

Gospel Bridges & Access

The gospel permeating our neighborhoods and cities.

Romans 15:17-24

17 In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. **18** For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, **19** by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; **20** and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, **21** but as it is written,

“Those who have never been told of him will see,
and those who have never heard will understand.”

22 This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. **23** But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, **24** I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.

“no longer any room for work”

- Paul understood his **IDENTITY** in the task.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 – The believer's identity as a “new creation in Christ” cannot be separated from our identity as an “ambassador on Christ's behalf”.
- Paul understood the **URGENCY** of the task.
 - Romans 1:16 – The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes it.
- Paul understood that **EQUIPPING & EMPOWERING OTHERS** in this task was required.
 - 2 Tim. 2:2, what you heard from me, entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
 - Paul -> Timothy -> Others -> Others still
 - Whether you read 2 Timothy 2:2 or Matthew 28:18-20 there is a model that discipleship should be multiplicative. Disciples of Jesus should make disciples of Jesus.

Whose burden should it be to
cross the bridge of access to
the gospel?

Romans 10:14-15

Three types of gospel access

- No Access to the Gospel
- Access to the Gospel
- Meaningful Access to the Gospel

No Access to the Gospel

- No churches where the gospel is preached
- No evangelical believers sharing the gospel

Are there parts of London that could be classified as having “no access” to the gospel?



Access to the Gospel

- At least one healthy church present that preaches the gospel
- If a lost person comes, they will hear the gospel

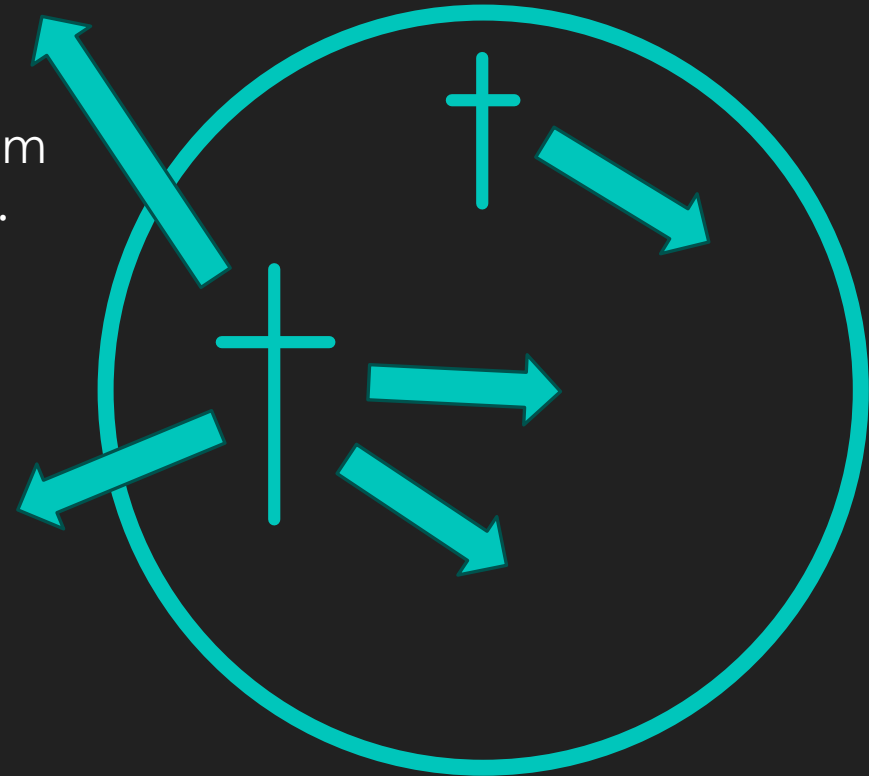
In this scenario, the **lost** bear the burden to cross the bridge of access to hear the gospel



Meaningful Access to the Gospel

- At least one church that not only preaches the gospel, but the people bring the gospel with them into their towns, neighborhoods and workplaces.
- Churches that give meaningful access to their areas can grow to give meaningful access to neighboring towns and villages that currently have no access.

In this scenario, the **church** bears the burden to cross the bridge of access to share the gospel



Scripture shows disciples crossing the bridge:

- Luke 10 – Disciples sent: Enter towns & houses, offering peace & help, proclaiming the kingdom of God.
- Acts 16 – outside the city, by the river, in a jail cell.
- Acts 17 – Paul proclaims in the synagogue & at the Areopagus in Athens.
- Acts 18 – Paul reasoned in the synagogue and then went next door in Corinth.
- Acts 19 – Paul reasoned in the synagogue and taught in a school in Ephesus.

Two Methods to Help Provide Meaningful Access:

- Care Through Prayer
- One Question Survey

Questions?