

**Sunday, 17 April 2005**  
**Evangelism/Mission**

We aim to live as a people who are committed to the urgent and unfinished task of reaching the lost for Christ, both at home and worldwide.

Evangelism means preaching of the Gospel. That means you and I are to teach others about God and what God has done. Yes, you heard me right – it's up to you and me and anybody who is a Christian and loves God.

You don't have to be a Billy Graham or a Bill Newman. You don't have to have studied for years to be an evangelist:

The Oxford Dictionary says that an evangelist is a preacher of the gospel. Therefore, a preacher can be anybody.

The work of evangelism is personal. Each individual Christian has a responsibility to engage in evangelistic work. Read I know the Way.

They may join with other Christians for efficiency in the work of Evangelism. Both minister and congregation have an important part to play in equipping and encouraging people.

Let's take a look at God's Word. Stephen spoke about these verses last week – Matthew 28:18 – 20.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age."

These words were spoken to the disciples a long time ago, but God's word is still relevant today. It teaches us to love each other and to teach others about who God is and what Jesus did for us.

So these words spoken in Matthew 28:18-20 are telling us today to go and make disciples. It is our mission – here at Stanley River Community Church - to bring the gospel to the people in this community.

We don't have to go on the street corners, or knocking on doors. Maybe that is what God is calling you to do, maybe God has another strategy for you.

My personal preference is the low key approach. Building friendship and letting God work through me. It may be having a quiet cuppa with someone and just start talking. Getting involved in a community group and just letting God's light shine through you.

Some of us might find it hard to share the gospel with others – for a variety of reasons – we are not confident; we get nervous, afraid, we don't know an answer if someone asks us, and some maybe ashamed to testify about our Lord.

3 things that may help us

1. Preparation of a godly life
2. Prepare to know the gospel and explain it
3. Be prepared to answer questions

For us to be prepared, we ourselves need to live a more godly life to not just read the gospel but study them so we are able to answer the questions people may have for us.

Romans 10:13-15

For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How, then can they call on the one they

have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard and how can they hear without someone preaching to them and how can they preach unless they are sent.

This is why God has called us to Woodford and the Stanley River Valley, so that we can tell the people of our community about our wonderful God. It is not going to be easy, there are going to be some wonderful times – God blessing many people who we have dealings with and there are going to be times of sadness and hardship. Above all this we know that God wants us here in this community because there is unfinished work to be done.

Our mission is to take God's word to the ends of the earth. It doesn't mean we have to go overseas to be a witness for God. Our mission field starts here in Woodford and then if God calls us to another place we need to be obedient and follow.

Acts 1:8 - This is Jesus speaking to His disciples –  
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

As Christians we are to be God's witnesses to the world – let's start here in Woodford.

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