

## ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BOOKS ON EVANGELISM

**Anyabwile, Tahiti. *The Gospel for Muslims: An Encouragement to Share Christ with Confidence*. Chicago: Moody Press, 2010.**

Anyabwile's book is an excellent book clearly laying out the gospel and its power. It does not search for gimmicks and angles with which to approach Muslims; it sets forth the power of the biblical gospel. It does contain some good advice about the key points of concern when sharing the gospel with Muslims, but this advice exalts the gospel. The first part of the book is really applicable to all kinds of evangelism, not just the for evangelizing Muslims.

**Barrs, Jerram. *The Heart of Evangelism*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2001.**

This is a helpful work that examines the need for evangelism, the biblical definition of the gospel and the biblical patterns of evangelism. Those who take a presuppositional approach to apologetics will disagree with some of his assessment of Paul at Athens (Acts 17), but overall it is very good book on evangelism.

\_\_\_\_\_. ***Learning Evangelism from Jesus*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2009.**

Barrs continues what he began in *The Heart of Evangelism* in his examination of the patterns of evangelism in the book of Acts. In this volume he examines the evangelistic patterns of Jesus and draws practical conclusions from Jesus' practice of evangelism.

**Coleman, Robert E. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell, 1993.**

A classic book on evangelism. It is helpful. However, it does not deal with some of the errors that have sprung up in the presentation of the gospel (e. g., Easy Believism).

**Dever, Mark. *The Gospel & Personal Evangelism*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007.**

This is an excellent book encouraging evangelism to be done and to be done biblically with a sound presentation of the gospel. There are many helpful stories and suggestions in the book that illustrate effective evangelism. This book could be profitably used in a local church to encourage and train people for evangelism

**Green, Michael. *Evangelism in the Early Church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.**

This is a scholarly examination of the evangelistic methods of the early church. It is well researched, but it is written from a very broadly evangelical perspective that has some serious doctrinal issues. The most concerning of these issues is the flawed Christology presented in some sections of the book.

**Hybels, Bill and Mark Mittelberg. *Becoming a Contagious Christian*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.**

Although the title of this work sounds quite helpful, the book takes a wrong angle on evangelism. It is not that we do not want our Christianity to be contagious, but this book views evangelism in a very man-centered way.

**McGavran, Donald. *Understanding Church Growth*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970.**

Donald McGavran became the founding advocate for the Church Growth Movement. McGavran's book has been used by a wide variety of teachers and pastors to advocate various approaches to evangelism (Willow Creek, Purpose Driven, etc.). This is a work that is worth being familiar with for its massive impact, but it is very pragmatic. It seems to emphasize sociological type research over a biblical pattern of evangelism.

**McRaney, Will, Jr. *The Art of Personal Evangelism*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2003.**

McRaney's book has some helpful information on communication skills and on understanding the changes in American culture. His presentation of the gospel message is good, but not as clear as the presentations in other books on this list. His quotations and examples of men like Bill Hybels and Bill Bright cause hesitancy in regard to a strong recommendation of this book.

**Metzger, Will. *Tell the Truth*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1984.**

This is an excellent book that presents the vast difference between proclaiming a man-centered versus a God-centered gospel. This book is especially helpful in illustrating how methods reflect beliefs about the message of the gospel.

**Miller, C. John. *A Faith Worth Sharing: A Lifetime of Conversations about Christ*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1999.**

A simple little book that records the life-long experiences of one man's evangelism in his life relationships. It is an encouraging little book that has some interesting stories. It is not really a training manual or a discussion of evangelism. It is more an illustration of evangelism.

**Newman, Randy. *Questioning Evangelism: Engaging People's Hearts the Way Jesus Did*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2004.**

Newman advocates doing evangelism with questions. He claims this follows the pattern of the Old and New Testaments and especially Jesus. He lists common questions that unbelievers ask and some biblical answers to the questions. He also asks questions about the motives and attitudes of believers in regard to evangelism. This is a helpful book overall and gives some good suggestions for engaging in evangelism.

**Packer, James I. *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2008.**

This is a modern classic. In a very clear and readable way Packer explains the importance of giving the gospel and trusting God to provide the results. He declares the biblical truth that human responsibility and the sovereignty of God are not opposed to each other, but are friends. This book is an encouragement to evangelize and to evangelize properly.

**Posterski, Donald C. *Reinventing Evangelism*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1989.**

Posterski's book is a little dated. It gives a good summary of American culture and pluralism and often rightly assesses the problems and opportunities in America. However, the book is problematic because of a far too broad definition of Christianity. It is very ecumenical in its emphasis and it minimizes the true gospel because of that.

