. In addition to that fact, the website simply does not possess the same professional approach that a paid website could have because he lacks the ability to ensure that everything is professional in appearance. Paid websites have a cost, which can be a hindrance initially, but provide a much more professional outlook. The student will be using a free website on Wix because he would like this website to be clearly and definitively established, with a goal and audience for the content.

When doing the research for this project, the student has come across several websites that have been done with excellence:

<https://www.cvc.school.com>

<https://bereabaptistva.com>

<https://mountvernon.church>

These websites provide an example that the student will utilize in creating my website because they specifically address all the characteristics needed in creating an effective website:

- They each provide all the most important information on the home page. The student did not have to scroll through all the information on the website to find what I was looking for.
- They updated their information on a regular basis to keep it applicable to their current circumstances.
- They professionally structured the content so that it was intriguing and easy to navigate.

The student also encountered two websites that did not express the professionalism that is needed.

<https://www.concordbaptistva.org>

<https://www.worshambaptistchurch.org>

These websites are examples of things that the student should not do in developing the website:

- Neither of the websites was easy to navigate. Once he arrived on the page, he found himself scrolling for several minutes to get to the bottom of the page so that he might find the information that he was looking for. Even after scrolling, it was a challenge to find the teachings and the sermons that they had prepared.
- Neither of the website was consistently updated. The information on one of the websites was outdated, and the other was only accessible on a computer. When the student attempted to look at the material on my phone, it was very difficult to navigate the tabs once they showed up on my screen.
- Neither of the websites possessed a profession look. This lack of professionalism projected the impression that the church did not care about any of the content that they were providing. That appearance, whether it is rooted in truth or not, is detrimental to the effectiveness of the ministry. There must be a level of professionalism that reflects the hard work and passion that the leaders of the ministry.

The first six blogs that will show up on the website have been fully created for “[It Is Time](#)”, and the content for the next six blogs has been put together in an outline form.

Blog #1

Follow Me—How to share the gospel with adults.

This blog will provide insight into how an individual may share the gospel with an adult. There are several ways to approach adults with the gospel. First, it must be assumed that they do not know about Christ. Second, believers must help them recognize that this life is not about them.

This life is solely about Him. Everything that is done must revolve around Him. Third, believers must work to show those who are lost that Jesus is worth following. Finally, believers must show them that following Christ will establish a strong legacy for their family.

Blog #2

Established—How to share the gospel with children.

This blog will provide insight into how an individual can share the gospel with a child. There are several ways to approach children with the gospel. First, believers must speak the truth and not soften the message or the demands of the gospel. Second, believers must set an example for them. Third, believers must teach them the stories found in scripture that exemplify that salvation is through Christ. Finally, believers must truth in the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Blog #3

Set Apart—How to share the gospel with teenagers.

This blog will be focused on how believers share the gospel with teenagers who are consistently bombarded with the ideology that they should conform to the culture around them. There are several ways to approach teenagers. First, believers must focus on the uniqueness of everyone, and understand that God has created them for a very specific purpose. Second, believers must be authentic with them. Finally, believers must be willing to spend time with them. That time provides a sense of comfort and stability.

Blog #4

Trust: How to share the gospel with young adults

This blog will focus on how believers share the gospel with young adults who are learning who they can and cannot trust in the world. They will be shown that they can trust Christ because of what He can do and what He has already done. There are several ways to

approach young adults. First, believers must work in developing a relationship that is rooted in trust. Second, believers must teach them. They are eager to learn what the truth is. Believers have an opportunity to share with them the truth. Finally, believers must involve them in serving. It is not enough to talk about serving. They want to be engaged in the process of helping others.

Blog #5

Provision—How to share the gospel with senior adults

This blog will focus on how to share the gospel with our senior adults who have always taken care of others, and who are now coming to a point where they will need to be taken care of. There are several ways to approach senior adults. First, believers must establish a relationship with them. Many are struggling with loneliness. Believers can help fill that void. Second, believers must be patient with them, as some are having to learn what it means to be dependent upon someone else. Finally, believers must meet them where they are, whether that is battling poor eyesight or hearing loss.

