

**THE
HUG
CRUSADE™**

CONTAGIOUS LOVE

1st Edition

Dedication

This guide is dedicated to God.
May it glorify His name and help lead others to Christ.

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About this Study Guide

This guide is presented as a Christian beginner's study guide and as an introduction to The HUG Crusade. It gives only an overview of the subject matter. As such, it is only a guide and not the path. This guide is the work of man, not God. Thus, it is fallible. Readers should individually study God's word, reach their own conclusions and not rely upon the teachings of man.

“But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.” (2 Peter 2:1-3)

Depending on your church background, you may or may not entirely agree with some of the non-essential opinions expressed in this study guide. To this we offer the following passage and encourage you to preform your own independent study of the Bible in order to establish your own opinions based on the truth.

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters...Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls...So then each of us will give an account of himself to God...so whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.” (Romans 14:1, 4,12, 22)

Regardless of your non-essential beliefs, everyone is welcome to join The HUG Crusade. We are much more concerned with the WHAT than we are the HOW. (See Lesson 4)

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The HUG Crusade Contagious Love: 1st Edition

The Crusader's Prayer

God, creator of the universe and Father to all, I praise you for the blessings you have bestowed upon my community, my loved ones and myself.

LORD, I humble myself before you and pray the Holy Spirit will fill my heart, touch my soul, empower my mind and energize my body in helping spread throughout my community your word and the gospel of Christ.

Father, may everything I do glorify your good name and help lead others to salvation.

This I pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Our Mission

To glorify God's good name and lead the world to Christ, one community at a time.

History of The HUG Crusade

In the fall of 2007, two volunteers were asked to participate in a large outreach in the City of Atlanta, Georgia. A week before the event they went out with the organizers distributing circulars in apartment communities and weekly rental motels inviting the residents to attend. As they knocked on doors residents would often ask for transportation to the event. The only answer the volunteers had were for the guests to ride MARTA, Atlanta's public transportation system.

The event itself was a large event. Live music, food, clothes, medical screening, haircuts, prayer and worship was offered, and everything was absolutely free. Churches and ministries from across the southeast participated as one large team. Not a single group promoted themselves, instead they all worked together to serve the thousands who attended. The event was a great success. The Holy Spirit moved in the crowd and many souls were saved that day.

But the two volunteers left with troubled hearts. Many who they had spoken to when handing out circulars were not in attendance. Transportation was an issue. The event was also much too large for most churches to pull off, requiring months of work to organize and tens of thousands of dollars in money and donated goods and services. The two volunteers were lead by the Holy Spirit to find a simple, easy way to take the gospel to the unchurched. An outreach event that anyone could pull-off was needed. One that was inexpensive and would fit in most anyone's budget.. Once which could be planned in minutes and easily performed.

They planned a small event at a low-income 40-unit apartment community. Used toys and used clothes were collected from the members of their church and volunteers were organized. Those volunteering for the event donated the food to be served at the event along with some balloons to give it a festive atmosphere. After some prayer for inspiration, they named the event a HUG Cookout. HUG being "His Uplifting Grace" as that is what they were intending to demonstrate that day.

On the day of the event, nervous as to the outcome they set up a charcoal grill in the parking lot of the apartment community and invited residents to join in the celebration. Many of the residents did. The Holy Spirit moved throughout the community that day. Several residents sought prayer and names and phone numbers were taken of those wishing to set-up a Bible study group in the community. At the end of the event, 73 people joined in a prayer circle... and astounding number considering the size of the apartment community.

While the event itself was a great success, it was ultimately a failure. The two volunteers had not planned well enough and had no-one to facilitate the Bible study group and they did not feel qualified to do so themselves. They had no study materials and no experience

with establishing groups. To make matters worse, the apartment community was too great of a distance from their church to expect the residents to attend services. Follow-up was definitely a problem.

At the urgings of the other volunteers more HUG Cookouts in other communities were held, but the two volunteers remained troubled over the lack of follow-up.

Finally, a third volunteer suggested that a church local to the next HUG Cookout be asked to participate. No money, food or other items of value were asked of the church. The church was only expected to attend and take the fruit produced into their fold. Three local churches within a few blocks of the event location were contacted before one was found willing to participate in the event.

This HUG Cookout was not within an apartment community, it was held in a low-income residential area of dilapidated homes. Turn-out, as a percentage of population was less than expected but good. The community was touched and some residents from the event attended the local church the next day, one walking the aisle and accepting Christ as their savior! Follow-up worked! However, it would remain difficult to find local churches willing to cooperate with an outside group entering their communities and holding events, especially when they themselves had not served their community.

In this case, the cooperating church was so excited over the outcome of the HUG Cookout, they began holding their own within their community! From that, The HUG Crusade was born.

Give me a Hot Dog with a Side of Salvation!

The HUG Crusade is about sharing the love of God through outreach in your local community.

Why should you witness to others? Jesus commanded it.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

The above passage is often referred to as The Great Commission or the Last Commandment of Christ. In this passage Jesus is telling you to witness to others. Jesus is the ultimate authority! But, in case you need more read the words of the apostle Paul, who said:

“Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.” (2 Timothy 4:2)

As you can clearly see, it is our job as Christians to spread the gospel and help lead others to salvation.

It's Not as Bad as You Think.

Now that we have made you worry that you will be standing on a street corner shouting “Repent now! The end is near!” we will reveal the good news. Evangelism does not always involve preaching to others. In fact, most Christians will probably never be called upon to do that. Let's read more of Paul's teachings.

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.”

“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.”

“The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”

“Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.”

“The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!' On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.”

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But eagerly desire the greater gifts.”

“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.”

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”

“Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For

we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”

“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

(1 Corinthians 12:4-31 & 1 Corinthians 13:1-13)

Without entering into a discussion over specific spiritual gifts, one of the messages Paul was giving here was that we should each use our individual abilities to spread the gospel and that in performing our duty as Christians there is a place for everyone to use their talents.

We feel that as a Christian you should seek out ways to use your talents for God's good purpose. The HUG Crusade offers ample opportunities for most to contribute to the cause.

