



The Journey Thus Far



Dr. David Geisler is a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary and has been involved in Church and para-church College Ministry for over 25 years. In 1994, he was hired by the graduate branch of Campus Crusade for Christ to help develop a national pilot program at U.T. Austin to reach skeptical graduate students. What he discovered is that there is a real need for Christian ministries to understand how to do process evangelism, especially with those more skeptically minded. As a result, in 2000 he started Meekness and Truth™ Ministries. In 2002 in cooperation with his team he developed a new pre-evangelism paradigm called Conversational Pre-Evangelism that he has taught throughout the U.S. with College ministries, churches, seminaries, and mission organizations. In 2004 he felt called to Asia to equip Christians in the East in this new pre-evangelism paradigm. In the seven years he was in Asia he taught in 15 countries and trained over 300 bible and seminary students in practical apologetics, many who are now pastors and missionaries all over Asia. In 2009 he co-authored a book with his father, Christian Apologists, Norman Geisler, titled *Conversational Evangelism: How To Listen and Speak So You May be Heard*. Their book has now been translated into Chinese, Korean, Indonesian, and Slovakian. In July of 2011 he and his wife Charlene and their three children relocated back to U.S. in Charlotte N.C. where David oversees M&T's global movement both in the East and the West.

About our Ministry

How do we reach out to those who not only reject any belief in absolute truth, but are also openly hostile towards those who proclaim to know the truth? We believe that in this new millennium we must actively engage in pre-evangelism if we are to reach those that are either indifferent or openly hostile towards the claims of Christ.

Meekness and Truth Ministries has developed the Conversational Evangelism model as an easy to teach, easy to use pre-evangelism process to supplement your evangelistic efforts. This model teaches that in our witness to others it can be helpful to allow others to surface the truth for themselves first by asking them probing questions. Once this happens, it may be easier to find common ground with them in building a bridge to the gospel step by step. As the Apostle Paul said, *"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow."* (1 Corinthians 3:6).

This model also explores effective ways of integrating compelling Christian evidences into our daily conversations with pre-believers through interactive dialog. There are primarily four types of conversational engagements: (1) a conversation that focuses on hearing what the other person actually believes; (2) on asking questions illuminating gaps in their belief systems; (3) on uncovering real barriers and deeper root issues; and (4) on building a bridge to the gospel. By more effectively understanding these kinds of conversations we can more easily find pre-evangelistic encounters to dialog with others that may lead to more easily sharing the good news with others!

CHALLENGES IN WITNESSING IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD

"I am convinced that our problems in Evangelism are not one of methodology but one of maturity." - Dr. David Geisler

Introduction: Obstacles to Evangelism Today

Because there is a radical change in our world today, it has become more difficult to do evangelism. Consequently what is needed is a new way for us to think about evangelism to reach out to this current generation. By engaging others in pre-evangelism using "lite" apologetics, this may create more opportunities for us to engage in direct evangelism. It may also create greater interest in being better equipped to answer our friend's questions. Yet at the same time there are barriers to being more proactive in our evangelism. In understanding these two issues we could be like the men of Issachar.

"from Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do...." (I Chronicles 12:32)

I. Our world has changed and has made our evangelism task more daunting.

A. Examples in the West and East

B. Conditions that created the environment for this crisis:

- Understanding the Post-Modern period:

1. Pluralism

2. Postmodernism

- Implications of postmodernism that affect receptivity to the gospel:

1. They feel free to create or construct "knowledge's" and "realities."

2. They believe persuasion is to be prohibited.

3. They believe that to be exclusivistic is to be arrogant.
4. They believe that our belief that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life is just one of the narratives among other narratives in the world that are equally as valid.

II. Things to remember in our witness to others today. (1 Chronicles 12:32)

How can we talk to people in such a way that creates greater interest in hearing our gospel?

