



Toby Mayer

Foundations Course

Spring term 2026

Mission and Evangelism

Journal

Five Marks of Mission

Tell: proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom (εὐαγγελίζω)

Teach: educate, baptise and nurture new believers

Tend: respond to human need with loving service

Transform: change unjust structures of society, challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation

Treasure: strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Journal 3

1. Write in your journal two bullet points from Vincent Donovan 'The Lion is God' that you think are the most important things to remember.
 2. Journal your reflections on your encounters with people who aren't churchgoers.
 - How did you feel?
 - How did the other person respond to you?
 - What was easy?
 - What was difficult?
 - What would you do differently another time?
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1.

There are two concepts that stood out for me from *The Lion is God* essay.

i) I learned that whether or not we believe in God, God believes in us, and His belief is so strong, so powerful, so lion-like that eventually it will overcome us. Man—and by that I suppose I mean atheist man—works so hard to deny God, it is exhausting. I have come to understand the quandary not as belief/unbelief but as accept/deny, or turning towards/turning away. Vincent Donovan, with great irony, shows us how much harder it must be to deny God, to turn or even run away.³

ii) I also learned that we are very often just plain wrong. As good as we imagine we are, as God-led, as unselfish, as righteous, it can abruptly be revealed to us that we are in fact the opposite of all of those. A bright light is shone, all of a sudden, on our arrogance.

2.

I have many encounters with people who are not churchgoers, but very few where I am actively or deliberately attempting to be in the role of 'missionary'. To be completely truthful I did not seek out people to talk to in this way, even though we were assigned to do so. I found this assignment particularly difficult. Which perhaps

³ I am reminded (just as G.K. Chesterton was brought to Christianity, not by reading Christian apologetics, but by reading atheist "evidence") that I became a Christian by reading Richard Dawkins and Sam Harris. Those atheist thought-leaders just had to work *so hard* to prove the non-existence of something that Christians simply accepted whole-heartedly, with simplicity and grace. I couldn't imagine spending the rest of my life in denial. Such a life, as well as being void of meaning, empty of love and brimming with self-righteousness, just made no sense. Give me ambiguity and mystery any day, over that!

is odd, as I have no difficulty talking to people I meet, both old and new friends/acquaintances about faith, believe, religion or church attendance. I am always interested in the faith and beliefs of others, and more inclined to ask questions that to tell them about my own faith.

I struggle to articulate my faith, especially when someone outright asks me to justify it, or explain it. I do try to live in faith though, and hope that my example brings people towards, rather than pushes them away.

The reason this assignment is so delayed is that I was hoping I'd pluck up the courage, or take time to arrange a situation, where I could have the kind of conversation being asked for. But almost ten weeks on, I still have not done that.

Truth is, I have no desire to proselytise. I would be very happy, and comfortable talking to someone who felt they were on the cusp of Christianity, but for those just getting on with their own life, I don't want to derail them with my own agenda.

In some ways I would like this to change—I'd like to be a little more pro-active in courting people into the church, but I am not there yet.