

Views from the Pews: Sharing our faith

A refugee is someone who has been removed from their home environment and displaced. On this 'Refugee Sunday' we think, not just of those who feel they are outsiders in their country, but also all who feel a sense of estrangement and not belonging. I can't imagine what it would be like to be a refugee, but prior to becoming a Christian at age 28 I certainly felt a need for community and belonging. And the church has provided that for me. So this year I decided to run a "share your faith" group which meets here in the Cathedral Centre on Saturdays at 9.00am.

The idea of the "Share the Faith" group is to talk and pray about ways we think we can do this in a natural way that suits our personality. Myself, I firmly believe that any non-believer can come to faith as long as they are prepared to look at the Bible with an open mind. I have seen this happen – not because I have a particularly winning personality, or a special gift, but rather because I use the scriptures. I just present verses to unbelievers and ask them questions. God does the rest !

Do you trust the Bible to be divine in origin? If you do then you can see people come to faith, because the Biblical authors wrote what they wrote for this very reason (John 20:31). Of course the Bible comes to us through the human authors, with their particular personalities and set within particular cultures. Nevertheless, when an unbeliever comes face to face with its words, they cannot deny they are being confronted with truth that is timeless.

Sharing our faith may sound a little daunting. But it can be fun. Non believers sometimes come up with the funniest answers – like the time I asked someone what they thought was the one thing they needed to do before they could experience divine forgiveness: and the answer came back - "sin".

Maybe you have questions regarding the truth of the Bible. That is fine. Ours is a discussion group and we can all feel free to have our own views. Ultimately we are doing this not for ourselves, but for those we want to see come to faith - so we will all want to do this in a way that works for them – whether they be neighbours, friends, or even strangers and refugees.

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