

PROPHECY,  
DREAMS, *and*  
EVANGELISM

Revealing God's  
Love Through  
Divine Encounters

DOUG ADDISON



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Sample

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# FOREWORD

**A**round the world, God is using prophetic evangelism, especially biblical dream interpretation, to draw people to Himself.

An offshoot of “power evangelism,” a phrase coined by John Wimber in the 1980s, prophetic evangelism uses words of knowledge, prophetic insight, and biblical dream interpretation to lead people to Jesus.

God still does amazing things today that He did in biblical times. In fact, God is pouring out His Spirit in greater measure and accelerating the use of dreams to communicate with all of humanity.

“And it shall come to pass afterward  
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;  
Your sons and daughters shall prophesy,  
Your old men shall dream dreams,  
Your young men shall see visions.  
And also on My menservants and on My maidservants  
I will pour out My Spirit in those days.”  
—Joel 2:28–29 (also referenced in Acts 2:16–21)

When we read Joel’s prophesy, we find that the result of prophetic utterances, dreams, visions, and signs and wonders is to bring a harvest into God’s Kingdom. Biblical dream interpretation can be used as a tool for helping people come to know and understand God’s love for them.

God is giving unsaved people dreams, often warning them not to go down a certain dark path. Instead of turning to God, however, they look elsewhere for the interpretation.

Prophetic evangelism teams are discovering that often after hearing a dream’s true interpretation, people are giving their lives to the Lord. When team members share prophetic impressions that God gives them, the prophetic Spirit of God begins to unlock peoples’ hearts. Tears begin rolling down peoples’ faces as they realize God has been speaking to them all along. Through biblical dream interpretation, people are being touched by God in profound ways.

In late 2001, Doug Addison began working for me as the Streams National Dream Team Coordinator. In February 2002 I sent him to Salt Lake City, Utah to lead a prophetic evangelism outreach at the Winter Olympics. Over five days, Doug and the team interpreted more than one hundred and fifty dreams. One night inside a Starbucks coffee house, two team members were chatting about dreams. As they glanced over at the lineup of thirty shivering people, they offered to interpret anyone's dream. A journalist from Reuters news agency was the first to sit down and share a dream. When our team gave her the interpretation, she looked astonished and fell back in her chair. Before she was finished, a throng of people lined up behind her.

Then in May 2002, I sent Doug to Orlando, Florida to lead a prophetic evangelism workshop with Phil Zaldatte, a former Streams intern who is now in full-time ministry. After teaching about prophetic evangelism, they led an outreach at a nearby shopping mall. One team, upon seeing a woman with a withered hand and a limp, approached her and began to pray for her. Suddenly the woman's withered hand opened and her feet straightened! She was so excited that she invited Jesus into her heart. Another team interpreted a woman's dream. She was so touched that she gave her heart to Jesus in the mall's food court and in front of her friends. That afternoon, fourteen people came to know Jesus and several were healed.

Real life experiences like these have led me to conclude that prophetic evangelism—a reliance on listening to God while sharing the Gospel—is an innovative strategy to grow the Church and introduce Jesus to your unsaved friends.

Prophetic evangelism, especially dream interpretation, is a model God developed in the Bible. The prophet Daniel sought God's wisdom in interpreting dreams, solving riddles, and explaining spiritual mysteries. In fact, Scripture says that among all the astrologers, seers, psychics, and magicians in Babylon, none had more spiritual insight than Daniel (Daniel 1:17–21).

As a young man, Daniel prophesied to King Nebuchadnezzar about a dream the king had. The impact of Daniel's interpretation was so powerful the king exclaimed, "Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret," (Daniel

2:47). Years later, Daniel interpreted another dream for Nebuchadnezzar. After that dream and its interpretation had come to pass, the king again worshipped God (Daniel 4:37). True dreams from God generate a divine curiosity, a question that we're desperate to answer. Unsaved kings like Joseph's Pharaoh and Daniel's Nebuchadnezzar scoured the nations for an interpretation to their dreams.

Scripture tells us that dreams are a means of divine communication:

For God may speak in one way, or in another, yet man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while slumbering on their beds, then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction.

—Job 33:14–16, NKJV

Forever mindful of us, God faithfully guides us both day and night, as He never sleeps (Psalm 121:3–4). When we sleep, God has our undivided attention, and thus can impart messages into our spirits and seal their instructions.

