

snapshot.

a glimpse of Life!



I Never Wanted to be "that guy"...



All I ever wanted to do with my life was to have an impact on youth; to help them deal with the daily issues they're facing and show them where real life and real hope comes from. There are two things I never wanted to be...

#1 – a “*motivational speaker*.” You know, the one who's perceived as the guy who lives in the back of his van down by the river, as was made popular by Chris Farley on Saturday Night Live. He overzealously tried to get kids to just forget their problems and straighten up by having “positive thinking.” I don't want to be that guy.

#2 - I never wanted to be an evangelist – or at least perceived as one. This time it was because of the very real negative images of some television evangelists. A survey asked people if they would rather live next to a drug lord, a prostitute ring or an evangelist. The majority of those surveyed said they would rather have a drug lord or prostitute ring in their neighborhood! That's so sad and backwards because an evangelist is supposed to be a bringer of good news.

Well, now I'm both... I spend time in the public schools as a motivational speaker, and then I invite kids to evening rallies where they can hear the good news of Jesus. My hope and prayer is to bring down the negative stereotypes and leave a better image and taste of both roles as we seek to talk about real life and real faith, for this life and the next.

A recent trip to Minnesota affirmed to me the sometimes neglected aspect of being and becoming a biblical evangelist. It's an important part of Life! Promotions and my role that I forget to ask prayer for. The bible says in Ephesians 4:11-12 “*It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.*” My role as an evangelist is not just to evangelize non-churched youth, but to train, equip and encourage people to win their friends for Christ. This is especially important in light of the reality that 90% of Christians never allow God to use them to lead another person to Christ.

We will never stop evangelizing youth, but we want to be more intentional of our mission to reach American youth when we're in front of Christians; to see them become missional in all they do, with all that they have and in their relationships. For then we can really multiply evangelism efforts and see even more people come to Christ. So I ask you for prayer, not just when I'm in the public schools, but also when I have a chance to be in front of Christians.

My trip to Minnesota brought us to North Central University to speak at a chapel for all the students with youth majors. These young people are pursuing going into youth ministry, and their education encourages and trains them to have a heart for evangelism. Just think of the impact all these people can have.

I also got to team up with Faith Inkubators out of Still Waters, MN. I was in front of church leaders from Australia who were being trained for 3 weeks on reaching and keeping the next generation for Christ. The US currently has about 40% of the people attending church of some kind, but in Australia it's only 4%, so I got to share and train on the importance of using youth in evangelism. It was a fantastic time of hooking up with other brothers and sisters in another nation with the same passion for reaching youth. Lift this up in prayer because they're considering having our team go *down under* for more training and outreaches in their schools. Because of how their government is set up, we would have the opportunity to share Christ in their public schools as well.

The next two days I got to do chapels at Northwestern College for 1,200 students. This college was started by one of the greatest evangelists that has ever lived – Billy Graham. I saw in that audience hope for our nation, an excitement for the church and a passion for the lost. We ended our time there by having an evening outreach with over 30 youth groups coming together to be encouraged as they start up the new school year, training them to be witnesses in their schools.

As I was speaking on the need to love in Jesus name and to stick to the core of the gospel, I also gave an opportunity for people to respond and receive Christ. Even though it was an event for church youth, thirty of them came to Jesus! We then had 300 of the 500 students stand and make a commitment to win their schools for Christ. I think we will hear many snapshots and stories from the road when we get to heaven of all the impact those kids will have in that area.

Keep praying for us as we try to be the best motivational speakers and best evangelists that we can in all aspects of our lives. I guess I do want to be "that guy" after all... that guy who "*brings the good news of salvation*" (Isaiah 52:7). We should all desire to be "that guy" to those around us. Pray as we seek to be in front of as many youth as possible. Thanks for your continued prayer and support.

For Youth,
Bob Lenz



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