

SWAT REPORT # 315

[2Ti 4:5](#) But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, **do the work** of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

WHAT OR WHO IS AN EVANGELIST???

The word evangelist in all its forms occurs twice in the Bible. Once as a challenge and once as an example. In both cases the definition is the same. Evangelism is simply, to tell others about the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the case in Timothy Paul gently reminds and underscores the need for Timothy amidst all his pastoral duties, afflictions, and responsibilities to “do the work of an evangelist.” Paul gave this challenge to Timothy near the end of his instructions on pastoring, not because it was the least important, but to leave a last, urgent thought in the mind of his young preacher boy. Certainly it is not the last duty of any pastor but rather ought to be near the first, considering so many pastors entirely neglect this essential part of the ministry.

I have always noticed the fact that although Philip was *only a lowly deacon*, he quickly soared above his deaconoclastic (*I know it's not a real word, but many make so much of it one day if may grow into a real word*) duties and ran to the chariot of a total stranger to lead him to Christ. I wish all deacons would soar like Philip. Very possibly his efforts in evangelism with the stranger from Ethiopia may have begun as a seedling when the Queen of Sheba came to inquire of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord. She then went back home and planted the seed of truth in her homeland. What a genius program the good Lord devised when He put together the method of evangelism in 1Cor. 3:6.

In 54 years of ministry, I have held most all positions, except for President of the Woman's Missionary Society, but my first duty will also be my last duty...that of evangelist. I learned evangelism under the ministry of Dr. Bob Gray in Jacksonville, FL. and what a great teacher he was. He wasn't a street preacher, but he was certainly a soul winner.

For fourteen years we traveled full time on the road teaching evangelism to all who would dare to learn. I never got to enjoy the fruit this ministry implants in those who engage. Now my stationary position allows me to see the maturity and growth development evangelism produces. Many look on the outward appearance (number of souls, people in church, increase in offerings) this ministry may or may not motivate, but many never see what evangelism does for the redeemed when they say so. Ps. 107:2

We are in our 11th year of evangelism here in PI and have distributed very close to a million tracts. We usually have 3-4 street meetings per week along with door-to-door visitation. Now I see our church men coming and asking to use a van to go and preach where they have seen large gatherings of people and our young teens are assembling to go door-to-door to act out what they have been taught in youth evangelism class. All this is truly wonderful to observe. Some of the fruit of all this is showing up visibly in church but much more is showing

up in the strength of our folks as they live the life the Lord is pleased with. Attached is a picture of Robin and I in our favorite setting...at the end of a great street meeting.

When I die, find a busy intersection somewhere and prop me up in a *stiff chair* (get it) and super-glue my eyes open, put a scripture sign in my lap for about 3 days and then bury me.