Every night, God whispers into the dreams of unsaved men and women. He seals the truth within their heart. Prophetic evangelism provides a human voice to the spiritual mysteries God has implanted in the lost. Many will search the world over, looking for the key to unlock that truth. They search the New Age movement, thinking the answer might be there. They go to psychics, astrologers, and tarot card readers looking for the key. They seek out secular dream interpreters who offer Freudian, Jungian, or Gestalt dream analysis. What is most remarkable, Christians, who hear and understand God's voice, hold the key for these wanderers.

For one reason or another, many people outside the Church have had difficulty connecting with God. Prophetic evangelism is just one way to help nudge people closer to a deeper understanding of God's love for them. As spiritual interpretations are applied to dreams, unsaved people are often bewildered to learn that God has been speaking to them all along.

This is the hour for prophetic evangelism—for God's light to shine on people who have waited years for a resolution in their lives. This is a moment in history where Christians can make a massive difference—

one person and one dream at a time.

We are standing on the threshold of a new spiritual awakening. God is getting ready to unleash a powerful wave of prophetic evangelism, larger than any of us has ever dreamed. And with it will come a harvest that is unprecedented in Church history. It's my prayer that this wonderful book by Doug Addison will help facilitate this harvest.

—John Paul Jackson  
Founder, Streams Ministries International

Sample

# INTRODUCTION

It is hard not to notice a new spiritual hunger in people today. On television talk shows people are discussing spiritual things; psychics and tarot card readers who once operated in dark tents at carnivals now occupy plush offices and kiosks in shopping malls. It's not unusual for a high school student to be part of a Wiccan coven or to be found in the occult section of a bookstore looking up spells and incantations in one of the many New Age books lining the shelves.

With this increasing interest in the spiritual realm and the occult, one cannot help but wonder why this is happening. Did dark spiritual forces suddenly invade the minds of people? Or has God Himself planted a spiritual hunger that incites people to search for understanding and spiritual fulfillment? I believe it is the latter.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter rose up and recited a portion of a prophecy from the Old Testament book of Joel: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people" (Acts 2:17a). Many assume God is speaking about the Church, but this Scripture does not say He will pour out His Spirit only on Christians but on everyone. This is apparent in verse 18: "Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days..." God says He will pour out His Spirit on everyone, including His followers. The result of this lavish outpouring is that suddenly men and women will become aware of their emptiness and need for purpose, direction, and truth in life. God will use various circumstances and events to draw people to Himself.

Many followers of Jesus have been crying out to God for revival. A wave of revival swept the world in the late 1960s when disillusioned hippies and young people, who had been searching fruitlessly for love, peace, and tranquility, suddenly began to turn to Jesus. These stinky, long-haired Jesus people began showing up at churches, but the churches were not quite ready for a revival lacking shoes or deodorant!

Out of that move of God's Spirit sprang up new churches such as the Calvary Chapels and the Vineyard Christian Fellowships. John Wimber, the founder of the Vineyard movement and former member of the Righteous Brothers band, wrote a book called *Power Evangelism*

describing a new sort of evangelism. *Power Evangelism* was a call for Christians to step out and trust God to reveal to them the people He is drawing. Believers were then encouraged to ask God for spiritual gifts needed to help lead these “seekers” to Jesus, such as praying for their healing or encouraging them with a prophetic word to spur them on.

Many considered this method of reaching people with God’s love radical and even controversial but could not dispute its effectiveness. However, any cutting-edge move of God if not kept alive and practiced on a regular basis will lose its sharpness and like *Power Evangelism* will be largely forgotten.

So we continue to cry out for revival, and we continue to devise ways to bring people into God’s Kingdom. We may feel like the fishermen in Luke 5 who were tired after fishing all night and catching nothing. Jesus called out and told them to go into deep water and let down their nets once again. Only this time, to their surprise, they caught more fish than they could handle. Similarly, God is calling us to plunge into deep water if we want to catch fish.

God is indeed pouring out His Spirit on all people. As Christians we need only ask Him to point out those He is drawing to Himself. If we ask God to open our eyes to “see” and our ears to “hear” His voice, we can get ready for a number of supernatural and divine encounters specifically designed by God to draw millions to Jesus Christ. I believe a new wave of power and prophetic evangelism is beginning to sweep the world as God calls us to partner with Him in what will be one of the largest revivals in Church history.

