

Grandpaw

While I was sitting at the table one day on the zone, Grandpaw walked-up and sat down. He wanted to know if I had a particular address in my address-book.

I told Grandpaw the same thing that I told many of the men I talked-to: I am taking a class in the FBI Bible college; I have to talk to at-least 16 people about Jesus. I asked him if he minded answering some questions, and also if he minded me writing a report about the answers he gave me. He said he did not mind.

Grandpaw has accepted Jesus as his personal Savior, but he has never been baptized. He said he does not believe that a person has to be baptized in order to be saved.

I told him that we are saved by faith, not by baptism; but that baptism is the initiation rite for the Christian Church. I told him that a person can be a member in good-standing of an organization without ever being initiated, but that it is a good thing nevertheless to get initiated.

Grandpaw asserted that Jesus never got baptized. I got-out my Gideon's Bible and went to Matthew 3:13-17, and read the passage where John the Baptist baptized Jesus.

Grandpaw said that he had accepted Jesus during a church service held in the dining hall, and that, at the time, he made a public confession in front of a large congregation of people. However, he said that he had felt uncomfortable standing up-there alone by himself.

I told him that RJ and Bill went to the Episcopal services at the Spiritual Life Center on the second and fourth Sundays. I told him that there is a smaller group of people in attendance, and asked him if he would feel comfortable getting baptized in front of them. He said he would feel okay with this.

I wrote Chaplain David S. Langdon on Grandpaw's behalf in order to get his name on the transfer list for Episcopal services, and he signed the letter.

I asked him if he were satisfied with his current faith walk. He said that he had faith bigger than a mustard seed, and this is enough.

Then he said, "I am going to show you the reason why I accepted Jesus as my Lord."

He then went and retrieved his photo album and showed me pictures of his son. He said his son was born with a rare medical condition, and was not expected to live to be older than one year. He said that his son lived for eight years, and that losing him was hard.

I told him that our Christian hope is that we will be with our departed loved ones in eternity.

Dr. Johnny Bley
Witnessing Report #6

John P. Alexander
Field Practicum
March 1, 2010