

Conversation Starter *For the week of May 11 to 17, 2008*

This Week's Theme: Becoming A Christian

Reading #1: John 14:6

Reading #2: Revelation 22:12

There are some who claim that becoming a Christian happens when people are consistently nice and pleasant. Others claim that becoming a Christian happens when people do lots and lots of good works. These people would say: "As long as I help others and do lots of nice things then God will notice and let me in." In other words, "If I finish life with more 'check marks' rather than 'x's', then this will please God and He will let me in." And what about those who believe becoming a Christian is primarily based upon faithful church attendance and financial giving to the church? The following words of Jesus show us that these people are in error too: *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."* (John 14:6) Becoming a Christian, then, has nothing to do with how good we are or which church we attend or how much money we give to the Lord's work, but it is solely based on having a friendship with Jesus ... with making a personal commitment to Him ... choosing to follow Him as your Lord and Saviour. Do you know a neighbour, a relative, a co-worker, a friend or someone in an organization to which you belong who does not yet know Jesus? If so, then perhaps God wants you to tell them how a friendship with Jesus is possible. Perhaps God wants you to share with them how you came to know Christ. Perhaps God wants you to mention how entering into His kingdom is possible. So, then, what are you waiting for? Jesus will reward those who faithfully proclaim the good news about Him: *"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with Me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done."* (Revelation 22:12.)

1. Are you afraid to tell others about your friendship with Jesus? If so, what are you afraid of? Are you able to identify the 'root cause' of your fear?
2. Do you feel prepared enough to tell others about Jesus? If no, how will you know when you are adequately prepared?
3. How can your church help you grow in your ability to tell others how they can become a Christian?
4. Why is it not possible to come to God the Father "except through" Jesus?
5. Why is Jesus "the way and the truth and the life" and not someone else?
6. In what ways did others contribute to your growth in understanding more about Jesus before you became a Christian?
7. How has becoming a Christian helped you?

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