GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
EV 701: EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP IN THE LOCAL CHURCH
Spring Term, 2014
Tuesday/Thursday: 9:35-11

Professor: Jim Singleton
Office: Goddard Library, Room #119
Tel.: Office, 978/646-4093; E-mail, jsingleton@gcts.edu
Office Hours: Sign Up Sheets Outside My Office Door
Byington Scholar: Broun Stacy

Catalog Description: Practical theological foundation for the practice of evangelistic and discipleship leadership in the church. This course will examine both the content and communication of the gospel within various cultural contexts.

Introduction
This course is at the very heart of preparation for ministry, because evangelism is near to the heart of God. Jesus declared that he came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). Our evangelistic witness is a reflection of our vital relationship with God. The Apostle Peter reminds us (I Peter 2:9), “you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” Prior to his ascension, Jesus clarified his heart’s desire as he gave his unambiguous last will and testament to his church: the priority to win the lost, to make disciples through Spirit-empowered witness (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8).

Christian witness in the early church was spontaneous and contagious instead of strategic, a natural outflow of the love and passionate devotion to Jesus Christ that the believers shared in common. Their love for one another was shared, in turn, with their own surrounding communities, thus fulfilling the Lord’s “new commandment” (John 13:34-35). Gospel witness was both “taught” and “caught,” and “the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47).

Unfortunately, today the topic of evangelism in our own country often evokes dread rather than delight and guilt rather than gratefulness. Many seminarians and pastors confess that they feel woefully inadequate to lead God’s church in evangelistic witness and disciple-making. Some have never themselves led another person to saving faith in Jesus Christ. Others have engaged in personal witness, but are at a loss to know how to lead a church to become an intentional witness to their own community and to the world.

This course is designed to guide students to gain insight in the evangelistic mission and the practice of discipleship in the context of the local congregation. Beginning with a biblical and theological foundation, students experience the meaning of evangelism in their own lives.

EV 701 in Relation to the Seminary’s Mission Statement
This course addresses the Seminary’s Mission Statement as follows:

Mission Statement #1: Examining God’s Word regarding the meaning and practice of evangelism-discipleship.

Mission Statements #3 & #5: Learning to become skilled in the practice of evangelism-discipleship personally and to provide resources for the local church to be an effective evangelistic and disciple making presence in the larger community.

Mission Statements #4 & #6: Working toward growing maturity in evangelism-discipleship and leading the church toward maturity in evangelism-discipleship for redemptive influence in the world.

**EV 701 Objectives**

In this introductory course you will:

1. Read some of the best current representative works in the field of evangelism-discipleship, to be followed by class discussion and constructive critique in order to become familiar with the lively debate among Evangelical scholars on how best to understand and to communicate the biblical gospel.

2. Articulate a theology of evangelism-discipleship that is faithful to Scripture in content and consistent with our larger historic evangelical heritage across the millennia.

3. Verbally communicate the gospel in language that is unambiguously clear to your own identified audience(s) without religious jargon, and express the gospel personally with appropriate vulnerability.

4. Gain skill in understanding the context for implementing plans of evangelism and discipleship in the local church

**CLASS OVERVIEW & REQUIREMENTS**

**Due Dates for Individual Assignments as Indicated Below**

**Deadline for Submitting Final Work is Tuesday, December 17 (Registrar’s Deadline), 4:00pm**

As you work this semester do not allow yourself to get behind each step of the way, you will discover the satisfaction of your learning in process and of the culmination of your learning at the end of the term.

I. **READING (40% of the Final Course Grade)**

The texts provide a practical foundation for leading an individual to become a true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, and will prepare you for the praxis components of the class.

You will verify your reading of required texts on the Reading Report Sheet (Appendix A), and there is also opportunity for you to indicate optional extra credit reading of your own choice. Further, each student will write an annotated bibliography for each work read, first describing the central thesis of the book, followed by a critical analysis of what in this book was helpful in crafting ministry.

**Required Reading**

**Article**

II. REFLECTION-DISCUSSION PAPERS  (40% of the Final Course Grade)

Significant time is spent in class in the development of these papers to prepare you for your work outside of class. Each of the reflection-discussion papers requires your submitting your work to an “Editor” (family member, friend, someone in the community) who to the best of your knowledge is not a Christian, for their candid comments about your work. These respective papers may be submitted to the same Editor or to different individuals, as you wish.

