

General Topics :: Open Your Eyes... The Fields Are White!

Open Your Eyes... The Fields Are White!, on: 2012/1/24 7:06

Spent last week in Honolulu Hawaii... wow did I have my eyes opened to the spiritual need outside of my little corner of the world. Unbelievable. Homeless people everywhere in Waikiki (the tourist trap of the world), prostitutes, drug dealers and tourists from every corner of the world.

...and never saw anyone handing out tracts or preaching. I know some do, but while I was there I saw nothing other than what I was doing (handing out tracts and striking up one on one conversations).

We need to wake up, folks. Stop spending all your time on the computer (I know, we don't all spend all day on here... but some do spend waaaaaay too much time on the computer. Admit it.).

Get out there and obey God's Word... preach and teach and make disciples!

Krispy

Re: Open Your Eyes... The Fields Are White! - posted by OnwardUpward, on: 2012/1/24 7:16

Yeah... there's so much to do before we leave...

Re: Open Your Eyes... The Fields Are White!, on: 2012/1/24 9:03

We knew a great brother in the Lord who street preached in Hawaii for several years. He also had a mentor who street preached. They teamed up together and usually met under a huge banyan tree, if memory serves me right. I'd ask him, but he lost his life in a freak one car accident in 1/2010. He had some amazing testimonies from that period of his life, I wish I could've learned more, but he rarely spoke of himself, just the Lord. I actually learned more about him and his past at his funeral than I did the 2 years I knew him. He was a great example of humbleness and humility, sure miss him alot. My 5 year old was just asking about him yesterday too.

Anyways, sorry to get sidetracked. Praying the Lord sends others to continue the labor for souls there.

Re: , on: 2012/1/24 9:20

I did not go there to evangelize, and I enjoyed my stay (who wouldn't??) but boy did I leave with my eyes wide open. One evening I walked a street just one block away from the Waikiki strip... among the prostitutes and drug dealers, the night clubs and strip joints. That's not something I am used to seeing in my little rural small town. Actually struck up a conversation with a cross dressing male hooker... which is COMPLETELY out of my realm of reality. Was approached by several homeless people who were obviously outside their heads. And all of this was going on ONE BLOCK from where all the high end stores, restaurants and tourists were. This street ran parallel to the main strip along Waikiki.

This reminded me of the church. The strip along the beach is the church, with all the tourist representing the majority of Christians. Walking thru life looking in the windows of all the shiny stores and feasting at the best restaurants... filling their bellies and spending their time and money on the beautiful things of this world, and enjoying the entertainment that the church offers up now as "ministry". Going along completely oblivious to the fact that just a mere few yards away the filth of the world is dragging people down to hell. Desperate and hurting people are looking for a way out... but the church goes along and completely ignores them... and even looks down at them in disgust. The homeless of Honolulu remind me of the occasional sinner who wanders into the church. Just like the tourists, Christians give them wide birth because we don't want to touch them, or smell them... or look in their eyes.

I'd say that what started out as an opportunity for a change of scenery and relaxation for me... actually changed me profoundly.

Krispy

Re: Open Your Eyes... The Fields Are White! - posted by Sree (), on: 2012/1/24 10:39

Quote:

We need to wake up, folks. Stop spending all your time on the computer (I know, we dont all spend all day on here... but some do spend waaaaaay too much time on the computer. Admit it.).

Get out there and obey God's Word... preach and teach and make disciples!

Brother one needs a calling from God to teach and preach and make disciples. If you think God has put a burden in your heart for Hawaii then do it without advertising (not that I think you are doing but just a word of caution), your reward will be mightier in heaven.

Re: , on: 2012/1/24 11:03

Advertising?? No, I'm encouraging people to get out there and get to work. This is not about me. I didnt do much, and honestly I am VERY much ashamed of that. I was there for recreation, and the truth is... I did way more of that than I did evangelizing. The analogy of the tourist district being like the church... THATS ME. Nothing to brag about in that!

As far as having a calling to preach and teach and make disciples... you do have a calling. Every Christian has a calling to do that. That was a command from Jesus Himself to all believers.

No one will be able to stand before God and say "I didnt go out and share the gospel with people because that wasnt my calling."

His response will be "No, I did not call you to do that... I COMMANDED you to do that!"

So once again... :-) ... I disagree with you.

If you're not interested in hearing my testimony of my experience last week, and my report on what I saw, then dont read my post. It's that simple.

I should have done more, but I was so taken aback by everything I saw I was kinda shell shocked. There is no bragging going on here, as you suggest. If I ever end up there again I will be much better prepared... and I will go with the intention of evangelizing.

I almost said I am sorry if my words have made you feel guilty because it seems they have... but the reality is I am not sorry about that at all.

Krispy

Re: Open Your Eyes... The Fields Are White! - posted by MaryJane, on: 2012/1/24 11:14

Krispy you wrote: We need to wake up, folks. Stop spending all your time on the computer (I know, we dont all spend all day on here... but some do spend waaaaaay too much time on the computer. Admit it.).

I agree

Re: , on: 2012/1/24 11:23

MJ... I'm one of them! Unfortunately I make a living using a computer.

Krispy

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2012/1/24 11:49

Quote:

No one will be able to stand before God and say "I didnt go out and share the gospel with people because that wasnt my calling."

