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Evangelism Resources

Curriculum Resources

Caring Evangelism: How to Live and Share Christ's Love, Stephen Ministry.

This highly effective 16-hour course is designed to help Christians share their faith with others naturally and comfortably. The course's resources include a leader's guide, administrative handbook, participant manual, and the book *Me, An Evangelist? Every Christian's Guide to Caring Evangelism*, William McKay, 1992. Get details from www.stephenministries.org/coursesandmore/default.cfm/750. You do not need to be a subscriber to Stephen Ministries to purchase these materials.

The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus, Lee Strobel, Zondervan, 1998.

Strobel uses his legal training and journalistic background to interview fourteen top scholars about the evidence for Jesus. He asks readers to serve as the jury in the case, deciding for them where the evidence leads them. Each chapter closes with questions for reflection/discussion and a list of additional readings. While not teaching students how to be evangelists, this resource provides them with user-friendly content for their witness. A DVD and student resource book are also available.

The Case for Faith: A Journalist Investigates the Toughest Objections to Christianity, Lee Strobel, Zondervan, 2000.

As with *The Case for Christ*, Strobel confronts some of the top scholars in Christianity with what he sees as the eight most common objections to Christianity: 1) Since evil and suffering exist, a loving God cannot; 2) Since miracles contradict science, they cannot be true; 3) Evolution explains life, so God isn't needed; 4) God isn't worthy of worship if he kills innocent children; 5) It's offensive to claim Jesus is the only way to God; 6) A loving God would never torture people in Hell; 7) Church history is littered with oppression and violence; and 8) I still have doubts, so I can't be a Christian. Each chapter closes with questions for reflection/ discussion and a list of additional readings. This book, as well as *The Case for Christ* are immensely readable and interspersed with provocative illustrations from real life.

Faithful Witnesses: A Course in Evangelism for Presbyterian Laity, Richard Stoll Armstrong, Westminster/John Knox Press, 1987.

A 12-session evangelism-training course for congregations. This course offers a clear, step-by-step approach to faith sharing that is scripturally sound, consistent with Reformed theology, and sensitive to all people. PDS # 70-280-96-156 for the Leader's Guide; # 70-280-96-153 for Participant's Book.

Going Public with Your Faith: Becoming a Spiritual Influence at Work, William Carr Peel and Walt Larimore, M.D., Zondervan, 2003. Available through Christian Book Distributors as a curriculum set with DVD/Video, book, one leader's guide and one participants book. Winner of *Christianity Today's* 2004 Book Award and the Silver Medallion Award. Views evangelism as an "organic process" in which each Christian is just one link in a chain of witnesses to Christ. Identifies one's work place as your own particular mission field, a place ripe for trusting relationships.

The Good News Story, Evangelism and Church Development, National Ministries Division, PC(USA), 2001.

A bible study guide with four one-hour sessions (that can be extended to 90 minute sessions to provide more time for discussion) that can be used for weekly class, special course, or a retreat. The emphasis of this study is on the *Good News Story* that we are called to know, tell, be, and share. This new guide is an adaptation of material developed by Ann Weems for the former Evangelism Program of the Program Agency of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. PDS # 72310-01-002

How to Talk About Jesus Without Freaking Out, Jim and Karen Covell and Victorya Michaels Rogers, Multnomah, 2001.

Book with study guide. Simple model of sharing your own faith through what you know best—what your faith has meant to you. Emphasizes hearing their story, sharing yours and Christ's. The goal of this book is to give people confidence to share, not to convert. That's the Spirit's job!

Meeting Your Neighbor: Multiculturalism in Luke and Acts, Sherron Kay George, Gower National Creative Co. for the Office of Evangelism and Racial and Cultural Diversity of the National Ministries Division of the General Assembly Council, PC(USA), 2000. Ten lessons for biblical study using Luke and Acts to cause participants to reflect upon issues of mission and evangelism, especially within the context of multiple cultures. Each lesson includes questions for discussion and reflection. PDS # 72305-00-001.

Places of Promise, Finding Strength in Your Congregation's Location, Deborah Bruce and Cynthia Woolever, Westminster/John Knox Press, 2008.

The authors use research to reveal how location influences congregational life, and how every congregation can achieve strength and effectiveness in its present location if it focuses on what's important to the community. A leader's guide is available for free download from www.pcusa.org/uscongregations/pdf/leaderguide.pdf

Spiritual Vitality through Cooperative Ministry, Diana A. Stephen, Small Church and Community Ministry Office, Evangelism and Church Growth, PC(USA), 2008.

