

Jonathan

QUESTIONS

- How old are you?
 - 35
 - What is your occupation?
 - I work for the church as a full time worker. Whatever they need, we cover their need (i.e. their daily affairs, the administrative side, preaching the gospel, etc.). Whatever we do depends on the need of the church).
 - Do you have a religion?
 - Christian
 - Please describe your financial independence. (Financially independent from parents / how many people you have to support in your family)
 - I have a retired mom. Not 100% dependent on me but semi.
1. Do you fund any charity organizations or have funded any charity organizations in the past?
- No.
 - Is there anything that pushed you back from funding a charity organization?
 - I do think people need help, but **I don't think funding is the only way to help people**. The churches, we go to the field, like some churches would go to Africa for a missionary... we.. and... We all have different kinds of sufferings. So people in poverty—they have their kind of suffering. But as Christians we believe that the real help is God Himself. People may not have enough supply as much as we who are in a developed country, but they might be happier than we are.
 - So this is what my mom told me: She's from China, and when she was a little kid, they lacked of everything. They lacked of

food. They hardly got a piece of chicken. If they had white rice, they were very happy. Most of the time they had three potatoes cooked together with rice just to fill up the stomach. That's how they grew up. But what she told me is that she was happier during that time when she was growing up [like that] than now.

- So people in poverty—are they in need? Yes. I don't deny that, but **are they living a sadder life than us? Not necessarily.** But for sure, everybody needs God.
- **I guess God just didn't put me in a position to help for those people.** But some people around me have [supported charities].
- Since you said no, did you ever feel like you don't really have much trust with charity organisation?
 - Oh no, I didn't say that.
- (I realised here that I should learn to word my questions better)
 - When I was much younger, I did work for a direct marketing company. One of the divisions of that marketing company was to help the charities. I wasn't in that sector. I was in the commercial sector, but some of my colleagues were working for them. And I was quite surprised how much they can make HAHAAH
 - But I do understand that to help people, you need man power, and once you need man power you need administration, and that cost.. Who's going to cover that cost for you to help people in poverty? But um... Sorry what was your question again?
- If you don't trust organisations...
 - It's not that I don't trust them. But I just think.. um.. it's just.. I just have never.. Hmm.. Maybe I take the way of charity too narrow... Hmm... (Long pause)
 - Yeah it's not that I don't have a trust in them. But it's about their **efficiency**. If the money I give will help to people. Again,

as a Christian, **if I really want to help them, I would go and give God to them instead of giving financial support to them.**

- Because Christian believes that everybody and everything come from God. **If certain people are in poverty, do you think God is not able to give them [their need]?** Then my seeing is too narrow. If I think God cannot help them when they need help and they have to do it on behalf of God, then my belief is too narrow or God is too small.
- So the fact that they have a need, I don't deny. **But when God has to help them, there is a way.**
- Could you please clarify what you mean by "give them to God"?
 - Our Christian belief is based on the Bible. One of the books in the New Testament, John 3:16 says "God so loved the world..."
 - I think that the "world" there covers everybody in the world... even including people in the third-world countries and nations in poverty. I think it covers that. It covers those in Australia, it covers the homeless, and so... so God just loves us.
- Do you think you might change your mind in the future in funding charity organizations in the future?
 - Absolutely. Never say never. I don't think anything is absolutely impossible or absolutely possible. Yeah who knows.

2. Do you do any volunteer services for charity organizations?

- Yup
- What was the volunteer service?
 - (Long pause) Mmmm... I'm working for the church now. So technically I'm paid by the church haha but I only started being paid by the church in the beginning of the year. So before that, I had my own job but after hours of my time I spend to help the church affairs... which I don't have financial benefit over that... so that [volunteer service] involved more than a thousand people so there were lots of planning, registration things that needed help ... so I was involved in that. And on a personal level, the younger people like the uni students—they need help to know God. I've been a Christian for 20 years, so I feel that I should try my best to

help them, especially those are from overseas. We live nearby UNSW and there are lots of overseas students. When they come here, they have no home. Their parents are not around them. Their friends are not here. They're bored, and they need new friends. Of course, they need God. So that's why we have our home opened to welcome those students to come to our home in a weekly basis. We cook for them, we welcome them to come. Any many of them say that they found home in Sydney because of that, and we are happy. If they're happy, we're happy.