Write each paper with an “audience of one” in mind, i.e. the individual with whom you will be sharing the paper. Keep foremost in your thinking his/her interests and needs.
For the reflection-discussion papers you provide (for me) a paragraph about the person to whom you will send the paper. In the appendix there is a guide for how to prepare this paper (Appendix B)

- **Personal God Story, Including Conversion** is a true autobiographical story of how God *evidently* intervened in your life, and includes your own conversion story. It is okay if you do not have a specific day and date for your conversion *per se*. As we work on this assignment in class we will discover that each story is unique in the way God has drawn us to saving faith. Be “personal,” i.e. open and vulnerable. This is *your* “God Story” by virtue of God’s work in your life.

- **Sin & Evil – What Do These Have to Do with Me?** This question addresses arguably the greatest challenge in sharing the gospel with this generation. What are sin and evil? Who cares? (1) Introduce the topic so your Editor cares enough to listen and to engage in conversation with you. (2) First *talk about yourself* and be appropriately vulnerable to take pressure off your Editor while at the same time guiding him/her to reflect seriously on the topic. (3) Finally, gently ask whether your Editor believes sin and evil are relevant to his/her own life and invite them to talk about it if they would be interested in doing so.

- **What Does Christmas Mean?** The culture tries to tell us what Christmas means. But explain to your reader why the incarnation happened. Focus on the fullness of what the Incarnation provides – not just a Lamb for sacrifice. What was it to accomplish. Help the reader think through your own growth in understanding this central Christian festival.

- **The Cross of Christ – Who Cares?** Does the death of the Lord Jesus Christ over 2,000 years ago have any relevance for our own day and age? Any relevance for me personally? Introduce the topic so your Editor cares enough to listen and to engage in conversation with you. (2) First *talk about yourself* and be appropriately vulnerable to take pressure off your Editor while at the same time guiding him/her to reflect seriously on the topic. (3) Finally, gently ask whether your Editor believes the cross of Christ is relevant to his/her own life and invite them to talk about it if they would be interested in doing so.

- **Good News Presentation.** This paper is your own *gospel presentation* for a person who comes prepared by the Holy Spirit and asks you how s/he can become a follower of Jesus Christ. Your Editor will of course be informed that this is a class assignment written for someone who asks you how he/she may become a Christian and will help you by editing your work accordingly.
GRADING SUMMARY
All Work Due No Later than May 7, 4:00pm;
Seniors Due April 29, 4 p.m.

All grading, including final course grade, is based upon the grading scale given in the seminary Catalog: A+=4.0; A=4.0; A-=3.7; B+=3.3; B=3.0; B-=2.7; C+=2.3; C=2.0; C-=1.7; D+=1.3; D=1.0; D-=0.7; F=0.0.

READING & EXAMINATIONS ON THE READING 40%
Annotated Bibliography 30%
Completion of all Reading 10%

REFLECTION PAPERS 40%
See above

Because of the nature of this class, attendance at all class sessions is vital. Therefore, your attendance and participation, and your being in class are important.

FINAL EXAM 20%

EXTRA CREDIT Up to 5%
You may earn a total of up to 5% extra credit by completing an Evangelism Resource Notebook, up to 5% (Appendix C) and/or an Evangelism Leadership Retreat, up to 5% (Appendix D).

Note Well: Make copies of all of your work or “Save” on your computer since materials occasionally become lost.

Selected Bibliography

Evangelism
Boursier, Helen T. Telling It With Style: Evangelism for Every Personality Type. IVP, 1995.
Davis, John Jefferson, “Conversion Isn’t What It Needs To Be: Retrieving a Pre-Constantinian Model of Evangelism and Discipleship for Post-Christendom, Post-revivalist American Evangelical Churches.” 46pp. [CAMS]


Homringhausen, Elmer G.  Choose Ye This Day.  Westminster, 1943.


Little, Paul E.  How to Give Away Your Faith.  IVP, 1966.


Lyons, Gabe.  The Next Christians: The Good News About the End of Christian America.