- A. We must be good news before we can effectively share good news, especially with those we see on a regular basis. (Philippians 1:14)
 - We may be the only bible that anyone ever reads.
- B. We must give ourselves the permission to sow. (1 Corinthians 3:6)
 - We will give ourselves permission to sow if we see evangelism more as a lifestyle and not just as an event.
- C. We must also give ourselves the permission to till the soil. (Mark 4:8)
 - Tilling the soil = Pre-Evangelism.
 - If evangelism is planting seeds of the Gospel, pre-evangelism is tilling the soil of their mind and heart, preparing them to at least be willing to listen to the truth.

"Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times." (Mark 4:8)

Jesus' Example:

- He was a master at asking questions.

A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone." (Luke 18:18-19)

"Tell us by what authority you are doing these things," they said. "Who gave you this authority?" He replied, "I will also ask you a question. Tell me: John's baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin?" (Luke 20:2-4)

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- He knew the value of allowing others to surface the truth for themselves.

"...but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:14)

- He knew that sometime it was best not to tell people things so directly.
- He knew that sometimes it was not always best to share all that we know.

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear." (John 16:12)

III. Some Practical Suggestions for Taking the Next Step!

A. Determine who the Lord is placing on your heart to reach out to.

B. Pray for open doors. (Colossians 4:3).

"And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains." (Colossians 4:3)

C. Look for divine appointments daily! (Acts 8:29).

And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." (Acts 8:29)

- Look for ways God is already at work in the lives of those you want to reach!
- Ask God for wisdom to know what to say in your conversations with others. (James 1:5; Acts 14:1)

D. Make the most of every opportunity you have with pre-believers to help them take one step closer. (1 Corinthians 3:6; Colossians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 9:22)

"Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity." (Colossians 4:5)

"To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some." (1 Corinthians 9:22)

- Listen carefully in order to make every encounter count.
- Discover what might create greater spiritual openness. (John 4:10; Acts 17:32)
- Look for ways to create more interest in our Jesus!

IV. Clarifying Biblical Terms and Concepts That Affect Our Witness

A. What is involved in biblical faith?

- Biblical faith must have an object to be valid.

"And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." (1 Corinthians 15:14)

B. What is the relationship between faith and reason?

- The bible makes an important distinction between "belief that" and "belief in."

"You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that - and shudder." (James 2:19)

- Apologetics bears on the question of "belief that" not "belief in."

"He went on to say, 'This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him.'" (John 6:65)

- Implications of this truth.

1. You can't use apologetics to argue someone into the kingdom.

2. You shouldn't give up using apologetics in your witness to others.

"At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed." (Acts 14:1)

C. What does it mean to be ready to give an answer?

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:15 N.I.V.)

- Our responsibility as Christians is also to eagerly anticipate the questions and objections that our non-Christian friends may raise against Christianity, whether they ask us a specific question or not!

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:15)

"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:5)

"To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some." (1 Corinthians 9:22)

HEARING – LEARNING THE ROLE OF THE MUSICIAN

Learning The Conversational Pre-Evangelism Methodology

The 8 Key Components of Pre-Evangelism

- +1. Active Listening
 - +2. Positive deconstructionism* (tearing down)
 - +3. A questioning approach that allows others to surface the truth for themselves
 - +4. A method for removing the burden of proof from us to them (The Boomerang Principle)
 - +5. A method to determine the real barriers to the Gospel
 - +6. A strategy for finding common ground
 - +7. A strategy for building a bridge to the Gospel (both intellectual and heart bridges)
 - +8. A basic knowledge of the Christian faith and what makes Jesus unique
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The Conversational Pre-Evangelism Method

The Holy Spirit.....Key to Evangelism

Key to evangelism

The vital role of the Holy Spirit in evangelism. (John 6:65, 1 Corinthians 2:4-14)

- To empower us to speak in a way that makes a difference. (Acts 14:1)

- To empower us to live godly lives. (Philippians 1:14)

Hearing: Learning The Role Of The Musician

Listen Carefully (James 1:19-20)

"My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires." (James 1:19-20)

- Helpful suggestions for increasing your listening skills

Reflect back what they are saying to you.

Learn their Story! (Rom.1:18-19; Rom. 2:14-15; ECL. 3:11)

- *Tell me about your spiritual journey?*

Steps to uncovering their story!

