

Individual Experiences in Receiving Phone Follow-Up Calls

1. How You Were Found

A. WHAT WAS YOUR INITIAL CONTACT WITH THE TRUTH?

I started receiving the monthly letters from the class.

2. Background

A. WHAT WAS YOUR RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND (DENOMINATION, ETC.)?

Lutheran

B. WHAT DEGREE OF INTEREST DID YOU HAVE IN YOUR FAITH?

A lot of interest. I joined the church when I was a child.

C. WERE YOU SATISFIED WITH YOUR CHURCH?

Somewhat.

D. WERE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE DOCTRINAL BELIEFS OF YOUR DENOMINATION?

I was not familiar with them. When I learned of them I did not believe that that was what we were supposed to believe, because I didn't.

E. WERE YOU A REGULAR ATTENDANT OF YOUR CHURCH?

Yes.

3. Personal Experience between Initial Contact with the Truth and Regular Class Attendance

A. WHAT WAS YOUR INITIAL REACTION TO BEING CONTACTED BY PHONE?

Skeptical, cautious, leery, mistrusting. Enjoyed the conversation, though, and found it very enlightening and informative. I was very impressed with the Scriptural knowledge.

B. HOW MANY TIMES WERE YOU CONTACTED BY PHONE?

Numerous times.

C. DID THESE CALLS INSPIRE YOU TO READ THE TRUTH MATERIAL YOU HAD RECEIVED?

I read the monthly letters before being contacted by phone. I didn't read the First Volume until after personal meetings were started.

1. WOULD YOU HAVE READ THIS MATERIAL ON YOUR OWN WITHOUT THIS PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT?

No.

D. DID THE PERSON WHO CALLED YOU SAY ANYTHING THAT GOT YOU THINKING ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES OR YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE LORD?

What really inspired me was the film, "For This Cause."

E. WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE PHONE CONTACT? WERE PERSONAL MEETINGS STARTED WITH YOU?

Yes.

4. Progression of Personal Development to Further Responsibility

A. HOW LONG A PERIOD ELAPSED BETWEEN THE TIME YOU WERE FIRST CONTACTED AND WHEN YOU STARTED TO COME OUT TO THE REGULAR MEETINGS?

Seven months.

B. WHAT WAS YOUR INITIAL IMPRESSION OF YOUR FIRST CLASS MEETING?

That these were just ordinary people who could have been sitting next to me in my own church. Overwhelmed.

C. DID THE CLASS MEETINGS OVERWHELM YOU, OR DID YOU UNDERSTAND THE SUBJECT MATTER BEING PRESENTED?

I understood some of it because of our personal studies.

D. DID YOU FEEL THAT HAVING PERSONAL STUDIES BEFORE ATTENDING CLASS MEETINGS WAS BENEFICIAL AS A PREPARATORY STEP TO CLASS STUDIES?

Yes—could have had more, though.

E. DID THESE PERSONAL STUDIES MOTIVATE YOU TO COME OUT TO THE REGULAR CLASS MEETINGS?

Yes.

F. WERE PERSONAL MEETINGS CONTINUED WITH YOU AFTER YOU BEGAN COMING OUT TO CLASS?

Yes.

1. IF SO, WHAT VALUE WOULD YOU PLACE ON THEM?

Highly valuable, because I like receiving individual attention in a non-threatening environment.

2. WOULD YOU HAVE CONTINUED TO COME OUT TO CLASS WITHOUT THESE PERSONAL STUDIES?

No.

5. Current Status

A. HAVE YOU MADE A CONSECRATION?

Yes.

1. IF SO, HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN CONSECRATED?

A month.

B. HAVE YOU BEEN ACTIVE IN WITNESSING?

Yes.

C. HAVE YOU BEEN USED OF THE LORD IN BRINGING ANYONE INTO THE TRUTH?

No.

6. Individual and Ecclesia Responsibilities in Follow-Up

A. IN RETROSPECT, WHAT COULD THE PERSON WHO CONTACTED YOU HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY TO HAVE BEEN MORE HELPFUL TO YOU?

Everything was fine, but more of the Brethren in my initial meetings would have helped.

B. HOW ABOUT THE CLASS? (SAME QUESTION AS ABOVE.)

Could have had more books available at the meeting instead of one person having to bring them all.

