

Irresistible Evangelism

When did you last have the delightful joy of being a spiritual midwife?
Do you remember the sense of awe you had at helping someone come to faith in Jesus?
Perhaps you have never shared this delight?

Being hungry to have this pleasure again, I went to a training day called 'Irresistible Evangelism'. It has deeply excited me and given me tools I lacked. Let me share a few of the key concepts that are well tried and tested, and quite refreshingly different.

The presenter was Doug Pollock and he and two friends have produced this material in a book of the same name. He uses the illustration of a golf course, and the different clubs needed in different parts of the course.

1. The Tee off uses a driver. He says people who are resistant to God/church/religion etc. need 'Active Kindness' – some meeting of physical needs as an expression of God's love. They do all kinds of fascinating and often hilarious things to practically express the love of God. "Good deeds create good will which opens the heart to the good news." Check out www.ServantEvangelism.com for more info.
2. The fairway represents people who are apathetic or consider it all irrelevant. The 'long iron' here is 'active friendship' – a willingness to listen and understand what their real emotional needs are – without any preaching or presenting – yet. What is their story? What are their interests, what motivates them? What are their needs? Where are they in relation to God? He calls it 'a ministry of noticing'. This sends the message 'you matter'. The key is not to respond to or correct wrong theology, but listen for the heart longing. Aha!
3. Then comes Active Wondering. 'Wondering' questions: "I was wondering why you arrived at that conclusion?" 'I was wondering what would provoke you to pray?' This is a brilliant strategy! It respects the person and opens them up to searching thinking and creates 'God spaces'.
4. Then the putter is Active Sharing – giving 'gospel snacks' – short, relevant snapshots of how Jesus has influenced specific areas of your life. "I found when I was struggling with unemployment (loss/teens etc) that"

Prayer all through the process is crucial.

The book on this can be bought at www.loveyourneighbour.co.nz – plus you can download articles. Gary Poole has written "The complete book of ?s" for more resources on 'wondering' into people's lives.

www.prayerchangeslives.org.nz