

TAKE THE WALK

Evangelism or reaching out is as simple as taking a walk across a room which is something, we all can do!

The greatest gift we can give to people is to introduce them to Jesus who loves them, and who has a plan and purpose for their life.

Mark 16:15 cev He told them to go and preach the good news to everyone in the world.

Evangelism: Is communicating the good news about who Jesus is and what Jesus has accomplished for humanity.

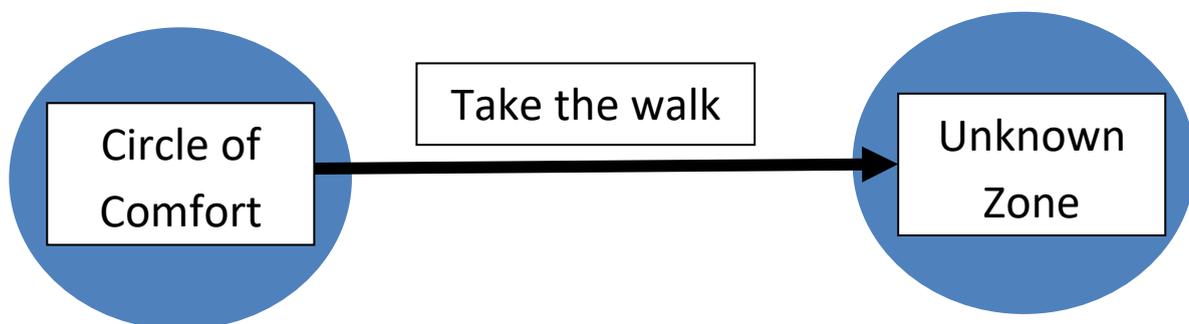
ACC vision: To be a Christ-centred community of believers who obey the Great Commission.

2 Corinthians 5:20 amp We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God

*were making His appeal through us; we as **Christ's representatives plead with you on behalf of Christ to be reconciled to God.***

Many Christ-followers either; **avoid** the discussion about Jesus with unbelievers or **play it safe** with believers because it is comfortable.

It takes a willingness to remove ourselves from our ***circles of comfort.***



BIG IDEA Leaving our ***circle of comfort*** is where Jesus can do His best work!

Could we actually impact someone's eternal destiny if we were to take a few steps across a room into someone else's circle? **Could we change the course of**

an entire family's history by taking a few steps toward someone who may be heading for a Christless eternity?

Jesus took a walk

***Philippians 2:5b-8** Have the same attitude of mind Christ Jesus had: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used His own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human being, **He humbled Himself** by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!*

Jesus left the *ultimate* circle of comfort in heaven and entered earth. **But why?**

To reach out and to offer people who were separated from God because of their sin a way of escape from the penalty and the consequences of their wrong doing.

Jesus spent the majority of His time pursuing the non-religious people. *Luke 19:10 nlt* The Son of man (Jesus) **came** to **seek** and **save** those who are **lost**. Sinners who were nothing like Jesus **liked** Jesus and He **liked** them back.

Are we willing to take the walk? Across the street? Across the restaurant? Across the office? Across the school yard or the church aisle? **Are we willing to leave our circle of comfort to walk into the zone of the unknown?**

The Samaritan Woman - John 4

Jesus and the disciples had been travelling all day and came to a well. It's the middle of the day. They are hot, hungry, and unbelievably thirsty. They see a Samaritan woman drawing water from the well. The disciples avoided and ignored this woman as Jews did not associate with Samaritans let alone a Samaritan woman. **But Jesus noticed her.**

The disciples were typical men, thinking about their stomachs and decided to go into town and to grab some lunch. **Jesus declined and stays behind.**

The disciple's head off and Jesus walks across to where the woman was - a move that catches the woman off guard. She was not expecting Jesus to have anything to do with her.

This woman also had been married five times and was now living with someone who was not her husband. **Because of her lifestyle, this woman would have been labelled a *sinner* and would have felt *marginalised*.**

Jesus was now walking across social, cultural, gender and religious barriers. Jesus started a conversation with the woman He wasn't supposed to have anything to do with - all the while knowing what sort of woman she was.

John 4:13-15 msg Jesus said, *'Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again*

and again. Anyone who drinks the water I give will never thirst - not ever. The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life.’ The woman said, ‘Sir, give me this water so I won’t ever get thirsty, won’t ever have to come back to this well again!’

She leaves her basin, runs into town, telling everyone to come to meet this guy who knew all about her sordid past but accepted her and showed her something called *grace*.

The next two days Jesus shared and taught these people and many people from the town crossed the line of faith to follow the way of Jesus.

All because one man took a walk to reach out to someone in need of forgiveness.

Imagine 15 or 20 years later when all of the kids and grandkids of these people are sitting around enjoying a BBQ together, and one of them asking “*Hey, guys, where*

do you suppose we can trace our salvation back to ... I mean, where did all of this start?"

They could trace their entire family's salvation back to a hot day where Jesus walked across a patch of dirt to start a conversation with a sinful woman who was drawing water from a well and who was in need of acceptance and forgiveness.

The disciples stayed within their circle of comfort, but Jesus took a walk into the zone of the unknown trusting that the Holy Spirit would help Him reach an outsider.

We can be like the disciples and only be concerned about ourselves and our needs and not see the people around us who need our attention, care, and friendship.

Can you trace where your salvation started? Almost every Christian I know can identify that person who took a walk to introduce you or your parents or your grandparents to Jesus.

If you are a Christian today, someone “took a walk” to rescue you ... that person took the risk to approach you and gave you the single greatest gift you’d ever receive in your entire life
– Jesus!

On average we walk 5k to 7k steps a day. Using 5k p/day and we live 70 years = we would walk about 127,750,000 million steps in our lifetime.

10k steps = 8 km’s. That would equal about 1.6 million km’s in our life time = walking from Adelaide to Darwin return approximately 264 times.

Are we using our steps wisely?

Assume the average distance across most rooms is about 10 steps – could those 10 steps actually impact eternity for someone?

Remembering, the greatest gift we can give to people is to introduce them to Jesus who loves them, and who has a plan and purpose for their life.