

Compassion's Call

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Discover CWO

Who We Are.....

Since 2006 CWO has existed to provide Biblical training and assistance to the next generation of pastors and church leaders in the Worldwide Kingdom of God.

How We Accomplish Our Mission.....

At CWO we work in partnership with other like-minded Christians Ministries. The Bible Training Centre for Pastors (Atlanta) provides the curriculum which CWO translates for use at international teaching sites.

How You Can Help.....

- # 1 - Pray for CWO
- # 2 - You can make a tax-deductible gift which will enable us to continue providing Bible training and assistance needed for making disciples.



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MATTHEW 9:36

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My Brother's Keeper

"Recognizing Our Responsibility"

Jesus said that he came to fulfill The Law and He did so by identifying the great and foremost commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind and you shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39). The Master Teacher used parables to illustrate how love works, and one of the best parables is the "Good Samaritan" (Luke 10:30-37). At the conclusion of this story Jesus' answer to the question "Who is my neighbor?" involves three facets:



1. We must be willing to help people even when their own actions have brought their troubles on themselves.

Many Christians walk around with blinders on and purposely keep a narrow focus. But if you really want to do the work of God in the world then you must keep your eyes open and your heart sensitive. One of the best ways to do that is by remembering that Jesus rescued all of us out of a ditch of some kind! Now, as we live out the Christian life we are simply doing for others what He has done for us. We are commanded by Jesus to do this on the basis of mercy, not merit, even if, especially if they are not yet Christians. The Bible says that all people have value and worth because they are made in the image of God and are to be loved even at great cost. Every person we meet

is someone for whom Jesus died on the cross.

2. Any person of any nation who is in need is our neighbor and our help must be as wide as the love of God.

Don't you ever wonder what might have happened if the priest or the Levite in the Good Samaritan story had recognized the person in the ditch? All people living on planet earth are our neighbors and we are to love them as ourselves. Sometimes people will ask us, "Why is CWO working outside the US? Don't you know that 'charity begins at home'?" Some who quote this premise may be well meaning Christians who have mistakenly even made it a part of their religion. The truth is it is a quote from a Roman pagan, and is directly contrary to the "Good Samaritan". Charity be-

gins anytime or anyplace where we recognize a person in crisis or an entire group of people in danger. Every true Christian is a Great Commission Christian (Matthew 28:18-20).

3. Our help must be practical and extend beyond just feeling sorry.

Apathy avoids, indifference ignores, but compassion cares enough to do something about someone else's need. Which begs the question, "How can we know what to do when the opportunity comes?" One man became so upset after reading his daily newspaper filled with stories of human suffering in the world that he knew he had to do something---so he cancelled his newspaper subscription. Did that response help those who were suffering?

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I don't know about you, but I must confess that at different times in my life I have behaved like all three – the priest, the Levite and the Good Samaritan. What makes the difference? The purpose of God's Word is to transform us into the image of Christ.

The Word radically changes the way we live because it prepares us in advance to face life's circumstances, all of which are opportunities of service. Staying in the Word keeps us in touch with the Holy Spirit who lives to give God glory. No other book can do what

the Bible does – equipping us not only with a recognition of our responsibility and with the will to accept it, but also with the power to go to our neighbor with compassion. Sincerely,
Clark Ivey, President

“There's no question that anything good in us is completely attributed to, dependent on, and accredited to the power of God's Word.”

– David Platt, Author of *Radical*

From our CWO Family Album...



On June 13th Clark and Louise attended the 20th Anniversary Celebration for The Bible Training Centre for Pastors. This special occasion was held at the headquarters of The North American Mission Board in Atlanta. Among the BTCP partners who came from around the world were (left to right) Niegel Fernandes of Asian Trading Company, Anil Rego of Brilliant Printers in Bangalore, India and Herb and Ruth Lyon, onsite BTCP liason on Bangalore. Brilliant prints the manuals for all 27 languages of the BTCP curriculum including the German version produced by CWO.

While attending the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (June 14-16) in Orlando, Clark and Louise had the opportunity to meet with CWO partners from the Bible Seminary of Bonn, Germany. Pictured (left to right) is Andy Wiebe, Dean of Students and National Director of German Bible Training, Clark, and Dr. Heinrich Derksen, President of the Seminary. A strategy meeting entitled “Vision For Germany” informed messengers of the Convention about opportunities for missions in that country.



The Last American Evangelical

By Dr. Sam Cash

Look around and see if you can find one. They used to carry some weight with their notions of redemption and righteous living that they wanted their American neighbors to embrace. It was a few elections ago that their influence carried a President into office. They supported missions, protected the unborn, and rejected liberal thought. The books they read reflected the concerns of their modern Christian lives: books on family, raising strong-willed children, how to honor God with your money, keeping your life pure and clean, finding out your love language, men's issues, women's issues, teens issues, how to be happy, how to be happy at your job, how to be happy at home, how to have a happy family, etc. Their Bibles provided a resource for answers, but the questions arose from selfish motives. God's Word conveniently supported their positions on issues and gave them brief devotional messages to start or end the day. “This is the day the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it,” wowed them enough to want to be glad no matter what the day brought.

These were the American evangelicals. They sought refuge with each other in their pursuit of the good things of life yet may have moved away from their purpose,

or should I say God's purpose for them, to evangelize. Some may say this is indicative of the post-modern day we live, however the roots go deeper than we can imagine and may indicate some challenging days ahead for the evangelical churches in America.

Why the alarm? First, look at Christian leaders. They seem to be rejecting the label of evangelical in favor of other labels. You don't have to go far to see this. Just visit the blogs of some of these leaders. It is hard to find these guys talking about being evangelical. They even have conferences to help pastors understand that they are really reformed in their thinking.

Second, biblical literacy is perhaps at an all-time low among average American Christians. Check out Barna on this. Just engage in a conversation about doctrine and you'll see that the average American Christian can't tell you about the major doctrines of the faith even in layman's terms. Their small groups get into certain lifestyle topics and take a Christian slant by basing their discussions on one or two relevant Bible verses, but they have difficulty expressing thoughts about God, man, salvation, Jesus, the church to others.

Third, look at the decline in giving to missions in the mainline church and perhaps even decline in memberships at these churches.

This is especially evident if you look at giving over a period of time in constant dollars. There is talk about the inability to send new missionaries to the field. Those missionaries already on the field are concerned.

And what about declines in memberships at mainline churches? Some of this may reflect the de-emphasis of what it means to be a part of the local church. You see this particularly in the venues where pastors are referred to as “great speakers” and where music and worship receives major emphasis. Yes, baptisms are down but we sure do know how to worship! Some of these churches don't even keep lists of regular attenders.

I hope this is not beginning to sound too cynical, but I do think we are seeing a monumental shift in church life that is moving us away from the old ways of doing church. And with this maybe we are seeing the term “evangelical” being shuffled back into a closet with all the old hymnals and choir robes. One thing is for certain – we can reconcile evangelism and the sovereignty of God, remembering that we as Believers must bear the responsibility of evangelism while understanding God's sovereign role in the salvation of man. Let's strive together to make sure we are not one of the last American evangelicals.

Sam Cash is a Bible teacher at a regional church in Georgia USA. He shares a concern for living a Christ-centered life in the culture of today. His interests include higher education, history, theology, the family, music, great books, the outdoors, coffee, and Hawaii. Sam is a CPA and holds degrees from Berry College, Florida State University, and the University of Georgia. You may reach him with comments at bibletrainer@gmail.com