Most people are open to talking about spiritual things; they genuinely desire to encounter God’s power and they truly seek a spiritual experience. Unfortunately many think Christianity simply means going to church and listening to dry sermons, since they may have tried going to church sometime or went as children, but were not able to connect with God in the church. Some have given up spirituality all together, and others have turned to alternative spiritual avenues such as the New Age or the occult.

If we could step outside the box of our own ideas about how to share God’s love, and begin to meet people where they are, perhaps we could also learn to convey biblical truths and be understood by someone unschooled in religion. Maybe then we could perceive the Holy

Spirit showing us how our heavenly Father views people; or that He wants them to know He is aware of a particular pain or struggle in their life. If we offer to interpret a dream for them, and through that they realize God has been speaking to them all along, then it's likely they will let down their walls and suddenly be very open to talking about God.

Prophetic evangelism employs such revelatory gifts as word of knowledge, word of wisdom, prophecy, and dream interpretation to reach people for Jesus Christ. God never intended for these and other gifts like healing or the working of miracles to be relegated to the four walls of the Church, as they have been until recently. The New Testament shows us how Jesus, His disciples, and the apostle Paul all used these gifts from God to reach people. The classic example is in John 4, where Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well. Jesus “read” her past, present, and even offered her a glimpse of the future. As a result, she evangelized many people in her city for Christ that day.

Luke 5, as mentioned previously, shows Jesus at the shore teaching the people from Simon Peter's boat. Peter and his fishing partners meanwhile were standing on the shore listening to Jesus and mending their nets. Jesus instructed them to put their boat out into deep water and let down their nets for a catch. Peter objected at first because they had been fishing all night and had caught nothing, but because Jesus told them to, he agreed. When they let down their nets, they caught so many fish that the nets began to break. They had to call the other boat for help, and both boats were so full that they nearly sank.

Luke 5 is a great example of the Church in our day. We have been fishing all night and have not caught much. Many of us have not ventured out of the shallow water, out of the zones of safety and comfortableness, to find the fish where they are. The fish are in the deep water; they are outside the Church, and outside our opinions and prejudices. As we are obedient to God's call and venture into the deep water and into relationships with people “on the streets,” we will be overwhelmed by the response and will need to network with other churches to accommodate the great numbers of people who will come to Jesus.

Prophetic evangelism could very well be the “deep water” mentioned in Luke 5. Jesus is calling us to let our nets down for a catch so incredible that our boats will be sorely tested! Are you ready?

## CHAPTER

# 1

# MY JOURNEY *to* JESUS

**A**t age nineteen I was in such deep spiritual darkness that it took two radical encounters with Jesus to bring me into the Christian life. I had always known about God, and I loved the stories of how Jesus would cast out demons, heal the sick, and raise the dead. I told myself, *If I could see that kind of power, I would believe and give my life to God.*

I had tried going to church several times in my life, but I was very disappointed that the churchgoers believed God no longer chose to do miraculous things today since we now had the Bible and modern medicine. They told me I simply needed to attend services every week, read my Bible every day, pray, and refrain from drinking, smoking, and cussing, and all my problems would be solved. But that somehow never cut it for me because I had been having dark spiritual experiences ever since I was a child. I needed God's power to deliver me from the things that were haunting and tormenting me when I was alone.

I also could not fathom why Christians didn't recognize that God sends us messages. I had been hearing and knowing spiritual things as early as I could remember, although the source was not God. The Christians around me believed that hearing spiritual messages was of

the devil, yet the Bible detailed Jesus and His disciples as having these sorts of experiences. This confused me because it seemed to give the devil more power than God. So, though I loved Jesus, church did not satisfy my spiritual hunger, and I eventually became increasingly drawn to the occult and paranormal. Ultimately darkness became my companion.

I had prayed to receive Jesus Christ into my life when I was twelve years old, but my life never changed then. It wasn't until I was nineteen years old that my first real spiritual awakening to Jesus took place. Previously I had been having freak accidents, recurring nightmares, and demonic activity at night in my bedroom.

One day I ran into a witch I was acquainted with from high school, and she agreed to try to help me find relief. She lit a candle, and I saw three visions that all came to pass within a week. I asked her how she approached the spiritual realm, and she told me she used numerology, white witchcraft, and read the Bible. (Note: I am not advocating this erroneous approach to spirituality.)

I responded: "You mean you believe in Jesus?"

