



working together to combat homelessness in Bristol

presents

Share Your Faith

the 2015 training seminar

Either one Saturday:

16 May, 9.45 am – 5.00 pm

or three Tuesday evenings:

12, 19 & 26 May, 7.30 – 9.30 pm

Introduction

You don't have to be an evangelist to be able to share what you believe with other people. Every Christian can do this in a way that is clear, simple and attractive; that is natural and comfortable for you; and is enjoyable for the people you talk with.

You might be surprised by how much your faith is strengthened when you are able to be honest about what you believe, when you can communicate it confidently and attractively, and when you are not worried about the questions people might ask you.

While the seminar is primarily aimed at Christians who wish to share their faith more effectively, it is also suitable for those who are not Christians (or are not sure whether they are or not), but who wish to understand more clearly what Christians believe, and when it is appropriate for Christians to talk about their faith – and when it is not!

What is on offer?

This interactive seminar will **address the four basic problems** – the main reasons why Christians do not share their faith:

- They don't understand **what to do**. They think they ought to be forcing their beliefs onto unwilling people, and (quite rightly!) they don't want to do it.
- They don't know how or where to **start talking** about their faith in a natural way. If you feel uncomfortable, you will not enjoy the experience, and neither will the people you are talking with.
- They are not confident about **what to say**. If you can't summarise the gospel message in under a minute, you probably can't explain it clearly when you have an hour.
- They are afraid they will not be able to **answer the questions** that arise. What do you say about suffering, other religions, evolution, the Crusades and contradictions in the Bible?

In addition, it will give you the opportunity:

- to **explore ways of talking about your faith** that work for you,
- and to **find answers to those questions** you have always worried about.

You will also be given an easy, effective **three-stage strategy** which is natural to use and can be taken at your own pace.

Most importantly, it will not just enable you to talk with other people about what you believe – you can be confident that you are not only **telling** them about a God of love but also **demonstrating** God's love in the way you interact with them.

When can I come?

The seminar will be running twice this year. You can attend either the Saturday or the three consecutive Tuesday evenings.

Please note the dates and venues, as they have changed from those originally advertised.

- One25, Grosvenor Road
Saturday 16 May 2015, 9.45 am – 5.00 pm
- CCM, Carpenter House
Tuesday 12, 19 & 26 May 2015, 7.30 – 9.30 pm

What are the benefits?

In every area of ministry, there are two key challenges: to get started, and to improve.

If you are not already sharing your faith, this seminar will help you get started: it will not tell you what to say, but will help you to discover what is appropriate – and what will be appreciated – in the different situations where you find yourself.

If you have started, this seminar will help you explore ways to be more effective, and how the whole process can be more enjoyable for yourself and for others.

If you are not sure about your faith, or don't understand how Christians can believe such strange things, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and challenge these beliefs in a relaxed setting.

What is the cost?

The seminar (both the Saturday and the three evenings) is part of the *Helping Vulnerable People* programme, so anyone who has enrolled for the whole 2014-2015 series has already paid.

For everyone else, we are asking for a donation of £10 in advance (using the booking form overleaf) or £12 on the day. This provides the venue, a supply of tea, coffee and biscuits, and a comprehensive set of notes. If you come on the Saturday, please bring a packed lunch.

About us

This training is being arranged by BCAN (the Bristol Christian Action Network). BCAN is sponsored by the Bristol Evangelical Alliance, but aims to serve the whole church and the wider community in and around Bristol.

The seminar will be led by Paul Hazelden. Paul has been training people in different methods of evangelism since 1982, and has worked with a number of churches and evangelistic organisations. Much of the material was developed while working for Open Air Campaigners.

Further Details

For more details, or for directions to CCM or One25, please visit the BCAN web site at

www.bcan.org.uk/syf

Alternatively, you can contact BCAN at:

BCAN, 57 Avon Way, Bristol, BS9 1SL
Telephone: (07816) 893 676 Email: admin@bcan.org.uk

Bookings

Please let us know by Friday 1 May if you plan to come. You can just turn up on the day, but there may not be enough spare training notes and handouts if too many people do this.

Please send the form below with your payment to BCAN. Cheques should be made payable to 'Crisis Centre Ministries'. Feel free to photocopy this form as required; more copies are available from BCAN.

Please book me in to *Share Your Faith 2015*. I plan to attend:

() Saturday 16 May 2015, One25, 9:45 am – 5:00 pm, *or*

() Tuesday 12, 19 & 26 May 2015, CCM, 7:30 – 9:30 pm

I enclose £10 for the seminar and a set of notes (provided on the day).

Name:

Contact Details:

.....