

Relationship Evangelism

An Evening with Rev den Hollander

Key Points

- Churches are not only for 'Maintenance of believers', but should be equally 'Mission' focused.
- 'Relationship Evangelism' does not mean have a romantic relationship with an unbeliever.
- We NEED to reach out to people we see on a regular basis, those we have developed a relationship with.
- As we live in a largely anonymous society, we might need to LOOK for the opportunities that God will provide and use them to talk about the gospel and our faith.
- As Christians who should be displaying the fruits of the spirits to all we meet, we should always be empathetic and interested in our neighbour and their lives.
- Don't think that you need to immediately share the gospel with someone you come into contact with. RELAX and develop a relationship with them first. Sharing the gospel will come as a natural progression as you continue interacting with them. God will guide you!
- We are ALL BAD people and all need the call to 'repent and believe', remember this as you talk to your neighbours, work colleagues or peers at uni and Tafe.
- Use conversations about everyday things to show that you are a Christian. No one should be left guessing that you are.
- Your neighbours need to be shown the Love of Christ. See them as a lost coin, lost sheep and prodigal sons.
- We are all 'unbelievers' by nature - it's only by the grace of God that He has chosen, renewed and redeemed us. So don't stereotype everyone outside the church as 'unbelievers' - He will also have chosen many of them too!
- If someone does come to church, we need to make sure that we aren't 'introverted' i.e make sure your conversations aren't based on only 'Free Reformed' things; Una Sancta, School, Soccer, Volleyball. Be interested in the lives of others and be inclusive.
- Care for the new visitors/members of your church on a continual basis. The relationship doesn't end when they come to church for the first time. Make an effort to grow/establish the relationship with them! Include them in your family events etc.
- Some people don't want to know about the Gospel. That's ok. But keep showing the love of Christ.
- Be involved in community events and programs. Walk alongside your community.
- We all have different gifts, and so some people find it easier to talk to their neighbour than others. But this doesn't mean you don't need to be involved in your community. It doesn't have to be just 'talk' - 'deeds' should also be included. Meals, cards, visits, and help around the house are all ways you can reflect and share the love of Christ to your neighbour.