

聖神與福傳（五）

（摘自「神恩」第廿八期）

向三類人傳福音

如果我們經驗到天主是多麼的美好，我們就會深信，每個人都應聽到天主的福音。基本上我們可以把人分成三類：沒有信仰的人，有基督信仰的人，和有其他信仰的人。這三類人都需要天主的喜訊。

向沒有信仰的人福傳

為沒有信仰的人，他們需要知道，自己可以成為創造宇宙萬物的天主的子女，人的罪過可得到白白的赦免，天主深愛我們，愛的程度到了願意為我們犧牲性命，死而復活的主耶穌是永生恩典的來源。

現代人對許多事都抱有懷疑的態度，人的驕傲，使我們不願承認感官和理智有其限制，不能以實驗證實有天主，也不願承認人有罪這事實（罪的意思是指分裂、與天主愛的旨意相違背）。向沒有信仰的人傳福音，時常要記著，這祇是一個撒種時間，不要不切實際的希望立即有收成。

許多人不敢向他人傳福音，主要的原因就是怕丟臉，怕「失敗」。事實上，如果我們訂立的福傳動機和目的，祇是把好事給別人分享，就如推介一本好書、一份好菜譜、一間正進行大減價的公司……，被人拒絕時也就沒有甚麼難堪的地方。況且我們的主耶穌當年親自宣講，也不是人人歡迎祂的啊！沒有僕人做的比主人更大。

向非基督宗教人仕福傳

向已先入為主有了其他信仰的人仕傳福音，會有一定的困難。有時他們反會倒過來向你見證。然而，福傳的心態始終是：「交個朋友，傳個祝福；分享信仰，見證基督；撒粒種子，沒丟面子。」

向已有其他信仰的人分享喜訊時，會經常引起自己和主耶穌關係的反省。如果我肯定主的愛和救恩，我祇會等待對方轉變，有一日皈依天主。因為耶穌才是真理和萬物之源，祇有祂才有真正的平安，一份世界不能給予的平安。謙遜而有誠意的人，最後一定會接納祂作生命的主和救主。

不少人信教都有一種為現世利益交易的心態：「我信你，你保我發財、出入平安、姻緣……」，那些他們恭奉的偶像和背後的力量，藉此和信眾建立了一種束縛的關係——我會稱之為「靈界黑社會」的關係。這種交往跟人間的黑社會沒有大分別，一個人想脫離它的控制，並不容易。在福傳中

對抗黑暗勢力，用釋放祈禱和聖神的能力，把基督的光帶進在「靈界黑社會」中的人，有關的理論和經驗，在此不作詳述，讀者可參考《神思》的其他專輯。(15)(16)

向信了基督的人傳福音

還需要？是，還需要。我們中有許多兄弟姐妹，或是埋怨天主不愛他，或是受不了世界的力量和誘惑，或是在信仰團體中感到失望，或是在履行信仰的要求時漸漸變得驕傲冷漠。總之，就是離開深愛我們的主耶穌愈來愈遠。我們都需要天主的喜訊，振奮我們與祂的關係，信賴和熱愛祂，到一個其他的事都不再緊要的地步。

跟已經信了基督的人傳福音，大家都有一個共同點，就是主耶穌。上述的CETP福傳步驟，最能針對已信了基督而冷淡下來的教友，一步一步的講述下去。我的經驗是，如果對方有誠意的話，他必定願意再接納耶穌為主。在菲律賓的一些堂區，每主日就有一隊數十人的福傳隊伍，到教友家庭用上述步驟傳福音，效果很好。

* 請記下你對以上文章的任何感想或有任何信仰分享，投入我們設在聖堂反面的收集箱內。



Holy Spirit and Evangelization (V) (Article from the 28th issue of God Grace magazine)

Evangelizing to Three Kinds of People

Our wonderful experience with God leads us to the conviction that everyone needs to hear the Gospel. Basically we can categorize people into three kinds for evangelization: non-believers, Christians and believers of other religions.

Evangelizing to the non-believers

For the non-believers, they need to understand that they can become the children of God the All Mighty, Creator of the universe; God loves us so much that he sacrificed his life for us; the Risen Lord is the source of the eternal grace.

