

Add this to your Ministry

Ministers of Spirit are God connectors. They connect people to the presence and power of God.

Jesus was a God connector and this is what caused people to stand up and take notice of Him. Remember the time when Jesus came upon a funeral procession? A widow woman's only son had died. Jesus saw the woman and had compassion on her. He said, "Weep no more." He touched the coffin and commanded the young man to arise. The dead son sat up and began to speak.

Luke 7:16-17 *And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people. And this rumor of him went forth throughout all Judaea, and throughout all the region round about.*

People everywhere are just waiting for an Immanuel [God with us] moment, and we are just the ones that God has chosen to manifest himself through.

Romans 8:19 *For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 21* *Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*

Three years ago, on New Year's Day, Mickey was standing in the shower when the Spirit of God spoke to him saying I am going to add evangelism to your ministry. Now I don't know about you, but this is not always my favorite thing to do because it makes me feel just as uncomfortable as the people that I try to talk to feel.

It is amazing! We often love our message more than we love people and people can tell the difference. When the world sees Christians

armed with Bibles, it makes them want to run because they know what is coming!

But God said, I want you to do it differently than you have done in the past. I don't want you to go out with any hidden agendas in mind. I simply want you to love people and be Jesus to them.

1 John 4:7-12 *Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that liveth is born of God, and knoweth god. He that liveth not knoweth not God, for God is love. In this was manifested the love of god toward us, because that God sent his only begotten son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.*

God said, You love them with my kind of love, and I will do the rest. I will speak to them what they need to hear. No one can come to the Father unless the Holy Spirit is involved. Jesus even had to come that same revelation.

John 6:44 *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: ...*

We simply provide the open door that the Spirit is looking for.

Every year we host different teams from Charis Bible Schools on mission trips to different countries in Latin America. After God spoke to us about evangelism, we began to incorporate this into these trips. We gave students signs that said free hugs and turned them loose in parks and neighborhoods. We told them, "Get people's attention, give them a hug, then tell them that God loves them and wants to help them. Ask them if they need prayer for anything."

At first this approach seems a little wacky, but somewhere in the middle of that first hug the walls come tumbling down. When people think that someone is genuinely interested in them, they open up their hearts every time! The students are emboldened by the response of the people and God shows up and personally ministers to both the students and the people. We have seen the most amazing things. We have witnessed miraculous healings. We have seen people set free. We have been able to minister to discouraged pastors, and people from all faiths and walks in life. What a difference this approach has made for us! The students love it because it produces such positive results. No one feels rejected or intimidated.

One of the students that came on a trip to Costa Rica said that he did not know why he had to come on the trip! He did not come to Bible School for the same reason that most people come for. His twenty some odd year old son died of a drug overdose and at the funeral God said, I want you to go to Bible school. I have something I need to teach you. He had no intention of ever becoming a minister, but after he experienced a few God moments in the midst of the hugs he offered, he left saying I know what God wants me to do and now I know how to do it. I am supposed to go home and just love people! He was so excited!

This is the work of the Father that everyone of us is supposed to be involved with in one way or another!

John 15:9 *as the Father loves me, so have I loved you-continue in my love*

1 John 4:6-11 *-he that doesn't love his brother doesn't know God*

We simply draw attention to the love of God, and God shows up!

1 Corinthians 2:9-14 *-But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him, But God hath revealed them unto us by his spirit for the spirit searcheth all things, yea, the*

deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God, Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost; teacheth comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Jesus died for sins of whole world. He did not come to condemn **[point out faults]** the world, he came to save the world. He poured out his spirit out on all flesh-His love is available to everyone, but everyone doesn't know that! That is what the world is looking for, and he is using us the same way that he used Jesus, to love people that are desperately looking for God.

Listen to some of these testimonies:

One man in Costa Rica began to cry and said, this is the first time in twelve years that I have been hugged.

The students were ministering in a church on a Sunday morning. We told the church that we were going to be going to the park the next day to do some street ministry and we invited the members of the congregation to come along. Three women showed up. They had the best time and now every time that they hear that we are going to be there, they show up to help us. The pastor told us, "I just don't understand it. These people can't wait for you to come to town. I have tried and tried to get them involved with evangelism and they never show up." You see, the pastor did not accompany those members of the church that came evangelizing with us. He had no idea just how we were doing what we were doing, but something was different!

