

Frank Jenner's Compelling Questions

As collected by Francis Dixon

Francis W. Dixon (1910-1985) was a Baptist preacher in England. He was born in north London and became a Christian in 1929 through the preaching of the Irish evangelist W.P. Nicholson. Many years later at one of the churches that Francis Dixon led, Lansdowne Baptist Church in Bournemouth, was a young man called Peter Culver.

One day Peter shared his faith testimony how he came to Christ, which started when he was in the Royal Navy, while on shore leave in Sydney, Australia. This is Peter's account: I was walking down George Street in Sydney, when out of nowhere came a little old white-haired man.

He said to me, "Excuse me, sir, I would like to ask you a question. I hope it won't offend you, but tell me, if you were to die today, where would you be in eternity? The Bible says it will either be in hell or in heaven, one of the two. Think about it, would you please? That's all, sir. God bless you, and good-day."

Peter continued his testimony: No one had ever asked me that question before, and it burdened me so much, that when I got back to England, the first thing I did was to find a church – Lansdowne Baptist Church. There he met with the pastor, Francis Dixon and gave his heart to Christ.

Not long after that, Francis Dixon went to the United States to preach at a number of churches. At a service in one of the American churches, a young man named Noel was asked to give his faith testimony.

Here is his history. He was in Australia walking down George Street in Sydney when out of nowhere came a little old white-haired man.

He said to me, "Excuse me, sir, I would like to ask you a question. I hope it won't offend you, but tell me, if you were to die today, where would you be in eternity? The Bible says it will either be in hell or in heaven, one of the two. Think about it, would you please? That's all, sir. God bless you, and good-day."

That's how I became a Christian.

Francis Dixon was totally staggered by what he had heard.

Not long after that, Francis Dixon went on a speaking tour to Australia and New Zealand, and in a large hall in Adelaide, he told the amazing story about these two men. While he was speaking, a man named Murray Wilkes stood up (which is very unusual in Australian churches) and waved his hand.

This man then shared: I am another convert. I was walking down George Street in Sydney, Australia, when out of nowhere came a little old white-haired man and ... well, you know the rest of the story.

From Adelaide, Francis Dixon went to Perth, and he shared this story again.

When the service was over, a deacon came up to him and said: I am another one of those converts. I was walking down George Street in Sydney, and the same thing happened to me.

A young lady overheard their conversation and said: Excuse me for interrupting, but I am also a convert. I was walking down George Street in Sydney, when out of nowhere came this little old white-haired man...

A year later, Francis Dixon was preaching at Keswick, Cumbria. He shared this amazing story. At the end of the service, a man came to him and said he too was a convert. He had been walking down George Street in Sydney...

A couple of years later, Francis Dixon went on another speaking tour, this time preaching in India to missionaries. At one of the meetings, they asked him to share about personal evangelism. So he told the story of this little old white-haired man in Sydney, Australia.

When the service was over, one of the missionaries came to him and said: I am another convert. I was walking down George Street in Sydney, Australia, when a little old white-haired man came up to me...

Sometime later, Francis Dixon was in Jamaica and shared this story, and you know what happened, don't you? At the end of the service, a man came up to him and said: I am another one of his converts!

After hearing all this, Francis Dixon decided he had to go to Sydney to meet this man. Once there, he asked a local Christian worker Alec Gilchrist if he knew of a little old white-haired man who used to stand out on George Street and witness.

His friend replied: Oh yes, he is Mr Frank Jenner. We all know him. He is very frail now and doesn't do street evangelism any longer because he really can't walk very well.

Francis Dixon asked if he could meet this man. And so he was taken to his house. Once there, he introduced himself and told Mr Jenner of all these people all over the world who had come to Jesus Christ because of his witness.

That dear old saint broke down and wept as he said, "This is the first time in my life that I have known of anybody coming to Christ through my witness!"

Mr Jenner was a sower. Somebody else came along and became the reaper. But God honoured them both.

One sows and another reaps

"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying '**One sows and another reaps**' is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor." John 4:34-38 (NIV)