Reflections

1. Why should we witness to others?
2. How does the apostle Paul say we should preach the word?
3. As used by the apostle Paul, what do you feel the phrase “in season and out of season” means?
4. In summary, what does the apostle Paul say about love?
5. What talent do you have which you feel could benefit the efforts of your HUG Crusade group?

The Silent Witness

Witnessing to the unchurched and non-Christians does not always mean you have to walk up to strangers and start preaching or go calling on your friends and relatives with Christian tracts. There are many ways you can subtly witness to those around you and usually without them ever knowing you are doing it. Here are a few suggestions.

- Invite your friends and family members to church functions which have a secular or unchurched attraction. Examples might include Christmas or Easter services, plays, ball games, fall festivals, Easter egg hunts and the like.
- Invite your friends and family members to help out with a church or HUG Crusade outreach event. Tell them you need the help and ask them to do it as a favor to you.
- Talk about your church or your HUG Crusade group. As a matter of general conversation, tell them about the things they are doing, what kind of difference they are making, how friendly the people are, etc.. Don't go on and on about it, just mention it casually. An example might be to tell a friend "I am really tired today. I helped out on a church project yesterday and it wore me out. We cut the grass for a widow who lives down the road. She and her neighbors really appreciated it."
- Wear your HUG Crusade or other Christian t-shirt as part of your daily wardrobe.
- Place a Christian fish or bumper sticker on the back of your car.
- Approach them to help as a supporter with your HUG Crusade group or church fundraisers.
- Invite your friend's children to church or HUG Crusade events and projects which are appropriate for them. Their parents will enjoy a day or night off.
- When you purchase items from church or HUG Crusade group fundraisers share them with your friends. Tell them "I purchased this cake from our HUG Crusade group bake sale and there is no way I can eat all of this. So, I thought I would bring it to you for you and your family to enjoy."
- When you send Christmas cards, send "Christmas" cards. Leave the "Happy Holidays" and "Season Greetings" cards sitting on the store shelves to collect dust.

- Give Bibles as graduation and wedding gifts. Bibles are available for all budgets.
- As gifts to children, give Christian children books, CD's, DVD's and audio cassettes. All children enjoy the story of Jonah and the Whale, Noah's Ark and David and Goliath and all will enjoy Christian children music.

Each time you mention or demonstrate your involvement in your church or your HUG Crusade group you are witnessing to them as a Christian. In essence you are saying “I am a Christian and I wish you were too.”

Silent witnessing at outreach projects.

When you volunteer for outreach projects your presence at the event tells the guests “I am a Christian and I care about you.” You are sending this message even if you never open your mouth.

You can cook or serve food, set up tables and chairs, direct parking, provide security, hand out materials, run games, or just sit in the shade and watch the excitement if you are wearing a HUG Crusade or other Christian t-shirt. No matter what your role you will be making a contribution to the success of the project and helping to spread the gospel.

You didn't know witnessing could be that easy did you?

Silent Witnessing from the shadows.

You can remain even more in the shadows and help witness to others. Who has probably done more to spread the gospel over the past 100 years than anyone? The wide assortment of publishers of the Bible and Christian tracts. These materials have been distributed to millions, probably billions of people around the world. Working from the shadows and without saying a word they have effectively helped witness to an almost infinite number of people. How can you help witness from the shadows?

Can you prepare circulars and hand-outs for outreach projects?

Can you build a booth or display?

Can you bake cakes and cookies for a bake sale or as cookout deserts?

Can you donate used toys and clothing?

Can you write a study guide or a manual?

Can you plan a project?

Can you motivate others to act?

Can you paint signs?

Can you make candles to be sold as fundraisers?

Can you manage an e-mail mailing list?

Can you organize?

Do you have an eye for photography?

Can you take the videos and photographs of others and create a slide show?

Can you write an anonymous testimonial for others to publish or hand out at outreach projects?

Can you translate documents from one language to another?

Do you have tools and equipment you can loan your HUG Crusade group so they can accomplish a project?

Can you babysit some children while their parents prepare for or participate in an event?

Do you have the financial resources to help fund a project?

Can you design web pages?

Can you face paint?

Do you know how to make simple crafts?

Can you address post cards and letters?

Can you make phone calls to solicit the donation of goods or services for an upcoming event?

Can you sort and organize stored supplies?

While none of these things in themselves can be considered witnessing, they among many others are items, services and skills are often needed to accomplish a project which allows others to witness to the unchurched. In essence, while not practicing evangelism you are participating in evangelism.

Many silent witnesses eventually move on to become vocal witnesses themselves. But, vocal witnessing does not always mean face to face witnessing. Remember the words of Paul when he said:

Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body." (1 Corinthians 12:14-20)

Not every witness has to be a mouth.

The Power of Silent Witnessing:

Did you know that when you serve as a silent witness you are just as responsible for the success of an event or project as the talking heads? It's true! For without your efforts the mouths would not have the opportunity to speak, or to speak to the name number of people.

Think of it this way, how far could a new car get down the road if the person who put the lug nuts on the wheels did not do their jobs? The car might be the best engineered vehicle in the world. The company manufacturing it may be the best well known company on the planet. The salesperson might win mega-awards each year by selling thousands. But, all of these efforts go to waste if the line worker with the air-wrench does not tighten the lug nuts. Without the line worker's contribution to the effort it would have been a failure.

You might think almost anyone can be a lug nut applicator and that might be true, but someone has to be responsible for getting that particular job done and that person is just as important to the manufacture of the car as the person who installs the engine because without either the job would not get done.

The bottom line is the silent witness who works in the background is just as responsible for leading someone to Christ as the person who shares the gospel. Start serving today.

Letters of Love

“One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts.” (Psalm 145:4)

If your order at a fast-food hamburger restaurant took too long but the manager came out personally to apologize to you and handed you a crisp new \$100 bill for your inconvenience, you would certainly tell all of your friends about it. As a matter of fact, you would probably tell people about the event for years to come. This act of telling others about your experiences is you giving your testimony about the restaurant and its manager.

Every time you tell someone about an experience you had you are testifying. Most people testify many times each day. They may testify about how their spouse is treating them. They may testify about how their children behave. They may testify about the shoddy job their mechanic did repairing their car. They may testify how their preacher gave a particularly motivating sermon or how he put everyone to sleep. Testifying is so easy to do that we each do it every day without even considering what we are doing.