"Oh, yeah," she replied, "I love Jesus; I just don't like church."

I agreed with that, so I decided to begin reading my Bible. Within a few weeks I had a spiritual breakthrough! I began to pray. The nightmares and the accidents stopped, the spirits stopped harassing me, and I knew it was because of Jesus.

I went to church a few weeks later on a Sunday morning and talked about seeing visions and encountering witches and demons in my room. I must have frightened and shocked those people, and I was having a *déjà-vu* experience: these people did not believe in God's power.

Some churches I attended did believe in God's power but I never actually saw it manifest. These parishioners seemed very strange to me, yelling a lot and speaking strangely—like calling God, "God-ah!" I gave church my best shot until I couldn't take it anymore and sank deeper into despair, revisiting the occult.

A few years later I startled some psychics at the Berkeley Institute for Psychics as I was getting an aura and chakra reading. They described seeing a dark spirit in me and several more spirits hovering around. They solicited the help of a more advanced psychic. They advised me to have those dark forces leave. Well, it was not easy for

me: I had tried that, but some of those spirits had been around me for years and one was my spirit guide. I left feeling down and told no one what had happened.

About a year later my sister, who had once practiced ESP and mental telepathy with me, gave her life to Jesus Christ after a series of events had transpired in her life. She telephoned me at five o'clock one morning to tell me that Jesus had awakened her and said, "Tell Doug that if he asks Me, I will remove the spirits that are on him. And tell him that I will do what is written in Deuteronomy 28—I will turn the curses in his life to blessings."

I certainly identified with the curses. I had had two cars catch fire, car batteries had exploded in my face, I was sick most of the time, and I was addicted to drugs. I remember that day with crystal clarity. I knew I had to communicate with God, and so I listened to Led Zeppelin's *Stairway to Heaven* in the hopes of getting spiritual. I pleaded with God to drive those spirits away from me, but nothing happened. But then a week later I felt the spirits leave, just as I had seven years earlier when I had started to read my Bible.

I hung out in my apartment reading my Bible for several weeks. I knew I had to go to church, yet I dreaded it. One Saturday afternoon I was reading the newspaper at a laundromat when a light seemed to shine on an ad for a denominational church I never would have chosen on my own. I checked it out and surprisingly found a group of people there who were not shocked by my spiritual experiences.

I arrived there a mess, in a "spiritual body bag." Nevertheless, over the next nine years they patiently worked with me, and I learned that I needed the fullness of the Holy Spirit to overcome what had plagued my life. I grew spiritually and learned about God's power and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This was the first time I actually witnessed God's power being greater than Satan's power. These people showed me how to use my spiritual gifts wisely and spurred me to mature in my Christian walk.

God radically changed my life, but I never forgot what it was like to be outside the Church. It was a long, difficult adjustment to fit in to church culture. I had to learn a whole new "Christianese" language that was unintelligible to people who had not grown up steeped in

“church.” The sermons were often very boring, the music was outdated, and the majority of the people sat there week after week never really doing what Jesus commanded: “Go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19).

When I expressed my disappointment and frustration about all this to a Christian friend, he responded, “That’s okay, soon you’ll be like us.” I told him I did not want to be like them. I loved Jesus and wanted to do what was right, but I really had a hard time with the church lingo and with people not doing what Jesus did. I felt uncomfortable inviting anyone to church because it was weird to outsiders.

I considered myself one of the fortunate ones who had survived coming from the outside to be successfully integrated into the church. Many others like me couldn’t do it. Some of my friends who came out of the New Age movement tried Christianity but returned within a year or two back to the New Age. Even though I did not like church services or how church people acted, I stuck with it because there was nowhere else to go. I didn’t want to revert back into darkness. Yet I still hadn’t encountered a church I found relevant and exciting.

### **Looking for Ways to Share God’s Love**

Because I came out of deep spiritual darkness, I immediately felt I was destined for evangelism. I wanted so badly to reach others with God’s love and power, but when I talked with people about Jesus they seemed uninterested. For several years I tried nearly every evangelistic tool. I learned how to witness with a group on the streets of New York City using tracts, artwork, guitar, and other music, or whatever would capture people’s attention so we could introduce them to Jesus.

