

“CONSIDERATIONS FOR A CREATOR” PRE-EVANGELISM ICEBREAKER SCRIPT

Here is the Creator-Awareness Pre-evangelism *Icebreaker* Presentation I spoke of. Try It! It really Works!

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FOREWORD: (Required Reading ☺)

“Intelligent Design” being *the* hot topic these days among the faith and non-faith communities alike, this presentation should fit right in. The following “Considerations For A Creator” Pre-evangelism Presentation Script is an abbreviated version of that which I’ve developed and refined through trial and error field application over the years, primarily for reaching disinterested Thai Buddhists who misconstrue and dismiss the Gospel message. The premise this script is based on is Acts 17:22-32, i.e., that of ascertaining and implementing the most effective means of gaining the undivided attention of the indifferent, close-minded, non-seeker for whom Christ also died (*as opposed to the open-minded individual who is ready to listen and consider the implications of the Gospel*). Then fill in the missing blanks for them. I am referring here to the unresponsive Buddhist masses that harbor various deeply-rooted preconceptions, yet have zero knowledge of God whereupon they base their opinions. This would include the vast majority of Thai, and Asians in general. Yet with careful adaptation, this script has a much wider potential scope.

This presentation follows Paul’s approach, implemented in Acts 17:22-32, when addressing the “educated” heathen in the Areopagus on Mars Hill. These were people, who, like the Thai, were pleased with themselves, and, although not ignorant in a worldly sense, they were totally ignorant of God’s truth. Paul initially gained their interest by pointing out one of their shrines (not by challenging or confronting them).

Gaining their attention, he used their shrine as a launching pad into his message. Since they had absolutely NO knowledge of the One True God, His Character, or His Creative acts – the Genesis account being the foundation of all Biblical truth – Paul started at the beginning, introducing them to God’s creative acts, God’s character (who He is, as well as what He is not, a man-made idol).

In like manner, this script first gains the Thai person’s interest by discussing their favorite pastime: Nature. Thus, it bypasses the usual socio-cultural and religious pitfalls, and speaks more clearly to their hearts than beginning with Western witnessing shortcuts, which fail to take into account their lack of any previous knowledge of God, Creation, the Fall, promised Messiah, etc. Thus, the focus here is that of providing considerations for Intelligent Design, leading them to the logical deduction that there has to be an Intelligent Designer.

Once they understand and assent to embrace by faith the fact of their Creator’s existence, a change in their outlook and general demeanor begins to take place. This occurs as God’s truth begins to take root in their hearts. Of course they are not yet *saved* at this point, nor can they be, since they are still unaware of their lost condition before their righteous and holy Creator. Nor have we introduced yet the *Name Above All Names*, on whom they must believe to be saved (John 1:12, 3:36, 14:6; Acts 4:12, 1 John 5:11-12). However, they are now much more open and ready to listen and consider the rest of the story: the Garden; God’s invitation and warning, the Enemy; the Temptation; disobedience; the Fall; God’s curse and impending judgment; Grace-based substitutionary death typology (God first clothed/covered Adam and Eve in animal skins); the promised Messiah; mankind’s flourishing sinfulness; the world-wide Flood (God’s judgment), *etc.*

Also, one very important factor to keep in mind is, the Thai culture being decidedly non-confrontational, one must initially avoid preaching *at* the listener, but should carry on a logical, conversational exchange—asking rhetorical questions and exchanging thoughts and ideas (all the while controlling the general direction of the conversation). *God’s Holy Spirit will do the confronting and convicting later*, given that you have communicated the Gospel in a clear-cut, understandable manner.

✓ WHO: This “icebreaker” presentation is designed for use by long-term (career) missionaries, short-term missionaries, tourists and/or visitors—as well as national believers when bypassing the introduction—for reaching disinterested Buddhists.

✓ HOW: This presentation implements low-key, non-intrusive conversational thoughts and queries about Intelligent Design, ultimately leading the self-satisfied Thai Buddhist to consider and accept the factual existence of an Intelligent Designer – their own Creator – as opposed to what they have been taught about happenstance existence.

✓ WHY: As a cross-culturally appropriate introduction, this foundational presentation is an “icebreaker” that penetrates, bypasses, and avoids the inherent booby traps usually encountered with traditional witnessing methods. Therefore, it must precede regular witnessing techniques. During this period, Christian “terminology” or any early mention of the Bible, God, sin, the Cross, the need for trusting Christ, must be set aside temporarily, because, if interjected in the early stages, they muddy the waters. These will be all introduced in due time, at the appropriate juncture, as the Creator’s story progresses.

