



MINISTRIES

While working in Slovenia recently, I was able to watch an amazing thing happen. A woman had attended the new church

plant for quite some time. Her faith seemed to be strong, yet something was missing. While leading the church through evangelism training, I asked the participants to write out their conversion testimony. After giving some guidelines to help them remember and write succinctly, I set the timer to only give them a



few minutes. She sat there, just looking up as if to think deeply for a minute. Then she made eye contact with me and asked a question.

“What if the testimony you have is that it was a process

and you can’t pinpoint a time that you became a Christian?” How often this happened may surprise some of you. Yet, many times in a group of people who claim to be believers, when asked to pinpoint the moment of salvation they struggle. Many of us in cultures where church and belief in God are synonymous with Christianity have a hard time realizing the moment of conversion. There typically are two reasons for this. The first is that the events prior to conversion and the events after conversion do not look all that different on the outside. If you were a child growing up in church and conversion came during a church event, it is hard to pinpoint the moment without tracing the history of our journey. Usually after some time of thinking through dates and ages and even the events surrounding our conversion, we can pinpoint a specific time.

However, the second reason for not being able to pinpoint a conversion moment is far more significant. Many people have been in a process of discovery about God for some time. As this journey progresses, the level of

understanding grows and the security of our own understanding becomes a substitute for actual conversion. Many people know about the Lord and His work among



people. Many know about the church and how to fit in to the weekly rituals. Yet, nothing apart from the radical work of the Holy Spirit bringing conviction of sin and repentance can lead us to a place of conversion. Romans 10:9 clearly states that confession and belief are the two elements required for salvation. Confessing Jesus as Lord means more than a verbal agreement. Out of the heart - belief that Jesus is who He says He is - brings about a confession with the mouth that He is the Lord of our lives. This confession removes ourselves from the throne of our heart and places Jesus there!

After a few moments of discussion, the young lady in our training event realized she had a bit more to wrestle with than her story. She admitted she had never made a confession and was still unsure of where her heart was. This, as common as it is in the church, is a place everyone must come to when considering eternity. God has offered a way for our eternity to be secure through His Son. Yet, we have to reach a place where we allow the Holy Spirit to break our pride and take us to the feet of the cross to admit our rebellion and surrender our hearts.

These days in Slovenia reminded me of the urgency of sharing our stories.



God has given each of us a story of His interruption into our lives. He has intentionally entered into our journey in a specific way to bring us to Himself. We need



to sit down and remember the power of His



conversion, the story He has given us. We each need to intentionally plan how to share our story and then put ourselves in a position to share it regularly! Have you done that? Have you

recently shared your testimony? Have you sat with the Lord for a time and intentionally thought about your story and how this journey of faith began? Have you considered those around you every day who may call you friend? Have they heard your story?

Every time we are on the field serving the church, the opportunity for faith stories is on the top of the



agenda. Sharing our stories is often times the easiest way to introduce the Gospel and to reveal how God transforms a life. I challenge you to intentionally step out on faith and share your story with

someone this week. As I do in training, I will challenge you to find several friends whom you know are believers and share your story

with them. Allow the time of sharing to remind you of the moment of salvation and the joy that filled you during those early days. You may be surprised at how the time brings a new level of friendship and unity. I also challenge you to find several friends whom you do

not know where they will spend eternity and share your story with them. Allow the Holy Spirit to use you and watch what the Spirit can do through you. If we



become intentional with telling others our stories, we will fulfill the call to make Him known. As a result, we can reach our world and teach His Word!

Two specific trips over the next few months are focused on sharing our stories in another context. In July we will host a trip to Xela, Guatemala. Working with our longtime friend and translator, Patty Ajanel, we will partner with the local church to reach the community with the Gospel. In addition, a trip to Slovenia is planned for the end of October and will continue to build on the foundation laid by God through Wade and Joan Killingsworth. If you can speak English and love to talk, this is a great opportunity for you! Join us on the field to see His name be praised among the nations.

2023 Mission Trips

July 1-8	Guatemala	Community Outreach/Food Dist.	OPEN
October	Slovenia	Community Outreach/Evangelism	OPEN

Sign up to join a trip at www.1wayministries.org!

