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The making of an evangelist

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This Chapter makes the suggestion that in your desire to evangelise, you seek to study the lives of those who walk the same trail as you, and have been blessed by God.

I will seek to divide them into a number of categories so that you might look out for things either written about them or what they have written about themselves.

They can be divided up under the categories of:

- Past Evangelists and Great Soul-Winners
- 20th Century Evangelists
- Australian Evangelists
- Past
- Present

Beginning with “Past Evangelists and Great Soul-Winners”. Often Theological College Libraries, Bible College Libraries and even Secular Libraries, especially the State Government types have helpful books on the lives of some of these great "fishers of men".

Besides I list below some of the well known names of these men and women gifted in this way. Remember this. Some people are specifically gifted by God for this work; others can do the work of an Evangelist. In Paul's second letter to his young son in the faith, Pastor Timothy, he wrote these words, found in II Timothy 4:5. "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry".

In my list you will find the names of book categories. The list is shown below. For both inspiration and ideas a study of some of these works are rewarding.

“A very famous soul winner— Count Von Zinzendorf of the Moravian Brethren. (18th Century Ministry, 1700–1760 AD). He also wrote about 2000 spiritual songs.

“There were some famous Methodist's— Rev John and Charles Wesley, (1703–1719), Rev George Whitfield (Anglican).

“There was also the famous Presbyterian Preacher— Johnathan Edwards who made a tremendous impact on many lives. There came a great awakening in one of his churches. He had a Congregational Church, background, but he also preached in a Presbyterian Church for a number of years, and later in Congregational Churches.

William Booth of the Salvation Army.

Ú Ü”Charles Simeon• of Cambridge.

Ú Ü”Robert Murray McCheyne• of Dundee á-á a tremendous man of God. (1813-á1843). Known as the Saintly Murray McCheyne.

Ú Ü”Charles Finney (1792-á1875) of USA America•, noted for his writings on Revival, and his great ability to win souls.

Ú Ü”George Muller of Bristol, England•. His narratives are well worth reading. Has been called the Apostle of Prayer. His books will stimulate your faith and your prayer life.

Ú Ü”Martin Luther• of Germany.

Ú Ü”The Prayer Revival of 1857• á-á Ú Ü”starting in the Fulton St Prayer Meetings of New York USA•.

Ú Ü”Dwight L Moody of USA•. Famous evangelist of his day. Moody Bible Institute named after him. One of the really great evangelists.

Ú Ü”Dr R A Torrey of USA• known as a great evangelist. Also famous for some books on Evangelism.

Ú Ü”J Wilbur Chapman of USA•. Well known for his Chapman/Alexander Crusade. Alexander's Hymn Book has been loved and much used across the years.

Ú Ü”Billy Sunday (William A Sunday)•. A highly unorthodox and much blessed and used servant of God.

Some others working around the same time. Ú Ü”Sam Jones, Gypsy Smith•.

Ú Ü”Among Youth Movements• the Christian Endeavour Movement was known for the large numbers of people who came to Christ through its influence. These included this evangelist and his wife both converted through that movement. It was also noted for the large number of young men who entered the Christian Ministry because of its influence.

Ú Ü”The Welsh Revival• fires the soul of those who read about it. Evan Roberts a twenty-á-six year old miner, was one of the prime movers in this marvellous soul winning and revival experience.

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Ú Ü”Good reading and a great deal of help can come from the message of the Keswick Convention speakers•. These can be obtained from the various Keswick Convention Centres and Conventions in Australia, and through Evangelical Bookstores. A great source of help in Deeper Life and Victory.

Ú Ü”20th Century Evangelismœ

Ú Ü”Navigators• is a movement which has much to teach the earnest Soul Winner.
Major Ian Thomas of the Capernwray Missionary Fellowship of Torch Beakers, has written a number of spiritually enriching books, mainly on the Victorious Life.

Rev Lionel B Fletcher (1877–1954) was a well known and much loved evangelist. He was an Australian, and a Congregationalist.

Tom B Rees an independent evangelist in Great Britain and the United States.

The Billy Graham Team has many fine evangelists whose literature and life stories can be of great help to those desirous of becoming effective in outreach.

