

Family Evenings – Introductory Talk, and the Mission of Jesus

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November 14 and 16, 2012



Family Evenings to share the Principle with new and existing guests.

This week was a very inspiring week for us to see God's spirit working in a variety of ways - through the consistency of effort to reach out to others, through the internal unity of our members, through our making the effort to do street witnessing in the city centre, and through the combined effort of a number of members to create a good atmosphere for our guests to receive the Principle.

On Wednesday morning, Patricia spent some time on the phone with one member who has been consistently reaching out to people in spite of difficult personal circumstances, encouraging her to continue her efforts and to realise how many good people she knows, etc. Amazingly, someone she had met some months earlier, a Christian lay-preacher, came with his whole family that evening to hear the Principle! Also on the Wednesday morning, Patricia went out on the street in Birmingham city centre, witnessing with another sister. It was not always easy, but they were able to meet several good people and take their names and addresses. Then, again, in the evening a previous contact of that sister came to our Principle study.



Singing together to start the evening

Not only that, but another lady, a guest of Patricia was finally able to come for a Family Evening, after quite a number of times inviting her. She herself had spent quite some time in Africa, and she was exactly the right person for that particular occasion, to connect to the other guests and with everyone feeling comfortable together. Through our collective effort, including music provided by our 'resident musician' Tom Pritty, and with the wonderful quality of the guests, it was possible to give an Introductory Talk quite freely, and to share deeply with everyone, to touch their hearts in a way that made them eager to come back and study again.

On the Friday evening, we were privileged to have 21 guests representing 17 different nationalities (Eritrea, Rwanda, Peru, Sweden, Poland, Rwanda, Jamaica, South Africa, India, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Belgium, France, Uganda, Ghana and the UK!) come to hear about the Life and Mission of Jesus. Altogether, we were 31 people with great support from first and second generation. The atmosphere was really wonderful, not least because of the Christian foundation which lay behind many of the guests. Again, the atmosphere was very conducive to sharing deeply, especially

about such an emotive topic as Jesus' life story.



Enjoying hearing about the 'Prince of Peace'

We sang a couple of songs to begin and join our hearts together, with our second generation Tommy Pritty on the guitar, then introduced ourselves briefly sharing our name and country of origin. Something as simple as this can often help to create a nice sense of togetherness, to set the scene for what is to follow. Everyone was quite attentive, and there was a good rapport between David, presenting the Principle point of view about the drama of Jesus' life, and the audience, with occasional comments and questions during the presentation which were to the point and well received. Feeling God's spirit in the air, and sharing intimately, the time sped by and, before we knew it, it was 9.30pm! After some more comments from the audience, and a few points of clarification, one guest from Zimbabwe, Catherine, was moved to sing a couple of Christian songs for us which really touched the heart.



Catherine sings a Christian song from Africa

We then shared some food and refreshments, served by our young people, and there was the usual buzz of conversation and discussion during our fellowship together, before everyone departed with many hugs and warm 'goodbyes'. Until we meet again



Serving refreshments to the guests