

“Jesus Began to Teach Them” Christian Education as Compassionate Evangelism

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February 26, 2005

Teach to Reach: Reach to Teach
Christian Education and Evangelism

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Teach to Reach: Reach to Teach

Leadership Training Event - LSS, ELCA
February 26, 2005 at Trinity Lutheran Church 2000 Chestnut Street Camp Hill, PA

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Download PowerPoint presentation: [Color for viewing](#) - [B/W for printing](#)

Christian Education and Evangelism in a Postmodern World

Background to Postmodernism

- [The Three Postmodernisms](#) - Brian McLaren
- [Isaac Newton](#) - (check the Double Ring video)

OVERVIEW

- 1) Education and Evangelism
Goals and Metaphors
- 2) Aspects of Education/Evangelism
 - A. Vision and Discernment
 - B. Perspective and Experience
 - C. Relationship and Engagement
 - D. Compassion
- 3) Some Implications and Examples

Education and Evangelism

- What metaphors (words, images, concepts) would you use to describe your sense of evangelism?
 - Rescue
 - Friendship
 - Sharing
 - Beacon
 - Listening

Education and Evangelism

- What metaphors would you use to describe your sense of Christian education?

Education and Evangelism

- Is the goal of Christian education to convey information? To create an experience of grace?
- What implications does this have for the evangelism?

Education and Evangelism

Christian Education,
insofar as it creates
an experience of grace,
has the potential of serving as a
powerful form of evangelism.

Education and Evangelism VISION and DISCERNMENT

*I can see people,
but they look like trees, walking.*
Mark 8.24

Education and Evangelism VISION and DISCERNMENT

Edu-vangelism

- Not so much about content as it is about discernment
- Helping people to make sense of what *they* see, not simply trying to tell them about what *I* have seen

Education and Evangelism PERSPECTIVE and EXPERIENCE

*Peter was greatly puzzled
about what to make of the vision
that he had seen...*
Acts 10.17

Education and Evangelism PERSPECTIVE and EXPERIENCE

Edu-vangelism

- Integrating sight into the larger context of perspective and experience
- Putting the puzzle pieces together
- Getting the big picture

Education and Evangelism RELATIONSHIP and ENGAGEMENT

*"Do you understand
what you are reading?"
He replied,
"How can I,
unless someone guides me?"
And he invited Philip to get in
and sit beside him.*
Acts 8:26-40

Education and Evangelism
RELATIONSHIP and ENGAGEMENT

Edu-vangelism

- 'Going along for the ride'

Education and Evangelism
RELATIONSHIP and ENGAGEMENT

*Then Paul stood in front of the
Areopagus and said,
"Athenians, I see how extremely
religious you are in every way..."*

Acts 17:20-34

Education and Evangelism
RELATIONSHIP and ENGAGEMENT

Edu-vangelism

- 'Going along for the ride'
- Meeting them where they are at

Education and Evangelism
COMPASSION

*As [Jesus] went ashore,
he saw a great crowd;
and he had compassion for them,
because they were like
sheep without a shepherd;
and he began*

...

Education and Evangelism
COMPASSION

*As [Jesus] went ashore,
he saw a great crowd;
and he had compassion for them,
because they were like
sheep without a shepherd;
and he began
to teach them many things.*

Mark 6:34

Education and Evangelism
COMPASSION

Edu-vangelism

- The shepherd's role: feed, protect, guide
- Helping point people in the right direction
- Teaching as an expression of compassion
- A "6:34" approach

Education and Evangelism

Vision and Discernment
Perspective and Experience
Relationship and Engagement
Compassion

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Education and Evangelism

Vision and Discernment
Perspective and Experience
Relationship and Engagement
Compassion

With these in mind, what
implications for Edu-vangelism
should we keep in mind?

Education and Evangelism

Communication and Learning

Communication and Learning

Synchronous Asynchronous

Direct

Mediated

- face to face / telephone
- letter / email / instant messaging
- newspaper / web site
- Educational practices?

Communication and Learning

TRADITIONALIST view

- Focus on communication as delivery of content
- Deliverer has control of content



Communication and Learning

CULTURALIST view

- In a media culture, media are the building blocks used by recipients to construct their own meaning in making sense of their life
- Recipient controls meaning
- What is the role of the communicator?

Starving children and stingy nations

By Pamela Bone
June 22 2002

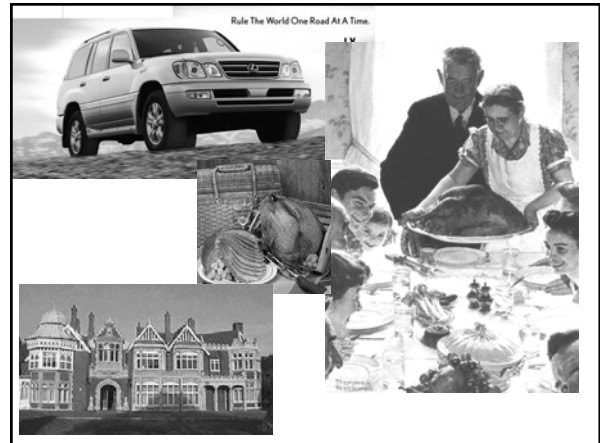
As I write, 13 million people in southern Africa are on the brink of starvation. Crops have failed for the second year in Malawi, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Zambia and Mozambique. Because of AIDS (sub-Saharan Africa has the highest rate of infection in the world), many households are "child-headed". Children of 10 and 12 are trying to find food for younger brothers and sisters.

The United Nations World Food Program reports that the region is facing a crisis of enormous dimensions.

I find this reality difficult to reconcile with my reality: this morning, getting off the train, buying a blueberry muffin and a caffe latte on the way to work; cost: \$5.30.

I have money taken out of my wages every week and sent to overseas aid organisations, and I will send some extra because of this. No, it doesn't make me "feel good". It makes me despair, because, however much I can give, it will always be a tiny drop in an ocean of poverty and misery.

How can the world allow this? The answer is that it won't. Before long, better people than I am will be over there, distributing bags of grain, setting up food stations, helping skeletal children to swallow spoonfuls of mush. Aid agencies will start putting advertisements in newspapers, and pictures will appear on television screens, and people will give. Many people will still die, but many will be saved.

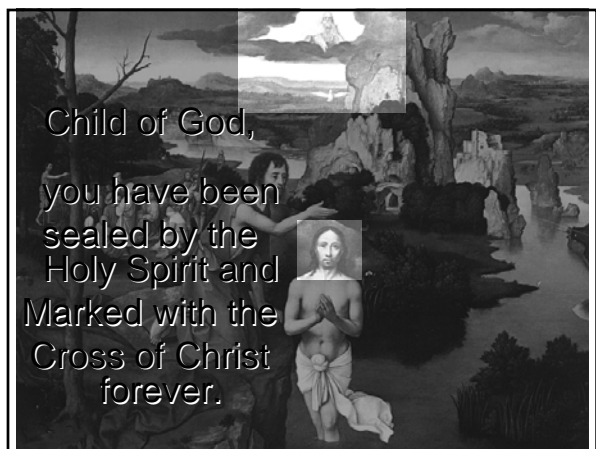




Education and Evangelism

- What methods are most effective for transmitting information?
- What methods are most effective for causing transformation, impelling action?





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