

## OPERATION “NO ORDINARY MAN”

Last year a mission project I suggested brought me an award of 500 copies of “*No Ordinary Man*”. This is an attractive publication containing Luke’s Gospel in the Contemporary English Version. In addition to the text of the gospel the book contains several excellent personal testimonies from a wide range of people plus several pages of helpful notes. The book concludes with a simple invitation to know Jesus personally.

### So what’s the mission project?

I am all too aware that there are many hundreds of very nice people who attend churches regularly but who have never actually articulated a personal faith in Christ. Usually they call themselves Christians but have difficulty identifying with people who are able to speak about “new birth”, or conversion experiences. Confronted by people who have certainty of faith can actually make some people withdraw. Some will have a real trust in Jesus Christ but others, for one reason or another, will never have really come face to face with the need to respond to the person of the one who died to save them.

We are therefore looking to find such people and encourage them gently to read “*No Ordinary Man*” as part of a national survey into the effectiveness of this book. Each will receive a free copy plus a simple questionnaire which they are asked to complete in stages as they read the book. The survey encourages them to reflect on Luke’s story about Jesus, to evaluate the evidence, and to consider how what they read affects their personal faith. The questions have been carefully phrased for the target readers and this is far from being “in your face” evangelism.

### Why I need YOUR help.

There are several ways in which you can help this special mission project.

- Are you able to identify one or more of those really nice people in your church who might benefit? If so will you partner with us please? More about this below.
- While we are able to supply the books and review booklets free of charge, the cost of posting the books out and collecting the review booklets back afterwards will run into several hundreds of pounds and we are looking for sponsors for this programme.
- We shall be keeping confidential those who are reading this book as part of this programme but we are looking for trusted prayer partners to whom we shall give a little information to enable their prayers.

### How does the partnership work?

- We will provide you with a short article to put in your magazine and an A4 poster to put up in your church asking for volunteer readers.
- You encourage specific people to sign up as readers. We are looking for nominal Christians who are fairly regular at church or others on the margins of your church.
- We supply you with sufficient packs for as many people as you can sign up.
- The readers are encouraged by us to *optionally* talk to their priest or minister about their experience of reading the book. We will tell you when anyone you list has completed the review so that you can also make a discreet approach.
- We will supply you with artwork that you can include in your Parish Magazine (or similar) drawing attention to the Christian Enquiry Agency and Rejesus Website, which are two reliable ministries, endorsed by all the main denominations, aimed at helping enquirers. These are simple “Like to know more about Christianity?” adverts. There are absolutely no financial implications.

I need your help to make Operation “No Ordinary Man” work, which I hope will help many to know the extraordinary Jesus in a real and personal way. Please respond to this request in at least one of the three ways mentioned above. Contact me as soon as possible at Rural Sunrise, 4 Clarence Street, Market Harborough, LE16 7NE, or email [sunrise@ruralmissions.org.uk](mailto:sunrise@ruralmissions.org.uk).

Thank you,



