
SPREADING THE WORD!

ERNIE & JUDY SCALABRIN

SERVING WITH  THE NAVIGATORS

GREATER NEW YORK CITY AREA METRO MISSION

“And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.’” Matthew 4:19

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Dear Friends and Family,

According to the Barna Research Group, more than nine in ten people who put their trust in the Savior today do so because they have seen His life and Kingdom lived out by someone they interact and socialize with on a regular basis—a follower of Christ who they observe in normal, natural settings; someone they rub shoulders with where they work, live or play; someone they share common interests and/or life season with. This real contact over time builds significant channels of God’s love, bridges of trust, and foundations of credibility for lost people to embrace the Gospel. These findings even confirm what God’s Word tells us. (See Mt. 5:16, 1 Thess. 1-6, 1 Peter 2:12, Eph. 1:1-13)



Bonds of Trust Open Doors to Share Christ

We are grateful for God’s Word in our lives, and we are thrilled to see it bearing fruit in many lives around us! Through genuine relationships, we happily find people in the NY/NJ area open to the Scriptures and the Gospel. Our friendships, formed in time naturally out of normal life settings, growing deeper with doors of trust opening, allow us to share Christ in ways people are able to receive. As this goes on, another exciting thing occurs; God brings more opportunities to share His Word with more of their friends and family!



Christ is our example—loving people sincerely and without pretext. Though it is our deep hope and prayer, we may not always be the ones who have the blessing of seeing someone come to Christ.

“Tom”—a man I led to Christ recently—has a good friend and co-worker named “Jeff.” Jeff is spiritually sensitive and Jewish. I would never have had the opportunity in a credible way to share the Scriptures with Jeff had it not been for his close relationship with Tom. Recently, I planned to meet with Tom at his office during lunch for a “one-on-one” discipleship time, reading the Bible and discussing its



application to life as I do with other men. Tom asked beforehand if his buddy Jeff could join us the next time. Tom and Jeff often talked about God and the struggles they had at work. Tom told Jeff about my lunch meetings with him, and Jeff really wanted to meet me, talk about these struggles and hear what the Bible had to say about them. When Tom, Jeff, and I met, the discussion revolved around ethical questions. Why would God allow people they worked with to be successful when they were not acting ethically? Why were Tom and Jeff not having the same success these others had though they worked hard and acted with integrity? Was it right for them to pray for success on their jobs? Why did they not seem to be getting anywhere? These questions really bothered the men, understandably so. They really wanted to do right, but these issues truly confused and discouraged them. I shared Psalm 73 with them among other passages.

But as for me, my feet almost slipped: I nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked....This is what the wicked are like—always carefree, they increase in wealth.....When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me....Yet I am always with You; You hold me by my right hand. You guide me with Your counsel, and afterward You will take me into glory....Those who are far from You will perish....but as for me, it is good to be near God.

What a privilege to be able to encourage these men's hearts with God's Word! Neither man had read or heard of these passages before. And if Jeff is reached for Jesus at some point as Tom was, even more doors will open to his circle of relationships—perhaps even to other Jewish people like himself. Jeff's wife recently converted to Judaism. I look forward to continuing to minister to both men—and hopefully, to their families and friends—in time as God allows. I was thrilled when Tom told me Jeff was eager for more times like we had together soon!

Exciting Opportunity to Pray Before Our Community

Another unexpected door flew open to influence our community for Christ when I was recently asked by our town to pray for the opening day celebration of the Little League baseball/softball season! "Pete," another man whom we led to Jesus and who has been a part of our Bible study, is very involved and actively volunteers in many town functions. Pete became privy to the need for a minister to say the prayer since the local priests were unable to attend. He called and asked me the night before opening day if I could do it. I was ready and available. After the Little League parade through town, the community gathered at the ball field for a ceremony and refreshments. The mayor introduced me, and then I



prayed, asking God to bless the upcoming season. The prayer was well received, and a number of people expressed their appreciation. We continue to minister to and love Pete and his family. His wife "Melinda" also was among others led to Christ here through our ministry.

Our Public School Bible Study Club Completes its Fifth Year!

We continue to see new children from the school community attend our after-school Bible Club and hear the Gospel for the first time! We have seen more kids come to Jesus this year! All are taught in fun ways to memorize Scripture, do devotions, prayer journals, share their faith, and apply the Bible to life. The existence of such a club in our NY/NJ area is truly miraculous! We are even allowed by the school to send a flyer to each home advertising the club! As trust levels deepen over time in our community, more families feel comfortable allowing their children to attend. Parents could be understandably suspicious of letting their child attend a Bible Club at a public school in today's "separation of church and state" climate, especially when many often don't know Christ themselves. It really is a show of trust toward us to permit their children to attend, and we work hard to honor that.



Family News

Ernest-John (12) will start seventh grade. He continues to be a straight "A" honor roll student and plays a very good alto saxophone for the band "Wind Ensemble." Rebecca (11) will enter sixth grade, is a good student, plays clarinet, started ballet, and is one of our biggest recruiters to Bible Study Club! Crystal (6) begins first grade after having had a great kindergarten experience where she learned a lot of new things and made many new friends. She also began ballet. Judy is working as a visiting nurse and balances this with motherhood and our ministry. She finds this challenging, yet she is excited to see what God is doing in our family and community. ***Please continue to pray for God's blessing upon our family and ministry! It makes all the difference!***

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now... Philippians 1:3-5

These verses reflect our heartfelt thanks to all of you for your support of us in both prayers and giving. You truly are partners with Judy and me in the Gospel. You make the sowing and reaping we do possible as you pray and give generously to the Lord's work through our ministry! Together, we are making an impact for the Kingdom. Thank you so very, very much, and may God richly bless you!

*With our warm thanks,
Ernie + Judy*

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