



PRESS RELEASE

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Christian Author Admits Spending Money on Prostitute

Tony Campolo is the type of communicator who often uses a kind of “shock and awe” to awaken the slumber of the 21st Century Christian Church out of its lethargy. The headline above is an absolutely true statement about the much loved and controversial sociologist, author and minister. He readily admits that, arriving in a city and jet lagged, he couldn’t sleep. Wandering into a “greasy spoon” diner he was party to the conversation of a group of prostitutes meeting their nightly. One of them, Agnes, it seemed, was to mark her birthday the following day. Tony secretly met with the manager of the diner and planned a surprise birthday party the following night for this woman who would, probably, have never darkened the doors of an organised church. When Agnes burst through the doors of the diner there she was filled with disbelief and tears at such a show of compassion. The manager cornered Tony and said, “You’re not a sociologist. You’re a preacher. What kind of church do you preach in?” Tony’s response, “I preach in a church that throws birthday parties for (prostitutes) at 3:30 in the morning.” The reply? “No you don’t! I would join a church like that”. This is an example of the life of Tony Campolo.

The American sociologist was in London this month on his way to speaking at the annual Christian event Spring Harvest. Another reason for his London stop was to be a guest on the popular international TV series “Principles of Leadership”, produced by a U. K. Charity Harvest Fields Commissioning International and its media arm OLI Productions. Currently airing on over 20 Christian and independent TV networks worldwide the programmes features other well known Christian leaders such as New York Times best selling author Joyce Meyer, South American Evangelist Dr. Luis Palau, TV Bible teacher Andrew Womack, the evangelical former Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey, Lisa Bevere, Anne Graham Lotz, daughter of evangelist Billy Graham, former head of the British Army General Sir Richard Dannatt, Brother Andrew (author of the best selling book “God’s Smuggler) and Brother Yun (author of the best selling book “The Heavenly Man”).

The guest was asked “How do you keep that right balance between social action and evangelism?” Tony replied by saying “If you were to ask Jesus “What is your mission statement?” It would be what was written in Matthew, Mark and Luke, “I have come to declare that the Kingdom of God is at hand.” The Kingdom of God can be defined as transforming people living in a transformed society. That will always keep your balance between evangelism and social justice because you realise that you can’t win people to Jesus Christ if they are living in a depressed, oppressed impoverished situation. When people are starving to death and you say “Don’t you want to go to heaven when you die?” They say “Really, I would like to eat right now.” I’m committed to that balance. The real reason to coming to be committed to Christ is so that Christ can transform you into somebody through whom He can try to change the world into the world that it ought to be.”

Harvest Fields Commissioning International is a U. K. Registered Charity with the purpose of assisting in raising up and encouraging churches and leaders in over 45 countries and on all 5 continents for work in churches, charities and other humanitarian assistance groups. Its websites are at: <http://www.agapelive.net> and <http://www.hfci.net>.