Blog #6

Identity: How to share the gospel with middle schoolers

This blog will focus on how to share the gospel with middle schoolers who are attempting to define who they are. There are several ways to approach middle schoolers. First, believers must be creative, using their energy and desire to be involved to share the truth with them. Second, believers must be clear in establishing expectations. Finally, believers must be consistent. A lack of consistency will drive middle schoolers away from the message of truth that you want to share.

“It is Time” is a blog that this student believes the church needs today. There is a lack of biblical understanding in how to share the gospel with people from every generation. This lack

of understanding can be remedied by teaching believers how to share the gospel with every generation. This teaching will provide a foundation for everyone to draw close to Christ.

In addition to the content for the blog, the student is providing the outline for the first podcast that will be available on the website:

This is the theme that will be embraced in the podcast:

Each day we are dwelling in the possibility and the reality that God wants to do something in and through us that is beyond our ability to comprehend. There will be times when hardships and difficulties arise and our emotions may limit our view and understanding of God, but His Word has told us that He is always faithful, we can trust in Him. Whether it is a relationship you cannot figure out how to work through, a financial struggle that is suffocating you, or a consistent nagging upon your spirit to understand why everything is happening in your life, it is essential for you to remember who you belong to! Psalm 23 is one of my favorite chapters in the Bible. Verse 4 reminds us of the faithfulness of God to walk us through adversity and hardship: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for you are with me." You are about to enter a journey that will guide you through darkness. Remember to trust Him. Remember to believe in Him. Remember to worship Him and allow Him the opportunity to change you. I am praying that you will open your heart and mind to Him right now! You are not alone! You are not aimlessly wandering! You are literally Dwelling in Possibility—and that is where anything can happen!"

The student is truly excited about this opportunity. The challenges are present, and the work is going to be exhausting at times. With that being said, the student does believe that Christ will be honored and glorified in all of this, as believers proclaim His kingdom.

Analysis of the Micro-Project

Every project that is created will need to be examined to determine its efficacy. There are multiple aspects that must be discussed to give a clear picture of the potential success or failure of this project: building a website.

- **Purpose:** the purpose of this project is to develop a website that will provide a means of evangelism for the church body. The purpose of this project is clear and concise. While it does focus on reaching multiple groups of people, it also provides a clear direction and purpose for the body of believers, so that the church would continue to grow. In addition, it creates an opportunity for believers to utilize the gifts that they must share the content that has been created over various forms of social media and technology. The involvement of more believers in the process of training establishing a set patten of discipleship that can be clearly copied and repeated.
- **Leadership:** The leadership of the church will be tasked with casting the vision and ensuring that each member of the church body who chooses to participate in the blog will be equipped to share the gospel. The casting of this vision is rooted in the Great Commission given to us in Matthew 28, as we as in the recognition that the power in which we are to operate and share the gospel does not come from within us, but instead comes for the Holy Spirit, as explained in Acts 1:8 which states, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
- **Financial Support:** The finances of Berea Baptist Church are going in a very healthy direction. Over the last eight years, the budget of Berea Baptist Church has consistently increased, the church body has been able to meet that budget and give

- above and beyond those numbers. In 2016 the budget for Berea Baptist Church was 365k. In 2020 the budget was 500k. In 2023 the budget was 1.5 million and the church body was blessed with a surplus of over 300k that is going to be utilized in spreading the gospel in the community and throughout the world. The church leadership has agreed to use 5% of its annual budget for the development of this website, along with the development of the content for the blog and the podcast, along with other social media avenues that will allow me the capability to connect with the church body and expand out into the community.
- **Volunteer Support:** The volunteer base of Berea Baptist Church is the strongest volunteer base that this student has had the opportunity to work alongside. Every week, the church has more volunteers stepping into work. The church leadership has established a culture of volunteerism here that does not promote the ideas and wants of the individual but instead focuses on ways that a person may utilize the spiritual gifts and physical blessings that they have been given to meet the needs of people within the community and share the love of Christ with believers and nonbelievers alike. This past month alone the church had over 50 people join the church through baptism or a transfer of membership, and every single one of them has already signed up to volunteer in the various ministries here at the church, ranging from cooking meals on a Wednesday night to assisting in the nurse's office on Sunday mornings. The church has developed a link on the church website that makes it much easier for volunteers to get involved. Connecting with people who can assist in editing and producing the content for this website will be essential to its success so that this student does not become burned out and so that discipleship development can

effectively take place. In addition, providing ample avenues and opportunities for these new and seasoned volunteers to learn new approaches to sharing the gospel with those who are lost will ensure that the Great Commission is consistently being fulfilled here at the church.