1. Ask questions about what is important to them.
2. Ask questions about purpose and meaning.
3. Take note of other experiences that have shaped their beliefs and ask them about those experiences.

Hear the sour note (gaps in their beliefs) people are singing to us!

Our Purpose in Hearing the Sour Notes:

By listening to the sour notes (gaps), we may be able to "detect" some of the Uncertainty in their beliefs which may give us an opportunity to help them to think more clearly about what they believe and why. It also helps to create a greater interest in knowing about Jesus.

Jesus understood this principle of identifying "sour notes" in someone's belief system. (Matthew 19:16-22)

The Apostle Paul understood how to identify the "sour notes" in someone's belief and use this to motivate them to take a step to the Cross! (See Acts 17:28-29)

Belief vs. Heart Longing

"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end." (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

The inconsistency can be between what they say they believe and their heart longing (SOUL CRY).

A. Many hold to views which are inconsistent with the longings of people's hearts.

- **Atheism:** An atheist believes that God does not exist. Yet many long for a sense of meaning and purpose to their life.
- **Postmodernist:** In a postmodern culture there is a desperate need today for young people to feel a sense of belonging and to be a part of something bigger than themselves.
- **Islam:** The teachings of Islam betray the heart cry to have an intimacy with God.
- **Hinduism:** Some Hindus believes only in an impersonal god. Yet a Hindu desires to know God in a deeper and personal way.
- **Buddhism:** But not only is losing myself not fulfilling, but the way to get to Nirvana can only be accomplished through a heavy burden of living according to rules and regulations that can never be completely attainable.
- **Chinese:** I believe in scientific materialism. I want to be remembered after I died or at least die with a good reputation.

B. Show others that Jesus meets the longings of our hearts!

"What oxygen is to the brain, Jesus is to our hearts. He satisfies our deepest longings unlike anything else....If we were to list all of our hungers, we might be surprised at how many legitimate hungers we have. We hunger for truth, love, knowledge, belonging, self-expression, justice, imagination, learning, and significance to name a few." - Ravi Zacharias, Jesus Among Other Gods, p. 71-72

Belief vs. Behavior

"When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, 'You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs? We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners' know that a man is not justified by

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observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.” (Galatians 2:14-16)

The inconsistency can be between what they say they believe and how they live or behave.

Examples:

- **Talking to an Atheist**
 1. I don't think God exists. (I am a scientific materialist)
 2. I am looking for a loving and committed relationship.
- **Islam:**
 1. I believe that my good deeds must outweigh my bad deeds in order to get to heaven.
 2. I don't pray at least five times a day.

How then can you have any assurance that you are going to heaven when you die?

Belief vs. Belief

The inconsistency can be between two contradictory beliefs.

²²“Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.”

²⁴“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’

²⁹“Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.” (Acts 17:22-30)

Examples:

Both of these statements cannot be true.

- A. The woman is pregnant
- B. The woman is not pregnant

What is wrong in these statements?

- A. Jesus is my Savior
- B. I can measure up

What is wrong in these statements?

- A. The Bible is reliable
- B. I must do good works to be saved

What is wrong in these statements?

- A. There is no absolute right or wrong
- B. The terrorist were wrong to kill so many people on 9/11

Illogical Belief

"But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not "Yes" and "No." (2 Corinthians 1:18)

The inconsistency or contradiction can be in the statement itself.

Examples:

Just because a statement is sayable does not mean that it is meaningful.

"I cannot utter a word in English!"

Examples: Apply the claim to itself.

1. There is no such thing as truth!
2. You can't know truth!
3. All truth is relative!
4. It's true for you but not for me!
5. No one has the truth!
6. All truth depends on your perspective!

Points to Note:

A. Don't forget to really listen to them.

- The fact is that some people hold to beliefs that are somewhat different than what their particular religion teaches!
- By listening to them carefully you also communicate that you really care about them and want to understand what they believe.

B. Point out the most stand-out inconsistencies rather than pointing out all inconsistencies.

Exercise:

Identify which of the following four “sour notes” or inconsistencies occurs in the examples of people’s beliefs listed below.

