



Networks

National Evangelization Teams of Canada

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Mysteries, Storms and Spreading the Good News

"The witness of a Christian life is the first and irreplaceable form of mission."

John Paul II

The 2006-07 NET teams spent six weeks this fall training for their mission of proclaiming the Gospel to 28,000 youth. We are sharing some excerpts from one training session on evangelization presented by NET alumnus Jim Anderson. Jim is an author and educator with a Masters degree in Theology from the University of Steubenville. He and his wife Lisa have three sons and live in Combermere, ON.

Whose name do you bear?

Alexander the Great, a student of Aristotle, conquered the entire known world during fourth century BC with a small army while still a young man. One day he came across a soldier who was asleep while on sentry duty. He awoke the soldier who opened his eyes to find himself looking up at the commander-in-chief of the army. Alexander asked the trembling soldier, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Alexander, also, commander." The commander answered, "Then either change your name or change your conduct."

When we call ourselves Christian, whose name do we bear? The word "Christian" means "one who belongs to Christ". We bear the name of Christ. Does my behaviour show it? I don't want to be awakened by my "commander-in-chief" telling me to either change my name or change my conduct. To evangelize is to proclaim our Lord and to bear his name. But when I forget who I am, I forget how to behave and what I should do.

You cannot give what you do not have

To evangelize we must first *be* evangelized. We cannot give to others what we don't have ourselves. Remember the apostles in Luke 24:29-30 saying "Did not our hearts burn within us?" How many of you want to go on the road because you want to share with other young people what you have received or what you wished you had received while still a teenager? How exciting for you to be going "on the road" in this day and this year, in 2006.

When someone wants to learn how to evangelize, they do not need a "how to do it" lesson, they need a "how to be it" lesson. Evangelization is all about love, and the "doing" of evangelization will flow out of our love for Jesus. You should be able to walk into a retreat site and meet a young person and not say a word, but evangelize by your very presence. A friend of mine likes to quote that great line, "Be careful how you live, you may be the only Gospel some people ever read." What we proclaim is not a "What" but a "Who" — it's Christ. We need to live a life that reflects Christ, not ourselves.

Be a magnifying glass

We need to follow the example of Our Lady for that. Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord." What does a magnifying glass

do? It is transparent and enlarges and clarifies what is behind it. That is what we should want for our lives. I want people to walk away from an encounter with me remembering, not me, but Christ in me.

While studying in Austria, my wife and I went on a skiing trip and met a young American skier. We spent some time just chatting about the area and the slopes. We saw him again at the bus stop at the end of the day and he said to us, "You guys are Christian, aren't you?" We had had no conversation about God, but he noticed something in us. Evangelization will flow quite naturally from our being. We actually sometimes won't have to "do" a thing!

The Luminous Mysteries as a guide for evangelization

We will use the Luminous Mysteries as a "template" for our discussion on evangelization. To meditate on the rosary is to meditate on the Gospel.

1st Luminous Mystery — Baptism of Jesus: "And when Jesus was baptized...the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him, and lo, a voice from Heaven, saying "this is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Mat. 3:16-17)

The fruit of this mystery is openness to the Holy Spirit and it relates to the sacrament of Baptism. The sacraments are our starting and finishing point in life. Our own evan-

"Evangelize, always and everywhere — and use words if you must."

St. Francis of Assisi

See page 2 ...

gelization begins at baptism, and continues through life in as much as we cooperate with the graces of our baptism. It is the first time that the word of God enters into us. And even though we don't know it yet as infants, it is the first time our hearts burn within us.

2nd Luminous Mystery — Wedding at Cana: "His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever He tells you.' ... Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim." (John 2:5-7)

This mystery clearly points to Mary as model of the Christian life. The people were in trouble; they had run out of wine, and in Hebrew society a marriage celebration could last a week. So what were Mary's words to them, and also her last words in the Gospel? *"Do whatever He tells you."* Think about Jesus' last words on the cross: *"Behold your mother"*. I like to think of that as Jesus saying, *"Do whatever she tells you."* Mary is our model and she has blazed the trail.