This resource defines cooperative ministry as: "Several congregations in a particular geographical area that covenant together to envision that area as the place in which Christ is calling them to cooperatively plan and engage in ministry and mission. While each congregation maintains its own session..., the covenant requires the participating congregations to share ideas, energies, leadership and resources." This booklet includes a five-session Bible study and an outline for a discernment retreat. PDS # 23316-08-001

General Resources

A Passion for the Gospel: Confessing Jesus Christ for the 21st Century, Mark Achtemeier and Andrew Purves, eds. Westminster/John Knox Press, 2000.

The editors have included essays and sermons by some of the best known evangelical voices in the Presbyterian Church today: Craig Barnes, Elizabeth Achtemeier, Joseph Rightmyer, Jim Logan, Scott Sunquist, Mark Achtemeier, Theresa Froelich, Andrew Purves, Charles Partee, Catherine J. S. Purves, Stephen Crocco, Jeffrey Bullock, Earl Palmer, Clayton Bell, Margaret Kim Peterson, Peter Barnes, Mary Holder Naegeli, Jack Haberer, Sherron George, and Jim Singleton. The book comprises five sections, each devoted to a major theological issue: Confessing Jesus Christ, Word and Sacrament, the Christian Life, Living as Christians, and the Church. Each section contains two essays and two sermons.

Beyond the Ordinary: Ten Strengths of American Congregations, Cynthia Woolever and Deborah Bruce, Westminster/John Knox Press, 2004.

Taking an intricate look at vitality and health in congregations based on information gathered from the 2001 U.S. Congregational Life Survey, the authors conclude that congregations have ten strengths, and that by building upon these strengths, congregations can transform their futures.

Choosing Church: What Makes a Difference for Teens, Carol E. Lytch, Westminster/John Knox Press, 2004.

This well-researched study explains what attracts teenagers to church and keeps them there. It provides a helpful description of the most effective ways that congregations and parents can build a faith in early teens that is not anti-institutional and that helps them value the church.

Evangelism Is..., Clinton Marsh, Geneva Press, 1998.

Marsh contends that the congregation is at the heart of evangelism. Every activity in a congregation's life proclaims the gospel. Affirming the work of the Holy Spirit, and using the teaching of Jesus as a model, Marsh advocates an approach to evangelism driven by love. Marsh offers practical suggestions and deals with the "motive, the message, and the method" of evangelism in a clear and useful manner. This is a book for lay leaders, pastors, study groups, and church boards.

The Great Pursuit: The Message for Those In Search of God, Eugene Peterson, NAV Press, 2007.

Extracts of Eugene Peterson's *Message Bible* (Ecclesiastes, Job, Habakkuk, Jonah, a selection of Psalms, and the Gospels of Mark and John) with added conversational commentary on the text from Randall Niles (director of operations for www.allaboutGod.com). Designed as a give-away, this is for anyone just starting their spiritual walk or those with questions about how Christianity fits into a 21st century framework.

How Shall We Witness?: Faithful Evangelism in a Reformed Tradition, Milton J. Coalter and Virgil Cruz, eds., Westminster/John Knox Press, 1995.

The question of how to evangelize responsibly has often confused and even divided the Christian community. *How Shall We Witness?* is an account of one Christian family, the Reformed and Presbyterian tradition, seeking to heed Christ's commission to witness in and to the world. Contributors to this book look at a broad spectrum of issues dealing with the search for a faithful evangelism. In the process, they suggest scriptural, theological, and educational foundations for a revived witness with integrity. They distinguish between sincere theological scruples about the character of evangelism and misguided inhibitions that generate unnecessary ambiguity and controversy throughout the Christian community.

Living the Vision, Mission Interpretation & Promotion for Evangelism and Witness, Ministries of the General Assembly Council.

This is a series of pamphlets available through PDS. Some contain questions for reflection/ discussion and/or retreat outlines, as well as lists of additional resources. Each pamphlet deals with specialized concerns for evangelism which include:

A Faith Established Governor, PDS # 72-300-01-001

A Vision for Native American Ministry, PDS # 72-450-04-001

Becoming a Multicultural Church, PDS # 72-341-04-001. A DVD is also available to supplement this resource.

Cost is \$10. PDS 72-341-04-002. English, Korean, and Spanish language videos are also available for \$10.

