

CONVERSATIONS



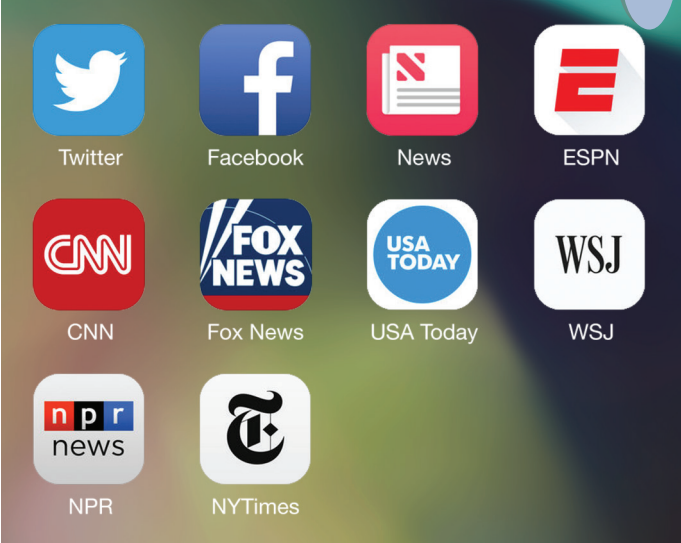
WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR NEWS?

One of the quirky questions we ask during the interview process with ministry residents is where they get their news. This discussion always reveals things about the candidate’s cultural awareness and where they tend to seek information. I am old enough to remember the 6:00 local news followed by the national news broadcast. Other than radio and newspaper, these were the only sources of news at the time. Now we have multiple channels dedicated solely to news and it is everywhere we turn. When speaking to these young candidates, the most popular answer we get to the where do you get your news question is Facebook.

This is reflective of how much the world is changing before our very eyes. News is one example. Think about how you consume television, get sports scores, take pictures, listen to music, shop or get travel information. These are all dramatically different than how you did those things just ten years ago. Many happen on your phone and through an app.

The changing nature of media and information means we have to continue to adapt if we want to reach as many as possible. The positive aspect of these changes is that some of them are very economical and allow us to reach a more global audience. **Last month, the ministry had conversations with people from over 140 different countries and for the first time ever we had more online chats come from outside the United States than from within.**

This is a reminder that trying to distribute information the “old fashioned” way is only going to get you so far. We see the same trend in sharing the Gospel. We continue to see people find us and reach out to the ministry through Christian radio. However, the large majority of people we have shared the



Gospel with in the past year came from online advertising, Pandora satellite radio and Facebook.

The Gospel is timeless. Where we share the message is changing and we need to be ready to adapt if we want to stay in front of culture. Sites like Facebook provide a ready-made audience that needs help and wants to talk. For all the debate over who is using and not using Facebook, it recently went over 2 billion users. The average mobile phone user now checks it fourteen times a day and spends 40 minutes looking at it.

A recent survey found that the average user has 155 “Friends” but believe only 4 would be there if they needed help. We see this reflected with loneliness being one of the most popular conversation topics that we receive. **We all look for friendship, connection and meaning in different ways but it usually comes back to each of us wanting real hope. We know the one true source of hope is found through a relationship with Jesus Christ.** May we continue to find the most relevant, effective and efficient means of spreading the invitation to talk about our Lord and Savior.

trust that the Holy Spirit is with us and wants to use us in fulfilling the Great Commission. **The reality is we don’t often pray for opportunities to share the Gospel.** We also start believing those lies that Satan is constantly spreading. Do any of these sound familiar to you?

“I am afraid and don’t have all the answers.”
“I do not know everything about the Bible.”
“I am not confident I can get someone to believe.”
“My gifts are elsewhere so I will let others do that.”
“I am not sure where to start.”
“I don’t want to upset anyone.”
“I have some things I need to work on myself before I am ready.”

We have heard all of these and remind each volunteer that **God does not measure us on the results, but instead we are measured only by the faithfulness of our effort.** God brings about salvation and not us. We should think of ourselves as His instrument and not the determining factor. When we buy into these excuses we create an unwinnable equation where we will never be ready. Jesus did not say we all must save someone but he did command each of us to share the Gospel. If you know the Gospel then you can do this.

If you are not involved in regular evangelism we encourage you to pray about joining us. We can provide a steady stream of opportunities to share. We will provide training and resources to help you feel confident and capable. You can find out more about volunteering on our web site at <https://needhim.org/get-involved/>. Once you do this your walk with Christ will take on a new perspective and you will never be the same.

“THEREFORE GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND TEACHING THEM TO OBEY EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND SURELY I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE.”
– MATTHEW 28:19-20



How are you?

I’m good thank you. I’m a new follower of Christ. I was wondering if I could get some advice on how to tell my parents.

I assume your parents are not believers?

my parents are muslim. I left Islam 5 years ago

So what would you say to a stranger who asked you why you put your faith in Jesus Christ?

