

Life is in the Small Talk

By Mike Foster

How many of us are scared to share our faith because we don't have "the speech" memorized? Who knows we might say something stupid, say the wrong thing or forget a large portion of what we are "supposed" to say?

I'll admit, not feeling good about "the speech" has kept me from talking to others about Jesus. My other fear is that I'm often trying to manipulate them or give them some sort of robotic, contrived speech, neither of which is generally helpful in the conversion process.

So how do we go from manipulation to nudging people towards Jesus?

Small talk. You might be thinking, what? Yep, that is right. The "white noise" of conversation. All the talk about the weather, the kids, the bills, or the game are all important foundational stones that may lead to later conversations about "ultimate" sorts of things like faith.

We have placed too much emphasis on the "initial" (introductions, etc.) and "ultimate" (faith and salvation) conversations that we have left out the middle ground where people determine if we are "safe" enough to trust us with the "ultimate" conversation. We have made our God conversations all about holiness and avoiding sin that people don't think that God cares about their everyday life, and who wants to worship a God that doesn't care (I'm guessing nobody). When we rush to the "ultimate" conversation, we communicate to others that we don't care about the details of their life. People get the clues about Jesus already from those who claim to follow and worship him.

Jim Henderson, in his book *a.k.a. Lost* (reprinted as *Evangelism without Additives*) gives us four things we can do

to better connect with those far from God:

1. **Ask Questions**- Jesus continually puts the attention on others by asking them questions. The Gospels never present Jesus as a guru who has all the answers. Maybe we should try giving fewer answers and asking more well placed questions.

2. **Make small talk**- Not every conversation has to convey useful and important conversation. Neither should we become meaning addicts, seeking information in every verbal exchange. Enjoy the conversation for the sake of the conversation. Realize that because you took the time to engage in small talk today, you might have the opportunity to help them with faith issues later.

3. **Practice normal talk**- Too often we say things that could be considered "insider" language. Use normal English when you talk to others about your life. Your "daily walk" doesn't describe your devotional life to someone who is far from God. To them it sounds like your exercise regimen.



4. **Say "Wow!"**- If someone you are talking to says something shocking and you don't know what to say, say "Wow!" This will give you a chance to collect your thoughts before saying something potentially offensive, and who doesn't like hearing someone say "Wow!" after something they have said. It's like saying, "Tell me more." Try that next time when one of God's missing children shakes your worldview.

Don't rush past the small talk. Life is in the small talk.

From smallgrouptrader.com

Life group prayer and praise

- I have a growth on my jaw bone that is causing me pain, please pray for me. ~ **Anita Hansbrough**
- **The Keeps, Steve and Jennifer**, have a burden to pray for peace and reconciliation between **Israel and Palestine** and would like you to join them.
- Please pray for my 18 yr old daughter **Amanda Peterson** who is suffering from depression and who has suicidal tendencies. She is being treated but needs to be put on different medication. Pray for a doctor and a counselor to be able to fully help her overcome this. ~**Debra Waldron**
- **Shain and Joanne Beecher-VanHorn** would like prayer for their upcoming move which has put them in a financial bind—please pray for wisdom and guidance in finding a home and in their upcoming decisions.
- As you know, our son-in-law **Al Carter** had a stroke on 3/29/09 and is totally paralyzed. We are requesting long-term prayer for him and his family. We believe in miracles and know what God can do—we are believing in one for him! ~ **Lysle and Lois Pickard**
- Please pray for **my son** that God will soften his heart. ~ **Paul Abbitt**
- Please continue to pray for **my dad's** health. Could you please pray for **my sister** who is coming from New York on Thursday. Pray also, for my family as we have mom's service on Friday the 19th. ~**Sharon Young**
- Pray for my family and me to have strength to overcome the loss of my mom and now my grandma. ~**Mary Condon**
- Please pray that a door would open for **Ed** to have a stable job. We are in need of a home. ~ **Ed & Lynn Biggs**
- Please pray for the **Knospe family**, especially **Kyla** who is having some issues with her breathing and needs to undergo a bronchoscopy. Also pray for **Casie** as she is expecting and due in February. ~ **Shelly Rohde**
- Goalie for Brian's hockey team, **Jerry** has asked FBC to pray for his wife, **Heather** who just got diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Please continue to pray for the pain in my lower back .~ **Carolyn Kelly**