✓ WHAT: That which is being presented here is not to be misconstrued with the hypersensitive, contextualization-awareness doctrines prevalent in the postmodern “Emerging Church” movements, i.e., that which waters down and contorts the Gospel message to avoid being offensive to those of dissimilar values and mindsets. Conversely, my distinct goal is to make sure we bypass confusion and clearly communicate Jesus Christ and that selfsame Gospel, not mask it over or water it down. God’s Word tells us that offenses will come because of Christ and the Gospel as the Sword of God’s Word cuts and divides. (Mat 10:34; Rom 9:33; Heb 4:12; 1Pet 2:7)

Lastly, please use this presentation prayerfully, and with my blessings. Caution; although you will be tempted, do not be too quick to change or shorten anything! Also, do not ad lib. It really does work, and is carefully and specifically designed to bypass pitfalls that are otherwise unavoidable if you advance too quickly to the typical Four Spiritual Laws or Romans Road approach. These will be covered in depth later, after you “break the ice” and lay a proper foundation. Remember to practice!

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NOTE: THIS TEXT IS COLOR-CODED AS FOLLOWS:

PRESENTATION SCRIPT (BLACK), HEADINGS (BLUE), NOTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS [BOXED-IN, RED LETTERS]

PART I: GENERAL INTRODUCTION (A LEAD-IN INTRODUCTION DESIGNED FOR SHORT-TERM VISITORS TO THE COUNTRY)

Hello, my name is _____. I'm very glad for the opportunity to come visit your beautiful country, and to meet Thai people like you.

I have come from my country, _____, to visit Thailand, and I want to make friends with the Thai people. Also, I heard some very good news; something very important I'd like to tell you. It's about something wonderful and priceless.

This good news I bring is able to bring your life true meaning, fulfillment, peace, happiness, and joy.

Besides that, this message can give you a new life. It will give you a life free from fear, and safe from evil.

There is only this one condition. Simply, you must choose to receive it for yourself, or reject it. The decision is yours.

The things that you get from accepting this good news are beyond price. They are so valuable they cannot be bought at any human cost. All the money in the world would not be enough to attain this.

And, being a free gift it is not for sale at any price. It is given freely by the owner because of His great compassion and mercy.

Therefore, this news is about a very great and important person and the wonderful things He has done for you, and for me... for everyone.

I am only a messenger, a person, just like you. The owner and giver of the gift is much greater than anyone.

THIS IS NOT ABOUT MY COUNTRY:

I did not come to tell you about my country (*America, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, England, Europe, China, etc.*)

Actually, your country, Thailand, is a very nice place to live already, a veritable land of plenty.

What I came to tell you about is greater than any country.

IT'S NOT ABOUT HAND-OUTS OR VARIOUS IDEOLOGIES:

I did not come to hand out money or various material things.

Also, I did not bring some strange new ideology for you to hear about.

The Good News that I came to tell you about is greater than any material thing or any ideology.

PART II: IT'S NOT ABOUT RELIGION (SEGUE POINT TO BYPASS PEOPLE'S MISCONCEPTIONS AND DISCUSS CREATION)

NOTE: At some point in the conversation, the Thai person might ask, ***"Did you come to teach religion?"***

If you answer "yes" to this question, or see it as a golden opportunity to witness to the Thai person in typical Westernized fashion (*"Four-Spiritual-Laws" or "God Loves You, and Jesus Died For Your Sins," etc.*), the Thai will usually respond with a favorite saying: ***"All religions teach people to do good, not evil, therefore all religions are equally good."*** **

This is like their ultimate defense weapon, designed to stop any further attempts to witness or convert them to what they perceive as Christianity. Recognize it or not, argue the point as you may, it will end all of your chances of making any further headway right then and there. So, you might as well smile back and change the subject to "Nature." (See below.)

However, here is a very unique and simple way to bypass all of the confusion. If you: ¹⁾deny having come to teach religion**;
²⁾allow the idea that they already have a "good" religion; ³⁾and repeat their own favorite saying back to them first (before they "spring" it on you), they will be pleasantly surprised, and will appreciate the fact that you seem to be expressing agreement to their ideals. This is the clincher statement that will disarm them, trump their normal arguments, and help them feel relaxed, sensing that you are on common ground. (This will be covered more thoroughly in the next section.)

*****Incidentally, you are not trying to deceive them, because all religions ARE about the same, in that they all teach some form of social good (works), yet do not lead the adherer into a restored, right relationship with God, their Creator.***

At this point, as they relax and let down their guard, you must immediately change the subject of the conversation to one of their favorite pastimes: nature, i.e., God's Creation—but don't call it that yet! (See below: "DO YOU LIKE NATURE?")

