

## PRAISE

the Lord for:

- ★ An encouraging trip to Canada and USA for Carl Carmody and Graeme Jacques. They received considerable interest from churches and mission organisations within Canada, and covered some new ground in USA
- ★ A generous gift towards the Prison edition of the paper in USA. This edition continues to grow rapidly with a few more States coming on board
- ★ A team of 20 thus far for our July 2016 Impact Africa mission trip.
- ★ All our partner organisations around the world who assist us to get out the good news

## HANDLING BAD EXPERIENCES

One concern around sharing the Gospel with others centres on either bad experiences we've had with witnessing in the past, or bad experiences the people we've spoken to have had with other Christians.

Either way, don't take it personally or give up. Here are some helpful tips if you encounter either of these situations.

### HURTS CAUSED BY OTHER 'CHRISTIAN' EXPERIENCES

Let's face it, some Christians seem mean, and some churches weird and pushy.

At some point you will come across people who don't want to have a spiritual conversation, simply based on negative experiences they've had with Christian matters in the past.

Common examples include those who feel they had "religion forced down their throats" at school, those who have been offended or hurt by something a Christian has done or said, and those who have experienced a very dry or cultish version of Christianity.

A common instinct when encountering these scenarios is to freeze up and change the subject, or get on the defensive.

Yet instead of trying to justify something that you don't really know the full story to, there is a simpler response: just apologise.

While we could defend the Bible and argue the case for what a "genuine Christian" would do or not do, a humble and sincere "I'm sorry you had that experience. I would probably feel the same way if that were me in your situation", will go a long way.

Suddenly you have surprised them and their walls begin to come down. You might even hear them say "but you never knew that person, it's not your fault" to which it is easy to respond with something like, "I know, but if one person could taint your view about what it means to be a Christian, I hope I can apologise on behalf of that person to show you that we are not all the same".

Even if that is as far as you get in the conversation, you have most likely softened their heart to their next Christian encounter and drawn them one step closer to Jesus.

### WISHING THINGS HAD GONE DIFFERENTLY

I know what it is like to walk away from a spiritual conversation feeling like you said all the wrong things or nothing important at all.

At these times a phrase I have tried to keep at the foreground of my thinking is :

*Continued over*

## PRAYER needed for:

- ★ Overseas editions sent out recently: South Africa, Prison edition, Zimbabwe, and Argentina. Please pray for the effectiveness in distribution and response from these editions
- ★ Continued flow of funding to help with all our overseas projects
- ★ Cuban edition of Challenge which we are hopeful will commence shortly, just need funding which we are praying will come out of the USA
- ★ Further team members for 2016 mission trip. We would like to have 25-27 travelling which allows for various ministry opportunities
- ★ The Australian edition of Challenge as circulation numbers continue to decline

"Success in witnessing is simply taking the initiative to share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God."

Our success in witnessing it not based on how many people we personally lead to Christ, it is based on being a faithful servant and sharing what we can about God when the opportunity presents itself. We are the planters and waterers, but God is the one who makes things grow and increase.

So next time you feel like a failure in witnessing, remember it was never up to you, but instead what Christ can do through you. Instead of claiming the results as your own, whether good or bad, rather focus on learning from each conversation so you can better prepare yourself for the next one.

The next step is to pray for God to make the seeds you have sewn grow and increase.

Always be ready to defend your confidence [in God] when anyone asks you to explain it. However, make your defence with gentleness and respect.  
1 Peter 3:15



## MY RESPONSE

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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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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