

No excuses for failing to witness, Hill says_12604

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No excuses for failing to witness, Hill says

By John Hall

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RICHARDSON God is calling all Texas Baptists to evangelize non-Christians around the world, according to vocational evangelist Ronnie Hill of Fort Worth.

There are no excuses for not sharing the gospel with non-believers because God uses Christians to advance his will, Hill told the Texas Evangelism and Missions Conference.

Terry
Gooding of
El Paso
Baptist
Association
leads Suzy
Wall from
Frio Baptist
Church of
Hereford
through a
prayer
exercise for
children.
"Go Pray"
was one of
more than
30
workshops
offered at
the Texas
Evangelism
and
Missions
Conference.
(John Hall
Photo)

God uses individuals who are poor, weak or have little social status, Hill added. Likewise, he uses smaller churches with limited resources.

The Apostle Paul noted he was not an eloquent speaker, but God used him

to spread the gospel beyond Israel, Hill said. God calls those whom society discounts because their work clearly can glorify him.

Christians simply need to offer non-believers the gospel, Hill preached. Too often pastors speak about topics without referencing the Bible or Christ's message of hope.

In some cases, they offer no invitations to make a commitment to Christ.

“You are not called to be a pop psychologist,” he said. “You are not called to be Dr. Phil or Oprah. You are called to be proclaimers of the gospel. So start proclaiming.”

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The church's work should stretch far beyond its facilities, Hill said. Ministers should serve in positions that interact with the community, such as football chaplains and substitute teachers. Members should visit houses in their neighborhoods and share the gospel. Overseas mission trips should be strongly urged.

Inside the church, Hill encouraged leaders to use “God-anointed” evangelists for crusades and revivals.

Youth programs need more emphasis, Hill continued. Most conversions are made before people turn 18, so efforts to reach them should be bolstered financially. Youth ministers also need freedom to eat lunch with students and spend time with them.

He also pushed ministers to move baptisms toward the end of the worship service, because many non-Christians come to see their friends baptized.

However, they tend to leave immediately after the ordinance.

If the baptism happens after the sermon, those non-believers will hear the gospel and have a chance to respond.

“Put the baptism at the end,” he said. “Let people hear the gospel.”

God will bless and work through these kinds of efforts, Hill insisted.

“Don't tell me it doesn't work. I've seen it work,” he said.

He has seen vocational evangelists lead hundreds of people to God in one evening. Cowboy church Bible studies have brought some of the toughest men to faith. The Lord worked to transform Hill's father from an alcoholic to a minister.

in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and around the world.