

**Evangelizers-In-Training****Blame It On Love!**

BY LINDA A. WEAVER

Do some evangelizers seem like fanatics to you? If so, there's a reason for that. Blame it on LOVE! Now, love "happens" in many different ways. Sometimes it develops slowly and grows steadily with time. Sometimes it hits full force at first sight, and the world is never the same. Perhaps, one day, you notice that the person who has been working next to you, listening to you and sharing your daily problems for a long time, is suddenly the most beautiful person in the world. Regardless of how we get to the state of being "in love," the consequences are typically the same.

We become focused on our beloved. We think about him or her all the time. We want to know as much as we can about the person, don't we? We want to know what he likes and dislikes, because we want to make him happy. When we are apart, we miss our beloved. We want to spend time with him or her. We want to be more than just a casual acquaintance. We make time to be with that person. Each of us falls in love with Christ in a unique way, but when it happens, we display

many of these same symptoms. I suggest that this is how an evangelizer feels. That's sort of the way I feel. I have fallen "in love" with Christ.

Evangelizers want to help others see what they see in Christ. They want people to know the difference He has made in their lives and the difference He can make in anyone's life, if allowed. Evangelizers may seem a little obsessed, but can you blame them? Christ gave his life for them! This situation is similar to when my daughter talked non-stop about her true love. (I didn't see what she saw in him, but, then again, I didn't know him the way she did.) It is similar to a co-worker who drives you crazy with stories of her 2 year old. We don't always appreciate the child as much because we don't know the child as she does. Yet, if we were to spend time with the child, we might come to see her as the mother does. Parents with children. Boyfriend/girlfriends. We understand why they act strange: They are in love. Evangelizers are in love too.



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So if you encounter a somewhat fanatical evangelizer, listen kindly and patiently as you would to your daughter or co-worker. Listen carefully though. There is one major difference. When we tell others about our new boyfriend, we just want to share our joy and our information. We don't really want to share the object of our love. We prefer to keep that to ourselves. Evangelizers want to share Christ and his great love. It is meant to be shared. It is what unites us together in the One Body of Christ. Have you ever been truly in love? Get to know Christ. After all, he already loves you.

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