- **The Implementation of the Plan:** The website that is being presented to Berea Baptist Church gives detailed instructions for how it is to be implemented among the congregation. The ministry plan that was created in the first mini-project along with the podcast and blog that were established in the other two mini-projects are clearly utilized on the website. The biblical foundation has been given, the leadership team has been defined, the budget has been requested, the biblical content has already been developed for the first twelve blogs, the outline content for the first forty podcasts has been established along with a time line that shares when both the blogs and podcasts will be posted, the opportunities for the church body to become involved and engaged has been expressed, and the process for evaluating the impact of the work that has been done is put into place. Each of these steps is essential to ensuring that this project will successfully connect with each member of this body of believers who is willing to embrace the opportunity to gain insight and understanding into how to share the gospel of Jesus with people of all ages.

For this project to truly be successful, there must be two main ingredients that must be present. First, there must be a plan for the website and all its content discussed, agreed upon, and carried out. This student believes that this project provides all that information. Second, there must be a movement of the Holy Spirit among God's people, that is ushered in by prayer. As this student examines the work that has been done and the content that has been put together, he

knows that he has prepared to the best of his ability with the information that he has in front him. He is also aware of the fact that information may change, and flexibility will be necessary. However, most of all, he is aware of the truth that if God is not working in and through all of this, this website and all the work on the various forms of content will be useless and this entire project is going to fail miserably.

As the website is put into place, this student will begin by covering it in prayer. He will continue by covering it in prayer. He will finish by covering it in prayer. Through every phase of the process, he will trust that God's perfect plan is being worked out. Even if the results are not what he had hoped or thought that they would be, he will know that God is working out His perfect will in each person's life and is transforming all of those who have a relationship with Him, to be more and more like Him. Prayer will not be an afterthought, or simply a preparation for a greater work. As believers carry out this strategy, they will know that prayer is the greater work. Yes, believers can plant the seeds, but only God can bring forth the harvest. The prayer of this student is that through this work, through the podcast that is being putting together, the content that is being developing to share, and the connections that can be made, God's harvest will be great, His church will be grown, and His name will be glorified.

CHAPTER 6: ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECTS

Introduction

The objective of the work done by this student has been to address the problem that there is a need for a means of evangelism training in a multigenerational rural church. It is essential to the health of the church to train believers how to proclaim the gospel to people of every generation of unbelievers. Every micro-project that has been created during this project was chosen to enhance the ability of believers to understand how to share the gospel. As those individual projects have been utilized, there has been a need to examine each project as it fits into the whole project to determine its efficacy. There are multiple aspects that must be discussed to give a clear picture of the potential success or failure of the project.

Justification

First, this student needed to provide the evidence that this type of evangelistic training was necessary. One of his classmates in his first mini project asked: “John, what is your defense for a multigenerational evangelism program? Do you have statistics for church demographics and how the church’s current ministries integrate for mission? What is lacking in this integration that warrants a new evangelical ministry?” Each of these questions was a guiding force in how this student decided to organize this means of evangelism training. This student has collected a tremendous amount of demographic data, showing the age groups of the people who live within a 10-mile radius of the church, and what percentage of those individuals are churched. This data has assisted this student in recognizing where the need is within the community for the gospel to be shared, what locations that target groups live in and work in, and to what extent they are already involved in a church setting.