1. Belief vs. Heart longing
2. Belief vs. Behavior
3. Belief vs. Belief
4. Illogical belief

S.No.	Examples	Sour Note
1	A. I believe there isn't anything that's absolutely right or wrong. B. I believe it is important to treat others with respect and civility.	
2	A. I believe that as long as my material needs are met, that is all that really matters. B. All of us hunger for truth knowledge, justice and significance.	
3	A. God is so far from us that we cannot know anything about Him.	
4	A. I believe my good deeds must outweigh my bad deeds to get to heaven. B. I don't really pray five times a day.	

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5	<p>A. I believe that reality is just something that man constructed and does not exist nor is it real.</p> <p>B. All of us desire to live a life that is real and that has meaning and purpose.</p>	
6	<p>A. I am a Christian.</p> <p>B. I am not sure why Jesus had to die on the cross.</p>	
7	<p>A. I believe that the Bible is reliable.</p> <p>B. I believe that Jesus is just the one of the many ways to God.</p>	
8	<p>A. I cannot speak a word of English.</p>	
9	<p>A. I don't believe in an afterlife, whether it is heaven or hell.</p> <p>B. I believe all the terrorists will be punished for WTC killings on 9/11.</p>	
10	<p>A. I believe the Bible is reliable.</p> <p>B. I believe I must do good works to be saved.</p>	
11	<p>A. I don't think that religion is really necessary.</p> <p>B. Sometimes I pray, but I don't feel I'm getting any response.</p>	
12	<p>A. Always avoid making absolute statements.</p>	
13	<p>A. I am absolutely sure that you should not come to any conclusions about what is right and what is wrong.</p>	
14	<p>A. You should always be tolerant of people of different religious beliefs, except those who are not tolerant.</p>	
15	<p>A. Muslims believe that Allah is so far removed from us that even the spiritual leaders (Imams) who try to get close to him are not able.</p> <p>B. A Muslim desiring to get close to him is not able.</p>	
16	<p>A. I believe that Jesus is just a great prophet.</p> <p>B. I believe that Muhammad supersedes</p>	

	previous prophets, including Jesus, being the last and greatest prophet, summing up God's final revelation to mankind. Yet the Qur'an teaches that Jesus was born of a virgin and lived a life without sin, but Muhammad was born of natural birth and did sin.	
17	A. I don't believe there is such a thing as right or wrong. B. I try to live a good life.	
18	A. You should be skeptical about everything.	

ILLUMINATING: LEARNING THE ROLE OF THE ARTIST

- Like an artist, asking questions helps paint a picture to help them see themselves in a more clear light (in terms of their beliefs).
- This is where we ask questions to help people to "see" for themselves (without us directly telling them they are wrong) some of the discrepancies in their beliefs. (To surface the truth themselves) Our goal is to help them question whether their beliefs are a strong enough foundation to build their lives on.

Ask questions:

- ***That clarify beliefs***

* *Ask them what do you mean by...?*

Examples:

- 1) All religions are basically the same
- 2) Jesus died for us
- 3) The Bible is corrupt
- 4) I am an agnostic
- 5) I am an Atheist

- ***That surface uncertainty***

1. Begin with asking probing questions to get them to explore their beliefs.

I am curious to know

Do you really think it really matters what we believe?

Do you think all religions basically teach the same thing?

Do you think it is possible that you and I were put here on this earth for some kind of purpose? If so what do you think that was?

Do you think that by doing enough good we can get to the next life?

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*Have you come to any conclusions about Jesus Christ?
How do you fit Jesus into your religious beliefs?
Are you absolutely certain there is no life after this life?*

Note: A crack in our non-believing friend's worldview foundation today may result in changes later.

2. Ask follow-up questions that can expose false beliefs or concepts.

How is it possible.....?

*for all religions to be the same when some of them
contradict each other's key beliefs?*

*for there to be meaning and purpose in our lives and at
the same time believe that there is no God?*

*for the bible to be so corrupt that we have no clear picture
of what Jesus said and did nor understand the
implications that this has for our lives?*

Note: If people perceive that our goal is to have them help us better understand their beliefs rather than just prove they are wrong, they are more likely to have a more positive response to our probing questions.

