

# The Two Minute Warning

There is no greater item in the news in America than the looming debt crisis and the amazing inability of our elected officials to do their jobs and effectively and responsibly deal with it in a timely manner.

That sounds like something an owner of a business or the president of a company might expect from his employees. When those employees fail to do so, after a reasonable number of warnings they would be justifiably fired. We may need to send some pink slips in November 2012 if this debacle isn't averted in the next 48 hours. This is their two minute warning!

I encourage every registered voter to call, FAX, e-mail, twit, twitter and text their congressman and senator and **demand** they act tomorrow with some sort of reasonable legislation that will avert the crisis now and ***insure*** that it can never happen in the future or you will call them home in their next election and find other more responsible representation for our nation's future.

This is not a political statement but a pastor's call to the body of Christ to do our civic duty and be salt and light in our nation's time of trouble. The last I checked, this is **OUR** country and the government is to be a government of the people, by the people and for the people; not of a political party by intimidation and for their posturing for reelection!

There's another place that has two minute warnings and that is the wonderful game of football! Before the end of each half of the game there is a two minute warning. Some of the rules change slightly during that time because they know that the whole game may hang in the balance if it gets down to the wire like that.

Every time we talk to a non believer for the first time we have about two minutes to warn them that there is a way out of their misery and into the kingdom of God. This is their "Two Minute Warning."

You may earn the opportunity to give them the good news of Jesus if they hear your story.

# The Two Minute Warning

Last week we handed out in church and sent out by e-mail a sheet that said “Your Faith Story” across the top of it. It had six simple questions that are designed to help you write out a short, two minute version of your story. This is one of the many tools we have put out to help each person bring the love of God to the people in their Jerusalem.

The Great Commission tells us to go out and talk to people about the gospel. We know that in 21<sup>st</sup> Century New England the only way most people will give you their ear is if they have some degree of relationship with you. “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.” This “Your Faith Story” is a brief way to knock on the door of others’ heart and see if there’s any one home. If they don’t open up, oh well, try someone else. However, if they do open to listen it is much more likely they will listen to the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, and you may have the awesome opportunity to lead them to Jesus as their Savior.

Not everyone is called to be an evangelist.

1. [Acts 21:8](#)

On the next day we who were Paul’s companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the **evangelist**, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.

2. [Ephesians 4:11](#)

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some **evangelists**, and some pastors and teachers,

3. [2 Timothy 4:5](#)

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an **evangelist**, fulfill your ministry.

# The Two Minute Warning

We see here from Luke, in Acts, and Paul, in Ephesians and 2 Timothy that the calling of an evangelist is a *specific* calling. Clearly we are not all called to be evangelists but that doesn't mean we are any less called to be disciples makers (Matthew 28:18), teachers, (Matthew 28:20) preachers of the gospel (Mark 16:15) and witnesses (Luke 24:48, Acts 1:8). As if that isn't enough we are sent by Jesus the same way God sent Jesus (John 20:21) and that with His Holy Spirit in side of us. All of that is in the great commission that we are commissioned to by Jesus.

The idea of being a witness is that you tell what you have seen or experienced to someone else; we can all do that and that is the purpose of that handy tool "Your Faith Story"

To demonstrate this easy tool I completed it as it was written:

## 1. What was your life like before Christ (about 100 words)?

I was self centered, alone and miserable. I had followed the Playboy philosophy and it lead me to a dead end with pornography, promiscuity, drinking, drugging and smoking. I thought I had all the answers and I didn't have a clue that they were all wrong! (46 words)

## 2. How did you receive Christ (about 300 words)? Mention one Bible verse.

When I came to church I came for selfish reasons. I wanted God to fix a broken relationship that I had broken but instead He started to fix me. He removed each thing that had taken root in me, one thing at a time until, He let me know He wanted to use me to tell others that those ways led to misery. (63 words)

### • How did you hear?

# The Two Minute Warning

I heard this guy in my workplace praising the Lord all the time so I asked Him where his church was.

- [What did you hear?](#)

I heard in him a man that was bold and not afraid to declare his faith in public.

- [How did you respond?](#)

When I went to his church for counseling they told me I should attend for a while to see how things were done there. I was hearing and seeing others, bold in their faith and victorious in circumstances. The Holy Spirit got a hold of my heart and I let Jesus in.

### [3. What is your life like after receiving Christ \(about 100 words\)?](#)

I immediately wanted to get to know this new faith so I went to New Believer Classes and finally decided I was to be baptized in water; after which I was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues.

It was a tough beginning because my wife at the time did not want what I had. After I was a believer for six years she divorced me. Then in 1991 I gave myself completely to the Lord and He then started using me. (84 words)

As we witness it will get easier and easier. As people complete these exercises I will invite you to share it with us here. So please use these tools we are providing. We also sent out and handed out the Spiritual Gifts survey. This survey I would like you to complete and hand me as we approach the coming months to build a leadership group. I will answer any and all questions.