Jesus gave his life so we could be saved! He gives me hope and strength - its amazing! the resurrection of Jesus overwhelms me!

This truth should be good news to your parents. Jesus is more than a prophet. they are part of a faith that offers no clear path to forgiveness or salvation. God is loving and cares so much about us that he came to pay for our sins.

My parents would never accept it. They think Christians go to hell.

We can share truth but the Holy Spirit saves. Jesus tells us to share the Good News. Pray that the Holy Spirit will open their hearts as he opened yours.

I’m afraid of my parents never speaking to me again.

That must be hard.

leaving islam is seen as the worst sin ever to muslims so my parents will hate me forever

My reaction as a parent would be to try to understand your decision before i simply condemn you and walk away.

This is what my Church has taught me

You have come to see Islam has no real answers. can you show them how the bible does have those answers?

Ive tried to bring up how Islam is not the truth in the past to them, but they get angry at me and tell me I’m going to hell if i question islam

sounds like you need to keep praying for God to soften their hearts

I have prayed for them many times;(

Don’t give up. Unanswered prayer is a call to come closer, look deeper, and believe more certainly. When we do, we find God is sufficient for every need. I encourage you to keep praying for your parents to find Jesus.



WHEN DID YOU LAST WITNESS FOR CHRIST?

The lifeline of the ministry is volunteers. People like to hear about new media and creative ways to invite the lost to learn more about Jesus. The ministry has also invested in technology to allow us to talk with people all over the world in a safe, secure, and seamless fashion. However, the heart of the ministry is conversation. Specifically, patient and loving conversation that shares the Gospel.

“THEN HE SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, “THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL BUT THE WORKERS ARE FEW. ASK THE LORD OF THE HARVEST, THEREFORE, TO SEND OUT WORKERS INTO HIS HARVEST FIELD.”
– MATTHEW 9:37-38

So it goes without saying that in order for the ministry to keep growing there must be more people willing to share the Gospel. The challenge is many Christians are becoming less intentional about sharing the Good News. Recently, one of our board members shared a story about how his church is searching for a new senior pastor. One of the questions the search committee asked candidates is when was the last time they led someone to faith in Jesus Christ. This board member was shocked that less than half of those interviewed could remember when they last prayed with someone to accept Jesus as their Savior.

“HE SAID TO THEM, ‘GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO ALL CREATION.’
– MARK 16:15

Evangelism is difficult. Satan loves to plant seeds of doubt making it seem even more daunting. The biggest mistake we make is to try to do this through our own power. Whether you are considering volunteering, or how to have a conversation with someone lost, we must



VOLUNTEER PROFILE: ANITA CLOWERS

Anita Clowers in one of our most tenured volunteers. She has faithfully served the ministry for over 17 years and we wanted you to hear a little about her story and how she wants to encourage others to serve.

When did you start volunteering with Need Him?

I started in 2000 after hearing about it from one of the pastors at my church. He shared about a ministry that was sharing the Gospel with people calling them on the phone. I thought that I could share the Gospel but my concern was whether I could do this in faith and not in my own flesh.

Do you remember your first conversation?

I don't really remember the first one. I remember we would come into the office back then to volunteer and there were four of us taking calls. We would talk to each other during breaks and lean on each other for verses but now all that happens online in the volunteer community.

How often do you get online now?

For the past nine years, I have volunteered on the phone for three hours every Friday afternoon. Being able to do this remotely from home has made keeping this schedule easier and I am more relaxed in the comfort of my own home.

Do you prefer phone calls or online chats?

I prefer phone calls as I feel I can better connect with the caller. As a mother of five, I can hear their pain, attitude and the condition of their heart differently than an online chat. When I hear someone crying it makes me stop and be that much more intentional about listening to them and how I respond.

What was your most memorable conversation?

It is really hard to think of just one. Recently I spoke with a man that had given up on himself and was really down. Despite feeling like he had nothing, he was fighting against the idea of surrendering his life to Christ. However, when he eventually prayed to accept Jesus he became a new man and was completely different than the person I had been speaking with leading up to that prayer. The transformation was a reminder of God's love and power.



What would you tell someone wondering if they can do what you do?

We can all do this. My capacity for loving others has grown beyond what I thought I was capable. This grows you in so many ways and I really can't think of a conversation where I did not get more than I gave. God is still working on me and this is a powerful way to honor Him. This reminds me that when we walk in faith through God's Word we will be blessed. I think every believer should do this. Need Him is the best "seminary" there is.

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Thank you.

We continue to receive quarterly reward checks resulting from your online shopping. If you haven't already signed-up, please go to smile.amazon.com and select need Him Global as your benefiting charity.

Many of you remember our past Director of Volunteers, Christine Tijerina. Christine left Need Him Global in June of 2016 when she married Vincent Yoder and moved to Ohio.

On July 1, 2017, Christine and Vincent were blessed with a precious baby boy, James Vincent Yoder. James arrived at 7:56pm, weighing 8.1 ounces and is 20 inches long. Congratulations to all!

