

An unqualified success

I went to church as a young girl although I do not remember much about it the thing that stuck in my mind the most was the pretty coloured stickers that we used to get after each Sunday School lesson. I do not remember much about the teaching - they were probably not the most interesting lessons in the world.

We eventually moved to Harlow where I continued to go to Church, and actually had confirmation lessons. By then I was 15 years old and my Mum was expecting her fifth child who was born at the beginning of March. Three weeks later my Mum died. I did not go back to church for many years because I believed that God had taken my Mum away and there was nobody to tell me any different.

It was not until my youngest son started school that I was willing to try church again. Neil and Darren both went to a church school and they went to church for a service once a week. One day after school Darren came out and told me that he had seen Jesus in church. Wow I thought my son has had a vision!! But in fact he had promoted the vicar to a higher rank. I felt very ashamed that my son did not know the difference between the Vicar and Jesus Christ. So I started to take them each Sunday and as they went off to Sunday school I would sit in church bored out of my brain.

After about a year three people from the church asked if they could come and see me and talk about their faith. I was a single parent by this time so I was glad of the company. They duly arrived at 8pm and we sat down with a drink. As they shared their faith it was as though a light shone in their faces as they spoke of this person Jesus who obviously had made a big impact on their lives. For the first time in my life, at the age of 33 years, the gospel message made sense and I understood what people meant when they talked about asking Jesus into their lives. Also, after many years of being afraid of death having faced it at a very young age, I understood that if I accepted Christ's wonderful offer of eternal life I need never be afraid again.

The team left me to think about things for three days and came back to see me. Those three days were the most difficult days of my life. But when they returned I knew what I must do and I gave my life to Christ.

I have been working as a pastoral assistant at Christ Church now for about 9 years. I have been so blessed by God in all of my work. I am not at all academic but have been teaching EE at the church for at least 18 years. I have lost count of the number of people who have come to faith through the programme. It has to be the easiest way ever to share the gospel so that anyone can understand. It was hearing the gospel in an EE presentation that saved my life and brought me to Jesus. It was the simple but clear way that the team who came were able to present it to me.

As I look back I cannot imagine life without Christ. Bringing up children He was my lifeline. Facing divorce and feeling rejected by someone I loved. Then facing the death of a brother

who was only 45 years old - especially when I was asked to take his funeral. But God saw me through that, He never left my side and with His guidance I was able to share the gospel with over 200 people. Three people came to faith through that service.

I have been able to use that clear gospel presentation in all sorts of situations - church services, one-to-one, and even in small groups. I have used it on Baptism visits for many years, where parents really need to understand the gospel before making baptismal promises before God. And I remember sitting with a group of people on a long train journey from Cornwall when I was asked about my hobbies. I told them that more than anything I enjoyed sharing God's word with people - which I then proceeded to do. At least one person came to faith after that gospel presentation.

I also believe that EE is successful because you can learn it and understand it whether you are an academic or you are somebody without much education at all. You can have a go at learning EE, participating in as many programmes as you wish. For the last six years I have taught the programme to some of the most highly qualified people that one can meet at All Nations Christian College. Doctors, nurses, teachers and even vicars! You would be surprised at the ignorance of even those people when it comes to sharing their faith with the ordinary people of this world.

EE also has a unique way of using peoples' personal testimonies - making them down to earth and more natural. Unless you have used it you will never understand the joy of seeing people come to a faith that is everlasting because for the first time in their lives they really understand the gospel message. Once you have learned the presentation you never forget it. You just need to put your personality on it, and make it your own. Then, wherever you go, you have with you one of the most valuable tools that you will ever need.

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Jan lives in Ware, Hertfordshire where she works as pastoral assistant at Christ Church.