

NOT ROCKET SCIENCE—Part Two  
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The previous article recounted several recent experiences with people who made decisions to become followers of Jesus. Several common threads surface in the stories. People come to Jesus across bridges—God’s people, those who are already followers of Jesus, provide bridges and connections to Jesus. People do not accidentally become disciples—people follow Jesus intentionally. People follow Jesus because they come to know Jesus. Simply put: people must be taught. People who do not recognize God and respect God cannot respond to God.

The church has made evangelism too hard. Perhaps we have buried our heads in the sand and refused to see the simplicity and workability of God’s plan. We have focused on just about everything except the need to help people become disciples of Jesus. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. The heart of God is focused on reestablishing relationship with his fallen creation. God is not willing that any should perish. God wishes all men to come to the knowledge of the truth.

The heart of the modern church is too often far from the heart of God. The purpose of God too seldom guides our activities. We make a lot of contacts and people come to services, and people leave as lost as they came. We do not demonstrate caring at the most profound spiritual level: “You can know I genuinely care about you because I care about your soul and your eternity.” Our “best friends” are not Christians and we never mention him to them. We give up on the purpose of God, yet Jesus came and gave everything in order that God’s will might be done.

Every church needs caring activities. We must communicate to people that we care. We can have special events that say we care. We can communicate caring in the times we assemble with visitors in our midst. We can communicate caring in the things we do institutionally or corporately such as benevolence. We can communicate caring when visitors come among us in small groups, Bible classes, and other more personal settings. But....the best way to communicate caring is by sharing the bread of life. Genuine caring is demonstrated best by what we do as individuals. Genuine caring calls those we love to follow the one who is the way, the truth, and the life.

Eventually, however we must move from sharing to caring. We show that we care by what we share. Will you tell someone this week how much you care? Will you demonstrate caring? In the case of Enrique (see the first article), I was only a visitor, but I saw him standing aloof. I found him, I spoke to him, I answered questions about the Bible, I listened to his story, I encouraged him, and I made certain there was someone else who would pick up where I left off. The result is predictable: through continuing contacts, relationship-building, Bible study, and loving, caring actions, he learned about Jesus, and within a week decided to follow him.

The old well-known song says it all, “If the name of the Savior is precious to you, if his care has been constant and tender and true....will you not tell it today?”