The names of Billy Graham, Leighton Ford, (late) Grady Wilson, Dr Akbor Haqq, John Wesley White to list a few have not only a marvellous pulpit ministry but there are a number of books written by them. Besides those written by Billy Graham, Leighton Ford (‘The Christian Persuader’), and John Wesley White books on the future can inspire the soul winners to new dedication and zeal.

The Billy Graham organisations involvement in the great Evangelistic Congresses. There are volumes published based on most if not all, the papers given and have perhaps the greatest wealth of information on evangelism, plus inspiration through the messages given by world famous evangelists, that has ever been put together in one publication.

Some of the Auca Indian converts spoke through an interpreter at the World Congress on Evangelism in West Berlin 1966. There interpreter was Miss Rachel Saint (Sister of the late Nate Saint, pilot of the plane who took those missionaries to Equador, and who was one of those killed.

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These verses were sung by five missionaries who went to Equador, and were killed by the Auca Indians on the 8th January, 1956. They sang these words before they left.

We rest on Thee, our Shield and our Defender
We go not forth alone against the foe
Strong in Thy strength, safe in Thy keeping tender
We rest on Thee and in Thy Name we go

Yea in Thy name oh Captain of Salvation
In Thy dear name all other names above
Jesus our righteousness, our sure foundation
Our Prince of Glory, and our King of Love

We go in faith, our own great weakness feeling
And needing more each day, Thy grace to know
Yet from our hearts, a song of triumph peeling
We rest on Thee, and in Thy name we go
We rest on Thee, our Shield and our Defender
Thine is the battle, Thine shall be the praise
When passing through the gates of pearly splendour
Victors, we rest with Thee, through endless days

by E G Cherry
found in the Keswick Hymnbook, No 257

Possibly use this hymn at end of Chapter 8 or beginning of Chapter 9.

Ú Ù"For your information• these are the publications, available from Bookstores on the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association offices.

Ú Ù"The publications are:\n
?One Race, One Gospel, One Task. Papers from the West Berlin, World congress on Evangelism, held in 1966. (2 Volumes)
?Asia/South Pacific congress on Evangelism held in Singapore in 1968. (1 Volume) Ú Ù"Theme• 'Christ Seeks Asia'.
?International Conference on World Evangelisation Papers. (1 Volume) held at Lausanne, Switzerland. Ú Ù"Theme• 'Let The Earth Hear His Voice'.
(Another one in Amsterdam 1986 would have its papers published too).

Ú Ù"Arising out of these Congress Meetings•, there have been other area meetings similar to the one at Singapore. USA Congress on Evangelism á á Minneapolis, Minnesota. Ú Ù"Theme• 'Evangelism Now' (1969) (1 Volume).

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European Congress on Evangelism (1971) held in Amsterdam, Holland.
Ú Ù"Theme• 'Evangelism Alert' (a strategy for the seventies) (1 Volume).

Ú Ù"Other famous Evangelists whose ministry either by spoken and/or written word are:\n
Ú Ù"The late Dr Edwin Orr• (a great writer on Revival).

Ú Ù"Rev Ivor Powell the Welsh Evangelist•, known in publicity as "The Man from Wales", his book on Evangelism á á "Ú Ù"Don't lose that FISH•" is written on evangelism á á the supreme task of the church.

Ú Ù"Dr Wayne Dehoney• of the southern Baptist convention of USA, a well known gospel preacher has written a book "Ú Ù"Set the Church Afire•", published by Broadman Press, Nashville, Tennessee, USA. The theme of the book is á á "How Churches can make the Gospel Work through Renewed Conviction and Enthusiasm.

While we are speaking about books on evangelism, Ú Ù"there was published in 1976 by Dr Fred Barlow a book called 'Profiles in Evangelism• and has the story of 46 soulá-áwinning worthies covering those of other centuries and some of the 20th Century. These are short biographical sketches, and are of about 46 men, who did the work of an evangelist. The book is published by the Sword of the Lord, Foundation.
About the names set out above, two things remain to be said. Ó"First of all• the list, by no means, can cover all the very fine evangelists of the 20th Century, as there are literally thousands of them around. The two International Conferences of Itinerant Evangelists, bear this out. Two Conferences had to be held in 1983 and again in 1986 in order to reach thousands of Itinerant Evangelists operating in the world today, and still there were those who did not attend.