EASTER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday - March 28th, 9 & 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday - April 1st, 7:00 pm

Good Friday - April 2nd, 6:00-8:00 pm

Easter Sunday - April 4th, 9 & 10:30 am

Pray for our Military

- Jonathan Michaels Estrella— son of Sharon Boswell.
- Jason Bjazevich—Megan Owenby's husband—Army Special Forces— Stationed in N. Carolina.
- Joel Ellis—son of John & Midge —Serving in Iraq.
- Scott Harpell—son of Brian & Lynne— Stationed at Fort Carson, CO.
- Aaron Weston—nephew of Ken and Kathy—Stationed in San Diego.
- Eric Schmidt — son of Gene and Pat Schmidt — Camp Fallujah, Iraq.
- Benjamin Lagonia—dear friend of the Naylor family—stationed in Manitoba.
- David Coyle—son of Karen Mark— residing in Seattle, member of the National Guard.
- Adam Flynn—a young Marine safely home and out of military.
- Brett Love—grandson of Wilma—Army National Guard-Serving at home.
- Robin Swartz - Serving in the military - currently home in Everett.
- Christian Chmielewski—nephew of JoAnn Couturie' - in the Marines.
- ENS Andrew E. Timpner (fiancé to Christin Suthard) on deployment with USS Momsen.
- Devin Abbitt—nephew of Paul Abbitt - Marine, stateside.
- Duane Neyens—brother to Kathy Chapman—Nat. Grd. Afghanistan.
- Philip Ankney-LCPL Afghanistan Cousin of MaryAnn Peterson.
- Jeffrey Lillard—son of Barbara Lillard — Srg. In Army, Stationed in Afghanistan.
- Aaron Chmielewski— joined the Marines. Nephew of JoAnn Couturie



Life Group Happenings

All in the Family



by florence miller

We received this note in the office from **Bill Decker**: Last Sunday, our daughter **Patti (Ingalls)** was walking her dog **Lily** on the Everett Community College grounds when Lily started pulling on her leash away from their path. Finally Patti followed Lily and heard a faint "help". At the bottom of some steps lay an older woman with a badly bruised face and a smashed shoulder. Patti called 911 and help arrived and the lady was transported to Colby Campus Hospital.

The strange part of this story is—exactly one year ago (2/19/09) Patti and Lily were awarded a *Certificate of Honor* from the Police Dept. for thwarting an attempted robbery—the second part, the injured lady happens to be the great grandmother of one of Patti's students at Whittier Grad School!

Update from Lou and Pat: Had to tell you all that Lou and Gama found the most perfect pickup and bought it today!! It's a 2000 Ford F150, very low mileage (64,000 miles – not kilometers), good body shape, runs great, etc., etc., and the price was under what we had planned to spend!!

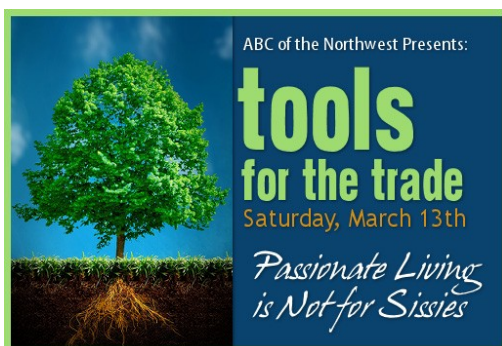
The details of the search are even more interesting. Gama stopped by a neighbor's house when he noticed this truck in the driveway, asked if he was interested in selling it. Turned out he was. A pastor had given it to him as partial payment for a house he was selling to the pastor. It's been sitting in the driveway for a long time, since the neighbor doesn't need it.

