

Evangelism: A Field Study of Preaching and Spirituality Impact

Kasiatin Widianto
Theology Department
Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Injili Indonesia
Surabaya, Indonesia
widianto_adhe@yahoo.com

Nina Astrid Karina
Theology Department
Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Injili Indonesia
Surabaya, Indonesia
ninaastridkarina@gmail.com

Lilis Setyarini
Theology Department
Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Injili Indonesia
Surabaya, Indonesia
setyarinililis4@gmail.com

Frederich Oscar Lambertus Lontoh
Theology Department
Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Injili Indonesia
Surabaya, Indonesia
lontohoscar@sttii-surabaya.ac.id

Abstract—Many factors become the impetus to carry out the great commission of Christ, which is to preach the gospel. Preaching and spirituality are two of them. Jesus Christ used the preaching platform in delivering His first teaching. Preaching becomes a way to spread the gospel and inspires people to do that at once. Spirituality holds the main role for an individual to be a part of a ministry, including evangelism. It becomes a passion for someone to convey the gospel. Using quantitative research methodologies, there is a simultaneous big effect from preaching and spirituality to evangelism. Partially, the effect of spirituality gives more dominant results to evangelism than preaching. Increasing evangelism effectively and significantly can be done by increasing spirituality. Certainly, on a practical level, there are other influenced factors in increasing evangelism apart of the researched variable. **Research Contribution:** This research can be used as a preaching strategy in encouraging the congregation to preach the gospel. The results also provide pastoral insight to church leaders that evangelism is more effective when carried out at a certain level of spirituality.

Keywords—preaching; spirituality; evangelism; church; the congregation

I. INTRODUCTION

Right before The Lord Jesus leave His disciples and raptured to heaven, He gave His command, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Mat. 28:19-20; NET version). The Message that is God's heart for the world is called the great commission [1]. All the gospels wrote this important message Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:15-18, Luke 24:44-49, John 20:19-23; 21:15-29, even Acts 1:6-8, therefore the great commission is not something that an option to consider but is an order to be done. Christ gave His disciples and believers a privilege and responsibility that can not be

refused [2]. Evangelism is not the priest's duty only but all the believers of God's duty [3]. This is a duty that is given to the church collectively and to all the believers individually [4] that must become a lifestyle [5]. Nature of the message and Messenger is great, which this great commission is enshrined in the bible and mandated to all believers as the executors. But the believer's response to this great commission is the separated issues that need to be reviewed.

As a church, every believer has an obligation to complete this great commission. Church as an institute under Christ's leadership has to spread the Gospel around the world [6]. Many churches did not grow because there is nobody that spread the Gospel therefore the churches finally died [7]. A comparative study between the churches in Indonesia to 4.934 priests in 34 districts/cities carried out by Bilangan Research Centre (BRC) shows that church that grows with evangelism only 2,1% [8]. Some reasons the Christians do not do that are because of unknowing, ignorance, exclusivity, fear, neglect of salvation, and lack of training and model of evangelism [9].

Operationally, evangelism is preaching about Jesus Christ to sinners so that they repent and accept Jesus as their Savior, and then become members of the church and have a responsibility to disciple other people for the glory of God. Evangelism is an act of the Christians as messengers of God that tell the forgiveness from God to every sinner. There are four parallel terms that are used to define evangelism: evangelize means spread the gospels or good news, *kerusso* means to preach or proclaim, *didasko* means to teach, and *mature* means bear witness [10]. It means evangelism can not only be carried out in the form of preaching the gospels, but also with teaching, testifying, and preaching.

As a means to deliver the Gospel, preparation and how to implement a sermon is an important matter that should be concerned by a preacher. The sermon which is interpreted as

speech has shifted from a general speech to a religious lecture in a religious ritual [11], by quoting a part of the Holy Book, which aims to deliver religious teachings [12]. A sermon has to be related to the audience's daily life [13] as a combination between the contents of the Holy Book and the basic understanding of faith to give a lesson to the congregation [13]. William Evans stated that there is a close relationship between the contents of a sermon and its preacher [13]. Thus, the presence of a priest in a congregation which he serves is very important. The congregation's weakening spirits in doing evangelism can be awakened again by the sermon they heard. One of the dimensions of a sermon is a personal dimension, which is the identity of the sermon listener, that has to be concerned by the preacher so that it can be used effectively in the delivery of good news [14].

Aside from sermons, spirituality can hold an important role for the congregation to participate in service, including evangelism. Spirituality can be defined as the spirit or passion that moves something; an individual's trust towards the Great Figure and belief in the bonding to his spirit [15]. Spirituality covers all aspects of life and hopes towards the Being that holds power over the universe, a form of how someone expresses their belief towards the Great Being in a ritual or spiritual activity that is executed in a person's daily life [15]. Augustine and Calvin's point of view that defined spirituality as love to God and others are approved by some evangelicals [16]. Maslow defined spirituality as an actualization stage of oneself so that one can obtain creativity, love, tolerance, peace, humility, and a clear goal in life [17].

