

ISI National Conference – June 25-29, 2016
Completing the Assignment

*** What Resonated ***

Have a Healthy Personal Energy Tank

- healthy relationships
- resolved background issues
- realistic expectations
- productive life/ coping skills

*** Reaching Hindu Students

- Us: I have become all things to all men
- it is less a creed or a cult than a continuously enlarging tradition of the God-ward endeavor of the human spirit
- it is the Union of reason and intuition
- there is no hell
- expression of truth is relative
- the measure of your distance from the truth is the suffering you feel
- the moment you follow someone you cease to follow truth
- believe an entire range of God concepts
- Buddha was a Hindu
- time is cyclic
- karma
- reincarnation
- sacredness of their Vedas
- no absolute good or bad more like smart vs dumb, context
- Hindu Caste System- economic and political rule
 - Brahmin priest > warrior/ruler > businessman > laborer > soil worker
 - tell Brahmin HOW gospel works
 - tell ruler/businessman WHY gospel works
 - tell laborer anything. Easiest to come to Christ
- soul is locked in this body and is looking to be freed
- Sikh= blend of Hinduism and Islam
- your 3 wheels of witness
 - hospitality, care
 - most important. You honor them going to their home. If they come to yours they will let you more into their lives. Plan to eat a lot in their home
 - 43% are vegetarian
 - 30% will eat chicken
 - 2% will eat beef
 - your personal testimony
 - understand and speak to their world view
- 2 festivals, Diwali (10/30-11/3) lights, Holi (3/23,24) colors
- participate in them
 - if your food was offered to an idol, be polite. Ask to redefine it as regular food

- contradiction
 - God is above good and evil
 - yet the 2 festivals celebrate the victory of good over evil
- engage with them on the meaning of the festivals- stories, what about God, good vs evil, why does God have to defeat evil if it is symmetric with good
- getting and leaving on time is just not done
 - focus is on relationships
- Presenting the gospel
 - listen, listen, listen
 - find out what they personally believe
 - have some understanding (these notes)
 - start with the similarities we share. Meet them where they are
 - present the differences accurately
 - look for opportunity to invite them to do a Bible study
- Distinctive's
 - absolute truth vs multi-faceted truth
 - reincarnation vs one life
 - impersonal cosmic energy vs personal God
 - reincarnation of Vishnu vs once only incarnation of Christ
 - humanity- extension of Gods being vs created in His image
 - our fatal problem is ignorance vs sin
 - path to eternal is through self- effort vs spiritual birth in Christ

They will say- both are true. The leaf paradox

Maybe if finite truth. Mt Everest has many ways to the top. If it was infinitely tall then no way gets there

- Hinduism is big on idols that the Bible condemns
 - God will not tolerate anything to stand in for Him
- Gandhi's non-violent freedom movement was based on the sermon on the mount
- Hindus revere animals so expect flack on our view
 - our sin affects all creation, animals included
- becoming a Christ follower does not mean accepting US culture and denying Indian
 - appreciate Indian music, movies, clothes...
- know they have strong India pride
 - tell them your self-worth comes from Christ's love/death for you
- build relationships with their whole family as much as possible
- read up on William Carey, Stanley Jones

 *** Reaching Chinese Students

- they are intrigued with learning more about Jesus!
- they have been on earth forever
- they have had great suffering through war, civil strife, and natural disasters, particularly in the last 150 years
- unjust wars of aggression by Western powers, unfair treaty agreements and internal conflict

Profile

- materialistic
- 'wired'
- self-sufficient
- worldly

Relationships

- harmonious
- respectful
- conditional
- reciprocate

Understand Guilt-Based vs Shame-Based (them) Cultures

- <See Scan1, bottom>

Understand Worldviews for Buddhism vs Confucianism

- <See Scan2, below>
- Buddhism arose 500 years before Christ because of disillusionment with Hinduism and the caste system

Four Noble Truths

- existence of suffering- problems with desire
- cause of suffering- craving pleasures
- ending of suffering- extinguish desires
- ending of all pain- 8-fold path
 - <See Scan2, below>

