

- Family service.... Relationship based outreach

Person to Person (1)

- Who is your best friend
 - how do they show you that they are your best friend?
 - what is important to you?
 - do your friends talk to you about it?
- Dr Who "Who am I?" clip... explain context...
 - he could recite facts, but it wasn't an "adequate" introduction
 - he didn't really know the person he was supposed to be introducing...
- Thinking this morning about giving an adequate introduction to Jesus...
- a long time ago I was in a group which did some training in personal evangelism - and part of the training course was a video
 - only thing that I remember about the course was a spoof of how to "do" personal evangelism:
 - plumber come to fix the water tank, in the attic, head appears in the hatch, "Have you been washed in the blood of the Lamb?"
 - quite vividly showed how bad we can sometimes be at sharing the gospel!

Person to Person (2)

- Who tells other people about Jesus?
 - write up the answers
- Compare Billy Graham (something like 2.5 million converts directly through his ministry)
 - with the total number of Christians in the world (2,200 million)
- Look at Acts 11:19-21... can you find the names of any of the Christians who scattered in this passage?
 - how many people became Christians through their sharing of the gospel?

Priscilla, Aquila and Apollos

- Background - early church spreading - sometimes story got garbled!
- Rather like many folk around us today, who've maybe heard bits and bobs:
 - at school assemblies years ago;
 - when they were in the BB or GB or Key Club or whatever;
 - communicants classes from many years past, maybe at a time when it was expected but they weren't very interested;
 - maybe from weddings, funerals, watching TV religious programmes.
- But it doesn't all hang together, not quite there!

Listened

- Priscilla (woman) & Aquila, married, living & worshipping in Ephesus, having been travelling companions of Paul's for a brief period.
- Came across Apollos - a Jew, but from outside Judea - Alexandria is in Egypt, where there was a big Jewish population.
- Carefully listened to what Apollos had to say.
- Didn't jump to conclusions;
 - didn't stand up while Apollos was speaking and start arguing with him!
- Didn't put him down.
- Appreciated that which was good in what he was saying.
- That affirmation is seen here in Scripture: "taught correctly the facts about Jesus".
- But also sought to understand what was missing, what he needed to hear.

Welcomed

- Took him home.

- Hospitality.
- Friendship.
- Simple gestures can mean a lot!
- Remember in Motherwell we offered a coffee to one of our neighbours, who was herself fairly new to the street - first time she'd been inside any of the other homes in 6 months...
 - had an effect - made her feel welcome - far beyond the size of what was actually done!
- Priscilla and Aquila said to Apollos "you matter" - as a person, not just as a convert.

"More correctly" / "more adequately"

- Took Apollos in, welcomed him, but did make sure to speak of Jesus.
- Something very encouraging here!
 - not "explained it all perfectly"...
 - not corrected all his faults...
- Just, more correctly, more adequately!
- The little bit more that they knew they passed on:
 - sometimes, as in this case, it'll be the critical thing that brings someone to faith;
 - sometimes just starts to change someone's perspective - that God loves them, or that Jesus came for them, or that some kind of response is necessary, or whatever...
- We aren't perfect.
- Worry that we'll not know what to say, or that we'll get it wrong, or something!
- Reassuring to know that God uses the little we do know to draw others on.

Gossip the Gospel!

- Elaine Storkey - London store (John Lewis) - trying things on - changing rooms - overheard sales assistant talking with her colleagues - stayed for ages to hear more!
- Talking about her church - all the people who came - how their lives were being affected for God - what they were learning - young people struggling not to succumb to pressure to sleep together - people struggling with alcohol - people repenting of sins, practically, and making up (relationships, money, ...) - pressure pastor was under - people who were back-sliding - husband of church member coming to faith - etc, etc, etc.
- Like a soap opera!!! Other staff were agog, wanting to hear next installment.
- **Why?**
- Partly because it was real - because that woman was introducing her colleagues to the reality of Jesus at work in people's lives, not to the shallow surface stuff we so often content ourselves with!
- Partly because her relationship with her Lord shone through for it was a reality.
- And partly because she was being a good friend - open, honest, prepared to talk about things that really mattered to her, welcoming.
- That's personal evangelism - sharing Jesus with those who you are meeting anyway!
- Lets pray that God would help us to "gossip the gospel" to those around us!