

## 2009-2010 WORLD MISSIONS SERMON OUTLINE

### EVERY WAY

Jerry Jacob

#### TEXT

*To the weak I become weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some (1 Corinthians 9:22).*

#### INTRODUCTION

##### Personnel Story:

My wife, Karen, and I had been missionaries for eight years, ministering in the Marshall Islands. I was the pastor of the English AG church and president of the Marshallese Bible School. Karen was dean of academics. Both of us taught at the school; we loved what we were doing. Little did we know that God had a different plan for us and within two years we would find ourselves in a remote area of the Solomon Islands — assigned to build a secondary school and then help staff the school and teach. We were taken out of our comfort zone of pastoring a church and teaching at a Bible school.

The Solomon Islands was in civil war when we arrived. Due to land issues, deterioration of finances and shipping in the country, the school project was put on hold. I was asked to oversee four small Assemblies of God churches in our province. All four churches had pastors, and we began to pour our lives into those pastors and their congregations through leadership and discipleship training.

One day Karen cut her hand. Little did we know that this event would change the way we did ministry from that moment on. She went to the small clinic to have her hand stitched. Due to the civil war the clinic had none of the materials needed to stitch Karen's hand.

The nurse was going to use a fishhook and fishing line to sew up her hand. Thanks to HealthCare Ministries, they had supplied us with a small medical box of medicines, bandages, and other equipment, including items for stitching cuts. The nurse was able to stitch Karen's hand, but at that moment our focus on ministry took a complete turn.

For the next three years we poured our lives into compassion ministry. We worked with two health care teams, brought three containers full of medical supplies, obtained foods for the local hospital, books for the primary schools and much more. We didn't forget our churches, but we saw more people come to the Lord via compassion ministries than we did from the church.

God showed us very clearly that presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ can and does happen EVERY WAY!

How does this happen?

- I. By being fully consecrated to Christ
  - A. *I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible (1 Corinthians 9:19).*
  - B. *“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Matthew 16:24).* See also Mark 8:34.
  - C. *“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost” (Luke 14:28)?* We need the courage to count the cost.
  
- II. By having the mind of Christ
  - A. *We have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16).* We need to be obedient to what God wants us to do and apply it to reach the lost in every way.
  - B. *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus (Philippians 2:5).*  
  
We are called to live sacrificially and unselfishly, caring about others and doing good to them, ... *considering others better than yourselves (Philippines 2:3).*
  
- III. By demonstrating Christ
  - A. *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says (James 1:22).* In every way we should do what Christ did.
  - B. *Meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it (Joshua 1:8).*  
  
Here are a few examples of Jesus witnessing and touching the lost:  
    - Nicodemus (John 3:1-21)
    - The Samaritan women (John 4:1-42)
    - The leper (Matthew 8:1-4)
    - The paralytic man (Mark 2:1-12)
    - The centurion (Luke 7:1-10)
    - The demonic man (Mark 5:1-20)
    - The prostitute (John 8:2-11)
    - The religious leaders of His time (Mark 11:27-33)
  
- IV. By personalizing Christ’s life to reach the lost EVERY WAY
  - A. How? We can preach, teach, talk and sing about the Lord. We can use radio, television, Internet and other media. We can distribute Bibles and Christian literature. We can get involved in children and youth ministry with puppets, human videos and other creative methods. We can minister through compassion ministries by distributing clothing, food, medicines and other necessities. We can dig wells, make water purification systems and help

farmers grow their own food. We can build churches, Bible schools, orphanages and other buildings needed to help spread the gospel.

B. To whom? Everyone – every way!

William Barclay writes:

*There was a soldier wounded in battle. The padre crept over and did what he could do for him. He stayed with him when the remainder of the troops retreated. In the heat of the day he gave him water from his own water bottle, while he himself remained parched with thirst. In the night, when the chill frost came down, he covered the wounded man with his own coat, and finally wrapped him up in even more of his clothes to save him from the cold.*

*In the end, the wounded man looked up at the padre. Then said the wounded man, "If Christianity makes a man do for another man what you have done for me, tell me about it, because I want it." <sup>1</sup>*

Christianity in action moved him to envy a faith which could produce a life like that.

*AGWM missionary Jerry Jacob is the Pacific Oceania area director.*

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<sup>1</sup>William Barclay, *The Letters to Romans: The Daily Study Series*, ed., Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1975, p. 148.