Your Christian testimony is no different than any other testimony you give. It is just you telling others what God has done in your life instead about what some person did for you.

Your Christian testimony is an important tool to use in introducing others to Christ. Both your family and friends will be interested in hearing your story because they care about you and can relate to you. Strangers will be interested in hearing your story because it will be heartfelt, honest and give them hope for the future. No one, not a single person on earth will be able to dispute your honest testimony because it happened to you personally and you know more about it than anyone else.

Testimonies do not have to be novels revealing every detail of your life. They can be anything from a short simple statement of only a few words to several pages long. Regardless of their length, all testimonies have something in common; they are made up of three parts as depicted below:



Before:

How was your life before? What issues were you battling? What hurts did you have. What condition was causing you pain, discomfort or worry? What was bigger than you that you just could not handle. Was you having problems with a relationship? Was you having financial issues? Did you have health concerns? Was you selfish, arrogant or greedy? Were you shy, timid or lonely? Did you consider yourself a failure or feel you had little value? If you had already experienced salvation, what steered you away from your faith?

Briefly explain the situation which existed prior to your salvation or dedication. There is no need to go into the sordid details, but include enough to show that you were powerless to correct your life.

Salvation, Rededication or Blessing:

Tell how you came to accept Christ or what circumstances lead to your salvation or re-dedication or explain what blessing God granted you.

What were the immediate circumstances which lead to the event Was you at church, at an outreach event, with a friend or at home alone? Was it a sermon, a song, a testimony, or someone witnessing to you? Did you witness a miracle? Did some event or circumstance cause you to see the light? Don't forget, give God the glory!

After:

Tell what change the Holy Spirit made in your life. What is your life like now? It is ok to still be struggling. If you are, explain that but also tell the positive effect the Holy Spirit has had in your life. Spend at least as much time telling this part of your testimony as you did in the “before” situation.

Give God the Glory.

“They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds.” (Psalm 145:6)

Testimonies should focus on the effect God, Christ or the Holy Spirit has had on your life, not that of your HUG Crusade group, church, or pastor. Remember your HUG Crusade group, church and pastor are nothing but tools used by God. If you build a house you don't say “Look at the house the hammer built”, or if a friend bakes you a cake you don't say “Taste the wonderful cake the oven baked.” You give credit to the person who performed the work. While God may use any number of tools (preachers, churches, organizations, events, people, etc...) when making changes to your life, it is God who does the work. Give Him full credit! Do not dilute the credit by even mentioning the specific tool by name.

For example, instead of saying “While attending Main Street Church” say something like “While attending a local church”. Or, instead of saying “Pastor Bob Smith”, say “my pastor” or “the pastor”. Instead of saying “while attending a HUG Crusade cookout” you might say “while attending an outreach event”.

By giving God full undiluted credit your are also writing your testimonial in a manner that it can be used for multiple purposes without the need for changes and you are giving credit where credit is due.

It's a God Thing.

“And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.” (1 Peter 5:10)

With some people God has made a drastic change in their lives. Through God's power many may have came off the streets, quit alcohol or drug abuse, or experienced a healing,

Some are the victims of child abuse or rape who through God found the power to overcome their hurts.

Others suffered the misery and futility of dedicating their lives to chasing the almighty dollar, but found happiness only after seeking God.

Many have found the strength to face tough circumstances through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Countless people have experienced the love of God exhibited by caring Christians who have selfishly dedicated their time, money and resources to helping people in physical, financial, or emotional need.

Often, God chooses to change attitudes rather than circumstances. This change in perspective takes the person from a life of misery to a life of happiness. Once a person discovers their purpose in life is to love God and to love others as they do themselves they often quit trying to meet the high expectations of man and instead seek to meet the simple expectations of God.

What event has occurred in your life which you can look back upon and know that it was totally outside your control or influence, yet it happened at just the right time to make a positive difference in your life? This, my friend, is what we call a God thing.

Be Honest!

A truthful witness gives honest testimony, but a false witness tells lies. (Proverbs 12:17)

If you can not think of anything God has done for you... any positive change which He is responsible for, then you need to reexamine your life and pray that God opens your eyes to His good works. Do not make up a testimony.

Speak English!

Or whatever language the seeker speaks. But, stay away from Christian jargon. Terms like “saved”, “born again”, “washed by the blood”, “repent” and other such words and phrases commonly used by Christians are either meaningless, confusing or scary to the non-Christian. Use alternative words and phrases a non-Christian can relate to.

Mini-Testimonies

The simplest testimony to write is a mini-testimony. It is only a few words – maybe ten or fifteen, but words which tell of the power, grace or love of God. Think of these testimonies as a billboard sign or a bumper sticker. These testimonies are intended to tell your story at a glance.

Some examples might be:

“I was homeless and starving, but God sent a kind heart to help me.”

“Alcohol had taken control of my life, but God had more power.”

“I used to have a terrible time with our bills until I began to study the money management principles taught in the Bible”

“God broke me free from the chains of drug addiction.”

“My husband and I used to have a lot of fights until we started studying the Bible.”

“I felt worthless but God revealed my true value”

“I felt lost and afraid when I lost my husband to cancer. God gave me direction and courage.”

We could easily list hundreds of examples of mini-testimonies, but you should be getting the idea. It is important that your mini-testimony be personal to you, and that you have a true story to tell to back it up.

There are many uses for a mini-testimony, but one of the most important uses is when you are faced with someone in a similar situation. Your mini-testimony will reveal to that person your connection with them and provide them with hope for an answer to their troubles. Thus, your mini-testimony serves as a powerful introduction of both you and the gospel.

The 60 Second Testimony

The 60 Second Testimony is a single paragraph or two which spoken would last about 60 seconds. It should be an expansion of your mini-testimony. If you were to tell someone your mini-testimony and they should in turn ask you "What do you mean?" Your 60 second testimony would be your response.

Since money is a significant problem in today's society, let's use it for example. Assume God has helped you overcome financial issues and a friend mentions their financial woes. The conversation might go something like this:

FRIEND: I really need a vacation, but we can't pay our bills as it is.

