

THE BOOK

OF

COUNTER-EVANGELISM

By

WOLF

IMPORTANT!!

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FOREWORD: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF COUNTER-EVANGELISM?

Well first we have to look at what evangelism is. Evangelism, is the systematic use of propaganda in order to promote a religious ideology in order to gain more converts.

What that means is that all the flyers, all the tracts, all the witnessing techniques are like publicity to push their product which is the evangelical Ideology.

Now that you have an idea of what evangelism is, it's counter is rather easy to understand. Counter evangelism is in essence the act of neutralizing the evangelist by rendering the method they use in it's totality.

It is a type of information warfare. Which is the use and management of information in pursuit of a competitive advantage over an opponent. Information warfare may involve collection of tactical information, assurance that one's own information is valid, spreading of propaganda or

misinformation among the enemy, undermining the quality of opposing force information and denial of information collection opportunities to opposing forces.

In the case of counter-evangelism, The main Idea is to make people immune to their tricks by informing them of it's nature and by teaching methods that cripple the evangelism in itself by preventing them from expanding the amount of their converts.

It also involves exposing their own attempts at misinformation. A classic example is creation science, which frequently uses straw-man arguments and misinformation. Making people aware of the straw-men and exposing the lies brought by their ministries enables the average man to be aware of what is really going on.

If you cripple their tactics, their ministry crumbles, if their ministry crumbles, then they lose supporters and cannot have any new ones. Remember, for each new convert not only votes in favor of the evangelical movement. They also give money to the church, which in turn pays for the lobbyist in Washington.

If they loose supporters, then they lose their grip in the political arena and in education. This, is the transitive property of counter-evangelism.

In the following sections we will look at what their methods are, and in later ones, look at what methods are effective in countering a missionary effort.

SECTION I: WHO ARE THEY?

1.1: The Evangelical foot-soldier: An analysis.

There is much to be said about knowing who you are up against. Know thyself and know thy enemy, is not only the essence of warfare, but also of activism, as it is a battle of wits and words.

And so in the case of evangelism, we need to know what is the target market of it's products. It's obvious that their products aim is to teach the misinformation tactics and methods of delivery of their propaganda. But such observation alone, isn't sufficient to understand WHO it's geared for.

In other words, we need to understand WHO will make their main body.

If we compare this to a military model, we want to know what are the capabilities of the infantry, the common foot-soldiers, and their numbers if you will.

We can go by statistics, and for all intents and purposes, we will focus on the North-American continent, more specifically, the U.S.

In a survey made by the Barna Research group, in 2007 about 8% of the population is evangelical. There are about 18 million evangelical adults.

Now we learn also that geographically speaking, 39% of all evangelicals live in the South, compared to 33% living in the Midwest, 19% in the West and 9% in the Northeast. Such things are not too surprising.

Being a patriarchal ideology, The males will be dominant. Women tend to be of a more "supporting" role in evangelism , with few exceptions. They will be white Anglo-Saxon for the most part (81%). Married (74%) and a 26% of evangelicals are college graduates.

That means save for the pastor elite (let's take off 2%), 72% of evangelicals are lower-class, or blue-collar class , with all the stress that it instills from living on a shoe-string budget.

From this, we can begin to construct a basic idea of who is in the "infantry". The average evangelical who will be crusading, will be male, within 20-40, will be married, or remarried, with kids and with a formal educational background that is for the most part, doesn't go past High-school, military training (if they did the service) and life experience.

Also if we take into consideration of the ethnical backgrounds, we can also include these into the profile. Still, even at that point, it is not sufficient to establish a precise measure of who it is were are dealing with.

For that, we have to look at the evangelical sub-culture. Much of it is played out on the hyper-masculine behavior that is present in American society, but also on the ideology of the Evangelical movement.

These can be found on any good evangelical websites, these statement of faith will include;

1. *The divinity of Jesus*
2. *The fall of man*
3. *Several references to the crucification*
4. *The great convention (the order to convert everything that isn't bolted down).*

Also they will provide statements that will outline their ministry specialty. For example, some variants will include the belief of young earth creationism, if the ministry focuses on spreading misinformation about evolution. The same can be done with right about any topic that is of concern of the evangelical, from stem-cell research, homosexuality, and even technological advances.

This brings us closer to what we are dealing with. For the most part, the evangelical sub-culture, focuses on the frustration of the conservative ideals and it's inability to cope with changing social

norms. Especially with gender-roles, it feels mostly threatened by feminine aspects, as their patriarchal nature sees it as being emasculated.

It's a bit of a backlash from the more primal instinct of the alpha male, being dethroned by a younger, stronger, male. This could also explain why some of the evangelicals are so upset with the theory of evolution, as it does prove that you don't have to scratch the human paint, to reveal the beast beneath, and thus forcing the man who learns of this to mature psychologically.

Changing social norms, and scientific discoveries, tear away at the fabric of the conservative mind-set, forcing a question of "where do I fit in?" and with the fear of uncertainty, they feel especially angered at anything that would remove them from the comfort zone that a patriarchal society has given them, a male-dominated bureaucracy that cringes at the site of the possibility of being feminized, in which their limited senses see as 'weakened'.

And so, aggressive campaigns of proselytizing are made, to not only ensure that the status quo is maintained, and basic fears are quelled by the comfort of male aggressive behavior.

In conclusion, we are not merely dealing with people unable to face reality, we are dealing with adults, with the mentality of rebellious teenagers, complete with the arrogance of a twisted Peter Pan, with a recklessness that is only surpassed in destructive tendencies of a collapsed star, thinking themselves invulnerable, as long they don't think of their vulnerability, and more importantly, in a perpetual movement of delusionary will, that require them to think that they are king, when in reality, the weight of their crown makes them as clumsy as the court jester.

Sadly, some enjoy it so much, they will never want to give it up. The only thing that can be done is make it so that they stop being a danger to others and themselves. Education is key in making it so that such self-deception is neutralized and it's hold on mainstream society diminished.

1.2: Why evangelism angers so many?

I noticed a trend in evangelism when dealing with objections. They keep asking those who resist their attempts at indoctrination why they are angry.

At first, I thought they were being insolent, then with time I realized that they were in fact, completely ignorant, and because of the mental conditioning in the evangelical movement, their social interactions with those outside of the movement seems awkward.

And it is. After all, they are mentally conditioned to believe that they have a divine right to impose their beliefs.

But how does this cause anger? Let us first look at the tools they use. These will be explained more in depth in following sections.

One of the tools used is elicitation. By definition, it is to cause something to happen; to bring something out into the open. In the case of evangelism, it is used to fish information out of you so they can have a hold on you. This can be as simple as your first name or more importantly, what kind of religious (or lack of religious) background you have.

Then, it will permit them to go to phase two, which in Ray Comfort's (an evangelist known for his trickery and deceit) own words, "You will seek to by-pass the intellect and access the conscience". This tactic has a name. It's called "Coercive Persuasion".

Coercive persuasion, comprises social influences capable of producing substantial behavior and attitude change through the use of coercive tactics and persuasion, via interpersonal and group-based influences.

In lay-men terms, it's emotional appeals combined with peer-pressure. From the good person test to the deceitful arguments and disingenuous arguments that evangelists are famous for, it all falls under that strategy. It is a sales-pitch designed to give you an artificial need (you don't want to go to hell do you?). And wouldn't you know, they so happen to have a solution(the bible and the evangelical ideology).

Now, what does this have to do with the anger felt? There are three I can name right off the bat.

1) Name one Human being who enjoys being taken for an idiot!

In the age of information, when we have access to all the information needed in the matter of seconds, there is nothing more irritating that someone who lives in complete and utter denial of the facts, and more importantly insist on making you just as ignorant as (s)he is.

2) No one likes someone being nosy about someone's private life.

When they ask personal questions, it's an assault on your private life, which is for them, NONE OF THEIR BUSINESS. Even more so those who are under the impression that you actually owe them your private life.

3) Nobody likes a pushy salesman.

It's like as if they are selling a bus ticket to go to Erehwon*, when you repeat time and time again that you have no need to go there, and have no desire to go there in the first place. And no matter how many times you explain that you are not interested in their product, they will try again and again (*Ad Nauseum*) until you crack. And if you do, they will expect you to sell their product to family member, and strangers and give 10% of their income to the "bus company" on top of promoting it and pushing it everywhere.

This is of course, the most disrespectful thing they can do. And they do so, thinking they are giving you a service. Which is even more frustrating to see how misguided they are.

In conclusion, the reason why they all spark anger in all of us, stems from their lack of respect, their ignorance and their busybody methods. All of these attack the minds of those, who quite frankly would much rather that they keep their insanity to themselves.

*Erehwon is "nowhere" upside down.

SECTION II: THE MODUS OPERANDI OF AN EVANGELIST.

2.1:What is "Witnessing"?

Christian witnessing is persuasive talk used by a evangelist for a mark to buy into the evangelical world-view - This will take the shape of a testimonial of what the evangelical ideology has done for them on a personal level, information on the faith itself and the creation of an artificial need.

This artificial need, is the "Need for a saviour". Let us explore how they go about this.

2.2: Prospecting : The psychology of a "fisher of men".

The search for potential converts is known by many names to the evangelist, although the most common one is of course, "sharing the good news". These come in three categories;

Cold prospects are marks that have little or no awareness of the evangelical ideology. They are reached through advertising (tracts and banners), open-air ministries, witnessing to strangers.

Warm prospects are individuals with whom they have previously spoken or met. It is usually a follow up to the cold prospect. These take the form of "friendship evangelism" and invites to the church. This also leads to the beginning of indoctrination.

Hot prospects are the ones they successfully moved through the first two stages of the evangelical sales cycle. If we rely on Margaret Singer's conditions for mind control, this would be at the stage that the mark is taken away from their normal social support group for a period of time and into an environment where the majority of people are already church members.

For the purpose of this book, we will be focusing on the "Cold" and "Warm" aspects, as the latter stage can be avoided if the previous two are properly countered. Let us look at some of the techniques used by evangelists.

2.2.1: Ice-breakers

It is a facilitation exercise intended to help a group to begin the process of recruiting. Ice-breakers are commonly presented as a game to "warm up" the mark and break down any barrier they may usually have.

In the case of evangelists, they will use a tract, an opening line, banners and skits. Many of their opening lines will resemble the following.

- *"Have you got one of these tracts?"*
- *"What did you think of the message that the preacher said?"*
- *"Hi, my name is..."*

They will also use gags, jokes, anything to put their foot in the door of your private life. Deny them this, and they can't even go any further, rendering their preaching completely useless.

2.2.2: Bait-and-switch

This tactic involves the evangelist to lure in marks by advertising something unusual or benign, for example, free water on a hot summer day, then reveals to potential prospects that the water is available only if they answer a question. The goal of the bait-and-switch is to convince some marks to stay and be subjugated to their witnessing.

Here are some examples of popular use of bait-and-switch

- Hell houses
- Any stand at a county fair done by an evangelical church that offers a freebie.

2.2.3: Elicitation

Elicitation is the act of obtaining language data from another person. In the case of evangelism this is used to fish out personal data that can be used against you. This will sound like innocent conversation, but in reality, it is meant to learn more about your identity so they can have a better idea of how to sell to you the idea of the evangelical ideology.