After that information was gathered, this student was able to examine the current ministries of the church. That examination provided insight into the reality that there is a lack of coordination within the church body on how the ministry should be developed. Part of the coordination problem is rooted in how quickly the church has grown over the last four years. The church has grown from only one service on a Sunday morning with roughly 70 people in it, to a church that has three services on a Sunday morning with roughly 900 coming together to worship. The drastic growth in numbers alone creates a reality that many people do not know each other and therefore are unaware of everything that the church has to offer as far as evangelistic training. Ultimately, this quick growth has led to a lack of communication between the deacons, staff, and various ministry leaders already operating within the church. To create a means of evangelism training that was going to be affective, all of those challenges had to be addressed.

Second, this student needed to illustrate how those projects were to be utilized together. Once the problem was established, this student recognized that there must be multiple avenues of communication and training to effectively connect with the church body so that believers can have a sense of clarity and understanding about the mission that they are being tasked with. To provide that clarity, each project had to build upon itself. For that reason, the first project was to build a ministry plan that would create a strong biblical foundation for the believers so that the perspective and understanding that everyone would bring to the training that he or she is receiving would be rooted in an understanding that a biblical worldview must be developed and expressed in every facet of life and in every conversation that is had. The ministry plan created, recognized that this student must first develop a ministry team that would be able to assist in carrying out the specific tasks. This team was made up of believers who volunteered within the

church and recognized the need to enhance the evangelistic efforts of the church within the community. When the team was established, a series of specific opportunities for face-to-face conversation and training were done by the various leaders of the ministry team to ensure that a large group of believers would be involved in the necessary training.

Assessments

Once the plan for each face-to-face training session was established, the development of a blog, podcast, and website were implemented to connect with the church body as well as the community surrounding the church. Since technology is so readily available in the culture, and utilized in every facet of life, it is essential that it become a part of training believers how to share the gospel. To make all this work together, the ministry ideas for each project must be shared; a ministry plan must be available to individuals to discover when those meetings would be held; a blog must have a platform from which to operate; the podcast must be easily accessible at all times, and a website must be utilized to combine each of these training opportunities together into one format so that they are utilized by anyone who needs them, as long as they have an internet connection.

Finally, this student needed to examine any problems that may have come up during the development of each project. There were several problems that did arise. First, the scope of the project was entirely too large initially to be done effectively. The focus on the group had to be narrowed down. To address the problem of training, there had to be a specific approach to how believers could be trained to share the gospel with specific age groups. To simply embrace the idea that believers need to share the gospel was to limit the ability of this student to clearly share how that objective is to materialize.

Second, there were criteria that all the projects needed to meet: all of them needed to have content that was worth reading, and they all needed to be structured in a way that promoted a similar structure of physical appeal, brevity, and clear application. Regarding the overall ministry plan one of this student's classmates pointed out that "one of the biggest problems with many modern Christians' evangelism efforts is that they don't know how to ask questions." If this project is going to be successful, the ministry leaders must be willing to ask a lot of questions and offer others the opportunity to ask a lot of questions. Without those conversations, there will be little room for growth and improvement, which are essential in training.

Regarding the website, Joel Snider points out that a website can be an effective tool if the student works to make it easy to read and navigate.⁶² Engus Carter points out that, "engagement is more effortless when the contact information, including phone numbers, email addresses, and social media profiles, is easy to find. The Office of Communications and Marketing at the University of Pittsburgh provides valuable insight. "Follow the principles of 'Don't Make Me Think.' Do not force visitors to spend time reading large amounts of information or clicking through many layers of links to find what they are looking for."⁶³ After an initial set up for the website, this student was encouraged to address the font in several areas as well as to ensure that all template materials had been removed. Dr. Gifford pointed out these mistakes that were present on the website so that he would have the opportunity to address them and make the website more appealing and useful.

⁶² Joel Snider, "4 Keys to More Effective Church Communication," Google, Last Modified April 25, 2023, <https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/4-keys-to-more-effective-church-communication/>

⁶³ University of Pittsburgh, "Web Publishing: Best Practices," accessed 2/11/2024, <https://www.communications.pitt.edu/services/web-services/web-publishing-best-practices>.