His response will be "No, I did not call you to do that... I COMMANDED you to do that!"

Brother why do you get offended? I never said you advertise it. I have clearly mentioned that. I gave a word of Caution, one can always take it in positive way. Also I have never said not to share about your experience in Hawaii. We need to share else how will i know the status of Hawaii? By experience I mean the state of Hawaii and how your heart was move d seeing them. You can always share that.

I do not believe everyone is called to teach. Each and everyone has a ministry that is specific to that person and not eve ryone can do it. But a common calling for everyone is to be like Jesus and stand as his witness. To live as a witness.

I am just saying that one should not generalize and call everyone to come and preach. You can express your burden for Hawaii to others that is not the issue here. It will move the heart of people and God might give them a ministry based on what he knows is best for them. Everything should be guided by Holy Spirit. Dint Jesus ask his disciples not to leave Jer usalem till they receive Baptism of Holy Spirit? Why did he say that, he said that because he wanted them to spread the Gospel lead by the Holy Spirit. Not to take things in their hands. There is nothing wrong in being patient. But we should a ll pray that God gives a Burden in our heart. Anything that is done out of Human Emotion will not last.

Forgive me If I have hurt you. I understand your intention in this thread, I believe it is good. It is always good to awaken people to do God's work.

Re: , on: 2012/1/24 12:07

I probably misunderstood you, just as you misunderstood me.

Am I saying everyone should drop everything and run to some foreign mission field? Goodness no! But most people wh o call themselves "Christians" are doing NOTHING. Nothing at all. Not even witnessing to their families, yet Jesus comm anded us to GO. That might mean Fiji and it might mean next door.

My point is that the vast majority of believers are doing nothing at all, while the world goes to hell.

I'm not talking about teaching in the sense that someone teaches the bible in the church setting. If you share the gospel with someone who is not saved... you are teaching. Thats what the Lord was talking about. "Preaching and teaching and making disciples" is meant as evangelizing, and we are ALL called to do that.

And if we dont, then our love for God is suspect.

Krispy

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2012/1/24 12:25

True I agree with you Brother Krispy. We all know about the Burden that David Wilkerson had for the drug addicts and how much God worked through him. But all this started when God asked David to stop watching TV and to pray. When he responded positively to it, then God put a burden in his heart to take the Gospel to those Drug addicts. Imagine what would have happened if David failed to give up TV programs for the calling of God?

Re: , on: 2012/1/24 12:26

He would have called someone else to go.

Man will not trump what God has decided to do.

Krispy

Re: , on: 2012/1/24 12:52

Good thread! Thank you.

Re: , on: 2012/1/24 12:58

Nice post Krispy.

I look at the "Go" word of God, integrally tied in with FRUIT. We can live in the flesh, and "GO" in the flesh; to what profit? Multitudes have proven this.

It is Christ in us, the hope of Glory, and the ministry is none other than the imparting of that Spirit, from one person to another.

What you Preach, or teach, or say, or do doesn't matter in itself, what matters is if the Holy Spirit is Lord and life is imparted.

When I have been successful in ministry, I have experienced a boldness, and "burning heart" that changes me, as I experience Love and Mercy flowing out of me. This may happen at a restaurant, picking up a hitch-hiker, loving my granddaughter, or preaching in foreign lands.

When a man marries, his wife and himself are responsible 1st to their children. In India, often some work 7 days a week to survive. The "GO" word to these is to try to walk with Christ in daily faith, and to love. The local church becomes much more important.

"And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

By lifting up Jesus; loving God's Family...and living a life of worship, the Church fulfills the command to go, as they go into the world, just being who they are. Daughters and Sons of a living God, manifesting power, love and Righteousness.... and out of that, God draws His own in growth.

Re: , on: 2012/1/24 13:13

Excellent word, Tom! Thanks!

Krispy

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2012/1/24 13:40

Amen. Good reminder. Like you said Krispy, we have all been commissioned and commanded to go. Statistics have shown that only about 2% of Christians share their faith regularly with non-Christians.

Yes there is a time needed for being at the feet of Jesus like Mary. But there is also a time for us to work while it is still day for the night is coming when no man can work(John 9:4).

I understand that some seasoned saints may not be able to get around anymore like they used to. But if you are seasoned in age and on the internet all the time, you can use some of that time to go into secular chat rooms and preach the gospel to non-Christians. I have actually done that and found that God can use it.

We've become isolated from the lost world around us. We focus so much on "in-reach" instead of outreach, with all of our entertainment, conferences, potlucks, concerts, sports, etc. etc.

As soon as Christ called His disciples to follow Him He began making them all fishers of men, not just a select few. Granted there was a time of learning and training and watching Him do it first. But it did not take many years for Him to send them out into the streets to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom.

The woman at the well in John 4 is a good example for all of us. She immediately went into her village after her encounter with Christ and told everyone about Him. If Christ has made us a new creature in Him He has deposited in us his everlasting gospel. We have this treasure in earthen vessels, and He commands us to share it with those that are lost all around us.

But oh, how many things distract us from that commission? From TV, to movies, to the internet, to recreation, to careers, to money, to family, friends, etc. There may be a time and place for all those things, but moderation is key, and our priorities need to be set firmly, as we seek first the kingdom of God.