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# PORTLAND EVANGELISM REPORT

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HOW ARE CHURCHES IN THE PORTLAND  
AREA APPROACHING EVANGELISM?

# THE PROCESS

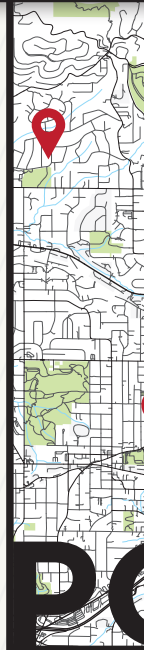
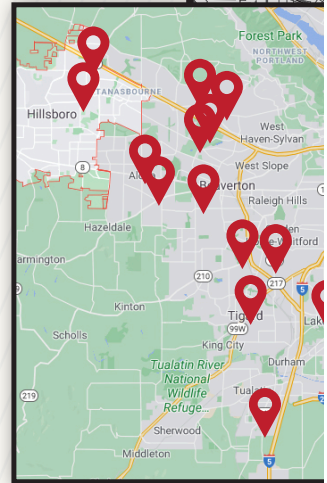
## How are churches in the Portland area approaching evangelism?

The SharePDX Team set out to answer this question in the summer of 2019. The team believed the first place to start was to listen to the voices of lead pastors in our community. Much of our world and city have changed since the beginning of this study. While the need to evangelize remains the same, pastors are now wondering how to share the Gospel in a time marked by a global pandemic, divisive politics, racial injustice, government restrictions, and social isolation.

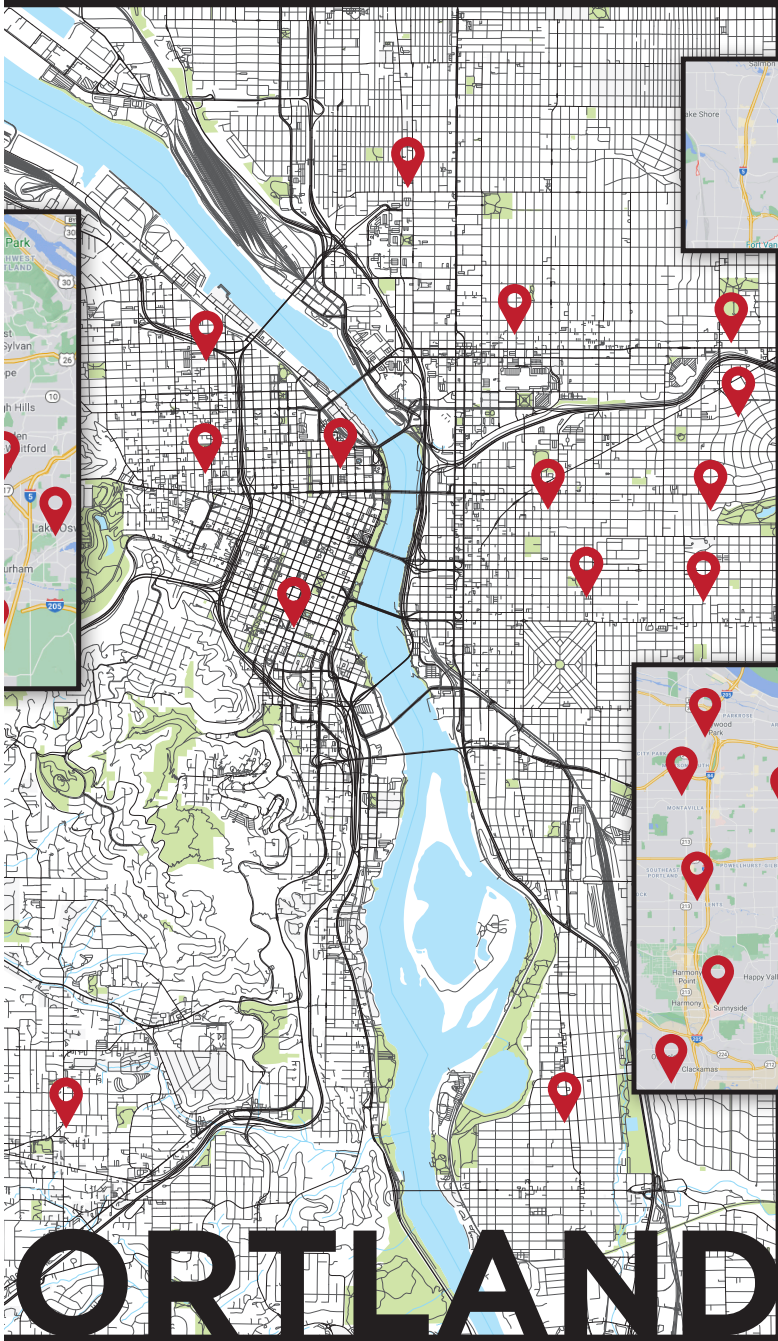
### This report highlights nine key findings from 50 interviews with Portland-area lead pastors.

