

# Te Cuento...

## ...The Story Inside

### Confessions of a Single-Issue Voter

Ok, I confess. I am a Single-Issue voter. But, don't jump to conclusions. My Single-Issue may not be what you'd guess. My Single-Issue is, "Loving Democrats and Republicans into the Kingdom."

I also confess that I believe elections are a great time to be a Christian. Democrats and Republicans are welcome in our churches; everyone is safe from ridicule and attack.

I further confess that almighty God will exalt his son Jesus regardless of who wins any election. Show me any scenario and I will still show you Christ being exalted. He can not lose. So even as we fulfill our civic duty, let's not inflate our role. Jesus wins. Period.

I finally confess that I don't judge candidates by what's best for America. I evaluate them by what's best for the hungry child in Africa, the Christian brother in China, the cold atheist of France. Curiously, what's best for the world also turns out to be best for America.

#### Love's Anarchist

I know a lady,  
she writes her own rules;  
Love's anarchist...  
spraying a graffiti of smiles on misery's stoic face.  
She speaks of God in elevators;  
She says *Good morning*, in Chicago's bitter cold;  
She gives a dollar to every corner's panhandler;  
She picks up hitchhikers;  
She asks waitresses of their friendship with their creator.

I think she knows the rules  
that so bind us;

She just doesn't care.

Or maybe,  
she does.

### Cada Iglesia Multi-cultural

Cada iglesia latina tiene que ser multi-cultural, por lo menos para ministrar a nuestros hijos. Nuestros hijos van a desarrollarse en este nuevo país. Ellos no van a poder conversar profundamente en nuestro idioma. Nuestros nietos ni siquiera van a hablar español. Nuestros hijos van a seguir siendo latinos en sus valores y formas de pensar (porque esos se aprenden de los papás) pero en su forma de caminar, vestirse y el materialismo... van a ser nativos de este nuevo país. Tenemos que preocuparnos de proveer para ellos ministerios actualizados para ellos.

Entonces, ¿cómo deben ser nuestros cultos? De alguna forma tenemos que también tener ministerios que son americanizados para nuestros hijos. Pero a la vez no queremos que nuestros cultos sean completamente gringificados. Mantengamos nuestro espíritu alegre y espontáneo, nuestro enfoque familiar y nuestro fervor espiritual.

¡Que seamos multi-culturales!

From:  
Bishop David Roller

### Spiritual Guides

- > One of the main things I look for when I visit a church is, are there spiritual guides here?
- > Are there those who are advanced in their knowledge and practice, capable and willing to lead others further along the path?
- > Our churches should be full of the wounded and confused, but if there aren't guides to lead them, we would do better to leave the wounded and confused on the streets.

*Te Cuento/Story* is a bimestrial letter from Bishop David Roller to those who minister.

### A Culture of Rapid Kingdom Expansion

The Kingdom will not expand rapidly, unless it expands in the cities, because the people are in the cities.

If we are to expand rapidly in the cities:

- We will not be able to afford "church" buildings.
- We will have to share facilities.
- The church-life will go from 80 years to perhaps 4-6 years. We will start many more churches and they will dissolve more quickly.
- A successful church will be judged more by those sent, than by those in attendance.
- The core belief in Jesus will be accompanied by coherent compassion ministries.



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## Gimme a Bible & a Broom

I couldn't open the Fig Newton's package. *I have become a totally incompetent boob.* I put on my reading glasses and carefully rotated the package, looking for that telltale incision — nothing.

*You want a piece of this? Bring it!* Leaning into the counter I bore down on the package, trusting in my brute strength. By *brute* I mean *poor old incompetent boob* strength. Still nothing.

Now it was no longer about the cookies, it was about the package. Must ... open ... package. I cast about for a chain saw. Seeing none in our kitchen, I settled for a knife and with trembling hands slit the wrapper open. Victory!

Opening stuff — those who follow my writings (“Hi, Mom. Hi, Dad.”) will remember I've had two themes this year: “Starting Stuff” and “Stopping Stuff.” For all who are not my Mom and Dad, I'm encouraging us to *start* new ministries that “Go and Make Disciples,” and to *stop* doing ministries that don't “Go and Make Disciples.”

“Opening Stuff” is just a subset of “Starting Stuff.” Most plastic packages are impossible to open until you find that little starter slit that they make at the factory. But once you find it, you don't need a chain saw. Opening communities is similar. Where is the starter slit that will open up the whole neighborhood to Jesus? You don't need a chainsaw. Just look around. Look for hurting people, discarded people, desperate or scared people — people so messy you'll need a broom.

Many churches are trying to capture the same small slice of Americana: middle-class healthy families of neat people who'll tithe. Guess what? Not many people like that left! But if we're willing to have a different economic model and ministry model that doesn't depend on *healthy* people, if a church can find a way to function while ministering to messed-up people, the world will fill your parish!

Opening our ministry to the messed-up — gimme a Bible and a broom — and Fig Newtons for the journey!



**Soft suburbia outside, gritty filling in the city-center, tough packaging to open**

**From:**  
**Bishop David Roller**

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### October to December 2008

#### OCTOBER

- Sept 30-Oct 2 Haiti
- 3-4 Mustering of the Men in Kentucky
- 7-9 Rancho Betania board in Mexico
- 13-15 Board of Bishops in Indy
- 16-18 Board of Administration in Indy
- 19-21 Pittsburgh Pastors' retreat
- 25-26 Leadership Team in Sacramento
- 26-28 Eastern Superintendents in Pittsburgh

#### NOVEMBER

- Oct 31-Nov 2 Paraguay Annual Conference
- 6 New South Superintendency Committee
- 8-16 Eastern Superintendents' retreat
- 20-24 Chile Annual Conference
- 27-Dec 1 Nikkei (Brazil) Annual Conference

#### DECEMBER

- 5-6 Wesleyan Leaders retreat in Mississippi
- 7-12 Board of Bishops strategy retreat in Oregon
- 13-17 Leadership team in Manchester, England
- 26-31 Vacation days—Merry Christmas!