

# Evangelism – Part three

## Some approaches going forward



**DARCEY LAZERTE**

So far, we have looked at how our colonial past as a church has not prepared us for the ministry of evangelism, how we have ceded the ministry of evangelism for the most part to the evangelical churches and that it is a ministry we must recapture if we are truly to be missional.

That said, there are some movements in the church today which are making some inroads in the ministry of evangelism.

The two primary movements are "The Church Growth Movement" and the "Missional Church Movement". Briefly, here are what these two movements are about.

### The Church Growth Movement

It was begun by Donald McGavran, a third-generation missionary to India, who wrote the book *The Bridges of God* and began the School of World Missions at Fuller Theological Seminary in 1965. The school aimed to reach out to the United States as a mission field and has trained tens of thousands of pastors and missionaries.

Using research, sociology and other methods, this approach has been embraced primarily by the evangelical church. Within it there are four approaches.

The first is the "Attractive Church Model", which came out of Rick Warren's book *The Purpose-Driven Church*. Here people are attracted to the church through things like E.S.L. programs, daycares, sports, contemporary music and worship.

The second is "The Missional Church Model", pioneered by Michael Slaughter of Ginghamburg UMC (United Methodist Church). Here missional activities are developed to which people are drawn and they then get involved in the life of the church.

*"We take part in the ministry of evangelism, not for our survival, but because we are called to do so as disciples of Jesus."*

The third is the "Preach God to Friends and Neighbours Model", developed by Brian Boley.

The fourth is the "Soul Winning Model", practiced by what one might call "Bible Believing Christians".

The Church Growth Movement is heavily influenced by the megachurch movement (one in ten protestants in the US attends a megachurch) and if we look around our communities we can see its impact.

### The Missional Church Movement

A 1998 book titled *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*, multi-authored but edited by Darrell Guder, seems to be when the concept of the missional church was solidified.

Written by a group of professors, its intent was to discover

ways for the church to reinvent itself in a post-Christendom era, where the church moved beyond maintaining its place of cultural privilege in society and looking after its internal needs.

It built upon the work of the World Council of Churches and the concept that the church was a part of the *missio Dei*, that is the mission of God, and the learnings of Lesslie Newbigin as he reflected upon his missionary experiences and applied them to North America.

In the past twenty years there has been much development and application of this reinvention of the church and it is an approach which has been embraced by many of our church leaders.

### Where does this lead us going forward?

We recognize that while our colonial past does not serve us

in the ministry of evangelism, it is a part of who we are today and that the church is global, multicultural and multinational and that there are a variety of voices which speak with authority beyond North America.

We take part in the ministry of evangelism, not for our survival, but because we are called to do so as disciples of Jesus.

We recognize that in the two movements above there are some tools which are effective, and which can guide us as we recover this ministry.

We understand that to truly engage in the ministry of evangelism, it must be local, contextual, missional, multicultural and in no way exploitive.

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(This month Darcey concludes his three-part series on evangelism. He gave us a glimpse into its history from an Anglican perspective (September 2018), the practice and pattern of Evangelism for Anglicans today (October 2018) and now some approaches going forward.)

# On the Way to Bethlehem nativity pageant

**ANDREA ROWBOTTOM**

This is the 17th year for On the Way to Bethlehem.

Where would I be without the faithful volunteers (literally hundreds) who willingly take on responsible tasks?

One such volunteer is a member of Grace Church Milton and has been helping and working at various tasks over the years. Most recently, she is coordinator of special personnel.

Zina Yaworski is responsible

for contacting and confirming the commitment of our young harpists, the massed choir director, the massed choir that sings to the pleasure of the crowd waiting for their journey to Bethlehem and the school choirs that sing on the porch of the refreshment area each night.

She contacts Petting Pals who provides the animals for the pageant — donkeys, sheep, goats, doves, llama, a little lamb and a camel. These aren't just any animals — they are special animals

trained for TV and film shoots. The sheep and goats are walked on leads about two weeks prior to the pageant, to prepare them to walk with the shepherds and travellers.

Zina also contacts the people

at Maplehurst Correctional Centre to arrange for a group of specially selected inmates and their supervisor who come the week prior and the week after the pageant to assist with putting the sets in place and

packing them away. Heavy work indeed! Without their hard work the continuation of the pageant would not be possible.

We are blessed to have so many people giving their time and talents to keep Christ in Christmas for our nearly 4,500 visitors each year.

We invite you to come and experience On the Way to Bethlehem, Friday, November 30th, Saturday, December 1st and Sunday December 2nd, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Country Heritage Park, 8560 Tremaine Road, Milton.

More information is available at [onthewaytobethlehem.ca](http://onthewaytobethlehem.ca)

*Andrea Rowbottom is a member of Grace Church Milton. [dr.andrea@bell.net](mailto:dr.andrea@bell.net)*



Zina Yaworski



Costumed participants with the live donkey.

Photos: Submitted

## Christmas Market and Silent Auction

Saturday, November 24, 2018  
St. John's Anglican Church  
2464 Dundas St. Burlington  
9am-2pm

*Featuring: baked goods, knitting & crafts, penny sale, gift gallery, bistro (lunch and tearoom)*

**The historic church of St. John's will be open for tours.**