These take the form of innocent questions. Here I will list the more common ones, taken from various evangelical websites, fitted in categories:

Generics

- 1. What gives most meaning to your life?*
- 2. What, or who, are your sources of strength in your day-to-day living?*
- 3. When you have problems or crises, how do you manage to get through them?*
- 4. Is religion or God important to you?*
 - * In what ways?*
 - * If not, is there any particular reason why not?*
- 5. Wouldn't you like to have faith in something?*
- 6. Have you ever thought about heaven?*
- 7. Can you give me a bit of a background?*

Spirituality

- 1. Does God (or a Higher Power) seem personal to you?*
- 2. Do you feel close to or far away from God?*
- 3. What do you imagine that God is like?*
- 4. Can you point to things that God has done for you?*
- 5. How is God working in your life right now?*
- 6. Are you comfortable with what you understand to be God's guidelines and laws for living?*
- 7. Do you feel there are barriers of some type separating you from God?*
- 8. Have you ever been mad or upset with God?*
- 9. Have you ever done something for which you feel God could not forgive you?*
- 10. Do you understand the way to forgiveness and what it means?*
- 11. Do you think God has a plan for each person's life?*
- 12. What would it take for you to live up to what God expects of you?*

Devotional life and practice

- 1. What kinds of religious material do you like to read?*
- 2. What are your favorite authors, writings?*
- 3. Do you like religious music? Kinds? Favorites?*
- 4. Have you read much of the Bible?*
- 5. Do you understand the Bible when you read it?*
- 6. Does Bible reading help in living? How?*
- 7. Is prayer a meaningful part of your devotional life?*
- 8. Do you feel there is any spiritual growth going on right now in your life?*

The Church

- 1. Are you involved in a church?*
- 2. What you get out of being involved in a church?*
- 3. Which teachings of your church resonate the most with you?*
- 4. Do you personally know anyone who is the pastor of a church?*
- 5. Are you a member of an accountability or nurturing group in your church?*

Religion and illness, dying and death

- 1. Has being ill made any difference in your thinking or feeling about God or your religious faith?*
- 2. How has being ill affected your devotional life?*
- 3. When you are ill, do you ever have feelings that God is punishing you or that it is His will for you to be sick?*
- 4. How do you feel about suffering?*
- 5. Do you trust God with your future?*
- 6. Why do you think that there is so much suffering in the world.*

Interestingly enough, with these particular types of questions, you can begin to see that they can easily probe for potential objections and prepare their sales pitch accordingly. Notice how they focus on your perspective of things, they try to push the boundaries of personal space. One should be very cautious when hearing such questions. It is easy to answer them without thinking.

Once sensitized to these questions, you should be able to deflect the questioning and even influence them by choosing carefully your answers. Any computer programmer will tell you, if you control your input, you will affect the output.

2.2.4: Coercive persuasion

Coercive persuasion comprises social influences capable of producing substantial behavior, attitude and ideology change through the use of coercive tactics and persuasion, via interpersonal and group-based influences.

It is an attempt to force people to change beliefs, ideas, attitudes or behaviors using psychological pressure, undue influence, threats, anxiety, intimidation and/or stress. The most classic example is how an evangelist tries to put the mark "on the spot" for their "sin".

What an evangelist does, is create an artificial climate in which he/she creates a need for something that is not needed in the first place.

Let's look at how that works.

Phase 1 : The creation of the need: The mark must first realize he is guilty of some transgression and risks to be punished by some authority. In other words:

- An evangelist shows the mark that they are sinners and going to "Hell".

- The evangelist shows that show them that they cannot avoid this threat through their own means.

Phase 2 : The mark must be shown how the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross can pay for his transgression. In other words:

- The evangelist shows that the only way to get out of their predicament is to adhere to the evangelical ideology
- Use emotional appeals to "twist the arm" of the mark into buying into the evangelical ideology.

Phase 3: The person must be shown how he can personally apply this "solution" to the mark's life. In other words:

- The evangelist will guide them by showing them biased information that will knock down any objections or natural mental defense.
- The evangelist will insist on bringing the mark into an environment where other evangelicals are found (invitation to a church).

While the first ammendment allows for freedom of religion, Coercive persuasion is antithetical to the First Amendment. It is the unfair manipulation of other's biological and psychological weaknesses and susceptibilities.

2.2.5: Loaded language and double-speak

There is a prevalent use of loaded language and double-speak used by the evangelical movement. There are many terms used by them that are used to not only isolate themselves from non-believers but also to subjugate an other by using a vocabulary that is known only to those who are evangelicals.

This is known in some circles as "Christian-nese".

But what is it you ask?

Loaded language are words or phrases which have strong emotional overtones or connotations and which evoke strongly positive (or negative) reactions far beyond the specific meaning of the word which is listed in the dictionary.

As for *Doublespeak*, it is language deliberately constructed to disguise or distort its actual meaning, often resulting in a communication bypass. Such language is often associated with

governmental, military, and corporate institutions and its deliberate use by these is what distinguishes it from other euphemisms.

In the case of the evangelical movement, it will be religious and will use terms that are derived from their mythology or practices. They, will then use such terms to overlay them over an non-believer's ideology to attempt to assimilate his thinking into is own.

I will give you some examples of loaded language that you will encounter. They come in three distinct categories.

Category #1: The religious equivalent overlay.

This category shows how the evangelist will use terminology that is related to his practices and will try to demonstrate that his ways are really your ways too, only his are better. It is mixed with the disdain and pathos that they have towards unbelievers.

Example:

- "You seem to feel the need to jump in and guide your flock."
- "You have made this your God. My God says..."
- "You may not believe this, but those are Christian values."

Category #2: The Patriarchal overlay

The judeo-christian religions are based in a Patriarchal structure. And so, they will use an imposed filial piety upon their target and they expect their target to see them as a father-figure.

Example:

- "My friend/my child..."
- "I have a special burden for group/faction/religion."
- "I can help you with your sin/condition."

Category #3: The hyper-masculinization overlay

This one is quite prevalent in American society, where it is encouraged among those circles to push the male gender to ridiculous extremes. Proofs of manhood and testosterone-laced ideals are for the most part pushed. They expect you to see them as the Ubermensch for jesus. In many cases they will try to push the idea on you via boasts and taunts.

Example:

- "C'mon be a man about this/Don't be chicken!"
- "Only a coward/sissy doesn't do what god wants them to be."
- "I challenge you to read this/listen to this."

2.2.6: Framelock: An evangelist's best friend.

A frame-lock occurs when an evangelist has successfully overlaid their own worldview onto your life, your words, your identity or reasoning. *This is the purpose of evangelism.* Conversion is nice, but frame-lock is easier.

But what do they seek? The answer is, anything that can get a hold of your mind or emotions.

This information can be anything:, it can be your personal name that they have overheard (and will use often), knowledge of your situation, knowledge that they managed to fish out by elicitation, or knowledge that is public and observable (such as your job, your position, ethnic background or even sexual / gender orientation).

Once they have that bit of information, they will seek to dig deeper, to gain more knowledge. Once that knowledge is gained, they can attack your psyche, putting you on the defensive by using a frame-lock.

But we need to keep in mind that a framework can be considered as the processes and methods used to solve a complex issue. It is the skeleton upon which various objects are integrated for a given solution. It dictates how you think you know what you know, and who you believe yourself to be.

In the case for evangelism, the framework is the evangelical ideology, its beliefs and its traditions. The entire equation is meant to bring forward the Great Commission, which is the belief that Jesus gave them a duty to evangelize the whole world.

And so when witnessing, they seek to lock you in their framework, hence the term: frame-lock.

So how to avoid this frame-lock? How to avoid being snared and leave them unable to continue? We have to look at the vicious circle that occurs when they have just a little information.

- 1) **Aggression: from the evangelist.**
- 2) **Resentment or defensiveness: from the “sinner”.**
- 3) **Rebellion: from the “sinner”.**

The whole circle is a loop in which they seek to keep you unbalanced. The aggression from the evangelist will take form of questions, accusations, and misinformation or mythology about factions or groups that are commonly held within the evangelical subculture. When they know what you are or what you believe in, they will push in that direction.

Ways to counter frame-lock:

Remember the entire loop is based on getting you to go on the defensive, and to valorize their worldview. You must deny them this by denying them the point on which they are focused.

When they attack your identity, keep in mind that they will focus on it, until they get a “confession” of information. The best way to deter them is to not deter them at all, but to evade their question continuously.

Be careful as they will not deter so easily, they will use questions, boasts and taunts to get you to volunteer information and therefore locking you in their framework. *In their minds, they believe that you owe them this information.*

Since you cannot block their aggression, you can only redirect their approach or answer only with answers that are meant to reflect back on them. By doing so, you remove the resentment and the rebellion phase, keeping your mind calm and ready.

One should note, that denying this often makes them even more aggressive and therefore unbalanced. Hence they can fall for clever traps, word-play and puns. Hence, you turn the circle against them and they stumble, making their attempts at putting a hold on you ineffective.

2.3: How they handle objections:

An evangelist will expect opposition of all kinds. From law enforcement, to counter-protestors, to the common man. When it comes to one-on-one conversations, they switch to a different set of rules to handle objections than what they would use with counter-protestors or the law. Let us examine this set.

2.3.1: How an evangelist manipulates the conversation.

When it comes to the art of conversation, the evangelist knows it's small-talk, after all, he/she must insure that it gets past the objections of the person that they are targeting in the most benign way. After all, they want to be seen as friendly, before they con you.

The basic premise in manipulating the conversation, is that they want to make you believe that it was YOUR idea to have this discussion. Like a good con-artist they wish to have you reveal intimate details of your life.

Let us look more in detail how they will manipulate the conversation into their own ends.

THE SOCRATIC METHOD

The Socratic method is a series of questions in which your prospect can readily agree, then ask a concluding question based on those agreements, in order to receive a desirable response.

The most famous example of this in the evangelical context is of course the "Good person test", a series of questions that start from basic questions about a person's identity, and then a quick switch to the evangelical framework.

The Socratic method, is also a nice way to answer objections, as questions can be used to gain personal knowledge. Remember, if they say "I want to understand you", they really mean "I want to gain enough knowledge so I can supplant you!".

QUOTE MINING

Quote mining is the practice of purposely compiling frequently misleading quotes from large volumes of literature or speech.

It is commonly used to describe a method frequently employed by Creationists to support their arguments, though it can be and often is used outside of the "science vs. faith" discussion. The evangelist often present "mined quotes" which, when taken out of context, appear to undercut a topic, or quotes which have been altered so that it appears as though the source of the quotation has a complete opposite view than the way it was originally intended.

This is a form of misinformation warfare, which takes advantage of the ignorance of people in certain fields (science being the most common one).

THE BIG LIE

The phrase Big Lie refers to a propaganda technique. This technique, consists of telling a lie so "colossal" that no one would believe anyone "could have the impudence to distort the truth so infamously". The first documented use of the phrase "big lie" is in the corresponding passage: "in the big lie there is always a certain force of credibility".

Many Ministries use the big lie to push misinformation, this takes form of misquotes, taking words out of context, and sources of an evangelical bias. Many ministries tend to even use urban legends that have been debunked time and time again, yet they will push this technique, the big lie, in hopes to maintain their hold on their followers.

2.3.2: Of Sheep and men, Evangelical group-think.

Have you ever been in this situation, you try to explain what atheism really is in contrast to what they were told by their pastors and you only find yourself seeing the same near-automatic response from the group?

In all its irritating glory, such occurrence has a name. It is called group-think

What it is, it's a type of thought exhibited by group members who try to minimize conflict and reach consensus without critically testing, analyzing, and evaluating ideas. During Group-think, members of the group avoid promoting viewpoints outside the comfort zone of consensus thinking.

Among evangelicals, known for their cultural checks and balances and ridiculously strong peer pressure, group-think is so prevalent that it almost manifests itself as a hive-mind. Their conformity of thought, enhanced by their fellowship and world-view, brings about such uniformity in perception that dealing with one evangelical drone, is pretty much the same with the next.

As a control mechanism within the evangelical community, its prevalence ensures that their fellowship is safely guarded, regardless of differing viewpoints. As proof, I will use Irving Janis' eight symptoms of group-think and offer the equivalent of them in the evangelical context.

1. Illusions of invulnerability creating excessive optimism and encouraging risk taking.

This is would prevalent in many ministries, they encourage their adepts in trying to evangelize everything that isn't bolted down. Open-air ministries are a classic example of this. These are re-enforced by the "divine right" that is constantly uttered by the elders.

2. Rationalizing warnings that might challenge the group's assumptions.

This is often found in the form of when other Christian groups who question their methods, this leads often to an appeal to authority combined with an appeal to emotion using the alleged veracity of the bible, often leading to much heated debates in the matter of interpretations. When dealing with non-christians, it takes the form of painting said unbelievers as over-reacting.