7. Additional Remarks

1. How You Were Found

A. WHAT WAS YOUR INITIAL CONTACT WITH THE TRUTH?

The State Fair in Michigan.

2. Background

A. WHAT WAS YOUR RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND (DENOMINATION, ETC.)?

I was a Presbyterian, a Lutheran, and a semi-Catholic.

B. WHAT DEGREE OF INTEREST DID YOU HAVE IN YOUR FAITH?

Obviously not to a great degree.

C. WERE YOU SATISFIED WITH YOUR CHURCH?

No way.

D. WERE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE DOCTRINAL BELIEFS OF YOUR DENOMINATION?

Not at all.

E. WERE YOU A REGULAR ATTENDANT OF YOUR CHURCH?

Sort of.

3. Personal Experience between Initial Contact with the Truth and Regular Class Attendance

A. WHAT WAS YOUR INITIAL REACTION TO BEING CONTACTED BY PHONE?

I was eager and a bit dubious.

B. HOW MANY TIMES WERE YOU CONTACTED BY PHONE?

Once.

C. DID THESE CALLS INSPIRE YOU TO READ THE TRUTH MATERIAL YOU HAD RECEIVED?

Pretty much.

1. WOULD YOU HAVE READ THIS MATERIAL ON YOUR OWN WITHOUT THIS PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT?

Yes.

D. DID THE PERSON WHO CALLED YOU SAY ANYTHING THAT GOT YOU THINKING ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES OR YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE LORD?

Yes.

E. WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE PHONE CONTACT? WERE PERSONAL MEETINGS STARTED WITH YOU?

I went to a meeting. Yes.

4. Progression of Personal Development to Further Responsibility

A. HOW LONG A PERIOD ELAPSED BETWEEN THE TIME YOU WERE FIRST CONTACTED AND WHEN YOU STARTED TO COME OUT TO THE REGULAR MEETINGS?

I came out to the regular meetings almost immediately.

B. WHAT WAS YOUR INITIAL IMPRESSION OF YOUR FIRST CLASS MEETING?

I was confused.

C. DID THE CLASS MEETINGS OVERWHELM YOU, OR DID YOU UNDERSTAND THE SUBJECT MATTER BEING PRESENTED?

They overwhelmed me.

D. DID YOU FEEL THAT HAVING PERSONAL STUDIES BEFORE ATTENDING CLASS MEETINGS WAS BENEFICIAL AS A PREPARATORY STEP TO CLASS STUDIES?

I had no personal studies before coming out.

E. DID THESE PERSONAL STUDIES MOTIVATE YOU TO COME OUT TO THE REGULAR CLASS MEETINGS?

I had no personal studies until after I began to come out to the regular class meetings..

F. WERE PERSONAL MEETINGS CONTINUED WITH YOU AFTER YOU BEGAN COMING OUT TO CLASS?

Yes.

1. IF SO, WHAT VALUE WOULD YOU PLACE ON THEM?

A great deal of value.

2. WOULD YOU HAVE CONTINUED TO COME OUT TO CLASS WITHOUT THESE PERSONAL STUDIES?

Yes, most definitely.

5. Current Status

A. HAVE YOU MADE A CONSECRATION?

Yes.

1. IF SO, HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN CONSECRATED?

One year.

B. HAVE YOU BEEN ACTIVE IN WITNESSING?

To an extent.

C. HAVE YOU BEEN USED OF THE LORD IN BRINGING ANYONE INTO THE TRUTH?

Not yet; hopefully soon.

6. Individual and Ecclesia Responsibilities in Follow-Up

A. IN RETROSPECT, WHAT COULD THE PERSON WHO CONTACTED YOU HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY TO HAVE BEEN MORE HELPFUL TO YOU?

Nothing.

B. HOW ABOUT THE CLASS? (SAME QUESTION AS ABOVE.)

They could have explained a few things in more detail such as business, ecclesia doings, voting and consecration.

7. Additional Remarks

It's been great and I love every minute of it.

1- How You Were Found

A. WHAT WAS YOUR INITIAL CONTACT WITH THE TRUTH?

Through an ad in *The National Enquirer*.

2- Background

A. WHAT WAS YOUR RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND (DENOMINATION, ETC.)?

Protestant. Attended St. Andrews Methodist, United Brethren, Ford Road Community Church.

