THE ART OF CONVERSATION, Pt. 1

Project Assignment, pt. 1
Spot and Utilize
Conversation Launchers

Conversation Project Introduction

The two project assignments that accompany The Art of Conversation, pts. 1&2 are designed around two kinds of conversation opportunities that we hope will become second nature for the learner. First we will begin to *spot and utilize conversation launchers* and then we will begin *hosting conversation gatherings.*

The Challenge: Get a reputation for being a good conversationalist and a good host.

Spot and Utilize Conversation Launchers

Conversation launchers abound and they produce great opportunities for deeper conversation. These opportunities are a spontaneous or semi-spontaneous response to everyday occurrences. They usually occur in one to one situations or in small groups. They may result from a joint experience like seeing a car accident or an advertisement. Current events, local news and blog sites provide great fodder for deeper conversation.

Advertising provides great conversation launchers. Depending on your location and culture you may remember the Dove soap adds (in the Subway in my city) aimed at building up young women's self esteem. More recently Diesel Jeans has been running ads that encourage people to be stupid (in the back of many taxis in my city). And in my home country Bud light is making light of the "hooking-up" phenomenon (on TV). All of these ads are provocative and can lead into deep conversations.

The key to these opportunities is that they present themselves and you make conversation.

Purpose: This project is to help the learner spot and utilize conversational launchers in everyday life.

Objective: To explore new ways of engaging friends in gospel conversations.

Instructions: Look for conversation launchers in and around your city. Attempt to move into meaningful conversation with a friend.

Bonus: As a group keep a list of launchers that are spotted in the city

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Where to find Conversation Launchers:

- In the news
- Pop culture - movies, songs
- Advertisements