Regarding the podcast, one of this student's classmates provided tremendous insight into the benefits of a podcast by stating: "Some of my favorite podcasts are hosted and produced by leaders who do not pretend to have all the answers but who connect me with guests, ideas, and organizations that provide resources to deal with the issues I am wrestling with." This insight has been beneficial in tailoring the strategy of the podcast in such a way that individuals feel valued as this student shares the gospel with them, and not belittled or demeaned in any way. It also ensures that he is not making the podcast about himself as an individual or even any of the guest speakers who are invited to be a part of it. The objective is always to make sure that no matter what question is being answered or what issue is being addressed, sound biblical insight and direction is being provided. This can effectively be done a podcast that is limited in its length as well as in how often new material is shared.

Regarding the blog, this student was challenged with the content and how it was to be presented. The objective is to create a blog that will bring some confidence into the church body and create a sense of direction that will enable evangelism to continue in our community and allow discipleship to continue to grow within the church, as the participants gain confidence in how to share the gospel. Jeff Keleher points out that it is essential to develop a clear plan for the content so that the scope of the work can be narrowed down, and a beneficial structure can be established.⁶⁴ This information provide insight in how this student was going to approach the work. He became aware of the truth that limiting the blog to no more than 1000 words was going to create a challenge when the entire objective was to teach an individual how to evangelize. As the discussions with Dr. Owen continued, the student was encouraged to divide

⁶⁴ Jeff Keleher, "Developing a Blog Content Strategy: A Step by Step Guide." Google, Last Modified March 7, 2022. <https://www.brafton.com/blog/strategy/blog-content-strategy/>

those out to make them more interesting and manageable. One of the student's classmates asked a strong question that forced this student to think through the structure of the training: "How specifically do you plan on reaching each age demographic?" In response to that question, the student was able to utilize some of the strategies that he has embraced during the thirteen years he has been a senior pastor as well as during his short tenure as a youth leader.

Regarding the entire project, this student faced one final challenge: his own personal frustration with the difficulty of the work. The development of the content was exciting. Putting together a overall ministry plan gave the student the clarity of thought that was necessary in training. Putting together the blogs and setting up the podcasts provided a motivation that would utilize this student's spiritual gifts of preaching and teaching to gather material and present it in a way that is easily understandable and applicable. Designing the website was exciting because the student could finally begin to see all the content together in one location. This allowed him to see the scope and magnitude of the work that had been done and gave him an opportunity to spend time praying for those who would be impacted by the content that was being created. The concern he has revolves around his motivation. He wants to ensure that his passion and drive does not waiver, and he does not become discouraged by the frustrations and difficulties that the devil will undoubtedly throw at him. One of this student's classmates stated, "Results such as the one imagined above can be realized as the conviction built in you continues to spring forward. The faith of relaying this level of effective Christian presence supports believers of all ages to live out their faith at the heart of their experience and in their communities. Biblical knowledge gained from such methods can catalyze many lengthy doctrinal discussions and in-depth Bible studies." The student was reminded that all the work that has been done, does not

revolve around him. It revolves around Jesus. Therefore, it is the task of this student to keep his focus on Christ so that his passion will remain strong.

Finally, it has been necessary to examine the successes of this project. This student has been overwhelmingly excited about the results of the project. As the work began, there was an uncertainty about who would willingly volunteer to be involved in the work. Within a week of starting the work, there were 19 people who volunteered to assist in the training and development of an evangelism training team. These volunteers included men and women from the congregation who have a deep desire to make sure that the gospel of Jesus is shared with all people. In addition to those nineteen individuals, the entire deacon board was supportive as well.

As ideas were generated and expressed, input was given, and work was started. The first round of training classes resulted in the involvement of thirty-five additional people from the church. These thirty-five individuals have since each connected with two additional people who are interested to engage in the next training session that is scheduled to begin later in 2024.

