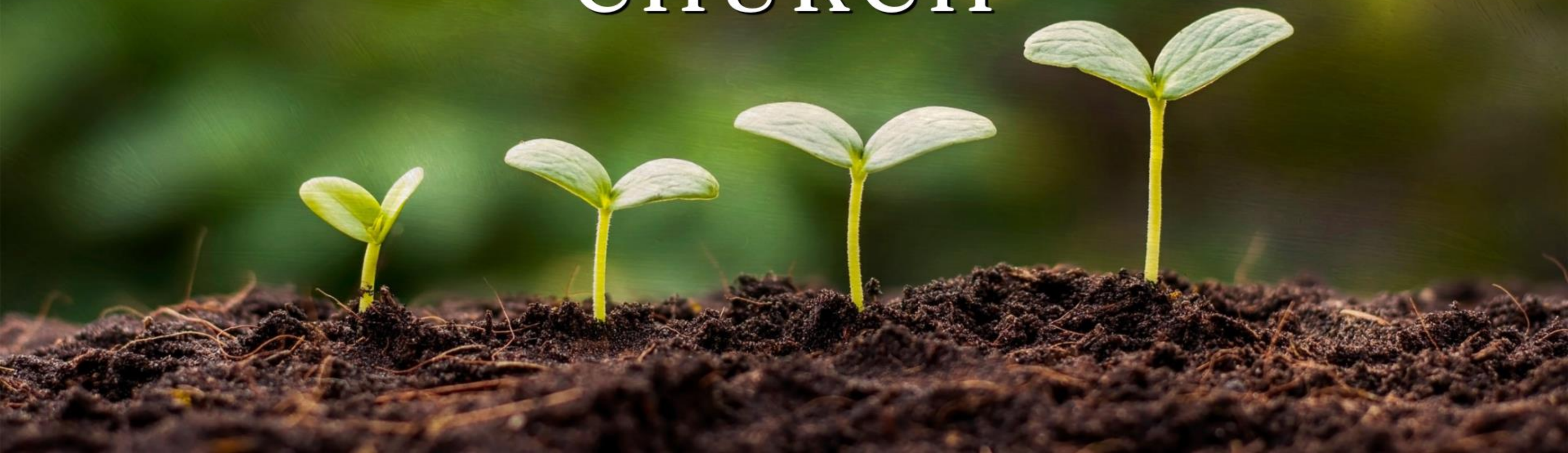


THE
MATURING
CHURCH



The Maturing Church...

Evangelizes

John 4:39-42; 2 Co. 5:14-21

The Maturing Church: review...

- 1. GROWS: The Ecclesia is a people called out; we are individuals who grow in intimacy with Jesus.
- 2. SERVES: We actively put to death our self-absorption and align with God's heart and nature!
- 3. EVANGELIZES: We can't help talking to people about what – *and who!* – we love!

The Maturing Church... EVANGELIZES

- ‘Evangelion’: Gospel, or Good News; 76x in NT!
 - Root from which we get the words “evangelical” or “evangelist”

“Actively engaging other people in conversation about the Good News of Jesus; inviting others into life with Him”