YOU: I know what you mean. I used to have a terrible time with our bills until I began to study the money management principles taught in the Bible.

FRIEND: Do you mean tithing?

YOU: No. My husband and I were in misery from the day we married. Debt was killing us. The collection agencies were nightmares. They would even call our neighbors. We were about to lose our house because we could not make our payment when our pastor mentioned during a service that Bible says "*Do not be a man who strikes hands in pledge or puts up security for debts; if you lack the means to pay, your very bed will be snatched from under you.*" (Proverbs 22:26-27) This really shook us up. We were guilty of this very thing and just as the Bible says, they were trying to snatch our beds from under us. We decided right then to learn what the Bible had to say about handling money and to handle our money God's way. It has been five difficult years, but last month we paid off our last debt. We don't owe anyone anything. You can not believe the joy and happiness we have from the freedom we have gained!

By giving your mini-testimonial to a friend your got your friend curious which allowed you to present your 60 second testimonial. Your 60 second testimonial was the same thing as your mini-testimonial, only in more detail.

You may also notice that in this specific case you are not selling religion. You are promoting sound financial management... freedom from debt. In other cases you might be promoting freedom from grief, or freedom from drugs, or freedom from alcohol, freedom from worry, freedom from anger, or freedom from almost any woe faced by man.

At this point, your friend will likely ask you for more information and you need to be prepared to give it. You must be able to direct them to a Bible study group which is focusing on finances or know of a book or video they can obtain. It would be a good idea if you kept such a book or video in your car and in your home to give away under these circumstances.

Reflections

1. Why are testimonies important?
2. Briefly state in one sentence one instance in your life when God helped you. Be sure and include the before and the after.
3. Write a paragraph telling the situation before, the eye opening event, and the situation afterward. This paragraph should take about one minute to read out loud.
4. You have just completed your mini-testimony and your 60 second testimony. Now, spend a few minutes cleaning up the wording and making corrections. If you would like to share your testimony with others anonymously please visit this link: <http://www.hugcrusade.com/site/contact/testimony.shtml>

The following is the actual three-minute testimony given by an eight year old boy in front of a congregation of about 1,500 people. He gave his testimony during two services that day, touching the hearts of thousands.

Hi, I am Markus.

This is my friend Austin. And this is Pastor Barry.

Pastor Barry is my Wednesday class boss and leads the Sunday kids church too.

Wednesday nights are a lot of fun because we get to play games and learn about Jesus.

My favorite part is learning about Jesus.

I learned my favorite bible verse on Wednesday night.

It is: John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

I wanted to take a friend to my Wednesday night class so I took my friend Austin.

At the class Austin wanted to be a Christian. I poked him in the chest and told him that he had to have Jesus in his heart first.

Pastor Barry talked to me and Austin and Austin accepted Jesus into his heart. He now comes to church whenever my dad does not forget to pick him up.

My friends Christopher and FeFe were coming some too but they moved away.

I also help with the HUG Cookouts. I tell the kids about Jesus. Sometimes Pastor Jody tells them too.

We cook hot dogs and give away bibles, clothes and toys. Some people are so happy they cry.

I help the poor, invite my friends to church, and help people accept Jesus into their heart.

You can too. You just need the faith of a child.

Tell it All!

The Saga Testimony

Just as the 60 second testimony was an expansion of your mini-testimony, your saga testimony is an expansion of your 60 second testimony. The only difference is the amount of detail you go into. You can make your saga testimony as long as you like, but do not make it so long you will bore people. Make the length fit the story, not the story fit the length.

Saga testimonies are often used to testify in front of groups. Some people who testify often will prepare 5 minute, 10 minute, 15 minute and 30 minute testimonies. These will fit most occasions which arise.

Whatever the length of your testimony, stick to the relevant facts. Do not wander off into unrelated events. Do not preach. Do not fill your testimony with scripture. One or two references to scripture will usually be enough.

Start with a strong statement that summarizes the main issue you were facing and go from there. Be sure to allocate equal if not greater time to the “after” part of your testimony as did with the “before” portion.

Focus on you, not on what others have done to you. Admit your wrongs and your contributions to the issues you were facing. While others may have contributed to your situation, do not focus on them. Your testimonial is about you and what God has done with your life.

Remember that the average person reads on an eighth grade level. You are not trying to impress anyone with your prose or writing abilities. You are trying to impress them with the power of God.

Most of all, write to be felt by hearts, not heard by ears.

When you testify in front of a group have a few copies of your testimony prepared to hand out after you testify. Some people will take these and read over them again at home or share them with a friend which is facing similar issues in their lives.

On the following pages is the real saga testimony of the “third volunteer” mentioned in The History of the HUG Crusade. It was written to last about 30 minutes.

Hello, I am a grateful believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. I am recovering from drug addiction.

My struggle in life started when I was eleven years old. That was the year my father died and my home life quickly turned dysfunctional. We were very poor and lived in the projects in the West End community of Atlanta. So my first life hurt was the taking of my dad, in fact it wasn't until a few years ago that, with the help of God, I was finally able to work through it.

When he died my mother went into a deep state of depression, and now that I think of it so did I. There were weeks where I couldn't sleep and I didn't go to school. One night during this period someone offered to to share some pot with me. I tried it and liked it. I remember sleeping that night and couldn't wait to smoke again. That was the beginning of a thirty-two year ride that at many times almost cost me my life.

I started withdrawing myself from my family. I would disappear for days or even weeks at a time. I became self centered and didn't care about anything other than seeking out and using what drugs I could get.

By age fifteen I was using harder drugs such as cocaine and acid. By this time I would take anything I could get my hands on. I got in trouble with the law many times during this period. Luckily I never had to serve much time, even though I did deserve to.

I still loved my family. During the times when I had nothing to take I would think about what I was doing to them and myself. I even tried several attempts at the church thing. My my whole family attended and me staying away really made me feel like an outcast, or black sheep.

