

Nbr. 37 – November, 2021

An Evangelism Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, it is most certainly true and a precious, trustworthy Word, that you have come into the world to save sinners. You desire that no one be lost. There is no soul upon the face of the earth which you do not love and whose heart you do not desire.

You have known every man's soul in grace from eternity, reconciled each one with your Father by living, bleeding, and dying on the cross, redeemed them from all their sins and earned grace, righteousness, life, and salvation for them.

Therefore you have also given the command to go into all the world and preach the Gospel, the glad tidings of your grace and salvation for them. O Lord, awaken your sleeping Christianity! Fill her, once more, with a burning love for those in this world who are still without God and without hope.

--Pulpit prayer from
a sermon by Dr. C. F. W. Walther

Christmas Video

Some years ago, CID produced a 30-second Christmas video spot announcement. Find it at <http://www.cidlcms.org/resources/videos/CIDChristmas.mp4>

Possible uses for this spot:

- Load it onto your website or YouTube channel
- Share it via Facebook
- Try to get it onto local cable public access TV – Not many people watch cable access channels. However, those who do are often lonely, especially at Christmas time.

Consider providing your local contact information at the end, even if this ends up costing you a little.

C-WOW Meeting for 2021

Saturday, Nov. 20, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. via ZOOM

9:30-9:35 Opening Devotion

9:35-10:00 Short reports from you C-WOWs:

What's going on in your Circuit?

How are *you* doing?

How can CID help?

10:00-10:45: Special Guest – Dr. Mark Wood, LCMS

What's new in *re:Vitality*

His book *Connected to Christ*

10:45-10:50 Break

10:50-11:00 News: 1.1.1 Mission Funding in CID

11:00-11:20 Talking about Church Planting

11:20-11:30 Any other discussion?

E1HW Context Modules Currently Available

Witnessing to:

- People after an abortion
- People with depression or anxiety
- Grieving people
- LGBTQ people
- People in the thrall of Scientism
- New veterans
- Dechurched adult children
- Muslims
- Jewish people
- Mormons

UPCOMING: Witnessing to:

- Jehovah's Witnesses
- "Nones"

Go to:

<https://www.everyonehiswitness.org/modules>

To access context modules, enter the password that you received at your E1HW core module.

If you didn't have a E1HW core module:

Order the E1HW kit from CPH & do it yourself OR
Attend another church's E1HW core module OR
Invite me to come and conduct one near you!



Circuit Witness and Outreach Workers

Worth considering:

**Psalm 67, the Reformation, and Gospel Outreach
Part Two**

Last month we drew basic points Psalm 67, a mission psalm. We also noted the church's need for the kind of help that would fall in line with what this psalm says. *Such help is available to us in the heritage of the Lutheran Reformation.* Years ago, my former professor C. George Fry noted in a *Christianity Today* article (Oct. 25, 1968) that the Lutheran Reformation amounted to an evangelistic movement. Drawing on his work, I observe that:

1. *The Reformation was the rediscovery of the Gospel.* When Luther "began to understand that the righteousness of God is that through which the righteous live by a gift of God, namely by faith . . . I felt [said Luther] as if I were entirely born again and had entered paradise through gates that had been flung open. An entirely new side of the Scriptures had opened itself to me . . ." The Lord brought Luther to see that the righteousness of God was *for him* in Christ. Today some urge upon us so-called "missional" thinking which claims that the church is here not for its members, but for the unchurched. Luther would have been appalled at this one-sidedness. His rediscovery of the Gospel was all about faithfully receiving from God through His Word in the church the salvation bought and paid for by Christ. So Luther paraphrased Psalm 67:

May God bestow on *us* His grace, with
blessings rich provide *us*;
And may the brightness of His face to life
eternal guide *us* (LSB 823:1)

2. *The Reformation was the revival of biblical proclamation.* For preaching to be any good, it has to center upon the grace of God in

Christ. Nor should this Christ come from any human devising. He must be the Savior proclaimed in the Scriptures. For the human heart's work-righteousness always seeks a way to desert God's real gift in Christ and to assert itself. How can we reach out and extend the gift to others if our hands are filled with sin-spoiled achievements of our own making? But when God's blessings overflow our hands and our hearts, they spill into the lives of others. Therefore Luther sang:

That we His saving health may know, His
gracious will and pleasure,
And also to the nations show Christ's riches
without measure
And unto God convert them. (LSB 823:1)

3. *The Reformation saw the interdependence between evangelism and education.* For example: it takes a biblically trained eye to see that mission to the Gentiles and salvation by grace for Christ's sake through faith form two sides of the same coin, and therefore to understand that our mission psalm, Psalm 67, presumes justification by faith. Evangelism itself presumes the doctrine of justification. This teaching needs to be re-taught, both to kill our own self-righteousness and to give us the gracious "God's-eye" view of ourselves and others, as stated by St. Paul: "the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people" (Titus 2:11). If the nations are to believe in the Lord as their God, they must hear His Word. Luther was not off the psalm's point when he sang:

Thy people's pasture is Thy Word
Their souls to feed and nourish,
In righteous paths to keep them (LSB 823:2)

(See next month for this article's conclusion.)

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