Read on for explanations to the nine findings, practical ideas to strengthen evangelism in your church, and reflection questions to help you consider application in your own context.

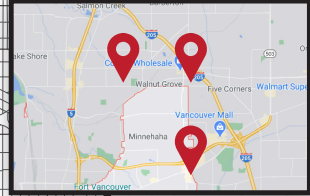
WEST SIDE METRO AREA



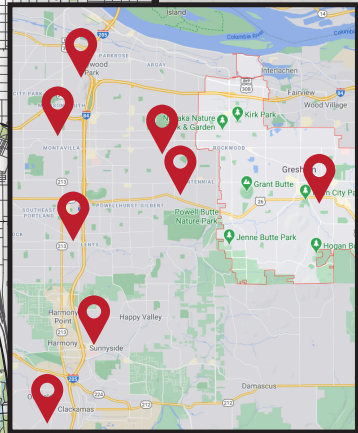




## VANCOUVER, WA



## EAST SIDE METRO AREA





## NINE KEY FINDINGS OF EVANGELISM IN PORTLAND

- 1 Evangelism culture starts with the leaders
- 2 Identify and empower evangelists already among you
- 3 Community service increases credibility not Gospel conversations
- 4 The Holy Spirit's role in people coming to faith is essential . . . but overlooked
- 5 Most churches underestimate the impact of celebration
- 6 Sunday gatherings remain primary focus for evangelistic outreach
- 7 Evangelism equipping without experience falls flat
- 8 Prayer for the lost is lacking
- 9 Coming to faith is a longer journey







## WHAT DO WE MEAN BY EVANGELISM?

When we talk about evangelism, we mean *communicating the Gospel message with words and inviting people to respond*.

The Gospel is the message of life made possible for all through faith in Jesus Christ — His life, death, resurrection, and future coming.

Evangelism can take place in front of many people or just one person, with strangers or with one's closest friends and family members. It can be done from a pulpit, using technology, written materials, or plain old, face-to-face conversation.

Some people's conception of evangelism is that of proclamation by a pastor from a pulpit; others stress the importance of honest dialogue with friends, family, and co-workers; and others work to integrate evangelism through their service efforts in the community. We celebrate the diversity of how the Body of Christ communicates the Gospel and calls people to respond, and for the sake of this discussion about evangelism in Portland, evangelism is fundamentally conversational; that is — in some form — using words.

We also want to acknowledge at the outset of this report that the term *evangelism* can be inflammatory for some readers. In fact, it was common through these interviews to hear pastors' personal reticence with the word or their explanation of why their church members are uneasy about the term.

Evangelism comes with many connotations. We hope that this report accurately describes pastors' various opinions about evangelism and encourages holistic, dignifying, and effective evangelism efforts.

And finally, while some pastors describe themselves as an “evangelist” or “having the gift of evangelism” we recognize there are different opinions about spiritual gifts among believers. Most pastors interviewed would not describe themselves as an “evangelist” but nevertheless desire to develop a culture in their church where everyone is empowered to share the Gospel and where evangelism is valued as a core responsibility and privilege of the Christian Church.



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## e•van•ge•lism

/e'vanjə,lizəm/

**Communicating the Gospel message  
with words and inviting people to  
respond (CGM).**

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## KEY FINDINGS

### 1 • Evangelism culture starts with the leaders

*“What’s in the heart of the leader is in the heart of the people.”* – Pastor (NE PDX)

*“If the pastor gets it, the church will get it. People ask: ‘How are you growing?’ Well, I preach the Gospel every week. I have to realize my own dependence on the Gospel.”* – Pastor (Hillsboro)

Behind every church that is passionate about evangelism is a lead pastor who prioritizes evangelism (for this report the title “lead pastor” is synonymous with senior pastor). To these pastors, evangelism is not merely a training program to be implemented; it is a culture. Evangelism is not solely for those gifted in evangelism (many of these pastors would say they are not primarily gifted as evangelists — see *What do we mean by evangelism?* section). Instead, evangelism is a responsibility meant to be practiced by everyone in their church. These pastors often communicate their personal need for the Gospel. It is their daily dependence on the saving message of Jesus Christ that propels their prioritization of evangelism.

