



***Kejdis Bakalli – Global Church Movements
The Amazing Question***

My name is Kejdis Bakali and I serve with Global Church Movements or GCM as we call it. GCM's mission is to help establish vital multiplying and sustainable churches and faith communities, one for every thousand people in every rural village, suburban neighborhood, urban high rise and digital community.

People ask me constantly, "How do you start a multiplying church?" And my answer is very simple. It all starts with a Gospel conversation. You really need to have a Gospel conversation to introduce and hopefully lead someone to Christ. I'd like to say that Gospel conversations lead to Gospel congregations. Because of COVID, almost all the conversations shifted online, but having Gospel conversations online is much more complex than having conversations offline. So where do you even start in the World Wide Web? The answer for us was simple. We need to start conversations where people are already having conversations. And where is that? That is on the Social Media. Just on Facebook, imagine this, more than 1/3 of the world's population is already there. And how do people spend their time there? They talk, they converse about life, politics, relationships, philosophy, love, faith, etc.

Social Media is becoming like the agoras of the 1st century. You know, Paul's strategy when entering a Pagan city like Athens, was to go straight to the agoras. And why? Because people were already having conversations on different topics, and it was natural for Paul to go there and engage them in Gospel conversations.

Now in the past few years, my focus has been on social media and finding ways how to engage people and lead them to Christ. Today I want to share with you one of these ways - a strategy that we call **The Amazing Question**. Just this past Christmas we tested this strategy in more than 30 cities in four different continents and with different churches and denominations. The results were very encouraging and almost the same in every city. Amazing Question idea came out from the conversation that Jesus had with a blind man from Mark 10:46-52. I won't read the story, but as you know, Jesus approaches the blind man and asks him a question, "What do you want me to do for you?" We call this question the amazing question because it's really amazing, you know. Imagine if Jesus would ask you that question. What do you want me to do for you? Wouldn't that be amazing? We have shared this story and the story of Jesus healing the blind man with people offline for years and after we tell them the story, we ask the amazing question to them. Imagine if Jesus was here and he asks you what do you want me to do for you? How do you answer him? And this has created the basis to share the good news and many people have come to know Jesus just by starting with this question.

Now, as I mentioned this past Christmas, we decided to ask the amazing question on Facebook. We put an advertisement on Facebook that was visible to people in a particular city, inviting them to explore the amazing question together. Those who click on the ad were automatically invited to an online, personalized conversation through Facebook Messenger. Now at the beginning of the conversation, it started by what the Internet geeks call it, a robot or a bot. Now this bot has been preconfigured from us, and it uploads on the Messenger of all those who click on the ad a Jesus film clip. The Jesus Film Clip is the story of Jesus healing of the blind man, and people would see that in just a short time -one minute. When the clip is over, the robot sends them another automated question, which is the amazing question. If Jesus were here and he would ask you what can I do for you, how would you answer him? Now most of the people don't even realize that they are conversing with a robot. Some do, but they do not mind. When people reply to the amazing question or the robot notifies the volunteer that someone has answered the amazing question and from this moment on, the volunteer engages the conversation, and he continues to build on what the robot has already initiated.

The results, as I mentioned earlier, were amazing and pretty consistent in almost all the countries. One out of five people who clicks on an ad engages in a conversation and they would respond to the amazing question by sharing with us a prayer request. In most of these times, these prayer requests are deep, internal burdens that they are not able to deal with by themselves, and they hope that somebody else, someone like Jesus can help them with them. Here are some of the prayer requests I want to share with you, a few from different countries.

A man from Burundi, Africa says responding to Jesus question, he says, "*I would tell him, 'how do I have eternal life?'*" So, he's clearly inviting us to share the eternal hope we have in Jesus. A great opportunity to share the Gospel with him.

A student from Albania responds to Jesus' question in this way, he says, "*Heal me from rheumatic disorder. I have been suffering for five years now from this sickness. Please heal me!*" Now, I met this guy right after he wrote to us on Facebook Messenger. We met and I started to talk about life. I learned later on that he comes from a Muslim background and then from there on he started to share with me his health challenges. I shared with him how Jesus is the only one able to heal. And from there I explained to him who Jesus was. In the end of the meeting, he just opened his heart and accepted Jesus as his Savior. He was ready. He is now part of our church community. And this is just a short story that describes how God is already working in the hearts of these people.

A lady in Myanmar responds, "*I want to be happy.*"

A lady from Cameroon, she says, "*I would ask him to help me solve my family problems.*"

Another man from Burundi, Africa, he said, "*I would ask him to disappear poverty from my household.*"

A lady from Gabon, she says, "*I would ask him to give me more wisdom and give me more strength to work hard and to get everything I need in this world.*"

A man from the Republic of Georgia, he says, "*I would tell him that I'm grateful for everything I have. I pray that I would not witness the death of my loved ones.*" So clearly this guy is afraid of dying or witnessing the death of his loved ones, which gives us another opportunity to share with him the hope we have in Jesus.

Now just in two weeks, using the amazing question we generated more than 3000 conversations in 30 something cities. And some of these conversations are still going on today. This is a great reminder to me that the harvest is really plentiful, but the workers are few.

To conclude, let me share with you an invitation. If you would like to test The Digital Amazing Question in your city with your church and with your movement, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would gladly help you to implement the robot and all the other free tools that we have used free of charge. And please pray for us that God will send more workers to engage people in Gospel conversations online. Because Gospel conversations lead to Gospel congregations. Thank you very much and God bless you.