

# charter for evangelism

## some Bible readings to think about

### AIM

To provide some Bible links to go alongside the Charter for Evangelism for individuals and groups to explore the connections.

### INTRODUCTION

The charter for Evangelism is on the back cover of the Exploring Evangelism booklet. This was put together by a group of URC delegates at a meeting of CWM European churches looking at Evangelism in Europe at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. However, that was just the first step. A further step by the Vision4life Steering Group was to ask Ray Adams if he would suggest some Bible passages that link with the statements that could be a basis for exploration and reflection by individuals or groups during Evangelism Year, hence this document. If you use this material and develop further ideas linked to the Charter for Evangelism please do let us know so that we can expand these resources.

### CHARTER FOR EVANGELISM: SOME BIBLE PASSAGES TO HELP YOUR THINKING

#### 1. We share faith through cooperating with the Holy Spirit-

Luke 4.16-22 – Jesus, anointed by the Spirit, sets out the full scope of the ministry ahead of him

Acts 8.26-40 – Philip meets the eunuch

Acts 16.6-15 – Paul comes to Macedonia and meets Lydia

#### 2. We share faith with prayer

Mark 1.35-39- Jesus' early prayer time (cf. Mark 14.37-40)

Philippians 4.2-9 – Prayer is to undergird all our relationships and Christian service

#### 3. We share faith in hope-

Romans 12.9-13 – Living in hope requires other things from us: love, goodness, honour, zeal, and a spirit of service.

Colossians 1.3-8 – 'the hope laid up for you in heaven', is heard in the gospel ('the word of truth') that has come and which is bearing fruit.

#### 4. We share faith with joy-

Luke 2.8-20 – The message of the angels is retold by the shepherds

Philippians 4 4- 7 – rejoice always

#### 5. We share faith through stories-

Mark 5.18-20 – Jesus tells the man who has been healed to go home and tell his friends

Luke 24.28-35 - The disciples tell others what happened on the road to Emmaus and around the table.

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Galatians 1.13-24 - Paul tells his story to the Galatian church

Acts 11.1-18 – Peter tells about his change of heart concerning the Gentiles

### 6. We share faith as a whole church

Acts 15.19-35 – The church learns how to include Gentiles and authorises representatives to accompany Barnabas and Paul in the work of sharing the gospel.

### 7 We share faith without a guarantee of success-

Romans 12.14-21 – The challenges of living 'as Christ' in potentially hostile situations

### 8. We share faith through being vulnerable-

Philippians 2.1-13 – The Church is to model itself on Jesus (who 'emptied himself, taking the form of a slave')

### 9. We share faith in a variety of ways-

1 Corinthians 12.3—13(14-31) – Paul describes the Church as one body in Christ, whose limbs and organs have different functions. (See also Romans 12.3-8).

### 10. We share faith by affirming what we are doing already-

Philippians 1.3-11 – Paul commends the Church for its continuing communion/partnership in the Gospel

Philippians 4.8-9 – 'keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me.'

### 11. We share faith with encouragement-

1 Corinthians 1.3-9 – Paul's letter to the Church begins with a greeting and encouragement in what they are doing.

## SOME IDEAS OF HOW TO USE THESE BIBLE LINKS

1. Use them 'lectio divina' style. Based on the idea from the Ignatian exercises, this involves careful and close reading and re-reading of one passage, listening and waiting for God's word to us. Look at <http://www.vision4life.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/praying-with-the-bible.pdf> for more details.

2. After reading, try to illustrate each statement with a picture, photo, body sculpture, tableau or art work. Where possible put these up so that others may also reflect on the Charter for Evangelism through these pictures.

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### Prayer (from page 47 of the booklet)

No farmer stops sowing seed in case some is wasted

**Lord, give us your generosity.**

One sows, another waters but God causes the growth

**Lord, help us to work together and trust in you.**

Proclaim the word in season and out of season

**Lord, make us lifelong sowers of your good news.**

### EVALUATION

Please try to answer these questions for yourself and for others who will use this material:

1. What was the most helpful thing?
2. What was the least helpful thing?
3. What would you like to try now?

### THE NEXT STEP

If you want more Evangelism material please revisit the website. Please send any resources you develop around the Charter for Evangelism to [admin@vision4life.org.uk](mailto:admin@vision4life.org.uk)

### Acknowledgements

This material has been prepared for Vision4life by Ray Adams.

### HOW TO FEEDBACK TO VISION4LIFE?

If you wish to offer any feedback – brickbats and bouquets are equally welcome! – you can do so in various ways.

You can email the Vision4Life steering group and the coordinator about general issues via the website or at [admin@vision4life.org.uk](mailto:admin@vision4life.org.uk)

Website issues can be dealt with through [web@vision4life.org.uk](mailto:web@vision4life.org.uk)

If you want to make contributions or ask questions about other V4L years you can email:  
Year 3 – Transformed for Evangelism: [evangelism@vision4life.org.uk](mailto:evangelism@vision4life.org.uk)