*"We live in a world in which people
are reluctant to be told what is
true.*

*But they may be willing to
see for themselves (as in a
mirror) the inadequacies in what
they believe by us asking them
probing and thought provoking
questions."*

Dr. David Geisler

Remember The Three D's (of Conversational Evangelism)

Ask questions in a way that:

- Surfaces their doubt (uncertainty).

"Then Jesus said to them, "How is it that they say the Christ is the Son of David? David himself declares in the Book of Psalms:" 'The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet. "David calls him 'Lord.' How then can he be his son?" (Luke 20:41-44)

- Minimizes their defensiveness.

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander." (1 Peter 3:15-16)

- Creates a desire to want to hear more!

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." (John 4:10)

Note: A crack in our non-believing friend's worldview foundation today may result in changes later. As your questions surface more and more doubts, the person may be more open to further dialogue.

UNCOVERING: LEARNING THE ROLE OF THE ARCHEOLOGIST

Uncovering Conversations

Like an archeologist, uncover their real barriers to the Gospel.
(This is where we try to uncover the real barriers they have to the gospel)

"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9)

1. Determine whether their issue is a real concern or a smokescreen.

Formula: If I could answer your question, would that help?

2. Determine the nature of their barrier (whether the barrier is mostly an intellectual or emotional question or concern, or a combination of both).

A method for handling the tough questions: Reverse the burden of proof (the boomerang principle).

"Tell us by what authority you are doing these things," they said. "Who gave you this authority?" He replied, "I will also ask you a question. Tell me, John's baptism - was it from heaven, or from men?" (Luke 20:2-4)

3. Uncover the specific emotional baggage that they are carrying.

Ask God for wisdom in discerning what the real barriers are that you need to address with your pre-believing friends. (James 1:5)

Handling emotional baggage:

- Invite them to share their story.
- Listen discernibly for the most obvious barriers to the gospel as you empathize with them.
- If appropriate, affirm God's love and hope for them.
- If appropriate, apologize for how another brother or sister in Christ treated them.
- Tell them you will keep them in your prayers.

4. Determine whether there is a question or concern behind the question or issue raised. Jesus was a master in getting below the surface. (Marriage at the resurrection - Mark 12:18-27)

5. Find out what their biggest barrier is to Christianity.

1. Family obligation or expectations.

2. Moral life-style choices.

6. Find out what would motive them to get answers in these areas.

7. Uncover the volitional factors. In this step we are attempting to surface an unwillingness to believe that goes beyond just dealing with the intellectual and emotional barriers.

"Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him." (John 12:37)

- Remember that prayer is an important arsenal in our spiritual war for the souls of men.

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." (James 5:16)

- Pray for spiritual enlightenment.

"The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned." (1 Corinthians 2:14)

- Demonstrate Christ's love to them.

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35)

BUILDING: LEARNING THE ROLE OF THE BUILDER

Building Conversations

Like a builder, build a bridge to the Gospel. (John 8:32)

"Because there has been an erosion of truth today, we need to find common ground with others using planks of common understanding. Our goal is to find common ground with them and then attempt to build a positive case for Christ and look for opportunities to invite them to trust in Him." (1 Corinthians 9:22)

1. Find the right balance in your approach. Determine whether their barrier requires a more objective or subjective approach.

"At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed." (Acts 14:1)

Be mindful of the fact that your life will speak louder than your words.

"Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly." (Philippians 1:14)

2. Find common ground with those we are attempting to reach.

"To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some." (1 Corinthians 9:22)

- Build conversations with others based on common interest or hobbies.
- Look for opportunities to talk about topics (politics, news events, etc.) that have a moral or ethical theme.
- Search for spiritual common ground with low key spiritual questions.

