

Sharing the good news of Jesus and His Kingdom and equipping the church to do the same.

Life
JOHN 20:31
IN HIS NAME



Greg West, Evangelist

Evangelism in Word and Song

God has ways of leading us and surprising us with possibilities that we simply couldn't see before He guides us on His paths and to His people.

I was waiting on this particular day for Bob Harman, with whom I was doing Hope Interviews at the top of Duke of Gloucester Street. He arrived with a baritone! Yes, the musical instrument that's like a miniature tuba! I said to him, "So Bob, are you thinking that we are Christmas caroling today?" He smiled and replied, "Yeah, I thought we'd give it a try and see what happens." Before long, Bob was playing Christmas carols and people were taking notice. I was greeting people as they passed by with a "Merry Christmas" and engaging some in conversation.

Before long, I was boldly singing "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," "O, Come All Ye Faithful" and others with Bob guiding on the baritone! It was wonderful. Both locals and tourists came by to thank us for caroling!

This experience led to three others caroling adventures. One was on the campus of William & Mary. We had a larger group this time and sang as people had lunch outside at Chick-fil-A. We were all surprised by the applause. We had 120 "exam bags" filled with homemade cookies and a note with words of encouragement, Scripture and an invite to Daybreak Church. We sang at a few



Town Center, Virginia Beach: Bob Callahan, Ric Lowman, Dave Lundquist and I caroling.

different places on campus while handing out exam bags. The students were surprised and grateful, which led to some good conversations. We engaged people with our "Hope Interviews" which went like this: We engaged people on the streets saying, "We're doing short street interviews on the topic of hope. Sadly, there seems to be a deficit of hope

in our country. Would you be up for answering four quick questions about hope?" Most people were up for it, though some waved us off

Our first question was: "On a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being you have so much hope you're overflowing and have extra for others and 1 being run for your lives, we're all doomed, how hopeful are you about your future?" They laugh, give us a number and usually some insight into their world. Question number two: "using the same scale, how hopefully are you for the future of our country?" We listen and learn more about them, and their worldview. Question number three: "What is the source of your hope?" We listen attentively, and then this usually turns into a great dialogue about meaning, God and life.



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EVANGELISM

We often get to share about our hope in Jesus, but we don't force it. Source of hope has nothing specifically to do with God or faith, Then we ask question number 4: "In addition to your other source of hope, do you have a faith or a belief in God that also brings you hope?" Again, good conversations usually follow.

It was such a joy to proclaim Jesus that we decided Christmas Eve to have a larger group in Merchant Square before Daybreak's worship service. I knew we had seven committed carolers, but we ended up with at least 18 singers! We also had bags of homemade cookies and hot chocolate for passersby. Positive conversations resulted. We invited people into our Christmas Eve service and about a dozen people joined us from the streets!

Town Center



One of the most repeated commands in all of Scripture is to "praise the Lord!" Combine that with the fact that so many in our culture simply do not know the story of Christmas or the Good News of Jesus Christ and Christmas caroling provides a great opportunity!

My Wednesday evening men's group loved the idea of Christmas caroling. So, we set out for Town Center in Virginia Beach one afternoon. Bob Callahan, Ric Lowman, Dave Lundquist and I lifted our voices on a chilly afternoon praising the Lord! While I'm sure we wouldn't win any awards for the quality of the sound, our hearts were all in! We also handed out candy canes with Scripture and an online link to Gospel resources.

A big highlight was when a gentleman sat very close to us to hear. Between songs, I invited him to join us. He was a Christian and very encouraged by what we were doing. He told us that he would love to join us. He was a musician and lived close by, so he left and quickly returned with his drums and a ukulele! We had a great time of worship and reaching out.

Bibles to the Congo

I am serving with Pastor Martin Kasongo and many others on a Transitional Commission on Evangelism, Church Planting and Missions for the Global Methodist Church. It's been so good to get to know Pastor Martin and learn about the vibrant and growing church in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

He is planting a church in Kananga. We are seeking to help by raising funds so he can purchase 100 Bibles in each of these three languages: Chiluba, Kisonge and Otetela. The Congo has dozens of languages and is about 1/4 the size of the USA! Bibles are expensive in the Congo because of the unique languages, printing costs and shipping.

Pastor Martin knows pastors whose Bibles are so old and damaged that they begin with the book of Leviticus! Yes, their Bibles are so old and dilapidated that Genesis and Exodus are missing. He recently moved to Kananga to start a new church. It is a city of 1.5 million people with limited water and electricity.

We are also seeking funds for gas and maintenance expenses for his motorbike, which was provided by the Global Methodist Church in Alabama.

Overall, we are seeking \$6,000 for the following:

300 Bibles x \$18=
\$5,400

\$600 for gas and maintenance for his motor bike, which was gifted by the Global Methodist Church in Alabama)

Thank you for considering a donation to put God's Word into the hands and hearts of the Congolese people! You can donate by visiting www.lifeinhisname.net/giving or by mailing a check sent to:

LIHN
P.O. Box 66353
Virginia Beach, VA 23466-63534

Alpha at William & Mary

We are working to launch the Alpha course at William & Mary this semester! We'd be grateful if you'd send any current W&M students you know this link to get more information and register: www.alphaatwm.org.

Alpha is so far the most widely taught course on the Christian faith in the world. I led the Alpha course at Virginia Wesleyan when I was the chaplain. The students really appreciated the clear presentations and open conversations.

At Alpha, participants will join a series of group conversations that freely

explore the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment.

At each Alpha session, attendees watch an episode on a different question of faith –then have a chance to share their thoughts and hear what others think. They can say anything they like, or nothing at all.

Everyone is welcome, and there's a dessert! Everyone is invited, no matter their background or beliefs. It's free and there's no pressure to come back.