B. WHAT DEGREE OF INTEREST DID YOU HAVE IN YOUR FAITH?

Very little. They always wanted money.

C. WERE YOU SATISFIED WITH YOUR CHURCH?

No.

D. WERE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE DOCTRINAL BELIEFS OF YOUR DENOMINATION?

No. I didn't like the hellfire and brimstone.

E. WERE YOU A REGULAR ATTENDANT OF YOUR CHURCH?

No.

3-Personal Experience between Initial Contact with the Truth and Regular Class Attendance

A. WHAT WAS YOUR INITIAL REACTION TO BEING CONTACTED BY PHONE?

A little uncomfortable.

B. HOW MANY TIMES WERE YOU CONTACTED BY PHONE?

Three times.

C. DID THESE CALLS INSPIRE YOU TO READ THE TRUTH MATERIAL YOU HAD RECEIVED?

No, I had read it already, but read it a second time after being contacted.

1. WOULD YOU HAVE READ THIS MATERIAL ON YOUR OWN WITHOUT THIS PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT?

Yes.

D. DID THE PERSON WHO CALLED YOU SAY ANYTHING THAT GOT YOU THINKING ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES OR YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE LORD?

Yes, I began to read more in the Bible.

E. WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE PHONE CONTACT? WERE PERSONAL MEETINGS STARTED WITH YOU?

Yes.

4-Progression of Personal Development to Further Responsibility

A. HOW LONG A PERIOD ELAPSED BETWEEN THE TIME YOU WERE FIRST CONTACTED AND WHEN YOU STARTED TO COME OUT TO THE REGULAR MEETINGS?

About three or four weeks.

B. WHAT WAS YOUR INITIAL IMPRESSION OF YOUR FIRST CLASS MEETING?

Impressed, I found them studying and showing what the Bible says.

C. DID THE CLASS MEETINGS OVERWHELM YOU, OR DID YOU UNDERSTAND THE SUBJECT MATTER BEING PRESENTED?

I understood pretty much what I was studying.

D. DID YOU FEEL THAT HAVING PERSONAL STUDIES BEFORE ATTENDING CLASS MEETINGS WAS BENEFICIAL AS A PREPARATORY STEP TO CLASS STUDIES?

I did not have any personal studies before attending class, but would have found it beneficial.

E. DID THESE PERSONAL STUDIES MOTIVATE YOU TO COME OUT TO THE REGULAR CLASS MEETINGS?

Not applicable.

F. WERE PERSONAL MEETINGS CONTINUED WITH YOU AFTER YOU BEGAN COMING OUT TO CLASS?

Yes.

1. IF SO, WHAT VALUE WOULD YOU PLACE ON THEM?

A great deal of value in understanding the wisdom of the Father.

2. WOULD YOU HAVE CONTINUED TO COME OUT TO CLASS WITHOUT THESE PERSONAL STUDIES?

Yes.

5-Current Status

A. HAVE YOU MADE A CONSECRATION?

Yes.

1. IF SO, HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN CONSECRATED?

About seven months.

B. HAVE YOU BEEN ACTIVE IN WITNESSING?

As much as possible.

C. HAVE YOU BEEN USED OF THE LORD IN BRINGING ANYONE INTO THE TRUTH?

Not yet, but hope to do so soon.

6. Individual and Ecclesia Responsibilities in Follow-Up

A. IN RETROSPECT, WHAT COULD THE PERSON WHO CONTACTED YOU HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY TO HAVE BEEN MORE HELPFUL TO YOU?

Nothing.

B. HOW ABOUT THE CLASS? (SAME QUESTION AS ABOVE.)

7. Additional Remarks

1. How You Were Found

A. WHAT WAS YOUR INITIAL CONTACT WITH THE TRUTH?

“For This Cause” presentation. Several follow-up attempts.

2. Background

A. WHAT WAS YOUR RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND (DENOMINATION, ETC.)?

Catholic.

B. WHAT DEGREE OF INTEREST DID YOU HAVE IN YOUR FAITH?

Very little.

C. WERE YOU SATISFIED WITH YOUR CHURCH?

Basically, yes.

D. WERE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE DOCTRINAL BELIEFS OF YOUR DENOMINATION?

I didn't really have any beliefs and I wasn't familiar with the Catholic beliefs.