For evangelism to be sustainable in a church, a lead pastor must instill it as a value for their entire leadership team, not just hold it as a personal priority. In some churches this looks like giving staff flexible work hours to ensure they are building relationships with non-believers in the community. Staff meetings are a place to share current testimonies and pray for open doors for gospel conversations. One lead pastor guides his staff through various evangelism training curricula throughout the year. He makes sure the methods and training styles vary to apply to the diversity of his staff.

In another church, each member of a leadership team is assigned to lead a huddle of twelve up-and-coming leaders in the church wherein evangelism is encouraged as a core value. Churches with few if any paid staff develop their volunteer leaders with the same intention as if they were paid staff.

### *Reflection Questions:*

1. Think of your core values as a pastor or ministry leader. How does evangelism interact with these values?
2. What might it look like to integrate evangelism as a core value for your staff team/volunteer leaders? How could this be integrated through questions in staff meeting, curriculum, and intentional conversations?
3. Describe the culture of your church and the key factors that shaped the culture. Is evangelism something that comes to mind when you think about your church culture?



## 2 • Identify and empower evangelists already among you

*“I’m not an evangelist but we’re an evangelistic church, and I didn’t think that was possible.”* – Pastor (Hillsboro)

*“We definitely have some evangelistically gifted people. I’m super low on the evangelism gifting, but I try to let them lead me and the church in evangelism.”*

– Pastor (SW PDX)

It is easier to identify a volunteer leader in your church for the children’s ministry than it is to identify an evangelist. Why? Because you are actively looking for volunteers who fit that role. Another challenge in identifying evangelists is many evangelists do not know they are evangelists (yet) and few use the term to describe themselves. Strategies for identifying and empowering evangelists in churches were rare in these interviews. However, when they surfaced, many were surprisingly simple, and all required persistent intention.

Simple strategies for identifying potential evangelists are:

- Look for the people who are regularly inviting new people to church (“super-invitors”) or who have led more than one person to Christ.
- Regularly ask “Who are the up-and-coming leaders” at elders’ meetings and staff meetings.
- Invite a local evangelist to speak at a Sunday gathering and see who from your congregation shows unusual interest.
- Affirm evangelistic gifting more quickly in new believers. Several pastors said new believers are their best evangelists. However, the more time new believers spend in church, the less non-Christian friends they often have.



- Connect newer evangelists to experienced evangelists for mentoring and encouragement.

In a couple of churches, experienced evangelists are brought on paid staff teams. Trust and partnership between pastors and evangelists is highlighted when lead pastors seek feedback from evangelists on their sermons. One pastor invites the resident evangelist in his church to close his sermons by succinctly communicating the Gospel and providing an opportunity for people to respond.

### *Reflection Questions:*

1. Who in your congregation is regularly inviting new people to church? Who has led more than one person to Christ?
2. Who are the up-and-coming leaders in your community? Do any of them show unusual interest in evangelistically-oriented sermons and guest preachers?
3. Who are the new believers among your church body? How can you encourage them to share their testimony early on?
4. What could it look like to create spaces for evangelistically-minded people to connect with one another? Could you partner with another church in this effort?

### 3 • Community service increases credibility not Gospel conversations

*“Service creates validity for the Gospel that we can then articulate.”* – Pastor (NE PDX)

*“There’s the temptation to say Gospel conversations will be automatic with serving but that’s naive. It’s not a one-to-one correlation.”* – Pastor (Hillsboro)

Churches across the Portland metro area are committed to serving their neighborhoods, but churches vary in their belief of how community service is correlated to Gospel conversations. One pastor said, “If we mobilize a bunch of people with the gift of service why would we expect a bunch of people to be evangelized?” Others view community service as the pathway to relationship; raking leaves at a school garners trust to invite a school staff member to a barbecue where a Gospel conversation can take place. And still others say there is a direct correlation between community service and Gospel proclamation. Some of these pastors were able to share how people are in church on Sundays because they serve them during the week, but others were not able to share specific stories of Gospel conversations. One pastor regrettably shared they had been serving in their neighborhood for ten years but could not point to one person who committed their life to Christ through these interactions with the church.

