

**“LIFE STYLE EVANGELISM, RELATIONAL EVANGELISM,
FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM,” TITLE IT WHAT YOU WILL -
IT IS SIMPLY...**

**“For me to live is Christ”
Philippians 1:21**

I don't remember when I first memorized this verse. But while seeking to bring my neighbors to Jesus it became a life style for me. There are opportunities all around, each day, in all types of circumstances to build relationships and get involved with people in order to bring them to Jesus. Jesus wants to use our hands, out feet, out minds, our tongues, our attitudes, our bodies literally to present Himself to people.

Letting Jesus select the people....

I am convinced that I can't even build a friendship/relationship with the right people unless I have asked for direction and am given the ability by Jesus. I often pray through my neighborhood for weeks before the right relationships begin to evolve. I use several means to pray through my neighborhood, sometimes it is through prayer walks, sometimes through standing at a vantage point at my house and praying for every house on my block, sometimes it is praying for specific neighbors I see or interact with. The essential is praying for the right opportunities then being of a mind to recognize them as opportunities.

Jesus Serves Kool-Aid, Cookies, Brownies, Hot Chocolate, Chili...

Sometimes I have felt a little like Moses when God said to him, “What do you have in your hand?” The children playing in your yard or in your den with your children are under your influence and represent an opportunity to present Jesus in the body. We did not have lovely flowers and yard we were known for the football, basketball, softball, camping, red rover, etc. that was played in our yard and on rainy or snowy days the inside games but mostly for Kool-Aid, Cookies and homemade Brownies. Out of these activities evolved Bible Studies, Good News Clubs, intimate conversations and the opportunity to lead many of the children and teens to Christ. In one neighborhood my teens suggested showing the Jesus film in our home to their friends. We did and several came to know Jesus. In one neighborhood there was a Mom who entertained men regularly sending her kids out to find a place to be until her “clients” left. Often those kids found their way to our home, our table, and family activities and came to know Jesus. During the snowy months kids would gather at our house to play in the snow, go sledding, then to come in to get warm. We began to have hot chocolate and chili available. Many of these children found Jesus and are now in ministry and other vocations serving Him because He used Kool-Aid, Cookies, Brownies, Hot Chocolate, and Chili.

Jesus Goes To Craft Classes...

I discovered that many of the Mothers in my neighborhood were enrolled in a particular craft class, not a craft I was even interested in I might admit. At The Lord's insistence I enrolled for one night a week. Out of this came some wonderful friendship/relationships and opportunities to share my faith in Jesus with the Mom's of the kids whom I had first come to know and love.

Jesus Goes to the Pool....

Some medical situations in our family have necessitated my keeping my four young grandchildren for weeks at a time. We have pool privileges at the neighborhood pool. I was totally amazed when the Lord wanted to use this Grandmother at the local swimming pool. I would take my grandchildren each day and swim with them and opportunities of friendship began developing with young and old alike. Some from the very houses for which I have been praying. To my astonishment several have talked with me about having a Neighborhood Bible Study this summer.

Jesus Listens...

In our culture we are often too busy to stop and have conversation with those with whom we come in contact. There are many people all around us who long to talk with someone, just to have conversation. A critically ill neighbor of mine comes to my mind. I met her in conversation over the back fence. She began calling me almost daily and we developed a strong friendship. Over the next few weeks I saw her come to know Jesus just before she died. As well, I think of a beautician, who spoke very little English. I listened week after week to the verbal abuse she received because she was of a different ethnic background. I extended love and friendship to her and later gave her the "Jesus" film in her language as a token of our friendship. I later learned many of her family watched the film with her and she and several members of her family have accepted Jesus. It is exciting when I get up each day to ask Jesus to show me the opportunities He wants to use. The grocery cashiers with whom He is building a friendship, the beautician He wants to listen to, the neighbor He wants to say something to through a card, and on the list goes, opportunities I would have missed with out His intervention in my life.

Jesus Uses My Body...

What an amazing concept, Jesus wants to use my circumstances and relationships, lived out in my body to bring people to faith in Himself. Everywhere I go and everything I do is an opportunity for Jesus to live out His life.

"For me to live is Christ....."

Sarah's Hot Chocolate Mix

1 Regular size Hershey's Quick Mix
1 lb Confection Sugar
8 oz. Jar Cremora (11 oz. Other Brands)
8 qt. Box Carnation Instant Milk

Directions: Mix together items 1-3, then add Instant Milk.

Mix well . Store in large container.

For drink: 1/3 cup mix per cup of hot water.