

## E.A.C.H. Vision Message – OPC, June 26-27, 2010

*“You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him” (Acts 10:38).*

**Good deeds – Good news.**

**That was Jesus’ method for bringing the kingdom of God to everyday people.**

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him” (John 3:16,17).*

*“This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, Who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony borne at the proper time” (1Timothy 2:3-6).*

**Jesus came with good deeds and good news because of  
God’s desire, God’s love for all people.**

*“And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, 'Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?' He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.' And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight” (Acts 1:6-9).*

**I want everyone to hear . . . so that’s your mission.**

*“The Roman empire was no welfare state, and before Christian times in the West care for the poor was rare. The Christians sought to protect the destitute, or those who had fallen in status and resources like widows and orphans. They provided hospices for the sick or for raising the innumerable abandoned infants. The Christians were strongly opposed to child exposure, actively rescuing the abandoned . . . When the plague struck Carthage in 252, Bishop Cyprian sent his people out to nurse the sick and bury the dead. More than a century later the emperor Julian was complaining that the Christians look after ‘not only their own beggars but ours as well.’” Henry Chadwick, *The History of Christianity*.*

*“The great difference between present-day Christianity and that of which we read in these letters is that to us it is primarily a performance, to them it was a real experience. We are apt to reduce the Christian religion to a code, or at best a rule of heart and life. To these men it is quite plainly the invasion of their lives by a new quality of life altogether. They do not hesitate to describe this as Christ ‘living in’ them.”*

*“There were no churches, no Sundays, no books about the Faith. Slavery, sexual immorality, cruelty, callousness to human suffering, and a low standard of public opinion, were universal; travelling and communications were chancy and perilous; most people were illiterate. Many Christians today talk about the ‘difficulties of our times’ as though we should have to wait for better ones before the Christian religion can take root. It is heartening to remember that this faith took root and flourished amazingly in conditions*

*that would have killed anything less vital in a matter of weeks. These early Christians were on fire with the conviction that they had become, through Christ, literally sons of God; they were pioneers of a new humanity, founders of a new Kingdom. They still speak to us across the centuries. Perhaps if we believed what they believed, we might achieve what they achieved.”*  
*J.B. Phillips, Letters to Young Churches, 1947.*

**IF we believed what they believed . . . we might achieve what they achieved!**

***Everyone A Chance to Hear  
E. A. C. H.***

- **Now: Build the Prayer Network and the Organizational Infrastructure.**
- **Summer and fall: Expand and solidify the network of participants.**
- **Jan. – March 2011: Training Period in all churches.**
- **Easter 2011 (April 24): Launch Weekend.**
- **April 24 – June 2: Forty (40) day outreach campaign.**
- **June 12 (Pentecost Sunday): An area-wide celebration service(s).**

***“Detroit has become an icon of the failed American city.”***

***“The world is now watching Detroit with interest –  
and waiting to see if it finds a way to rise from the ashes.”***  
***TIME 2010 Almanac***