3. Unquestioned belief in the morality of the group, causing members to ignore the consequences of their actions.

This leads to some of the ridiculous extremes of evangelism, like doing missionary work in a war-torn country (and expect the government to bail them out when they get in trouble) or in other cases, even show complete disregard for laws (separation of church and state) and basic human rights.

2.3.3: DEBATE TECHNIQUES AND THE EVANGELIST.

Some seasoned evangelists will be trained to a level that they will actually try and debate unbelievers. which is none too surprising as they are, first and foremost, orators and mouthpieces. However, they are known to use logical fallacies and those who are not sensitized to their tactics can be caught in their snares.

Let us look at the most common logical fallacies used by the common evangelical Christian, these can occur in no particular order.

Argumentum ad antiquitatem (the argument to antiquity or tradition). This is the familiar argument that some policy, behavior, or practice is right or acceptable because "it's always been done that way." This is an extremely popular fallacy in debate rounds; for example, "Every great civilization in history has provided state subsidies for art and culture!" But that fact does not justify continuing the policy.

Examples: - *"My dad believes it, he was a good man and it works fine for me."*

- *"City Hall has always had the ten commandments here, it's tradition!!"*

- *"On the money, it says "In God we trust" for years, why should we remove it?"*

Argumentum ad baculum (Latin: argument to the cudgel or appeal to the stick), also known as ***appeal to force***, is an argument where force, coercion, or the threat of force, is given as a justification for a conclusion. It is a specific case of the negative form of an argument to the consequences.

Examples: - *"God exists, because if you don't believe in Him you will go to Hell."*

- *"Repent or burn!!"*

- *"Please Accept Christ as your savior, we don't want you to go to Hell."*

- *"You my friend will face the very God that you deny! Every knee will bow to Jesus Christ and that includes you! Accept the truth before it is to late, Jesus Died for you and his blood will cleanse you from all sin. By faith in Christ."*

Argumentum ad verecundiam (Appeal to authority) Arguing from authority is when an individual uses the words of another to support his or her claim—perhaps pointing out that the person being cited has a Ph.D. to make him or her sound more credible.

Examples: *"Dr. Seidle, a biologist, said of evolution: "Evolution is an impossible process at the macro level. That some kind of divine creativity was involved in our creation is indisputable."*

Argumentum ad hominem (argument directed at the person). This is the error of attacking the character or motives of a person who has stated an idea, rather than the idea itself. The most obvious example of this fallacy is when one debater maligns the character of another debater but this is actually not that common.

Examples: - *"You wouldn't understand the truth because you're an atheist. Of course you think the way you do."*
- *"Evolutionists believe everything goes!!"*

Sui Ad Hominem (directed at itself) An argument so ridiculously inept that it's an embarrassment to the one giving the argument. It's used by preachers as a feint or to get heat from a crowd.

Argumentum ad ignorantiam (argument to ignorance). This is the fallacy of assuming something is true simply because it hasn't been proven false.

Example: - *"You can't prove God doesn't exist, so God exists."*

Argumentum ad misericordiam (argument or appeal to pity). The English translation pretty much says it all. The problem with such an argument is that no amount of special pleading can make the impossible possible, the false true, the expensive costless, etc.

Examples: - *"Oh, and what about the risk they face when open air preaching? they can be shot, stabbed, beat up, spit upon...KILLED.... Etc, but they risk all that for the sake of the Gospel."*
- *" Please think of the children!!"*

Strawman Argument: This fallacy occurs when an individual alters or presents the opposing position in a false light to make it easier to attack.

Examples: *"Evolutionists say that life suddenly appeared from rocks by chance".*

Argumentum ad nauseum (argument to the point of disgust; i.e., by repetition). This is the fallacy of trying to prove something by saying it again and again. But no matter how many times you repeat something, it will not become any more or less true than it was in the first place. Of course, it is not a fallacy to state the truth again and again; what is fallacious is to expect the repetition alone to substitute for real arguments.

In the case of *ad nauseum*, You should expect it to take the form of many "factoids" that have been proven wrong over and over again, like many "Christian Urban Legends". Even though they have been debunked to death, you will hear it again and again.

Either . . . Or: An either . . . or fallacy establishes a circumstance that does not allow for any other possibility than an "either . . . or" situation provided by the argument even when other possibilities exist.

Example: *"There are true Christians and false conversions"*

Argumentum ad populum (argument or appeal to the public). This is the fallacy of trying to prove something by showing that the public agrees with you. For an example, see above. This fallacy is nearly identical to argumentum ad numerum, which you should see for more details.

Examples: *"There are many people who believe the bible, how could we be wrong?"*

Circulus in demonstrando (circular argument). Circular argumentation occurs when someone uses what they are trying to prove as part of the proof of that thing.

Examples: *"The bible is the inerrant word of God. It speaks of God, therefore God exists."*

False Analogy: A false analogy is present any time similarities between objects or events (A) and (B) are assumed without proof, just because (A) and (B) are similar in some other way.

Example: *"Communism and Atheism both lack the belief of gods and Communism is responsible for millions of deaths; therefore, atheism responsible for millions of deaths."*

Nature, appeal to. This is the fallacy of assuming that whatever is "natural" or consistent with "nature" (somehow defined) is good, or that whatever conflicts with nature is bad.

Examples: *"Homosexuality is wrong because it goes against nature, God created the heavens and the earth, therefore homosexuality is wrong."*

False Dichotomy or Excluded Middle: This fallacy is similar to the either . . . or fallacy and may be hard to distinguish. False Dichotomy or Excluded Middle is when the extreme ends of a continuum with intermediate possibilities.

Example: *"There is only good and bad in the world—there can be no lukewarm."*

Non Sequitur ("It does not follow"). This is the simple fallacy of stating, as a conclusion, something that does not strictly follow from the premises.

Examples: *"There is a god because the world has many beautiful and complex things to behold"*

Petito principii (begging the question). This is the fallacy of assuming, when trying to prove something, what it is that you are trying to prove.

Examples: *"If there is a painting, then there is a painter, therefore if there is a creation, therefore there is a creator!"*.

Post Hoc, Ergo Propter Hoc (AKA: Doubtful Cause): This is a fallacy that occurs when a cause and effect relationship is erroneously assumed when an event happens and then another event happens. (Note: the Latin phrase Post hoc, ergo propter means "after this, because of this.")

Examples: *"School sponsored prayer was banned from schools; divorce rates and teen pregnancies went up; in other words, banning school sponsored prayer resulted in an increase in divorce rates and teen pregnancies."*

Ignoratio elenchi (Red herring). This means exactly what you think it means: introducing irrelevant facts or arguments to distract from the question at hand. This is used a lot by evangelists as a distraction. These will be especially emotionally charged in order to unbalance you.

Examples: *"I should not pay a fine for preaching. There are actual dangerous criminals on the street, and the police should be chasing them instead of harassing a decent tax-paying citizen like me."*

***Note: While preaching is protected under the first amendment of the US constitution and the Canadian Charter of Rights, most preachers who get arrested are not arrested because of their speech, but of harassment.**

2.3.4: The convenient cop-out

One thing that many Atheists will encounter during discussions, debates and the unfortunate attempts at proselytizations is when a B.A.C. (Born Again Christian), faced with the horrors of what their faith has done in the past and even continues in the present, they will use this line;

"You see, those were not true Christians".

OH HOW CONVENIENT!! I mean think of it over. Most would assume that it's to differentiate themselves from those who are doing crimes against Humanity. And in many cases, it is just that, the person will not want to be associated with such people.

But there is also another problem that occurs. It's also a way not to face responsibility, it's a cop-out. Here's an example of how I can explain it:

A criminal phished a credit card number, That number was used to obtain a weapon that was involved in a crime spree and the remaining funds used to cover the escape of said felon. Normally, a credit card holder would be responsible enough to report said number as being stolen. Therefore not only avoiding arrest but also helping authorities apprehend said criminal.

Now, what if the credit card holder, was aware of his name and number being used to buy that weapon and these crimes are being committed, and when confronted by the police, merely said "That's not the real credit card holder, I am. But I was fully aware of this going on."

What do you think any cop worth his badge is going to do? In this case you'd almost want some police brutality to occur I am sure.

If you replace "Credit card number" with "Christianity" (Or any religion for that matter, but let us focus on Evangelicals). You will notice that there is almost criminal negligence done on the part of the average B.A.C. by being fully aware of what crimes have been done and are being done still in the name of the church, while NOTHING has been done on their part to report said stolen "Religious identity", save some lip-service.

Each time you hear of some Christian fundamentalist breaking the law and in many cases break international law, they just shake their heads and say "those are not true Christians" as if it brought back the dead, the injured, and the violated.

Well guess what? It doesn't. While I am sure that there are those that when faced with fellow church members who broke the law, are actually smart enough to pick up the phone and have the parties responsible brought to justice, the mainstream unfortunately, won't.

Why is such irresponsibility? Why would they go as far as to bury their heads in the sand? It is a combination of two things, the first being wishful thinking. They are so willing to believe that a Christian is "better" than non-believers that they will overlook or deny association, regardless of the fact that members of their faith are responsible for atrocities.

The second, is of course peer-pressure. The peer pressure that will occur in any social group, that has had an abusive member and have the means to enforce it. They will silence dissenters and use methods that make Public Relations groups green with envy.

The best recent example I can think of, is the Ted Haggard scandal, in which it was discovered that he had a history of meeting a male prostitute and drug use, while being a pastor. Of course, the American media being what it is, glamorized the entire thing, and strangely enough, all the while he was seen as "cured and repented" of not only his drug use, but also his "Homosexuality".

What's rather interesting is while media, and the world at large who heard about it, were downright skeptical of his "recovery and repentance" a la Jimmy Swaggart, the church members seem to be believing that it was so and that the matter was quickly swept under the rug, so to speak.

Such keeping of appearances, denotes a need to keep a firm hold on the environment that is the evangelical church.

2.3.5: Clichés, Taunts and dismissals.

When entering a discussion with an evangelist, you should keep in mind that at some point your opposition will get frustrated and blurt out a one-liner or three. This is meant to assert their position, save face and remove themselves from a discussion that otherwise wouldn't be in their favor.

It also serves as a last ditch effort to try and gain control again of the conversation by the not-so-subtle use of loaded language. Take note that like all languages and idioms, they tend to evolve, so expect to hear variants of such over time.

Once you're sensitized to their idioms, you can recognize them for what they are, and therefore not "take the bait".

Cliches

Cliches are a phrase, expression, or idea that has been over-used to the point of losing its intended force or novelty. This is especially true of the evangelical movement, who obviously took a hint from advertising and made Christianity into this bite-size concept and a bunch of saccharine leimotiv meant to re-enforce their belief.

- *"It takes a lot more faith to ignore the evidence of God than it does to believe in him."*

- *"I only wish that my faith in God was as strong as your faith in Atheism."*

- *"You're taking it out of context"*

- *"You're in love with your sin!"*

- *"Evolution is just a theory."*

Taunts

A taunt is a sarcastic remark, or insult intended to make the other feel miserable and powerless. In the evangelical context, you can expect a lot of hyper-masculine types of taunting, after all, they all think they are "God's warriors".

- "On Judgement Day you will have to answer to Jesus Christ Himself, and then it won't be so funny when he throws your soul into HELL!!!!!!!"

- *"You had better get right with Jesus now before it's too late."*

- *"I pity you, fool!"*

- *"We are not to cast our pearls before swine!"*

- *"Hey Sodomite!"*

- *"You're nothing more but a stiff-necked backslider"*

- *"I challenge you to read this verse!"*

- *"You are boringly" or "You bore me".*

Dismissals

Also known as a brush-off or a snub, are just remarks to end abruptly the conversation. In the evangelical context, it's the substitute to "flipping you the bird". But since they must maintain that holy joe appearance they will try to "exit stage left" with these mostly passive-aggressive remarks and not so subtle use of *argumentum ad baculum*.