Jesus turns the water into wine (and later the wine into blood). When you are doing the work of evangelization, you often do not see the fruits of your labour, but you must have faith that Jesus is turning the water that you offer him into fine wine for His glory.

3rd Luminous Mystery — Proclaiming the Kingdom: "And preach as you go, saying, 'The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without pay, give without pay." (Mat. 10:7-8)

The fruit of this mystery is repentance and trust in God. Jesus' first words of his public ministry were, "Repent and believe the Good News" [Mt 4:17; Mk 1:14] In order for conversion to happen in my heart I must repent and I must believe.

I have to recognize that I am a sinner and that I am in need of God's grace. That requires humility. Secondly, I profess that Jesus Christ is God. So two things are required for conversion: I must confess, and I must profess.

Statistics say that 85% of Canadians "believe" in God. From my experience, what I think that people are really saying is that they believe that God exists. There is a difference between "believing in God" and "believing God exists." Simply believing that God exists really doesn't require much of us. I can believe that my neighbor exists — that he is present and lives, breathes and takes up space — without it really changing me or requiring anything of me.

But if I say to my neighbor, "Hey, I believe in you", that has an entirely different meaning. It implies that I have faith, trust and hope in that person and that I have a personal relationship with him in order to be able to come to that conclusion.

Believing "in" God means that I have faith, trust and hope in Him and have a personal relationship with Him. I don't think 85% of Canadians have that kind of faith.

The world needs *your* conversion. Your cooperation with the grace of God wins souls and increases the kingdom. As long as you are on the journey of daily conversion, others will be drawn by you to Christ.

4th Luminous Mystery — The Transfiguration "And as He was praying, the appearance of his countenance was altered and His garment became dazzling white. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is My Son, My chosen; listen to Him!' " (Luke 9:29,35)

How often have we had the "Tabor" experience? "Oh, it's nice here! Lord, can't I pitch a tent and stay?" But immediately after the Tabor experience is Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and His passion. The purpose of the transfiguration is to give us hope for the tough

times. Growing in holiness is not easy in this day and age. We need hope! John Paul II encouraged us to be "apostles of hope" with compassion, clarity, courage and love.

John Paul II was addressing a huge crowd at a rally in South America several years ago, and in the middle of this rally, someone began to yell obscenities at the crowd and at the Holy Father through a bull horn. The Pope quietly began to repeat into his microphone,

"Love is stronger. Love is stronger." The crowd began to chant with him, "Love is stronger." Soon the rally site was filled with the sound of the people echoing "Love is stronger" and the bull horn was rendered completely inaudible. To grow in holiness is difficult, but Christ is stronger than whatever challenges we might face.

**"What you do matters,
but not much;
what you *are* matters
immensely."**

*Catherine Doherty, foundress,
Madonna House, Ontario*

5th Luminous Mystery — Institution of the Eucharist: And He took bread, and when He had given thanks He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you." ... And likewise the cup after supper, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood." (Luke 22:19-20)

The Eucharist is the source & summit of our faith and from it we draw our strength and life. Even Jesus birth points to the Eucharist. Jesus chose the circumstances of His birth. What was He trying to teach us through those circumstances?

He chose Bethlehem, which translates to "house of bread". He was laid in a manger, which makes me think of the French word "manger", which is "to eat". He was laid upon straw, which is from wheat, the key ingredient for bread!

Both lowly shepherds and mighty kings come to visit and adore Him. Despite their poverty or wealth, they all have nothing to offer him but their spiritual poverty and their open hearts. **(Continued, page 5)**



WWW.NETCANADA.CA

NET Ministries of Canada sends out Catholic young adult teams who share their faith with over 28,000 youth in dioceses across Canada and beyond each year.

1820 ST. JOSEPH BLVD., ORLEANS, ONTARIO K1C 7C6, 1-877-521-4426

(Continued, from page 2, presentation by Jim Anderson to the NET teams)

What does it mean to spread the Gospel in 2006?

I am so excited to be living right now and to be bearing witness to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in these days.

