
Ambassadors
of Christ (5)
https://www.shalomgrove.net/our-services

Ambassador Songs

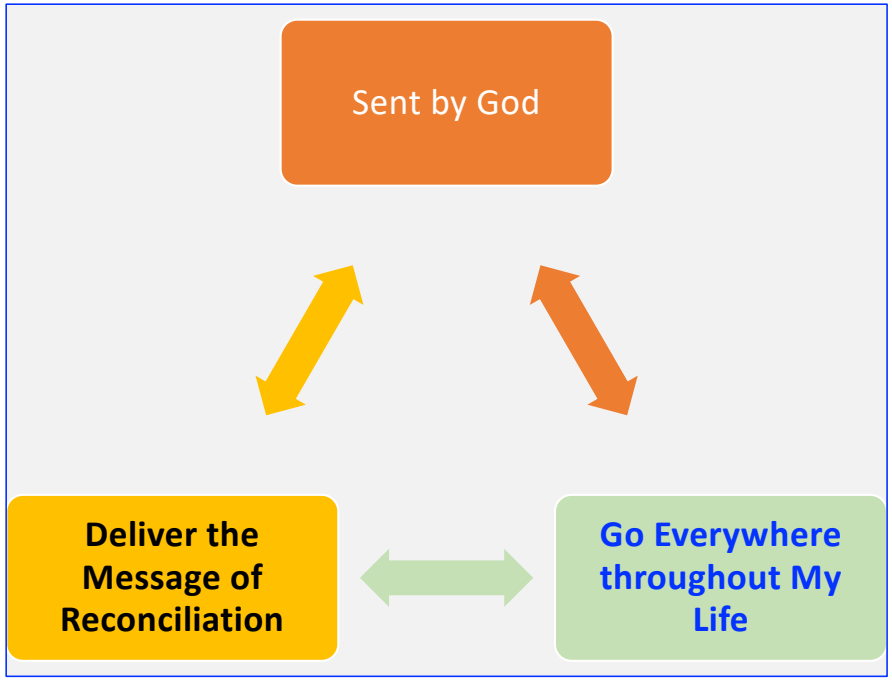


[Ambassador Song]

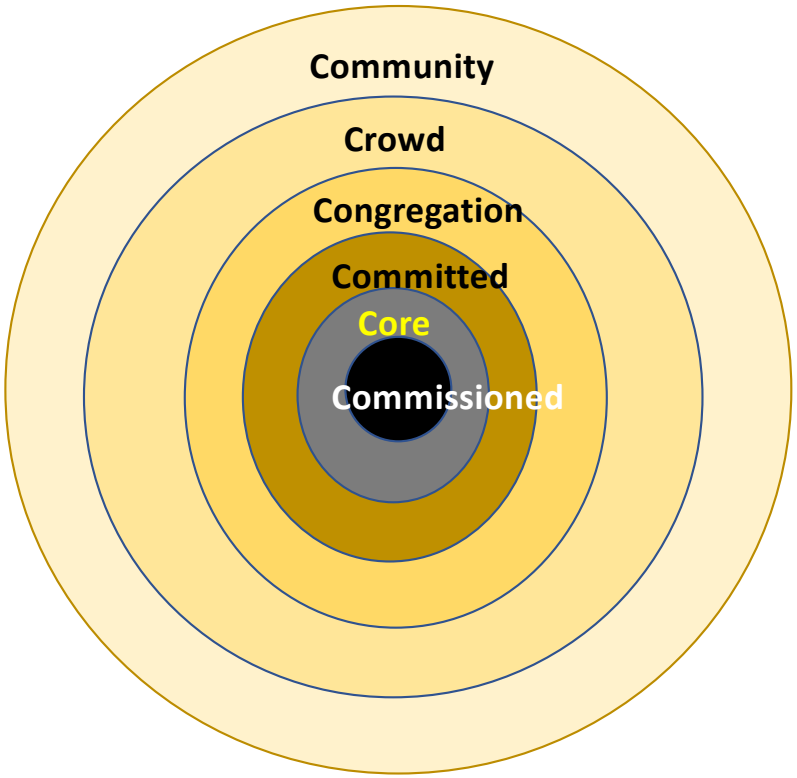
Christ's Ambassador Model

We are Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God

(2 Corinthians 5:20)