- *"The bible is not a history book / The bible is not a science book."*

- *"I'll pray for you".*

- *"Hope you enjoy your special place in HELL!"*

- *"God said it, I believe it, that settles it!!"*

- *"The day will come when you realize the lord is your only salvation."*

- *"Too bad that you're going to Hell."*

- *"One day, when you're burning in Hell, you'll remember this conversation, and that I warned you!"*

- *"Please believe that some things may be unbelievable to those who don't believe, but trust me Jesus is for real, heaven is for real and so is hell. Believe that."*

- *"I don't believe in you therefore you are not real."*

- *"You my friend will face the very God that you deny!"*

- *"It's YOUR choice".*

When you hear these, you shouldn't take offense. In fact it's a side-effect of group-think. They tend to "copy" each other's lines and so so what's interesting is that you end up with very predictable conversations. Hence, rather than take offense, merely smile, since you know your opposition will be easy to anticipate.

2.4: Presentation

Now that we have gained a basic understanding of their techniques, let us look now at the common delivery systems that they use. For presentation, is how they really cook and serve us their sales pitch.

2.4.1: The types of propaganda used by evangelists

Of course part of evangelism is the use of propaganda to simulate the growth of the evangelical ideology. They will refer to this as "spiritual warfare". Many of us are used to seeing religious tracts and videos on youtube and the like.

What's interesting about the propaganda used by evangelists, is since they are at war with the world, since they have this "us or them" attitude, they use even "wartime" types of propaganda, let us look at the types of propaganda and how that reflects in the evangelical context.

Assertion:

Assertion is commonly used in advertising and modern propaganda. An assertion is an enthusiastic or energetic statement presented as a fact, although it is not necessarily true. They often imply that the statement requires no explanation or back up, but that it should merely be accepted without question.

Assertions in the evangelical contexts are often seen, since the evangelist wishes you to accept on faith all of his claims using circular reasoning. That is "God is good, the bible comes from God and therefore the bible is truth".

The same can be said about creationism, as this pseudo-science, is often requested to be accepted on faith and on closer analysis of the claims, are found to be false, or the "experts" are lacking in their competence.

Bandwagon:

Bandwagon is an appeal to the subject to follow the crowd, to join in because others are doing so as well. Bandwagon propaganda is, essentially, trying to convince the subject that one side is the winning side, because more people have joined it. The subject is meant to believe that since so many people have joined, that victory is inevitable and defeat impossible.

For an evangelist, the use of bandwagon, is used at church rallies and revivals. This is to stimulate the sense of group-think and stimulate the confidence of it's members, as it can be used to galvanize a group towards a goal.

Card stacking:

Card stacking, involves only presenting information that is positive to an idea or proposal and omitting information contrary to it. Card stacking is used in almost all forms of propaganda, and is extremely effective in convincing the public. Although the majority of information presented by the card stacking approach is true, it is dangerous because it omits important information.

With evangelists, this is combined with quote-mining, the practice of purposely compiling frequently misleading quotes from large volumes of literature or speech. It is effective, as they will try to profit from people's ignorance.

Glittering Generalities:

Glittering generalities are words that have different positive meaning for individual subjects, but are linked to highly valued concepts. When these words are used, they demand approval without thinking, simply because such an important concept is involved. For example, when a person is asked to do something in "For the children" they are more likely to agree.

It is a thinly veiled emotional appeal, playing on the fear of not being seen as "part of the mainstream". An evangelist is usually trained to take this fear and turn it into a wedge in which he can pitch his ideology as a method for the individual to "Save face" in front of his peers.

Lesser of Two Evils:

The "lesser of two evils" technique tries to convince us of an idea or proposal by presenting it as the least offensive option. This technique is often implemented during wartime to convince people of the need for sacrifices or to justify difficult decisions. This technique is often

accompanied by adding blame on an enemy country or political group. One idea or proposal is often depicted as one of the only options or paths.

In the case for evangelism, they blame the fall of Adam as the opposition to blame and combine it with Pascal's wager.

Name Calling:

It is the use of derogatory language or words that carry a negative connotation when describing an opposing faction. The propaganda attempts to arouse prejudice among the public by labeling the target something that the public dislikes. Often, name calling is employed using sarcasm and ridicule, or in arguments in which the faction is depicted as a grotesque caricature of what it truly is.

The evangelist, uses this often in open-air ministry. This is used to generate crowds. And to stimulate opposition. On one-to-one evangelism, especially confrontational evangelism, this is also used to stimulate an emotional imbalance, thus giving opportunity for the evangelist to gain a foothold.

Pinpointing the Enemy:

This is an attempt to simplify a complex situation by presenting one specific group or person as the enemy. Although there may be other factors involved the subject is urged to simply view the situation in terms of clear-cut right and wrong.

The most classic example of this in the evangelical context, is when Reverend Jerry Falwell along Pat Robertson, blamed 9/11 on "pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and the lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, People For the American Way, all of them who have tried to secularize America. I point the finger in their face and say 'you helped this happen.'"

While the terrorist attack was performed by the lunatic fringe of Islam, Falwell tried to use this as a way to stab hard at the opposition he faced during his lifetime on this continent.

Plain Folks:

The plain folks device is an attempt by the propagandist to convince the public that his views reflect those of the common person and that they are also working for the benefit of the common person.

The propagandist will often attempt to use the accent of a specific audience as well as using specific idioms or jokes. Also, the propagandist, especially during speeches, may attempt to

increase the illusion through imperfect pronunciation, stuttering, and a more limited vocabulary. Errors such as these help add to the impression of sincerity and spontaneity.

This technique is usually most effective when used with glittering generalities, in an attempt to convince the public that the propagandist views about highly valued ideas are similar to their own and therefore more valid.

Often, an evangelist will use the line "I used to be as you were, a *atheist/unbeliever/GLBIT*", they will try to make it sound that they were in a same position, and even try to pitch that your current situation is wrong. One should be especially cautious with this approach.

Simplification (Stereotyping):

Simplification is extremely similar to pinpointing the enemy, in that it often reduces a complex situation to a clear-cut choice involving good and evil. This technique is often useful in swaying uneducated audiences.

Evangelists, hate educated people because of this, since they will see clearly through that technique. They will often repeat the lies and misinformation ad nauseum in hopes to impress the idea as common knowledge. The best way to counter this, is to have venues to inform the general public of the facts. With the Internet, evangelists find it harder and harder to find an uneducated crowd or a crowd that doesn't have access to information.

Still, they have retaliated with sites with a "Christian bias". One should be especially cautious and should always demand for the source of their information.

Testimonials:

Testimonials are quotations or endorsements, in or out of context, which attempt to connect a famous or respectable person with a product or item. Testimonials are very closely connected to the transfer technique, in that an attempt is made to connect an agreeable person to another item.

The testimonial is also one of the most commonly used techniques by evangelism. They simply tell you how they came across their "Born-again experience" and "pitch for the sale" that way. You can find an example of "testimonies" on right about any Christian site, so learning the nature of them isn't too hard.

When confronted with it, shrug it off, as it's goal is merely to sway you to their view point.

Transfer:

Transfer is an attempt to make the subject view a certain item in the same way as they view another item, to link the two in the subjects mind. Although this technique is often used to transfer negative feelings for one object to another, it can also be used in positive ways. By

linking an item to something the subject respects or enjoys, positive feelings can be generated for it.

Evangelists, will often use it in both positive and negative aspects. Here are some examples...

Positive:

- "God is my rock"
- "Lamb of God"
- "lion of Judah"

Negative:

- "Sodomite" (when referring to GBLIT's. Invoking the story of Sodom and Gommorah)
- "Pearls before swine" (Implying the opposition are swine)
- "Painted Jezebel" (speaking of women who do not adhere to the evangelical ideology)

2.4.2: Anatomy of open air ministry

When dealing with the evangelist, one of their most famous methods to spread propaganda, is the use of open air preaching.

In this section, we will look at what makes a street ministry, the different roles and how they go about spreading their sales pitch.

The Cast:

Mouthpiece: The best known player of them all. He's loud, he's angry and he's going to let you know all about how he doesn't like your lifestyle and your beliefs.

The sole purpose of the mouthpiece, is to make NOISE. From Brother Jed smock, down to Ray Comfort, these guys are the fire and brimstone preachers that everyone loves to hate.

Handlers: Are the hands and eyes of the mouthpiece. They take care of the more physical leg-work of an open-air ministry. This role divides itself in three sub-categories;

Banner carrier: They will be the carriers of banners and signs depicting evangelical slogans.

Plant: They will infiltrate the audience and do one-on-one witnessing. Also when a preacher begins, they will act as stoppers-by in order to play on people's natural curiosity.

Plants are easy to spot, as they will often introduce themselves with their names and will try to ask for yours immediately. It's an attempt at making a cold call, recognize it as such and be prepared.

Goon: Their role is to physically protect the mouthpiece from any harm. They will often "disguise" themselves as one of the crowd, like a plant. As the name implies, they will put a heckler in check.

Also, the goon's role is also to distract any law enforcement agent that may surge on the scene, and serves to answer the officer while the preaching is still going on. Such delaying and distraction techniques are common. This serves as one of the many methods they use to skirt local by-laws.

The Setting:

According to their beliefs they are told to go where the people are at to pester them with their beliefs. This will include bus stops, parks, flea markets, unemployment lines, college registration lines, box offices for sports, fairs, carnivals, parades, fireworks displays, lunch hour traffic, beaches, public schools (before and after school), miniature golf courses, and college campuses

In other words, where there are people who gather and socialize, they will be there. Open air ministries are actually predictable in the way they will position themselves. Look for these four factors.

- 1) Plenty of foot-traffic, as they want maximum sight. It's all about location
- 2) Acoustics. they will find the best place so they can be heard for at least a hundred feet as much as the Human voice can be allowed without straining the vocal cord.
- 3) Protection from the rear. They will go out of their way to make sure that their surroundings gives them as much physical protection. Look for walls and any coverage that will protect them from assaults.
- 4) The means for their "support team" (mostly family and kids and non-preaching members) to be within visual range, but far away from "harm".

Basing yourself on that alone, you can "predict" where an open-air ministry will come, and base counters on such.

Drawing Crowds:

The drawing of crowds is crucial to an open air ministry. However they will trick people into stopping there are four common methods that they use.

1) The plaster egg

This technique is named after the concept that some chicken farmers use plaster eggs in a fabricated nest to incite hens to lay their eggs in.

What they will do, is they have their plants form an audience and look as though they are listening to the preaching. This will encourage others to stop and listen, because they gave the illusion that someone was already paying attention. If there is a small crowd when the preaching starts, pay attention to the crowd, look for signs of them being clean cut, or listen for "Christianese". This will help you spot the plants when non-believers happen. this is used in combination with the next two methods.

2) Gathering "heat".

In professional wrestling, heat refers to both crowd reaction and real-life animosity between those involved in the professional wrestling business. In terms of crowd reaction, heat is usually either cheers for "the good guy" or boos for the "bad guy".

The same applies for open air preaching. A trained evangelist, especially for confrontational evangelism, will use the same method to not only gather a crowd, but to bring out hecklers.

The methods of gaining heat, are to blatantly insulting the crowd, a local sports team, or the town they are preaching in. This is called "cheap" because it is an easy way for preachers to receive boos and get crowd reaction.

Most common ones is to attack the GBLIT community, women's rights, and right about any issue that is sensitive, this is meant to push every button.

Not only it is to gather a crowd, but also to cause anger and to make people act in anger. This leaves people open to their plants, who will lend an ear, and answer their objections and therefore attack with one-on-one witnessing, using the emotional distress as a lever.

3) Show and tell

Like the name implies, it roughly a form of bait and switch, they will put on a puppet show, dance number, pantomime and the like to lure people into a crowd. Combined with the plaster egg, it's easy to gain a crowd, especially during the warmer months.

It will have, obviously, a Christian theme. But it will be "mild" as it a set-up for the "heavier" preaching that follows, and creates the gateway that the plants will use. Although not as effective as gathering heat, it makes for a more efficient ice-breaker in a more "family friendly" environment.

Hecklers:

Hecklers are the reaction to the gathering of heat. While tempting to shut the annoying preacher up with a one-liner or two, you should avoid this.

Why? Preachers are now trained to take on hecklers and use them. This method that they use is based on a comedy technique known as a "double act".

It is a comic device in which humor is derived from the uneven relationship between two partners, usually of the same gender, age, ethnic origin, and profession, but drastically different personalities.

