

HIDDEN FIGURES

SHARE

Have you ever talked to a nonbeliever about Jesus? What was your experience like?

SEEK

Father Donovan

Father Paul Vincent Donovan (1805-1898) believed that if people truly grasped the evangelistic strategy of Paul, the world would have more Christians. “Instead of the 33,000 missionaries of the type we have known, if we had 1,000 men of the mind of Paul, convinced of the method of Paul, I wonder what proportion of the world would be evangelized,” he said.

This is exactly what Father Donovan did. He gave up nearly 20 years of his life to specifically share the Gospel from tribe to tribe in Africa. He was an evangelist on the move. He even mapped out what tribes he would visit, how long he would be there, and how many years it would take him to cover so much ground. He saw a method when he read Paul’s missionary journeys and firmly decided that that was a more orthodox way of spreading the Good News.

What better time to remember Paul’s words in Romans 1.16: “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.” The Gospel remains even today a verbal announcement about who Jesus is and what He has done in accordance with the Scriptures. And it is through this announcement that others come to hear and know this wonderful God we serve.

SEE

FATHER DONOVAN

MANY SAY IT IS WRONG TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. EVANGELISM HAS BEEN COINED AS “INTOLERANT,” “JUDGMENTAL,” AND “OFFENSIVE.” IS THERE ANYTHING RIGHT WITH THIS? IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG?

THE WORD “GOSPEL” COMES FROM THE GREEK WORD MEANING “GOOD NEWS.” IT WAS ORIGINALLY AN ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY A HERALD TO ALERT THE CITY THAT THE KING WAS COMING. THIS MEANS THAT THE GOSPEL IS STILL A VERBAL ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE MADE. DOES THIS INTIMIDATE YOU? IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH LOVING OTHERS BUT NEVER TELLING THEM ABOUT JESUS?

FATHER DONOVAN BELIEVED THERE WERE DIFFERENT KINDS OF MISSIONARIES. THERE WERE THOSE WHO PLANTED THEMSELVES IN AN AREA AND TOOK UP DIFFERENT LONG-TERM WORK SUCH AS TEACHING OR PASTORING. THE OTHER KIND WAS THE ONE WHO TRAVELLED AND PREACHED THE GOSPEL FROM PLACE TO PLACE. WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE SOME OF THE BENEFITS AND DOWNFALLS OF EACH STRATEGY?

WITH REFERENCE TO THE GOSPEL PAUL SAYS, “I AM NOT ASHAMED.” WHAT ABOUT THE GOSPEL MIGHT CAUSE US TO FEEL ASHAMED? HOW CAN WE OVERCOME THE SHAME OF SHARING THE GOSPEL?

Please take a few moments to pray with and for one another