



How to Radically Change the World Through Prophecy

Doug Addison with Steve Sjogren [Episode 90]

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Hey, everybody. Doug Addison here. Welcome to another [Spirit Connection podcast](#) only this is a webcast version actually and we're doing a video. You can see I have my good friend here with me. This is Steve Sjogren. I've known Steve for a number of years. He's been a mentor of mine. Steve has [Kindness.com](#) and maybe you've heard about kindness outreach or servant evangelism. Steve and his wife Janie are actually the father and mother of that movement, an amazing movement that has impacted the entire world using the acts of kindness and giving away stuff for free to show the love of God, no strings attached ... really. Steve actually has been part of the Vineyard Movement, grew one of the larger or maybe largest Vineyard churches way back and that's when we planted our first church in Ohio back in 1998. We went to a Steve Sjogren conference and I fashioned myself as a speaker after Steve Sjogren because he's so funny. There was a lot of stuff going on back then. He's also been mentioned as just really one of the forerunners of that kindness movement and now Steve's in California.

Doug: Hey, welcome, Steve. How are you doing, man?

Steve: Thanks, Doug. I good, man. I'm doing good. We're not that far away but it seems like 150 miles, you know?

Doug: Yes, I know.

Steve: So.

Doug: I used to see you more when you lived up in Oregon ...

Steve: Oregon. Oregon. Yes.

Doug: ... and we're in Los Angeles.

Steve: Isn't that amazing?

Doug: And then you move here to the LA area and ...

Steve: Yes.

Doug: ... we see each other less, but that's why we have the internet, you know, ...

Steve: Exactly.

Doug: ... and we see our kids and each other, so ... virtual.

Steve: Yes.

Doug: All right. Well, you know, just tell us about you and your ministry, whatever you feel like ...

Steve: Okay.

Doug: ... is important right now.

Steve: Okay. Well, I—. You know, I had a dilemma that started when I began planting churches. I discovered pretty quickly that although I had a, and still gigantically do have a heart for people, a heart to see people come to Christ, that I wasn't seeing any traction. My first stop after helping plant a large church on the west side of LA was in Oslo, Norway and that is a tough area when you are an American. I didn't get a whole lot of traction. Then came to Cincinnati a bit later, had the same problem getting traction meeting people and so forth. Well, we said one day, let's try to do something for free just to show people God's love instead of talking, talking, talking. And so, we set up a car wash. It was free. Big signs out there. "No kidding. Free car wash." And as people pulled in, we would engage in a little bit of conversation, offer to pray for them and do a fantastic job washing their car.

One of the first guys who pulled in says, "Wait a second. Are you the kind of Christians who believe in God?" We said, "Yes, we're that, you know, that very small [minority]." Yes, anyway. And so he says, "Well, let me tell you a story. Last night my son and I went to that circus. He starts asking me on the way home, 'Is there a God? How can we know that there's creation? I mean, there's got to be a God behind all this,'" and the dad's who's been in 12 steps says, "I know there's a higher power, I know, but I don't know about God." Well, anyway, the son says, "Let's take the mylar balloon we got at the circus, let's put a little note on it, 'Dear God, if You're real, send people to us who know You,' signed Billy and Dad."

Doug: Wow. Yes. Yes.

Steve: And he fixes it to the string, they let it up in the air. Here we are a few hours later and he goes, “Are you the kind of Christians who believe in God?” He took that literally, that whole believe-in-God [thing].

Doug: Wow. Wow.

Steve: So I led him to the Lord right there on the spot. He joins the church and becomes amazing. So that’s like the entry into the whole thing. We had a dilemma. How do you connect? Have a heart for people, have a heart to see the power of God show up, not just talking and not just serving but the power coming through that.

Doug: Great.

Steve: And it’s been amazing, you know?

Doug: Yes. You know, you wrote a book but you’ve written a bunch of books. But one of the ones that impacted me was *Conspiracy of Kindness*.

Steve: Yes. That was the first book. It came out about 20 years ago, actually, and how is that possible ... I’m only 29. But it’s been out for a while, but it sold incredibly well all over the place, over 300,000 copies so far.

Doug: Wow.

Steve: And two of the other books that go with it, those three together have sold about half a million all together.

Doug: Yes.

Steve: So that’s very encouraging for evangelism stuff to go out like that.

Doug: Right.

Steve: And we’ve seen people all over the world open up to this stuff. It’s been just astounding.

Doug: Yes but, you know, the cool is, and this is what I love. What you say is, is that it’s “low risk, high grace.” So tell us a little bit about that.

Steve: Well, the idea is to minimize what can go wrong and to maximize our dependence on God, which is why I’m just using the word grace for that. How much of God do we need for it to be successful? So the idea is to make the risk low and then make the dependence on God high. I call it low risk, high

grace, the opposite of what we often think of evangelism which is high risk and maybe God will be there, maybe not.

Doug Right. Yes.

Steve: So it puts a lot of pressure on the individual versus putting the pressure on God. When you go at it like this, low risk, high grace, you're saying, "God, I don't know what You're going to do but I'm available. Here I am. I'll pray, I'll serve, whatever. You know?"

Doug: Yes. Well, I've known you for a number of years and I know that, you know, even in the car wash, or even in the drive-through at a coffee place, you know, that outreach is your life. You and Janie, it's just your DNA, it's who you are. So you actually—. It's where I kind of got this understanding. You don't really go on an outreach. You are an outreach. I love that about you.

Steve: Yes. My friend, Rice Broocks who has a whole movement of churches, he says, "You know, we need to explain Steve, not introduce Steve." Stuff like that. But, yes, we, we just discovered that it's so energizing, so fun and it's a kick to, to be able to see an entry point into people's lives, to go ahead and speak into it. I think Robert Schuller said it ... "See a need and meet it, find a hurt and heal it."

Doug: Wow.

Steve: And I think that if we have our radar on, we're doing the 'beep, beep, beep, beep, beep'; you know, radar, sonar, you know, MRI, whatever it takes. We're picking up on it saying, "God, here—I'm available, 'here I am', like Moses prayed and would you use me?" And seriously, Doug, you've been around a lot. You know, we just see wherever we go just stuff happening all over the place and it's really just a matter of seeing the power of something simple, seeing the power of generosity. As small as it may be, it is absolutely just amazingly impacting the people. They're stunned. They start to cry sometimes. Their mouths go open.

Doug: Yes. Yes.

Steve: "You would give me a bottle of water, to show me God's love in a practical way?" Like, yes, go figure. "I was just thinking, I'm thirsty," you know and boom—that connection happens.

Doug: Yes. I remember, we were doing this with my church. It wasn't the church I was pastoring. It was years ago and it was in the San Francisco Bay area. They were actually hostile to the gospel there, you know, and "seeker

hostile.” And we were going around giving out light bulbs. You know, it was the weirdest thing. Like, who gives light bulbs out? I felt awkward.

Steve: Yes.

Doug: But as we went out the guy was leaving his house to go get in the car and we stopped because we’re giving away light bulbs to show the love of God. He’s like—. Everyone else was looking at us but he goes, “You won’t believe this, but I’m going to buy light bulbs.” So the light came on, right, for him.

Steve: Yes.

Doug: And sometimes you get that and other times people just give you the “tilt.”

Steve: Yes. You know, what’s funny? Janie, my wife, has had that happen twice, the exact thing. “I’m on my way to buy light bulbs.” I mean, this is amazing. You think, ‘God had His finger on that guy,’ you know?

Doug: Yes. It’s amazing. I remember way, way back. My life was impacted by kindness and when I was 6 years old we had a rough time and my mom was going—. We were going through a rough time, put it that way. They had just repossessed our refrigerator and my mom who had never worked, and we were sitting there. We had no food and we just didn’t know what to do and my mom had us pray. And we prayed and then suddenly there’s a knock at the door and there’s this woman up the street—and she was needy herself—and she had two bags of groceries.

Steve: Umm.

Doug: I tell you, God became real at that moment—when you pray for something and the kindness shows up at the door.

Steve: Yes.

Doug: That is basically what you do way before I’ve ever experienced it, but you bring that level of stuff, right?

Steve: Well, you know, one of my favorite verses, Doug, and it’s one of those verses where I had read it over and over again as a believer but one day it just hits me between the eyes is Romans 2:4, “The kindness of God leads to repentance,” which is I think the King James or the New American Standard. But, you know, if you look at the The Message version—. This is one of the reasons we need to have ongoing new translations because the language changes all the time in America, especially.

Doug: Yes.

Steve: And he says, “The kindness of God leads to”—the last part of it— “a radical life change.”

Doug: Wow.

Steve: And I think it happened not just to you as the receiver of kindness, but the person who gives it away—I’m convinced they get more of that. You know, I get these chills every time I talk about this because I’ve seen it happen so many times, Doug, ...

Doug: Yes.

Steve: ... it’s just showing up. And, you know, this is—. I felt like not doing this today. I felt I should be doing something else. I think I hear my mother calling. I mean, everything could go sideways but you do it and boom the power of God shows up. It’s amazing.

Doug: Yes, and it does open the door. I mean, how much rejection can you get with diet or regular, you know?

Steve: Cokes. Yes. Drinks. Yes.

Doug: Yes, anyway. It’s so, so fun. Well, why don’t you just give us some insight of what God’s speaking to you right now or maybe just something in your story that you could release over us.

Steve: Yes. Well, you know, we’re seeing people all over the United States open up and say, “We are frustrated. We want to do something significant. We don’t know what to do. We don’t where to start.” And so we talk about doing something doable. We started experimenting around a little bit with, you know, “What could we put together that would really touch this part of the world?” And, you know, the funny thing is, Doug, when I go to speak places and our team goes out—. We have a larger team of about dozen people, and when we go out almost always if we fly, going through the airport, and the leaders will tell us, “You know, there’s no point. We’re going to do this just to be good sports, but the people are so closed in our community,” and they always say, “there’s so much witchcraft,” and “this is like the gay capital of the world.” What else do they—? It’s amazing right down the line, point after point. “But, you know, we’re glad you’re here. We hope something good happens.”

Doug: “We don’t want to do evangelism but we’re glad we brought you in.”

Steve: Yes. Yes. It will be our annual, you know, contribution to evangelism cause. But, amazingly, every single time—I'm not exaggerating, no hyperbole here—something amazing happens because they took a little bit of a risk. And, you know, we say, well, you know, risk where you are now. You don't have to be the giant, even in serving people. You know, we dropped the free car wash, Doug, because the cheerleaders ruined it for everybody. You know, free car wash for a donation. And so, we said we're going to charge \$1 for a car wash. Put up big signs, \$1 car wash. Come on in, da-da-da. That seems more believable, we found out ...

Doug: Right. Yes.

Steve: ... so that people—. We wash their car, do an amazing job. We have fantastic drinks. We have fantastic music, lawn chairs. They go to pay. They go, "Yes, can I just give you more than \$1?" "Oh, no, no. You misunderstand the whole thing. We give you \$1 to show you God's love," and talk about emotions—people will get tears. They cry—the whole tearing system, Doug. You know, like I have 1 through 10 tears and the 1s are—only guys can do it—the testosterone allows you to suck the tears back in.

Doug Yes. Right.

Steve: So, you can [big sniff] and, you know? And, I don't know, but girls are so real. They just go right into the tears coming down a little bit. And, you know, if it's really a big heavy duty type, they start to jump off the eyes so you have to take your glasses off.

Doug: Yes.

Steve: Or they get wet.

Doug: Yes.

Steve: It's powerful stuff, man.

Doug: I love that. So you're giving away the \$1 but you don't tell them. You put some kind of value to it. What you did was you just lowered that wall down. People have a wall up these days.

Steve: Yes. Yes.

Doug: You lowered that wall down, you gave them something, and the presence of God's there, you know? Whether you do anything or not, it's changing their life. I just love that.

Steve: Absolutely. It's, you know, it's astounding. And, again, I go back, Doug, and I'd say that the, the greater change happens with the person who is doing the giving, the pipeline versus the receiver. But the thing that I've always been amazed at is how it can stir up a church. An entire church can be changed by just a very few people beginning to do something very doable. And, you know, again, the car wash idea. They're saying, "I'm so shy. I can't talk to anybody." Well then do the wheels on the car. We'll do a car wash. You just do the wheels all day long and, you know, one day you'll get so bold you'll want to do the windshields and then maybe one day, as God works on you, you'll be talking to folks. But, you know, we'll take you right where you are. Go ahead and serve.

I do a lot of stuff on my own here. I live in Claremont which is the eastern edge of LA and I scrape gum off the sidewalks. I have a scraper thing I found on Amazon and it works well. I have a vest. I don't have it on, thank you very much, but it says on the back of it, "Kindness in Progress," and it says "Kindness.com." People stop me all the time, "Man, it's really nice for the city to do this." "Oh, no, I don't work for the city. I'm just here to show God's love." "What!" "Well, I think that Jesus does stuff like this. He cleaned feet, we scrape gum. He cleaned feet, we pick up trash."

Doug: Wow.

Steve: "He cleaned feet, we do, we do toilets, even." And I know that's a radical one. I don't want to scare anybody but, you know, going into a business you have to have a guy and a girl or at least two girls because the guys scare people, especially a big guy like me. You know, you and me together, we would scare them off, I think, Doug, you know? "But we're here to clean your toilets and show you God's love. We go back and clean it and they come in and, "tell us again why you're doing this?" And we get some amazing, amazing conversations going including Jimmy Flynt, Larry Flynt's brother of the Hustler empire. The day they opened their new store right across the street from City Hall in Cincinnati, Ohio. They had been ceremonially, very publicly kicked out of town. They made a movie about it even. I mean, sheesh. He comes back, he opens it up across the street from City Hall, just kind of an "up yours" to the City Hall. And we went down the day after they opened, Janie and I, my wife, and we cleaned their toilets so thoroughly. We walked back to the front and Jimmy who, again, runs all their stores for Larry, he says, "Man, we are so impressed. You're showing us God's love." He goes, "You can have anything in the store you want for free." We both said, "No, thank you." I tease her about that though but—" You know, I saw him a year later, Doug, and we bumped into each other on a plane and it was just sheerly a bumping-in thing, not a setup thing at all and he goes, "Who are you people, anyway?" He says, "I remember you. You're the ones who cleaned our toilets." I said, "Well, we're the ones who don't hate you," and he

just got tears in his eyes. He goes, “I didn’t think there were any people like that in town.”

Doug: Wow.

Steve: Now, you know, we don’t approve of everything they’re doing, of course, but we can accept them as they are ...

Doug: Yes.

Steve: ... and I think as a result they’re going to come to the Lord, you know?

Doug: Yes. I believe that. You inspired me, and we were doing this when I was, I was on staff at a Vineyard church and we would do outreach and we had a porn shop, you know, like right ... almost kitty-corner—I mean, right there by our church office. And we were doing the outreach and I heard your story ... (I wasn’t going to do it, we were going to pass by) to clean their windows, you know?

Steve: Yes.

Doug: And we did it, myself and two women went and cleaned their really nasty windows (like we wanted to really see what was in there). I mean, the guy said, he says, “So why again are you doing this?” and then he smiled and one of the women said, “Because of that, right there.”

Steve: Aw.

Doug And that’s when the testosterone tear in this man, you know, he was like—. It was the taken back. Because we brought the presence of God in. I don’t remember men going in. Believe me. Be safe, folks, but, I tell you, if you want to be dangerous with the Lord, you know, be safe with your soul but if you want to be dangerous with the Lord, I mean, kindness is an amazing, amazing thing and especially when you combine that with outreach. Now, you and I have done some things I’ve brought my slant to things, the prophetic and tattoo interpretation as well.

Steve: Yes.

Doug: And do you remember the story that you ran into someone who knew me as you were—? I don’t know if you remember that or not.

Steve: Oh, yes. Go ahead. Yes.

Doug: No. You go.

Steve: Which one is that? I've run into a couple/three recently.

Doug: I remember this that you would say something because you'd look at the person. You taught me how to do this. You look at the person, you're looking for an open door. You know, what it is it that you can get and talk about, right? And a lot of it's, you know, maybe it's their clothing, their body art, or where they work. You know, it's just an icebreaker.

Steve: Absolutely.

Doug: So the guy has tattoos and it's at Starbucks. And you said to him, "Oh, wow. Nice tattoo," and you give him an interpretation, you know, like a prophetic interpretation as, you know, you and I have worked on some of these before. And he stopped and he goes, "You won't believe this, this guy who looks like Rod Stewart told me the same thing."

Steve: Okay, now I got you. Yes and, by the way, whenever I'm with you we stopped all the time. You know, "I know don't like to be bugged but, Mr. Stewart, would you sign my—?"

Doug: I like living in LA because they knew Rod Stewart and they know I'm not Rod Stewart, you know, so—.

Steve: Only your neighbors. That's all. The rest think you really are Rod Stewart, you know? But, ah, you know—.

Doug: So I use that as well. Go ahead.

Steve: Well, Doug, we went to Burning Man and you were very much an integral part of that whole deal. You trained our team. We gave away, well, in consecutive years, 30- and then 40- and then 50,000 bottles of water and the last year you trained us to do biblical dream interpretation...

Doug: Wow.

Steve: ... and that was a blast. We had people a block long in line to have their dreams interpreted. You know, the second most common dream, I won't go to the first one right now but, was I see a man standing before me, He has His arms stretched out and He's glowing and He says, "Come to me if you're weary and heavy laden." They go, "I never hear that kind of word, 'heavy laden'. What does that mean?" We open it up right there in front of these, you know, really wild people at Burning Man and they go, "What!" And some came to the Lord right on the spot ...

Doug: Yes.

Steve: You know, because talk about a word from the Lord.

Doug: Right. Burning Man is the largest pagan festival and, just so you know, I actually have never been there but I trained the teams who go and, anyway, I'm so grateful. Every time I hear a story ... a testimony of that it's just so amazing. So, this stuff will work way over there on the dark side, right, the twilight zone.

Steve: Yes.

Doug: Or you can have people over for pie at your house, you know, after church or you know what I mean?

Steve: Yes.

Doug: I mean, we've used this, the whole kindness thing and combining it with the prophetic and with dream interpretation and it is so amazingly powerful.

Steve: You know, one of the things that you mentioned, Doug, but things that are on my heart lately and the word "fellowship" and the word "hospitality," we tend to mix them together and when we have people over that are believers from church we call it hospitality but actually the word is very different. Hospitality is very specifically aimed at not-yet believers, as I call them.

Doug: Yes.

Steve: I don't call them non-Christians because if Jesus gets His way, they're going to come to the Lord and then fellowship, of course, is gathering with other Christians. But if we can learn how to do that and really focus energy into it I think some incredible things can happen with hospitality.

Doug: Well, that's interesting because, you know, the Bible does say practice hospitality and actually they didn't have hotels and motels.

Steve: No.

Doug: So people were on the road all the time and they had no place to stay and so it was an act of kindness that the New Testament, when they talk about that. Paul talked about, Jesus talked about it and told some parables. That was actually an act of kindness to ...

Steve: Yes.

Doug: ... to invite someone in, so I love that.

Steve: Yes. And somebody, I think you said, that looks almost like you, was talking negatively about people. We talked about pouring hot coals over their head. You know, that's actually a favor. That's not a negative because people would get up in the morning and their fire went out, they don't have matches. They'd go to the neighbor who has, and maybe the neighbor is a Christian (and they aren't and they did give them a hard time), would pour coals—. They would carry it on their heads in big, these igniting bowls they call them. So, they would pour it on their heads and it's a positive.

Doug: Yes.

Steve: It's like bless your enemy, bless your neighbor, the one who is, you know, the one that you're ticked off at.

Doug: The one that curses you.

Steve: Yes. There you go.

Doug: Bless those who curse you. I tell you, I call this—. This shifts the spiritual atmosphere over people and, like you said, over yourself or over groups.

Steve: Yes.

Doug: And I notice that too. And all the churches we planted, we would do, we would do—. Servant evangelism was part of the DNA and we would start doing that first, like right ahead of time, right? During the home group phase we would start doing servant outreach and we had so many people joining us and they are giving out these things, you know, and suddenly they're hearing God and they're doing all this stuff and then one day they realize, "Hey, do you know, I haven't even received Jesus." That's what they would tell us. It was reverse evangelism.

Steve: That's right, man.

Doug: We would experience the gospel first.

Steve: Yes. Yes, when we go through a Taco Bell I always pay for the person's meal behind me. Now, if it's too expensive—. The good thing about Taco Bell is you can eat rich for little money, you know, for \$3 or \$4, whatever, and sometimes they'll say, "Well, it was \$10." I go, "I only have \$5 extra," and so I'll say, "Well, what was the one behind that one?" So I pay for the two car lengths back, and I negotiate until I can find one that I can pay for, and then I

tell the person at the window, “Tell them, ‘Showing God’s love in a practical way,’” and they will write it down 9 out of 10 times, Doug. I’m serious.

Doug: Yes.

Steve: Like they’re getting evangelized as they show the kindness of God and I believe they probably can sense the kindness coming through. “That guy paid for your meal.” “What! I didn’t know him,” blah, blah, blah, you know.

Doug: I love that. Hey, this goes so, so deep and there’s—I think there’s a shift going on in the world today. Can you just maybe talk about that and what you’re seeing going on in the Church or the world right now that ties in with this?

Steve: Yes. It’s interesting. The Church very often, I don’t know if you’ve seen this, Doug, but it’s very often polarized, it’s very often, what do you call it, I guess ... binary? There’s the pluses and the zeros or whatever, and it seems like what’s going on right now is we see a lot of both sides happening, and I think we’re at a point now we’re going to have to pretty much seriously consider rephrasing what we call ourselves. And I don’t mean Christian versus something else necessarily, but the word “evangelical,” for example, I think it has been shot to pieces ...

Doug: Yes.

Steve: ...in the last year or two, especially, with all sorts of things. We live in a time right now where the next number of years, regardless of what happens in the elections in 2020, what’s going to happen from here on is this division thing I think both in the culture, and to a degree in the Church, because not everybody is on one side or the other that are believers.

And so, here’s the bottom line. I think we have an amazing number of open doors that are going to happen in the next 6 years or so, maybe more. We may have passed the point of division that is so huge but, do you know what? Regardless, when we only show the kindness of God to either side—. Right now the abortion thing is going on gigantically, of course. States are passing, you know, no abortion whatsoever, basically. I’ve gone in many times to serve both sides of the fence. Obviously, I’m a Christian. Of course, I’m pro-life. On the other side we go over we give them something that they can use. They go, “What?! You guys are Christians and you’re serving us?” I say, “Well, it doesn’t mean we, we confirm everything you believe. We’re accepting you without believing everything you believe.” And I think that’s the way that Jesus works.

Doug: Yes.

Steve: But what if they don't come to the Lord? Again, going back a while ago. That's Jesus' problem because I'm doing the planting, the watering. God does the harvest (1 Corinthians 3:6), you know? So, you and I, we get to plant, water, plant, water, plant, water like crazy ... Johnny Appleseed.

Doug: Right. And then once in a while you'll see that harvest.

Steve: Absolutely.

Doug: And what I've noticed is that later on, I've heard people say this, is that—. You know, I had one guy come up and just say, "I give up. You know, you guys have raked my leaves, you've washed my car. I give up. What do you want?" you know?

Steve: Arm wrestling.

Doug: Or someone—. We hear this quite a bit as well, is where, you know, we'll be doing like encouraging words at the mall. We do that. That's one of our big things—is kindness. We're giving encouragement without giving anything out because you can't do that at the mall. It's hard to give away things free at the mall.

Steve: That's right.

Doug: But encouraging words can be given away at the mall and so we would give away the encouraging words and it would be touches and people later on—. We, I remember hearing this testimony because I was asking the Lord, "Does this thing work, you know?" I never heard back. You know, we're sowing, sowing, sowing. So this one person gave us this testimony and said that they had missed the outreach and so their friends took them (this is the one I was leading). Their friends took this woman on the outreach the next weekend. They went to the mall, they did some stuff, and then when she got back to work on Monday she said that she ran into her boss, because her boss had said, "What did you do over the weekend?" You know, you just did this amazing kindness outreach thing. "Well, I was out at the mall doing this," and he goes, "Well, you won't believe this, but this guy who looked like Rod Stewart"—here we go again. "This guy who looked like Rod Stewart said the same thing to me."

Steve: Oh oh.

Doug: Is what that showed is that this is not just, you know, random.

Steve: Yes.

Doug: Even though it was random acts of kindness, it's not random to the Lord and it's a Holy Spirit network. And we've seen people come to the Lord over time and it gets the, gets the wall down. I love that.

Steve: Yes. It's—. I totally agree. It's funny. Just yesterday on, online one of our guys, I don't remember who it was, put on there, "God's kindness is not random. He has a plan always going on," and often that random kindness is really more random niceness I think.

Doug Yes. Yes. Yes.

Steve: And true kindness is spiritual. And I would just encourage anybody who doesn't even believe in the Lord go with us or go by yourself and give away something. Show in just an altruistic way and you will know the presence of God because you and I have been created to give, to be generous. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and then get this ... in the Orthodox Jewish Bible, the OJB on your Bible app on your phone, you know, it says, generosity. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity. You know, there's something in us. We hold the Spirit and we want to give. We want to lose and to be a pipeline.

Doug: Yes. Yes. Wow. That's so powerful. So, what kind of advice can you give people who maybe did this years ago or are maybe new at it? What's your startup?

Steve: Well, if you are in a church or with a group of Christians that are already slightly open or even gung ho about doing outreach I would say go to my site, Kindness.com and there are lots of projects on there you can choose from that are practical things you can start with, etc. If you want to go on your own, do what I do. Start buying coffee for the person behind you or buy the Taco Bell. The thing about Taco Bell is you don't get to run into the person again, but if you're at Starbucks and you aren't just in the drive-through lane but you're actually standing in line you, will definitely get a chance to talk to them. Maybe simple things like that.

I was in the hospital for a long time. Some other time we'll talk about that, Doug. I died, I was in a coma, etc. But as I was recovering in the third hospital, people would say, "Is there anything I can do for you," which we often say to people in a hospital, "just anything." I'd say, "Give me all your quarters." They'd look at me like, "Okay," and after a while I had a little, you know, a little mountain of quarters going here and so I had one of the guys coming in to visit. "What do we—? I'll do anything." "Okay, well drive me down to the Popsicle machine." So we go down there. We're putting in Popsicle after Popsicle quarters. They're 50 cents apiece or something and I

just go from room to room. I was in a wheelchair. It sounds kind of pathetic but it was actually pretty cool. “You want a red Popsicle or a green one or a blue one?” And they look at you like—. One guy actually said, “I don’t remember ordering a Popsicle?” I said, “I’m a patient. I’m just here showing God’s love in a practical way.” Of course, they all want to talk and—. You know, we had to go quick because the Popsicles are melting, you know, but you get the idea.

Doug: Yes.

Steve: Wherever you are there is an open door. Start where you are. The guy who invented the bottle cap and the bottle cap opener, his name is Farnsworth, and he said something profound, Doug. He says, “The only way to get something done is to do it.”

Doug Yes.

Steve: That was the bottle cap guy out there, you know?

Doug: Right. Yes. So, how about—. Is there any more advanced strategies you see going on? Anything working or something new?

Steve: Yes. Some new things. We, for a long time, I think wrongly assumed that people are afraid of spiritual encounters, that you give them a word of knowledge. It can certainly be true. They may come to the conclusion, “You know, these guys are crazy. I would never go to their church,” but I think that’s the rare exception. I think most people are already, they have something going on. ‘Everybody has something heavy-duty going on so give them a break,’ is one of the major quotes in my life.

And so, I’m in a Best Buy store and I begin experimenting with asking people if I can pray for them and we would serve. Sometimes I don’t even serve. I say, “Can I pray for you for—,” I always say 10 seconds because if you say open-ended pray that can go on who knows how long and if they’re not stable they could start yelling and who knows what all could go on. And so 10 seconds. I’m there. I feel like the Lord said, “Go pray for this guy,” He’s one of the salesmen there, “and if you will offer to pray I will give you a prayer less than 10 seconds.” So I walk over to the guy and I say, “Hey, you don’t know me at all but can I pray for you for 10 seconds?” and he looks around. Nobody needs his help. “Okay.” I put my hand on his arm. Boom. Clear as a bell I see him in a medical school classroom and I feel like the prayer was, “God on his first day of school would You show him that he didn’t get here on his own efforts alone, but his grandmother prayed him in.” I look up and he’s, he was level 10. I mean, you know, the eyes dripping and the waterfall of the nose. “Who are you? How did you get here? Where do you go to church?”

Then he asked, “How long does it last?” That’s kind of interesting. I get that all the time. “How long does it last?” If you say much more than an hour they’re going, “Ah, I don’t know.” If you say an hour they’re going, “Yes, I can do that.” And he says, “How do I get to your church?” and so forth and then he says this. This is a really telling question. “Would somebody like me fit into a church like yours?” Wow. I get that all the time, Doug. It’s amazing. “I would go to church but would I fit in?” You know? And so my line to him was, “We’ve already started about 6 or 7 or 8 around town, let’s start one more for just you and your friends and my friends. How’s that? We’ll just have a whole new church.

Doug: Wow.

Steve: With that attitude. I mean, not literally but that attitude I think is what we need to have. So I think that the cutting edge thing, Doug, is that people are not only open to being prayed for but they’re hungry in many cases. I think that God sets up these situations when we are serving or whatever, whatever.

It’s the Starbucks in Columbus, Ohio. I don’t know if I told you this story, Doug, but a couple behind me, I paid for their drink. I turn around. I didn’t even look. I said, “What are you guys getting?” Ba-boom. Order it. You know, \$6 all together for their two drinks. And she has a yellow pad with a pen. I said, “So what’s going on with you guys?” and she says, she starts to talk and all of a sudden she lets out this, this bellow like an ahhhhh and it goes on for way too long for my comfort level. I take a giant step backwards like something’s going on here and he’s putting his hand on her back after she quiets down a little bit and says, “There, there, honey.” And I said, “So what’s going on here?” They had this yellow pad and a pen. I’m on my way to speak at a Nazarene Church, actually. I’m almost late and he says, “Our daughter, 19-year-old daughter went to a party last night and somebody gave her ecstasy,” a nickname for a drug. “Somehow it stopped her heart, she fell on the floor and died. We’re here this morning to plan her funeral.”

Doug: Wow.

Steve: “And as we were pulling into the parking space, not 5 minutes ago, my wife said, ‘Where is God in all of this?’ You know, Jewish. We don’t go to temple. We’re not, we don’t go to church but where’s God?” I’m getting, I just felt goosebumps again. “Where’s God in all of this? and here you say, this is the sort of thing Jesus does. We’re stunned.” I mean, it was just—. I tell you what, Doug, that was worth a lot more than the \$6 that it cost me.

Doug: Yes. I’m tearing up as well. You know, people really are open today and I’ve trained over the years. Years ago, we needed to tone down our language because we were too heavy on Jesus. I would train my teams to discern. But,

you know, today people are actually much more open today. We still need to know how to speak at the level, you know, to keep that wall down.

Steve: Yes.

Doug: But there's something going on today with all the tragedies and everything happening in the world and the dog-eat-dog happening. This stuff really, really opens up the heavens.

Steve: You know something? I think, I think now that cellphones or smartphones are so, they're everywhere, everybody has one, if not more than one. I think it's actually a more open door than it's been in a long time because they are lonely. People are totally absorbed by this when they're in public. You look around anywhere where people are waiting, they're boom—they're right on their phone. I've had that happen so many times where I'll, I'll just feel inclined to go talk to somebody on a phone. I've had zero, zero people get upset. Maybe they're not talking but they're there poking away on something, but they want to talk.

Doug: Yes.

Steve: You know, it's just an astounding time we have. And, I mean, Doug, I've been a believer since the 70s and, again, I wasn't even born until the 80s so—. I'm way too old. But in the 70s, and I tell you the open door was like this, I think that on occasion would go back and forth. I think it's like this now.

Doug: Right.

Steve: There is no door, almost. Like, the Holy Spirit has blown the door off and people are truly openhearted if we just—. Yes.

Doug: What you need to do is do something new with love and kindness. If you try the old ways and try to, you know, muscle them in Jesus and force that rosebud open, if you try to do stuff like that they close down quick. What I've found, out of all my outreaches, using your methods along with the prophetic going out and just becoming an outreach, I found that people are really open and what they really are looking for is someone who will, will, that they can ask questions, and that's one of the things is—. They've said this, "I've never met a Christian that would listen to me." I learned that from Oprah. You know, Oprah listens so and people listen to Oprah. So why not, why not just listen. Learn to listen. I actually read a book and took his course. A guy in Cincinnati called *Listening for Heaven's Sake*.

Steve: Oh, yes.

Doug I forgot the guy's name, Gary something.

Steve: Gary Sweeten. Gary Sweeten.

Doug: And *Listening for Heaven's Sake* really changed my life in the sense where I combined it with, because I talk too much, apparently. There is a biblical principle that if you open your mouth God will fill it, but my wife tells me that I need to learn to close my mouth and let God do the work.

Steve: Yes. I'm with you.

Doug: Anyway, so listening is so, so powerful. Well, tell us a little bit more about, you know, your website, what you have going, how we can follow you.

Steve: Yes. We have, our main site is Kindness.com, real simple to remember. Kindness.com, and the other one, basically if you're into church planting or expansion is ChurchPlanting.com. And so both of those would be good places. We actually have more than that online but those are the two main ones. Again, you said the key word there earlier, Doug, that it's a movement. I'm at a point now where I don't want to do a ministry any longer. I want to be involved in a movement.

Doug: Yes.

Steve: And I want to give away opportunities in a movement. And my role at this point, is not just to speak and to write but even more to pass batons on to other men and women who are going to take it. You know, 2 Timothy 2:2. You know, train men, meaning the whole human race, and then those who can train people who can train people.

This has been such a central part of my, my life really since I was in college and I think part of the reason that we have seen really a, maybe it's not a capital 'M' movement yet but it's a small 'm' movement is that we have really been gutsy and really given away opportunity. And so, I think that that's going to happen more and more and I think it's going to be infiltrating all over the school systems, even. I think we're going to see a day again when you can go in and talk about God in school and maybe kindness will be the entry point.

Doug Yes. Absolutely. And any kind of books or do you go speak at churches or anything like that?

Steve: I do. I do.

Doug: How do they invite you?

Steve: They can go to Kindness.com and it's real simple and on there you can—. Actually, I'll give you my email address. It's my name, SteveSjogren@mac.com, SteveSjogren@mac.com, and we would be thrilled to get back to you.

I go out in spurts. I did two weeks in a row and then I don't have anything for a couple weeks so I'm going to Santa Cruz actually, up by San Francisco.

Doug: Yes.

Steve: It's the surfing capital. I think the great white shark capital too right there so you have to be careful when you surf, you know? But I'm doing a big deal up there on June 3rd if anybody's up for that, if this thing runs before then. But would love to have somebody come to your place. I would love to have you check out our site. My main book that I would recommend is [Conspiracy of Kindness](#) that you mentioned earlier, Doug. It's in several languages now but some of you probably speak English, those who are listening. We also have two quick books, also [101 Ways To Reach Your Community](#) which is, again, 101 different projects that you could step into that are very simple. Thirdly, about my near-death experience, [The Day I Died](#). And, again, sometime else we'll do that.

Doug: We're going to have Steve back and it's a sequel to my *The Day I Died on Stage as a Comedian*. Just kidding.

Steve: Was I there? I think I was giving you CPR.

Doug: Steve really did. He died on the operating table and his story is amazing. His testimony is amazing, and his book and everything that's happened to him, he's really given his life. This is someone who has really given their life literally for this.

So, God, we thank You for it and I think Steve may have locked up. We have a storm coming in right now for those who might not know that. So, anyway, we've had Steve Sjogren on. It's been an amazing time. Follow him on Kindness.com. You can also find him on the internet. Get his books. We have a storm, you can probably hear it—that's a good sign because we never get rain in May in LA—but that's a sign that God's rain is coming right now. And I just want to say thank you to everyone who is watching our new [Spirit Connection](#) and we're going to be doing interviews like this on a continual basis.

So God bless you. See you soon.

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