THE KEY QUESTION A THAI MIGHT ASK YOU IS: "Did you come to teach religion?" or "Do you teach religion?"

YOUR CORRECT RESPONSE IS: ¹⁾ LOOK A LITTLE PUZZLED, THEN, ²⁾ YOUR CORRECT ANSWER MUST BE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT (VERBATIM): ***"Excuse me, but ..."***

DO I TEACH RELIGION? (RESPOND WITH THE FOLLOWING RHETORICAL STATEMENT...)

“Excuse me, but don’t you already have a good religion? Why, then, would you need another? Besides, all religions are the same, because they all teach people to do good deeds, not bad deeds... right?” (Except for some that we see today.)

This response makes reference to personal *works-based*, man-made religions only, according to their understanding. It does not include *Grace-based*, Biblical Christianity, which stands alone, and does not fall under the “works-based” category.

[THIS SHORT GRAYED-OUT SECTION CAN BE BYPASSED IF YOU ARE NOT A SHORT-TERM VISITOR:]

Actually, even though religion is designed to be good, not bad, there has never been a religion known to man that can give you the things of which I am about to describe to you here.

What I came to tell you about is greater than any religion.

DO YOU LIKE NATURE?

NOTE: This pivotal question is a very important *segue* point, transitioning into the real purpose or “meat” of your witness. Nature is the very thing that the Thai are interested in, and love to discuss, be it flora or fauna. It’s the favorite pastime and hobby that almost every Thai enjoys. Therefore, in turning the conversation to the discussion of nature (Intelligent Design), the Thai immediately relax and drop their defenses, since they all love nature. They enjoy the interchange partly because, in their minds, we aren’t “proselytizing.” However, of a truth, we are now just beginning to witness to them in a real sense, in a much more effective and subtle fashion. How so? We are beginning to lay the necessary groundwork for the crucial knowledge that they lack, i.e., the missing knowledge of their own Creator, whom they do not yet know about, nor do they worship or honor.

When they finally do realize (accept/embrace) the fact of their Creator and His Creation (what they refer to as “Nature”), their outlook really expands. It’s amazing to watch as the lights begin to get turned on in their minds. Of course, they are not saved at this juncture; however, they become more open and eager to learn. At this point, more truth is introduced in chronological story form, presented in simple, bite-sized portions, so that they can ponder and digest it. Starting with: God’s character; Six-day Creation; Mankind; the Garden; the Fruit Trees; the Warning; the Enemy (Lucifer & his fallen angels); the Temptation; Disobedience; the Fall; God’s curses; and finally, His promise to send a “Helper” (Savior) to rescue us all from our lost condition, sin, death, and Satan’s grasp; and to restore us to a right relationship with Himself by Grace, apart from works.

By the way, do you like nature? [The answer is most always a resounding **YES!**]

Almost everybody loves and is fascinated with nature. I myself love nature.

The things of nature are so wonderful, so beautiful, so interesting ... aren’t they?

Did you ever wonder where all nature came from [*i.e.*, *Creation*], and by what means that it came into existence?

NOTE (Very Important): Here is where you engage the listener in a dialog between two factions about the controversy between man’s theory of Evolution *versus* the fact of God’s Creation (but not in those words). That is, did all things come into existence by mere happenstance (as the Thai believe), or was there possibly a logical beginning, and maybe even a Creator? The important thing is, you cannot preach at them, but ask for their input after you present logical arguments for the evidence of Intelligent Design—helping them to consider the logical conclusion that there must be a Creator. It really works!

You begin this session, “*Considerations For A Creator*,” by asking: “Perhaps you could help answer a question for me?”

PART III: CONSIDERATIONS FOR A CREATOR – ESTABLISHING CAMARADERIE AROUND AN ORIGINS DIALOG

Perhaps you could help answer a question for me? Some people speculate everything in Nature was just *there*; that it came into existence just by happenstance, or natural causes. However, they admit that they don’t know for sure.

Others disagree. They say, “*No way, that’s just not possible!*” They point out that all nature has logical design, saying that there *must* be a Creator, an Owner, a Master Designer—that it couldn’t all have just “happened” into existence.

NOTE: HERE IS WHERE CREATION FACTS ARE INTRODUCED, AS IN THE OLD MOODY SCIENCE FILMS. The following “*Considerations For A Creator*” points are logical arguments that are prearranged in sequential, logical order.

OXYGEN THAT IS NEEDED FOR LIFE IS NOT DEPLETED:

For instance, it is pointed out that we need oxygen to live. All living beings rely on oxygen, even fish. We take in oxygen from the atmosphere when we breathe in. It goes into our lungs, where it enters our blood stream. It is then carried throughout our whole body by our blood cells, replenishing life. It brings nourishment to our cells and takes away the old, which is then expelled back into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide when we breathe out. If a person were to be locked in a sealed room, after a while he/she would die when all the oxygen got used up.

