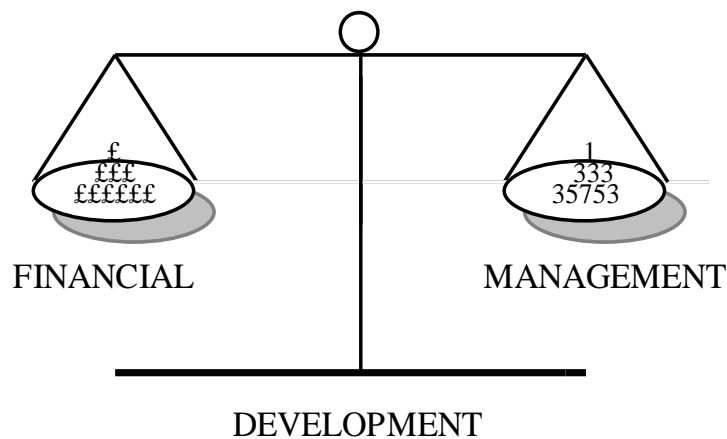


# FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT

## CHRISTIAN MANAGEMENT

NO 905

### THE NEW EVANGELISATION WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH YOUR BROTHER?



ONE OF A SERIES OF GUIDES FOR  
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT

FROM

[www.FinancialManagementDevelopment.com](http://www.FinancialManagementDevelopment.com)

This is one of a series of documents produced by David A Palmer as a guide for managers on specific financial topics to assist informed discussion. Readers should take appropriate advice before acting upon any of the issues raised.

## **THE NEW EVANGELISATION WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH YOUR BROTHER?**

**This paper is designed to help YOU**

- Consider who you meet in your life
- Reflect on how you can let them know the love of God
- Review the approach Jesus might adopt in specific situations

And so be better able to help your brothers and sisters find the Christ they are searching for and who is searching for them.

It is the New Evangelisation (ever old and ever new). It is what Jesus did on earth and what he does today - through each one of us.

### **TWO CONTRASTING BROTHERLY SITUATIONS**

Genesis 4:9 God asked Cain "Where is your brother Abel?" "I do not know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?" God said "What have you done? Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground."

John 1:41 "The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother, and say to him 'We have found the Messiah' and he took Simon to Jesus".

We know God, His Word, His Church and His sacraments. **and**

We know we are the Church in the world, we meet people, they are our brothers and sisters.

**So** How can we equip ourselves to be ready to open their eyes to the Good News?

We are called to go out to the whole world i.e. everyone..... **but**

.....I do not know everyone .....**so start with those you do "know"**.

**God equips you, the Church for Service and Ministry. One of God's most precious gifts to you is those you meet.**

### **WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT THOSE WE MEET?**

**We are called into being**

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you through and through (Jeremiah 1:5)

**and called you to be "A Blessing and to bless" (CCC 1669):**

**We are called to be**

Salt to clean, preserve, show the way. (Matthew 5:13)

Light for the world.....on a hill.....not hidden. (Matthew 5:14)

**We are called to be ourselves**

"I have chosen you and commissioned you to go out and bear fruit." (John 15:16)

**You have a unique role in this world, that of being you.**

**We have a duty**

"Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel." (1 Corinthians 9:16)

We have the Pearl of great price. (Matthew 13:45)

"Before Pilate, Christ proclaims that he "has come into the world to bear witness to the truth." The Christian is not to be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord. In situations that require witness to the faith, the Christian must profess it without equivocation." (CCC 2471)

"All Christians by the example of their lives and the witness of their word, wherever they live, have an obligation to manifest the new man which they have put on at Baptism, and to reveal the power of the Holy Spirit by whom they were strengthened at Confirmation." (CCC 2472)

Thou shalt not bear false witness against your neighbour (Exodus 20:16)

As John Paul II said in his letter on the New Millennium "A new apostolic outreach is needed, which will be lived as the *everyday commitment of Christian communities and groups.*" (NMI 40). As Pope Benedict XVI said in his 2011 encyclical on the Year of Faith "*The Year of Faith is intended to contribute to a renewed conversion to the Lord Jesus and to the rediscovery of faith, so that the members of the Church will be credible and joy-filled witnesses to the Risen Lord in the world of today - capable of leading those many people who are seeking it to the "door of faith." This "door" opens wide man's gaze to Jesus Christ, present among us "always, until the end of the age" (Mt 28:20). He shows us how "the art of living" is learned "in an intense relationship with him."*"

**They have a need**

The Ethiopian asks "How can I understand unless I have someone to guide me?" (Acts 8:31)

"I think very deeply that our Western culture is "fatherless". There is no-one to tell it what is right or wrong and that people are accepted, forgiven and loved." (Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor)

"People will always want to know what is the meaning of their life, their activity and their death." (Mission of the Redeemer 28 quoting from the Church in the Modern World 41)

As C S Lewis said in Beyond Personality in 1944, "The Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs".