Woodward, J.R. *Creating a Missional Culture*. IVP, 2012


Discipleship
Rah, Soong-Chan. The Next Evangelicalism: Freeing the Church from Western Cultural Captivity. IVP, 2009.
Class Schedule – Tues/Thursday, 9:35-11
Subject to Change if Necessary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 28</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course and to One Another.</td>
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<td><strong>Read:</strong> Article by Schutz for discussion</td>
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<td><strong>Begin:</strong> Chilcote and Warner</td>
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<td><strong>Begin:</strong> Keller, Center Church</td>
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<td>Jan. 30</td>
<td>What is Evangelism?</td>
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<td><strong>Continue Reading:</strong> Chilcote and Warner</td>
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<td>Feb. 4</td>
<td>What is Evangelism?</td>
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<td><strong>Write:</strong> “Personal God Story” Paper</td>
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<td><strong>Read:</strong> Keller, Center Church</td>
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<td>Feb. 6</td>
<td>How Did Christianity Spread?</td>
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<td><strong>Continue:</strong> Keller</td>
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<td>Feb. 11</td>
<td>How Did Christianity Spread?</td>
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<td><strong>Share in Class</strong> - “Personal God Story” with two partners for evaluation</td>
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<td><strong>ReWrite</strong> paper for your Reader/Editor</td>
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<td><strong>Read:</strong> Choung, True Story</td>
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<td>Feb. 13</td>
<td>What is the Grand Narrative of Salvation – Part 1?</td>
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<td><strong>Continue Reading:</strong> James Choung,</td>
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<td>Feb. 18 and 20 (Reading Week)</td>
<td><strong>Preparation</strong> for “Sin &amp; Evil” Paper</td>
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<td>Feb. 25</td>
<td>What is the Grand Narrative of Salvation – Part 2?</td>
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<td><strong>Share in Class</strong> - “Sin and Evil” with two partners for evaluation</td>
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<td><strong>ReWrite</strong> paper for your Reader/Editor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
<td>What is the Grand Narrative of Salvation – Part 3?</td>
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<td><strong>Read:</strong> Peace, Holy Conversations</td>
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Write: Begin writing the paper on “Christmas”

March 4  The Process of Evangelism

  Read: Everts and Schaup, I Once Was Lost
  Share “Christmas” Paper with groups
  ReWrite paper for your Reader/Editor

March 6  The Process of Evangelism

  Read Wells, Turning to God
  Read Keller, The Reason for God

March 11  The Process of Evangelism: Doubts and Struggles

  Read: Lewis, Mere Christianity
  (Mark each time Lewis uses Metaphors and Similes in describing reality)

March 13  Creating a Culture of Evangelism

  Write: Begin your “Cross of Christ” paper

(March 18 and 20 – Reading Week)
  Write: First Half of Annotated Bibliography

March 25  Creating a Culture of Evangelism

  Turn in Early Bibliography
  Share “Cross of Christ” paper with group
  ReWrite paper for your Reader/Editor

March 27  Creating a Culture of Evangelism

  Begin: “Good News” paper

April 1  Cross-Cultural Context

  Turn In: Final copies of first 4 papers

    Share “Good News” presentation with two partners for evaluation
    ReWrite for your editor/reader

  Read: Begin reading Ogden, Discipleship Essentials

April 3  Building the Model of Discipleship
April 8     Discipleship and Disciple-making

    Read: Begin reading Pope, *Insourcing*

April 10    Discipleship and Disciple-making

April 15    Obstacles to Discipleship

    Turn In: Final paper after your edits from your editor

April 22    Obstacles to Discipleship

April 24    Review

April 29 and May 1 – Exam Week

________________________________________________________________________

**APPENDICES FOR CLASS HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS**

Appendix A  Reading Report Sheet

Appendix B  Guide of Papers – Group Review

**EXTRA CREDIT APPENDICES**

Appendix C  Evangelism Resource Notebook

Appendix D  Evangelism Leadership Retreat

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPENDICES**

Appendix E  A Recommended Outline for Your Own Class through Your Church

Appendix F  Resource: Avenues for Evangelism
APPENDIX A
READING REPORT SHEET – Tuesday/Thursday Section

REQUIRED READING:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>READ:</th>
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<tr>
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<td>3. Keller, Center Church (382 pp)</td>
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<td>4. Choung, James, <em>True Story</em> (213pp.)</td>
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<td>5. Wells, <em>Turning to God</em> (189pp.)</td>
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<td>8. C.S. Lewis, <em>Mere Christianity</em> (175pp.)</td>
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<td>9. Everts and Schaupe, <em>I Once Was Lost</em> (134pp.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Ogden, <em>Discipleship Essentials</em> (232pp.)</td>
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<td>11. Pope, <em>Insourcing: Bringing Discipleship Back to the Local Church</em> (199pp)</td>
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TOTAL PAGES READ……………………..     _____ pp.