Considering the fact that there are over six billion people in the world today, why don’t we all die from lack of oxygen? Where does the new oxygen come from? And, why doesn’t it get used up? Interestingly, green tree leaves absorb the expelled carbon dioxide and convert it back into oxygen again. What a miracle! How did the trees know how to do that for us? Did they hold a meeting and decide to help us humans and all the animals? Or, was there a very intelligent master designer, a marvelous engineer, who designed and created the trees to do that for us?

FLOWERS -- REAL & ARTIFICIAL:

Have you ever considered the flowers? How they are all so beautiful, so intricate, so delicate, so colorful?

Do you think you could make a flower? Probably not, huh? However, people can make artificial flowers that look and even feel almost like real ones, but they can't create real live flowers. No one can.

In fact, if you put a bouquet of artificial flowers beside a bouquet of real flowers, sometimes you can't tell the difference. Right? Did you ever touch a bouquet to see if it was real? It's very difficult to tell sometimes.

However, if you set them aside for a few days, and come back a week or so later, could you tell them apart then? Yes, of course, because the real flowers have died by that time, but the artificial ones still look nice. Actually they too are dead, because they never possessed life in the first place, like real flowers.

THE HUMAN EYE (A MIRACULOUS SENSORY ORGAN):

How do we know that the flowers are beautiful? Or the trees, and all the other scenic beauties of nature all around us? Yes, we can see them with our eyes. That's how we know. Did you ever consider how wonderful and miraculous our eyes actually are, or how different life would be like without our eyes?

There they are, just two little round balls of flesh and blood, sort of like two big grapes. Yet they make us aware of what is around us. We have been given our eyes, not merely so we can find our way around, and not stumble or bump into something, but mainly so that we can see and enjoy all the beautiful scenery that nature has to offer all around us; not only the wonders here below, but the stars and galaxies in the heavens above as well.

Our eyes have controlling muscles that help them follow fast-moving objects, and we don't even have to think about it. Our eyes can adjust automatically to both bright and dark environments. They can discern the differences between many millions of colors and shades, like with the beautiful flowers that we love to admire. Our eye's have lenses, similar to cameras, but much better. They focus automatically when we look at things in the distance, or up close. When light enters our eye, it passes through the focusing lens, and a picture of the object we are looking at is displayed on the back wall of our eye, called the retina. The image is then transferred from our eye's retina, and shown on the screen in our brains. Our brains can then store the images away in memory to recall later.

In fact, scientists tell us that one tiny cell in our eye's retina is many times more powerful than the most powerful super computer that was ever made. And, our eye's retina is made up of millions of these very powerful tiny cells. So, if all of this is true, which it is, how then could our eyes have come into existence all by themselves, or through happenstance? No, they had to have been designed and ceated by someone very intelligent, and very powerful.

Note: These are examples of things I say. There are many other great evidences for Intelligent Design (Our Creator's Handiwork) that are normally included here, like the hand, the heart, the brain, the nose, the muscle-skeletal system, etc.

THE HUMAN ARM and HAND:

How could we pick a beautiful flower without hands and arms, or hold it up close, inspect its beauty, and enjoy its fragrance? We have the ability to grip the stem firmly enough to pluck the flower, yet we can touch its petals very softly without injuring them ... (Expand text, explain about the human hand, arm, touch, muscles and nerves.)

THE HUMAN NOSE:

How do we know the sweet fragrance of the flowers? (Expand text, explain about the human nose, discerning between smells.)

THE HUMAN EAR:

How do we hear the birds singing and the other sounds of the forest? The gently falling rain? The wind passing through the grass and trees? (Expand text, explain about how our ears can discern between different sounds, voices, etc.)

WHICH CAME FIRST, THE CHICKEN OR THE EGG?:

Some people like to ask each other, "*Which came first, the chicken or the egg?*"

Some say the chicken came first with the ability to reproduce, others say the egg. Chicken, Egg -- Egg, Chicken...

The same could be asked about the coconut and the coconut tree... which came first, and why? Is there an answer?

Whatever the case, the more important question is, where did they both come from in the very beginning?

Did they just appear by themselves? Or, were they put here by their Creator?

LIFE ITSELF, WHERE DID IT COME FROM?:

Did you ever wonder where the spark of life comes from?

A baby chicken is hatched from an egg and is alive, a human baby is born out of its mother's tummy and is alive, a beautiful flower sprouts and grows from a small seed, and they all have life of various different types and kinds.