The preacher is the "straight man" which plays as moral, serious and reasonable. The heckler, finds himself as the "funny man" who is the dynamic opposite.

Of course in the case of preaching, an unfortunate transition occurs, as it becomes "roles reversed". It will be the heckler who feeds the preacher, giving him the lines to throw back at the audience.

In other words, your heckling helps them. Hence direct action towards an open air ministry is to be avoided. Strategies and tactics against an open air ministry will be discussed in latter chapters.

How they put it together:

Now that we know the players and techniques, I will show you how they put it all together for one preaching session.

First, they will meet up at a "open-air friendly" church where they will meet, and have a bit of a mini-service to boost morale. This serves to erase potential "stage fright" and other forms of objections.

Second, they will often go and see the chief of police OR any authority figure (campus administration) and give a brief run-down of their intent. They will word their intent as to mask their tactics. Many campuses were tricked into having preachers spew their venom, and have them BANNED after for their misleading nature.

Then they will go down to the place they have chosen. Set up their "scene" and erect banners. Handlers will be sent out to distribute propaganda, and position themselves to be the 'plaster eggs'.

Then the skits or preaching begins. This will gather a crowd and depending on the amount of preaching done and how much cheap heat they are going for, they will gain a few hecklers.

Those hecklers will be worked on, to gain a bigger crowd. Then when a sufficient number has occurred, either the preacher will let another preacher take over OR he will quiet down and let his plants and handlers do some one-on-one witnessing.

After this, they will go back to some restaurant to wind down and replenish themselves, and later have another service where they can "report" the events of the day, the types of hecklers and issues that may have occurred like law enforcement showing up.

And such is the usual flow of their method.

Things To Keep In Mind

- As stated before, the only purpose the mouthpiece has is to make noise. The ones you REALLY need to worry about are those who are the handlers and the plants. They are trained in tactics that involve psychological manipulation. Their goal is to "plant a seed", in other words, to re-activate the judeo-christian world-view inside the human mind.

- When dealing with preachers, knowing who is the plant is useful, but often they will betray themselves. Look for icebreaker types of questions and the early giving of their names. Also look for body-language that speaks of a practiced stance, like a salesman or customer-service representative. Looks for signs that speaks of overly-friendly. Normal Human beings, aren't so open with people. An evangelist, seeks an emotional foothold.

- Many churches are divided over the use of open-air witnessing in the confrontational style. They don't mind the "publicity" but hate being associated with them because of the backlash that it brings. Exposing the Church sponsoring them, is a sure fire way of putting their supporters on the spot.

2.5: Tie downs: Insurance of a return to the church

Of course, we have to look at WHO an evangelist is willing to target. Of course, someone who works by logic and reason will not be swayed by the arguments presented by the evangelist, as they do not hold any water.

So why do they bother? It's because their "target market" are not Atheists but those who have (in their own terminology) "back-slided" from their faith.

It's must easier to "plant a seed" in the mind of someone who has been immersed into the judeo-christian world-view from birth. The ground has been made fertile by the framework and the social environment.

This is why they have the HARDEST time converting someone who is educated. One of the many aspects with modern evangelism, is to prey on the common man's ignorance and to feed that ignorance with the fear of knowledge that is not sanctioned by their ideology.

I will give you an example of how it works;

Imagine a small country with four major brands of soda pop. One of these companies has a highly aggressive marketing campaign. This campaign is based on the idea that many people do not know what's IN the soda, and as most people don't care what's in it, they go on a whole country-wide scale campaign, not only praising the virtues of their own soda, but spreading misinformation about other companies soda's.

Of course, they will at one point meet opposition from the other companies, but let us just say for the sake of argument, that these three other companies, didn't react as quickly, and didn't take into consideration the fact that the common man didn't care what's in their soda. Soon enough, the propaganda machine of that highly aggressive company is sweeping the nation and many are switching to their brand through misinformation, but also fear of the other companies.

Of course as a side note, I will point out that an Atheist, is someone who knows that all sodas are the same, and they are all unhealthy and would just rather drink water!!

And this is why, the evangelist hits a bit of a knot when facing an educated person. They can't sway said person via their propaganda, and they must target the uneducated, since it is easier to persuade them with their "information".

But for a "casual" soda drinker (a non-practicing theist) who hasn't looked into logic and reason, it is much easier to sway because they can then either "regain" their patronage, or in some cases "make them switch to the other brand".

There are also other types of people they will target. Those are based on emotional stress. Because of the patriarchal nature of evangelism, they will try to seek those who need to be "sheperded".

I have discerned the three most common ones.

Poverty will be the first. The stress of a lack of currency and the lack of resources will make many open to a place where they will feel that alot of the daily stress will be taken away. Pastors are trained to spot this, and it's pretty obvious by the number of highly charismatic churches in poor areas. Often they will be connected to a food bank, community drop-in and even in some cases, a clinic.

The **criminal element** will be the second. In prisons, the emotional strain is high, and the bitterness felt is even higher. Prison ministries target the criminals under the misguided view that only their ideology can reform someone. Never mind psychology and psychiatry, they just need to turn to their brand of Christianity, in order to alleviate their criminal behavior.

The third, is interesting, they will attack the **young student on campuses**. The fresh-faced young university student, who hasn't got himself fully educated. They will target that one since the lack of life experience and education will make them easily swayed.

While these are the three main ones, they will also other emotional stresses that can be considered, but for an evangelical ministry to be successful, the environment has to have pressure that makes it easier to make emotional appeals.

SECTION 3: Strategies and tactics

In this section, we will explore many strategies to deflect and neutralize any attempts by evangelists at pushing their propaganda.

Since when dealing with the modern form of evangelism, which is highly confrontational, using an indirect method of countering is preferred. "Confrontational Evangelism" is based on direct conflict, and therefore, you do not want to "feed the beast". And so, by using a strategy that uses no direct contact, you will be able to stop the advance of evangelism in your community and on a personal level.

In fact it is crucial that you develop that skill to deal with them indirectly. They say that "the Christian anvil wore out many hammers". This is unfortunately true as history indicates. Direct action against them only valorizes their beliefs and galvanizes them by the creation of martyrs.

Therefore, one shouldn't take the characteristics of a hammer, but the characteristics of a lever. As "heavy" as the weight of the Christian anvil is, it cannot counter a lever. A hammer, requires force. Force can be costly in resources and manpower.

A lever, require only two things: A pivot and a rod. To the one wishing to counter an evangelist, that pivot is logic, and the rod is reason. A lever, doesn't require strength. It only requires you only some thinking, doesn't cost much in resources and only requires minimal effort.

And so, let us look at what can be used as leverage.

3.2: The grain of sand theory.

Countering the evangelical movement not only should be more of a level, it should also taken on the characteristics of a grain of sand

Why is that? It is the idea that the more complex an organization gets, the more powerful it pretends or becomes, it can be undone by the simplest lowest common denominator.

For example, let us look at most organizations as a well oiled and performing machine. Such a machine has gears, needs fuel and resources and needs maintenance on a regular basis.

But if grains of sand get into it's gears, it will suffer hardware failure. In countering the evangelical movement, one should take into consideration that it is war machine directed at culture and beliefs. It IS a war machine and won't deter until all are dominated and subjugated under their will.

After all the evangelical movement's main purpose is to herald a second dark age, a dark age of dominion-ism.

But they have their weaknesses. The grains of sand are people and events that can scratch and hinder their seemingly effective gears. How to apply and find out what "kind" of sand to use is also a matter to consider.

I have noticed different "gears" that seem to come back, like a theme. Attacking these key gears can really cripple the war machine.

Money: What is their source of revenue? What businesses sponsor them and who is their competition? Can their profit margin be scuttled? Can the clientele be swayed economically to buy from another source?

Information: How certain groups love to make themselves sound like they got "knowledge that others don't have" or say "the worldly news don't tell you this". Information warfare is necessary. Being whistle-blowers is a necessity. Misinformation and slander are their weapons of choice and it's necessary to expose them as LIARS.

Key people: They will try to sway local politicians. You must either remove them from office or sway them back using economical and political pressure.

One should keep in mind that you should secure your local area. It's much easier to defend a local place. Since after, when they come knocking at the door, you can defend it with local resources. Outsiders will try to bring their own resources or try to persuade local churches to adopt their platform. Getting local churches the right kind of information, can create an apostasy that can then be used to your advantage.

Using their own theology and "urban myths" against them can also be used. The best weapons is to expose it's use as a tool of control while wisely use it's effect to stimulate the use of it as a "brain-virus".

Although the "Brain-virus" should be "programmed" to elicit a need to question the authority, more importantly the religious aristocracy that has founded itself in the Evangelical movement.

Such can be done with diligent research into the local sheeple farm (Read "Churches") and what their theology is about. From there, you can create the grain of sand, and jam their gears.

3.3: PREPARATIVES

You can never be too prepared when dealing with the evangelist. Their resources make it so that they have a huge amount of support. That is why they can deliver such tremendous amounts of propaganda into one spot. When you look at when they come on the streets, or on campus, you should consider how much money is involved just to give you an idea how many people are supporting the events.

Also, you should consider the man-power and more importantly which "market" they are targeting, is their ministry aimed at young people? Then secular youth groups should be informed. Are they targeting young women? Then the women's group should be put in the know.

And so, let us explore what we need to get to put people "in the loop".

3.3.1 Intelligence gathering

Gathering intelligence on preachers and evangelists is a "must have" in order to be successful. While they thrive on the ignorance of others, you should have all the facts at the ready. When dealing with evangelists you should try to find out these facts.

- Who they are.
- Where they are from.
- Which church sponsors them locally?
- Did they have brush ups with either the law or activist?

This information is useful, as it can be given to the right people or passed down the proper channels (Like campus police). It can be shared with local activist groups, who would love to keep track of their activities or stage counter-protests.

But how to find out more, surprisingly, it's rather simple. Many preachers have their own website and are open about who they are. From there you can use the Internet to gather for information.

One of the best ways to know what is going on in evangelist territory, is to sneak in their Internet mailing lists or snail-mail list. These often reveal any of their upcoming events. An outreach can even be stopped in it's tracks in some cases if you remove them the element of surprise.

3.3.2: Information warfare

It is the planned use of propaganda and other psychological actions having the primary purpose of influencing the opinions, emotions, attitudes, and behavior of hostile foreign groups in such a way as to support the achievement of national objectives.

In the case for counter-evangelism, it is done by exposing the lies and misinformation that the evangelical movement. It is similar to subverting, although it will go into more details and more research is involved.

Also, in information warfare, more conventional mass media is used, such as letters to the editor, publications of websites detracting and exposing the truths about the evangelical movement or even radio stations (e.g "The infidel guy").

3.4: Mental preparations

Just as you should be physically prepared, you should be mentally prepared against the evangelist.

The best way to prepare yourself for an encounter, is to just see it as a game. Whether you win or lose doesn't matter, as long as you've played well.

The method of play of such a game is divided in two, on the personal level and the group level. On the personal level, you wish to deflect and redirect their attempts at evangelism. On the group level, you wish to deflect their attempts at gaining a foothold in your community.

You should focus on the local level rather than the national level. This is easier, as you pretty much have a 'who's who in the zoo' knowledge and it's easier to keep track of the who, the what and the where. Once you've established the "where", the who and the what follow easily.

Also the availability of funding and raw materials are also easier to obtain.

3.5: How to counter-witness.

Simple scenario: The "good person test".

For those who have heard of *way of the master*, Ray Comfort, Kirk Cameron, and Todd Friel are people who use the socratic method in order to "get the unbeliever stumped".

The goal of this "Good person test" is three-fold. The first, is to engage in dialog. The second, is to elicit personal information, the third is to get you into the evangelical framework.

Let us look at the usual flow of the "Good person" test with a commentary at each question.

Q: "Do You Think You're a Good Person?"

The opening question is designed to pretty much "check the dept" of your mind. Many are way too open when they answer this. Often we try to be humble and then that incertitude, leads to many openings that an evangelist will exploit.

Q: "Have you ever told a lie?"

That question is a useful question to the evangelist. Consider that with it, he can deny future answers with "you've confessed to being a liar, so why should I believe you?"