"The essential Mission of the Church is to evangelise all people."(Pope Paul VI in Evangelisation in the Modern World 14)

Our Works, Witness and Words are outward signs of inward grace.

**We may be the only Gospel people read.**

**SO WHAT DO WE DO?**

**BE ALERT FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOW LOVE AND SHARE THE GOOD NEWS**

"The true apostle is on the lookout for occasions of announcing Christ by word, either to unbelievers.....or to the faithful." (CCC 905) "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come." (Mark 14:33)

"This is my commandment; that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

"No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

"It is by your love for one another that everyone will recognise you as my disciples." (John 13:35)

Showing love to others is what we are called to do all day every day. "Christ is for life not just for Christmas." (Me)

**THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS**

A glance at the Gospels gives an indication of some aspects of Jesus' approach to daily life.

He quoted scripture. He prayed. He did what His Father told him to do. He went out and met people:

He accepted hospitality graciously.....He ate with sinners.

He saw people's needs and met them.....Wedding at Cana, feeding of the 5,000.

He had sympathy with those in mourning.....Widow at Naim, Lazarus' sisters.

He coped with conflicting demands.....Woman with the issue of blood and Jairus' daughter.

He looked for rest but allowed people's need to overrule his....quiet place but they found him.

He took the lead when necessary.....fishing, storm.

He asked others to help.....Come follow me.

He did not hide the difficulties.....I am sending you out like sheep among wolves.

He did not force them to help.....rich young ruler.

He followed the Spirit of the law and not the letter.....helped lepers, allowed corn to be picked on the Sabbath, suggested hatred in the heart was the same as murder.

The woman at the well.....He asked her for water.

The blind man.....he asked him what he wanted.

He did the right thing despite opposition.....Cured on the Sabbath, cleared the Temple courtyard.

He spoke out against evil.....The Pharisees in Matthew 23.

He encouraged.....Simon Peter, and gave negative feedback.....Simon Peter.

He got people thinking.....Who do you say that I am.

The Gospels also show some things He didn't do.

He didn't complain when unjustly accused.....He trusted in the Father's judgement.

He didn't seek undue praise, stand on ceremony, shirk dirty tasks.

"You call me Master and Lord and rightly; so I am. If I then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you must wash each other's feet. I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you." (John 13:13-15)

Our "attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped....." (Philippians 2:6)

**TWO HYMNS SUM UP OUR APPROACH:**

**He came "Not to be served, but to Serve"**

**"So let us learn how to serve and in our lives enthrone Him.  
Each other's needs to prefer, for it is Christ we're serving.  
This is our God. The Servant King"** (Graham Kendrick).

**"Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you.  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too"** (Richard Gillard)

**WHO DO YOU MEET?**

Who will you meet today?  
Spend some time thinking of all the people your life will impact on.  
Don't ignore the casual encounters or communication by phone, post e-mail.

**HOW CAN YOU BE MORE CHRISTLIKE TO THEM?**

In what you do or don't do  
In what you say or don't say

**CONSIDER THE THREE READINGS ON EASTER MONDAY**

**Acts 2:14, 22-43**

Peter stood up and spoke boldly about what was wrong with what people had done.

**Psalm 15**

"I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since He is at my right hand, I shall stand firm."

**The Gospel Matthew 28: 8-15**

.....and there coming to meet them was Jesus. "Greetings," he said.....  
"Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee, they will see me there."

So far we have looked at who we are, why we should care, the example of Our Saviour, identifying who we meet and potential times we can bring our Christianity to light. That is Fine but we have not done anything. Let's look at the practicalities of what we might say and do and how we should react to various responses.

**Five Seagulls on a Rugby Post:**

W	W	W	W	W	
H	H	H	H	H	
Y	A	O	E	E	
	T		R	N	
			E		

O W

- Why** - Our Duty
- What** - God's Love (The Good News)
- Who** - Our Whole World
- Where** - Here
- When** - Now (Always)
- How** - With God's help

**THE POWER OF PRAYER**

**Pray Before** for the opportunity....."Lord lead me into opportunities to do your will". It makes a change from the more commonly used "Lead us not into temptation."

**Pray During** for wisdom and guidance. Praying in tongues quietly is recommended.

**Pray After** in thanksgiving and as a way of continuing your request for the blessing of people.

and sometimes prayer is all that is needed and all that is possible and you do not have to tell the person you are praying for.

**but**

Prayer is not a surrogate for action. Jesus prayed, spoke and did ...normally in that order. God has asked us to be in the world for a reason. For some of us our main task may be prayer, although even St Therese of Lisieux, the Patron Saint of Missionaries who spent much of her short life praying in the convent, also wrote "The Story of a Soul".

St Benedict said "To work is to pray".

See James 2:14-26 which finishes "As a body without a spirit is dead, so is faith without deeds."

## PROCESS

Pray and plan ahead.....a sort of advance examination of conscience.

Who might I meet today?  
Where and under what circumstances?  
How can I bring Christ to them?  
How can I be Christ to them?

