

A CHURCH GROWTH CHAMPIONS SPECIAL REPORT:

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MICHAEL GREEN

Early Church Evangelism Scholar, Apologist

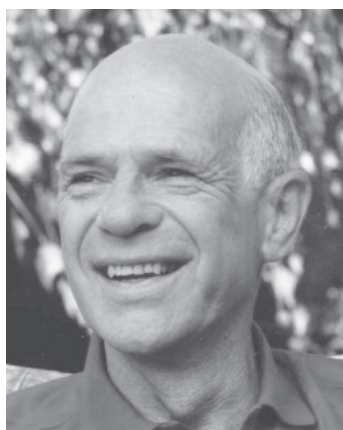
1930 - 2019

***“Evangelism is not for wimps.
Evangelists are on the front lines for the Lord.”***

Dr. Michael Green (August 20, 1930 – February 6, 2019) was widely influential as an author, evangelism scholar and defender of the Christian faith. Green’s humorous, engaging style of writing and speaking made him highly regarded in the Church of England, and in the wider Christian world.

A Christian from an Early Age

Green became a believer at an early age. He was ordained as a deacon in 1957, and as a priest in 1959. During his long career, he touched many lives. He explained to other Christians why it was important for them to talk to their friends, neighbors and family members about their faith. He helped believers understand the necessity of sharing their faith, and made sharing their faith less intimidating.



Green’s calling to minister in the Church of England reflected his lifelong passion for evangelism.

An Apologist and an Evangelist

He also engaged an unbelieving world with the truths of the Christian faith. Green enthusiastically defended the historical veracity of the events described in the New Testament. He made passionate, well-reasoned explanations for the common objections to the faith. He wrote in an accessible style that was popular with lay people. Yet he was also able to make valuable contributions to academic publications. This ability to be both accessible and academic fueled his influence and popularity.

Teaching Future Generations

Green also educated future Christian leaders in his work as a teacher and professor in England and Canada. He served in various official positions in the Church of England, and in local churches. Even in his retirement years, he worked tirelessly to make the gospel both accessible and understandable to everyone.

Dr. Green died at the age of 88. He leaves behind a legacy of orthodox Christianity, delivered in a clear manner. He gave people the opportunity to respond to the claims of Christ, and through him many came to faith in Jesus. ⊕

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Huldrych Zwingli

Major Accomplishments:

- Green was a tutor at the **London College of Divinity**, and principal at **St. John's College** in Nottingham.
- He was rector at **St. Aldate's Church in Oxford**. He was also a chaplain with the **Oxford Pastorate**, a group dedicated to promoting evangelical faith among Anglican youth at Oxford.
- Green moved to Canada in 1987 to become Professor of Evangelism and New Testament of the then recently founded **Regent College** in Vancouver. It was the first graduate school of theology in North America to focus on the laity.
- Green served as an advisor to **Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey** during his Decade of Evangelism Springboard Initiative.
- Green wrote or co-wrote over 50 books, many of them on the topics of evangelism and apologetics.
- He also contributed articles and chapters to numerous other books and magazines.
- Green taught his students that the secret to effective evangelism is to "keep one foot in the Bible, and the other in the culture."
- Green was constantly training new people to take ministry positions. He was known to call on his students to speak, in the middle of presentations he was giving.

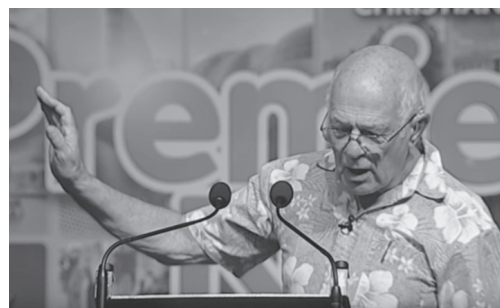


Both a scholar and a practitioner: Dr. Green's teaching interests focused on the areas of evangelism, apologetics, applied theology and New Testament.

Exclusive Bonus Content: Free Training Videos from Dr. Michael Green

Nelson has compiled a collection of four of the best teachings from Michael Green — all on video:

- A Strategy for Church Based Evangelism
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- Crafting An Evangelism Talk for the Local Church



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Green on the differences between the church in Acts and today's church:

"The Acts has so much to say to our half-hearted and cold-blooded Christianity in the western world. It rebukes our preoccupation with buildings and ministerial pedigree, our syncretism and pluralism, our lack of expectancy and vibrant faith. As such it is a book supremely relevant for our time."

Family and Education Background:

- Green's mother was Australian, and his father was Welsh. His father pastored two churches in his lifetime.
- Green was saved under the ministry of **E. J. H. Nash**, an evangelist who was known for his work with English youth.
- Green received bachelor's and master's degrees from **Exeter College, Cambridge**, and **Queen's College, Oxford**.
- He also received Doctorate of Divinity degrees from the **Archbishop of Canterbury**, and the **University of Toronto**.
- He was married to his wife, **Rosemary**, for 61 years.
- The couple had 4 children: Tim, Sarah, Jenny, and Jonathan.



