

Andy Cantrell

Greeting visitors and Bible studies

Andy since he was in his teens, saw church members greet visitors with these slogan phrases like, “Hey nice to have you, glad you are here.” “thanks for coming to visit us.” Yet Andy noticed visitors from the community were not asked (in a warm/tactful/personal way) certain (conversation oriented) questions like, “How are you doing?” Andy says such a question conveys interest and should be followed up (after a contact gives feedback and a response) with further social interaction. A person should (tactfully, and warmly) give questions centered around asking them, “why are you here?” Then, “what are you looking for?” then, “what’s your story?” then, “would you like to study the Bible?”

This format is ingenious. These questions are deeply connective and rapport building. They say, “I care about you,” and “I want to know more about you,” (in regard to spiritual things). Then in giving an invite to personally meet to study in connection to the personal (social) groundwork and foundation being done, it makes the invite more effective. Andy even in his teens, got Bible studies doing this approach.

When looking for a Bible lesson format as a teen, Andy Cantrell mentions doing [Ivan Stewart’s “Open Bible series.”](#) And saved souls through using this material. Andy now does evangelism workshops at the church he attends. He says training others in evangelism is important.

Luke Heard (is a young married man in his 20’s). Luke has learned “Coffee shop evangelism” from Andy Cantrell. Luke goes to the [University church of Christ](#), where I attend. He let me interview him and pick his brain on this method, (that was taught to him by Brother Andy). Here is the recorded [clip](#) if you want to listen.

Andy showed Luke how to do Coffee shop evangelism. The clip details this but I want to write this down as well. Andy has had success with doing this method. Luke said his Brother in Law, (who is also a preacher) has had success as well with using this outreach format.

Method:

1. Andy goes to the same coffee shop at the same time, 2-3 times a week.
2. He sits down at a table, gets out his Bible and opens it up.
3. Andy sits and (casually) looks at people coming in.
4. If they make eye contact with him, he’ll smile. And wave to them. If they wave back, Andy will try to say something to them. Like “hi” “good morning,” etc.
5. Usually, they are dismissive. But if they look at him, Andy thinks...”Alright I’m going to try to get this person to sit down.”
6. The person can see Andy has a Bible and its open, so the individual knows Andy is studying the Bible.
7. If Andy gets interaction he will invite that person to sit down and offer to buy them coffee.
8. When it comes to money, Andy has a “kingdom fund” where he sets money aside every single month. Just for that specific service.

9. Andy has also developed connections with the staff and those who work at the coffee shop.

Andy says the key in doing evangelism is in genuinely caring about people, about their souls, their lives, what they're going through, about who they are as uniquely created men and women of the Creator. Saving a soul is not about trying to get a notch to put on the belt. It's not about trying to get people to "join our church." It's about helping people find Jesus. Evangelism is about letting people know you care. Having empathy towards others is a powerful tool in connecting with people and in getting them to emotionally invest in you and in what you're sharing.

Resources:

Andy Cantrell is the Preacher at the Northwest church of Christ, New Hope, MN

Website link www.nwcocmn.org

His interview video from "Leading others to Christ" is at <https://leadingotherstochrist.org/interview-with-andy-cantrell>

Please know you can just sit and have Bible studies. That is what BJ Sipe does and many others. This is just the way Andy does this form of work. Many evangelists do "**Coffee shop evangelism.**" This is done by doing Bible studies in public places. It can be at coffee shops, fast food, or dine-in restaurants. Here is an uplifting evangelism video from a *young man named BJ Sipe on "Coffee shop evangelism."* www.facebook.com/leadingotherstochrist/posts/475723354145848