PDS # 72-341-04-033 (English), # 72-341-04-005 (Korean), # 72-341-04-004 (Spanish)

Commitment to Evangelism, PDS 72-343-05-006

Congregational Transformation, PDS 72-301-04-001, or download in .pdf format from

www.pcusa.org/transformation/resources.htm

Core Values, PDS # 72-306-04-001

Developing Strategies and Guidelines for Korean New Church Development, PDS # 72-440-00-001

Health, Vitality, and Growth in African American Congregations, PDS # 72-420-01-001. Also may be downloaded in pdf format from www.pcusa.org/blackcongregations/pdf/livingthevision.pdf

Hispanic Ministries, PDS # 72-306-01-001

Metropolitan/Urban Ministry, PDS # 72-344-06-001 (also available in Spanish)

New Church Development, PDS # 72-306-01-001

Preparing Members for Evangelism, PDS # 72-399-05-002

Rural Ministry: Church and Community, PDS # 72-309-00-001

Small Church Ministry, PDS # 72-308-00-002

Urban/Metropolitan Ministry, PDS # 72-313-03-001

Welcoming Immigrants and Their Gifts, PDS # 72-490-00-001

Rising to the Risk: Stories of Small Congregations Embracing the 21st Century, Small Church Series Book #2, a collaboration of the Evangelism and Church Development Program Area, National Ministries Division, and the Synod of the Sun, PC(USA), 1998. An inspiring read for church leaders who think small congregations can't do mission and evangelism. This resource contains stories of real small congregations who did mission and evangelism with wondrous results. PDS # 72308-98-001.

Rural Evangelism: Catching the Vision, K.E.Ruffcom, Augsburg Fortress, 1994.

Rural congregations face a distinctive challenge when it comes to evangelism. They may know their neighbors too well. This can be a problem when those same people constitute one's entire sphere of acquaintances. *Rural Evangelism* is not a primer on evangelism, but rather attempts to refocus the evangelistic ministry of rural churches into a vibrant and active arm of the church. Focuses on the Holy Spirit's role in evangelism while dealing with rural struggles in evangelism.

Speaking of God: Evangelism As Initial Spiritual Guidance, Ben Campbell Johnson, Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991. Ben Campbell Johnson combines evangelism and spiritual guidance in order to offer a theological foundation, practical suggestions, and a positive model for sharing faith. Johnson calls for the recovery of evangelism in ministry and encourages ministers to become models of personal evangelism for laity.

Starting New Churches: A Process of Discernment, Evangelism and Church Growth mission area of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This DVD resource is for church development committees of presbytery, churches that have a desire to start a new church, and individuals led to start a new church. You can find this and more tools for new church development at www.presbygrow.net.

Mission Resources

Embracing God's World: Involving the Congregation in Mission, 2nd ed., Mission Education and Promotion Office of the Congregational Ministries Division, PC(USA), ISBN-10: 1571530681. Available through Marketplace. Comprehensive guide to developing mission-based ministry in a congregation. This is an essential tool for mission and outreach committees. It provides strategies for shaping your church's mission program as well as steps for planning and interpreting mission and service projects.

Foolishness to the Greeks: The Gospel and Western Culture, Lesslie Newbigin, Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1986. Newbigin attempts to look at modern Western culture through the eyes of an outsider and asks the question, "What would it mean to confront this culture with the gospel?" The real question becomes, "How can biblical authority become a reality for this culture?" This book launched the gospel and culture movement and still asks us questions that are as pertinent for us today as they were twenty years ago.

The Gospel in A Pluralist Society, Lesslie Newbigin, Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1989. How does the gospel relate to a pluralist society? What is the Christian message in a society marked by religious pluralism, ethnic diversity, and cultural relativism? Should Christians who encounter today's society focus on evangelism or dialogue? These are the kinds of questions tackled by Newbigin in his follow up to *Foolishness to the Greeks*. There is much in this book to cause church leaders and lay people to ask new questions of them.

The Missional Church in Context: Helping Congregations Develop Contextual Ministry, Craig van Gelder, ed., Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2007. The Gospel in Our Culture Network carries on the work begun by Lesslie Newbigin. This book carries forward and brings clarity to the missional church conversation begun in *The Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America* (1998). At its simplest perspective, the missional church is one in which mission and evangelism are not things we do but who we are in response to our relationships with God and each other, recognizing that all we are and all we do is God's work, not ours (*missio dei*). This book, and others from the Gospel in Our Culture Network offer pastors and those with a heart for doing God's work valuable insights into the cultural changes needed within the church to effect true transformation of people's lives.

Teaching Mission in a Global Context, Patricia Lloyd-Sidle and Bonnie Sue Lewis, eds., Westminster/ John Knox Press, 2002.

The book is a collection of eleven essays about the practice of mission. The first section, titled "Feet First", is about the way in which Christian practices, many of them taken for granted, shape mission. The next section deals with the issue of transformation in mission work and the related concerns of mutuality, solidarity, and marginality. The third section takes up the situation of the relation of Christianity to other religions. Finally, the last four essays take up spirituality as an inward and outward event, doing mission in the context of North America, and finally the development of a new theological identity based on the image of God as a missionary God.

Places to Watch for New Resources

Highlights from the Worldwide Ministries Division. This twice-yearly publication helps keep you informed about Presbyterian worldwide ministry. To order, contact PDS at (800) 524-2612.

Mission Mosaic the newsletter published by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. To subscribe visit www.pcusa.org/pda.

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