5 Precepts of Buddhists

- kill no living thing
- do not steal
- do not commit adultery
- tell no lies
- do not drink/take intoxicants

Chinese react defensively to the word sin as it means crime in Chinese

They believe they are innately good

They feel no need to be saved

To them God is marginalized

Confucius said- respect gods and ghosts but keep them at a distance

Our idea of a personal God is completely foreign to them

They think these things are not for us to figure out

*** Reaching Muslim Students

Use the Quran as a bridge from Muhammad to Injil/Isa (Jesus)

- <See Scan3, below>

Opening statement: "I have discovered an amazing truth in the Quran that gives hope of eternal life in heaven. Would you like to read Surah Al-Imram 3:42-55 so we could talk about it?"

1. Isa is holy - Surah 3:42-48

- he is the word of Allah, 45
- he is the Messiah, held in honor, 45
- he is near to Allah, 45
- he is righteous, 46
- he is virgin born, 47

2. Isa has power over death - 3:49-54

- he gave sight to the blind, 49
- he healed lepers, 49
- he raised the dead to life again, 49

3. Isa knows the way to heaven and is the way - 3:55

Final Question: I want to go to heaven when I die. Which prophet can help me get there?

*** Sunday

Ward- Acts 20:24

1. Perspective, certain
2. People, ordinary
3. Purpose, compelling

Transformed people transform people
Wisdom is a different way of seeing the 10,000 things

1. Who- is God in my life right now?
Second half of life should not be lived as the first half
2. Who- am I in this powerful new season of my life?
God intends each of us to be extraordinary
3. What- shall I do with the remaining years of my life?

Multipotentialite

My Definition. A multipotentialite is a person who has many different interests and creative pursuits in life. Multipotentialites have no "one true calling" the way specialists do. Being a multipotentialite is our destiny.

Surest way to a person's spirit is through song and story

1. How can I know I will finish my life course (complete the assignment) well?

Is yours a faith foundation? Look at your cornerstone, what is its purpose?
The Cornerstone Speech- 21 March 1861

Is your life a true life? Plumb line. Good foundation

Apostle John- what did he see, hear, touch?

As a young boy? His formative years, family (mother, then father), education (spoke 3 languages).

As a young man? Adult friendships, family business, James and John, sons of Zebedee...Son of Salome (Mary?)

As an old man? Became an eye-witness, pastor. Confronts Simon Magus. Gnosticism was the thing.

What did you see, hear, touch? In your own life through John?

As a young boy? Your story

As a young man?

Now?

Use this same method to tell your story and just leave it at that.

2. Understanding what God envisions for you to be and do

Ordinary people. Planting the seed is special. You are part of a divine network. There are others that can do what you can never do. You are fat Albert for the Blue Angels. Maybe Susan Boyle.

Zech 4. The lamp stand is Zerubbabel the oil that is flowing is Joshua the priest. Z is going to finish the temple. The trees were Z and Joshua. The trees were their parents flowing through them. For us? We are the trees that are going to feed the oil into the branches. We are green olive trees in the house of God. Pouring out the oil of the Holy Spirit. It was a vision to encourage Z that he would be successful building the temple.

Is 40:3. 2 Tim 3:16. In 2:22,23. Who are you? The person who makes straight the ways of others.

Say- tell me your story. Ask good questions. Listen well.

3. Pay it forward. What are you going to do to change the world?
Have a mission statement.

Routine grown cold... is an adventure lost.
Routine grown magnificent... is a holy adventure.

So, your life can be a rut or a holy adventure

AR: Google- 4 arguments of La Brie fellowship

What every new elder must understand
The search for meaning changes at midlife!
If you miss the power of silence (solitude) you miss a lot
Where noise is, there God is not - bishop
It is God who makes deserts and solitude holy

4 Stages of 49+, Frankl

1. Notification
2. Shock
3. Apathy
4. Freedom

The 3 ?