In the context of Christianity, spirituality means something which can turn and move the faith of a person to perfection [18], and this must be equal to Christ spirituality, which is engaged in the religiosity of the kingdom of God [18]. Spirituality also can be defined as the personal life quality as a result of his deep understanding of God [19]. There are three aspects of spirituality, namely cognitive, experiential and behavioral aspects [20]. Cognitive aspects include the search for meaning, purpose, and truth in life, as well as beliefs and values of one's life. The experiential aspect involves feelings of hope, love, connection, comfort, and peace of mind. While the behavioral aspect involves the way a person performs religious practices which are a manifestation of one's beliefs. In a multidimensional form of Spirituality according to Bennet (2007) in Ratnakar and Nair [21], namely: aliveness; caring; compassion; eagerness; empathy; expectancy; harmony; joy; love; respect; sensitivity; tolerance; and willingness.

The last research shows the preaching significant effect (includes preacher, the content of preachings, and delivery of preachings) toward the organization commitment, namely fidelity, and faith of the church [14]. Preaching can be a means to deliver the gospel and to encourage a person to convey the Gospel. On the other side, though laden with messages of carrying the cross, spirituality in the Gospel does not ever become private enlightenment. Spirituality is essentially always a social [22]. Spirituality is the spirit that revives and moves a person to share the gospel with others. Preachings and

spirituality are the right combination to influence a person to do evangelism.

This study aims to see whether there is an effect of preaching and spirituality on evangelism. Which one has a bigger influence on evangelism; preaching or spirituality. This study can also show how big is the contribution of preaching and spirituality toward evangelism in Gereja Pantekosta di Indonesia (GPdI) Rajawali Surabaya, apart from other study variables.

II. METHOD

The research approach used in this study is a quantitative approach to correlation analysis and multiple linear regression analysis [23]. The location of this research is the GPdI Rajawali, which is located on Jalan Rajawali no. 92, Surabaya. This study used at least 20% of the total congregation population [24]. The data collection technique was carried out by using a simple random sampling system. Through correlation analysis, it will be seen whether there is an effect of preaching and spirituality on evangelism, and by using multiple linear regression analysis, it will be seen which of the two variables has the most dominant influence on evangelism.

III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Through the multiple linear regression analysis that has been done, preaching and spirituality have a simultaneous effect on evangelism. The existence of this simultaneous influence was caused by the calculated F-value of 27,747, while the table F-value for dF 2 (n-3) with $\alpha = 0.05$ is 3, given the condition that the calculated F-value > F-table has a hypothetical meaning of the influence of preaching and spirituality to evangelism is accepted, then the results of 27.747 > 3.09 indicate the hypothesis in this study is accepted, namely that there is an influence of preaching and spirituality to evangelism.

Furthermore, through correlation analysis, the correlation value of R is 0.626 which indicates that preaching and spirituality simultaneously have a positive effect in the high category [25] on evangelism. With a correlation coefficient or R square (R²) 0.392, it means that the variables of preachings and spirituality simultaneously contribute 39.2% to evangelism, meaning the other 60.8% are influenced by other variables outside of this study.

However, the effect of these two variables simultaneously on evangelism shows different correlation results for the partial influence of preaching and spirituality. The independent variable preaching separately gave a positive influence in the medium category on evangelism by obtaining an R-value of 0.432. With a value of R square (R²) of 0.187, it shows that in this study the preaching contributed 18.7%. While the independent variable spirituality still has a high enough effect on evangelism with an R-value of 0.622 and in this study, it contributed 38.7% to evangelism as shown in the table below.

TABLE I. CONTRIBUTION OF PREACHING AND SPIRITUALITY TO EVANGELISM

Partial	Variable	
	Preaching (%)	Spirituality (%)
Simultaneous	18.7	38.7

Based on multiple linear regression analysis as shown in table 2, the constant a is 5.057, the coefficient of the preaching variable is 0.089 and the coefficient of the spirituality variable is 0.613. The multiple linear regression equation of this study is $Y = 5.057 + 0.089X_1 + 0.613X_2$. This means that if preaching is increased once, then evangelism will increase by 0.089 times, and if spirituality is increased once, evangelism will increase by 0.613 times.

TABLE II. EFFECT OF PREACHING AND SPIRITUALITY TO EVANGELISM MULTIPLE LINEAR REGRESSION EQUATION DATA

Model		a	b
Constant		5.057	
Coefficient			
Variable	Preaching		0.089
	Spirituality		0.613

All the results obtained in this study aim to prove the influence of preaching and spirituality on evangelism obtained from a statistical analysis. Although the numbers that represent each of the variables above do not mean that they are true as they occur in real life consistently and continuously, but with the use of the correct methodology and research instruments, the conclusions represented in the form of the figures from the statistical analysis are shown can be stated to be close to the truth.

IV. CONCLUSION

This study concluded that preaching and spirituality have a significant impact on the evangelism increase both simultaneously and separately. But partially, spirituality has a greater impact on evangelism than preaching. Although preaching has a positive impact, the data shows that it is not effective enough for the church to depend only on preaching to intensify evangelism without being accompanied by spirituality at the same time. On the contrary, spirituality itself is still has a dominant impact on evangelism even without being accompanied by preaching. This opens opportunities for subsequent research, what kind of preaching exerts a dominant impact on evangelism. Preaching and spirituality contributed more than a third share of other various variables that are not studied in this study. Therefore, if the church wants to intensify evangelism, then these two factors need to be considered and applied appropriately and continuously.

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