Later I took James Kennedy’s course called *Evangelism Explosion* and proceeded to ask people, “If you were to die tonight are you sure you would go to Heaven?” I used Bill Bright’s *Four Spiritual Laws* and *Steps to Peace with God* pamphlets. I learned to share the Gospel message through a group called the Navigators by using the *Bridge to Christ* illustration, and I memorized the *Romans Road*, a series of verses from the book of Romans explaining Jesus’ message.

Let me just say here that I am not putting down any evangelistic methods. We need all types of evangelistic methods and different types

of churches to reach all the different types of people on earth. I honor the late Bill Bright, whose *Four Spiritual Laws* tract has been printed in over two hundred languages and been read by countless people and James Kennedy's *Evangelism Explosion*, which has for four decades successfully brought millions into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Part of the problem is that most of our evangelistic methods and many of our church services are designed and based on principles for reaching people fifty to one hundred years ago but are just not practical today. James Kennedy's *Evangelism Explosion* organization acknowledged this in 1997 and restructured their approach to be less confrontational.

The world's societies and cultures are witnessing dramatic global changes transpiring at a feverish pace. All creation and indeed the earth itself are waiting for God's redemption, as evidenced from terrorism to tsunamis. Jesus' message doesn't need to be euphemized or made more palatable to be received by the world; we just need to communicate it with the spirit and truth of God's heart. We can be creative, relevant, and iconoclastic in sharing the "Gospel" or literally "good news." Otherwise why would people want to commit their lives to it?

My focus during my first few years as a new Christian was simply to stay alive and become more like Christ. I had so much to learn about the Bible, so many old habits to disassemble, plus I desired to become an effective evangelist. Then one day I realized that all my friends were believers, and that in my quest to be transformed through immersion in the Christian life, I had cut myself off from those who needed God's love the most. The harder I tried to reach people with the message of Jesus, the more they seemed to be trying to avoid me. I maneuvered my conversations between the tension of switching the conversation from the topics at hand to a discussion about Jesus.

I regularly witnessed to people on the streets and met formidable rejection. Deep in my gut I knew that something I was trying to convey was unnatural. I sought to be obedient, and learn, and practice the evangelistic methods popularized by Church leaders of the time. All of us faithfully did them for lack of knowing what else to do.

The rejection I encountered in my outreaches finally became unbearable, and this, along with my disillusionment with evangelistic strategies, caused me to question the destiny to which I had felt God

had called me. Then I remembered reading:

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

—Matthew 25:35–36

This Scripture offered me direction on conveying God’s love with those in need, as Jesus said if we touch these, we are actually touching Him. From that point on, I knew I would not fulfill my divine purpose unless I began to reach out to society’s outcasts.

While standing one afternoon at the Berkeley, California marina, gazing at San Francisco looming mysteriously in a bank of fog, God informed me, almost audibly, inside my mind: “I’m sending you to San Francisco to pray for the sick and minister to the homeless.” I thought, *Right, I’m living fifty miles away and I have no contacts.*

Within a month I had a new job in San Francisco. Next a coworker introduced me to Sister Frye, a woman who had been running a homeless mission there for thirty-five years; my coworker told me that if I volunteered to wash dishes for a few months, Sister Frye might give me a chance to preach at one of the evening services. I had never preached a sermon in my life, but I knew God was leading me in that direction.

I walked into the mission, introduced myself to Sister Frye, and told her I was only available on Wednesday nights. She answered, “I’ve been praying for someone to come on Wednesday nights. Can you preach next Wednesday?” I didn’t have to spend months washing dishes, though I did help in the kitchen. I preached my first sermon in October 1991 to a group of homeless people. Over the next three years I became close with these people as I ministered, played my guitar, and prayed with them.

A short time later a woman from my church approached me about writing to her friend who was on death row. I proceeded to exchange letters with him, and from this began visiting death row inmates at San Quentin prison. It seemed the abused, outcast, disenfranchised,

and indigent inmates were the ones most open to hearing about God. Something happened inside me during the years I spent visiting prison inmates and praying for AIDS victims and crack addicts. I realized how much God loves everyone. I suppose I “caught” God’s heart for people; I could feel Him weep over those who didn’t know His love; I became sensitive to how special and important every person is to Him, no matter how insignificant one may seem to us. It was a poignant time in my life.