Regardless of where a church is, for evangelism to be integrated into community service it must be integrated purposefully. One church in SE Portland offers missional grants for congregants with ideas for serving their community.

One requirement for grant recipients is to include a proclamation component in their initiative. This requirement occasionally receives push-back. Without communicating the Gospel of Jesus Christ, neighbors may never know we are Christians. A Tigard pastor laughed when he recalled a service day when their neighbors said of the people who had been serving: *"Those were some amazing Buddhists."*

### **Reflection Questions:**

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- 1. How is your church currently involved in serving your community? What could it look like to increase integration between evangelism and your community service?**
  - 2. Is the connection between evangelism and community service connected, disconnected, or unclear?**
  - 3. If our evangelism flows most naturally out of relationship, how can your service in the community become more relational and less about a transfer of goods and services?**
  - 4. Reflect on the amount of energy, prayer, and resources directed toward community service in your church. How does the amount of time and resources allocated to service compare to the amount of time and resources allocated to evangelism?**
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#### 4 • The Holy Spirit's role in people coming to faith is essential . . . but overlooked

*"Listen to God. Believe God is at work leading people to Himself. Go be part of it."* – Pastor (Vancouver, WA)

*"We've had people come to Christ through radical means, like the Holy Spirit was doing something, but I don't think it's anything we did."* – Pastor (SW PDX)

It surprised us how seldom the Holy Spirit was mentioned in these interviews.

Less than a third of pastors mentioned the **HOLY SPIRIT** in their entire interview and very few pastors mentioned any teaching about the **Holy Spirit** when talking about how they train their people in evangelism.



Yet in those conversations where the Holy Spirit was mentioned, there was always a connection to increased passion for evangelism and evangelistic fruit.

One pastor mentioned a personal openness to new expressions of the Spirit even though he called himself a “functional cessationist” in the past. He was witnessing healings and words of knowledge in one of his gatherings and seeing people encounter Jesus in ways he had not seen before. When he told of a dinner with pastor friends across the city, he explained how many of them were also surprised about similar expressions of the Spirit in their churches.

When we asked another pastor of a young and rapidly growing church how he managed to see several hundred people baptized in the first two years of the church's existence, he responded: "I don't know. I'm not sure why. It's the Spirit. We don't boast of what we don't understand."

One pastor in Tualatin tells his people "Be ready for the Holy Spirit moments. If it's forced, it never works. Spend time with people and listen for God's prompting." What could trainings look like that coached people to identify and participate in these "Holy Spirit moments"?

### *Reflection Questions:*

- 1. Why might the Holy Spirit's role in evangelism be commonly neglected or downplayed? What are evangelism efforts missing without awareness of the Spirit?**
- 2. What is the Holy Spirit's role in evangelism? How could the Holy Spirit's role in evangelism be more regularly and clearly communicated to your congregation?**
- 3. How is the Holy Spirit included or excluded in evangelism trainings you have experienced or led?**
- 4. How could teaching a more robust theology of the Holy Spirit encourage people towards evangelism and lessen anxiety Christians often feel around evangelism?**

## 5 • Most churches underestimate the impact of celebration

*“Celebration is a key value. We cheer for decisions on Sunday. Post on Social media. Talk about it in services. And we measure decisions.”* – Pastor (NE PDX)

*“We have baptisms 5-6 times per year, but we don’t celebrate this well.”* – Pastor (Tigard)

When asked how their church celebrates people  
**COMING TO FAITH**  
78% of pastors  
mentioned baptisms.



Many pastors also admit they could do a better job celebrating people coming to and sharing their faith.

As baptisms came up in nearly every interview, we wondered why celebrating evangelism was commonly confined to rhythmic baptisms (ranging from annual to monthly cycles). What are the conscious and unconscious messages about evangelism that church members receive? Baptisms are a climactic moment, but few churches use baptisms to tell the stories of those life transformations, prayers, and seeds planted along the way. If we do not celebrate — or at least publicly recognize — these steps along someone’s journey, do churchgoers have an unrealistic view about evangelism? Are they trained to see evangelism as more of a moment of conversion than a journey? Furthermore, baptisms highlight people coming to faith. What about celebrating people sharing their faith?

