

The CBWC Philosophy for Inviting Faith: Belong – Believe – Become

The BBB model is a helpful way to evaluate faith formation as we nurture a generation of young people who will ‘follow Jesus’ in whatever culture or context they find themselves.

An Example from Matthew

Welcomed to BELONG: ‘come to me all you who are weary...’ Matt. 11:28-30 or: ‘let the little children come to me and do not hinder them...’ Matt:19:13-15

This is an open ‘welcome’ to come and ‘be’ with us. As a community of people dedicated to participating in the Kingdom, we openly receive campers and others who join in our initiatives and life together. To belong, you must simply come and stay; there is no expectation of changing behaviors, believing what we believe or following Who we follow. Ask yourself:

- Is this person being welcomed, affirmed and given space to wrestle with and ask questions regarding his/her spiritual journey?

Invited to BELIEVE: ‘come, follow me...’ Matt. 4:19

We believe that we are transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, having accepted His invitation to follow Him and believe that He is our only hope for bringing reconciliation between God and humans. Through Jesus we have been forgiven and reconciled to God. This reconciliation affects our relationships with others, creation and ourselves. Thus, we will not be shy in our articulation of the great story of God and the implications this story has for all of humanity. People deserve the chance to make a conscious decision to believe. Ask yourself:

- Has this person declared (or showing signs) that s/he believes in Jesus or believes in the foundations of Christian faith?

Challenged to BECOME: ‘if you want to be perfect...’ Matt:19:16-24

The Gospel is not simply a personal believing in God by which individuals are saved at one point in time. It is rather a call to participate in the Kingdom of Christ through discipleship. It is an apprenticeship to ‘the way’ of Jesus and a complete transformation of mind, body and spirit. It is a challenge to take action in realizing the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven and a redemption of all of creation. Ask yourself:

- Does this person indicate a desire to be an apprentice to the way of Christ, growing in Christian community, believing in orthodox Christian faith and encountering God through spiritual practices?

Implications

As more and more churches adopt BBB as their guiding philosophy we will begin to see changes not only in how we approach our neighbourhoods and communities but also in how we relate to people as well. At the foundation we will be living out a relationally oriented model of ministry as opposed to a program driven model. We feel this much better reflects the way of Jesus and stands in opposition to the consumer driven instincts of our culture.