

## **Too Good Not To Share**

August 27, 2017



Evangelism as Jesus intends, is simply His grace, forgiveness, love and joy, as we experience it, simply leaking out of us wherever we go.



#### Acts 1:1-8

<sup>1</sup> In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

#### Acts 1:1-8

<sup>4</sup> And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." <sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.

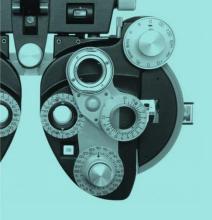


#### Acts 1:1-8

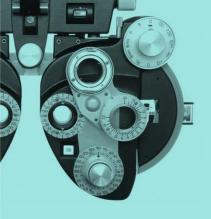
<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."



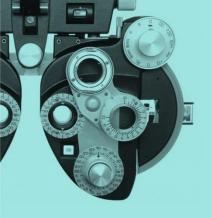
"witnesses"



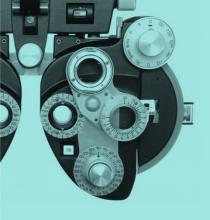
"witnesses" = experience



"witnesses" = experience + share my
experience with
others

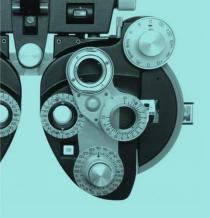


## **The Problem**

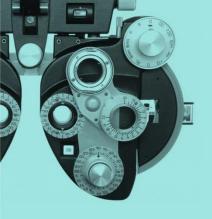


#### The Problem

Not that much joy in Jesus intentionally leaking out into the lives of others.

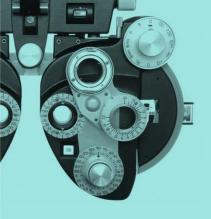


"How do you motivate your church people to evangelize?"



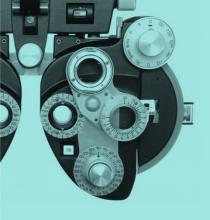


To build joy-filled communities of faith whose very existence inspires every individual to live R<sup>3</sup>...



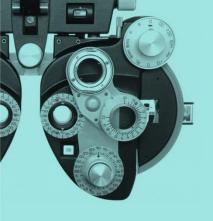
To build joy-filled communities of faith whose very existence inspires every individual to live R<sup>3</sup>...

r1: A deepening *relationship* with God.



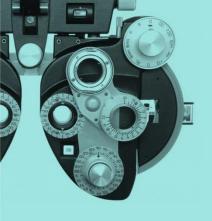
To build joy-filled communities of faith whose very existence inspires every individual to live R<sup>3</sup>...

- r1: A deepening relationship with God.
- r2: A life-changing *relationship* with other believers.



To build joy-filled communities of faith whose very existence inspires every individual to live R<sup>3</sup>...

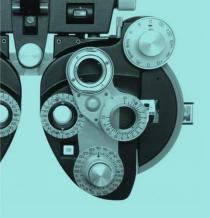
- r1: A deepening relationship with God.
- r2: A life-changing *relationship* with other believers.
- r3: An engaging *relationship* with those yet to believe.



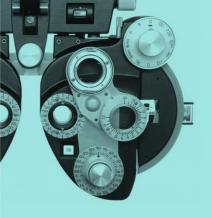
# My reflections...



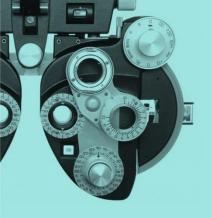
• The Problem:



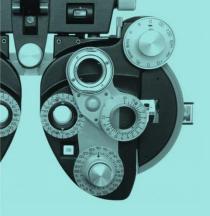
The Problem: Deficient Theology



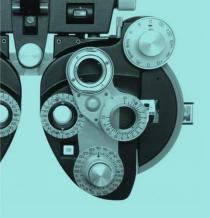
- The Problem: Deficient Theology
  - Easy believism



- The Problem: Deficient Theology
  - Easy believism
    - Acknowledge certain truths



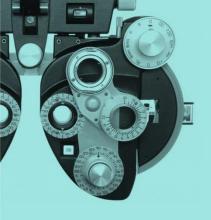
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    - Acknowledge certain truths
    - Say some words, raise hand, walk forward



