

YOUR GUIDE TO REACHING, WITNESSING, AND WELCOMING NEW PEOPLE



KEN WILLARD

Foreword by Bishop Héctor A. Burgos-Núñez

#### Ken Willard, PCC

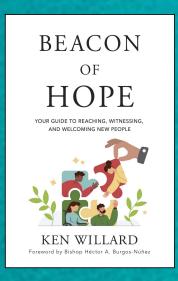
Director of Faith Communities
 ReNEWal for the West Virginia
 Conference of the UMC

- Published Author
- Professional Coach
- Church Consultant









#### Content

- Introduction
- Spiritual Formation

#### **Section One:**

#### **Reaching New People**

- Evangelism & Witness
- Relational Evangelism
- Building Bridges

#### **Section Two:**

#### **Welcoming New People**

- Hospitality
- First-Time Guests
- Connections

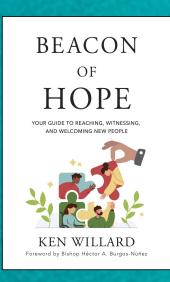


- 61% of today's U.S.
   Christians believe they have a personal responsibility to share their faith
- Nearly three in four non-churchgoing U.S. adults (74%) haven't personally been invited to church in the past year



#### Introduction

- Division [us-and-them]
- UMC = "Connectional system"
- Lighthouse Congregation movement
- Fresh Expressions movement
- Accessibility



# Evangelism & Witness



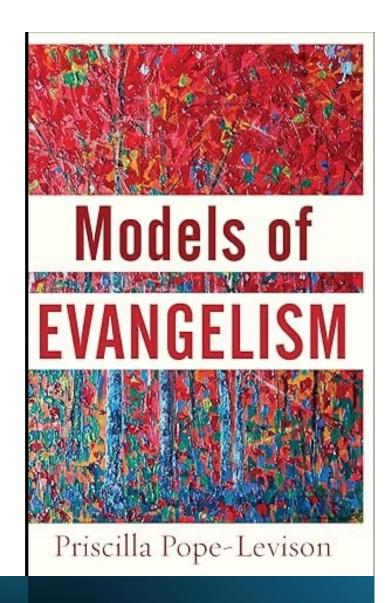
### Evangelism & Witness

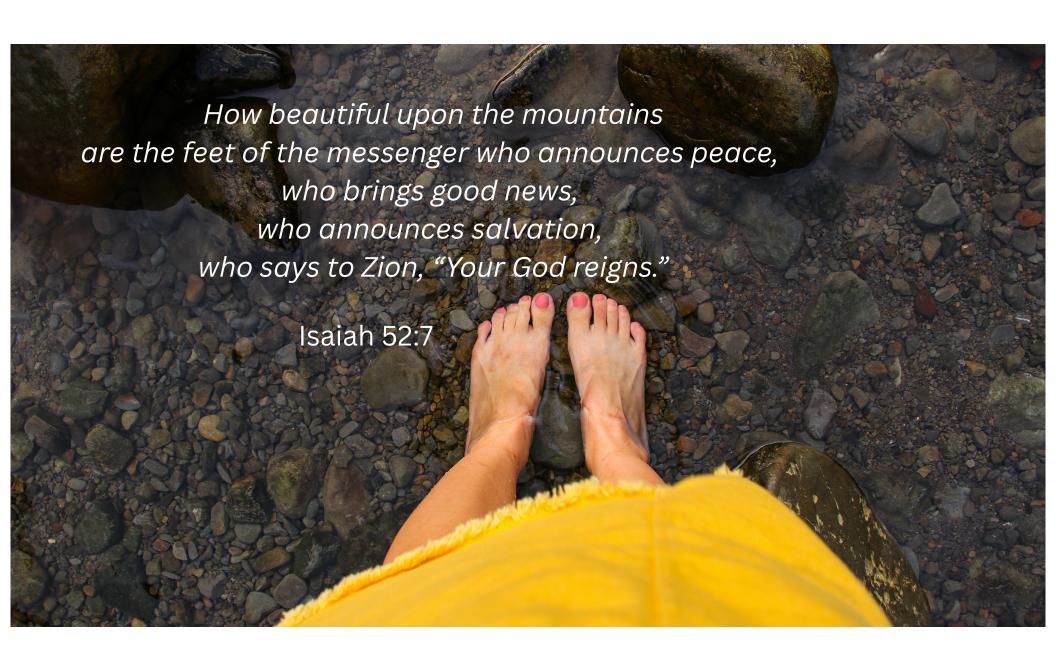
- How would you define these words?
- How do you think others in your church define these words?

