

The World at our Doorstep

“God is a Missionary”

Acts 17:16-34

Scott Cherry, CBC Missionary

Sunday, March 18, 2018

Today's Core Practice:

Giving Away My Faith: *“I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.
(from Ephesians 6:19-20)*



Deeper Connection Study

Paul engages people in dialogue about the risen Lord in the great city of Athens. Though no longer in its prime, the city was still the center of philosophical learning and abounding with pagan temples. It is here that Paul contextualizes the gospel message to meet the needs of his specific audience. It is certainly instructive for us as we endeavor to reach all people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. *Today's Core Practice Discussed: Giving Away my Faith*

Read Acts 17:16-34

1. What are the different attributes of God mentioned in these verses? Why are they so important (vv. 24-28)? Why do you think it is crucial to explain the fact of God's existence and attributes before sharing the message of Christ?
2. How does Paul speak to the pagan Athenians compared to the way he preaches to the Jews and God-fearing Greeks? Why the difference?
3. How would you elaborate what Paul says in these verses? What more could you share about God to those who do not have a biblical worldview?
4. What kinds of approaches should we employ in order to reach certain groups in our culture? Give examples of how you would relate in different situations.
5. How can we make a connection with non-Christians while not compromising our convictions? In what ways do you reach out to groups of people who are radically different than yourself?
6. How can we help others know *about* God (who was previously unknown to them) as well as *personally* know him?

PRAYER TO THE POINT: Pray for sensitivity and boldness when responding to the needs of lost people. Ask God to empower you to make connections with different groups of people and for you to genuinely share the gospel with them.

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CBC Missions Sunday

Guest Speaker: Scott Cherry

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Scott Cherry is the Executive Minister & co-founder of Advance Ministries in Dearborn, Michigan. He is also the co-founder & Chapter Director of the UM Dearborn chapter of Ratio Christi, a student apologetics alliance on more than 150 campuses nationwide. These two entities go hand-in-glove because Ratio Christi serves as both the ideal identity and a platform for campus ministry among Muslim students, and educated Muslims respect apologetics (a.k.a. "e-pologetics", or evangelistic apologetics). The campus is a highly strategic and substantial "sphere of ministry" that intersects with others in the Advance portfolio. Scott is a part-time student at UM-Dearborn and cultivates an identity as both a learner and a teacher--i.e. a "sage" or "sheik"--who can intelligently, patiently and lovingly explain the Christian faith by any means possible (face-to-face, email, Facebook, etc.). Scott is married to JoEllen and has two adult children: Aubrey & Cameron. They have lived in the same Arab-Muslim neighborhood of East Dearborn for 18 years and have engendered many meaningful relationships with neighbors and members of the community.