Dr. Green with his wife of 61 years, Rosemary

Notable Quotes:

Evangelism is never proclamation in a vacuum; but always to people, and the message must be given in terms that make sense to them."

"Christianity is enshrined in the life: but it is proclaimed by the lips. If there is a failure in either respect the gospel cannot be communicated."

"The job of an evangelist is to electrocute the fence that someone is sitting on."

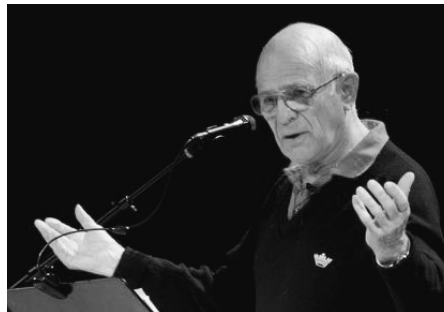
Speak to "inflame the heart of the hearer, drag him away from his sin, and convert him to repentance."

"I am very grateful for churches I know in many parts of the world, mainly the Two Thirds World, which are seeking to live like the first disciples and, like them, are discovering the power of the Holy Spirit who seems only to be available to us when we make ourselves totally available to God"

"It all began with a dozen men and a handful of women: and then the Spirit came."

"In this book I want to address a question that I think is commonly in the minds of Christian people

when they read the Acts of the Apostles: what can we learn from these people who turned the world upside down in so short a space of time?"



"Probably no period in the history of the world was better suited to receive the infant Church than the first century A.D., when, under an Empire which was literally worldwide, the scope for the spread and understanding of the faith was enormous."

"Christianity was ridiculous; for it proclaimed that the wisdom of God was exhibited in the cross of Jesus."

"The resurrection came to them as God's vindication of the claims Jesus had made. They saw that he was 'designated Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead'. And they continued to announce these joyful tidings with tireless zeal and boundless enthusiasm."

"Unless there is a transformation of contemporary church life so that once again the task of evangelism is something which is seen as incumbent on every baptized Christian, and is backed up by a quality of living which outshines the best that unbelief can muster, we are unlikely to make much headway through techniques of evangelism."

CHURCH GROWTH CHAMPIONS: Michael Green

7 Marks of an Evangelist, as seen by Michael Green

1. **Humble.** Philip was originally one of the seven selected to wait on tables in Acts 6. In Acts 8, he left a great revival to go speak to one person about the gospel. He was willing to be used by God in any capacity, and God used him.
2. **Sensitive to the Holy Spirit.** Three times in the passage, God directed Philip to do something. He listened to God, and responded to what God said.
3. **Skilled in the Use of Questions.** Philip begins his conversation with the Ethiopian eunuch by asking a question. He asked, listened to the answer, then responded.
4. **Quick to Use Scripture.** Philip preached to the Ethiopian eunuch from Isaiah 53.
5. **Start Where the Person Is, While Focusing on Jesus.** Philip skillfully transitioned from Isaiah 53 to Jesus.
6. **Ready to Lead People to Christ.** He called the Ethiopian eunuch to respond to the gospel.
7. **Enthusiastic.** He ran to the chariot, even though he was in the desert. That show Philip was excited about the message, and excited to share it. Excitement is contagious!



Any Christian who exhibits these 7 characteristics will be an effective evangelist for Jesus.

Source: "7 Marks of the Evangelist from the Life and Teaching of Michael Green" by Michael Ots, Published by EvangelicalFocus.com

Notable Books by Michael Green:

Evangelism In The Early Church (Eerdmans)

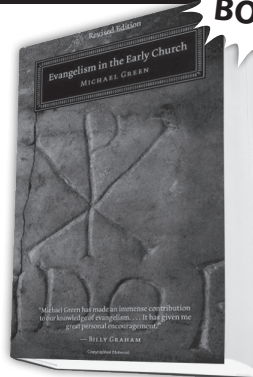
*Thirty Years That Changed The World:
The Book Of Acts For Today* (Wm. B. Eerdmans)

I Believe In The Holy Spirit (Wm. B. Eerdmans)

Who Is This Jesus? (Regent College Publishing)

*Adventure of Faith: Reflections on Fifty Years of
Christian Service* (Zondervan)

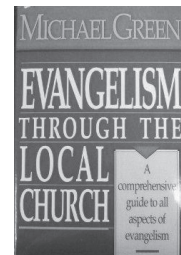
Evangelism Through the Local Church
(Regent Collect Publishing)



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NELSON SEARCY is the Founding and Lead "Renegade" Pastor of The Journey Church. He's the author of over 90 church-growth resources and 17+ books, including *The Renegade Pastor: Abandoning Average in Your Life and Ministry*. He's also the founder of RenegadePastors.com and ChurchLeaderInsights.com, a ministry to over 50,000 Senior Pastors.