While most baptisms include cheering and an adapted Sunday gathering, some churches celebrated in unusual ways:



- Share written or video testimonies alongside baptisms.
- Have a “birthday”/baptism cake for new believers.
- Create space immediately following the baptism for new believers to meet pastors.
- Follow an ancient liturgical baptism celebration and then host a party.
- Highlight baptisms on social media.

What could it look like to encourage sharing current evangelism stories in small groups or include a short testimony during weekly announcements? One idea several churches implement is to leverage their church social media accounts to share more testimonies than information about activities going on around their church.

### ***Reflection Questions:***

- 1. How do you currently celebrate baptisms? What could it look like to highlight both the journey and the moment of conversion?**
- 2. Through whom do you hear current testimonies of people coming to and sharing their faith? How could you curate and share more of these stories with the entire church?**
- 3. What have been some of the most impactful ways you have experienced hearing testimonies? What would it look like to recreate this or aspects of this in our church?**
- 4. Do you encourage your people to share current testimonies and stories of personal gospel conversations? How could you encourage people to share testimonies more often?**

## 6 • Sunday gatherings remain a primary focus for evangelistic outreach

*“The atmosphere at our church builds confidence for people to invite their [non-Christian] friends.”*

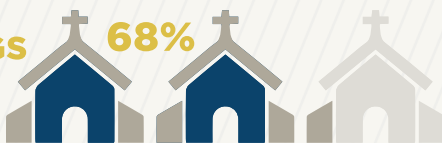
– Pastor (SE PDX)

*“Create an environment on Sundays to which lost people feel comfortable coming. Fifteen percent of people at our church on Sundays are not believers yet people feel comfortable bringing their friends.”*

– Pastor (Vancouver, WA)

### SUNDAY GATHERINGS

were a key strategy in more than two-thirds of the churches we interviewed.



If you have a relative, friend, or co-worker, invite them to church where they will hear the Gospel from the pastor. When pastors were asked to identify church members who had an evangelistic passion, they told us they look for people who invite people to church on a regular basis. Many pastors emphasized shaping their Sunday services and sermons so that non-believers would feel welcomed. Another lead pastor said he recognizes 15% of his congregation are not yet believers. He ends his sermons by communicating the Gospel in a simple way each Sunday so people are given the opportunity to respond to the Gospel and church members can have a memorable template they can adapt with their own words.

Why are Sunday gatherings still emphasized when the idea of attending church is on the decline (even among followers of Jesus)? First, Sunday gatherings still work—people continue to commit their lives to Christ when given the opportunity

by pastors. Gospel presentations by pastors on Sundays are also more controllable, comfortable, and easy for pastors and churchgoers alike. Sundays are most often a one-way monologue rather than an ongoing conversation and do not include churchgoers fumbling through communicating their own faith.

An emphasis on Sundays also revealed some areas of potential concern such as: is there an over-reliance on pastors to do the work of evangelism? Does relegating evangelism to Sunday hinder churchgoers from learning to talk about uncomfortable topics with their loved ones? If non-believers are not invited to your church, are all evangelism efforts halted? Should we lean our evangelism efforts on non-Christians attending church even as our culture moves further into post-Christendom and hesitancy to attend church increases?

Evangelism efforts which focus on Sundays are a valid starting point. However, we need to consider how to move evangelism beyond the pulpit and beyond one day a week.

### ***Reflection Questions:***

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- 1. Would a non-believer feel comfortable in your church gathering? Why or why not?**
  - 2. Do you encourage your congregation to invite non-believers to your church? Why or why not?**
  - 3. What would it look like for evangelism to be emphasized outside of Sunday gatherings?**
  - 4. How are the gifts of teaching and evangelism valued in your church? Is one emphasized more than the other? What would it look like to value both equally?**
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## 7 • Evangelism equipping without experience falls flat

*“We created our own Gospel class curriculum. It was five weeks long and 300 people went through it. It didn’t make them more confident to share the Gospel in their life.” – Pastor (SW PDX)*

Churches in the Portland metro area employ many types of evangelism trainings. But just because a church holds evangelism trainings does not mean more evangelism is taking place.

