

How Soccer Moms (and Dads) can Change the World

A Vision Labs Panel Discussion moderated by Mark Bickel

Intro:

- Topic last week was **Discipleship**, this week it is **Outreach, often the two overlap ...**
 - o Starting point in outreach often looks more like fellowship, even discipleship
 - o What we think is fellowship and even discipleship may prove to become evangelism
 - o Both center on relationships, on Christ, and on the Gospel
- Last week: **Discipleship Everywhere** – see a world crammed with God, seeing Christ as exciting and in all of our life, seeing the Bible as relevant to everyone’s life in the daily details of life
- Jesus, Paul, Peter met all kinds of people in a large variety of situations, some ‘created for outreach’, some ‘seeing an opportunity’, and many in the normal course of people’s lives
- We too need to **create outreach, seize opportunities**, and just **relate to people around us** in normal life with all we see of God
- The **panel** up front are not experts, many would likely not say they have the ‘gift of evangelism’, but all have places in their daily life where they have been willing to get to know and to touch the regular, ordinary lives of people around them

Opening Question: (similar, yet specific question to each panelist)

- **Chris Yocono:** Him and his wife both work in the medical field. Tell us about some of the opportunities you have had to get to know people and talk about God in the **workplace**.
- **Tommy Gambrill:** Could not be with us today, but gave me permission to tell another **workplace** story – guy met while selling windows, stopped selling and took 2 hours to listen, share gospel, invited to NJ church, saved, will be baptized here next Sunday!
- **Karen Cowen:** Often walks in her **neighborhood**. Tell us the stories about some of the people you met when you lived in Media ... I also hear that you are a **dog lover**, and that too has led to some great ministry opportunities, tell us about some of them.
- **Dan Seal:** Lots of **families have sons that mow lawns** in the summer, but Dan is not content to simply drive his boy to other’s homes with a lawn mower in hand, he has taken the initiative to start to get to know some of these families. Tell us about some of those relationships, as well as others you have developed in the **community**.
- **Desiree Phillips:** Desiree does **everything in life with passion and purpose**. God has used that excitement and ability to see Him everywhere in some neat ways. Tell us just a few of the stories.
- **Tom Stackhouse:** Any of you who have met Tom know he is an incredible encourager. But he is not just a smiling face on Sunday mornings, he has developed a unique 21st century ministry to people on the computer through facebook ... note that these people are not just computer faces to Tom, he is using the computer to reach out to real people, many of whom he also has the chance to see in real life.

Other Possible Panel Questions (depends on time, and how many questions people in the class ask)

- **How 'comfortable' are you** meeting people and building relationships with them? How comfortable are you talking about God and your relationship with Him?
 - o If comfortable: how did you get comfortable?
 - o If not comfortable: how do you overcome your fear and doubts?
- Have you ever been **asked a question or faced a situation in someone's life where you did not know what to say** or what to do for them?
 - o If so, what did you do?
- As you have built relationships with people have you had any **opportunities to share the gospel more directly?**
 - o Did that come up 'naturally' or did you deliberately steer the conversation to the gospel?
 - o How did the person react?
 - o Have you had the privilege of leading someone to Christ or seeing someone you have gotten to know come to Christ? Tell us the story.
 - o Has anyone ever backed away from you or cut off the relationship as a result of sharing from the Scriptures more directly? How did you feel and what did you do with that?
- How do you **balance socially accepted / or even work mandated conventions about not talking about religion with the biblical mandate to share Christ with everyone?** Any practical advice for building relationships / sharing about God / praying for people in the workplace or other environments where it is not socially acceptable to talk religion?

Questions for Class / Possible discussion groups

- **Tell us your story** – where has God used you in someone else's life
- Where are some of the **places you will go this week where you could be looking for opportunities to meet people**, show them the love of Christ, even build relationships
- Are there **acquaintances / relationships you already have where you can look for new opportunities to go deeper**, maybe places to serve them, or places to bring in your walk with God and the gospel more directly?

Final Question for Panel:

- Any **last words of wisdom / encouragement** for the rest of us in the room here that might help us begin to see and take the opportunities God gives us in daily life?