The use of the podcast, blog, and website have been instrumental in connecting with many individuals in the church and within the community. There have also been three other churches who have reached out regarding the content to ask if they can utilize it in their own body of believers. Those training sessions will also begin in late 2024 or early 2025. The blogs are being copied and used as small group materials, and the podcasts are being shared to enhance the training that has already been going on. Currently the leadership of those churches is gathering with this student to determine how many people to involve in the leadership team of each church. There are only two challenges that exist in these discussions: First, there is an examination of the content to determine if it can be changed a little bit so that it is applicable to a more urban setting, since Berea is a rural church. The concern by the leadership of these

churches is that the material will not be suited for an atmosphere and church body that is urban. This student has assured them that the content is applicable for all churches no matter their location. Second, there is a concern about whether the content can still be effective in a church that lacks multiple generations. The churches that are talking with this student are primarily older churches with the average age of the congregation settling in at 75 years old. The desire is to carry out the great commission. The concern is that the content being created would still have an impact being utilized in an older congregation that lacks the presence of any young people, and therefore lacks a connection to a younger generation of lost people. This student assured the leadership of the other churches that when he began to pastor the church where he currently serves, the congregation was primarily an older generation. Through prayer and a willingness of that congregation to reach out to people of all ages, the church has seen the power of the Holy Spirit move in some miraculous ways which have allowed the church the opportunity to be able to grow. There are now many people from all generations who travel many miles to come and serve alongside each other in sharing the gospel.

In addition, from the use of this content on the blog, podcast, and website, there have been four different connection groups developed in the local middle school and high school. These groups have been started by volunteers from Berea Baptist Church who have fully embraced the content being shared and the commission of Christ to go and make disciples. Each of these groups has been working to diligently connect with teachers and students in other local high schools and middle schools so that they can begin utilizing the content in their classrooms and communities and being connection groups of their own.

After examining the challenges that this student has had with the projects and the successes that have been experienced, there are a few changes that he would make to the

ministry. First, he would hire additional staff to assist with the organization and structure of the training. The work itself is too vast for one person to do. Adding the workload to a staffing position that already exists does not allow for the ministry to grow. Adding the work to a current staff member will only create more stress and tension for that position, which will cause the ministry to stagnate. Hiring an additional staff person will give the ministry leaders the freedom to be creative and allow them the room to continue to grow and disciple believers as they learn how to use the spiritual gifts that the Lord has given to them.

Second, the leadership team has decided that it is going to change how it communicates ministry ideas to the church body and to the community. The ministry leaders have not been utilizing all the technological gifts that are available at the church. Utilizing this website more effectively is essential to ensure that the ministry team can create a strong foundation for evangelism training that can drastically impact not only Berea Baptist Church, but also those churches and ministries that are seeking to faithfully pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus by sharing the gospel with a world that is consumed by darkness and lost in sin.

Finally, this student is not going to limit his expectations of what God can do. As the project begins, he was concerned about the viability and success of the project. He was simply hopeful that it would have an impact at Berea Baptist Church. As he prayed through all of the work that was being done, the teams that were being created, and the content that was being put together, he has seen the Spirit of God move in a supernatural way to not only impact Berea Baptist Church, but the community as a whole. This student is going to trust that God is going to do far greater things that he and the leadership team could ever imagine, because it is going to bring glory to His kingdom. He is going to trust that God will provide correction when it is necessary, insight when it is necessary, and the appropriate help when it is necessary.

Conclusion

This student would like to conclude by saying that he has thoroughly enjoyed all the classes that he has taken to build the four projects. The work has been intense. The writing has been difficult; yet every step of the journey has been one filled with challenges and knowledge which have greatly benefited the ministry at Berea Baptist Church. When this student began the first project, one of the things that his first professor, Dr. Brown, stated was that there was going to be a huge learning curve in this work; therefore, he should be willing to offer himself some grace. This student has worked to remember that statement during each project, and he has been tremendously blessed by how God has been opening his eyes and mind to all the possibilities that have emerged as he has been working on. This student is excited to see how God will transform the ministry here into a structure that can continue to grow, no matter how big or small the church is. As the work on this project began, this student began by covering everything in prayer. As the work continued, he covered everything in prayer. As the work is now finishing up, he is covering everything in prayer. Through every phase of the process, he has trusted that God's perfect plan is was worked out. Even if the results of the work were not going to be what he had hoped or thought that they would be, he was going to worship the Lord and know that God was working out His perfect will in each person's life and was transforming all of those involved in this project who have a relationship with Him, to be more and more like Him. Prayer was not going to be an afterthought, or simply a preparation for a greater work. As believers worked to carry out this strategy, they were going to know that prayer was the greater work. Yes, believers can plant the seeds, but only God could bring forth the harvest. The prayer of this student is that through this work, through the ministry plan that is being put together, the content that is being developed to share through the podcast and the blog, and the connections that will