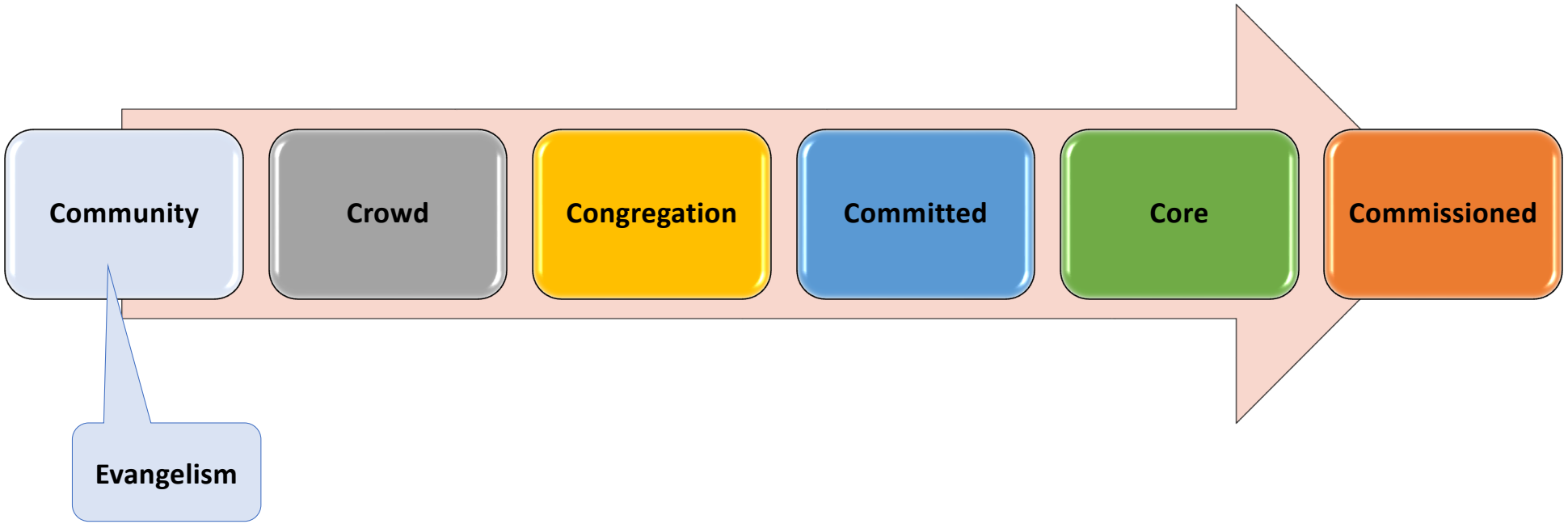


Identify the Target



The Community	The uncommitted people who live within your ministry area
The Crowd	The people who are committed to attending worship each week
The Congregation	Those who have committed to membership
The Committed	Those who have committed to maturity
The Core	Those who have committed to ministry
The Commissioned	Those who have committed to their mission

Different Strategies Needed to Each Target



Community

- Community: Those outside" (*hoi exō)* or the surrounding neighbor (*plesion*).
  - so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need(1 Thessalonians 4:12).
  - What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? (1 Corinthians 5:12).
- Community: The first target
  - The target neighborhood or geographical area surrounding the church, often considered the unchurched or non-believers.
  - This target audience is engaged through community service, relationship-building, and sharing the gospel designed to connect with their needs.
  - The Christian life is meant to be lived in community, not isolation, and focuses on outreach tools to foster connection and service.

Characteristics of Community

- Living in dark spheres
  - Unchurched communities operate under worldly values, unaware of their spiritual captivity.
  - The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel. (2 Corinthians 4:4).
  - They will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will (2 Timothy 2:26).
- Spiritually blinded
  - They often practice sincere spirituality or morality but lack light and true revelation.
  - (Paul observed the Athenians): I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD (Acts 17:22-23).
- Receptive to unconditional compassion and practical help
  - Unchurched populations are open to tangible acts of love, healing, and justice.
  - How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? (Romans 10:14).

Biblical Cases of Reaching the Community

- Philip in Samaria (Acts 8:4–8)
  - Samaritans were culturally, religiously, and ethnically alienated from orthodox Jews.
  - Strategy: Holistic engagement & power demonstration. Philip didn't enter with intellectual debates; he preached Christ while serving their physical needs (exorcisms and miraculous healings).
  - Result: The whole city experienced immense joy (So there was great joy in that city, 8:8).
- Paul at Mars Hill / Athens (Acts 17:16–34)
  - A thoroughly secular and pagan urban community composed of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers.
  - Strategy: Contextualization & Common Ground. Paul started where they were. He quoted their local poets (v. 28) and used their own altar inscription as a bridge to introduce the Creator God, rather than starting with Old Testament citations they wouldn't recognize.
  - Result: Some mocked, but key leaders (like Dionysius and Damaris) believed and joined him.
- Jesus at the Well of Sychar (John 4:1–30)
  - An outcast, unchurched Samaritan woman at a public community space.
  - Strategy: Jesus crossed gender, racial, and social boundaries by asking for a favor ("Will you give me a drink?"). He transitioned the conversation from a basic physical element (water) to spiritual truth (living water).