They say insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. Well it's also going through a recovery program or two or three, and then thinking that you're cured and can use again and this time keep it under control. It just doesn't work! However, during one of the periods of time that I was clean I did make a decision to give my life to Christ. I knew all along that I couldn't change things on my own. I was miserable. I invited Christ into my heart, but wasn't willing to fully trust Him with my life. I still wanted to remain in control. I wanted to change but I wasn't ready. I kept my family in turmoil, again staying gone for days, weeks sometimes even months. I was so ashamed of the life I was living I wouldn't even call. Again, it was all about me.

This behavior went with me into my adult life. When I was eighteen years old I ran off and got married. This marriage lasted for five years. We had two wonderful kids. But, during the time we were married I sunk deeper and deeper into my addictions. I battled with drugs, sex, and alcohol. I couldn't tell the truth about anything, and everything was always someone else's fault. My marriage was five years worth of lies that we told each other. We were both unfaithful and knew that our marriage wasn't

going to work.

When we divorced I joined the navy. I thought this would be a good way for me to get better. Somewhere deep down inside I really did want to change, I just wasn't willing to. There's one thing I learned from me joining the navy, and that's that it does not matter where you live, you are always there.

You see there's a single common denominator in every bad situation I've been in, and that's me. I showed up in every different state that I moved to. In every different relationship I got into, I was there. I was the problem. It was at this time of my life that I began to understand that, but still a long way away from doing anything about it.

After I got out of basic training I was stationed in Virginia. Beach, Virginia.. One of my problems was co-dependency. I really thought I couldn't live without a woman in my life. So, I got married for the second time. But it was impossible for me to truly love anyone, for I didn't know how to love myself.

It was during time that I got started using drugs again. I began selling LCD on the base, got into trouble and lost my rate. They didn't want to discharge me because they knew I was selling drugs and they wanted to make a case. About a year later they had enough on me to arrest me. It was after I was in the brig I found out just how much trouble I was in. They were pushing for twenty years, and my lawyer said if convicted I would serve every day of it. I did a lot of jail house praying. After six months the charges were dropped. Was that God? I don't know, but I was guilty.

We started attending a local church in Virginia. This particular church was a very legalistic church and very judgmental. I did not think of myself as in recovery. I actually wanted to cover up what I had been my whole life. People would have judged me, so I decided we would look good and blend in and all would be well. It just didn't turn out that way. Too much damage had been done.

We moved to Florida for me to attend school. This too didn't work out. My wife and I grew farther and farther apart. It wasn't long before I started getting high again. At that point I was in a tailspin. Caught up with nothing but trying to please myself. I had such an emptiness inside of me I just couldn't get satisfied.

I managed to keep a job and made fairly good money. In 1997, I was in a pretty bad car wreck. I messed up my neck and back. The addict in me sought out the most liberal pain doctor I could find. I drove from Atlanta to Carrollton for my pain medications because this doctor gave me whatever I wanted. This was the first time in all my years of using that I developed a real habit.

Over the next seven years my life changed for the worst each and every day. I became addicted to morphine, oxycotin, and many other prescription drugs. I was just a disposal, at times going from doctor to doctor to get what I needed. Before this time I

used drugs to escape feelings. Now I had to use. The drugs completely controlled every aspect of my life. My children would see me lying in bed for days at a time when I couldn't get my drugs.

I lost my job during this time and finally was awarded disability. I stayed at home with the kids and thought I had to be their friend. One of the hardest things I had to overcome was the fact that I got high with a couple of my sons. They say your children aspire to be just like you. Today, one of sons battles drug addiction, just like me.

In recovery, family and friends may forgive you quickly, but its only in time, and relying on the strength of God that we can come to a place to forgive ourselves. This doesn't happen overnight. It is the one thing I've had the hardest time with.

Due to my back problems, the doctors told me I never would be able to hold down a job again. I had nothing to look forward to in my life. At this point I had lost all hope and any self-respect I may have ever had for myself. In 2002, after two neck and two back surgeries, I abandoned everything and everyone I loved and went to New York. I had no one there, it just seemed like a good idea at the time. I took what little morphine I had with me but it didn't last long. I was very dope sick. If you've never experienced being dope sick, its the worst sickness you can have. Having exhausted my supply of morphine, I started using heroin. After all, it's the same thing.

My habit quickly escalated to a point it was costing over \$150.00 a day to sustain it. I slept on a park bench in Central Park, or wherever I could. I wanted to give up and die, but something inside of me kept hoping for something. At this point I didn't know what it was I was hoping for, for I had truly lost all hope. Could it have been the hope of Christ?

No matter how far or how low you may sink God is always there. God put a man in my life who was an ex-junkie and works as an outreach worker through a local church in Manhattan. His name is Joe. Joe loves the addicts and the homeless. I've never met a man with the heart for the hurting like Joe.

When we first met I wasn't very receptive to him. But, he never judged me and didn't preach at me. One day he told me that when I was ready he would be there with a game plan to get me help.

Falling even further into my addition and depression I one day made a call home trying to talk to my kids. I wanted to tell them goodbye because I knew I wouldn't be alive much longer. I had already had several overdoses and my life was quickly spiraling to an end.

As a last resort, after making that call I went to see Joe. He took me to a hospital where I spent ten days in detox. Then he set me up with a thirty-day stay at a men's

treatment Center. I got involved with group meetings, found sponsor, and completed my outpatient program.

This was the beginning of a big change in my life. But, I still had a major problem with surrendering my life to the care of God. I still wasn't going to church and really just thought I was cured of all my many years of addiction.

My sponsor had told me not to get involved in a relationship, but I didn't listen. Six months into my recovery I became involved with someone. It was an absolute disaster. I managed to stay clean for two years to the day. But, when my relationship became more than I could handle I used again. This time it wasn't the same. I was not the same person, I wanted to live. I knew as though I had something to live for now, when before I had sunk so low I didn't feel that way. During this time my family never seemed to give up on me. I had to leave New York and come back home.

My sisters have always been there for me when I would let them. I was ashamed of the fact that I had used again. I tried to keep it from my family in fear of what they would think. My oldest sister found out about a Christ-centered recovery program at a church on the other side of town. She wanted to take me there. She cared enough that she was willing to give that much time for me. Well, I never did go. I always had something more important to do.