% OF REQUIRED READING _______%

ADDITIONAL READING COMPLETED:

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TOTAL ADDITIONAL PAGES READ: _______p
APPENDIX B – GROUP REVIEW

Sharing Papers – PRELIMINARY APPROVAL

1. Is your work interesting / attention-getting for the listener?

   ____ Develop your LEAD SENTENCE [LEAD QUESTION] to be OF MORE INTEREST TO THE LISTENER. Introduce your story in a way that can RELATE TO THEM. (e.g., “Have you ever wondered…?”  e.g., “What would you say to someone who…?”)

   ____ INTRODUCE YOUR PRIMARY THEME(S) more evidently. (e.g., loneliness, or fear, or boredom, or doubt, or rejection, or…IN YOUR OWN WORDS AND WITH YOUR OWN EXPRESSIONS.)

   ____ CARRY THROUGH WITH YOUR PRIMARY THEME(S) FROM BEGINNING TO END. There should be a thread from the first paragraph to the last.

   ____ Transition (segue) from one paragraph to the next.

   ____ Reduce the length without taking from the substance.

2. Is your work inviting the listener to dialog?

   ____ Write in a way so that the listener will want to have conversation with you. Your invitation may be direct, or you may be indirect but with an inviting style.

3. Is your God Story free of jargon meaningless to the listener?

   ____ All “religious” or “Christianese” words or phrases are circled. Either eliminate them and replace with meaningful alternatives, or define/explain/illustrate them.

BRIEF description of your Editor’s Religious / Church Background and Any Other Pertinent Information:
APPENDIX C: POSSIBLE EXTRA CREDIT
EVANGELISM RESOURCE NOTEBOOK

Assemble an evangelism/disciple-making resource notebook for your future ministry of preaching, teaching, or other leadership opportunities in the church.

Divide this “working notebook” into your own functional categories that you anticipate will be helpful to you in the ministry to which God has called you. It is recommended you save your work on your computer as well as hard copy. However, submit to me only your hard copy—do not give me your DVD, flash drive, or other electronic memory device.

REQUIRED CONTENT:

- A minimum of at least 25 different possible resources (e.g., “handouts”). These resources may but need not be original, but cite authors of material not written by you, or indicate “author unknown”.

- You may include as many handouts from class in your notebook that you find useful. However, the notebook needs to contain at least 15 resources beyond what you receive in class.

- Attach a cover sheet that makes clear your functional categories, and under each category the individual resources (“handouts”) in your current notebook [of course you will add to these in the future]. **Place an asterisk next to those that you have contributed, i.e. in addition to those distributed in class.**
APPENDIX D: POSSIBLE EXTRA CREDIT

EVANGELISM LEADERSHIP RETREAT

This assignment is an opportunity for you to consolidate your learning in this course and to prepare useful materials to guide a church toward healthy biblical evangelism and disciple-making. Do not complete this work as a mere academic assignment but rather prepare with the intention of carrying it out.

Begin by identifying an actual church and then describe the church in terms of its present understanding and practice of evangelism (1-2pp. single spaced, double spacing between paragraphs). Assume that the senior pastor invites you to conduct a weekend retreat for the staff and lay leadership for the purpose of generating interest and support for church-wide evangelism as an ongoing part of the life of the church family.

Give a detailed outline/summary of the retreat schedule, and of your written notes, handouts, practice exercises, etc., for this retreat (10+ pp. single spaced, double spacing between paragraphs). Do not simply lecture to the participants, but make this a praxis retreat with (1) substance, including mini-lectures if you wish or other forms of good content, and (2) productive discussion and other forms of active participation. The goal is toward putting into practice back home in the church what you are learning together during the retreat.

Your potential resources for putting together the retreat include course readings, lecture/discussions, evangelism exercises in class, praxis exercises outside of class, and your own personal background up to the present time.

Remember your audience, and be helpful! If possible, after EV 501 is completed actually carry out the retreat with your church!

Be sure to incorporate prayer as the key to knowing God’s heart and to realizing his purpose and power as he advances his Kingdom through you.

It is okay to work on the evangelism retreat with others in the church including the pastor and/or other church leaders, or with fellow students, as long as you (1) give credit by indicating the others’ names and a brief description of their overall contributions, and (2) do the final write-up yourself.