## EXAMPLES

Saint Stephen.....distributed food.  
Mother Teresa.....provide and organised care.  
Maximilian Kolbe.....gave his life.  
Peter.....I have neither silver nor gold but I will give you what I have. (Acts3:6)

Jonathan Sachs in "Radical Then, Radical Now" says "It is easy to love our neighbour. It is difficult to love the stranger. That is why the Torah commands us only once to love our neighbour, but on thirty-six occasions commands us to love the stranger."  
Positive discrimination is thousands of years old as a policy. It is the practice that is difficult.

As G K Chesterton said in What's Wrong with the World in 1910: "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult and left untried."

It is important that God is made available, open churches, easy access to the Eucharist and the Bible, but we also need to go into the world and tell people about Jesus. Being an overseas missionary is a vocation, but there is a saying that should be considered by all those who wonder if they should be a Missionary: "If you can't be a Christian where you are you are unlikely to be able to be a Christian somewhere else."

Let's start at home. "Go first to the lost Sheep of Israel" (Matthew 10:6) or a modern version:

**"Go down in the city, go into the street and let's give the message to the people we meet."** (from Colours of Day Sue McClellan et al)

Let's consider specific facts:

1. We must be seen.
2. We must be seen to be "good" (show love).
3. We must be seen to be Christians.

Little things do matter and signs do get noticed.  
Salt needs to be salty.  
Light shines best in the darkness.

But remember our task is to lead people to Jesus because they see him reflected in our faces, not to "parade our good deeds before men".

**PROBLEMS**

Satan will try to mess up what you are doing.

Remember

"Do not be Afraid, for I am with you."

(Genesis 26:24, Isaiah 43:5, Mark 6:50, Matthew 28:20 and all through the Bible.)

However, you are likely to experience:

**Fear and Insensitivity:** Nicky Gumbel on the Alpha course describes how after his conversion he swung between these two extremes. Life is a balancing act.

It is wrong to say "I can't do it" Nothing is impossible with God. (Luke 1:37)

It is wrong to say "I can do everything, I know best." "Let your will be done not mine."

(Matthew 26:39)

Our approach should be not too fast or too slow. It depends on the situation. What is God calling you to do? Sometimes nothing, let them walk away (Matthew 19:22):

Paul held back "I gave you milk not solid food." (1 Corinthians 3:2)

Peter held nothing back "Hearing this they were cut to the heart" (Acts 2:37)

"There is a time for every occupation under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

**Digression:** The woman at the well tried to change the topic away from her lifestyle into a discussion about which mountain to worship on. That is ok, people are often self-centred. Just as Jesus did we need to use what they say as a basis for the Gospel message. Note the lady then went on to evangelise her whole town. (John 4:30)

**Rejection:** Remember the Parable of the sower, as Mother Teresa said we are called to be faithful, not necessarily successful. Salespeople call this the collection of No's. If you know that one person out of ten will buy, you need to collect nine No's before you get one buyer. In the parable of the sower Jesus shows us that we need to accept that we may not see the fruit we expect from our efforts; but remember that the word of God will always bear fruit (Isaiah 55:11)

In real life, most people are genuinely interested in why Christians do what they do, and their level of ignorance is a testimony to our past failure to tell them.

**BE PREPARED**

WWJD What would Jesus do? We need to know him to love him to serve him. Read about Jesus and "ponder it in your heart" as Our Lady did. Be prepared to act on God's prompting: Phillip ran up to the Chariot of the Ethiopian Treasurer. Read Pass it On by Michelle Moran of the Sion Community, (also available on video or audio from Catholic Evangelisation Services). This gives ideas about how to tell your story and spread the Good News. Look at the Catholic Voices website for help with difficult areas.

[www.catholicvoices.org.uk](http://www.catholicvoices.org.uk)



**PRACTICE**

What would you say if:

1. Someone asks: "What did you do on Sunday?"
2. Someone asks: "What do you go to Mass for?"
3. Someone asks: "Why are you so happy?"
4. Someone asks: "Why do you have a picture of Jesus on the wall?"
5. Someone asks: "Why do you pray?"
6. You wear a cross and someone says: "It is not considered good practice for a consultant to show any sign of religious affiliation."

**TAKE TIME TO CONSIDER THE PEOPLE YOU WILL MEET TOMORROW AND MAKE SOME RESOLUTIONS ABOUT HOW YOU CAN BRING CHRIST MORE INTO THEIR LIVES.**

**DO NOT FORGET TO PRAY FOR THE GRACE AND COURAGE TO DO IT.**

**CONSIDER THE THREE READINGS ON EASTER FRIDAY**

**Acts 3:11-26** Peter and John were interrogated "By what power have you done this?" Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit addressed them....."If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you....."

**Psalm 117:** "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his love has no end."  
"The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone."

**The Gospel Matthew 21: 1-14** .....Jesus called out, "Have you caught anything friends?"....."Throw the net out to starboard and you will find something"  
"Come and have breakfast."

Maybe all you are called to do is offer people breakfast!!!!!!