

surveys

One of the things you may do on your trip is to give people the opportunity to fill out a survey. When you interact with people in this way you may be used to see a life changed within just a few minutes. As scary as it can seem to go knock on a stranger's door here are a few things that have happened when people overcome their fears and interact with someone through a survey.



Three husky young men were teamed up together to go door to door and do surveys during their mission trip. They looked more like football buddies than evangelists or "angels." But as they knocked on one of their doors the small frail little old lady who answered would let them know just how special they were.

Nervously they knocked and I am sure relaxed a little as a white-haired wizened old lady answered the door. She stared at them for a moment and then asked if they were "Angels?" She invited them in and almost in tears explained her delight in seeing them. That morning she had been praying and asked the Lord for a miracle. She needed to move a bunch of furniture and had no way of doing it for herself, until ... you guessed it, the football buddies showed up.

They gladly moved everything, enjoyed some cookies and lemonade and went on to the next house wondering what kind of adventure they would get next. She said goodbye knowing the love of her Savior and Lord in a whole new way-- be an angel today.



April was a troubled teenaged girl who has to stay at home and baby-sit younger siblings while mom worked. Our door-to-door team ended up knocking at her door. It was not too far into the survey before the girls realized this was a very open and hurting girl. From the survey, they were able to lead her to Christ that day. Before the outreach was over April had moved in with our team and was baptized during the outreach at the local swimming hole.

She was one of seven new converts from that week of outreach that started a youth group in a church that had only known pew-warming teens before. From that point, her new life began because someone knocked on her door and used a survey to open her heart to Christ.



This older woman was experiencing her first Christmas without her son and husband; they had both died unexpectedly that year. Knocking on her door gave her a chance to share that grief but also get her in contact with the local pastor. She expressed an incredible gratefulness as her mourning and growing suicidal thoughts had a chance to get help. It was just going to be a survey but it saved a life instead.



"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me" Revelation 3:20 A knock started each one of these stories. Surveys were used to open the heart and Jesus walked in and provided something that only you as His servant could-- His love for them.

"Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 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 9:35-38 There are ripe harvest fields in many locations of the world where your presence as a worker is all the Lord needs to bring in the harvest.

People like to express their opinions in this country. Utilizing a survey can open doors with those you know as well as strangers you encounter. You can use the two that are given as examples or create your own. Both of these have been helpful in giving people a chance to hear the Gospel who would not otherwise have had an opportunity.

When you use a survey, introduce yourself. “Hi, my name is Mark and I was wondering if you had a couple of minutes for a short survey.” Do not include your church’s name lest it become a barrier to some. If they ask why, tell them, “My church wants to pray for the real needs of the community and this is the best way to find out” or “We are having a special service soon and this is the topic.”

Here are the two surveys so you can see how they can open doors.

ONE — “If you were writing a dictionary, how would you define the word, ‘love’?”

This is a very simple survey, but be ready for some very complex reactions, including frustration and hopelessness. It also helps you to know the struggles that people are facing all around you with the basic issues of life. You could substitute any number of words for ‘love’ in order to determine the condition of people around you. It is also good to compile a list of the responses and offer them to those who have taken your survey. It may give you a chance for a follow-up conversation with them. When they’re finished with the survey, invite them to a special service and/or give them literature that talks about real love.

TWO — “Please answer the following survey questions. Thank you.

1. What are your three major concerns in the months ahead?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

2. How well prepared do you feel for what the future may hold?

- 1 – not at all
- 3 – somewhat
- 5 – o.k. if nothing changes
- 7 – great
- 10 – eager and waiting

3. What three resources would you turn to for help if you needed it? (people, places, institutions)

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

4. If you could get one question about your future answered, what would it be? _____

This survey is a bit more involved but can provide numerous opportunities to minister. Their responses may indicate a real need that you could either meet personally or with prayer. If the last question is of a spiritual nature, you may be able to answer that need as well. For example:

Possible answers to question 1 — “I am very concerned about our daughter who has run away from home” or “My husband has cancer.” These are definite openings to show Christ’s compassion and pray.

Possible answers to question 4 — “When I die, will I go to heaven?” You can share with them the way to assurance and give your personal testimony.

There are many other methods that will accomplish the same thing. You can ask specific spiritual questions that lend themselves to a particular topic of conversation. If you are interested in such options, you need to first get some good experience at witnessing in general. Improper uses of more advanced methods can put up barriers rather than remove them.