

The doomsday countdown had begun.

Living in captivity, without official representation, Israel faced extermination. Genocide on a massive scale was about to begin (Esther 7:4). The situation seemed hopeless. But wait, there was an insider in the king's palace. Her name was Esther and she was providentially appointed "for just such a time as this" (Esther 4:14). Esther's influence with the King saved Israel from destruction (Esther 8:11). Insiders are God's players to advance His Kingdom.

All of us are insiders at work, with family, or in social settings. An insider shares a common space, purpose, or interest with those they know. We're insiders somewhere and to someone. Each of us lives, works, or plays in places uniquely given by God to advance the gospel.

The Apostle Paul counted on the ministry of insiders. How? On his missionary journeys, Paul saw the world through the Jewish synagogues (Acts 13:5, 14:1). Paul's ministry in the synagogues brought him into contact with God-fearing Greeks and Romans who were insiders to wider Gentile networks (Acts 13:42,43; 14:1). Among these new converts, Paul established spiritual beachheads, groups of believers who could reach out to their interconnected networks of families and friends.

Like a virus, the gospel infected people who were networked together. Paul counted on the continued growth of these spiritual offspring to their surrounding areas (Acts 13:49; 1 Thessalonians 1:8). His strategy was simple, convert and mobilize enough insiders and you will evangelize the world!

We can all be God's insiders, advancing the gospel through our lips and our lives. People catch the Jesus virus when we live shoulder-to-shoulder, face-to-face, life2life. Theologian John Stott sees the value in a life2life approach: "It comes more natural to us to shout the gospel at people from a distance than to involve ourselves deeply in their lives . . . their problems, and to feel with them in their pains."

Here's a simple insider action step for mobilization. Do you know other believers in your neighborhood or workplace? Set up a time to regularly pray for your common mission field. Ask God to give you some ideas to begin faith conversations with the people you're an insider to. If each insider is next to someone, then with enough insiders, we will be next to everyone! Watch the gospel spread when insiders are mobilized for mission. This happens when we live life2life.

Living Life2Life was crafted by Bill Mowry. Bill serves with The Church Discipleship Ministry of The Navigators. You can contact Bill at BMowry1@columbus.rr.com. Feel free to forward this message to others.

Want to study what it means to be an insider? Contact Bill for a pdf file of a study (bmowry1@columbus.rr.com). I also recommend the book, *The Insider*, by Jim Peterson on Navpress.