God bless you, and have fun!
APPENDIX E: RESOURCE FOR YOUR FILES (Sam Schutz)
A RECOMMENDED OUTLINE FOR YOUR OWN CLASS THROUGH YOUR CHURCH

I. PREFACE: CHALLENGE

A. Why share the Good News? (Biblical Foundations)
   B. What is Our Heritage for Sharing the Good News? (Historical/Theological Foundations)
   C. Who Am I to Share the Good News? (Personal Issues)
      1. Knowing You are a Christian.
      2. Walking with God / Living a Holy Life.
      3. Overcoming Fears and Prejudices.

II. PREPARATION FOR SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

A. Content of the Good News
   1. Defining the Gospel (“Good News”).
   2. Defining Evangelism.

B. Communication of the Good News:
      a. Searching Prayer (Individual & Corporate).
      b. Demographic and Other Forms of Research.
   4. Methods of Evangelism [All = Relational, Conversational]
      a. Initiatory Evangelism.
      b. Friendship Evangelism
   5. Preparing Your Personal Testimony.
   6. Preparing to Address Questions and to Deal with Obstructions.

C. Communication of the Good News: Practice
   (A Sequence for Authentic Witnessing: for either Initiatory Evangelism or for Longer Term Friendship Evangelism)
   1. Pray for “Divine Appointments”
   2. Establish Rapport / Build Dialog.
   3. Give Personal Testimony.
   4. Ask Permission and then Inquire about Salvation (Dialog).
   5. Ask Permission and then Share the Gospel (Dialog).
   7. Guide the Convert into Beginning Discipleship. (Personal Follow-Up – See Below)
   8. Guide the Convert into Maturing Discipleship in the Church. (Corporate Follow-Up – See Below)

D. Consolidation of the Good News
   1. Beginning Discipleship: Personal Follow-Up (Beginning Christian Life, & Church Introduction)
      a. Instruction (Content/Practice)
      b. Mentoring Relationship(s)
   2. Maturing Discipleship Corporate Follow-Up (Becoming a Body Member: Church Assimilation)
      a. Instruction and Nurture -- Dynamic Interaction of:
         (1) Corporate Learning: “Glue” of the Word (Preaching and Teaching)
         (2) Corporate Acceptance: “Glue” of Personal Relationships (Individual/Small Groups)
         (3) Corporate Belonging: “Glue” of Working Relationships (Ministering Together)
      b. Worship and Service -- Dynamic Interaction of:
         (1) Body-Life Gathered (The Church as God’s Community)
         (2) Body-Life Scattered (God’s Community Penetrating the Larger Community)
      c. Spiritual Reproduction -- Ongoing Process of Evangelism and Disciple-Making

III. PRACTICE IN SHARING THE GOOD NEWS
   [Simulation in Class, & Actual Experience in the Church & in the Students' Own Social “Worlds”]
APPENDIX F: RESOURCE FOR YOUR FILES
AVENUES FOR EVANGELISM (SOME BEGINNING IDEAS)
(Sam Schutz)

CONCERNING YOUR AUDIENCE:
ASK FIRST -- “WHAT IS THEIR PASSION?”
THEN -- THE TASK DEFINES ITSELF

- Small Group Evangelistic Bible Studies
- Special Event Evangelism (e.g., “Personality Figure” with Testimony, followed by Gospel Invitation)
- Education Evangelism (e.g., Parenting Skills; Family Communication; Art Lessons)
- Dialog Evangelism (e.g., with individual(s) of a different religion, or from a cult)
- “Servant Evangelism”
- Visitation Evangelism (Home Visits—Church Visitor Follow-Up; Hospitals; Prisons; Nursing Homes)
- Tutoring, ESL
- Authentic Surveys, Focus Groups
- Inner City Evangelism (e.g., Food for the Hungry; Habitat for Humanity)
- Music Evangelism
- Coffee House
- Campus Ministry (e.g., 1 Day Workshop—Putting Jesus’ Principles to Work for Successful Studying)
- Teach Evangelism to Members of a Local Church, including OJT (On the Job Training)
- International Students
- Media Usage / Media Production
- Drama Usage / Drama Production
- Team Sports (Any Age; Like Gender, or Gender Specific)
- Hiking / Nature / Conservation
- Health (e.g, Smoking Cessation Workshops; Drug Education; Aerobics Class; Weight Loss)
- “Spirituality”: Meditation, etc. [Don’t let “New Age” frighten you away from taking back the turf and presenting the Truth]
- Children’s Event (Carnival; Story Telling; etc.)
- Youth Event (e.g., Christian Rock Concert with local talent, etc.)

As feasible for any of the above, get free publicity (e.g. local newspaper) and invite the larger community to participate.

Other Ideas