And, God's timing is perfect! Lou and Gama needed to get cans of diesel fuel out to the property by Wednesday (planning to break ground on Wednesday!!), so having the truck now is perfect timing for doing that. Many, many people have been praying for just the right truck – thank you to each of you and thank you to God. Now, the joke is, "Let's see. What can we pray for next?" We wait in anticipation for the next answer to prayer. He is faithful – and He continues to show us that this project is His.

This from Florence in sunny California: I'm having a good time with my two sons and daughter-in-law here in So. Cal. The first three days were hot - in the 80's but now it's quite cold and rains some of the time. But today we went to Anza Borrego desert where the sun was shining and warm, we ate lunch in - if you can believe it-in a genuine French restaurant - in the desert- owned and run by bonified Frenchmen. My "kids" are gourmet cooks also so there will be pounds to lose.

We are going to be updating your information and picture for the **in-house directory**. Please stop by the booth in the Pacific Room and get your picture taken and fill out the form. There is no charge for this picture and we will not be making it available to the public, it is just for our Roll Call data base program. If you have any questions please feel free to call the office at 425.259.9166.

Get your picture taken on Sunday, in the Pacific Room, for the new directory



March 13th
Manette Community Church-Bremerton
with: **Dr. Clay Ford, Cheryl Ford & Hannah Ford**



May 14-15
The Summit Church in Boise, ID
Special Guest Speaker, **Efrem Smith**


Lifegroup Contributing Opportunities

USHER CAPTAIN 2009:

March—Darrell Olson
 Marc Owenby
 April— Pete Sontra
 Luckey Elkins

COFFEE HOUR 2009

February 28th
 Darrell Olson
 Foundation
 March 7th
 John Mullen
 Life Group
 March 14th
 Laura Oversvee
 Women Of Purpose
 March 21st
 Kay Olson
 Home Fellowship
 March 28th
 Gene Dobson
 Klayhaya

There are still  some Offering Envelopes in the office.

Happy Birthday

February 16th,	Jeff Boggie
February 23rd,	Erin McCormick
February 24th,	Lyle Gallagher
	Scott Holo
	Holly Linder
February 27th,	Michael Hall
March 1st,	Sara Mae Zell
March 2nd,	Sherra Ellis

Lela Meadows Scholarship

ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS, COLLEGE STUDENTS, POST GRADUATE STUDENTS: Application for the 2010 Lela Meadows Scholarship are available, beginning January 4th in the church office. To be eligible to apply you need to be a current and active member in our church. Application deadline is Wednesday, **March 31st, 2010 at 4:00 pm**

Financial Update
Feb. 21st
\$14,668.60

Adult attendance: 273

Children: 9 am: 29 + 11 10:30 am 52 + 15

Youth Small Group: 12 + 4 Middle School: 18 + 3

Attention Congregation – Easter Flowers

We are fast approaching the Easter Season and will be using 6” hydrangea plants in blue and white. In the past, members have purchased these lovely plants as a remembrance for those who have passed, or to add to their own home and garden following the Easter Service at 10:30. These have a **retail price of \$25.00** with 6” pots and at least three large blooms, in white or blue. If you would like to purchase these as a memorial or addition to your own interior or exterior setting **they will be available for \$20.00**. We will just need to know how many to order. Please fill out the form below and return it with your money for the plants [we cannot place an order till the money is in hand] to Ruelyn Nelson or Barb Olson. The deadline for order is March 15th.

_____ would like to purchase ___ [] white hydrangea ___ [] blue hydrangea
 Name - please print

_____ or _____ Which will be available on Easter Sunday, April the 4th, following the 10:30 am
 contact phone number e-mail address service or may be picked up that week following.

The hydrangea plants are in 6” pots and are priced at **\$20.00** each.

Total for my order is _____. Please attach check [made out to First Baptist Church].

Thank you for your order! Please contact Ruelyn Nelson @ 425-397-9239 or Barb Olson @ 425-337-2452 with any questions.