E. WERE YOU A REGULAR ATTENDANT OF YOUR CHURCH?

Yes.

2. Personal Experience between Initial Contact with the Truth and Regular Class Attendance

A. WHAT WAS YOUR INITIAL REACTION TO BEING CONTACTED BY PHONE?

Not surprised, not really any reaction, although I was willing to listen. Also, I didn't have too much to say.

B. HOW MANY TIMES WERE YOU CONTACTED BY PHONE?

Six to eight times.

C. DID THESE CALLS INSPIRE YOU TO READ THE TRUTH MATERIAL YOU HAD RECEIVED?

No.

1. WOULD YOU HAVE READ THIS MATERIAL ON YOUR OWN WITHOUT THIS PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT?

No.

D. DID THE PERSON WHO CALLED YOU SAY ANYTHING THAT GOT YOU THINKING ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES OR YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE LORD?

Not about the Scriptures or a relationship, but maybe a slight bit about hell, because when I saw "For This Cause," this subject was talked about.

E. WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE PHONE CONTACT? WERE PERSONAL MEETINGS STARTED WITH YOU?

Yes.

4 Progression of Personal Development to Further Responsibility

A. HOW LONG A PERIOD ELAPSED BETWEEN THE TIME YOU WERE FIRST CONTACTED AND WHEN YOU STARTED TO COME OUT TO THE REGULAR MEETINGS?

Six to eight months.

B. WHAT WAS YOUR INITIAL IMPRESSION OF YOUR FIRST CLASS MEETING?

I thought it was OK, but way over my head. The people were really nice.

C. DID THE CLASS MEETINGS OVERWHELM YOU, OR DID YOU UNDERSTAND THE SUBJECT MATTER BEING PRESENTED?

See above.

D. DID YOU FEEL THAT HAVING PERSONAL STUDIES BEFORE ATTENDING CLASS MEETINGS WAS BENEFICIAL AS A PREPARATORY STEP TO CLASS STUDIES?

Beneficial is not the word for it! Vital is more like it!!!

E. DID THESE PERSONAL STUDIES MOTIVATE YOU TO COME OUT TO THE REGULAR CLASS MEETINGS?

Yes, with encouragement also.

F. WERE PERSONAL MEETINGS CONTINUED WITH YOU AFTER YOU BEGAN COMING OUT TO CLASS?

Yes.

1. IF SO, WHAT VALUE WOULD YOU PLACE ON THEM?

This was vital, too, because most of the class material was too deep.

2. WOULD YOU HAVE CONTINUED TO COME OUT TO CLASS WITHOUT THESE PERSONAL STUDIES?

I'm not sure. My interest might have faded.

5. Current Status

A. HAVE YOU MADE A CONSECRATION?

Yes.

1. IF SO, HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN CONSECRATED?

Two years.

B. HAVE YOU BEEN ACTIVE IN WITNESSING?

Yes.

C. HAVE YOU BEEN USED OF THE LORD IN BRINGING ANYONE INTO THE TRUTH?

Yes:

When I began coming out to the personal meetings, my sister started to come also. She is now consecrated.

I witnessed to someone at work who knew nothing about the Truth, and he is now consecrated.

Met another couple who had studied the Bible extensively, were already consecrated and had some truths, but who knew nothing of Br. Russell and the Truth material he wrote. He now appreciates the Truth and the writings of Br. Russell fully.

6. Individual and Ecclesia Responsibilities in Follow-Up

A. IN RETROSPECT, WHAT COULD THE PERSON WHO CONTACTED YOU HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY TO HAVE BEEN MORE HELPFUL TO YOU?

Nothing. This is a point that we should not be overly concerned about. We should do whatever we are capable of and let the Lord overrule in all other areas. I can see that the Lord overruled in many areas in bringing me into the Truth. Trust in the Lord!!!

B. HOW ABOUT THE CLASS? (SAME QUESTION AS ABOVE.)

I don't think the class should divert from the normally planned study or even avoid "touchy" subjects when newcomers are present. And the class (specifically the leader) shouldn't give newcomers "special attention" at class studies. Let the Lord overrule in these areas. The Lord would not bring someone into the class study if it would hurt his interest in the Truth.

7. Additional Remarks

1. How You Were Found

A. WHAT WAS YOUR INITIAL CONTACT WITH THE TRUTH?

State Fair—Bought Volume I. No conversation with brethren at that time.