In modern times, science and advanced technology has been able to accomplish many incredible things. However, science and advanced technology have never actually been able to create life in any form.

MANKIND and REINCARNATION:

Did you ever wonder where you came from, or what the origin of all humanity is?

Did you ever wonder where the very first man and woman came from? Where did our original parents come from?

Did you ever wonder, whenever a new baby is born, where the essence of life and the soul or spirit comes from?

Some say people are simply reincarnated back into the world again after they enter death.

If people are merely reincarnated again, or recycled, why then is the population of the world constantly growing?

For example, the Thai population is ever increasing. Twenty years ago there were forty-million Thai, now there are over sixty-million, twenty million more. Where did the extra twenty million come from? Certainly not reincarnation.

It is the same throughout the world. Where did this increasing amount of people come from if we simply die and are reincarnated again back into this world?

MEN or MONKEYS:

Some people suggest that our ancestors came from monkeys.

Do your ancestors have the characteristics and appearance of monkeys? Mine don't. What an insulting suggestion!

BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS:

Consider that people of any race can give each other blood, but no one can receive blood from monkeys or other animals.

WORLD ORIGIN:

More than that, did you ever ponder about the world and universe, as how it came into existence?

People have all sorts of theories and ideas, but can anyone really know for sure?

Some people suggest that the world and the many things in nature just "happened" into existence accidentally, all by themselves.

Some scientists believe in a large explosion theory, called "The Big Bang Theory," whereby they claim the world came into existence.

That theory is a bit hard to believe, especially when you consider how intricate and involved everything is.

Dr. Albert Einstein was one of the greatest, most brilliant scientists who ever lived. He rejected these kinds of theories as being impossible.

Dr. Einstein said, "the universe coming into existence by accident or happenstance is as likely as a dictionary coming into existence through an explosion in a print shop." Of course, that could never happen.

THE STORY OF TWO FRIENDS: [At the end of this narrative, the presentation becomes even more personal.]

Have you ever heard the story about the two friends, Mr. Adams and Mr. Brown? Mr. Adams, lived in a large city. One day, he traveled to visit his close friend, Mr. Brown, who lived in the mountains amongst all the beautiful scenery. They both loved nature, so the following morning Mr. Brown invited his friend Mr. Adams to take a restful walk down a tranquil path that wound through the surrounding mountain forests. Hours passed as they chatted and strolled along, taking in the trees, the flowers, the birds, the animals... all the sights, sounds, smells and scenery around them. Even the blue skies above were so beautiful, as white fluffy clouds floated by overhead. In the distance, they could see more mountains.

They passed by a stream full of fish, a small lake with wild ducks swimming on it, and a waterfall. Soon, the winding path opened up into a large clearing. This was a clearing like Mr. Adams had never seen before. The clearing was blanketed with a neatly-mown covering of bright green grass. In the center was a colorful flower garden, with all kinds of beautiful flowers. In the midst of the large flower garden was a palatial home, hewn of various exotic kinds of wood, big glass windows with carved shutters, and a roof of golden-colored tile. It was all so beautiful and ornate that it was hard to find words sufficient enough to describe its splendor.

"My Oh My! Who owns that beautiful home?" Mr. Adams asked his friend. "No one," Mr. Brown replied, without even blinking an eye, "it's always just been there." "What? That's not possible," Mr. Adams objected, "that beautiful place HAS to have an owner!" "Nope, not that any of us know about," Mr. Brown insisted. "Well then, who built it, and who was the designing architect?" Mr. Adams asked. "Nobody built it, and nobody designed it. As I said before, it's just been there, as long as any of us can remember," Mr. Brown insisted.

Mr. Adams quit asking, but it made no sense to him. "My friend has to be mistaken," he pondered in his heart, "there just has to be a creator, a designer, a maker, an owner."

CAN A HOUSE DESIGN AND BUILD ITSELF? CAN ANYTHING ASSEMBLE ITSELF?

Where is there a house that didn't have an architect, a designer, a builder, or an owner? ... a house that has built itself? Can anything design and build itself? Can a wristwatch build itself, or can a car assemble itself? No, of course not! Impossible! I've never seen it happen. Have you?

Could the beautiful house near Mr. Brown's place just happen into existence by itself? How about the house where you live? No, of course not! All houses are designed and built by someone. Right?

Where did anyone's house ever get built without an architect or designer, a plan, a builder, an overseer, an owner? Where is there a place like that? There is none as far as I know.

WHICH SIDE IS RIGHT? COULD OUR EARTH (NATURE) HAVE AN OWNER, A CREATOR, A DESIGNER?