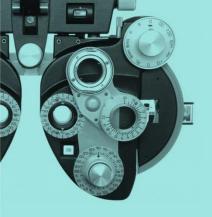
- The Problem: Deficient Theology
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    - Acknowledge certain truths
    - Say some words, raise hand, walk forward
    - O Intellectual assent = Faith



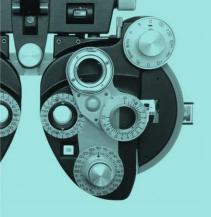
### Genuine Belief

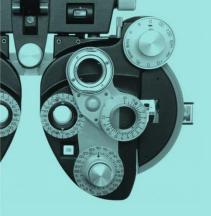


Genuine Belief = Head

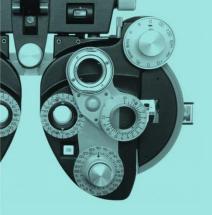


Genuine Belief = Head → Heart

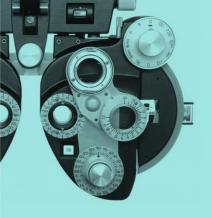




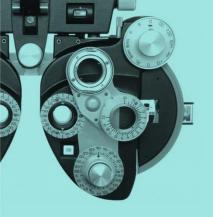
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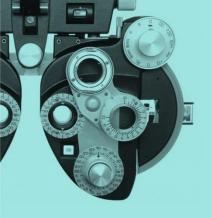
Genuine Belief = Head + Heart



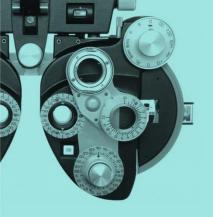
Genuine Belief = Head + Heart + Action



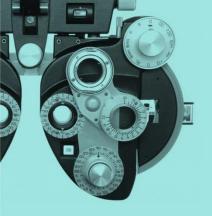
## Easy Believism



Easy Believism = Head



Easy Believism = Head +/- Head



Easy Believism = Head +/- Head =/- Action



#### Justification without Sanctification



#### **EFCA doctrinal statement #8**

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.



Diminished experience of God's glory.

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 Not excited about...

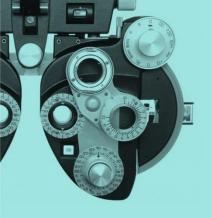
Diminished experience of God's glory.
 Not excited about...

God

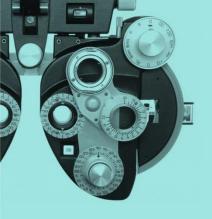
- Diminished experience of God's glory.
   Not excited about...
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  - Salvation

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  - Ongoing Spiritual Transformation (OST)
  - Sharing it with others

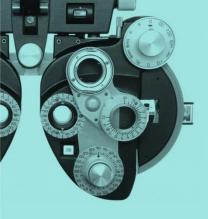


Remember Jesus' plan...

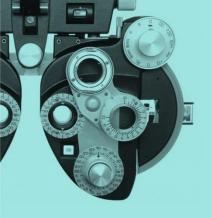


Remember Jesus' plan...

"witnesses" = experience + share my
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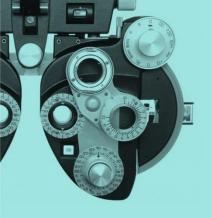
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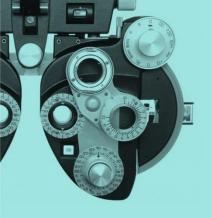
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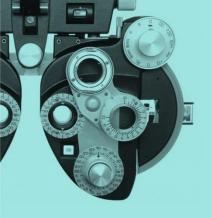
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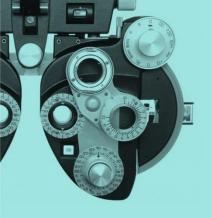
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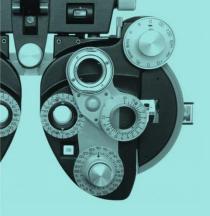
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  - Event Driven (Seeker focused philosophy).



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    - 1. Exciting Event
    - Commit significant resources to building the event



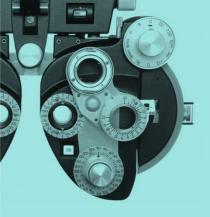
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#### Event Driven (Seeker focused philosophy).