Who is God

Who am I

What will I do

Russian word- poustinia.

A poustinia ([Russian](#): пустынь) is a small sparsely furnished cabin or room where one goes to [pray](#) and [fast](#) alone in the presence of [God](#). The word poustinia has its origin in the [Russian](#) word for [desert](#) (пустыня). One called to live permanently in a poustinia is called a poustinik (plural: poustiniki).

*** Monday

Relationships lead to- Definition, Direction, Destiny (RDDD)

Prov 3:5,6. Is 61

Define- our relationship w each other

Direct- what can we do together?

Philemon does all- RDDD

Pauls relationship w him, the problem

2 Tim 4

Paul lists relationship issues w people, individually

How he dealt with them

Essentials for Finishing Well

Phil 2- Expectations

Healthy relationships and realistic expectations

Prop- Gods expectation for me is that I serve him out of a servant heart overflowing with agape love

Heb 13:20,21

Works in us and equips us

The gospel according to Job. Good book on suffering?

- preface lists 19 attributes of suffering

- divine contradictions

Jesus- He is an abyss of light that one will fall into unless he closes his eyes

Intimacy with Christ defines me in the highest possible way and gives me a clear view of who I am and who I am to become

For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things. Paul gave up a lot- platitudes of religious community

Eph 1- I cannot know (*magnitude*) the love of God but I can know it *experientially*

Suffering positions and promises us to... Sanctify us. A privilege

Criteria for ministry- had to bring 100 people to Christ

Prop- the lord Jesus Christ who is coming soon has provided all I need for life quality, ministry effectiveness and the ability to finish well

Thrpl. Change your negative default to a positive default

- word of God is a scalpel

- ways the sword of the spirit helps us

Christ is all of the Eph armor. Be in Christ

AR; Verse? Grace upon grace... John 1:16

Biblical meditation:

Memorize >> Visualize >> Personalize >> Harmonize- pray, sing it back >> Triggerize

Triggerize. See a tree, trigger Ps 1

*** Tuesday

Society does not care about-
Marijuana
Pre-marital sex...

They care about-
Unsettled economy
Unchecked violence
Deteriorating

Angels said-
Come and *see* (empty tomb)

That is our same challenge
Share your personal **stories** with God
Your intimate times with Him, in our quietness

Jesus is the only bridegroom I know whose bride will hardly speak to Him.
God knows when He is marginalized
Shulamite woman- my heart began to pound for him. But, I just bathed and went to bed. He has come at an unexpected hour. She opens the door but he has gone. Hesitation repels Gods presence, not our rejection.

She goes out into the city looking for her lover and she gets beaten! She was not recognized as the Kings daughter. Does society know who we are as Gods children, connected to God? Where our stories? Hesitation leads to missed intimacy. Missed intimacy leads to societal decay.

John the Baptist was just a witness to the light.

Isaiah- you will be called 'sought after'

John said- I am not the Messiah. Then, who are you? You are special in some way. Elijah, the prophet, who? How would you respond to that question?

John- I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness

Is our sharing more words or a demonstration of Gods power

David didn't tell the story about Goliath. He became the story.

Next

Let the love of Jesus ooze out of your words

Clothe the linguistically naked

Feed them starved for words

Visit those who are in a prison of communication walls

They will be your students (relationship) forever

Workshop #3- good news conversations

1. Be relational w each student
2. Build quality relationships with a few
- 3.

Booklet- the Fathers Love

<https://thefatherslovedotme.wordpress.com>

<https://thefatherslovebooklet.org/>

Tell others the gospel or share the gospel

Listen with love

Be genuine in your question- do you want to be a follower of Jesus?

Ask God for the words

Act, be obedient, to His next steps

2. Put the gospel in their language

- be contextually sensitive to...
- use spontaneous and...
- aim to draw attention to the...
- focus on the point of need...
- be willing to expend sacrificial...