During this time one of my sons was struggling with drugs and had gotten into some trouble with the law. While he was in jail I sought out a place in Ohio for him to go to get some help... a completely free one-year men's discipleship program.

As I was visiting him in jail I told him where he was going, he asked me to go with him. This hit me like a ton of bricks because I knew it was what I needed. I went home and asked my family what they thought about the idea, and found they were all for it. We got our son out of jail and on Jan. 2, 2007 and we headed to Ohio.

This was the first smart thing I did in my recovery. We were taught the Bible and required to live by it 24 hours each day 7 days each week. I'm not saying you have to go away to get real recovery, but if you have the opportunity to I highly recommend it. This gave me the time for my mind and heart to heal, and to grow in the Lord.

One of the first things God dealt with me on was being on disability. I felt in my spirit that God could and would heal me to the extent that I could work again. You know what? He did. I've been on my job now for over a year and I've been promoted twice in that year. That's a God thing because at work I'm very outspoken about my past. I was placed in a leadership roll in Ohio and stayed a few months after graduation to work with other young men.

Today God has placed a burden in my heart for others who are suffering. I'm careful with the people I try to help. If they are not serious about changing then I don't need to

get caught up in their junk. I've learned through time and with the help of others that God doesn't intend for us to go through bad times, but that He can take anything if laid at His feet and turn it around for His good.

I would like to read a part of a song because I cant sing very well. Its from the song "Broken Pieces".

"Have you failed in life's battles to accomplish your plans?"

"Is your heart heavy laden?"

"Do you fear the Lord's command?"

"Do you feel that no one loves you and there's no use to try?"

"Just bring your cares to Jesus your soul He'll satisfy."

"You may feel that there's no hope, broken hearts just cannot mend."

"Though your turn in many piece's, Christ can make you whole again."

"Storms of doubt blow all directions but don't you be afraid."

"God can make all corrections; He made a body out of clay."

"Pick up the broken pieces and bring them to the Lord;"

"Pick up the broken piece's, trust in His Holy Word."

"He will put them back together and make your life complete."

"Just place your broken pieces at the Savior's feet."

Today, God has made me whole again. I rent a small apartment in a fairly rural portion of a suburban area of Atlanta. I have a good job and am surrounded by people who care about me. Today, through God's good grace I am able to repay some of the kindness, understanding, patience and love my family has demonstrated to me in my past. I am able to help them in times of need when before, I was always the one seeking their help.

I know I'm right where He wants me at, for now. God has given me a broken heart and has put a burning desire within me to help others. I am now involved with HUG Cookouts and Impact efforts of two local churches as well as one back in Ohio. I demonstrate the love of Christ to others and let the Holy Spirit lead them to salvation.

This is a growing and stabilization time for me. God has plans for me and I pray for the wisdom to understand and follow his plans for my life, and the courage to fully submit my life to his will.

God can put together your broken pieces back together too. All you have to do is ask, and believe. Like my long road to recovery, yours may not be easy. But if you stick with it and always come back to God when you travel down the wrong path, God will see you through.

You will never convince me God does not work miracles, because I am one of His miracles. If the changes He has made in my life are not enough to convince you, I will share with you one more tidbit of information.

During my years of drug abuse I contracted Hepatitis C. Hepatitis C is a nasty virus passed on by contact with an infected person's blood. I contracted it by sharing needles when doping up. Not having health insurance I was unable to afford medical treatment, although I did get blood work done several times a year to monitor the progress of the virus. For years I begged God for a cure, but none came until at an outreach event called Impact Fulton Industrial I asked someone to pray for me. On my next visit to my doctor only a couple of weeks later, no trace of the virus could be found in my blood.

Whatever your broken pieces may be. Should they be from a divorce, death of a loved one, drug or alcohol addition, financial difficulties, sexual or emotional abuse, whatever... just place your broken pieces at your Savior's feet. Christ can make you whole again.

-The Third Volunteer

Reflections

1. What do you like about the testimony of the third volunteer?
2. How do you feel you might have done a better job at writing his testimony?
3. Even if you never plan on presenting it to anyone. Take some time this week and write your saga testimony. Make it at least 5 minutes long.
4. After writing your saga testimony, how do you feel?
5. Now, spend a few minutes cleaning up the wording and making corrections. If you would like to share your testimony with others anonymously please visit this link: <http://www.hugcrusade.com/site/contact/testimony.shtml>

e-Witnessing

So, you love to spend time on-line surfing web sites or playing around on sites like FaceBook or MySpace. Or, you and your friends pass around interesting e-mails on a daily basis, sometimes laughing or sometimes crying from their content.

You can very easily witness to others while you are having fun with your friends. Like in your off-line life, witnessing on the internet is still heavily dependent upon relationships. You will be most effective with people you know personally, less effective with those who share a common interest, and much less effective with complete strangers. So, the tactics which focus on your on-line friends and acquaintances is most important.

Some Simple Ways to e-Witness:

- **Signature Lines:** Signature lines go right below your signature in any e-mails or on-line posts you make. They are usually separated from the body of the text by three hyphens (“---”). As a signature line use:
 - Your favorite Bible verse
 - A question which for the answer someone would have to look in the Bible or ask someone knowledgeable about the Bible.
 - A link to your church.
 - A link to your HUG Crusade group web site or page.
 - A link to the web site of The HUG Crusade.
 - The phrase “Interested in helping your local community? E-mail me.”, or something similar.
- **On-Line Profiles:** In your on-line profile (MySpace, FaceBook, etc...) be sure to mention that you are a Christian and, if possible link to the profiles or other Christians and Christian groups. (See Signature Lines, above.)
- **E-Mail Forwarding:** Many people consider forwarded e-mails an annoyance. So, do this sparingly. As you build relationships on-line, occasionally forward e-mails giving the salvation message to your friends. Again, do this only occasionally. Don't just forward any salvation message. Do some research and pick out only the ones you feel are the best.
- **E-Mail Links:** Search out what you feel are the best salvation messages on-line and send them to you friends to view. Like with e-mail forwarding, do this only occasionally. Do not annoy people.
- **Message Content:** In your messages to your friends, talk about your relationship

with God, your church and your HUG Crusade group. Mention events and projects, good sermons and touching experiences. You do not have to preach, just an occasional mention will get the message across.