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"They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. From morning till evening he explained and declared to them the kingdom of God and tried to convince them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets." (Acts 28:23)

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' 'Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by man's design and skill.'" (Acts 17:24-29)

3. Build a bridge from a point of shared beliefs (even those they are not aware of).

Bridges could be heart bridges or head bridges:

A. Heart Bridges

- Non-believers value humility.
- Non-believers desire to be loved and accepted.
- We can show how Jesus fulfills the inner longing of our hearts, calms our fears and realizes our hopes.
- We can show that Jesus is truly "one of a kind."

B. Head Bridges

- Comparing Jesus and Muhammad
- Build your bridge based on planks of common understanding:
 1. What you believe will affect how you live!
 2. Not all religious viewpoints can be right!
 3. Faith must have an object to have merit!
 4. Not all religious leaders made equal claims. Jesus' claims are unique compared to any other major religious leader.
 5. The proof of Christ's claims has no parallel among major religious leaders.
 6. Without God, some people find it difficult to find meaning in their life.

"I and the Father are one (John. 10:30), Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John. 14:6). Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man named Christ Jesus." (I Timothy 2:5)

4. Remember the goal.

To remove the obstacle so that we can help people take one step closer to Jesus Christ each day. (2 Timothy 4:2-5; 2 Corinthians 10:5; 1 Corinthians 3:6)

"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)

5. Actively seek for opportunities to transition to the Gospel.

Example: Has anyone ever explained to you the difference between Christianity and all other religions?

Explain "do" versus "done."

- Muslims believe that salvation depends upon man measuring up and not on God's grace. (Do)
- Buddhism teaches that salvation comes about when one desires to stop desiring. (Do)
- Hinduism teaches that if one does enough good he can pay off his karmic debt and escape the cycle of reincarnation. (Do)
- Jesus says accept the gift I offer. It has already been "Done" for you (you can do nothing to earn God's gift). Invite me to come into your life and change you from the inside out. (John 1:12; Philippians 2:13)

Invite them to take a step of faith!

Conversational Evangelism in a Nutshell

We want to remember to **LISTEN** to them, **LEARN** their stories, and **HEAR** the gaps (sour notes) in their beliefs. We can then help them illuminate these gaps by **ASKING QUESTIONS** that will "**CLARIFY**" their ***BELIEFS*** and "**SURFACE**" ***UNCERTAINTY***. Then we want to **UNCOVER** the ***REAL BARRIERS*** that keep them from Christ and **BUILD A BRIDGE** to help them take one step closer to Jesus Christ each day (1 Corinthians 3:6)

Recommendations for Further Reading

Listed in order of importance according to the speaker for teaching the C.E. seminar:

Geisler, Norman and David Geisler, *Conversational Evangelism: How to Listen and Speak So You Can Be Heard*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 2009.

Pollard, Nick *Evangelism Made Slightly Less Difficult*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1997.

Copan, Paul. *True For You But Not For Me*. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1998.

Moreland, J. P. *Love Your God With All Your Mind: The Role of Reason in the Life of the Soul*. Colorado Springs: Navpress, 1997.

Halverson, Dean. ed., *The Compact Guide to World Religions*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1996. House, 2009.

Sire, James W. *The Universe Next Door: A Basic Worldview Catalog*. 3d ed. Downers Grove, IL.: InterVarsity Press, 1997.

McCallum, Dennis. ed. *The Death of Truth*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1996.

Ravi Zacharias and Kevin Johnson. *Jesus Among Other Gods: The Absolute Truth of the Christian Message*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2000.

See also our resources at Meekness and Truth Ministries <http://www.meeknessandtruth.org> including the PowerPoint for this seminar on the front page.

Helpful Books In Establishing The Case for Christianity

Norman Geisler and Patty Tunncliffe. *REASONS FOR BELIEF*. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 2013.

Geisler, Norman. *Christian Apologetics*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2013.

Gary Habermas and Michael Licona. *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2004.

Komoszewski, J. Ed, M. James Sawyer, and Daniel Wallace. *Reinventing Jesus: How Contemporary Skeptics Miss The Real Jesus and Mislead Popular Culture*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2006.

Barnett, Paul. *Jesus and the Logic of History*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1997.

Dr. Norman Geisler's E-Book publishing company at: <http://bastionbooks.com/>