Many trainings you can envision taking place in a classroom. These trainings explain theology, coach people how to write their testimony, have two-way conversations, and guide people through a specific tract or Gospel explanation. Then there are trainings that involve more interaction with people outside of a classroom setting. Churchgoers may walk the streets in pairs offering to pray for people and praying for healings and words of knowledge.

One methodology that one-third of churches mentioned was **Alpha**. In a unique way Alpha combines the clear communication of the **GOSPEL MESSAGE** with a relational, conversational setting. Both believers and non-believers are impacted.



Very few classroom-oriented evangelism trainings overcame the main evangelism hurdles that pastors described: fear, apathy, and busyness. Knowledge is important, but without the experience of overcoming these hurdles, it is unlikely to see more evangelism take place. Furthermore, trainings that focus heavily on teaching what to say and how to say it

develop a person's mind but do not address the core identity of a believer. One church redefined equipping from strictly knowledge-based training to "encouraging and strengthening the believer." Their evangelism training featured testimonies of people sharing their faith and reminders of the believer's identity as a loved child of God, empowered witness, and ambassador of reconciliation. Their goal was to reframe evangelism from duty to pleasure. Another pastor said, "Evangelism classes that build confidence would be beneficial."

Wherever your church is with evangelism trainings, it is understood — as one NE Portland pastor stated — *"People today don't want to get trained in evangelism."*

What does an evangelism training look like that people want to attend? A few ideas surfaced from these interviews:

- Blend teaching on evangelism with practicing evangelism — one church required participants to pray for open doors and have three Gospel conversations with non-believers before the end of the class.
- If one method isn't working, try a different one or find a church that is strong in evangelism and learn from them.
- Empower believers in evangelism earlier on in their faith. Evangelism is not designed for "super-Christians." Several pastors wished they put more energy toward encouraging brand-new believers to share the Gospel because within a year, most of their friends are believers. They believe the best evangelists are often those who have recently been saved.
- Regularly share current testimonies of Gospel conversations whether they go well or not. This opens church-goers' perspectives to see they, too, can evangelize. Strong evangelism is not about a silver-bullet method but about willingness.

### *Reflection Questions:*

1. What types of evangelism trainings have you used or currently use? What role do knowledge and experience have in these trainings?
2. Are you seeing your people have more Gospel conversations because of these trainings? Why or why not?
3. How are you equipping your people to overcome — not just talk about — common hurdles in evangelism like fear, apathy, and busyness?
4. How could current testimonies of Gospel sharing be incorporated in your evangelism trainings?







## 8 • Prayer for the lost is lacking

*“Every week in our disciple groups we ask ‘How have you shared the gospel this week? And who are you praying for?’”* – Pastor (Downtown PDX)

When asked about equipping their people to have spiritual conversations, only a few mentioned prayer. One pastor mentioned a weekly revival prayer meeting they began in the spring of 2019. Another pastor (from a primarily Hispanic congregation) mentioned a quarterly evangelism training through which participants needed to have three Gospel conversations. While these two pastors were anomalies, they also admitted they could do a much better job at equipping their people in evangelism and that their existing training lacked the follow-up with new believers who usually stopped going to church after a couple of years. A third pastor explained how their evangelism training involved power evangelism, words or knowledge, and prayer. And a fourth pastor described how their disciple groups talk about who they are praying for and sharing the Gospel with every week.

Prayer gatherings are happening in more churches than the four mentioned above, but these four pastors intentionally connected prayer with their evangelism. Interestingly, when asked what was working in evangelism, many more pastors mentioned their church members praying for spouses, relatives, and neighbors — though prayer was not mentioned in the ways they are intentionally equipping their people in evangelism.

### *Reflection Questions:*

1. What types of things do you pray for during your Sunday gatherings?
2. Do your small groups intentionally incorporate prayers for unbelievers?
3. What could it look like to develop a heart for the lost in your people and motivate them to share their faith? How could prayers for non-Christians be included in this process?
4. Prayers for revival are motivated by a dependence on God to do what you cannot do in your own power. Where are faith-filled prayers of desperation prayed in your church? What does it look like to create space for these prayers?