Ó"Second•, the various denominations of the world have had many fine evangelists working in their Departments of Evangelism who have been greatly used by God. These provide a fruitful field of instruction and inspiration for those who trace them down.

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Ó"Among the Australian Evangelist• who have been instrumental in leading many to Christ in years past, are men like the past leaders in the Open Air Campaigners movement, and other similar movements. Names like the late Evangelist Ó"Wally Guilford• whose writings on evangelism are tremendously helpful. Then the late Ó"Evangelist Jim Duffecy• of the O.A.C. was a leading evangelist of his day. Not only was Jim a leading soul winner; he was known not only for his great Zeal for Christ, but also as a very lucid teacher of evangelism.

Ó"Campaigners for Christ•, and Ó"Ambassadors for Christ• had many good evangelists. A number of them had worked overseas as did the Open Air Campaigners evangelists too.

Other names that spring to mind, but the list is in no way complete, are Ó"the late Rev John Ridley M.C.• one of Australia's best known and best loved evangelists of his time. His writings and poems are soul stirring. The story of this 'devout soldiers' (he won the Military Cross) conversion and call to evangelism is a most moving story. Thousands could call his name 'blessed' because it was through his inspired preaching they came to know the Lord. My wife was one of them. She was won from a non-áchristian home, and was truly 'born-áagain'.

A man who was greatly used of God in the rough and tumble areas of Australia was Ó"the late J C (Jock) Sloan•. This ex Heavy-áWeight boxing champion of Scotland, stepped into the arena against Satan, and power of his spiritual blows for Christ was felt by the inhabitants of the Kingdom of Darkness. He was known as 'The Chapter and Verse Man' because of his tremendous grip on Bible Truths. He meant much to this writer in the early days of my christian experience.
In the denominations there have been men of great evangelistic fervour, and teaching ability, in sharing evangelistic insights.

It would take a volume of the history of evangelism to find out the names of all of them, but denominational records will reveal their names and works.

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Some of those who have served God well in the field of evangelism are the late Dr Ernest Watson (Baptist). Others who have been well known from the early to the later part of the 20th Century and who are alive today are Rev Bill Kitchener (Baptist), Rev Dr Alan Walker (a well known and famous Methodist evangelist), and Dr Gordon Powell (a Presbyterian) has been noted for his ability to reach the lost.

Some of the evangelists who are still operating in Australia today (1990) are Evangelist Frank McInnes. Dr Gordon Moyes is known for his ability in presenting Christ. Others whose names are familiar in the Australian scene are Rev Norman Pell, Rev David Morley, Rev Alan Cossgrove, Evangelist Bill Newman, Rev Brian Willelsdorf, Rev Jim Gibson. These are apart from fine evangelists who have been, or are working, in the para-á-áchurch evangelistic organisation or in the denominational spheres. The present Australian Director of Evangelism, with Ambassadors for Christ, Evangelist Max Horton and his wife Meryl are busy seeking the lost folk on the Australian scene. Mr Horton is an evangelist of many years experience.

It is possible that I have omitted the names of good and Godly evangelists, in Australia today. If this is so I beg their pardon. I have purposely omitted naming some of the para-á-áchurch evangelists in various States of Australia, and have only mentioned those who are, or have been, in charge of the Australian work of that branch.

The Australian Director of Open Air Campaigners is to be found in the phone book. I should imagine. The same applies to Campaigners for Christ.

Too, there are the names of other denominational evangelists whose names have not been mentioned, because information about them is available through the various Denominational Headquarters.

I have had three aims for this book, as has been mentioned before viz:á-á

* inspiration
* perspiration
* education
As this Chapter ends, and the reader seeks out the writings of some of the people named, they will find 'inspiration and education', but it takes a little 'perspiration' (or study) to get the most out of it. God bless you and inspire you in your search.

In Part II of this book those three aims, if acted upon by the reader, should bring fruit for labour expended.