

Part of a series of messages I wrote to equip and encourage new Online Missionaries  
**Part 5 - Where is their heart?**

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Often, new contacts come with the “**Comment/Question**” blank. Or perhaps the comment does not seem to match the selection in “**Tell us about your spiritual journey.**”

Here is an example (details changed):

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*Domain: jesus2020.com*  
*Name: David Hadad*  
*City: Tampa*  
*State: Florida*  
*Zipcode: 36018*  
*Residence: USA*  
*Age: 26-35*  
*Gender: Male*  
*Indicated Response: I just prayed to receive Christ as my Savior for the first time*  
*Comment/Question: who is god*

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Where is this person spiritually? Has he placed his faith in Jesus as Savior? Is he sincerely seeking? How will you respond to him?

Remember that the text in the “Indicated Response” field is simply a choice from a list on the form they filled out. Most of our websites have four choices similar to these:

- + I just prayed to receive Christ
- + I recommitted my life to Christ
- + I am not a Christian and still have questions
- + I am a follower of Jesus and I want to share Him with others

Don’t just assume that the choice they indicated is an accurate reflection of their life. They may be uncertain about where they stand with God, or perhaps they did not understand the choice, especially if they are not a native English speaker.

If you respond back to them “Congratulations on placing your faith in Christ, now your sins are forgiven... etc.” you may be giving them a false assurance. Rather, your response to them should be encouraging but include some diagnostic questions.

You might respond like this:

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*You indicated that you had invited Jesus Christ into your life to be Savior. I asked Jesus to come into my life more than 30 years ago. I was going my own way, lost and far from God, and I learned that Jesus came to earth to save and forgive. I asked Him to come into my life, and He forgave me, cleansed me, and made me a new person.*

*How did you receive Christ? What changes have you seen Jesus make in your life? What does "following Jesus" mean to you? Please tell me more about yourself and let me know what other questions you have so I can help you. Etc.*

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Or perhaps focus on the comment and respond with words like this:

*You asked "Who is God?" This is a very important question but not an easy question to answer in a few words. Please tell me a little more about yourself and I will try to help you.*

*What brought you to this website? What are you seeking to know about God? Why is this important to you? Did the message on the website make sense to you? Do you have a Bible? Etc.*

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The answers you receive to these questions should give you a much better idea of where this person's heart is. Then you can tailor your response to address the correct issues. This person may indeed have made a life-changing decision for Christ, or they may have sincere questions about God, His character, His contact with mankind, etc. But I wouldn't write a long and involved response until I heard back from him and knew a little more about him.

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If you are have questions about ARC or about your online ministry:

- Review the ARC TRAINING VIDEOS and MANUAL
- Check the Volunteer Website. (<https://www.gmovolunteers.com>)
- Ask your COMMUNITY LEADER. (In ARC Mail, click on SETTINGS > GENERAL for your Community Leader's name and e-mail address.)

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**JOHN NICHOLSON**

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