## 9 • Coming to faith is a longer journey

*“[Our people are learning] they don’t have to have a confrontational conversation about Jesus. They can bring their friend and don’t have to have all the answers. You can sit in their pain and doubt and don’t feel like you have to convince them.”*

– Pastor (NE PDX)

These days, coming to faith seems to take more time. People have less familiarity with Christianity, more baggage from past church experiences, and — if a Christian — more hesitancy being open about their faith. We often heard statements such as *“in our church people belong before they believe.”* This could look like having regular meals with other church members, attending an intentional, extended conversation exploring the basics of faith through Alpha or Christianity Explored, or viewing a church’s online sermons months before attending a gathering in-person. Several pastors said people attend their church for six months to two years before committing their lives to Christ. With this in mind, pastors are intentional about speaking to different groups in their sermons — from committed Jesus followers to skeptics and the spiritually curious.

It is important to both value the journey and maintain a sense of urgency by providing frequent opportunities for people to take a next step or decide to follow Christ. Pastors also acknowledge that Gospel presentations and explanations need to start at a different place than they began twenty years ago. The questions and concerns society is raising are not about eternal destiny and cannot be fully explained walking through a tract. Instead, beginning a conversation around themes like identity, community and the Imago Dei may be more culturally relevant starting places.



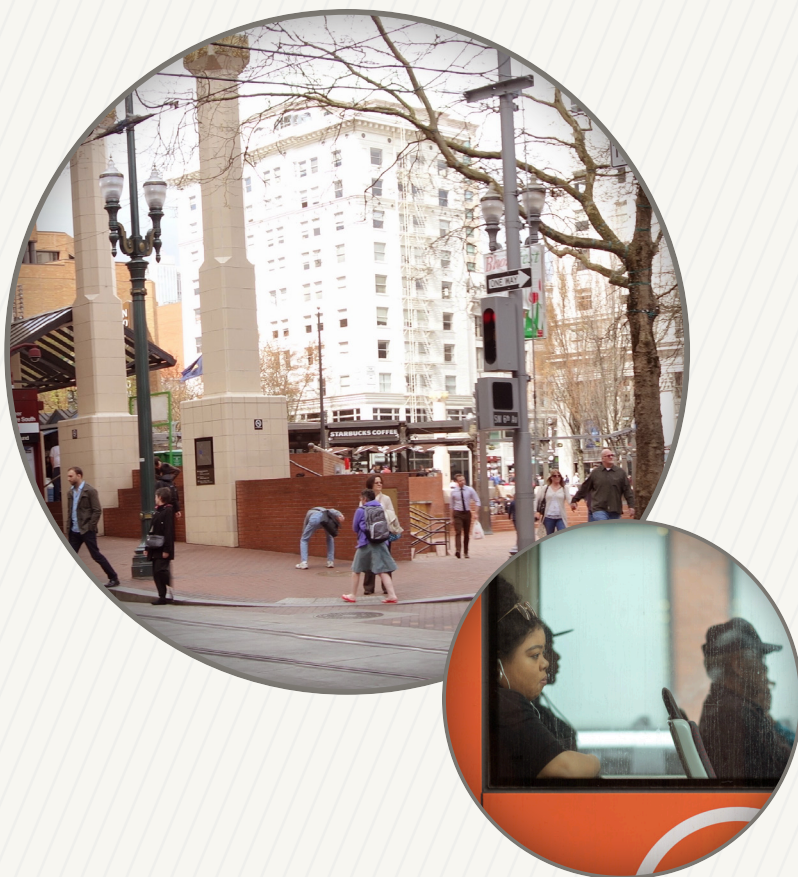
### *Reflection Questions:*

1. Do you have an estimate of the percentage of your congregation who are not yet followers of Jesus? How do you adapt your messages to speak to this audience?
2. If people wanted to experience your church online prior to attending in-person, how would they go about this? What do you hope their experience would be like?
3. Do you find it more natural to walk alongside someone in their faith journey or provide opportunities for people to decide to follow Christ with their lives? What would it look like in your life to value the journey and maintain a sense of urgency?
4. How can you create spaces for people to explore faith that allow them to feel like they belong but do not force them to conclusions? Can you listen without judgment?



## THE LIMITATIONS OF THIS REPORT

It is important to note this report is not a conclusive description of the state of evangelism across the Portland metro area. While we interviewed churches across the geographic region, the vast majority of these 50 churches generally identify as Protestant, from a variety of denominations and non-denominational associations. We also interviewed several Catholic parishes in the city. Of the 50 churches, 25% are led by non-white lead pastors and about 10% were primarily communities of a specific ethnicity (e.g. Japanese, Korean) as described in their church's name. About 10% of these churches feature a husband/wife or male/female lead pastor duo, and none were singularly led by a woman.