Meanwhile, I had become one of the most popular speakers at the homeless mission. At the same time, I was struggling in sharing God’s love with my neighbors and coworkers. Then one day at my office in San Francisco, I experienced something that changed the way I viewed sharing God’s love. I owned a pickup truck, which created a demand for me to move items—an automatic ministry. On a walk through the office, I overheard a homosexual coworker talking on the phone about needing to move a piece of furniture. I immediately felt the Holy Spirit prompt me to help this man. I approached his desk and volunteered to help him with my truck. “Great!” he replied. “I need to move my waterbed into my partner’s house. We’re moving in together this weekend.” Oh, I thought, *This cannot be of God. I must not have heard the Holy Spirit correctly.* But again I felt God prod me to proceed and help him.

I drove him and his water bed over to his friend’s house in the Castro district, an act that surprised him coming from a Christian. This simple act of kindness sparked a deeper friendship between us, which bore fruit a year or so later when he and his partner developed AIDS, and I was the first and only one at work that he felt comfortable confiding this to. A few years later several of our deep conversations brought peace to him before his death. That encounter taught me that friendship and kindness are powerful means to express God’s love.

### **All You Need Is Love**

A book called *Conspiracy of Kindness* by Steve Sjogren, a pastor in Cincinnati, Ohio relates how acts of kindness from him and his church were turning the city upside down. Their approach was unoffensive. Sjogren called what they were doing “servant evangelism,” which he defined as deeds of love, plus words of love, plus adequate time. They

went out and gave away free sodas, or washed cars, and gave people a little card that read: I HOPE THIS BRIGHTENS YOUR DAY. IT'S OUR WAY OF SAYING GOD LOVES YOU, NO STRINGS ATTACHED.

Each time acts of kindness are done in Jesus' name, the recipients are brought a little closer to Him. How long does it take for someone to come to Christ? Sjogren claims it is a unique amount of time for each individual. As in Isaiah 55:10–11, God will not allow any seed that is sown to come back without fruit. He also states that Americans tend to view evangelism as a one-shot deal—a “let ‘em have it while we’ve got their attention” blast from both barrels of a shotgun loaded with Scripture. Rather, Sjogren’s approach is low-keyed and looks for opportunities to get into relationship with people instead of having cold encounters on the street.

Sjogren’s book outlines three stages a Christian goes through in learning to share God’s love: the shark, the carp, and the dolphin. In the shark stage, most Christians believe that Jesus’ message must be conveyed aggressively, similar to the pattern of predatory sharks. Sharks move in for the kill without concern for the trail of bodies and debris left in their wake. They expect that if they confront enough people about receiving Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, sooner or later someone will respond affirmatively. What they don’t realize is that they may be alienating more people from Christ than they are drawing to Him. The shark stage of evangelism attracts plenty of rejection, and the average person can tolerate continual rejection for only so long. Unless one is a born salesperson, the shark mode will soon utterly disillusion most people with the whole idea of sharing God’s love. At this point they leave the shark mode and move on to the next stage of evangelism.

After the sharks sink to rock bottom, they become carps. Carps loiter together out of sight on the fringes. They come to the surface once in a while to hang out at church with their Christian friends, at their Christian events, but the majority of the time they bury their heads like ostriches, telling their fellow believers that evangelism is not one of their gifts. They believe Christians should share the love of God and have old war stories of being on the streets, but the pain of rejection from friends, family, and coworkers has crippled them from continuing.

The dolphin, as opposed to the shark and the carp, is more caring

and sensitive to others and functions in a unique way. Dolphins learned to adapt to various situations facing them and have uncovered the secret of sharing God's love while still being true to themselves. They swim intrepidly on the surface, undaunted by the depths of the open sea. They are jubilantly playful and enjoy and excel at whatever they do. A dolphin's splash gets everyone wet (with the Spirit) but no one seems to mind in the midst of such fun. Their echolocation pinpoints just what approach will touch the need in each person so none will flounder.

Sjogren's book was my first exposure to true "outside the box" style of evangelism. I totally identified with the ideas he presented, and I consider him a genius at evangelistic teaching. On a vacation to Ohio, I visited the Vineyard in Cincinnati and experienced how to do servant evangelism firsthand. It so thrilled me that I left my full-time job to become the evangelism intern at my church. I joined a local missions team that brainstormed about new and creative ways to break through people's walls and be in ongoing relationship with them. Our ideas had practical applications to nearly every church ministry. Our bag lunches for the homeless after church on Sunday became a barbecue picnic for them with even a live band. The responses were inspiring. One guy claimed, "You washed my car every month, raked my leaves, and gave me a cold soda. I give up. I've never seen God's love demonstrated so practically; I'm here to help!"