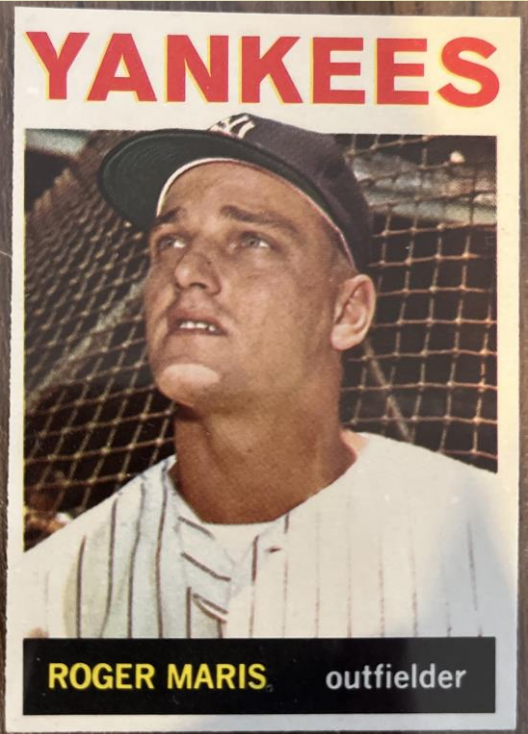
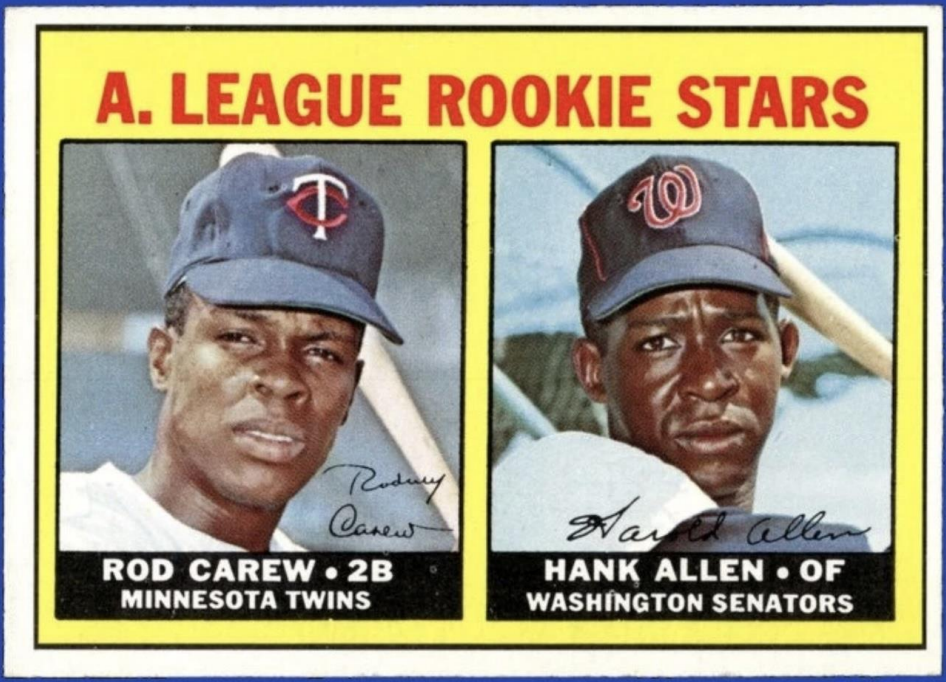
“ The criteria upon which a church should measure its success is **NOT** how many new names are added to the role nor how much the budget is increased but rather **HOW MANY CHRISTIANS** are **ACTIVELY** winning souls and training them to win the multitudes.
(emphasis mine) ”

Coleman, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, p. 106

WHY does a Maturing Church Evangelize?

- 1. *We cannot help it.*
- Principle: We talk about what we love!
- Matt. 12:34 “Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks”
- John 4:14 “...a spring of water welling up...”
-lit, “to jump up”, eg Acts 3:8, 14:10

We talk about what we love.



WHY does a Maturing Church Evangelize?

- 2. *We REALLY believe people need the Lord.*
- Principle: I am convinced God is the answer!
- Eccl. 3:11 “He set eternity in the hearts of men”
- Ps. 34:8 “Taste and see that the Lord is good”
- Rom. 1:16 “...the Gospel is the power of God for salvation for all who believe”

WHY does a Maturing Church Evangelize?

- 3. *Jesus commanded us to do it.*
- Principle: We ALL have PURPOSE in Him!
- Matt. 5:13-16 “You are the light of the world...”
- Matt. 10:1-15 “Go gather the lost sheep...”
- Matt. 28:19-20 “Go and make disciples...”

WHY does a Maturing Church Evangelize?

- 4. *The early church did it.*
- Principle: We carry the baton they handed us!
- Acts 2:14-37 “Peter ... lifted up his voice...”
- Acts 17:16-34 “Paul... reasoned with them...”
- 2 Co. 5:14-21 “We are Christ’s ambassadors..”

WHAT keeps me from Evangelizing?

- The #1 reason people don't share Christ with others is a **LACK OF JOY**.

(Remember? We talk about what we love!)

- **Luke 6:43-45** “Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks”

-How do I correct a lack of Joy?

