

*Reviewed by Basheer Abdulfadi*

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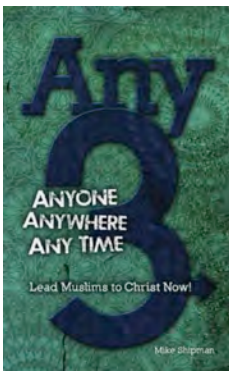
## **Any-3: Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime – Win Muslims to Christ Now!**

By Mike Shipman

Arkadelphia, AR: WIGTake Resources, 2012, 152 pages

As CPM practitioners among the unreached Muslims of the world, one of our primary activities is sharing the gospel with Muslims and training other believers so that they can share the gospel with Muslims. Those of us who read *SEEDBED* are constantly on the lookout for new methods and ideas that have proven fruitful among unreached Muslims.

For those reasons, I was thrilled to hear that Mike Shipman had released a book about the Muslim evangelism method that he and his national colleagues have created, which they have termed ‘Any-3.’ However, this book was not what I was expecting.



What I expected was a manual on how to do Any-3. This would have included a detailed description of the very best way to do Any-3 based on Shipman’s 14 years of experience sharing with Muslims. Though I use Any-3 as the main way that I share with Muslims, I was hoping that maybe there would be an update or new advice to help me be more fruitful.

As it turns out, I didn’t get that. What I did get was a reminder. Not just a reminder about how to do the Any-3 gospel presentation, but a reminder concerning the most important foundation for Any-3: it is simple. As Shipman states throughout the book, that is the point of Any-3 and any gospel proclamation. In chapter 1, ‘God at Work in the Muslim World’, he states, ‘By using the gospel itself as a filter, Any-3 immediately reveals who is and is not open to the gospel. So, instead of having to guess how a person might respond to the gospel based on body language or some other subjective factor, Any-3 lets you know for certain.’ (Kindle Locations 138-140). It was helpful for me to remember that it’s not

about some new, shiny gadget that does things better than the next guy's gadget. Any-3 is simple. Like it or not, that is the point.

Because of that, Shipman only spends the first third of his book telling you how his team developed Any-3, what fruit they have seen and then how to do it. He tells about his team's commitment to begin sharing the gospel with *anyone*, *anywhere*, and *anytime*—the lessons they learned turned into Any-3. Shipman presents the method with five simple steps. Each step ends with a simple transitional question:

1. **Get Connected.** Strike up a conversation and get acquainted with the person you are talking to by being friendly and open. Transition with the question: 'Are you Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, or Christian?'
2. **Get to God.** Upon the person answering the question above, say, 'All religions are pretty much the same, right? We are all trying to please God, or we are all trying to deal with our sin. Sinning is easy, but paying off our sin debt to God is much more difficult, isn't it?' Then transition with, 'In your religion, what are you doing to get your sins forgiven?'
3. **Get to Lostness.** Let them answer your question. Listen attentively and ask questions along the way. Then ask them, 'Are your sins paid off yet?' 'When do you think your sins will be paid off?' 'On Judgement Day, do you know that your sin debt will be paid?' The next transition is 'What I believe it different. I know my sins are forgiven. Not because I'm a good person (though I do try), but because God himself has made a way for our sins to be forgiven.'
4. **Get to the Gospel.** At this point, you tell them *The First and Last Sacrifice Story*. This story starts with Jesus coming to earth, includes a few of his miracles, and then tells that he predicted that he had to die. To explain why he had to die, you tell them the story of Adam and Eve, their one sin, the consequence of their sin, and the sacrifice that God made to atone for their sin (that being sacrificing an animal to make new clothing for them). The story then comes back to Jesus, John's announcement of Jesus being the *Lamb of God*, and Jesus ultimate death, burial, resurrection and ascension. This story takes anywhere from 5-10 minutes.

The transition at the conclusion of this story is: 'According to the Bible, if we surrender our lives to Jesus as Lord and believe that he has paid for our sins through his sacrifice and that God raised him from the dead, our sins will be forgiven.'