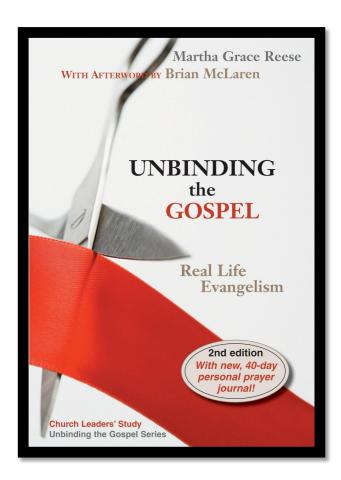


### **EVANGELISM**

- Modified transliteration of the Greek word euangelion
  - eu = meaning "good"
  - angelos = meaning "angel" or "messenger"
- The one who brings good news







## Evangelism & Witness

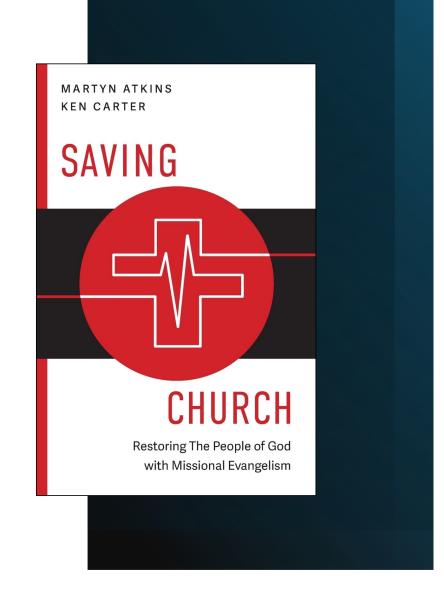
#### Evangelism:

"...anything you do to help another person move closer to a relationship with God, or into Christian community."

Martha Grace Reese

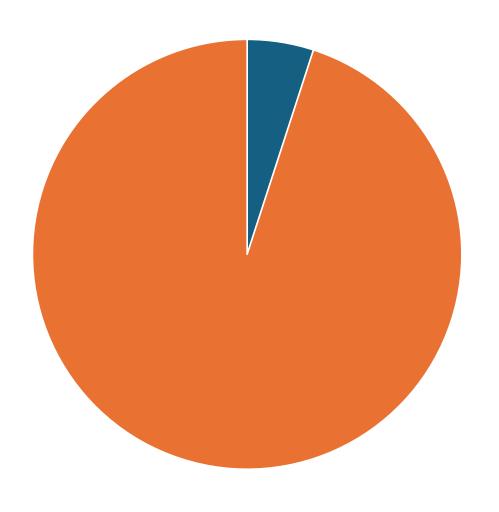
Unbinding the Gospel

"Many churches have, if they're honest with themselves, effectively given up on evangelism. They're far happier with talk of mission as kingdom ministries to others, offering support and donations, than with the irritating, persistent notion that Jesus Christ is to be incarnationally proclaimed as Lord and Savior of all."



