

Intro and opening questions - feedback

- The problem

- Many will not step foot in a church
- because they don't know anyone
 - because Jesus is irrelevant (to them)
 - ...

= **First contact evangelism**

- Presuppositions about evangelism

Its

- Relational
- The job of the local church
- A big part of discipleship
- For every member

- Our context is...

almost entirely residential...
But, not high rise!

- The process (?) -

- **A letter** - give a chance to read through
 - quite formal, but friendly
 - Opt out, but also opt in

Introduces the idea of...

A getting-to-know-you conversation with a couple of people from church

- **A conversation** -

No script - otherwise we don't think we would listen very well.

But... a framework (use notes)

- **A card** - We then feedback the conversations, and I type some disjointed notes into my laptop. One of the staff of our church will then spend typically half an hour per conversation, preparing one of these:

This is where I'd like you to do some work...

Some more benefits of this approach:

- It's **flexible** - it can work with few or many
- It's **regular** - we've found that a rolling program is better, because we can always think of reasons not to do evangelism. And it will have more momentum, and communicates more about the culture you are trying to create.

- It's **transferrable** - it equips christians in the kind of conversations they will be having in the week.
- It's **representative** - as in: it really will get you connecting with the different people in your area - whereas some attractions models will attract those who like what you put on.

Some drawbacks...

Difficult to involve two main groups - the first is parents of young children, and the second is the very frail elderly.

Bottleneck is not fruit, but follow up!

- What to expect...

Mostly the conversations start with the more superficial, and move towards the deeper, more personal, **but...** there are some notable exceptions!

- **Religious** (Eastern) - religion is upfront, (its family life that is too personal/no-go)
- **White working class** - gladly disclose the juicy family scandal ("You won't believe what my husband did... he ran off with my best friend") but religion is off limits.

- My first impressions of door to door...

“I had never done anything like this before. It was a new experience to me. But as I met with the team it was really easy to follow, in terms of understanding what we're doing and why we're doing it. The partnerships also really helped. I was partnered first with Nat, then with George. I found both to be great communicators. (This obviously really helps). But with the partnerships there is an understanding who starts the conversation and follow up. The open question helps get the conversation up and running. Have you ever had any experience of religion or with the church? This question is a good opener.”

Initial reservations about speaking with people door to door:

- People are going to think I'm some weird Bible basher/ think badly of me
- I don't know what to say to people
- I don't want to have to try and convince people to go to church
- People might be angry with me and unwelcoming

What surprised me when I had conversations:

- Some people are more friendly, open to conversation than you would think
- The Spirit emboldens us to say the right words - and He gives us the opportunities to begin with - He prepares the hearts of the people and we pray for Him to do that before we go out
- The Spirit also can take away our shame, embarrassment and self-consciousness - making me think less of myself and more about Jesus and wanting to share Him with the lost