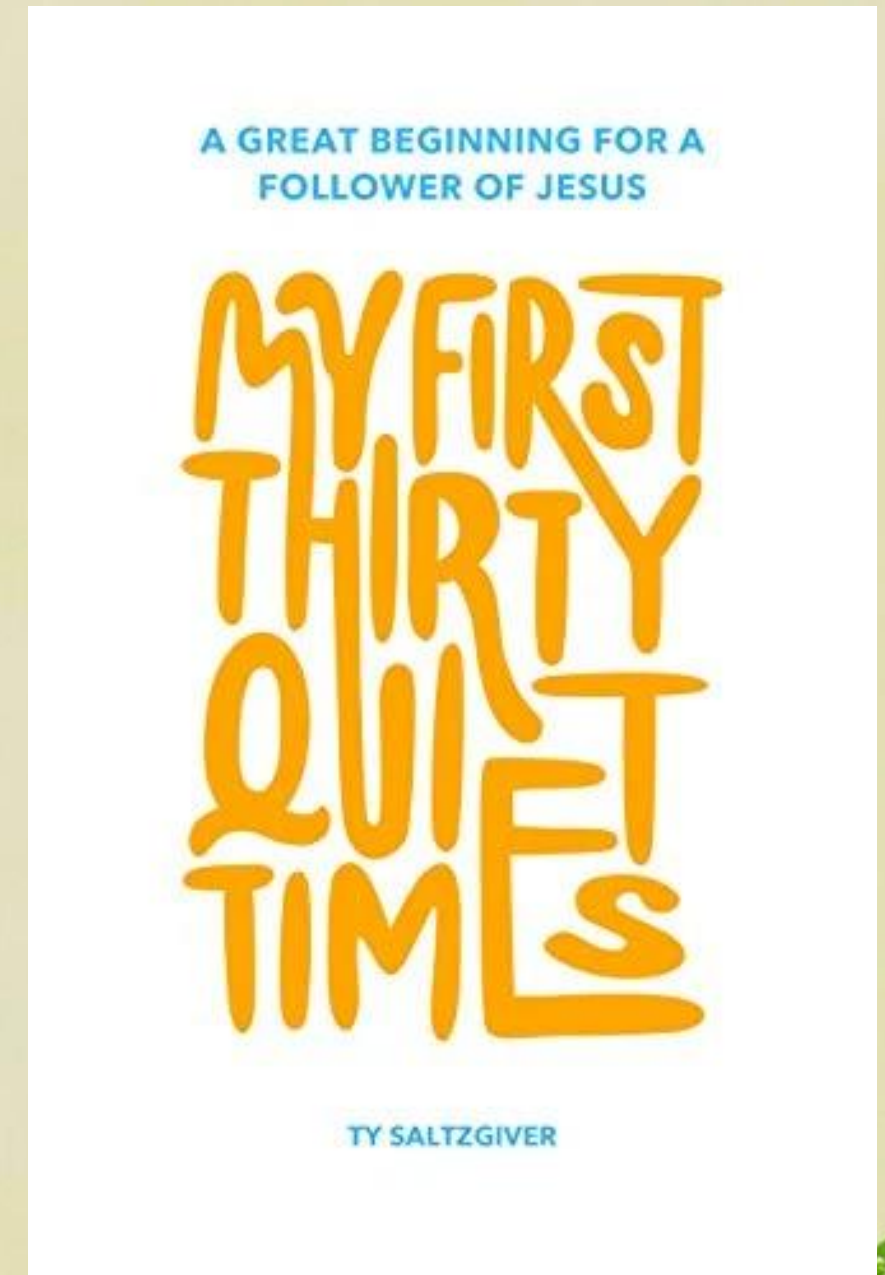
- **Focus on HIM and not ME!**

WHAT can I expect when I Share Christ?

- IN OTHERS:
 - *Sometimes, NOTHING!*
 - Other people's responses are not really my business. They're God's!!
 - John 6:44; Eph. 2:1-10; Titus 3:5
- GOD saves people, NOT me!!

WHAT can I expect when I DO?

- IN OTHERS:
 - *Sometimes, SOMETHING!*
 - Be ready to point people to resources, the Word, groups or however the Lord leads!
 - 2 Co. 5:20; 1 Pe. 3:15



WHAT can I expect when I DO?

- IN US:
 - Nervous/Anxious: Ok! But Remember: The Cure for my lack of evangelism is NOT more knowledge, but more JOY!
 - Unsure/Confused: Ok! But Know: You will not have every answer, nor do you need to!
 - Excited/Joyful: Yes! Talking to people about Jesus is Fun and Fulfilling!

WHERE can I Evangelize?

- In your home (*Parents. Siblings. Spouse. Kids.*)
- In your school/workplace
(*Classmates. Teachers. Bosses. Co-workers.*)
- In your community/local life
(*Neighbors. Workers. People in line*)
- In your church

Send-Out Saturday, 9/5, 9a-11a, meet here!!

Prayer FIRST:

- 1. Lord, fill me with JOY overflowing so that I cannot help but talk to others about You!
- 2. Lord, Help me to RELAX about sharing my faith... YOU are in charge of people's souls!
- 3. Lord, show me WHO to share with. I know You are going to push me out of my comfort zone. I trust You!!