During this time my pastor, Ben Pierce, and I developed a detailed course on friendship evangelism that was taught to hundreds of people in English and Spanish. The material we presented laid the groundwork for my work today. God has given me a deeper understanding of the principles of friendship and servant evangelism through my personal experience using them. I am keenly aware, as Romans 2:4 states, that ". . . God's kindness leads you toward repentance."

### **Close Encounter of a Third Kind**

After finding new and exciting ways to touch people with God's love, I felt for the first time that I was beginning to touch on how Jesus did it. Although we were not seeing droves of people giving their lives to God, we were seeing some, and many new visitors graced the church. I would much rather be out serving people, or having coffee with them, and in

the process getting to know people who need God's love, than be sitting in a pew doing nothing.

In the nineties my church was starting a healing center, so I traveled with a group of leaders to the Anaheim Vineyard for a conference with John Wimber. I had heard about how John Wimber had started a movement that was restoring the power of God, in a way that was very natural, to the Church. Wimber's Association of Vineyard Churches had grown to over two hundred and fifty churches by the time of his death in 1997.

I was pleasantly surprised when I saw this man stand up in front of thousands of people dressed in a Hawaiian shirt and a pair of shorts. As he ministered, the power of the Holy Spirit would come sweeping across the crowd. People would laugh, and they even got healed just sitting in their seats! While this was happening, Wimber would casually explain what was going on as if we were in a personal teaching session.

John Wimber had written several books, but the one that interested me the most was *Power Evangelism*. He noted that whenever Jesus or His disciples proclaimed the Gospel message, a demonstration of God's power would confirm it. Evangelism in the New Testament was not telling people about God's love and then trying to reason with them to believe; it was sharing the message and then showing them God was real by performing miracles or giving words of prophecy. And this was all grounded in and accomplished through relationship, love, and acceptance of people as they were.

Wimber's message definitely followed the pattern Jesus had laid out for us by example. I remembered declaring years before I became a Christian that if I could only see God's power then I really would believe. What a way to be an evangelist! The only drawback was that I didn't know very many people who could perform miracles. I had witnessed a few healings here and there as I prayed for people, but they were paltry compared to the works described in the New Testament.

I was eager to grow in my ability to hear God's voice through the Holy Spirit. About the same time that I saw John Wimber, a friend took me to a conference with John Paul Jackson called *Hearing the Voice of God*. John Paul was known then as one of the "Kansas City prophets." He had been a part of Mike Bickle's church in the 1980s

and after leaving Kansas City, John Paul was on staff with John Wimber for a few years until he pioneered and pastored a church of his own. Eventually he started a prophetic-equipping ministry called Streams Ministries International.

John Paul Jackson, who appeared to hear God clearly, intrigued me. I would watch as he called people out in a crowd and communicate a message from God that often made them cry. He did it with such gentleness, not pointing out their sins, but instead telling them how God saw them, and how they would be greatly used by God if they would not give up.

John Paul Jackson also taught on how God speaks through our dreams. I had been dreaming ever since I could remember, and no one had ever mentioned to me that as a Christian I could learn to understand my dreams. I was amazed, and as I continued for a few years attending conferences of John Paul Jackson and John Wimber, I began to grow in hearing God's voice. I became convinced that the missing ingredient in effectively witnessing for Jesus Christ was power evangelism. I began to pray and ask God to use me in this way. After all, Jesus did say "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses . . ." (Acts 1:8).

A short time later something unusual happened. At the time I was a computer network engineer, and I owned my own company. I was up late working at around 11 P.M. when out of the blue a picture popped into my head of a woman who worked for one of my clients. I sensed she was in trouble, and then the word "suicide" sounded an alarm through my head. I took a moment and prayed, entreating God to save her. Then the impression left, and I continued with my work. The next day I just happened to be going to that particular client's office. I saw the woman whom I had prayed for, and suddenly the Holy Spirit strongly urged me to speak with her. But I didn't know what to say. The right moment came at break time, and at the coffeepot I awkwardly asked her how she was doing. Then I blurted out, "Last night I felt that God told me to pray for you because you may have been feeling discouraged." (That was putting it mildly!) She looked at me with tears in her eyes and affirmed that last night she had been feeling discouraged, and was drinking wine to relax. Just about 11 P.M. she had contemplated taking a handful of sleeping

pills, but for some reason she stopped. Then she studied my face and asked, “Are you psychic?” “No,” I replied. “I just hear God, and He must really love you to have someone pray for you like that.” Soon after that incident she began attending church again.

