

## **Evangelism: What Is the Message?**

**By Bob Young**

What would I tell someone if I had only a limited time? I am thinking about my experience in traveling by bus from Guatemala City to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, seeing mountainside villages and thinking about how I would share the gospel with such remote villages if I had only a few hours with the people. I am thinking about flying into the great cities of Latin America, seeing the endless stretches of humanity and asking myself how I would share the Good News if I had only a few hours with those who live in those villages and cities.

Here is some of what I think I would want to say.

There is a God who different from any other gods or deities. I want you to know about the personal God described in the Bible.

- He has revealed himself in his written word (the Bible) and in his living word, Jesus Christ, so we can know his nature; the divine nature makes God different than all others
- Jesus has all authority and his word (New Testament) is dependable
- He reveals himself and is personally present in this world through his Holy Spirit

God reveals his will in the world today through the New Testament

- God is a covenant making, covenant keeping God
- The New Testament reveals the new covenant of Jesus

God is a God of holiness, love, and justice

- Because of God's holiness, sin separates us from God; the history of human beings is a history of broken relationships
- God calls us to repentance, a change of mind and life
- God makes possible the restoration of relationship through the sacrifice of Jesus
- The message of Jesus' sacrifice is the gospel; through our obedience to the gospel and imitation of Jesus relationship is restored

God asks from his followers a commitment, this is how one becomes a follower

- To be a Christian is to be a committed disciple
- You can imitate Jesus (obey the gospel) through faith that leads to baptism
- You commit yourself to God in baptism

God places his followers together in the church

- Jesus died to build his church
- God places his faithful followers in the church, among the saved

You can be a faithful God-follower, obeying the gospel

- Faith
- Repentance
- Baptism
- Christian living

Grace is God's initiative in developing a God-relationship

- God's grace extended is not automatically grace received
- God extends his grace not on the basis of merit

Faith is the human response for developing a God-relationship

- Faith is response to God's grace
- Faith is not exclusively a mental process, faith involves action