

It takes time to realise that what matters most in life is *our experience of living*; not just acquiring information. Jesus said *I've come that you may enjoy your life*. Sadly, we are losing the all-embracing of conversation – in favour of the individualism of information.

What we will never find in God's vocabulary is - *you are supposed to... you are not supposed to...* God is not the slightest bit interested in *what I have done, or failed to do...* Likewise, with *Lord I'm not worthy* - God doesn't ask me to be worthy - simply to be willing. Be willing to receive what he wants to give - He said: *I have come for sinners* - even my sin is holy ground, my entitlement to Christ.

Go out and spread the Good News - what is the Good News?

The Good News is: I can call God Abba as one for whom that is real. No matter how I've lived my 3-score and ten - all God asks: *do you believe me when I say I love you?*

No mention of keeping the rules. But, if I side-line - *do you believe me*, in favour of making sure I do what is right and avoid what is wrong - *I end up with religion worshipping itself and its doctrines, instead of worshipping God*. Akin to robotic living

I'm aware of two special wake-up calls in my life - so far! Little Meg [*who is now a mother herself*] was in a first communion class. During the Mass I was trying to get the children to say thank-you! Asking leading questions proved futile - until I asked what happens when you receive a special present - silence; I said you say thank-you; Meg piped up: *no you don't, you open it!*

How right she was: I, like you, have received the special present of the Holy Spirit the gift of saying yes I do believe, help my unbelief. I've said thank-you, and sang hymns about it - but have I opened it? If I have, then those who live with me will experience 7 gifts and 12 fruits – given to me, meant for them.

A lot of hard work and effort has gone into working out systems, programs, producing documents for evangelisation - which is good; but can never be primary. When were you last asked *do you believe God loves you?* No terms and conditions. God loves you exactly as you are?

When Jesus sent the 12 they had no creeds or doctrines, no catechisms – simply spread the Good news - share with others what it is like to be with Jesus Risen from the dead! They were fortunate in seeing him and hearing him - but what drew them to him was the Holy Spirit in them - that same Spirit we have been given. Keep that primary - God says call me Abba - let it show and the rest will follow.

The second wake-up call, how we can go about this: comes from - Mycheal Judge, ofm - chaplain to NYFD. [*New York Fire Department – Killed, and listed as the first numbered victim of 9.11.*] Mycheal spent a year with us in Canterbury - we shared much; but most specially his morning offering:

*Lord, take me where you want me to go; show me who you want me to meet; tell me what you want me to say - and, keep me out of your way!*