People in modern age tend to hold a dubious attitude towards many things. Our pride makes us unwilling to acknowledge the limitations of our senses and reason with which we tempt to verify God. Please notice that to spread the Gospel to the non-believers is a time to sow the seeds, and it is unrealistic to expect an immediate harvest.

The main reason why many people shun from evangelization is because they are afraid of failure or losing face. In fact, if we establish a clear goal and motivation of evangelization which is sharing good things with people, such as sharing a book, a recipe or the news of some big sale, we won't embarrass ourselves even if we are declined. Besides, we need to see that our Lord was not welcome by everyone in His time when He preached the Gospel. We the servants certainly can't beat the master.

Evangelizing to the non-Christian believers

There will be some difficulties evangelizing to the people who have already believed in religions other than Christianity. Sometimes they would even turn the table around to testify their faiths to us. However, the primary attitude of the evangelist should be: making friends, spreading the Gospel, sharing faith, witnessing Christ, sowing the seeds and without losing face.

Sharing the Gospel with non-Christian believers would often lead to a deeper reflection of one's relationship with God. If I am convinced of God's love and salvation, I would be patient to wait for his/her conversion that eventually would come, for Christ is the source of truth and everything in this world where the true peace comes which will be recognized by people with humility and sincerity, who will accept Jesus Christ as the Savior.

Not a few people hold a materialistic attitude towards faith: "I believe in you and you should make me rich and safe in return...." I call this "the dark side" of the spiritual world. In evangelization we need to resort to the power of prayer and the Holy Spirit to bring the light of Jesus into the "dark side" to expel the materialism in our faith.

Evangelizing to the Christians

Do we still need to evangelize to the people who have already believed in Jesus Christ? Yes, we do. Many brothers and sisters among us complain that God doesn't love them; they couldn't resist the temptation of the world and its power; they suffer from despair; they

gradually become proud and cold on the journey of faith. In general, we need the Good News to strengthen our relationship with the Lord, inspiring our love and trust on him, so that we won't become remote to Christ who loves us deeply.

The common ground among the evangelists and the Christians is that we are all believers of Jesus Christ. My experience with the lukewarm Christians is that if the person being evangelized is sincere in faith, he will be willing to embrace Jesus once again. In some parishes in Philippines every Sunday there will be an evangelization team of ten going out to visit the parish families and the results are very good.

** If you have any reflection on this article or your faith sharing, please write it down and put it into the collection box located at the back of the church.*

Reflection on last article:

After I was baptized in 2005 I immediately evangelized to my mom who was a non-believer. I was very happy about my experience of Lord's salvation and would like to introduce my mom to Him. Besides, I was a new Christian, very enthusiastic about carrying out the command that Jesus gave to the disciples: to be the witness of the Lord till the end of the world. (Acts 1:8)

However, my mom responded to my evangelization with a lukewarm attitude. On one side she said she believed in God, on the other side she said she needed time to think about if and when she needed to be baptized.

However, in the next year of 2006 she decided to be baptized, after being evangelized by a long-time friend who lost contact with her during the WWII but now they were reconnected in America. He was a true Catholic in words and deeds: he talked with mom on the phone everyday for an hour, and in every conversation he never failed to express the thanksgiving and praise to the Lord. He sent mom one package a week which contains chocolates, healthy foods, CDs, DVDs and books on faith, Catholicism, spirituality, theology and evangelization. Every Wednesday he led mom to pray rosary on the phone. By the time he passed away at the age of 96 in 2010, He has become the symbol of love, faith and Catholicism in the minds and hearts of our whole family and the friends who came to know him through us.

Now my mom starts to resume her prior lukewarm attitude: she seldom goes to church or prays. She believes in medicine and doctors more than anything else. I am deeply disappointed, because I don't see our faith journeys are heading to the same direction. But I believe that her baptism left a forever mark on her, a mark of a seed of faith being sowed. With patience, prayers and unconditional love, my mom will one day come back to the Church. Meanwhile I should treasure this challenge as a real task of evangelization and apply all the powers that Holy Spirit bestowed us to consciously be a good shepherd who would never lose her sheep.