## Evangelism & Witness

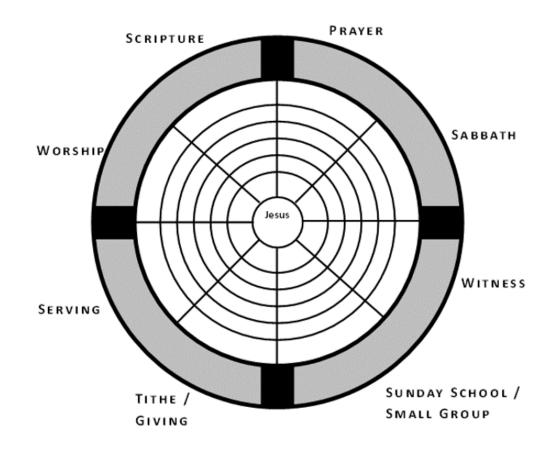
Some research says that only 1 – 5 percent of Christians have the Spiritual Gift of evangelism



### Evangelism & Witness

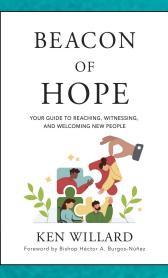
How often do you talk about discipleship and spiritual disciplines?

Is evangelism included?





"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."





What would help your members invite unchurched people to church?



What is getting in the way of members inviting people to church?



Who is God calling us to reach with the Good News?

- De-churched
- Nones
- Unchurched





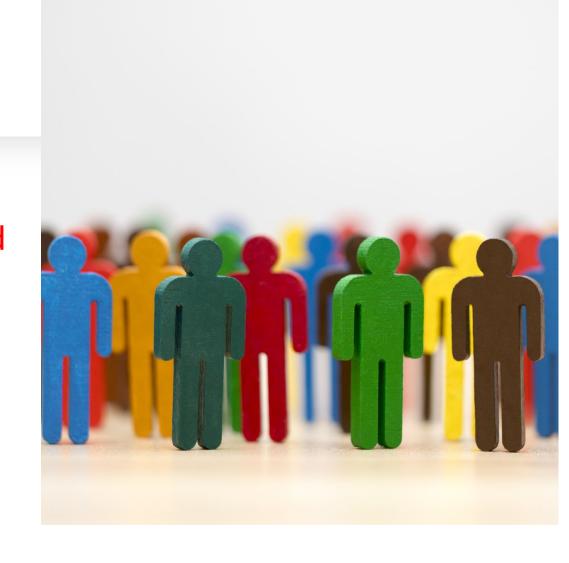
Your testimony has value

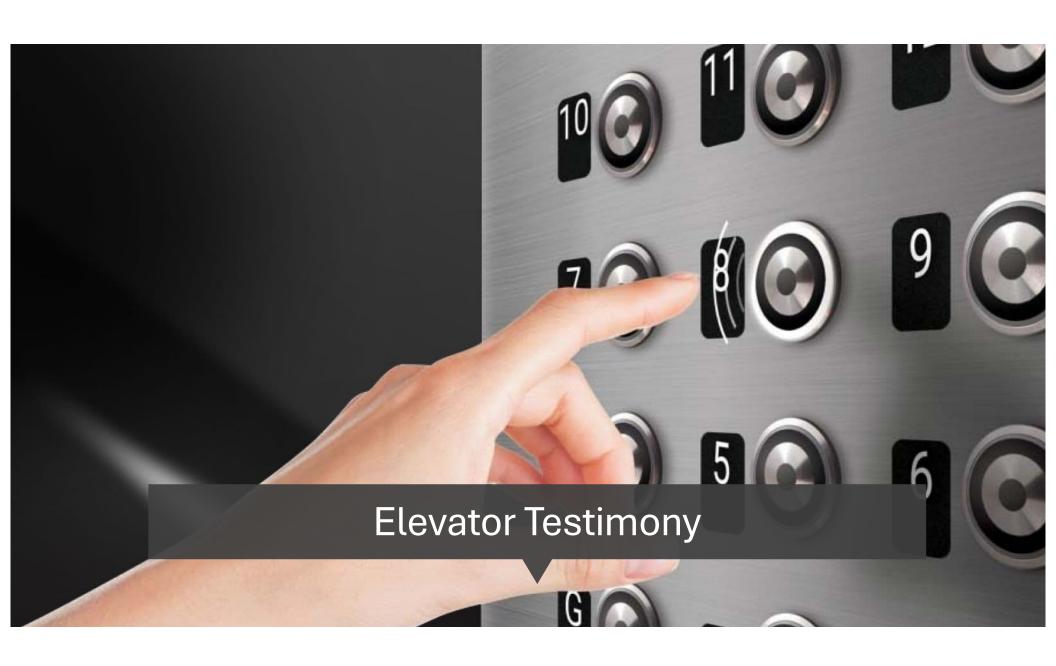
- It is unique
- It is personal and easy to understand
- You are the authority
- People love to hear stories