- **Web Pages and Sites:** Every opportunity you get set up a web page or web site sharing your beliefs. If you include a compelling link from them to the site you use most you won't have to worry about updating anything but the main site.

You can buy a domain and set up a web site under your own URL or you can set up pages on community sites such as Facebook and MySpace. There are thousands of web sites that allow you to set up web pages for free. We even allow groups to set up a profile page on the HUG Crusade web site.

Search out communities which tailor to specific interests and set up profiles there. Let your mind roam wild, if you have an interest there is almost certainly an on-line community which tailors to it.

- **Videos, Slideshows and Photographs:** YouTube and its competitors are great places to upload your videos and slideshows. Many on-line communities allow you to upload photographs. Seize upon this opportunity to upload images and videos of your outreach events. They do not have to look professional.

Here is a valuable hint, if you have the chance to categorize your uploads do not put them under "Christianity" or "Religion". Instead, place them under another appropriate heading like "Local News", "Events" and such. You want to expose as many of the unchurched as possible to your message.

- **Links:** On all your web pages be sure and provide links to your church, your organization, and The HUG Crusade. Give your visitors every opportunity to witness the power of God.
- **Testimonial:** In earlier lessons you have written your testimonial. This is your opportunity to put it to use. Post your testimonial on your web pages!

Remember, that the focus of your web efforts does not have to be the gospel or even Christianity. You can post web pages about local communities, events and attractions, about sports and hobbies or anything else of interest and simply include Christian links and references in your postings.

For the more advanced web user there are many other opportunities to help spread the gospel. Use your imagination!

Reflections

1. How is e-witnessing like witnessing off-line?
2. What skills do you have which you can use to spread the gospel on-line?
3. List two two things you will do today to facilitate e-witnessing to your friends.

Taking Care of Business

Sharing your faith is not just a personal mission. It should also be your mission with the business you manage or promote. There are a myriad of ways you can accomplish this mission. Here are a few ideas:

- **Sponsor Christian Events:** It is difficult for any ministry to raise the money they need to spread the word of Christ. Even the smallest of sponsorships can help a ministry lead others to salvation. Consider giving preferential treatment to Christian ministries when setting your policies for sponsorship and giving.
- **Offer Services and Supplies to Christian Ministries:** These items are just as valuable as money. Often, a gift of supplies or services and save a ministry much more money than the supplies or services cost you. Giving \$50 in supplies often can do just as much good as giving the ministry \$100 to purchase the same supplies themselves.
- **Send Christmas Cards:** No one is certain of the exact day of Christ's birth. Many experts believe that it was in late September or early October. But, society recognizes Christmas day to celebrate Christ's birth. At Christmas, have your business send out Christmas cards not "Happy Holidays" or "Seasons Greetings" cards. This is a very simple act which will be appreciated by the vast majority of your customers. Choose your Christmas cards carefully. Try to find one that actually shares the gospel.
- **Say Merry Christmas:** Don't give in to political correctness. Your faith has nothing to do with politics. At Christmas, say Merry Christmas and be proud of your resolve.
- **Link to a Salvation Message:** If you business has a web site, post a link to a salvation message. Don't make it obvious the link goes to a salvation message. Title it "Important Information", "Afterlife Guarantee", or something similar.
- **Link to Your Church or The HUG Crusade:** From your web site, provide a link to your church of choice, The HUG Crusade, or your HUG Crusade group.
- **Provide Meeting Space:** If your business has a conference room, break room or other area large enough to hold a meeting, offer to let a ministry or a HUG Crusade group use it for their meetings. Meeting space is difficult to come by and expensive to rent.

- **Provide Event Space:** Is your business located on a busy road? Offer to let a ministry or a HUG Crusade group hold a car wash at your location or perform some other event.
- **Advertise in Christian Publications:** Christian publications range from your neighborhood ad sheet all the way up to international publications. Many are published by ministries as fund raisers. Show your support by steering a portion of your advertising budget in their direction. Don't forget about Christian radio and television stations!
- **Start a HUG Crusade Group:** Your business is a perfect place to start a HUG Crusade group. Invite your employees and hold the meetings over lunch.
- **Include Scripture or Testimonials in your Mailings:** Most business owners know the value of testimonials and include them in their advertising. How about also including a scripture or Christian testimonial in your mailings?
- **Promote a Ministry in Your Mailings:** You might be uncomfortable including a scripture or testimonial in your mailings, but how about a single slip of paper promoting a ministry or outreach event? For one 1st class stamp you can include four to five sheets of letter size paper. Why waste the postage when you can include something that might change someone's life?
- **Promote a Ministry or Event in You Business:** Invite your church and/or local ministries to place their materials in your reception area, waiting room, break room and counter-space. You will provide some much needed exposure for these worthy causes.

A Final Note:

You might be a little concerned about promoting Christianity through your business, particularly with some of the more in-your-face methods. If you are doing it for the right reason (to promote Christianity, not your business) you should not be concerned over the opinions of others. You know what is in your heart and what your intent is. It is not the place of others to judge, for Jesus said:

“For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (Matthew 7:1-2)

Jesus also said:

If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. (Luke 9:26)

So, do not be ashamed to let others know you are a Christian. Instead be bold in your witnessing, as Paul was:

Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 28:31)

Be bold in your beliefs. You may find you will greatly contribute both to God's treasury and your own.

Joining the Jesus Freaks

UGH!

It happened! You have participated in a few outreach events and are now feeling compelled to witness to others. You do not know how and you are scared to death to even try. Take heed, you are not alone. Even the apostle Paul, a man that had spent years with Jesus, was scared half to death to share the gospel of Christ. Paul wrote:

“When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.” (1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

Take a look at that passage again, Exactly what was Paul saying?

“I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom...”

Here Paul was saying “I ain't the smartest fella in the world”. Think about the knowledge you have that Paul could never possibly have. Paul couldn't drive a car. He couldn't dial a phone. Paul did not know how to use a microwave oven. He didn't even know how to flush a toilet! Yet, he was able to establish churches and lead others to Christ.