Avoid the compulsion to tell the WHOLE story. Focus on issue at hand

1 fear of rejection

Lack of confidence... Competence, and compassion

1. Each person
2. Is a process
3. God is responsible for the results

People are not projects

Barriers-

Emotional

Intellectual

Volitional- hard heart, their will. You just have to pray them in

Ask lots of good questions

Tell me about your spiritual journey

- where did I come from
- where am I going

Parable

Seed

P- Jesus kept spiritual truth from people who were not ready yet!
S- sower just scattered seed everywhere, he doesn't know which soil is good
The seed has the life germ in it

Ask questions to take them to different levels
Interests

Conversation progress: Casual - meaningful - spiritual

They like to talk about their food

30

Values

Dreams

Destiny

*** Scan1

Family

- Self-focused
- Pressured
- Disconnected.

Yin/Yang - This binary, dichotomous balance of contradictions is expressed throughout Chinese traditions.

- Chinese medicine - "hot" and "cold"
- Pluralism of beliefs and values

How Do Today's Mainland Chinese Process Life?

- Accept Unpredictability
- Pursue the Path of Least Resistance
- Seize Good Opportunities to Gain Benefit
- Strive for the Common Good of the In-group
- Give Face and Avoid Shame
- Believe Behavior and Allow Flexibility with Words
- Demonstrate Hard Work and Sacrifice
- Defer to Authority and Show Respect
- Be Practical and Gain Material Security.

Understanding Their Spiritual Journey

- Raised under "facts" of evolution/atheism
- Honor/Shame Culture—Shame is a negative public rating; the community thinks lowly of you
- Jesus bestows dignity and honor on many who lived in shame due to circumstances beyond their control.

Comparison of "Innocence-Guilt" & Shame-Honor Cultures

	<i>Guilt-Based</i>	<i>Shame-based</i>
• Normal defined by	Rules and laws	Relationships & roles
• Behavior guided by	Internal conscience	External community
• Violations produce	Guilt	Shame
• Core problem	I made a mistake (action)	I am a mistake (being)
• Violations affect	The transgressor	The group
• Violator's response	Justify or apologize	Hide or cover
• Public's response	Punish to serve justice	Exclude to remove shame
• Way for Resolution	Forgiveness	Restoration

Comparative Worldviews for Buddhism & Confucianism

	<i>Buddhism</i>	<i>Confucianism</i>
• The Ultimate	Nothingness	Heaven a creative & impersonal realm
• Everyday World	Emptiness masked by false appearance	Humans and nature in harmony with heaven
• Understanding History	Endless cycle of birth suffering and death	Heaven's mandate shown in harmonious Society

*** Scan2

Comparative Worldviews for Buddhism & Confucianism

	<i>Buddhism</i>	<i>Confucianism</i>
• The Ultimate	Nothingness	Heaven a creative & impersonal realm
• Everyday World	Emptiness masked by false appearance	Humans and nature in harmony with heaven
• Understanding History	Endless cycle of birth suffering and death	Heaven's mandate shown in harmonious Society
• Human Identity	A being caught in an illusion created by Desire	One who follows the ethical path of leaders and ancestors
• How Humans Gain Knowledge	Realize one's nature	Through learning and rumination
• How Humans Should Live (Ethics)	Lead life of moderation according to Noble Eightfold Path	Righteous living fosters human harmony
• Fundamental Problem for Man	Desire	Personal depravity & social anarchy
• Resolution to Problem	Enlightenment	Moral cultivation, appropriate rituals and the application of law
• Death and Life After Death	Reincarnation or release from existence	Soul mysteriously integrated into Heaven

Buddhism

It began about 500 years before the birth of Christ when some people living at that time became disillusioned with certain beliefs about Hinduism and the caste system.

- The Buddha, or "enlightened one," was born about 560 B.C. in Northeastern India, (his family name was Gautama).
- Buddha's enlightenment became known as reaching "nirvana" or supposedly the highest degree of God consciousness

Four Noble Truths

- **The existence of suffering** – problems with desire
- **The cause of suffering** – craving pleasures
- **The ending of suffering** – extinguish desires
- **The ending of all pain** – 8-fold path
 1. Right views
 2. Right resolve
 3. Right speech
 4. Right behavior
 5. Right occupation
 6. Right effort
 7. Right contemplation
 8. Right meditation.