Community

- Targeting your community for evangelism
  - “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people (Matthew 4:19).
- Jesus’ strategy of fishing for men
  - Know what you are fishing for: You must identity who you are trying to reach.
  - Find out how many people live in your area.
  - Know what kind of people live in your area.
  - Ask what are their values, interests and fears.
  - Ask what do they have already know about the gospel.
- Fishing for people
  - Going out to where people are—regardless of the difficulty—to share the Gospel. It involves using one's influence and faith to draw others to Christ.
  - Fishers of men are called to cast their nets everywhere, meaning in all walks of life, including schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods.

Strategies for Reaching the Community

- Incarnational presence
  - Move ministry outside church walls into common public spaces (coffee shops, parks, local festivals). Jesus and the apostles preached in marketplaces and public squares (*agora*), meet people in their everyday routines.
- Contextualized preaching (speaking their language)
  - Avoid church insider jargon. Translate biblical concepts into terms the surrounding culture understands, just as Paul did in Athens.
- Needs-focused service & hospitality (Luke 10:5–9)
  - Jesus instructed the seventy disciples: *"Peace to this house... heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"*
  - Meeting physical and emotional needs unlocks doors for spiritual conversations.
- Gentle, non-combative engagement (2 Timothy 2:24–25)
  - When sharing with non-Christians, avoid quarrelsome debates. Instruct with gentleness and patience, creating an access route for the Holy Spirit to grant them repentance.

Building an Evangelistic Culture

- Think like an unbeliever.
  - The longer you're a Christian, the more difficult it is to think like a non-Christian. To bridge this gap, we need to spend time with non-Christians, so we can ask questions to understand their needs, interests, and objections to the church.
- Relational bridges (Oikos strategy)
  - The Gospel spread primarily through Oikos (the Greek word for household or social circle).
  - When Lydia, the Philippian jailer, Cornelius were converted, their entire circles were affected.
  - When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home (Acts 16:15).
  - Paul instructs the jailer, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household" (Acts 16:31-34).
  - They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have. So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 10:47-48).
- Map the network.
  - You may list five unchurched people you already know (barbers, coworkers, parents at the park).

Community outreach & Missional mapping

Phase 1: Community Audit & Observation (Examine)

- **Observe** your neighborhoods, workplaces, or places (shops, parks, gyms) to understand local dynamics.
- **Identify the public squares:** Where do people naturally gather in your community?
- **Map the demographics & needs:** What are the dominant age groups, cultural backgrounds, and economic realities? What visible needs exist?
- **Locate the cultural value:** What do neighbors prioritize, value, or seek fulfillment in? (e.g., career achievement, health/fitness, politics, family safety).
- **Identify local partners:** What local organizations, schools, or non-profits are already serving the community well where your church can offer support?

Phase 2: Relational Bridge-Building (Engage)

- Move to **active presence** in your everyday routines.
- **Commit** to visiting the same local venue (coffee shop, library, park) regularly to build familiarity with staff and regulars.
- **Practice the Luke 10 household model:** Identify un-churched neighbors, coworkers, or local business owners who are open, welcoming, and receptive to conversation.
- **Invite** neighbors over for coffee, organize a block party, or host a casual backyard gathering with no hidden agenda.
- **Pay** attention during casual conversations for expressions of anxiety, grief, seeking purpose, or moral frustration that open doors for spiritual dialogue.

Phase 3: Proclamation (Serve & Share)

- **Do & Connect** practical acts of service.
- **Execute** practical acts of kindness (care for elderly neighbors, school/community events).
- **Practice** explaining the Gospel without using insider church jargon (repentance as reorienting one's life toward God, sin as seeking ultimate satisfaction in created things).
- **Share personal testimony:** Articulate your story in 2–3 minutes using a simple 3-part framework:
  - My life before encountering Christ's grace.
  - How God opened my eyes to the Gospel.
  - How Christ changes my perspective & hope.
- **Offer Prayer:** How can I pray for you this week?

Phase 4: Follow-Through & Discipleship Pathways

- **Create second-step environments:** Establish informal discussion groups for those who express interest (Acts 17:32 — "We want to hear you again on this subject").
- **Connect to small groups:** Invite interested community members into relational home groups before expecting them to attend formal Sunday services.
- **Debrief & pray as a Church:** Set aside regular time in church gatherings to share testimonies, debrief outreach experiences, and pray for unchurched neighbors by name.
- **Invite them to the church worship**.