

The Voice of Charlotte Awake

AWAKE PRAYER

- Pray for wisdom, insight, and protection for church leaders participating in the monthly “Fourth Watch Prayer” (3 AM) over the city.
- Pray for the Lord to raise up more Multipliers willing to start Bible Clusters.
- Pray for the necessary resources to film our Multiplier Lab 1.0 training so that we can extend our training reach.
- Pray for “our daily bread,” which is all the resources in heaven and on earth that are necessary to accomplish the mission of multiplying the church to reach the next generations.
- Pray for our trained Multipliers as they go into the Harvest to bring the gospel.
- Pray for the Lord to raise up more churches willing to participate in Multiplier training to grow through evangelism.
- Pray for the upcoming youth ministry throughout the summer, that the Lord will raise up young Multipliers.

Bible Clusters

READ • TALK • PRAY

Want to help others encounter God through His word? Keep it simple and start a Bible Cluster!

Go to BibleClusters.org for video training and information.

A RELATIONAL MESSAGE REQUIRES—RELATIONSHIP!

by Dr. David F. Ingrassia

No phone. No text. No Instagram. No Facebook. No Snapchat. No problem.

Believe it or not, for most of human existence, we had to communicate the old-fashioned way—by word of mouth, person-to-person. That immediately accosts our technological sensibilities! It’s inefficient! How can we reach the masses without the marketing wonders of big data and Google analytics?

As efficient as it might be to power-blast our messages through cyber-static and bounce them packet by packet off cold and silent satellites posted on the edge of space, maybe we lose something in the personal interactions we are losing. Maybe reducing communication to coded content has caused us to forget that human communication is fundamentally relational!

Disagree? What about the non-verbal eye-rolls of a spouse or teen that clearly communicates, “*I hear you but I disagree!*”? What about the silent, but tender touch of one person to another when emotional pain is so high that words themselves cannot reach hearts?

We should not suppose that technological and marketing restrictions forced Jesus to send His disciples out two by two with the most important message in history—“*The kingdom of God has come near to you*” (Luke 10:9). The internet remained 2,000 years in the future, but bringing the kingdom message two-by-two throughout Israel highlights the authenticity, urgency, and relational necessity of speaking heart to heart, not simply mind to mind.



At the center of the Kingdom of God is the King—Jesus. Entrance into the Kingdom of God does not come by mental assent alone, but by a willful decision to follow the King and then live for that King.

Technology affords us the possibility of blasting the gospel message to the masses, but disciples are nonetheless formed and fashioned one at a time, interconnected to other disciples, as the church builds itself up in love as each person contributes to the whole.

Sometimes we share our faith one by one, and sometimes we use means to communicate with crowds. But there are certain advantages in going with a partner. One can pray while the other shares. Partners might bring insight and spiritual gifts that together are more effective than alone. Partners grow less discouraged in spiritually adverse situations. Partners together might better illustrate slivers of God’s grace through life’s splinters.

Partnering to share our faith offers relational advantages when communicating the message of the gospel that must be wrapped in relationship.

EXTROVERT'S EVANGELISM EXPECTATIONS

by Rocky Norkum

One of the most allusive things I have yet to be a participant in is the conversion of a sinner into a faithful believer in Christ. It certainly is not from a lack of effort or style of approach. I am an extrovert and I love meeting and talking to new people. I see relationships as highly-relational and long term, not as ways to employ quick transactional tactics. I even have a very visible personal testimony which has led me to dedicate my own life to fulltime ministry and church multiplication.

So, what gives? Jesus says the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few (Luke 10:2). Certainly I am a laborer, so where is the harvest, Jesus? The flawed presumptions in that question can come from a misunderstanding of my role in someone else's harvest.

Paul explained to the Corinthian church that he conducted the role of planting, while Apollos watered (1 Cor. 3:6). These are two distinct roles, but are they the only ones? Perhaps there was another person who built the watering container

and another who provided the clay to make it. I'm sure if we spent some time on it, we could come up with dozens if not hundreds of roles that contribute to the "planting" and "watering" of a believer. Paul then explains that neither of them bring about any growth, let alone a harvest, but it is God who brings the growth. Paul understands it is not his harvest to control or dictate, only work in.

But even if I understand all that, where is the joy in laboring all day and not knowing when or where a harvest will come about? There are two ways in which your labor can be void of joy and wrought with despair and frustration.

The first way is if you are doing it alone. Paul is talking to the Corinthian church, not to one individual. He says, "He who plants and he who waters are one" (1 Cor. 3:8). Paul can take joy in the work of a fellow worker, Apollos, as you can take joy in the work of a fellow disciple maker. Paul knew what Apollos' role was and how to supplement his work. We also



need to know our fellow workers in the body of Christ well enough so that we are complementing each other's work in making of disciples.

The second way to labor in vain is to labor without the fuel of the gospel. Paul explains to the Corinthians that they themselves are God's field, God's building (1 Cor. 3:9). He's reminding them of the very gospel that saved them. Keeping our minds on Christ and the work He did to save us is the only thing that will propel us to joyfully make any and every effort to fight the good fight and finish the race well.

MAY'S MULTIPLIER LAB 1.0 UPDATE

Charlotte Awake hosted our second Multiplier Lab 1.0 for 20 participants in a Friday night and Saturday morning session. This was a major improvement from our previous Lab where we conducted eight sessions over eight Saturdays. No content was lost in the updated Lab, only momentum gained for us and the Multipliers as we look towards Multiplier Lab 2.0 on June 22nd, which deals specifically with prayer.

What makes this training unique is not just the content we deliver, but who the focus of our content is. The teaching is designed to lead people into a deeper

intimacy with Jesus while providing the understanding and tracks for a multiplier to worship Him as they labor in a 21st



Century harvest field. It is through these Multiplier Labs, emerging leaders will be able to initiate new communities of believers that draw in the unreached.

Right now, we are meeting with each of the Multipliers to help them identify their field the Lord is calling them to and pray about the next steps the Lord is taking them to. Each person is unique and on the Lord's timetable, so we can only lock arms and follow the Lord together, rather than dictate the future outcomes. We'll keep you posted as the Lord gives the increase. Thank you to all of you for your prayers and support.