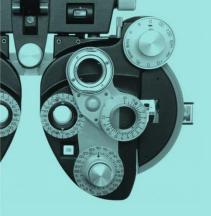
- 1. Exciting Event
- 2. Commit significant resources to building the event
- 3. Expert conveys the message



- The Problem: Deficient Theology
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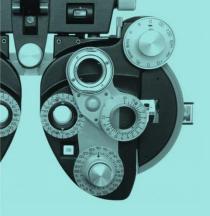
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- Our Approach:



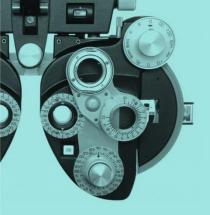
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- Our Approach:
  - Remain devoted to Jesus' plan. Each
    of us sharing from our experience
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    - Help folks become 1<sup>st</sup> handers.



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  - 2 services a year devoted to evangelism: Christmas and Easter



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#### Our Approach:

- Remain devoted to Jesus' plan. Each of us sharing from our experience with those we each know.
- Focus on the infinite glory, beauty, and love of God.
- 2 services a year devoted to evangelism: Christmas and Easter
- Trust as we are being filled up with grace, forgiveness, joy and love of God, it will leak out of each of us wherever we go.



Blog by Michael Lawrence

#### What Motivated the Masses?

By some accounts, John Piper, former pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, has done more to motivate a new generations of young American Christians into fields of missionary service than anyone else alive today. How has he done it?

Has he inspired them with stories of heroic sacrifice? Has he brought the plight (and guilt of the dying masses to bear on the tender consciences of America's youth?



Blog by Michael Lawrence

Has he articulated a mission strategy so compelling that people simply must get on board?

The answer to all of these questions is, "No>" He hasn't done any of those things. What he has done is give people profoundly deep theology. He's confronted them with the awesome Godcenteredness of God. He's challenged them with the difficult but biblical truth that God's greatest love is God, that God's supreme goal is his glory, and that



Blog by Michael Lawrence

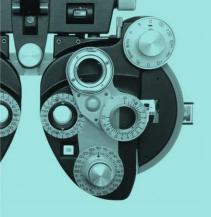
God's ultimate purpose in both creation and re-creation is his worship and fame. What's more, he's demonstrated that there is nothing wrong, and everything, right, with the God-centeredness of God.

And then he has brought together two very practical truth-applications. First, "missions exists because worship doesn't." Second, "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." When these two truths come together in a regenerate, grace-filled heart, grounded in a profound theology of God,

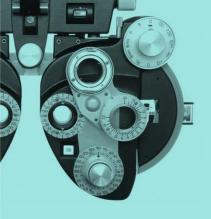


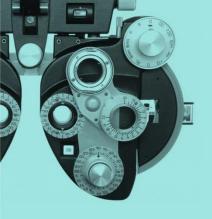
Blog by Michael Lawrence

people reorganize their lives, change their ambitions, and give themselves to the God' glorifying work of world evangelization.

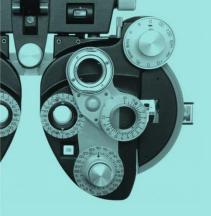


### **My Story**

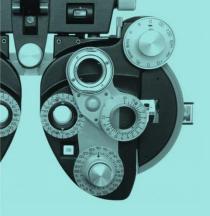




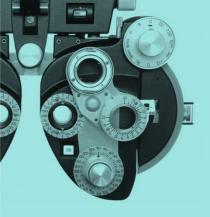
Relax. Don't do anything out of guilt.



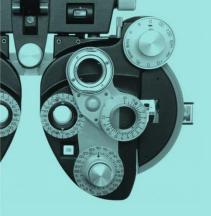
- Relax. Don't do anything out of guilt.
- Assess your present view of evangelism.



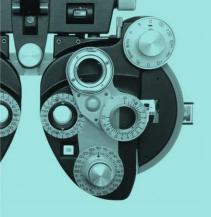
- Relax. Don't do anything out of guilt.
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- View evangelism as an inevitable part of who you are, not so much what you do.



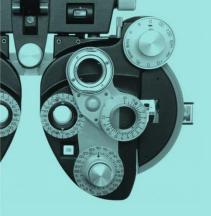
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- How many folks do you know that don't treasure Jesus? Make a list.



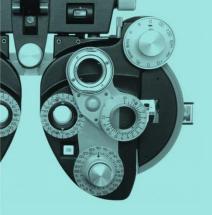
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- Keep or make your highest priority, growing in your experience of God's love.