2. Background

A. WHAT WAS YOUR RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND (DENOMINATION, ETC.)?

None until the summer of 1981, when I began taking Catholic instruction.

B. WHAT DEGREE OF INTEREST DID YOU HAVE IN YOUR FAITH?

Total.

C. WERE YOU SATISFIED WITH YOUR CHURCH?

Yes, until I found that I couldn't be baptized as a Christian until I was ready to be a confirmed Catholic.

D. WERE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE DOCTRINAL BELIEFS OF YOUR DENOMINATION?

They were a "mystery," but I thought it was due to my own ignorance, which study would cure.

E. WERE YOU A REGULAR ATTENDANT OF YOUR CHURCH?

Yes. Attended two or three times a week.

3. Personal Experience between Initial Contact with the Truth and Regular Class Attendance

A. WHAT WAS YOUR INITIAL REACTION TO BEING CONTACTED BY PHONE?

Nil to slightly uneasy (because I personally have difficulty talking on the phone).

B. HOW MANY TIMES WERE YOU CONTACTED BY PHONE?

About three (?), maybe more, before something was said which made me think I might be missing something.

C. DID THESE CALLS INSPIRE YOU TO READ THE TRUTH MATERIAL YOU HAD RECEIVED?

No, the personal study did.

1. WOULD YOU HAVE READ THIS MATERIAL ON YOUR OWN WITHOUT THIS PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT?

No, it looked too difficult, and I was receiving instruction at the church (which I thought would be the same thing).

D. DID THE PERSON WHO CALLED YOU SAY ANYTHING THAT GOT YOU THINKING ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES OR YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE LORD?

Definitely—the Kingdom of God being established on earth by churches.

E. WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE PHONE CONTACT? WERE PERSONAL MEETINGS STARTED WITH YOU?

Yes.

4. Progression of Personal Development to Further Responsibility

A. HOW LONG A PERIOD ELAPSED BETWEEN THE TIME YOU WERE FIRST CONTACTED AND WHEN YOU STARTED TO COME OUT TO THE REGULAR MEETINGS?

Three months of personal meetings. Phone calls for a few months before.

B. WHAT WAS YOUR INITIAL IMPRESSION OF YOUR FIRST CLASS MEETING?

Very favorable. Everyone participated, seemed well-informed and intelligent.

C. DID THE CLASS MEETINGS OVERWHELM YOU, OR DID YOU UNDERSTAND THE SUBJECT MATTER BEING PRESENTED?

For the most part initially overwhelmed, but challenged and excited and impressed with the brethren.

D. DID YOU FEEL THAT HAVING PERSONAL STUDIES BEFORE ATTENDING CLASS MEETINGS WAS BENEFICIAL AS A PREPARATORY STEP TO CLASS STUDIES?

Very.

E. DID THESE PERSONAL STUDIES MOTIVATE YOU TO COME OUT TO THE REGULAR CLASS MEETINGS?

Yes.

F. WERE PERSONAL MEETINGS CONTINUED WITH YOU AFTER YOU BEGAN COMING OUT TO CLASS?

Yes.

1. IF SO, WHAT VALUE WOULD YOU PLACE ON THEM?

Invaluable.

2. WOULD YOU HAVE CONTINUED TO COME OUT TO CLASS WITHOUT THESE PERSONAL STUDIES?

No.

5. Current Status

A. HAVE YOU MADE A CONSECRATION?

Yes.

1. IF SO, HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN CONSECRATED?

One year. (Six months with Truth understanding of full consecration unto death.)

B. HAVE YOU BEEN ACTIVE IN WITNESSING?

Not very.

C. HAVE YOU BEEN USED OF THE LORD IN BRINGING ANYONE INTO THE TRUTH?

No—maybe one.

6. Individual and Ecclesia Responsibilities in Follow-Up

A. IN RETROSPECT, WHAT COULD THE PERSON WHO CONTACTED YOU HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY TO HAVE BEEN MORE HELPFUL TO YOU?

In retrospect, it has often occurred to me that the people could not have been more helpful or skillful, adept, tactful, sensitive, or kind.

B. HOW ABOUT THE CLASS? (SAME QUESTION AS ABOVE.)

7. Additional Remarks