5. **Get to a Decision.** To get to a decision, ask two simple questions, 'That makes sense, doesn't it? We can't pay off our own sin debt, so God has made a way for our sins to be forgiven.' Secondly, 'Do you believe what I have told you: that Jesus died for our sins and was raised again?' If the

response is positive, you then lead them in prayer and schedule a follow up meeting. If the response is negative, you simply move on to a different topic and finish off the conversation politely and pleasantly.

The next third of the book slows way down and reminds us why we share the gospel in the first place, what keeps us from doing it, and why those reasons are lies. As I began reading this second section of the book, I kept thinking, ‘Ok. Great lesson. Good to think about. Now, let’s get back to Any-3.’ But after much reflection, I’ve found that this second section is really the meat of the book. It feels as though the reader is sitting down for coffee with Shipman as he gives you a handful of lessons about sharing the gospel. They are all very simple lessons, but valuable ones for us to pick up, dust off, and think about again. For instance, in chapter 8, *Be-e Stings that Poison Effectiveness*, Shipman presents some lies that we often tell ourselves concerning what we must do or be before we can share the gospel effectively. However, these lies ultimately sting us and keep us from being effective at sharing the gospel. One such lie is ‘Be-e Really Smart,’ that is, that we need to understand our focus culture very well before we can effectively share the gospel. However, Shipman reminds us that, ‘The gospel is relevant in every context. So, learn all you can about your community, and while you do, share the gospel frequently. The interactive nature of Any-3 is a great way to learn more about the target culture and religious beliefs while you witness.’ (Kindle Locations 717-719)

In chapter 12, ‘Any-3 Bridges to Success – Messaging’, Shipman has some valuable insight for us about authority as we share the gospel. He says, ‘Essentially, Jesus was saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me, and with that authority I am authorizing you to go’ (paraphrased from Matthew 28: 18). The implication is that everyone who obeys the Great Commission has Christ-given authority to do so. We have the right to share the gospel with kings, paupers and everyone in between.’ (Kindle Locations 1100-1102)

Shipman’s clear message to us is that evangelism is not about the method. His team created Any-3 and it has proved to be fruitful in their Southeast Asian context leading thousands to faith. The power that makes Any-3 successful is not that it is powerful, but rather that it is getting people out sharing the gospel, the true source of saving power. I find that message to be extremely valuable.

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The last section provides us with a few tools for adapting Any-3 for a non-Muslim audience and a detailed guide for putting on an Any-3 training for your church or other like-minded believers. I found them to be quite valuable since I am unaware of a better-packaged evangelism training method.

Within this last section, Shipman attempts to give a step-by-step description of his team's strategy for initiating a CPM once someone comes to faith. Being familiar with his CPM materials, I found it unnecessary to truncate so much information into just a few pages. It would have been best if he had either left it out entirely, thus making *Any-3* solely an evangelism book, or filled it out more completely, thus making *Any-3* into a CPM book as well.

If you do not yet have a clear and simple way to naturally share the gospel with Muslims, *Any-3* would be an asset to you and your ministry. It would also be valuable for you if you don't have a simple way to train other colleagues in how to share their faith. Even if you already use a particular method, I think you'd find Shipman's lessons neatly packaged and easy to implement in your context.

Because of its simplicity, this would also be a great resource for churches in the Western world that are wrestling with how to share the gospel effectively with their new Muslim neighbours. I would recommend this book to any missionary, pastor, missions pastor, or anyone thinking about going into missions work in Muslim majority areas.

*Reviewed by Will Meryl*

Will is a CPM practitioner and trainer who has been working in Southeast Asia since 2006.

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## *Greet the Church in your House*

by Victor Choudhrie

*Power Through Love, 2012, available only in Kindle format.*

Victor Choudhrie is a well-known church planter and advocate for house churches (which he calls 'ekklesia'). This book is a loosely organized collection of arguments against traditional, mostly Western church models in favour of a simplified house church structure. The format and style of this book is neither academic nor prosaic. It is arranged more like a training seminar outline. The chapters are short and each one is preceded by a set of summarizing bullets. The book could use some editing in its current form. There are, for example, two chapter sevens.