Your testimony has value

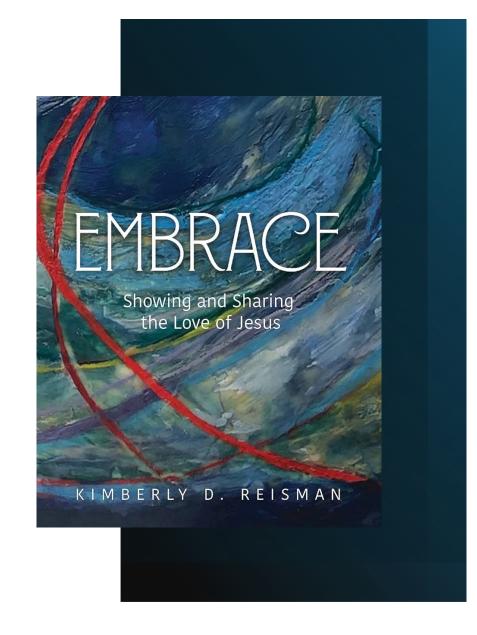
 What difference has God made in your life?

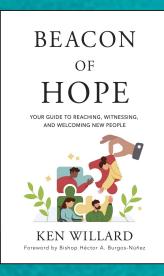




### Evangelism is NOT Conversion

- Christian conversion is "the change that God works in us as we respond to God's grace in repentance and faith." - The Faith-Sharing New Testament
- God is responsible for conversion.
- "When it comes to evangelism, we are only responsible for making the gospel known."

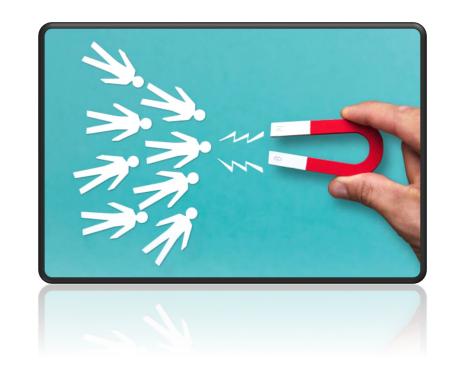






## Attractional Model

"If-you-build-it-theywill-come"



## **Engaged Model**

"We came to you, now come back with us."



### Incarnational Model

"We come and stay with you."

"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood."

John 1:14, MSG





#### Each Church Needs All Three

Attractional + Engaged + Incarnational

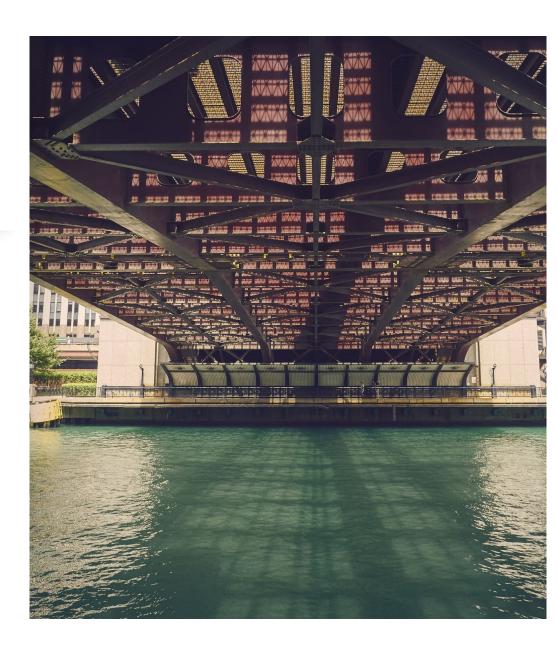
- Which lane is the largest in your church today?
- What would it take to widen each of the three lanes?