**Reid, Alvin. *Evangelism Handbook: biblical, Spiritual, Intentional, Missional*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2009.**

This book is a more practical guide to evangelism than Reid's earlier *Introduction to Evangelism* (see below). It has helpful suggestions and has an excellent emphasis on the need to change the DNA of a church (not just programs) in order to get the church to be biblically evangelistic. However, Reid is quite open to church growth ideas. He is open to considering broad input from theologically diverse schools of thought (emergent, church growth, etc.). This openness makes the book less helpful.

\_\_\_\_\_. ***Introduction to Evangelism*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1998.**

Reid's volume on evangelism is intended to be a textbook for a seminary level course on evangelism. It is not really helpful for local church evangelism training. It examines the various approaches to evangelism throughout history and it engages in an examination of how to respond to modern culture.

**Richardson, Rick. *Evangelism Outside the Box: New Ways to Help People Experience the Good News*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2000.**

Richardson's book is extremely helpful in creating an understanding of the Postmodern spirit of the West. He has some great assessments and explanations of the culture of the West in the twenty-first century. However, his solutions rely too heavily on the culture and are very man-centered (he emphasizes a felt-needs approach).

**Sjogren, Steve. *101 Ways to Reach Your Community*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2001.**

This is a book full of gimmicks to open opportunities for the gospel. Most of the ideas are good deed actions that are intended to change opinions about Christians and thereby open up opportunities for the gospel. It is not especially helpful for those seeking to model the New Testament pattern.

**Spurgeon, Charles H. *The Soul Winner: How to Win Sinners to the Saviour*. Reprint. Charelston, SC: BiblioBazaar, 2008.**

This is a practical and pastoral work by Spurgeon. It is a classic and should be read by all ministers of the gospel. I was intrigued to notice that Spurgeon uses the term soul winner equally of preaching the gospel as he does to personal one-to-one evangelism. Clearly there was a shift in thinking at some point in the Twentieth Century to think of soul winning as only personal evangelism. However, Spurgeon does not denigrate personal evangelism, in fact he encourages it with this work.

**Thompson, W. Oscar and Carolyn Thompson Ritzmann. *Concentric Circles of Concern: Seven Stages for Making Disciples*. Revised by Claude V. King. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1999.**

This is an easy read. It emphasizes the need to keep and build relationships with people from our family to our neighbors to the people we are yet to meet. It teaches that relationships are the key to evangelism and even life. The book has a helpful stress on building relationships with people to win them to Christ. However, it is filled with man-centered theology and clichés. There are some interesting charts and graphics in the book, but the book overall is has many problems.

**Wilson, Walter L. *Just What the Doctor Ordered*. Greenville, SC: BJU Press, 1998.**

This is an interesting little book about Walter Wilson's experiences in personal evangelism. The stories are a bit dated and many of the approaches would be awkward in our time. The gospel is more often assumed that presented in the book. Nonetheless, the stories of people coming to salvation in Christ still cause rejoicing.

## HELPFUL EVANGELISM RESOURCES

Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary has put out the excellent tract, “**God’s Bridge to Eternal Life.**” It is available through Majestic Media (586-725-5800 or majestic-media.com). This is a very clear tract that is very useful in giving the gospel to someone one-on-one. It is available in other languages as well such as Spanish, German, French, Chinese and Russian.

A British evangelist named John Blanchard has written an excellent booklet entitled ***Ultimate Questions.*** It is published by Evangelical Press and is a clear presentation of the Gospel. It is very helpful to handout to those who are showing an interest in considering the truth claims of Christ. It is available in many languages. I have found that the least expensive place to order them is Cumberland Valley Bible Book Service ([www.cvbbbs.com](http://www.cvbbbs.com) around \$1.25 per copy).

Another excellent resource is a study of the Gospel of Mark written by Michael Bennett entitled ***Christianity Explained.*** The book is geared toward evangelistic bible studies. It is available through The GoodBook Company ([www.thegoodbook.com/christianity-explained](http://www.thegoodbook.com/christianity-explained)).

Many other very helpful evangelistic resources such as “**Two Ways to Live**” and **The Essential Jesus** are available through Matthias Media. These are very clear and well-done publications that are excellent resources for evangelism. Matthias Media also prints many other helpful resources for encouraging evangelism and for use in discipleship ([www.matthiasmedia.com/index.php/](http://www.matthiasmedia.com/index.php/)).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WORKS CONSULTED

Bauer, Walter, Frederick W. Danker, William F. Arndt, and F. Wilbur Gingrich. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature.* 3d Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001.  
Abbreviated as BDAG

Moulton, J. H. and G. Milligan. *Vocabulary of the Greek Testament.* Reprint of 1930 edition. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.