be made through the website, God's harvest will be great, His church will be grown, and His name will be glorified.

CHAPTER 7: MINISTRY NEXT STEPS

Introduction

Every project must come to an end. When that happens, that project must be examined and studied to grasp what parts of the project worked effectively and efficiently, and which need not. Which parts of the project need to be improved as everything continues to move forward, and what steps are necessary to ensure that the time that has been put into this work has not been wasted. Such is the case with this project. This student has spent many years working through the project that has just be shared. Research has been done, sweat has been poured out, exhaustion has been a constant friend as challenges have emerged and answerers have been sought. All that work and commitment has brought him to this point right now. He must examine what must be done next with the work that has been created to ensure that it is utilized to bring the gospel of Jesus to a world that is need of Him.

Next Steps

As the work for this project ends, there are many questions that must be addressed as this student examines and prays through what the future for these projects will look like. The first question that this student must address revolves around how this project will be utilized. This student has already begun the process of developing a leadership team, started using the classroom meetings, blogs, and podcasts to provide training for those who are seeking to grow in their understanding of evangelism, and shared the content with different churches and ministry groups in the surrounding communities, with the clear understanding that the content is consistently being examined and updated as needed. Several of the churches have reached out and are also beginning to utilize the content that has been created and have seen a sparked interest in evangelism as people recognize that they can walk into a conversation with an unbeliever prepared to share the gospel.

The second question that arises revolves around any gaps that still exist in the project: What in the ministry still needs attention? This student believes that a major part of this project that still needs to be addressed is the one-on-one discipleship development that is necessary. The information provided through the ministry plan, website, blog, and podcast are tremendous for gaining an insight into what evangelism looks like. Even the examples presented are beneficial in helping a believer understand what a potential conversation could look like with an unbeliever about the gospel. However, there needs to be an opportunity where a believer can receive direct feedback in a relatively quick time frame. The website does provide an opportunity to contact this student to ask questions, but the turnaround can vary based upon the busyness of his schedule. For that reason, this student will look at adding a portal feature to the website that will allow a person who has stepped into this training an opportunity to be teamed up with an individual who has personally engaged in sharing the gospel with people of all ages. This portal will provide an opportunity to utilize google teams or zoom meetings for training and feedback. From those meetings, podcasts and vodcasts will be created to answer those questions specifically so that others who also have those questions will be able to utilize the communication that has taken place. Ultimately the purpose of this type of communication and connection will be to establish a foundation for discipleship development which will provide a believer who is training with the confidence to ask hard questions and receive direct feedback from someone who is more spiritually mature.

In addition to a portal on the website, this student has already begun to create a brochure that can easily be shared. The purpose of the brochure is to recognize that not everyone engages in the use of technology. While it is true that the world does use technology more now than it ever has, there is a generation of people who are still limited in their ability or desire to embrace the technological advances that are there. The use of the brochure will ensure that those individuals can be actively apart of sharing the gospel as well. The brochure gives a quick overview of the purpose of the content being shared, and how it can be beneficial in training. That information will be given in brief paragraph snippets so that a theme and purpose behind the training can be understood. On the brochure there is a QR code for those

who are embracing technology which is connected to the evangelism training website. In addition to the QR code, there will be a phone number, address, and email address for the church so that questions can be shared that way as well. All this information will continue to give clear access to the content at all times.