This can put you on the defensive and they will capitalize on it. We want to be believe and it's frustrating to see someone disbelieve us. They know this and will use it.

Q: "Have you ever taken anything that did not belong to you?"

Q: "Have you ever looked at another person with lust or desire?"

Q: "Have you ever been angry with another person?"

Q: "Have you ever taken God's name in vain?"

These questions are meant to not only pry in your private life, but also begin the process of frame-lock. Whether the answer is positive or negative, it matters not. They will take whatever answers you give and try to pull you into the evangelical framework by imposing their beliefs at each answer. Watch for these comments types:

- *"The bible says..."*

- *"God has revealed..."*

- *"Jesus said..."*

Now that we have a basic understanding of what these questions are and how they work and more importantly, their ***purpose*** let us look at how we can counter this.

The best way, is to answer their question, with a question. They ,first, do not like being denied information of which they feel they are owed and second, the fact you've answered with a question makes it so that you do not reveal any personal information, or any information that would give them a hold on you.

Let us look at the good person test, but with an evangelist confronting one who counters the socratic method by using questions to answer the good person test.

Evangelist: Do You Think You're a Good Person?

Counter-evangelist: "Do you see yourself as a human being?"

Evangelist: YES!! I am a human being! I am a son of Adam and have fallen from the glory of God!! We are all sinners and need a savior!!

Evangelist: "Have you ever told a lie?"

A: "Do you ever tell the truth?"

Evangelist: Yes! I believe I am telling you the truth! And it's only because I don't want you to go to hell!!

As you can see, The evangelist slinks into his sales pitch at each question countered. But what they do not realize is that they do not gain any information out of you, and therefore do not have any hold on you.

This can be made into a game. Since we do not want these individuals to bother other people, the game can be how long you can keep them talking. If they repeat the question, or try another question, just answer it again with a question again, this will repeat the process.

The longer you keep them with you, is less time they have with others. You want to keep them busy to the point that they will tire themselves. And since they can get very emotional, fatigue will come very fast.

3.5.2: How to cope with a relative that is an evangelist

"You can chose your friends, but you can't chose your relatives..."

We have all seen this scenario, you have this uncle, aunt, mother, step-mother, etc, who is an evangelical and wish to use peer pressure to push the evangelical ideology on you.

This of course can lead to small skirmishes at thanksgiving, right down to bloody feuds. Of course, let us look at what the evangelist approach is.

Of course, they will try to spark a conversation of a evangelical nature. the tone will feel awkward. There is the mixed feeling of them respecting you, and the compulsion to preach. That is why they will often bring outside help.

It will be a senior member of the church, or if the church is smaller, the pastor himself. They are to bring moral support and insure that the witnessing will occur. It will be in the testimony style, in other words, expect the usual exaggerations of the person's former lifestyle and the sales pitch about the evangelical ideology, reinforced by the ministering of the pastor.

Keeping that in mind, what is there that can be done?

It all about emotional attachment and how close you are to the person. If you only see these relatives once a year, then just bear and grin. There is no point to make a fuss about it, since you will only see them once a year.

Also, are they close relatives or distant relatives? If they are distant (Like a cousin) then you can easily disassociate yourself from them. You have no real emotional attachment to them, and it's just an unfortunate fact of life that you just so happen to be related to them.

However, if they are a closer relative (Father, mother, sister), things can go sour. Many will begin relentless attacks and hope that with continuous harassment, you will cave in. This will take the form of singing hymns, propaganda, and snide remarks using a religious overlay.

Others will be more passive. They will wait for opportunities, like when you're emotionally distraught. Rather than actually be a helping hand or a listening ear, the evangelist is told by his pastors that it's a "good time to speak about the gospel".

So besides moving out of the household, there are some things that can be done. You see, despite the fact that they are repeatedly conditioned to preach to whomever and whatever isn't bolted down, there is still the same person that's inside.

So how to restore some peace and quiet in the home?

3.5.3: About evangelism on campus.

Be it in high school, college or university, evangelism groups will flourish. Many try to bend the rules of the law when promoting their faith. This will occur the most where the young mind is being shaped: In educational facilities.

In other words, from the "student-led" prayer, right down to the pushing of intelligent design on the local school-board, a lot of resources are spent to influence the young into their world-view.

The need to counter them is crucial, vital even. The young mind is defenseless, due to the lack of experience, and therefore more susceptible to the influence of an evangelist. The heavier targets are the universities and colleges, since the young adults are no longer under parental guidance.

The easy targets, are those who are from Christian backgrounds. In many instances, evangelists are told to target those first.

THINGS YOU SHOULD BE ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR!!

This is a quick list of styles of evangelism you should spot right off the bat, that are prevalent on campus.

Friendship evangelism

That one is one of the most vile, disgusting and repulsive forms of evangelism. It's when an evangelical becomes your "friend" but only to eventually try to "bring you to the church".

It is based on emotional blackmail and manipulation. Those who are practitioners of such, are to be avoided socially. They are not being your friend because they want to, they are being friends with you, because they HAVE to. They will do all kinds of overly nice things, as to give you a sense of GUILT. After that, you feel the need to pay them back and this is where they capitalize.

It's mind games, and no one should put up with that sort of thing. Ever.

"Free" events

This kind of bait-and-switch tactic is prevalent. Free events that have movie showings and with free food. Other times, it's a free rock concert, with -what a surprise- a Christian rock band. At one point, there will be either an altar call or intimidation by prayer. Such freebies, really come at a rather annoying price tag. It is easy to sniff out within the first 30 secs you are here, if the ones organizing have this glazed look in their eyes, and are overly being nice, while asking elicitation-type questions. Then you should leave immediately.

Public display of evangelism

Campus crusade for Christ and other similar organizations are famous for these. They will pick a theme and go public and encourage young Christian drones to press the evangelical ideology on the unwary.

Use of open-air ministries will be the "weapon of choice". But these will be tailored towards students.

The "Outreaches" invariably tend to follow the following model:

SCHEDULE OF "OUTREACH"

Week One:

- Distribution of propaganda. Signs, fliers, "Side-walk ads", banners and even t-shirts (Human billboard system).
- Depending on schools, reposting of fliers and re-drawing of "Side-walk ads" will be done daily. The latter will be repeated in case of bad weather, as rain dissolves chalk.
- There is a possibility of table tents in the student's union, pressing on the very same propaganda.

- Use of websites will occur. Emails accounts can either be generated for the event or can be traced to the organization sponsoring the event.

Week Two:

- Continuation of the propaganda.
- Newspaper Ads with a Statement of faith or support should be printed.
- Use of any members of the faculty that supports the event be mentioned.
- Interactive medium will be put into play. If Internet message-board, it will be highly moderated.
- The event will follow the dynamics of open-air ministry (see section 2.4.2 for details).

They will wrap up with a praise service with a report. Like any publicity stunt, they will want reports of how efficient they were. Follow-through with any marks will be discussed and put into action.

3.5.4: Dealing with a coworker that is an evangelist

Next to having a relative who is constantly trying to convert you, I think the worst of places to have an evangelist try to push his religion on you would be at work.

Reason: You are captive. And they know it. It's a very tight situation where they know they can unbalance you, because you are in an environment where you are imposed decorum.

An evangelist, will try to skirt the laws in order to get his/her way by default, because they do not recognize such laws. In their minds, they have that unalienable right to push their faith.

This is of course, a type of workplace bullying.

However there are ways to remedy to such things.

- **DO NOT RETALIATE.** Remember, an evangelist craves confrontation for the simple matter that it valorizes their beliefs. As mentioned before and I can't stress it enough, the indirect method is better. Resist the urge to "prove them wrong". The evangelist will merely see it as an "objection" and then go by the "script" they were trained with.

- **RESIST** the urge to start the office "rumor mill". This can turn against you rather quickly, and the evangelist, has the nasty habit of doing good "PR" with his superiors, this front works for them in order to keep up appearances.

- **FIRMLY** tell the person that his or her behavior is not acceptable and ask them to stop. You can ask a supervisor or union member to be with you when you approach the person.

- **KEEP** a factual journal or diary of daily events. Record:

- The date, time and what happened in as much detail as possible
- The names of witnesses.
- The outcome of the event.

Remember, it is not just the character of the incidents, but the number, frequency, and especially the pattern that can reveal the bullying or harassment. This is easily discerned with a religious fanatic, as their methods of evangelism are a form of cultural bullying.

- **KEEP** copies of any letters, memos, e-mails, faxes, religious tracts and other religious paraphenilia, received from the person.

- **REPORT** the harassment to the person identified in your workplace policy, your supervisor, or a delegated manager. If your concerns are minimized, proceed to the next level of management.

3.6: Countering Rallies, Open Air and Propaganda.

In this section, we explore the many ways to deflect and subvert evangelistic endeavors in your community. Each tactic is given a name, as a mnemonic device. The strategies can be divided in four types.

- 1) *Personal protection*
- 2) *Disposal of propaganda*
- 3) *Crowd control*
- 4) *Removal of a fringe lunatic*

Many of these strategies, are designed so that only one person need be present. That's right, one person can make a serious impact on thwarting an evangelist outreach. The basic components, is preparation, patience and timing.

I also encourage the reader to devise their own tricks, as many of these tactics, will be read by evangelists and so, a constant evolution of them is required as to make it so it is difficult for them to parry these.

And so, I introduce you to these concepts.

3.6.1: Personal Protection

This section is dedicated to giving the average user some basic tips on just to avoid conversations with the evangelist or to prevent a preacher from entering into a conversation with someone who is not sensitized to their tactics. This also aids you in keeping you safe from evangelists, while not all of them are prone to violence, some do get agitated.

Sanitizing

This is a way to make it so that evangelists have a hard time locking on you. To make it so "that they don't know what they are shooting at". This is not too difficult, since evangelist are led to believe by their pastors and through group-think that non-believers "act and look a certain way".

This stereotyping, can turn in your advantage as when you hit them with an unknown, they are at loss as what to do.

An experiment that I have done on youtube was to "sanitize" myself, by NOT showing my face online. Instead I used an artificial voice and an animation (The firsts were merely masks that I wore and filmed for ten seconds and played in a continuous loop until the desired length of the video was achieved).

What happened was rather unusual, being unable to evangelize me, they resorted to idle threats and taunts, to see if "I would come out and play".

The reaction of some was so disconcerting that even Todd Friel of WOTM radio tried to get me on the air.

What is because it was creepy? Nope, that's just a smokescreen. What really gets to them, and what I saw in the comments in my youtube videos was a reaction to a ***denial of information***.

For you see, as it was explained in earlier sections, an evangelist needs to have some background on you, in order to latch on and begin his sales pitch. In the evangelistic framework, they feel they got this divine right to know every detail of your private life. By removing my face and voice, I was effectively becoming like wet teflon. The evangelist cannot "stick" to the surface, and therefore there is a primal reaction that causes them to taunt and in some cases lose emotional control over the fact that I denied them ***what they believe to be rightfully theirs!***

Of course, I can't ask people to start buying artificial larynxes and masks to wear should they encounter an evangelist, such things are, of course, impractical. However, after much study, I have found that when dealing with an evangelist, I found a method that does the job and creates the same effect. It asks of the individual to mask who they are.

The less they know, the better it is. From any visual cues to where your socio-economic and socio-ethnic background is at, to even verbal expressions, your private information, is yours and yours ONLY.

Frustrating their attempts at elicitation, is a must, and they will try several times until they get that information. However each time, they will feel aggravated, as they do not understand that they are not owed your private life.

As for masks, well, there is a wonderful substitute to them. It's a pair of mirrored shades. The fact that your eyes (which are part of how one gives away their emotional state) are hidden, frustrates their every attempt at learning more.

The same should be made with the voice. Short, neutral answers should only be given to their inquiry, and careful attention to the tone you use in responding should be measured. You should not give them anything that would give them any hold over you. Eventually, they will leave you be, as in their own minds They "are not to be whalers but fishers of men" which translates to that they will move on to some other sucker, since they can't convince you!

Linguistic barrier

If you are with someone, if you are able, switch to another language. If they persist, only answer them in said language. Eventually they will either embarrass themselves or move on.

