

## A Ministry Manifesto

Matthias Media seeks to provide a platform where gospel-minded Christians can find ideas, encouragement and resources for fulfilling Christ's commission to make disciples of all peoples.

The Matthias Media team longs to see the fruit of the great commission in our lives and churches; we want to see Christ's disciples go out with urgent love to the communities and peoples around them, to make new disciples and to teach them to obey all that Christ has commanded. This is our vision because we believe it is God's great plan and mission as revealed in Scripture, and we hold the Scriptures as our supreme and sufficient authority.

In particular, we are driven by the following biblical convictions:

- that the crucified and risen Jesus Christ reigns over all as the Saviour, Lord and Judge of the world
- that the most pressing problem facing humanity is our total lostness in sin, and our guilt before the judgement throne of God
- that God's climactic purpose in history is to glorify his Son by delivering forgiven sinners out of darkness into his kingdom and transforming them into his image; in the words of the Great Commission, it is to see people from every nation become disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ and learn to obey all that he has commanded
- that God's chosen method for both conversion and growth is the prayerful, Spirit-backed speaking of the word of the cross—the biblical message that centres on the penal substitutionary atonement of Jesus, and his universal rule as the Risen Lord and Christ
- that this task of evangelizing the world and edifying the church is not only the role of preachers, pastors and evangelists, but of all God's people as they are trained and equipped to speak God's word to others
- that our involvement in this work of God should be the central priority of our lives as disciples of Jesus and of our churches as loving fellowships of disciple-making disciples
- that as we seek to fulfil this commission, the theology of the all-sufficient Scriptures should shape and drive all that we do, especially as we utilize methods and structures derived from wisdom
- that our joy in this work will come in the midst of suffering, conflict and opposition from the world and the devil, as we await the return of Christ at the end of the age.

However, looking around us, even among those who would lay claim to most or all of the above convictions, we are concerned to see:

- millions lost in sin and facing God's judgement, and yet a widespread lack of evangelistic vision and urgency in many churches, where much of the available energy and resources are expended in various worthy programs to improve church life or to bless society, but where a lack of conversions is accepted with complacency
- a lowering of the bar for everyday Christians, who are not being radicalized and equipped as godly disciple-makers but often simply served as spiritual consumers, or deployed to help run programs that produce little gospel fruit
- a loss of momentum in recruiting and training the next generation of full-time gospel workers
- among leaders, a lack of vision, boldness, flexibility and skill to plan and grow ministries around disciple-making
- a theologically undiscerning pragmatism that takes core evangelical truths for granted, fails to see the link between theology and practice, and falls captive to the latest trends.

So under God, and in fellowship with one another, we want to provide ideas, encouragement and resources to:

- promote a renewed urgency among Christ's people to reach out with the gospel to our neighbourhoods, communities and beyond—to make disciples, to plant new churches and ministries, to revitalize and grow existing churches, to see by God's blessing multitudes of new and growing believers giving glory to his name
- revolutionize and equip all Christians to be holy, prayerful, Spirit-filled disciple-makers who abound in love and good works, who speak God's truth to those around them, and who work hard to see God's kingdom grow in both breadth and depth, whatever the cost
- persuade ministry leaders to embrace this Bible-centred, prayerful, disciple-making vision, and to express that commitment in their personal lives and in their ministries
- equip ministry leaders with fresh enthusiasm, knowledge and skills, not only to preach the cross, but to train their people as disciple-makers, and to change church culture, structures and practices in order to make disciples
- see a new generation of appropriately gifted leaders recruited and equipped with the vision and skills to lead God's people in this task
- build a fellowship of passionate, sacrificial, gospel-hearted disciple-makers who continue to urge, stimulate and encourage one another in this ministry.



## 7 ways to do vastly better than listicles - Tony Payne

1. Why are listicles popular?

2. A better through-line

- the hook
- the argument
- the resolution

3. The voice

- remember who you're talking to
- the best version of you

4. Tips for being a better you

- clarity
- word-choice
- cliché-avoidance
- active v. passive
- rhythm

5. The draft nobody sees

6. Let's write a post ...

Material for John Frith column: 'My favourite reformer'

- A friend of Thomas Bilney and William Tyndale at Cambridge in the early 1520s; discovered the reformed faith there.
- Graduated 1525 but soon fled to Antwerp with Tyndale, where he helped in translating and printing reformation works.
- Best known work was a refutation (in light of the gospel) of the doctrine of purgatory.
- Returned to England 1532; arrested under orders of Thomas More (Henry VIII still king). While in prison wrote against the doctrine of transubstantiation (not a course of action likely to improve his prospects).
- Various people tried to persuade him to go easy, including Cranmer who at that time held the standard Roman Catholic view of the mass, and Bishop Stephen Gardiner (his former friend and tutor at Cambridge) who offered him a pardon if he affirmed his belief in purgatory and transubstantiation.
- He stuck to his story, and was burned at the stake 4 July 1533.
- Possible angles on why John Frith is my favourite reformer:
  - his clarity in realising that particular doctrines deny the gospel even if they don't claim to
  - would you regard your doctrine of the Lord's Supper as worth dying for?
  - his stubborn courage in refusing to pipe down, and refusing to bend in order to avoid death.
  - he's a distant ancestor of mine

## Two other quick topics - Ian Carmichael

1. About setting up some writer's guilds

2. About publishing with Matthias Media

[Publishing on the GoThereFor.com blog](#)

We are interested in helping new authors get started by publishing their short articles on GoThereFor.com. Articles we are most keen to read are:

- written by authors who agree with our statement of belief ([gospelconvictions.com/info/statement/](http://gospelconvictions.com/info/statement/))
- between 600-1000 words long
- written in a warm, friendly, casual tone
- have a strong practical application point
- use the ESV for Bible references.

If you have written a piece that meets the above guidelines, please get in contact with GoThereFor editor Rachel Macdonald at [rmacdonald@matthiasmedia.com.au](mailto:rmacdonald@matthiasmedia.com.au) so we can partner with you.

[Publishing books and other resources](#)

Publishing Proposal form (and statement of belief):

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Send to: [submissions@matthiasmedia.com.au](mailto:submissions@matthiasmedia.com.au)

Once your proposal is approved, we will send you our standard information package for authors that provides more details about your role, our role, and the legal arrangements with our authors (copyright, royalties, tax, etc).

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Most questions can be answered by Rachel or Emma. But you can also contact Ian Carmichael by email at [icarmichael@matthiasmedia.com.au](mailto:icarmichael@matthiasmedia.com.au).