“I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling...”

When witnessing Paul was so scared he didn't just fret, he trembled! Have you ever been so scared you actually trembled? Paul was, yet he was able to work up the courage to witness to others. Back in those days, there wasn't any chicken-wire stages to protect you. You were in easy reach of those you were addressing. The red a speaker who offended his audience might see would more likely be his own blood than a tomato hurling through the air. It is doubtful Paul's fear arose from his fear of being embarrassed. Instead, it was likely the fear of mortal harm! By comparison, what is it you have to fear?

“My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words...”

Paul admits he was not a great speaker. He did not know big words. He did not have a slick sales pitch he used. He did not reach people by being charismatic. Some say Paul was even a quite unattractive person, yet he succeeded. But, how?

Paul Had a Secret Weapon!

Paul had a secret weapon which helped him witness to others. As a true believer you have the exact same secret weapon. Read the entire passage again and see if you can discover what his secret weapon was.

Paul's secret weapon was the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit was so important he acknowledged it twice within the passage.

"...a demonstration of the Spirit's power..." and "...but on God's power."

Paul did not rely upon himself, his speaking abilities, his charisma, or his knowledge to get others to listen to his message. He relied solely upon the Holy Spirit. Paul merely put himself in front of people with the intent of spreading the gospel. The Holy Spirit took it from there. Paul might have stuttered. He might have taken long pauses between thoughts or he might have spoken with an accent unfamiliar to some. He might have had trouble pronouncing some words or his speech might have been slurred. But, he spoke the truth. When speaking the truth the Holy Spirit would translate his words into a message which was felt in the hearts of many of those he was addressing.

As a believer you are also backed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit leads you to where to minister.

"The Spirit told Philip, 'Go to that chariot and stay near it.'" (Acts 8:29)

And, the Holy Spirit instructs you what to say.

"This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words." (1 Corinthians 2:13)

"When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say." (Luke 12:11-12)

Like Paul, as a believer you have the power of the Holy Spirit with you.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

"Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.'" (Acts 2:38-39)

But the Holy Spirit can be resisted.

"You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! (Acts 7:51)

If you feel compelled to witness to others and do not do it you are resisting the call of the Holy Spirit. To put it more plainly: God himself is asking you to do something and you are telling Him "NO!". How smart is that?

How to Witness

There are countless ways to witness to others. Just search the Internet and you will find many techniques and tools to help. But first, let us give you one caution...

Stay away from debates.

It's true, even the various Christian denominations can't agree on some biblical issues. There is no way that you can have all of the answers. This is the very reason The HUG Crusade focuses on the beliefs essential to salvation which most Christian denominations agree upon. Once saved, the new Christian should rely upon the Holy Spirit to lead them in their personal studies to develop their own interpretation of the non-essential doctrines.

When a seeker asks you a question which is outside of the scope of your presentation your choices are to either:

- Ignore the question like it was never asked and continue with your presentation.
- Respond with a question such as "How does that affect your personal salvation?"
- Or simply tell them that you are here to address only issues directly related to salvation and that their question involves a non-essential belief and that is between them and God.

Sometimes, the seeker will know more about the Bible than you do and will use their knowledge to throw you off balance. It is up to you to be able to control the conversation and keep it focused simply on the essential beliefs. Of course, the more familiar you are with the Bible the better you will be able to handle these situations, so read your Bible daily.

Why do You Believe in Jesus?

For many this is a very tough question to answer. Many will reply that they were raised a Christian. But for the purposes of witnessing you need to be able to answer this question quickly and authoritatively.

Give it some serious thought. If someone was to ask you why you believe in Jesus, what

would you tell them?

Did you witness a miraculous event or a small God thing. Has your trust in Christ made a big difference in your life or the life of someone you know? Have you or someone you know been healed? Have you broken an addiction through the power of Christ. Has living by biblical principles made a difference in your life? Be prepared to answer this question. You may be asked sooner than you think.

Sharing the Gospel:

No one technique works for everyone. But, we recommend you keep it very simple. Here is one technique which you may find successful.

Ask the seeker if they believe in heaven?

If they respond positively, ask them how someone gets into heaven?

Most seekers will reply by saying to get into heaven you must be good or believe in God. Whatever their answer is, if it is not “faith in Jesus” or “by being sinless”, it is wrong.

Explain to the seeker that the only way anyone gets into heaven is by being sinless. But we are all sinners so none of us can get into heaven on our own. (If they say they are not a sinner, ask them if they ever told a lie... even a white lie.)

Then explain that God had a plan that would allow everyone to get into heaven, regardless of their sins. And, that plan was Jesus.

Jesus was hung on the cross as the sacrifice for our sins. His death paid that price so that we all can get into heaven. But there is a catch, we must believe that this actually happened. That Christ Jesus is the son of God, was sacrificed for our sins and was resurrected three days later.

Getting into heaven is just that simple, all it takes is faith.

Some seekers might question this and tell you they still do not believe, or they still feel that anyone who leads a good life will get into heaven.

Should this happen, ask them what happens if they are wrong?

If they are right, you and them both will get into heaven.

If you are wrong, you will get into heaven while they burn in hell.

The only way they can be absolutely certain they will get into heaven is by accepting Christ.

But what if?

With this and any other technique there are any number of ways the presentation can go astray. The seeker may ask questions that you are unprepared to answer. The seeker may be argumentative or the seeker may simply refuse to believe.

First, remember what we said earlier about debates. Then remember what Matthew had to say:

“If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town.” (Matthew 10:14)

Matthew tells us not to worry about it and move on. Your attempt planted the seed. Whether it grows or not will be up to the Holy Spirit. Maybe the seeker will consider your words and accept Christ the next time the gospel is presented.

Reflections

1. How was Paul like most people when it comes to sharing the gospel?
2. In regards to witnessing, what two roles does the Holy Spirit play?
3. If a seeker does not accept Christ based on your presentation, have you failed, and why?
4. When presenting the gospel, what should you do if someone becomes argumentative?
5. Why are you a christian? (We warned you!) When you are done answering this question please visit the following link and share your answer with us.
<http://www.hugcrusade.com/site/contact/whychristian.shtml>