Saint Don Bosco had powerful dreams from God. One of his visions was of a great ship sailing on an incredibly stormy sea. A man dressed in white pilots the ship and the Church's cardinals surround him. The storm is bashing the ship and it is surrounded by smaller ships filled with people shouting blasphemies and trying to attack the ship. The common interpretation of this vision is that the man dressed in white is the pope, and the great ship is, of course, the Church.

Out of the ocean arose two great pillars. On the taller pillar is the Eucharist and on the pillar is written "the Salvation of Believers". On the shorter pillar is Mary and underneath is written, "the Help of Christians". The Holy Father pilots the ship between the two pillars and suddenly the ocean is calm and all of the other attackers are confounded. There is sudden peace. What an invitation to anchor our lives to the Eucharist and Mary.

There is no official Church teaching on this interpretation, but my own personal belief is that the Holy Father in Saint Don Bosco's vision is John Paul II. Let me explain.

The Leonide Exorcism (the Saint Michael prayer) was written by Pope Leo 13th at the end of the 1800s. He fell down at the end of Mass in what the Cardinals thought was a coma, but he was having a vision. In his vision he heard the voice of Jesus and the voice of Satan. Satan said that he would destroy the Church and asked Jesus for more power over those under his influence and for 100 years to launch this intensive effort. Jesus told him to pick his century and Satan said he wanted the 20th century. Immediately after that vision, Pope Leo returned to his study and wrote the Saint Michael prayer and asked that it be prayed after each Mass during the 20th century.

I believe that the storm depicted in Saint Don Bosco's vision is that of the last century. What have we seen in the 1900s? We have experienced two world wars, conflict

everywhere, blood, destruction, a crisis in the faith, all in the last century. There were more martyrs in the last century than in all other centuries before.

It was John Paul II who lived during the 20th century and lived under the oppression of communism and Nazism. Despite his life's hardships, his faith was not shaken. He was the pope to bring us into the 3rd millennium, consecrated to Our Lady. If Satan had a century of 100 years, Mary gets 10 times that – a millennium of 1000 years. Mary is one who crushes the head of Satan, so who do you think is running scared right now?

This is my interpretation of Saint Don Bosco's vision: John Paul II died on the eve of the feast of Divine Mercy, right between the Year of the Eucharist (the first pillar) and the Year of Mary (the second pillar). He took the ship right between the two pillars and that is where he handed over the helm. These are exciting times.

"The gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church." When I read that I used to imagine that the gates of heaven were under attack from the forces of hell. But no, the prayer is that the gates of hell shall not prevail; it is the Church that is on the offensive. The Church is on the attack.

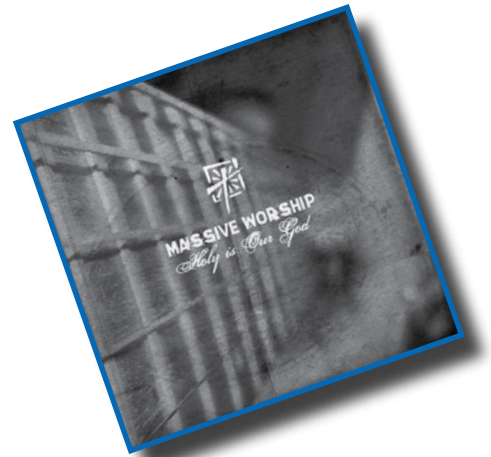
I believe that this is the springtime of the faith – the New Evangelization. John Paul II brought us to this point and taught us, "Be not afraid". He taught us to love the Eucharist, love our Lady and be strong for the faith.

It is not easy to be Christian. It is not for the weak. If you want to be a hero and live a heroic life, you must live as a Christian. The world sees Christians as weak geeks, more like Clark Kent than Superman. But Christians are "supermen" because they are living a "supernatural" life.

Pope Benedict XVI told youth during the 21st World Youth Day that we need to live by the Psalm 119, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." The NET teams and all Christians are called to be this lamp to others. By our faith, we become part of the heel of Mary, crushing the head of Satan.

This presentation by NET alumnus Jim Anderson was one of nearly 100 workshops and seminars the team members receive during their 5 weeks of training each fall to prepare for their mission.

