

PRAISE

the Lord for:

- ★ The continued interest from various countries requesting their own edition of Challenge
- ★ A number of new editions in the pipe line for 2016 from Cuba, Moldova and Peru. Peru is a sponsored edition, Praise Him
- ★ A successful trip for Carl to Kenya and Malawi as we develop both the main and prison editions in these countries
- ★ A restful time had by the staff over the Christmas/ New Year period
- ★ A number of large gifts towards our various projects. As most of our distribution overseas is funded by our office these gifts are vital

VALUE IN QUESTIONING

Sharing Jesus with Aussies can be a daunting thing. Christians may fear rejection or offending the ones they love, and thus don't take up opportunities when they present themselves. *What if I told you there was an easy way to have a spiritual conversation even with the most anti-Christian of people?*

Questions are a valuable technique for witnessing to people, for three reasons. First, it shows that you are genuinely interested in what the other person believes. Second, it helps the other person articulate what they actually believe – many Aussies have never done this before. Lastly, it helps you to find inconsistencies in their belief system and identify where the person is at in the journey towards knowing God personally.

ENTERING THE CONVERSATION

So what kind of questions can you ask? Engaging in a spiritual conversation can be as easy as starting with questions like: What did you do on the weekend? What is your favourite book? What do you think about [insert recent current affair]? Once the person has shared their answers it is common that they will ask the same question of you and, by briefly mentioning your time at church, the Bible, or tactfully hinting at your Christian perspective on a current affairs topic, you will open the doorway to a spiritual conversation. A good follow up question is: Have you had much experience with Christian things; what did you think about them?

Listening to what the other person has to say will give you a clue as to where they are at with God. As you question what they personally believe about God, life after death and the purpose of life on earth, you stimulate their thinking about spiritual things. In my experience, even if you only get this far, many people leave the conversation questioning their own beliefs because of the seeds you have planted. During some walk-up evangelism I once encountered a group of teens who had been approached by another evangelism team half an hour before me. They told that team to 'go away' but, by the time my team and I reached them, they had been deeply discussing spiritual things with each other and were eager to hear what we had to say. We shared the Gospel with them for over an hour.

A GENTLE CHALLENGE

Questions are also a powerful tool for calling people out on bold, cliché statements like "The Bible is just a fairy tale" or "Religion is the cause of most wars".

Continued over

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PLEASE TURN OVER

Contact us by phone (08) 9453 3311 or fax (08) 9453 3006

Email: info@challengenews.org

PRAYER needed for:

- ★ For increased effectiveness of the paper throughout Australia. We would love to see our distribution double
- ★ A replacement Editor to free up Carl to concentrate on promotion and development of the paper both in Australia and overseas
- ★ An office clerk to do the day-to-day bookkeeping and general office duties. Two days per week is a minimum requirement. Please contact the office and speak to John
- ★ Our various hubs around the world – South Africa which looks after 10 countries, Kenya, Argentina and USA
- ★ Impact Africa team as numbers stand at 20 for this year. We would love to take up to 28 which allows for varied ministry opportunities

Rather than going on the defence, it is up to that person to support such claims. By simply responding with, "That is an interesting statement, I'd be interested to know the source of your information so I can look it up myself?" It is up to them to defend their position rather than you. Again you leave them questioning where their beliefs originated.

Whether you are just planting a seed for the next person to water or challenging their beliefs gently with a question, try using some of these key questions next time you witness to someone and see what happens.

For more on this topic I recommend reading the book *Tactics* by Gregory Kousser

Try this

Andrew on Facebook writes:

"Here in St Arnaud, Victoria, we have 100 copies of *Challenge* set up on stand every month. Usually we have 5 or 6 left at the end of the month. Since I have been displaying cover and rear stories as shown in the photo, all copies are gone in ten days or so! Others may like to try it."

www.facebook.com/challengenews



MY RESPONSE

Post to: Challenge Literature Fellowship, PO Box 978, Cloverdale WA 6985 or Fax to (08) 9453 3006

Name: _____

Address: _____ Post Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

With God's help I would like to be a partner in supporting the ministry at Challenge in the following way(s):

Prayer: Please send me updated prayer information

Financial: Please receive my:

Monthly Quarterly Yearly One time contribution of:

\$50 \$75 \$100 \$200 Other: \$ _____

To be used for _____

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