



## *Directed Fishing for People*

By Kurt von Schleicher

No, I don't consider myself good at it yet, and I'm not the one in charge of where or how I fish.

I'm willing to learn.

Let's say after many hours in the same sitting position over large oceans your plane finally arrives in India, Christian, so you grab your iPod, sunglasses and backpack.. you de-board down the stairs onto the tarmac in the hot sun and suddenly you are surrounded by new smells, new sights, new sounds, and literally thousands of people who have not yet heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Not even once.

Many have never even heard about the name of Jesus.

Opportunity galore!

Exciting huh.

Sure, you've been given a Mandate to go tell, but you can't tell everyone there and then fully explain the truth that they need so badly to hear.

Well, maybe if everyone in India had a computer and they followed you on Twitter.. then you could start.

Ain't gonna happen; let's get real.

The Task seems impossible!

Do they even speak your language? You can't send a phone-tree message out to many cuz who even has a cell phone.. or likes that kind of thing?

But you have a heart and desire to love and reach everyone with the unchanging truth. Beautiful!

Hey, you're really into Jesus, practical service, witnessing and stuff. So what do you do—where do you begin?

How will you obey?

You and I must start where we are and **be directed in ministry by the Lord of the Harvest**—the One who sees the big picture. Jesus is the One who prepares hearts and already knows who is open or ready. He adds to His Church. He alone saves from the guttermost to the uttermost.

*"There's a difference between just serving and serving at the direction of the Lord. When the Lord is in it, He can fill the nets. When the Lord is in it, He can make it prosperous. You can do the same thing in the same way and apart from the Lord. You're gonna pull up empty nets all night." ~chuck SMITH, SR*

News flash: **The need isn't always "the call" for the Christian.** On a missions trip to the People's Republic of China where you would be surrounded by large crowds of needy people everywhere you go, God certainly doesn't expect you to meet every need. How could you possibly be a real good Samaritan to every one of them? No believer has yet done that in any nation. The Lord alone is their need-meeter and He graciously rains on the righteous and the unrighteous every year. We really don't deserve that, but He's kind enough to often bless us anyways. And He is also big enough that He could meet every need instantly in any Land.. yes, in China if the people were humble, repentant, and willing. **Please know that blessings are for born again Christians according to the teachings of the Bible (see John 3), and God wants to bless you more than you want to be blessed.**

He will gladly direct you to certain individuals that you can give to, Christ.. to witness to or pray for. He often works on your end and on theirs ahead of time to prepare hearts. God's desire is that all Christians will become change agents yielded to his global plan. But sometimes the need is the call. If you were on a street corner in China and a child suddenly broke free from their mother to dart into the street from the sidewalk, God would never expect you to bow your head or kneel and pray a prayer to find out if you were called to cross cultural children's ministry. When a big truck rumbling down the road in the same lane as that child, **THE NEED IN THIS CASE IS THE CALL! DUH!** Spring into action to snatch up that kid and pull them back to the safety of their mother's arms before the truck gets any closer! HELLO! That's just common sense-ical, but too many of us believers over spiritualize things and don't use our heads. We are waiting to hear an audible voice, or see an open vision, or a sign like a dove falling from heaven.

*"JESUS is the difference between activity and ministry!" ~doug WARWICK*

*"Be fishing where the Lord directs and let Him fill the net." ~debbie STONER*

Directed service (by Christ) is much better than mere service ..allegedly in Jesus' Name. God doesn't want our efforts wasted and we certainly don't want to impede by getting in our own way or the Church's. The Bible has a whole lot to say about being led of the Spirit in regards to fulfilling Christ's Great Commission, but here are a few passages that hopefully will wet our appetite for this some more: **"He (Jesus) said to Simon, 'Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.' But Simon answered and said to Him, 'Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.' And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw [it], he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!' For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken"** (Lk. 5:4-9, nkjv).

**Check out this, "Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the Word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did"** (Act 8:5-6, nkjv).

Kurt, are you trying to say that witnessing or seed planting comes before worshipping, or that large numbers will always be saved if the Lord is directing you.. or that Jesus is so "production" minded the He will always lead you to preach to large numbers? No!