- What led you to volunteer?
 - I think the reason is pretty simple. This is how I grew up. This is how I got help when I was young. I was raised in a single-mom family, so my mum had to work and my dad was not around us. So it was just me and my mum. Most of the time I was all alone by myself as a little kid. Those who are older in the church at that time (like when I was 8 or 9 or early teen) would invite me over for dinner and take me around when they have spare time. They felt like they were my family. They felt like my own older brother and sisters. **I received lots of help from them. Now, I have nothing to pay them back now and are not in Australia.** I have no way to pay them back or do anything, but I realise that is a favor from God, so this is my time to do something for the younger one as those who did it for me.
 - How was your experience? (What did you like about it, hate about it? What did you learn from it?)
 - The motivation of continually opening our home to younger students... When you see them finding a home in Sydney... especially the international ones... And then [once] **they begin to know God.. I think that is a great motivation.** I think to me... I give my heart to them. I still remember when some of them got sick, I felt really bad.
 - I remember this one case.. there was a girl who was in uni and she felt very sick and had a heart attack. She wanted to go to the hospital. So my wife and I had to driver her to the hospital and be in the ER for a couple of hours waiting there and comforting her. She was sick a few times so we did that a few

times in the late evening. And through that she was very touched by the help that we gave her and she became a part of our family. And we give our heart to her too. When she feels happy, we feel happy.

- When they feel happy, we feel happy. When they are sad, we are sad. So emotional wise... In terms of helping people, you got to put your emotion in them. **If you don't put your emotion in them, then you're like a robot.** And we're not a robot. We're human beings.

3. If you were to fund any of these charities, list the charities in order of most prioritized to least

- humanitarian services 3
- health and disability services 2
- children's services 1
- animals and environment 4
- Is there a particular reason why you chose children's services as the most important one?
 - Out of the four options, children are the **most helpless**. They cannot help themselves. Most adults can help themselves. Of course not everyone is able to find a way, but still there is some way that they can... It may be much more difficult than others but...
 - Let's say I'm extremely poor. But... I know this is not fair but... I am in Sydney, so I can pick up some bottles, sell them, and still make a little out of it. But children are really young. **They are not even able to do that so I find those options [to survive] for children are most helpless.**
- If you were to fund a charity organisation that helps children, how or where would you want them to use your funding? Or what kind of work do you want them to do with the money provided?
 - (Long pause) Ummm...
 - Oh... What do you call them... Umm. Orphans. Probably orphanry(?) because... ~~Obviously I can't help everybody so in an overall situation... like [let's say] a whole country is under poverty then the~~

~~government has to do something or it would be the support from nation to nation... The richer countries would give technical support, scientific support... to help the whole country and to maybe raise up agriculture or whatever so that they could help the general environment. So I'm not talking about this because it's not what I can do. But if we talk about education,~~

- ~~So I believe that the general situation of the country is improved, then this problem will gradually be improved. So if you only help one person or two, I don't think it helps much. And I think as long as one child receives the same opportunity as their peers, then that child will be happy.~~ Let's say in a poor area in Africa, a child may not receive good education as we do, but all his friends are the same. So we shouldn't put our concept into him and say "no, you must understand physics for you to live a happy life." Like no, that's not necessary. **His friend are all similar to him, so they will be happy.**
 - However, if all my friends are able to go to school and I am the only one who can't go because I am poor... Then those kind of children will be the ones that help. So that's why orphans one of the category but I would love to help more in this category just **to give certain ones similar opportunities as others when they are still children so that they can live a happier life.**
4. Is there any event in your life that made you be more concerned about children than other categories? Like personal experience?
1. **Because I went through the childhood and experienced various disasters in my life so I find children more sentimental.**
5. If you were to fund a charity organization, what would you look into before you fund that charity?
- They have got to have the same value as I see.
 - Their vision as well.
 - Whether it is realistic or not. If their dream is too unrealistic, then it's probably not under my ability to support.
 - They also need to be able to tell me how it will help.

