

Mission and Evangelisation



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Outline

- What is evangelisation?
- Why should we evangelise?
- The Content of Evangelisation: the Gospel
- How do we Evangelise?
 - Witness
 - Testimony
- Equipped to Evangelise
- The Holy Spirit Evangelises

What is evangelisation?

- To Proclaim the Good News
- Primary evangelisation: the announcement of the Christian message to those who do not believe it
- Evangelisation also has the sense of bringing all aspects of human life and culture under the liberating power of the Gospel

Why should we evangelise?

- Lord's command Matt 28:19-20
- To know Jesus: Phil 3: 7-11

The Content of Evangelisation: the Gospel

- Our human condition: the divided self
 - Our tactics: distraction and amusement
- Jesus: life, death and resurrection
- Effect of his death and resurrection
 - Sins Forgiven: Saviour
 - Gift of the Spirit: joy
 - Lord and Judge
- Eternal significance
 - Now

Responding to the Gospel

- Faith
 - As appropriation
 - As trust
 - Ecclesial faith – no Christ without the Church
(The Church is the sign of Jesus' salvation)

Life in the Lordship of Christ

- Flows from faith in Jesus
- Prayer
- Sacraments
- Moral life
- Transformation of society

Proclamation

“Evangelization will also always contain – as the foundation, centre and at the same time summit of its dynamism – a clear proclamation that, in Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, who died and rose from the dead, salvation is offered to all [people] as a gift of God’s grace and mercy” EN 27

Eg: from BXVI WYD 2011 letter

We firmly believe that Jesus Christ offered himself on the Cross in order to give us his love. In his passion, he bore our sufferings, took upon himself our sins, obtained forgiveness for us and reconciled us with God the Father, opening for us the way to eternal life. Thus we were freed from the thing that most encumbers our lives: the slavery of sin. We can love everyone, even our enemies, and we can share this love with the poorest of our brothers and sisters and all those in difficulty.

How do we evangelise?

Incarnationally: by being
ourselves

Witness

- "Above all the Gospel must be proclaimed by witness...Through this wordless witness these Christians stir up irresistible questions in the hearts of those who see how they live: Why are they like this? What or who is it that inspires them...All Christians are called to this witness, and in this way they can be real evangelizers" EN 22

Testimony

The Gospel in my life, my words

Negotiating Thresholds

1. Trusting a Christian
2. Becoming Curious
3. Opening up to Change
4. Seeking God
5. Becoming an adult Christian

Source: *I Once Was Lost* (Everts and Schaup, 2008)

Equipping

“Finally: the person who has been evangelised goes on to evangelise others... it is unthinkable that a person should accept the Word and give himself to the Kingdom without becoming a person who bears witness to it and proclaims it in his turn” EN 24

Holy Spirit is the principal agent of mission

- Prayer
- Relying upon the Spirit