God rad-cares about and reaches out to individuals through us. He graciously rescues them one at a time and I'm saying that we all just need to take the time to hear from Him correctly and then be flexible as Philip

certainly was, **"Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go near and overtake this chariot.' So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. The place in the Scripture which he read was this: 'He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth. In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth.' So the eunuch answered Philip and said, 'I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?' Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, 'See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?' Then Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away.." (Acts 8:26-29).**

***"If each Christian does what God wants him or her to do, we will have a total spiritual revolution in our churches." ~brother ANDREW***

***"Who is man that he shall say to God 'Use me in this way oh God, but not in that.' In first Corinthians chapter one it states that God uses the foolish things of this world to put to shame the wise, and the truth is that we never know which way God is going to use us, but if we keep our focus on Him, He will guide us in His perfect will at His perfect time." ~karina INGRAM***

Look at how the yielded Apostle Paul shared with the saints at Corinth. He said, **"I hope to stay a while with you, if the Lord permits. But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries"** (1 Cor. 16:7-9). His time was not his own to do as he pleased. He knew that he was bought at a price and was the bond slave of Another.

***"Our ministry is not always fishing for the souls of men, but, whether fishing for men or going about our Father's business in other functions, the Lord causes us to succeed with the fruit of the Spirit." ~Ferly S. Greenhalgh***

***"I'm not a smuggler, I'm a missionary. I have chosen to be obedient and not turn away from danger." ~brother ANDREW***

Please don't get me wrong here, when Jesus Christ, the Chief Fisherman, is in charge of the Christians and their fishing venture, there will indeed be growth for individuals and for local churches. It doesn't matter your location on this planet.

He knows what we all need and when we need it.. **"Day after day the congregations became stronger in faith and larger in size. They went to Phrygia, and then on through the region of Galatia. Their plan was to turn west into Asia province, but the Holy Spirit blocked that route. So they went to Mysia and tried to go north to Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus wouldn't let them go there either. Proceeding on through Mysia, they went down to the seaport Troas. That night Paul had a dream: A Macedonian stood on the far shore and called across the sea, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us!' The dream gave Paul his map. We went to work at once getting things ready to cross over to Macedonia. All the pieces had come together. We knew now for sure that God had called us to preach the good news to the Europeans"** (Acts 16:5-10, msg).

Jesus once commanded His followers saying, **"Come, be my disciples, and I will show you how to fish for people!"** (Matt. 4:19). Feel a little trepidation about this stuff? Please know that God is so there for you and will encourage you to grab a pole, perhaps a good net, some effective worms so to speak... yep, kinda like how He called Simon when He said, **"Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!"** (Lk. 5:10).

My two questions for you are simply: 1) Are you a real fisher of people yet, a fake one, a half-committed one, or one who has never really given it some thought and is therefore far from becoming a fisher? 2) Who is directing your fishing efforts today?

There are some reasons why some Christians feel like hesitating [when it comes to fishing for lost people](#).

Some have experienced a pushy kind of pressure to "Do more for my church (I mean for God's Kingdom)" from well-meaning Christian leaders in the past. Some don't feel good enough, or equipped enough. Some feel too guilty due to bad choices or besetting sins and the condemnation of the enemy. Some have seen hateful Bible-waving preacher dudes on the roadside yelling at, or talking down to unbelievers in a self-righteous, judgmentally arrogant or non-winsome way, and they simply don't want to become a bummer to their friends ..or be considered a "freak" like that. Some feel afraid to mess it up when they give their presentation of the Gospel, feeling like they haven't memorized enough Scripture verses. Some simply don't care for the unbeliever in their terrible plight away from Christ, or about where they will go (perhaps they've been taught that all "sincere people" who are not out to hurt anyone else will go to heaven no matter what they believe). Perhaps some simply don't take the time to step aside to talk to God about all this and therefore they feel no burden (a supernatural heart-felt concern) for others. Whatever the reason, God's Word can effectively and lovingly address it as they read through the Bible. Every verse in there has a God-glorifying soul-winning purpose, because He is a compassionate soul-winning kinda Lord!

**But like me and many others, you too can make the uber-thrilling discovery, that second only to experiencing the blessing, the fun, the great privilege and glory of worshiping the Lord in spirit and in truth on a daily basis, comes the tremendous J-O-Y of leading another person into a saving faith and uniquely meaningful relationship with none other than, Jesus Christ?**

The bad news is that you can't make yourself into a fisher by doing gobs of good or religious works etc, but the Good news is that [you can turn from all that is wrong and still become a real fisher](#) right now! So what are you waiting for?

Have a prayer request or some questions about knowing God ..and how to properly walk in Jesus Christ? At [fish4souls.org](http://fish4souls.org) click "[Contact](#)" and let us know! Perhaps we can help. Follow.. [Facebook.com/ShareJesus](https://www.facebook.com/ShareJesus) or at [Twitter.com/kurtwvs](https://twitter.com/kurtwvs)

© Copyright 2007 by Kurt van Schleicher. All rights reserved.