This was the start of my series of “God encounters” over the next few years that greatly changed the way I viewed evangelism and inspired me to pursue the upward call of my destiny in God. All my life I had felt there was something more for me—that I was created for a special purpose, but I had never discovered what that something more was.

A few years later I met my wife, Linda, and I left my church and joined the Vineyard movement, where the two of us became church planters. We started and pastored a church in the Midwest, in the same area where I had once played in an occult band. After just a year of working in that church, we began reaching people in the New Age movement. We subsequently returned to California, handing the church over to a capable young pastor.

Around the same time John Paul Jackson launched the Institute for Spiritual Development courses *The Art of Hearing God* and *Understanding Dreams and Visions*.<sup>1</sup> During the advanced dreams course I attended, John Paul mentioned that some of his interns were using his method of biblical dream interpretation for evangelism. They were taking dream teams into Starbucks, Borders, and Barnes and Noble on a regular basis, and people were giving their lives to Jesus Christ as a result of having their dreams interpreted. When I heard this, my heart nearly skipped a beat! This is what I had dreamed of—power evangelism combined with the prophetic element of hearing God for others—a new way of sharing God’s love with people who are “way outside” the Church.

I joined the staff of Streams Ministries under John Paul Jackson and became the National Dream Team Coordinator. My job was to teach people how to use dream interpretation and their prophetic gifts for evangelism. We began to take our dream and prophetic teams to events like the Olympics, the Commonwealth Games, the Sundance Film Festival, and to places like Las Vegas, Nevada; Venice Beach, California, as well as many New Age events. Streams Ministries is a vital and anointed instrument being used to restore the awe of God and to assist people in fulfilling their divine destinies.

Streams Dream Teams found that people really were more open to talking about God after they had a dream interpreted or when they received a prophetic word. In order for them to tell us their dream, they had to risk being vulnerable. As people confided in us, we gave them words of encouragement from God; we communicated spirit-to-spirit. The results were phenomenal. Over and over the Streams Dream Teams ministered to people who did not have a relationship with Jesus but were having dreams from God. Often these dreams had remained in their minds for years, but they had not been able to find anyone who could interpret them.

After two years at Streams, Linda and I felt God calling us to launch our own ministry, InLight Connection, training people in power and prophetic evangelism to reach people outside the Church.

### **Searching for How Jesus Evangelized**

We began taking teams out to malls every week in various cities around the U.S. and observed that people were very open to talking about spirituality. They would often allow us to pray with them as long as we didn't use traditional religious words or sound churchy, but when we did, they would immediately put up their walls and quickly lose interest. If we shared words from God with them in nonreligious language, though, they seemed very interested. My intent was not just to have nice conversations with people but to see them come to know and understand God's acceptance, forgiveness, and power in their lives.

I realized I needed to familiarize myself with the culture of non-believers and to notice people's behavior and reactions when I talked to them. I had always considered common evangelistic programs outdated, so I sought to discover what people like and dislike today—their values, and what sorts of things interest them. I also began to study the Bible more deeply, researching every encounter Jesus and His disciples had with unbelievers. I was surprised to see that they did not say what we say, or use the Bible verses we use but instead demonstrated the power of God through kindness, miracles, healings, words of knowledge, prophecy, or whatever would get people to understand God's love for them.

### **Why I Wrote this Book**

I have learned from being set free from the occult by the power of God's love, and I have learned about how to reach people with God's love. I still remember what it felt like as an unbeliever to be evangelized, yet I have also seen how the other side lives, the frustrated evangelist trying to devise ways to bring salvation to those who do not yet know God. I believe, though, that God is calling us to be creative regarding how we go about touching these people's lives. We've put parameters around an expression of spirituality that no longer fits. People today are actually more and more spiritually attuned, and they are very open to experiencing more of God.

We must discard our preconceived ideas of how to do evangelism. May this book help you find new ways to share God's good news. In these pages, my desire is to help both the seasoned evangelist as well as those who may have never dreamed they would be able to share God's love with others.

For more information or to order this  
book, visit [www.dougaddison.com](http://www.dougaddison.com)