If you cannot speak another language, stick to a format of English in which they cannot pull you into the framework.

OR...

I also found a way to communicate unhindered by their attempts at breaking the ice with you.

This hybrid language, is really releasing SMS short-hand in a medium that has never been used. The American Sign Language's finger spelling.

This Hybrid, makes it so that it's easily learned, and gives a broad range of conversation, making it so that the evangelists who tries to communicate with you, hits this language barrier.

It makes for quiet, quick and more importantly, efficient communication. Let us look at and examples, looking at this simple sentence.

"Hello, how are you?" Becomes

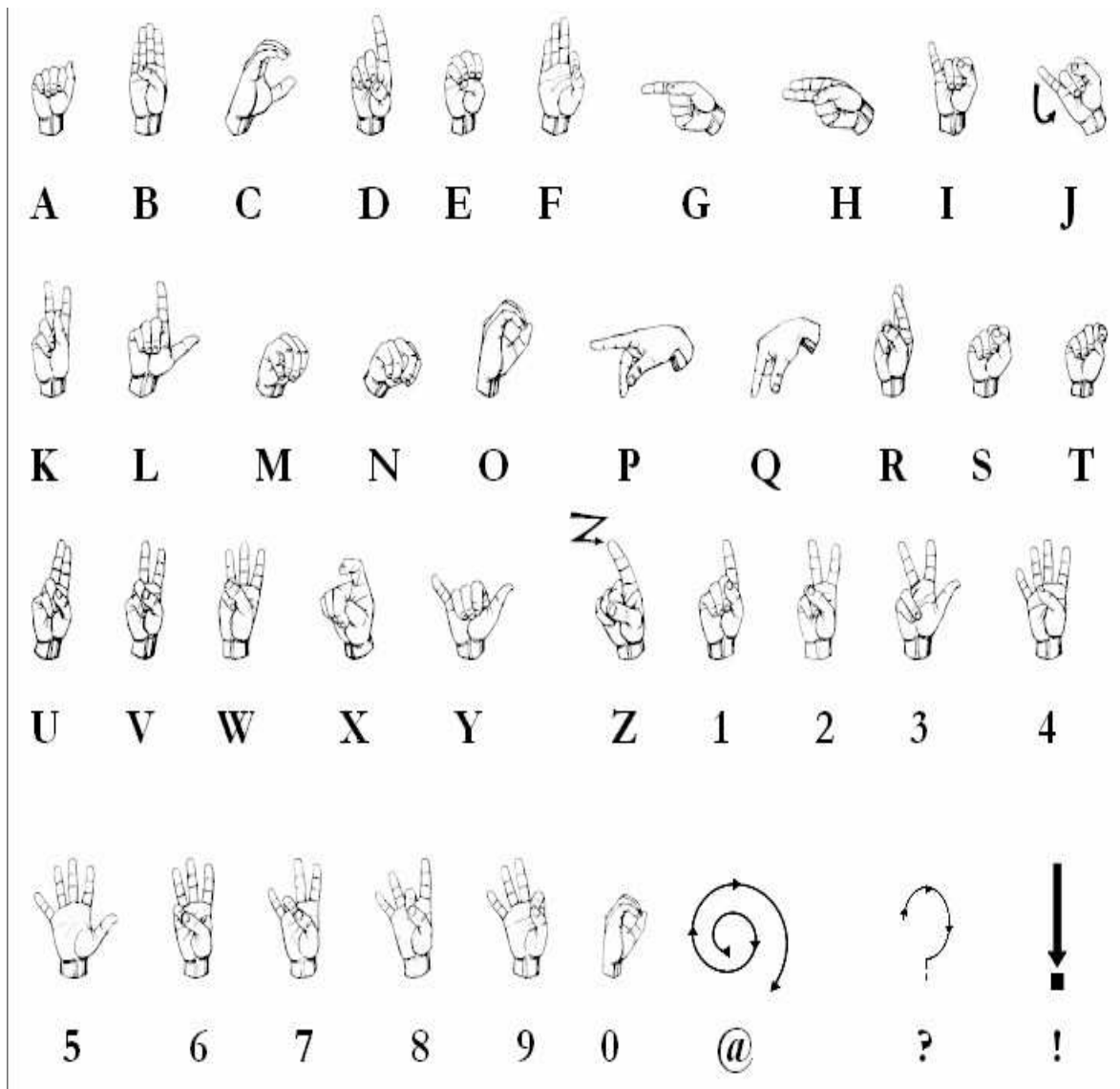
"LO, H R U?"

And in f-text it would be...

LO H R U

So as you can see it borrows from's SMS' phonetic structure to merge with Finger-spelling use of phonetic structure to provide a semi-coded sign language .

Now I will provide you with a chart with a the signs



As you can see the @ sign, the Question Mark and the Exclamation mark were added to make it possible to ask questions and relate basic emotions.

Here are some basic phrases in f-text You will see it's "lettered" counterpart and you can refer to the chart to see it's finger-spell equivalent. you will notice in many cases it is merely some acronyms of sentences. This is for speed of execution and lessen miscommunication.

Hello. - LO

How are you? - H R U

Fine, thank you. - IM OK.

How about you? -N U?

What is your name? - who R U?

My name is ____ . - I am ____

Nice to meet you. - N T M U !

When using this among friends, you will deprive an evangelist of an opportunity from communicating further, effectively ruling them out.

3.6.2: Propaganda Disposal

Whenever there is evangelical activity in your neighborhood, you will find much of their propaganda littering the ground or stuck where people are likely to see it. This propaganda is of course always misleading, and will be filled with misinformation. And so, it is always best to dispose of it.

The simplest method of course, is to tear it up into small pieces and toss it into the nearest waste-basket. While it doesn't seem like much, it ends up costing them alot. When it comes to propaganda, the evangelical will spend a bundle on it. After looking at Living waters ministry, the American bible tract society, and Chick publications, the average tracts cost between 5-8\$ per pack of 100, hence from 5 cents to eight cents a tract.

So each time you tear up a tract, you cost a ministry money, and it is not long before these poisoned little gifts start to cut in a ministry's budget. This can lead to dissention among the ranks in a church, especially when the leadership try paint it as persecution, rather than money wasted.

And so, let us look at clever ways to recycle these tracts.

Religious tract origami

I must give praise to the Japanese culture to have given us a perfect and elegant weapon against propaganda. No it's not a katana, it's the ancient art of paper-folding, Origami.

Origami is not only an interesting way to combat propaganda, it's a way to focus your mind away from their thought-reform techniques, it recycles their propaganda into something artistic and it can be easily taught to others.

And imagine the look on a preacher's face when he sees the propaganda he gave you, hoping to plant a seed with, transformed into a hopping frog or with a little practice, a crane?

Gathering leaves in a storm

This trick requires the assistance of some friends but it can be a lot of fun. The evangelists have their handlers distributing tracts on campus grounds. This trick calls for you and your friends to capture as many of the tracts as you can, as they hand them out. This can be done using the following methods;

- Trading the tracts with something useful (whatever articles you can find at a dollar store)
- Making several passes and plucking them directly from the hands of the handlers themselves.
- Picking them up as they are being tossed aside.

Once these tracts are gathered many things can be done. Although shredding them and sending it to the nearest recycling bin is what's recommended the most as an "evangelist" could "re-recycle" them. So their destruction has to happen, this will disarm the propaganda.

You can shred them, re-use them as colorful confetti, or wait on a night of a rally, and take the shredded propaganda and anonymously bring it to the rally, for everyone to see, to cause a most disheartening effect.

Chalk Wars

Some Christian Campus groups use "chalk advertising" on the sidewalks to promote an event that would promote their ideology, normally in a "bait and switch format" (see section 3.5.3 for details). And so, things can be done to discourage and usurp this advertising.

Get yourself some similar sidewalk chalk (easily found in dollar stores, and in kid's stores) and a floor brush. With these you can start altering the chalkings or parody them outright. Here are some suggestions on what kind of alterations to make

- Replace the evangelist's website with an Atheist website
- "Convert now and get a free Ipod"
- Put back some truth in their advertising "We are a Jesus-freak nest!!" or "We take 10% of your income on Sunday".

Chalkings can also be used in a particularly offensive manner as well, one situation that it can be used as such, is if they are planning a "free" concert, is to chalk up the "location" of the concert with iconoclastic imagery. Such as Jesus on a broken cross, or the fish symbol in a frying pan. Make sure they are large and hard to miss, and in plain view. The results will speak for themselves.

Truth in subvert-izing.

With the coming of youtube, the evangelical movement tries so hard to use this new medium as a means to push their propaganda, with instructional on how to witness, with thinly disguised commercials for some ministries's "products". Right down to what many see as "Diatribes".

Well, one thing they did not expect is that some would be smart enough to download these videos and put them back up, but never in their original form. It can be from the simple "Warning, bullshit up ahead" to the most famous subverting of a preacher on video, the "Farting preacher" (which pre-dates youtube, but is still a classic).

A word of warning; Some ministries will not take kindly to this and will try to have your videos shutdown if not your entire account. The best strategy? Is to have a back-up of all your subscribers. They shut you down, you just get back up. Eventually they will get the hint that your media is not only free-speech but they can parody and it's fair use.

3.6.3: Crowd Control

When dealing with open-air ministries, you will have to deal with their methods of crowd control. As it was discussed in "Anatomy of an open air ministry". They will create a "Plaster egg nest" to entice people to stay and listen, since there is "already people listening".

Crowd control is based on making it so that nest is neutralized. The ways to go about this, are either by leeching the crowd to another point of attraction, preventing the nest from forming in the first place and the last, is to "poison" the nest. Which means, to prevent the handlers from gaining access to those who are not sensitized to their tricks.

The wounded bird

This technique mimics the behavior of some bird species who lure predators away from their nests by feigning injury, making it seem like they are easy prey.

In counter-evangelism, how you go about it, is by feigning the outrage that they typically expect, or by asking them the question that they were scripted to answer. Here are some examples of these questions:

- If God Is Good, Why Is There So Much Suffering in the World?

- *How Can There be Only One Way to God?*
- *Does Evolution Discredit the Bible?*
- *How Can a Loving God Allow So Much Suffering?*
- *How Is the Bible Different From Other Scriptures?*
- *How Can Anyone be Certain of the Bible's Meaning?*
- *Can You Interpret the Bible Any Way You Want?*
- *What Do Christians Believe About the Afterlife?*
- *Does It Matter If the Bible Is Historically Accurate?*

Of course, these will trigger a sales pitch, but the point of this is to draw their fire to you. More than likely, you will have two of their handlers trying to proselytize you. So be prepared.

When they take the bait, play on their heart strings, telling a story that would give them the impression of what they would expect an easy mark. Play on their perception of things, make them believe that they hit the jackpot.

This will trigger the "patriarchal" nature of a evangelist. Carefully played out, you can use the wounded bird to gather some intelligence from a passive approach, or after bringing them to an almost orgasmic level of evangelism, demoralize them completely by revealing the truth about your intent (after making sure they cannot preach any further, due to fatigue).

Zombie March/Flash mobs

A zombie walk (also known as a zombie mob, zombie march, zombie horde, zombie lurch, zombie shuffle or zombie pub crawl) is an organized public gathering of people who dress up in zombie costumes. Usually taking place in an urban centre, the participants make their way around the city streets and through shopping malls in a somewhat orderly fashion and often limping their way towards a local cemetery or other public space.

When they are set up, the evangelist expect crowds, but not a crowd that is made of zombies, but more specifically a crowd that doesn't stay to listen but goes on to another location. People wondering what the heck the "Zombies" are up to, will follow and therefore leech away the crowd that the preachers had gathered.

Simultaneous events

If through intelligence gathering you find out about an event that will occur on campus or in some other location, try to create a counter-event that will draw the crowds back to you, in other words, USE THEM AS YOUR "HECKLER"!!. Here are ways you can create cheap, fast counter-events.

- Promote an existing show, by making photocopies of an upcoming show's advert. and distribute them, make sure it's an event that can has a low cover charge.

- Hold a contest!! The prize is a t-shirt. Go to some novelty t-shirt shop and give them away as prizes.

