



World Wide Scripture Engagement Consultation 2009 Post Christian Think Tank

In 2009 the Chief Officer of Unlock attended the 'World Wide Scripture Engagement Consultation' convened by FOBAI in Malaysia. She took part in a 'Post Christian' think tank addressing how Bible engagement will have to evolve in order to function in the new cultures that are emerging worldwide, and in particular in order to engage the Post-Christian developed world where Bible ownership is high but actual engagement is apparently dwindling. The conclusions of the think tank are summarised below.



In order to engage effectively with emerging global cultures, approaches to Bible engagement and faith sharing have to move from:-

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|----------------|-----------|-----------------|--|
| Telling | TO | Listening | <i>Your right to share what matters to you has to be earned by being prepared to listen genuinely and openly to what matters to me first.</i> |
| Ethical codes | | Narrative | <i>Everyone's story (even mine) is important as part of the big story.</i> |
| Hierarchy | | Relationship | <i>I won't care what you believe unless or until I believe that you care.</i> |
| Tradition | | Relevance | <i>Things are done because they work, not because they have always been done that way.</i> |
| Didactic | | Open | <i>Truth and meaning has to be discovered anew by each individual and generation, rather than passed on.</i> |
| Respectability | | Authenticity | <i>Don't tell me; show me.</i> |
| Inherited | | Experienced | <i>I only believe in what I have experienced.</i> |
| Cerebral | | Creative/active | <i>Engaging the whole person, heart and body as well as head.</i> |

These are very much the approaches that
Unlock has been using for the last 40 years.