To continue to advance the reach of training opportunities, this student will also develop a social media platform. That platform will be utilized on Facebook and Instagram. The purpose of these platforms will be to provide immediate interaction with people in various locations throughout the world. Weekly questions will be posed and answered. Video samples can be shared. Blog and Podcasts will be loaded onto those platforms to generate communication. Everyone will be encouraged to share their input and experiences in sharing the gospel with others. All the information being shared will be monitored by this student and will have to receive his approval before it will post to Facebook or Instagram. Ultimately these platforms will be created to stimulate creativity, create a foundation for encouragement, provide an opportunity to ask questions and gain insight, and finally celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts, and lives, and minds of each of those who are saved and transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, and those who are yet to be saved.

Finally, this student is working to create an evangelism app. This app will provide quick references to scripture passages, answers to common questions that arise from unbelievers, responses to negative attitudes and approaches that may creep into a conversation, encouragement to continue battling in the spiritual war that is raging all around, and examples for how to start or shift a conversation into a discussion about the gospel. All this information will be broken down into sections that are appropriate based upon the age of the unbeliever. The objective once again is to remove the feelings of fear and inadequacy that can arise when one is challenged with sharing the gospel, by giving the believer quick answers which will instill confidence in the believer as he or she engages the lost world with the message of Christ.

The final question revolves around what can be done differently in the future. After examining the work that has already been done, the reviews and input that have been given by classmates,

professors, and those who have started to utilize the content, this student believes that there are several areas of improvement: First, zoom options need to be made available to those who cannot attend the apologetics and foundation training sessions that were mentioned in the first mini project. There are many who cannot make it to the classroom for each session of instruction and training, for various reasons ranging from the time in which they get off work, to the reality that the person lives out of the state. These zoom sessions can be recorded and used at a later date. This capability makes it possible for more training sessions to take place, as well as the opportunity to connect with people from much greater distances away from the church.

Second, encouragement needs to be a major emphasis in the training. One of the greatest hindrances to sharing the gospel is the belief that a person is not evangelizing correctly. Those feelings of inadequacy can become overwhelming, which would lead to discontentment and frustration. When those feelings begin to dominate the emotional state of an individual, that person will generally remove himself or herself from the training process. It is essential to develop an atmosphere of constant encouragement where individuals can receive the necessary training and opportunities to share the gospel, receive the appropriate feedback for ways to improve their approach to unbelievers, and be made aware that every individual who is a disciple of Christ works through struggles and feelings of inadequacy. Those feelings are a normal part of the process of maturing in one's faith and overcoming those feelings with the truths of scripture will provide the confidence to continue being obedient to the work and purpose that God has set before that person.

Finally, this content needs to be made available in a format that can be easily and quickly adaptable for varying situations. There are very few communities that have the same demographic, economic, and technological structure as another group, and therefore very few communities that are going to function in the same manner. It will be essential to make sure that all the content that has been created and will be created can be utilized, molded, crafted, and consistently remade by leaders in various churches or faith-based organizations to fit the demographic and community structure that they are

blessed to minister. This flexibility will ensure the viability of the work and ensure that the focus is always on Jesus.

Conclusion

This project has been one of the greatest blessings that this student has experienced. The opportunity to address a problem that has existed in the church where he pastors, and to see how God is actively working to correct that problem so that the kingdom of God can continue to grow on the corner of Ashland Road and Pouncey Tract has given him a unique and humbling perspective. The work on this project has reminded this student that the focus must always be Jesus. The objective must always be to share Jesus with those who do not know Him, and everything that is done must be rooted and covered in prayer. Apart from the work of the Holy Spirit, all the efforts put forth will be for nothing. This student is truly thankful for the blessing that God has given him to be a part of this work, and is excited to see what God has in store for the future as new opportunities arise, new modes of communication and technology emerge that can be utilized within the communities, new challenges arise that will be need to be addressed, more people come to know Christ as Savior, and most importantly Christ is glorified in all that is said and done. The prayer of this student is this: "Father give us the strength to endure the hardships and persecution that come. Give us the compassion that you have so that we might love a world that is consumed by darkness. May we always stay humble, recognizing that we are not doing this in our own strength. Help our eyes to stay on you, and may we persevere. Come Lord Jesus, for it's in the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

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