- If you can play a musical instrument, just go and play some catchy, crowd-pleasing tunes. This will draw back a crowd.

A fair warning, those "events" must at all cost not be directly linked to the evangelists. Resist the temptation to do it "just to annoy the preachers". Do it because "you want to promote local events". If you do this, they will see it as heckling and use it as such.

Also, keep some distance between you and the evangelists and position yourself "upstream" from them this will decrease the evangelists' chance from gathering a crowd.

3.6.4: Removal of a Fringe lunatic

While most evangelists are harmless, there are a few who cross the line between free speech and harrasement. Those are the fringe lunatics who try to skirt the laws and often clash with police, then claiming "persecution" when in reality they were the ones breaking the law.

What defines a "fringe lunatic"? There are characteristics that make it so that it clearly defines them. To "score" as a fringe lunatic, they must score three out of the following;

1) *They are not mainstream Christianity.* Even by evangelical standards they are considered "loopy". Their congregation will consist of few followers, mostly immediate family in an almost clan-like structure, very patriarchal. Rarely they will be affiliated with a more "mainstream" church.

The dogma will be puritan, over-zealous and over the top, almost to the point of self-loathing. Finding all churches to be "of satan" and "lukewarm" (buzzwords that should be kept in mind).

2) *Their activity fits the legal definition of harrassement.* According to law, harrassement is;

- "Intent to harass, annoy or alarm another".
- "Strik[ing], shov[ing], kick[ing] or otherwise subject[ing] another person to physical contact, or attempt[ing] or threaten[ing] to do the same";
- "Follow[ing] the other person in or about a public place or places" (stalking);
- "engag[ing] in a course of conduct or repeatedly commit[ing] acts which serve no legitimate purpose"; or
- "convey[ing] a message without intent of legitimate communication...."

3) *A history of mental illness or substance abuse.*

Interesting enough, Many of them will have some history of substance abuse, in many cases it is still there but it is prescription drug abuse and therefore masked.

Others will have some kind of a mental illness in their background. The highly aggressive environment that an evangelical church serves well to mask any abnormality as either passing as holymen or "being possessed and in need of a savior".

As such, a religious experience can aggravate one who has a mental illness, especially if they have such a poor grip on reality to begin with.

4) *They will have criminal records!!*

Many of them, as it was mentioned will have some kind of criminal record or past brushes with Law enforcement. Mostly dealing with the "preaching" they have done. Be it campus police or a city's finest, they will have some court record somewhere speaking of their past "exploits".

Such records, are public, and should be studied to understand further the Modus operandi of a fringe lunatic, Which varies from one to the other, but is still consistent to the evangelical methods of preaching.

But what to do with such potentially dangerous individual? Evangelism, in the hands of the mentally unstable or those with little regard to law, becomes a tool, an outlet for those who suffer

from paranoid delusions, and as such, it can get out of control, therefore, it's a must to warn the general public of such danger.

1) Gather as much information on the individual/group as possible

As mentioned in section 3.3.1, gather as much information as possible. Especially any article or court records. If it's on campus, search for other campus who had the fringe lunatic as a "guest".

Gaining this knowledge, make sure you have dates, especially recent ones to the activities of the individual(s) in question. Articles from the student papers comes extremely handy.

Also, there are many sites that offer for a fee a "criminal background check" on anyone. Those are a time-saver and will help in giving you an edge and critical information on the individual(s) concerned.

2) Deliver the information to key people.

On campus or anywhere else, this information is critical if you wish to stop the insane ones. The key people to give such information, are the administration, law enforcement and the student/special interest group.

With that knowledge, urge them to put pressure on the administration, so that in the interest of public safety, these fringe lunatics are not allowed to set foot within campus grounds and that restraining orders are issued or that campus police act immediately on sight.

3) Follow through!!

When the information has been issued, keep track of the situation and keep all parties involved "in the loop" as to keep track of the situation.

Communication and exchange of information is key to insure success!! Make sure that all information involved can be confirmed for it's veracity and accuracy.

As you gather more intelligence, keep a database of confirmed facts in a file assigned to each individual. Keep this data backed-up and well stored, not to mention updated, as such data is precious to any activist that wished to know who they are up against.

The proof this concept works, can be seen at the "one people' s project" (<http://www.onepeoplesproject.com/>) with their rogue gallery, which has been a constant torn in the side of racists, KKK members and christian identity groups for years now.

SECTION 4: RECOMMENDED MEDIA

Useful links

These are links to organizations and sites that can come handy in making contact with other atheists, groups to offer support and knowledge that can come handy.

Dark Christianity (<http://dark-christian.clanxanadu.org/>)

Talk Origins: Exploring the Creation/Evolution controversy (<http://talkorigins.org/>)

The international Cultic Studies Association (<http://www.icsahome.com>)

Godless In America (<http://www.godlessinamerica.com/>)

RichardDawkins.net (<http://www.richarddawkins.net/>)

Theocracy watch (<http://www.theocracywatch.org/>)

Dave Mills (<http://www.davidmills.net/>)

James Randi (<http://www.randi.org/>)

Rational Response Squad (<http://www.rationalresponders.com/>)

Stephen Hawking (<http://www.hawking.org.uk/>)

Christopher Hitchens (www.hitchensweb.com/)

Sam Harris (www.samharris.org)

Ask an Atheist (<http://www.askanatheist.org/>)

http://www.religioustolerance.org/chr_cul.htm

<http://www.atheism.org/>, their library is very extensive on a variety of topics.

<http://www.skepticsannotatedbible.com/> They will quote the bible. but do they really know it?

<http://www.airpower.maxwell.af.mil/airchronicles/aureview/1983/Jan-Feb/hunter.html> Hunter, Edna: Coercive Persuasion: The Myth of Free Will

BOOKS

These are books you want to read on your free time, to strengthen your knowledge of evolution, basic science and the tricks of evangelists. the evangelist, thrives by the ignorance of others, therefore showing the knowledge that they seek to suppress, counters them.

Science and such

Charles Darwin, *On the Origins of Species*, John Murray, 24 November 1859 ISBN 0-486-45006-6

Stephen Hawking, *A Brief History of Time*, (Bantam Press 1988) ISBN 055305340X

Stephen Hawking, *A Briefer History of Time*, (Bantam Books 2005) ISBN 0553804367

Stephen Hawking, *Black Holes and Baby Universes and Other Essays*, (Bantam Books 1993) ISBN 0553374117

Stephen Hawking, *The Universe in a Nutshell*, (Bantam Press 2001) ISBN 055380202X

Stephen Hawking, *On The Shoulders of Giants. The Great Works of Physics and Astronomy*, (Running Press 2002) ISBN 076241698X

Greg Krukonis, PhD, Tracy Barr, *Evolution For Dummies*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. March 2008, ISBN: 978-0-470-11773-6 362 pages

Carl Sagan, *The Dragons of Eden: Speculations on the Evolution of Human Intelligence*. Ballantine Books, 1978, ISBN 0-345-34629-7, 288 pages

Carl Sagan, *The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark*. Ballantine Books, March 1996, ISBN 0-345-40946-9, 480 pages

Richard Dawkins, *The Selfish Gene*. Oxford University Press, 1976, ISBN 019857519X, 224 pages

Richard Dawkins, *The Extended Phenotype*. Oxford University Press, 1982, ISBN 0192860887, 307 pages

Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker*. Oxford University Press, 1986, ISBN 0-393-31570-3

Richard Dawkins, *River out of Eden*. Basic Books, 1995, ISBN 0-465-01606-5, 172 pages

Richard Dawkins, *Climbing Mount Improbable*. New York : Norton, 1996, ISBN 0393039307, 340 pages

Richard Dawkins, *A Devil's Chaplain*. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2003, ISBN 0618335404, 264 pages

Richard Dawkins, *The Ancestor's Tale*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2004, ISBN 0618005838 673 pages

Church History

Guericke et al., Heinrich Ernst (1857). *A Manual of Church History: Ancient Church History Comprising the First Six Centuries*. New York: Wiley and Halsted.

Fuller, Reginald H. (1965). *The Foundations of New Testament Christology*. New York: Scribners. ISBN 0-684-15532-X.

González, Justo L. (1984). *The Story of Christianity: Vol. 1: The Early Church to the Reformation*. San Francisco: Harper. ISBN 0-06-063315-8.

González, Justo L. (1985). *The Story of Christianity, Vol. 2: The Reformation to the Present Day*. San Francisco: Harper. ISBN 0-06-063316-6.

Latourette, Kenneth Scott (1975). *A History of Christianity, Volume 1: Beginnings to 1500 (Revised)*. San Francisco: Harper. ISBN 0-06-064952-6 (paperback).

Latourette, Kenneth Scott (1975). *A History of Christianity, Volume 2*. San Francisco: Harper. ISBN 0-06-064953-4 (paperback).

Shelley, Bruce L. (1996). *Church History in Plain Language*, 2nd edition. ISBN 0-8499-3861-9.

Hastings, Adrian (1999). *A World History of Christianity*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing. ISBN 0802848753.

Grabar, André (1968). *Christian iconography, a study of its origins*. Princeton University Press. ISBN 0691018308.

Mind Control

Sensitize yourself FULLY to the tricks of evangelists, cultists and other organizations that use mind-control to prey on innocent people.

Margaret Singer, (with Janja Lalich), *Cults in Our Midst*. Jossey-Bass, September 1996, ISBN 0-7879-0266-7 374 pages

James Randi, *The faith healers*. Prometheus Books, 1987 ISBN 0879753692, 9780879753696 314 pages

Ford, Charles V. [1999] (1999). *Lies! Lies!! Lies!!!: The Psychology of Deceit*. American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc..

Maurer, David W. (1940). *The Big Con: The Story of the Confidence Man and the Confidence Game*. New York: The Bobbs Merrill company. ISBN 0-385-49538-2.

Ball, J. Bowyer; Whaley, Barton (1982). *Cheating and Deception*. New Brunswick (USA), London (UK): Transaction Publishers. ISBN 0-88738-868-X.

VIDEOS

Documentaries, documentaries, documentaries!!

"With God on Our Side: The Rise of the Religious Right in America"

"With God on Our Side: The Rise of the Religious Right in America" is a six hour documentary on the rise of the religious right. It traces, with original footage and contemporary interviews, the unexpected rise of the Religious Right since the late forties, and especially its intricate, almost balletic, interaction with the direction of the nation at large. From Billy Sunday through Billy Graham to Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker and on to Randan Terry, Phyllis Schlafly, and the truly remarkable. Ralph Reed, it documents how winning the presidency, from Eisenhower to the upcoming election, has more and more become a matter of wooing and placating this group.

link:<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0115424/>

"Jesus Camp"

This riveting Oscar-nominated documentary offers an un-filtered look at a revivalist subculture where devout Christian youngsters are being primed to deliver the fundamentalist community's religious and political messages. Building an evangelical army of tomorrow, the Kids on Fire summer camp in Devil's Lake, N.D., is dedicated to deepening the preteens' spirituality and sowing the seeds of political activism as they're exhorted to "take back America for Christ."

link: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0486358/>

"The God Who Wasn't There"

The God Who Wasn't There is a 2005 independent documentary written and directed by Brian Flemming. The documentary questions the existence of Jesus and examines evidence that supports the Jesus myth argument against the existence of an historical Jesus.

link: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0455507/>

"The Root of All Evil? PART I: The God Delusion"

"The God Delusion" explores the unproven beliefs that are treated as factual by many religions and the extremes to which some followers have taken them. Dawkins opens the programme by describing the "would-be murderers . . . who want to kill you and me, and themselves, because they're motivated by what they think is the highest ideal." Dawkins argues that "the process of non-thinking called faith" is not a way of understanding the world, but instead stands in fundamental opposition to modern science and the scientific method, and is divisive and dangerous.

link: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0774118/>

"The Root of All Evil? PART II: The Virus Of Faith"

In "The Virus of Faith", Dawkins opines that the moral framework of religions is warped, and argues against the religious indoctrination of children. The title of this episode comes from The Selfish Gene, in which Dawkins discussed the concept of memes.

link: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0774118/>

