

Graylin Covington Paper#2

Interview with Overseer Suzie E. Jones

The Ministry of New Life

4560 Tell Road, SW

Atlanta, GA 30331

1. What is your philosophy of evangelism?

I believe Evangelism is dear to the heart of God more so than any other. It is through Evangelism that millions are introduced to God for the first time. My philosophy is centered around the principle on the immense subject. Kingdom principles never change but methods and methodologies do. Jesus laid out some very powerful principles of evangelism that the methods are different but the principles are the same. The New Testament shows endless examples of the principle of EVENT DRIVEN evangelism. Jesus tells the disciple to go into the hedges and highways and compel men to come. The principle is to go where people are and make a compelling appeal to introduce Christ. My philosophy for this 21st century church is that any evangelistic approach should be event driven.

2. How does your church approach evangelism?

Our church enjoys evangelism that is Event Driven. We have events such as ladies night out, family day events and men's outing. In these settings people who are not skilled in evangelism would feel much more comfortable inviting friends, family co-workers, etc. Then through a non-threatening way we invite people to know the Christ in us through the demonstration of love. The team or group is instructed to NOT invite people to church but invite them to themselves and manifest Christ in their lives.

3. How do you view personal evangelism related to (1) the pastor? (2) the individual believer/church members? (3) the church as a whole?

I don't believe pastors should act as evangelist. In reaching souls, evangelist should go after the souls, bring them to the house of God and the pastor or shepherd teach them. These are two different gifts or graces on two different spectra's of the body. It's the Pastor job to Evangelize core and the core member become sharers of Jesus. Members that have a heart for people in sharing Christ and leading people to Christ should actively create situations to enable them to share Christ with people.

4. What is your church doing to tell others about Christ and to reach out to others in your community?

In this 21st Century Culture, I believe that the church has been given a bad name. Therefore, it is our responsibility to dispel this misnomer. I believe event driven evangelism is a great tool. It is designed to allow people to see Christ demonstrated before it is explained. Jesus' evangelism got the attention of people first. This method caused people to ask a question about what they saw. When we share Christ through our lives, it's the door for conversation which leads to evangelism.

5. Do you have evangelism training? (if so, describe)

Evangelism training includes an intense study of God's Word and the methods used in order to draw people. There is a discussion among the evangelist as to the methods we will use in the 21st century church. There is a discussion to explore events that can be used that are Christ centered.

We realize, more importantly that training doesn't give people the gift, it enhances the skill and perspective of those who have the gift. The first step of training is to define who has the gift and who doesn't. I don't believe everyone is an evangelist so making everyone one is a mistake.

6. Do we have an evangelism in our church? (if so, please describe)

I believe evangelist or evangelism is identified by the anointing upon the lives of those involved. The anointing is coupled with a love for "souls." Those involved in evangelism readily pursue souls for the kingdom.

7. What else have you considered?

We attempted the traditional approach, house to house, build it and they will come and yelling from the streets. All have worked in its time and culture. One major issue with church as it relates to evangelism is that the world changed and the church must change as well. Being relevant is the key.

8. What is your plan for church growth and/or reaching the lost in your community?

Our plan for evangelism/church growth is to continue to create an atmosphere that will cause individuals to be drawn because of the anointing. Planned events make the invitation that draws the individuals to our ministry. Our evangelism is not church growth driven its salvation. I don't believe that evangelism and church growth should be in the equation with each other. Putting them in the same category suggest the wrong motive. Evangelism should only be centered in Christ Love and people who have a genuine love for the salvation for others.

We will set up programs that will draw people from the street first meeting a need. After meeting the need, Christ will be introduced.

I have been a member at the Ministry of New Life for four years and while doing this interview I can truly say that all that Overseer Suzie Jones stated concerning the programs that are in place for Evangelism are alive and working very well. She is a woman of impeccable character and above reproach. She is a graduate of Beulah heights University.