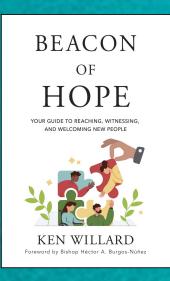


#### **Building Bridges**

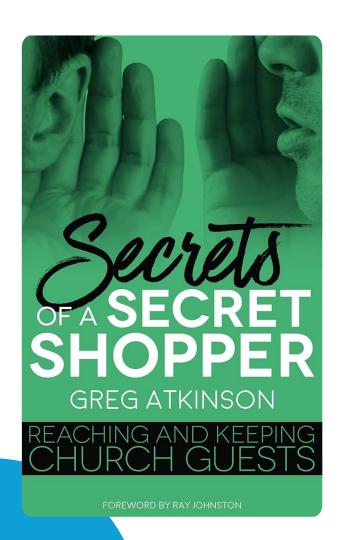
#### **Bridge Events**

 An event specifically designed to reach those who are not attending a church and invite them to attend a worship service. (In a safe, non-threatening environment)





### Hospitality



In the Greek, "hospitality" is written  $\phi\iota\lambda\delta\xi\epsilon\nu\circ\varsigma$ –a combination of two distinct words and concepts. The word  $\phi\iota\lambda\delta$  (pronounced *philao*) is one of several meaning "love," but in this case, it means brotherly love. The word  $\xi\epsilon\nu\circ\varsigma$  (*xenos*) makes us the second half of the Greek term, and it means "stranger."

Greg Atkinson, Secrets of a Secret Shopper

### Hospitality

What's the difference between a "visitor" and a "guest?"

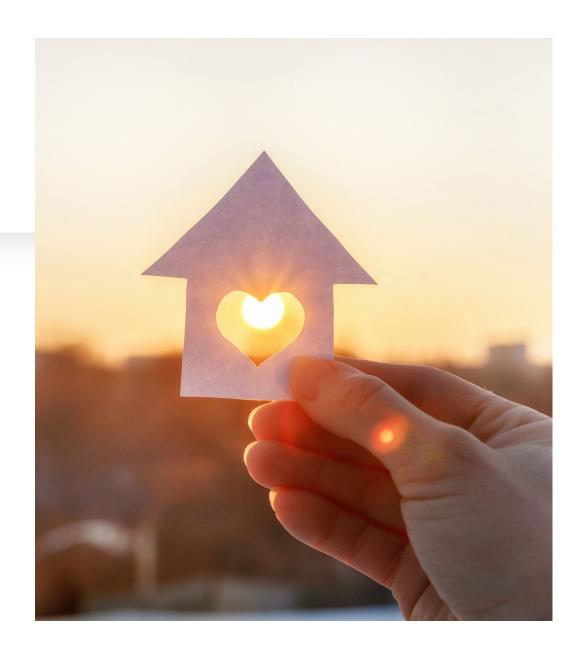




## Welcoming Strangers

"1Keep loving each other like family. <sup>2</sup>Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angles without knowing it."

