

if you only knew...

an experiment in listening

thanks for taking time to fill this out & share some of your thoughts about church, christians, and god. we are passionate about hearing from a variety of different voices, life experiences, perspectives, ages, races, socio-economic backgrounds and more. our desire is to cast a net that is both wide and deep. before you start, here are a few things you need to know about this project:

1. our hope is that we can initially share these responses online in some kind of online book/magazine format for others to read and learn from. our audience of readers might be the following:
 - a. “the body of christ”— this audience could come in all shapes & sizes-- evangelical, conservative, emerging, liberal, etc...anyone and everyone that considers themselves connected to the faith tradition of christianity.
 - b. the interested and the curious – this audience might be likely to not consider themselves connected to “the body of christ,” at all or anymore, but rather have an interest or curiosity about the ongoings of those who do.
 - c. the wounded and broken hearted – this audience could encompass all those who are hurting, specifically those who have been hurt by the church...we’d hope to produce a voice for the this audience that is both life-giving and liberating.

our task - to give others a taste of “here’s what some people are really thinking, feeling, dreaming, and hoping for” as it pertains to the *kingdom of god here on earth as it is in heaven*.

2. all responses will be confidential. you can share your real name with *us* (or not), but know that all names will be changed in the actual material made available on the world wide web.
3. don’t feel pressure to answer all the questions if you don’t want to. just do what feels good to you.
4. we aren’t sure exactly how this experiment will look in the final design. we are just beginning the process of collecting thoughts, perspectives, and stories then we’ll go from there.
5. don’t feel pressured to answer the questions in great detail, short or long answers will do.

now that we’ve said all that, here we goplease know that we are so grateful for your participation. we really value your voice and look forward to learning from you.

thanks,
the refuge community
www.therefugeonline.org

to mail in responses please send to:

the refuge | p.o. box 6805 | broomfield, CO | 80021



everything is optional, but the more you give the more we (and our audience) learns....

when we use a fake name for you, what would you want us to use?

(think of the cool name you always wanted!) _____

age: _____

some stats to help us

(please don't answer any that you feel uncomfortable answering)

relationship status:

married single divorced re-married # of kids _____ ages of kids _____

sexual orientation:

homosexual heterosexual bisexual transgender

education:

dropped out currently in middle/high school currently in college
 finished high school finished college finished graduate school
 finished post-graduate school

church attendance:

attend regularly attend occasionally do not attend

while attending church:

happy with it not happy with it

the kind of work you do/or profession _____

how would you describe your upbringing when it comes to faith?

i was raised in a family that was:

conservative/fundamentalist liberal agnostic atheist variety of views
 mainline spiritual/not christian

***the pain in my story includes:**

alcohol/drug abuse eating disorders abuse (sexual)
 abuse (physical/emotional) gender struggles abortion
 troubles with the law divorce depression mental illness
 other (elaborate below)

**we ask specifically about the pain in your story, because as it pertains to this project, the pain in one's life is far too often something that is not given enough attention to.*

okay that's enough details, sorry, it just helps us get a better idea of who we're listening to. now onto the best part...and remember don't feel pressured to answer the questions in great detail, short or long answers will do.

*minimum responses to each question asked for is 1-3, please feel free to give more at your discretion.
if you need more space please write on the back...*

1. if i was in charge of changing "church" as we know it, the first 1-3 things i'd change are...

2. when i think of jesus the first 1-3 things i think of are...

3. when i think of real/fake christians first 1-3 things i think of are...

real:

fake:

4. the first 1-3 rules i was taught when i was a kid about church were...

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if you need more space please write on the back...*

5. the first 1-3 rules i was taught as a grownup about church were.....

6. when i am really struggling, the first 1-3 things i want my church to do/be is.....

7. i wish organized religion had less of the following 1-3 things

8. i wish organized religion had more of the following 1-3 things....

*minimum responses to each question asked for is 1-3, please feel free to give more at your discretion.
if you need more space please write on the back...*

9. i really hope that the "church" considers the following 1-3 things.....

10. one of my dreams for the future of the church is that it becomes and/or lives into are the following 1-3 things.....

11. 1-3 painful/discouraging things that the church, or a christian, has taught/shown me were....

12. 1-3 amazing/beautiful things that the church, or a christian, has taught/shown me were....