

Going Around The Corner

A Guidebook To Be The ONE

Where You Live, Work & Play

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Around The Corner Ministries exists to take the gospel to every neighborhood in America. Our mission is to equip followers of Jesus to engage their neighborhoods and communities with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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ISBN: 978-1-7330478-2-1

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Introduction

I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:14-16

What would happen if you believed that a sovereign God has put you where you are to be on mission for the spread of the gospel? That you are the ONE He's strategically placed in a specific time and place, for specific people in whose hearts He is already working, drawing them to Himself?

This book is a call to every Christ-follower to recognize our great obligation to those around us. Eternity is at stake, and our neighbors, co-workers, friends, classmates and teammates need to hear the gospel. You are already sent into the field. You are **O**bligated to your **N**eighbor's **E**ternity. God is calling you to be the ONE where you live, work and play.

Hundreds of books have been written on how to share the gospel. There are plenty of scripts to memorize and strategies to execute, but unless we put them into practice, they will never reach a soul.

This little book is simply a tool, a guidebook, to help you take what you know about the gospel and share it. Take one step at a time and implement it. Before you know it, you will love the people God has put in your life with Christ's love and be interceding in prayer for them. You will know them

personally and be involved in their lives. You will be confident in your own story of salvation and be able to share the complete gospel.

You will be the ONE to introduce them to Jesus.

STEP ONE
Believe God Has Put You
Where You Are

KEY SCRIPTURE: Acts 17:24-26

The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitations.

Have you ever thought about the fact that God is sovereign over where you live? As newlyweds, our daughter and son-in-law found themselves serving in a North African city, teaching English as a second language. As workers for a mission organization, they were able to also learn the local language in hopes of sharing the gospel with the people they met. After two years, God called them back to the States. They both accepted jobs with an organization in a small college town in the southern part of the States. Looking for a place to live, they “happened” to meet a family who was

moving overseas for a period of two years and needed to rent out their home. Shortly after moving in, they introduced themselves to their next-door neighbor. They soon discovered he was from the same city and country they had served in and spoke the exact same dialect of language they had just spent two years learning. As they reached out in friendship, they realized this man was lost, serving a false religion, and needed to hear the gospel. They were uniquely equipped to speak truth and grace into His life.

Was this coincidence? According to scripture, God had a plan, both in the places and experiences that prepared them, and in directing their steps to come full circle into their neighbor's life. This is just one example of how God's sovereignty plays an important part of accomplishing His kingdom work, as we obey His command to take the gospel into all the world.

Where has God put you?

Read Acts 17:24-26 again. God directs our steps in personal ways to put us where He has people who need to hear about Jesus. He determines *when* we live, and *where* we live. You might think your own decisions got you here, but a careful examination of the events of your life will reveal how God has been working in your life all along.

The first step in reaching those people is to **believe that God has put you where you are *right now***. He has determined when and where you live, for the sake of the gospel.

God has a purpose in where you live, work and play.

Luke 10:1-2 - *Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place **where He Himself was going to come.** And He was saying to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into **His harvest.**”*

Luke tells us Jesus sent His disciples to specific cities and villages, for a specific reason: He was planning a personal follow-up visit! Likewise, Jesus wants to come to your neighborhood, your office, your gym, and He has already sent you there ahead of Him, into His harvest. This harvest is a harvest of souls. God is already working in hearts, and He seeks laborers to reap the harvest. He has sent you to be the one to speak the gospel so they can respond.

Instead of saying, “God, where do you want to send me?” we must recognize that **we are already sent.**

Don’t be distracted. Don’t make excuses.

Matthew 16:21-23 - *From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You.” But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.”*

Peter was looking at things from the wrong perspective (his own interests) and had the wrong priorities (to save Jesus' life). Jesus knew it was his enemy, Satan's plan to distract Him from His mission (the cross). When you realize that God has put you where you are and begin to live on mission for Him, you will face distractions and be tempted to make excuses. You will have to decide if you will live your life for God's interests, or your own.

Key Truths To Remember

1. God is sovereign over where you live, work and play.
2. God has put you there for the sake of the gospel.
3. You are *already* sent into His harvest.
4. You will be distracted and want to make excuses. Don't.

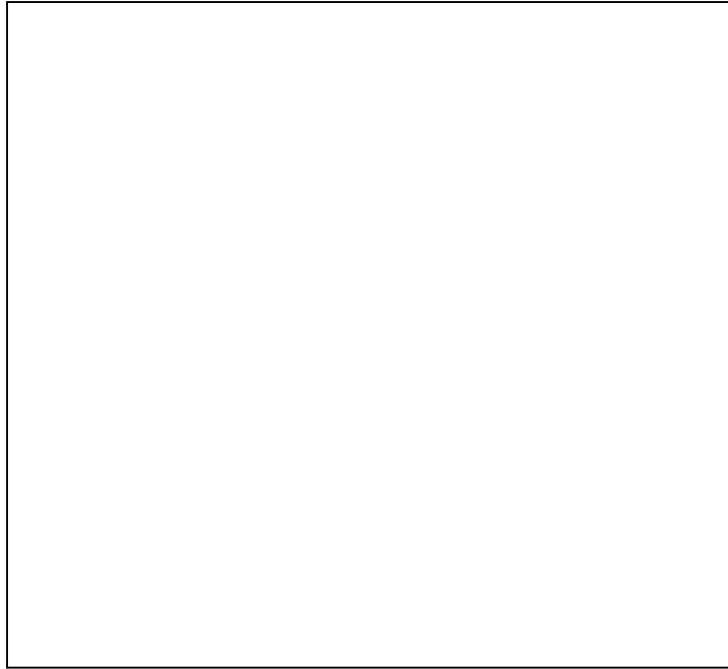
Make It Practical

Where has God sent you? Where you live? Where you work? Where you play? **Pick one.** For the purposes of this guidebook, we will use "neighborhood" as our mission field; **the strategy is the same wherever you are.**

Draw a diagram of your neighborhood in the box on the next page, filling in names of the people you know. Indicate the people you see on a regular basis, as well as neighbors you haven't met yet. This week make an intentional effort to personally meet one or more of your neighbors.

Pray for God to show you the harvest in your neighborhood, to give you His love for your neighbors.

Draw your diagram here:



List the names or addresses of the people you will make an intentional effort to meet this week:
