**HOPE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

**COURSE:** Relational Evangelism

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**ASSUMPTIONS AND AGENDAS**

Here are a few assumptions and agendas I have as an Ambassador for Christ:

1. Everyone has a conscience. The law of God has been written in their heart. Romans 3:15. That gives me an advantage. I can know that.

2. Everyone can know something about God just by looking and thinking. Romans 1:20.

3. Atheists are often people who have a hidden agenda. They have been hurt, failed, or let down. They have failed and thus rail against God. Proverbs 19:3.

4. God is more interested in the outcome of my working with someone than I am. I Timothy 2:3-7. God longs for all to be saved.

5. I am not responsible for the outcome of my sharing. I am responsible for my conduct: gentle, respectful, patient. I Peter 3:15.

6. Not all will want to listen, but I need to offer.

7. Not all who listen will accept Christ at that time, but I need to share and plant the seeds.

8. Not all who accept Christ will stay with him. Parable of the Sower, Matthew 13.

9. Only the cross of Christ will break through “impenetrable walls, hard hearts, teachings of false religions, philosophies, sinful life styles, etc.” I Corinthians 1:23, 26-30.

10. People have been blinded by Satan. II Corinthians 4:4. The god of this age has **blinded** the minds of unbelievers so that they cannot see the light of the Gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. The cross is the only thing that will give them the LIGHT.

11. People have a veil over their minds, II Corinthians 3:12-16. The cross is the only thing that will remove it. The cross of Christ means the Good News, the story of Jesus dying for us and what that means about how great God’s love for us is.

10. Those who are unbelievers have been taken captive by Satan to do his will. We are sent to help free them. II Timothy 2:24-26 **“**And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.”

11. I go into all relationships with an agenda. I am an Ambassador of Christ. I am responsible to try and share his message. I need to warn others. Luke 16:28. The rich man begged that someone go warn his living brothers about the place of torment. As Ambassadors, we have been given that task with all mankind. “He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.” II Corinthians 5:18-20. To not do so is to be negligent to what Jesus commanded us. Proverbs 24:16, “Rescue those being led away to death, hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, ‘But we knew nothing about this’ does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?” I can’t just walk about complacent about all this. Paul taught the Good News to others, Acts 15:35, 20:20, 28:31. Paul preached the Good News to others, Acts 14:21,25, 15:35, 26:20. Paul reasoned with others about this, Acts 17:2,17, 18:4,19. Paul persuaded others about this, Acts 17:4, 5:40. Paul warned others about the future, Acts 2:40

Paul proclaimed the Good News, Acts 28:31. And he often had to deal with FEAR AND TREMBLING. I Corinthians 2:3. FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE REASONS WE MUST STAND WITH PAUL IN SAYING, DOING AND LIVING: I Corinthians 2:2-3 (NIV), “**For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power.”**