NET Ministries of Canada presents its debut CD, 'Holy Is Our God'



Check out the exciting sounds of the Church's newest artists. It contains all original music written by NET team members.

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Other News

JOIN US IN PRAYER

Did you know that we pray daily as a staff in our NET office? We pray for all our financial supporters, host families, parish contacts, and anyone who helps us to spread the Gospel to youth.

Will you join us in prayer? Let us pray for the 2006-07 NET teams who will be travelling across Canada and Ireland to proclaim God's love to 28,000 youth. We have expanded our ministry by adding another traveling team for the 2006-07 ministry year. Our fundraising goal for the coming year is \$723,500.

GOOD NEWS - NEW VAN!

With your help we have received funding for the purchase of a 12 to 15-passenger van for one of our teams traveling in Canada and, further, one of our donors answered our plea for help and gave us the funding necessary for the van driven by our team traveling across Ireland. We sincerely thank you for answering our call and coming to our aid.

You can support the work of the teams by sending a cheque, or by using our convenient pre-authorized withdrawal system from your chequing account or credit card. Together we can touch the hearts of thousands of teens!

TEAM SCHEDULES

Travel Schedule of Team 1:

Oct. 5-Nov. 4Edmonton, AB
Nov. 4-12 St.Paul, AB
Nov. 12-Dec. 11..... Calgary, AB
Jan. 9-27 Ottawa, ON
Jan. 27-Feb. 10Kingston, ON
Feb.10-Feb. 17.....Saint John, NB
Feb. 17-Mar. 29Halifax, NS
Mar. 30-Apr. 9Montreal, PQ
Apr. 9-Apr. 18 Cornwall, ON
Apr. 18-May 14Toronto, ON
May 14-27 Pembroke, ON
May 27-June 9 Peterborough, ON

Travel Schedule of Team 2:

Oct. 2 - 21 Thunder Bay, ON
Oct. 24 - Nov. 4..... Prince George, BC
Nov. 4 - Dec. 1Edmonton, AB
Dec. 1 - 10 Nelson, AB
Jan. 9 - 27London, ON
Jan. 27 - Mar. 3Toronto, ON
Mar. 3 -18 Hamilton, ON
Mar.18 - 30St. Catherine's, ON
Apr. 1 - 19Antigonish, NS
Apr.19- May 15.....Newfoundland
Apr.21-27Antigonish, NS
Apr.27-May 12.....Newfoundland
May 18- June 9..... Toronto, ON

Travel Schedule of Team 3:

Oct. 1 - 11 Kingston, ON
Oct. 12-Nov. 1 Charlottetown, PEI
Nov. 1 - Nov. 6Edmundston, NB
Nov. 7 - Dec. 15Toronto, ON
Jan. 11 - 20 Winnipeg, MB

Jan. 21- Feb. 18 Calgary, AB
Feb. 18 - Mar. 10..... Vancouver, BC
Mar. 10 - 19Victoria, BC
Mar. 19 - 28 Kamloops, BC
Mar. 29 - Apr. 10Regina, SK
Apr. 10 - 23Saskatoon, SK
Apr. 23 - May 2..... Regina, SK
May 4- June 9 Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Team 4: Ireland (Raphoe, Derry, Kerry, Dublin, Kilmore and Tuam)

Team 5: St. Mary's Parish, Collingwood, ON

Team 6: St. Rose of Lima Parish, Saint John, NB

Team 7: St. John Vianney Parish, Barrie, ON

TIME TO REGISTER: MASSIVE WORSHIP 2007

Calling all musicians and youth leaders! NET Ministries of Canada is hosting its 2007 "Massive Worship" Music Conference on March 2, 3 and 4, 2007 in Toronto. Anyone involved in music ministry will not want to miss this essential training conference featuring:

- 20 hours of intense music training
- Effective tools for your whole music team
- New music resources for Catholic churches
- Sessions on Liturgy, team leading & more

Come learn important information on how to ignite your congregation to full and active participation! There will also be workshops with valuable information on youth ministry. Check out www.massiveworship.com for more information and registration deadlines.



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