Five Precepts All Buddhists Should Follow

1. Kill no living thing (including bugs)
2. Do not steal
3. Do not commit adultery
4. Tell no lies
5. Do not drink intoxicants or take drugs.

Scientific Atheism

- Darwinism is taught as "established fact."
- Marxism is avidly atheistic.
- Secularism and materialism are the current foci of this life.
- The present world is what matters
- Living life honorably and well, being prosperous, being satisfied

*** Scan3

Being Blessing to Muslims in USA

Standard Muslim Greetings:

- ❖ ASALAAM WALAAKUUM (*ah salam wah lake oom*) "Peace to you."
- ❖ WA ALAY-KUM AS-SALAAM (*wah lay koom ah salam*) "Peace to you also."

USING THE QURAN AS A BRIDGE TO INJIL & ISA AL-MASIH

Purpose: To find persons of peace & lead them from Quran/Muhammad to Injil/Isa, based on the principles Jesus used in Luke 10:1-20.

Why do we use the Quran as a bridge to the Injil?

- 1) We must start where they are.
- 2) We cannot be blamed for making converts, when we use their holy book to discuss who Jesus is.
- 3) Using the Quran enables a Muslim Background Believer to relate to his family and friends and minimizes persecution.
- 4) We can use the Quran to lift Jesus out of prophet status and closer to Savior status in the mind of Muslims.

Why do we NOT try to use all of the other verses in the Quran that deal with Jesus?

- 1) It prevents us from abusing or misusing Quran verses (poor exegetical interpretation).
- 2) When we are witnessing to a Muslim, we are usually nervous; we cannot remember all of the verses.
- 3) We are only looking for a Man of Peace and we only need enough spiritual meat from the Quran to draw him out. Do not stay too long in the Quran because of the anti-Christian verses.
- 4) We are familiar with the Bible, so we can use many different scriptures. We are not familiar with the Quran.

Three Guiding Principles when we use Quran as a Bridge:

- 1) **Lift up Isa.** Focus only on Isa. If possible, do not even mention Muhammed as you discuss Sura 3:42-55. Later, you will see what to say if someone asks what you think of Muhammad.
- 2) **Focus on what the Qur'an actually says.** Encourage your Muslim friend to consider what the Qur'an itself says, not what he has heard or been told it says, or what the Hadith says.
- 3) Always keep a **gentle** (not argumentative or arrogant) **spirit & learner attitude.**

THREE STEPS TO RAISING ISA UP IN THE MIND OF A MUSLIM MAN OF PEACE:

1. **Opening Statement:** *"I have discovered an amazing truth in the Quran that gives hope of eternal life in heaven. Would you read Surah Al-Imran 3:42-55 so we could talk about it?"*
2. **Three points that help raise Jesus (Isa) up to Savior Status:**
 - **Isa is holy – Surah 3:42-48.**
 - He is the word of Allah (Kalimatullah) - 45
 - He is the Messiah (Al-Masih), held in honor - 45
 - He is near to Allah - 45
 - He is righteous - 46
 - He is virgin born - 47
 - **Isa has power over death – 3:49-54.**
 - He gave sight to the blind – 49
 - He healed lepers – 49
 - He raised the dead to life again - 49
 - **Isa knows the way to heaven and is the way – 3:55.**
3. **Final Question:** *"I want to go to heaven when I die. Which prophet can help me get there?"*

Who do you say Mohammed is?

Suggested answer: "I say Mohammed is who he said he was in the Quran. Let's look at Surah The Chambers 46:9 to see what Mohammed said about himself."

Surah The Chambers 46:9 *"I am nothing new among the Prophets; what will happen to me and to my followers, I do not know; I am only a plain warner."*