So, all things considered, which side of the discussion do you think is right? Did everything just happen into existence all by itself like some say? Or, as others say, is there a Creator? A Great Designer? An Owner? Have you ever considered the possibility that the world that we live in, as well as the whole universe and all nature could NEVER have come about by itself, or by happenstance, but is the work of a Creator, a great and powerful Designer who planned and created everything, including us human beings? Have you ever considered that before? It certainly seems possible when you stop and think about it.

Given the fact that all these wonderful things have purpose, reason and design, it sure looks like there is a Creator... a Designer, Master Builder, and Owner. If it's so, what do you suppose He is like?

Well, that's the One I came to talk with you about. About who He is, what He is like, where He is now, what is our relationship to Him, and can we know Him?

THE CREATOR'S ANCIENT BOOK, HIS CHARACTER, HANDIWORK, NAMES, AND TITLES:

Did you know there is an ancient book that tells all about who He is, what He is like, where He is now, our present relationship to Him, and even how we can know Him personally? His book tells us all about His Creative acts, and about our ancestors and their relationship to our Creator. It tells us that His Name in the ancient language means *The Living One, or The One Who Has Always Existed, or The One Who Is There.*

It also tells us that the Creator's Name is so sacred, so high and majestic that people in ancient times were afraid to say it out of fear and respect.

It tells us that the Creator is above all things, and is known by many titles such as: The Most High One, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, The Ancient One, The Living One, The Righteous and Holy One, *et al.*

THE CREATOR'S CHARACTER:

The Creator's ancient book also tells us that the Creator existed before all things, is above all things, that He has no beginning and no end. It tells us that He is the source of all life, is full of all truth, all knowledge, and all wisdom.

It tells us that He has always existed forever, throughout eternity past, throughout all the eons and ages, and will exist throughout eternity future. No one is greater, and no one created the Creator, since He existed long before he created the worlds and all that is contained within them.

THE CREATOR'S HANDIWORK:

He created all the elements, nature, the stars in the heavens above, the fish in the waters, all the plants, all the fruit, and all the flowers. He created the food we eat every day, all for our nourishment and enjoyment.

He created the oceans, the streams, the land, the mountains, the trees in the forests, all domestic and wild animals, the birds and all other creatures. He created all things visible and invisible. He also set all natural laws into place.

THE CREATOR'S PURPOSE AND DESIGN IN CREATION:

He created everything with goodness, beauty, purpose, and reason. Everything He made has the ability to procreate after its own kind. Everything shows us His , and all exists for His enjoyment and good pleasure, according to His purpose, to reflect His Majesty, Glory, Power, Splendor, and Glory. There was no sin, no evil, no sickness, no growing old, and no death. Everything He made was perfect. He even created souls within us, and when we die, they will return to Him. There were no man-made religions, because everyone worshiped and honored only the Creator.

In summary, all things were designed and created by Him, to bring Him praise and honor befitting His Holy Name. He alone is rightfully the supreme and sovereign ruler, and head over all His creation; including all of humanity.

PART IV: THE HISTORICAL GOSPEL (WARNING, SATAN, TEMPTATION, FALL, PROMISED MESSIAH, DECISION)

ANGELS, THE SPIRIT WORLD, AND THE CREATOR:

The Creator also created all the angels, as spirit beings, to be His servants and His ambassadors, to do only His will, and to worship and serve Him only. He created them all in eternity past, before he created the world and our ancestors.

Since the Creator is the Great High Spirit, the angels that He created are intelligent and powerful spirit beings, but not nearly as powerful as the Creator. One of the greatest, most majestic angels of all was named Lucifer, which means Star of the Morning. The other two highest angels were named Michael and Gabriel. These were the commanders of God's angels

At first, everything was fine. Then, as time went on, because Lucifer was the highest angel, he began to harbor jealousy and pride in his heart. He wanted to be greater than his Creator and Lord. Lucifer determined in his heart to stage a *coup d'état*, and to supplant his own Owner and Creator, and place himself on the Creator's throne as ruler over all creation. This was very wrong, very disloyal, very evil, revealing Lucifer's heart for what it had become, full of ingratitude, personal ambition and sinful pride.

However, the Creator, who is all-powerful and knows all things, knew the evil plans that His created angel Lucifer now harbored in his heart. Sin and evil cannot exist in the Creator's presence because He is holy, and is surrounded by pure

light with no darkness at all. So, even though the Creator loved Lucifer, whom He had created in a pure state, He had to banish Lucifer from his high position and cast him out of Heaven and away from His presence.

There was a great war in the Heavens, way back during the beginning. The rebellious Lucifer could not triumph over the Creator and His loyal angels, because the Creator was much more powerful. No one is more powerful than He is.