Hebrews 13:1-2



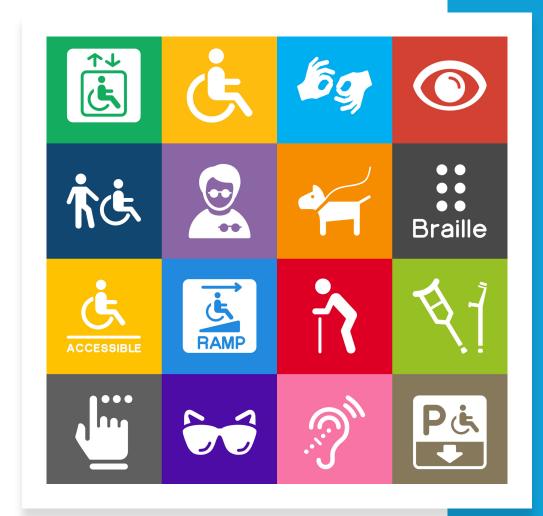
#### **Breaking Down Barriers**





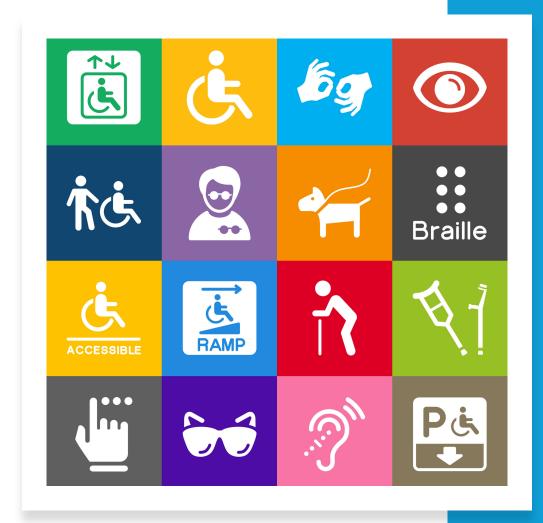
## Breaking Down Barriers

Disability: a physical, mental, or emotional state that does not meet the culture's standard for typical normative bodies, minds, and/or emotions.



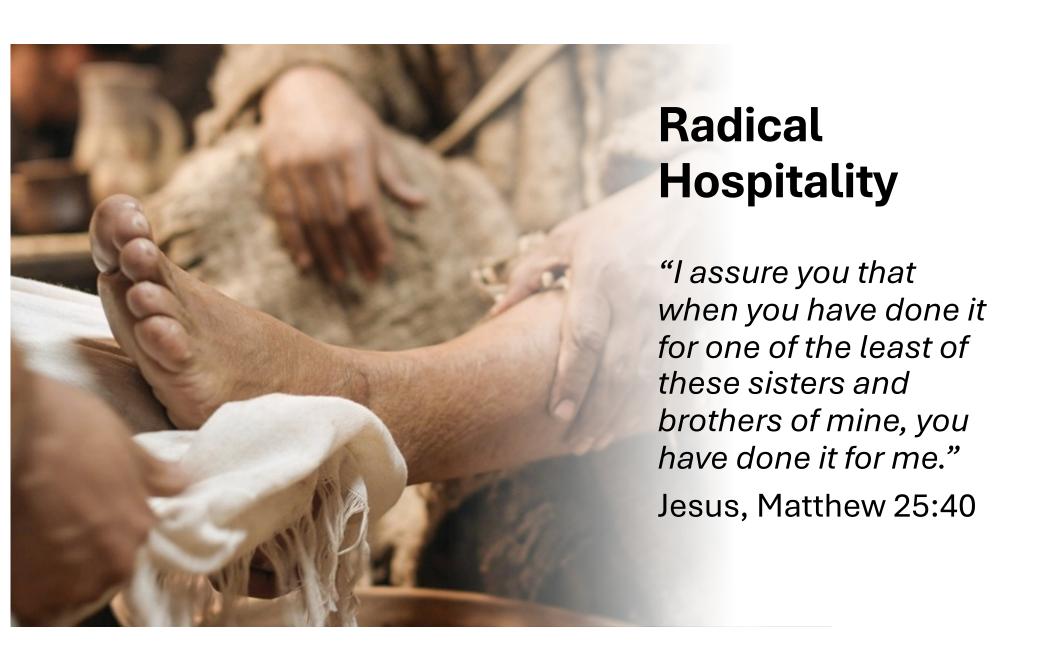
## Breaking Down Barriers

**Ableism:** prejudice and discrimination toward individuals identified (or identifying) as disabled.



Disability
Impacts All
of Us
CDC

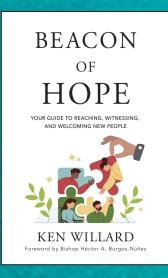




#### Hospitality

- What areas of hospitality are your strengths now?
- What one area needs some attention?





# First-Time Guests





# THE CORD'S PRAYER



#### Conclusion

Changing your algorithm (culture)





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