## WHO CONDUCTED THIS STUDY?

The interviews were conducted between October 2019 and July 2020 by SharePDX Team members Kirk Petersen (Alpha) and Josh Chen (CRU) in collaboration with Lizzie Burke and Kevin Palau at the Luis Palau Association. Most of the interviews were in-person. When COVID-19 hit our city, interviews were conducted over Zoom.

The SharePDX Team (formerly the Portland Evangelism Team) was created in 2017 by the Luis Palau Association to strengthen evangelism in the Portland area through supporting local churches and encouraging collaborative evangelism efforts. The team continues to the present day and consists of ministry leaders focused on evangelism, pastors passionate about evangelism, and other like-minded individuals.



## THE IMPACT OF THE REPORT

The release of the Portland Evangelism Report in the spring of 2020 has inspired leaders in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom to consider interviewing pastors in their own cities. Not only do these interviews equip local leaders with a clearer picture of evangelism in their city, but the process deepens relationships between those who are eager to partner together for greater gospel reach.

The Phoenix Evangelism Team has completed over 25 pastor interviews on their way to 100! The Brevard County (Florida) and Seattle E-Teams are preparing to start a similar process. Leaders in Omaha, Kansas City, Ottawa, and the Bay Area have also expressed interest.

The Evangelical Alliance in the UK was inspired by the report as it articulated something that had been on the minds of its leaders—to refresh the Talking Jesus research from 2012 with more local voices. They are in the process of conducting evangelism research nationwide due to the influence on the Portland Evangelism Report.

On a grassroots level, staff at the Luis Palau Association have guided several Portland-area church leadership teams through the report and discussion questions. SharePDX's (the Portland Evangelism Team) goal in 2022 is to meet with 25 church leadership teams and use the report to envision what a stronger culture of evangelism could look like in each church.



## EXPLORE EVANGELISM IN YOUR CITY

Would you like to hear more relevant, local insights on evangelism inspired by this report? Are you interested in doing a listening tour of your own?

Check out the **Listening Tour Toolkit** and listen to the three-part **Evangelism Listening Tour** podcast series at <https://citygospelmovements.org/listeningtour/>.

This resource coaches you to discover the landscape of evangelism in your area by interviewing local pastors. You will identify trends and best practices for future evangelistic efforts in your city. Use the QR code below to access the free resource.



### Episode 1



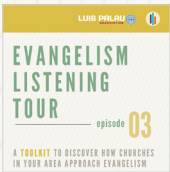
<https://citygospelmovements.org/podcast/listeningtour1/>



### Episode 2



<https://citygospelmovements.org/podcast/listeningtour2/>



### Episode 3



<https://citygospelmovements.org/podcast/listeningtour3/>

## LOCAL PASTOR INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

*These interview questions can be used verbatim or adapted to different city contexts.*

1. In two minutes or so, how did you come to faith?
2. How are you equipping people to have spiritual conversations with people who do not follow Jesus?
3. Can you describe your church's strategy for identifying up-and-coming leaders in your community? Do you have a similar strategy to identify evangelistically passionate leaders in your church? If so, what does this process look like?
4. What is working in evangelism in your church? (i.e. What is most helping people share their faith? What is seeing the most people come to faith in Jesus?)
5. How do you as a church celebrate people coming to faith and sharing faith?
6. Please describe the correlation you see in your church between community service and Gospel conversations. Do you find that as community service increases so do Gospel conversations?
7. What are the obstacles you are facing in mobilizing people for evangelism? (And how are you helping your people in overcoming these obstacles?)
8. Through these conversations, we hear fear is a predominant obstacle in the way of evangelism. How do you train people to overcome fear?

9. During the COVID-19 pandemic how have your evangelism equipping and outreach strategies adapted? How do you see these adaptations or innovations continuing post COVID-19 pandemic?
10. What would help you better equip your church in evangelism? And how do you envision the Portland Evangelism Team being helpful to you?
11. When you dream, what does your church look like in the area of evangelism in three years?
12. What is currently getting you excited about evangelism (e.g. a current testimony, effective resource, something new you have tried recently, etc.)?
13. Do you have any questions for me?



## NOTES



## NOTES



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