The Creator's good and faithful angels fought and beat Lucifer and all the angels who had rebelled under Lucifer's command. The rebellious force totaled about one-third of all angels. Today, we know them as evil spirits, or demons.

Lucifer is now called the Evil One, or Satan, which means "The Destroyer." He is also the chief Deceiver and Liar. Satan and his army of demons are very smart. They deceive us into believing their lies, and lead us to rebel against the Creator by following false paths, and cause us to doubt the Creator's goodness and love.

The Creator made the fires of Hell as a place of final punishment for Satan and the dark angels who rebelled. All people who follow and obey Satan and his demons instead of obeying their Creator will have to go there too unless they turn back to their Creator and repent.

MANKIND AND HIS CREATOR—WHAT HAPPENED?:

The Creator made the world and everything in it, including our ancestors. He also created a beautiful garden with all kinds of fruit trees. He invited our original parents (Adam and Eve) to live there, with freedom to live and eat and care for the garden. He warned them about one tree, which he forbade them from partaking of. Everything was good, and pure, and innocent.

There was no sin, no evil, no pain, no sickness, no suffering, and no death. There was only peace, happiness, and wellbeing. There were no religions at that time, only the Creator. In the beginning, our original parents were perfect. They knew the Creator personally. They worshiped and enjoyed fellowship with Him every day in the garden.

Meanwhile, Satan, the evil angel who had rebelled, was watching. He hated the Creator and wanted to hurt Him, but could not, since the Creator was all-powerful. So, he decided to hurt the Creator's heart. He did this by lying to our ancestors. Satan deceived them into doubting the Creator's goodness, and disobeying Him.

At the moment our first parents listened to Satan's lies, instead of staying faithful to their Creator, their eyes were opened. They realized they were no longer innocent and pure. Not only did their sin of disobedience and ingratitude disappoint their Creator, it also broke fellowship and put a great wall between them and their Creator.

Because of our first parents' sin of disobedience, they were separated from their Creator. They were cut off from the Creator's life and blessings, resulting in spiritual and physical death. They were banned from the garden and their Creator's presence. Their actions brought the curse of sin, suffering, pain, and death and all sorts of sickness and evil into the world, ever increasing, even to this day.

The Bad News is: We, like our ancestors, have deliberately shunned our Creator's goodness. We each have chosen to follow after Satan, to worship everything except our Creator. As such, we are cursed, truly fit for judgment and punishment, and condemnation to Hell.

Everyone, everywhere, is lost in sin and separated from the Creator. There is no way back by our own good works or self-efforts. There is no hope. No religion can help, not even yours. We cannot pay the price required for our sins and live.

The Creator is righteous, holy, and good. We are sinful. Sinful people cannot enter into His presence and live. Anyone who chooses to face God in their own strength must suffer the fires of hell with Satan and his demons.

The Good News is: The Creator is full of mercy, compassion, and grace towards all mankind everywhere, you and me included. As such, He has already prepared a way for us to return to a right relationship with Him.

Because of His Mercy and Grace, He sent His only Son to come into the world to be a pure sacrifice, to pay the full price for the sins of all mankind, including yours and mine. The price He paid was the shedding of His blood, sacrificing His own life, so that you and I can be saved and live. Then, to show His power, He rose, victorious over sin and death and the enemy Satan.

Now, the Creator gives all people everywhere a chance to repent before that future day, a day set aside when He will judge and condemn all mankind that does not repent for their sinful behavior and deeds. All who refuse to repent must spend eternity in Hell and the Lake of Fire with their master, Satan, a place of torment from where there is no way to escape or repent, because they have turned their back on the Creator and have followed Satan.

He wants all people everywhere to repent, to believe, to be reborn into His family. To be His child, and not the child of Satan any more, the Evil One who has captured and held you and your ancestors tight in his grasp for so long.

CREATOR-GOD AND SAVIOR OF ALL MANKIND, OR THE FOREIGNER'S RELIGIOUS LEADER?

Who is this promised One who was sent? The name of the Creator's promised One means Savior only Son is Jesus. Jesus is not the "Foreigner's Religion" as you and others have been led to believe. Jesus is both God and Creator. As such, He alone has authority to pardon you from your sins.

The Lord Jesus had compassion on our hopelessly sinful and lost condition. In becoming our Savior, Jesus borrowed the tummy of a pure young virgin girl, and entered the world in a human body to be our Lord and Savior. As such, He is both 100% God and 100% man—God with us in a man's body. All who accept Him by faith are fully pardoned, forgiven, and restored to a right relationship with God.

To prove He was God, Jesus showed his power over nature (the wind and the waves), and over sickness, and even death itself. In fact, He personally rose bodily from the grave on the third day after he was sacrificed as the payment price for our sins, showing victory and power over death itself. He now offers us this new eternal life, without death.