Even the mayor in San Jose saw something different. In the years past, we had to get a permit before we could do ministry in the park. This last year, unbeknownst to us, the town passed a law that forbids this type of ministry. When we applied for the permit we were denied. A few days later, the mayor recognized the man that had always been in charge of arranging the permits for us, and he said, "I have not seen you lately in the park. Where have you been." The man working with us had to say, Well just two days ago I was told that we could no longer do this. At this response the mayor simply said, "You bring that permit to me and I will personally sign it. You are really making a difference here and we want you to continue what you are doing."

What we are doing is not really classified as proselytizing because we are not trying to get people to switch faiths, or come to a specific church. We are ministering the love of God it is making an impact.

Not long ago we carried out an experiment. We placed some people on a street corner with Bibles and tracts and told them to evangelize in the traditional way and on the opposite corner we had other people and told them to just be Jesus to the people. By now you have probably already guessed what happened. People avoided the group with the Bibles and walked a wide berth around them, but they gravitated to the group which was ministering the love of God.

This same man that works with us has been doing things like this for several years. One time a few years ago he told us that God told him to go to the local park on Sunday where he would find two drunks. When he found the drunks he was supposed to offer to buy them breakfast. Well, he found two drunks right away, but they were dirty street people and they were so drunk that they could not even talk. He passed by them hoping to find some more respectable drunks, but God said, No, these are the ones that I want you to minister to. He bought them breakfast and just began to sing songs of worship with his guitar while they ate. After a time, one of the drunks said, "I saw Jesus today." Now our friend thought, yes, this drunk is really seeing things and he just sort of sarcastically said, "So just where did you see

Jesus? The drunk replied, “In you!” That was a dramatic moment of realization! People are looking for someone who knows God and they recognize God when they see Him. God is using us to fill the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord. When we minister the way Jesus ministered, the world is attracted to the God in us.

Come to find out, all three of the drunks were former pastors who had lost sight of God. They had experienced some trying situations and they just gave up. This God encounter made them realize that God still loved them and it gave them the jump start that they needed! They are all back on track. But now their ministry is different and it is experiencing different results. They are ministering the love of God that has personally been ministered to them, and it is powerfully affecting other people! People are not ready to listen to just any one who had a fancy speech memorized; But they are ready to listen to someone who knows what they are talking about.

We were invited to a church in Nicaragua. The pastor asked us to do some door to door ministry in the neighborhood where the church was. We spent two days with a group of students just knocking on doors and praying for people. We did not canvas the neighborhood with the intent of getting people to come to church. We just ministered to the needs of the people. It was awesome! Not one person slammed the door in our face. We were invited into the people’s homes and God showed up! It is amazing how people become transparent and open up their hearts when they sense the love and compassion of God.

Later the next week the pastor gave us a call and said, “What did you do?” You see, on Sunday, after we left, his church was full of people from his neighborhood that he had been unsuccessfully trying to get to come to church for years. Not only that, the people themselves approached him and asked if he would explain what they had to do in order to get to know this Jesus that we were talking about!

Our job is to simply initiate God moments that get people's attention. Once people begin to see that God is really interested in them and that he loves them and wants to help them with their problems, they feel like they can 'run to him' and when they do, he supplies them with the help that they have been looking for. **Hebrews 4:12-16**

Not long ago, I found myself sitting on a plane that was full of Mormon missionaries headed to Bogota, Colombia. Now normally, I would have tried to think of a way that I could initiate the salvation conversation. But since I have begun to realize that I am only there to connect them to the love of God, I have found that it takes all of the pressure off of me. I don't have to feel uncomfortable around people that don't believe the same way I do and I don't have to feel like I have to set them straight because God is perfectly capable of doing that without my help. It is easy to initiate a God moment. I simply asked the guy sitting in the seat next to me [even though I already knew the answer] why he was going to Colombia. When he told me that he was going on his year long mission trip, I simply said, "I am just believing God that you will experience the most incredible year of your life and that God will reveal himself to you in ways that are totally beyond your wildest imagination." Would you believe no walls came up. I did not feel like running and neither did he!

We are all alike. Everyone is looking for the same thing. We are looking for something that will bring a sense of value to our lives; Something that makes our existence significant. It doesn't matter who the people are, what color their skin is, what religious background {if any} that they come from, everyone responds to the love of God because that is what they are looking for.

We are here to continue the work that Jesus started...

John 15:9 *As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love*

...And when we do, God shows up...

Romans 14:4-5 *Who art thou that judges another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth, Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. One man esteemeth one day above e another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.*