Jesus has promised He will return soon. He will receive all those who have trusted in Him, to go be with him in heaven forever. Then, there will be no more sin, sorrow, disease, pain, suffering, growing old, or death.

However, if you choose to reject Jesus' offer to freely forgive you, be warned that you will be condemned to suffer the fires of Hell with Satan and his angels. Or, will you receive this priceless gift of forgiveness and eternal life from the Creator as your own. Accept Jesus; He is God the Son, and your own Creator, and be saved from your sin today and forever.

Which will you choose? Will you repent and receive Salvation as a free gift today, by accepting God's Mercy and Grace in Jesus Christ the Son? Or, will you continue to depend on your own striving to be good enough, and suffer God's judgment and punishment for your sin? Remember, this is not about changing religion; it is about a restored relationship with our Creator, something no amount of any religion can ever do for you.

If you accept the Creator's grace and forgiveness, you will escape the coming judgment. There will be no more *reincarnation*[†] to avoid, as you are taught. You will receive full forgiveness for all your sin, as well as peace with your Creator.

When you leave this earth, you will go directly to live with the Creator in His Heavenly City. There, He will take care of you forever, alongside all your friends and relatives and all others who have received Christ. There will be no more darkness, pain, sorrow, sickness, suffering, or dying... only goodness, happiness and wellbeing forever and ever in God's presence...

CONCLUSION: (COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL USING TRADITIONAL METHODOLOGY IS WORKABLE AT THIS POINT)

†NOTE: Concerning the statement, "*there is no more reincarnation to worry about...*" This is true, of course, because: ¹⁾ it is a figment of Eastern Religious thought; and ²⁾ reincarnation does not exist according to God's Word (2Cor 5:8, Heb 9:27). However, reincarnation is what all Thai Buddhists have been taught from youth as a core theme in their religious worldview. Thus, it is what they seek to escape from in hoping to attain Nirvana (a state of "*nonbeing*" where one ceases to exist). Therefore, to allude to it here is not wrong, since we are not giving credence to the concept.

MORE TO COME: The above pre-evangelism presentation script is not exhaustive, but is an example of the dialog of logical arguments I use. To the best of my recollection, this presentation approach (*some might call it radical*), when properly used, has *never* failed to open closed Thai minds (at least a little, if not a lot), and get the listener thinking about the origins of Nature, i.e., a Creator. Note: The actual Gospel message *NEVER* changes (Gal 1:6-9); however, our lead-in approach must be "adjusted" at times to supplement lack of underlying knowledge (Acts 17:22-32).

Incidentally, PART IV (The Historical Gospel Message) must be covered in full, only **AFTER** the listener accepts the fact of a Creator, and shows genuine interest. Otherwise, it is counter-productive to introduce the Gospel too soon.

SECTION TWO: THE SPIRIT WORLD – INTRODUCTION

There is another important component of my presentation not included above—the spirit world. I introduce Jehovah God (*The Supreme Being whom they do not know*) through discussing animistic beliefs and the spirit worldview of the Thai.

It begins by acknowledging the existence of spirits in accordance to *their* beliefs and worldview. I include a couple of funny, self-effacing stories to make it more enjoyable – like when I rode the night bus over the mountains. When the bus driver honked the horn in the wee hours, I looked but didn't see anything in the road, only what seemed like bird or doll houses alongside in a clearing. "What's that all about?" I ponder. (*Meanwhile, the laughter gets louder as the "dumb" foreigner explains what he experienced.*) I then go on to explain how I learned that the "doll houses" were actually territorial owner-spirit shrines.

From there, I segue into introducing a discussion of the hierarchal authority of the spirit world, tracing the chain of command up to the very top, starting with how their spirit doctors enlist one spirit to command another to stop making a child sick, etc. I suggest considering whom that One at the very top might be, and what He might be like: Is He Evil? Devious? Malicious, *like the evil spirits they know and fear*? Or, is He Good? Compassionate? Kind? I put everything in rhetorical question format. This never fails to capture their attention, because it is the inescapable daily reality in which they live.

Finally, I introduce God's Word, the Bible (*but I initially avoid that term*). I say, "*I know of an ancient book, with writings older than Buddhism, that tells us of that One.*" (Anything old is always held in high regard.) I say, it's a book which tells all about that One, alluding to what God's Word says about Himself, His Handiwork, man, the spirit world, the fall, salvation, etc. (*Again, I initially avoid using any "Christian" terminology to avoid their above-mentioned pitfalls, which I readily add later when it becomes evident that they are ready.*)



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"Holding Forth The Word Of Life..." Phil 2:16

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