

Pastor Cameron Harder's suggestions for ideas to be included in Robert Morck's TEMPLE TALK, Jan. 28, 1996:

1. How is God active in my life and in my work?
2. How does what I am doing contribute to the good of all?
3. How is God working through me?
4. God is renewing His world through Centra Cam's recycling so that old things are being made new.
5. How do I share my faith?
6. How do I sense God in my life?
7. Doing work with integrity (honesty).
8. How do I relate to my co-workers?
9. How do I connect Sunday School with my work under the Community Options Program?

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Because it was hoped that the Temple Talk could be given in 5 minutes, it was not possible to include all of the above suggestions but, asking God to guide me, I tried to portray Rob's Christian walk through his eyes. The request came from Pastor Cam on Monday morning so I set to work composing, deleting, rewording and reacting to what was written. By Wednesday it was ready for Pastor Cam's perusal and he found it to his liking so wanted Rob to come on Friday to practice reading it over the mike at church. Rob was there for an hour before lunch, then proceeded to finish his day at Centra Cam. When he arrived home before supper, he announced: "Pastor Cam wants me to read it ten times". (I was glad Cam asked him to do so, for Rob might not have obliged had I suggested it!)

We read the "talk" through three times that evening, 7 times on Saturday (two times after each meal and once before bed) and once on Sunday morning before he left in a taxi for the 8:30 service - a total of 11 times. Each time he read it, I made notes on how to improve both the content and delivery. By Sunday morning it flowed quite smoothly.

According to reports, he read it very well at the early service, went to his Sunday School class and then returned to the 11:00 service for a "repeat performance". This time I tuned in to our local T.V. Channel 10 for the Messiah service and heard Rob read it, but he sensed his voice wasn't projecting as well as at the first service so turned towards the mike from time to time. Finally, Pastor Cam positioned the mike properly and Rob sensed all was well so read the rest with confidence. It took 6 to 7 minutes, but people apparently understood every word and, according to some reports, there were sniffles and tears. We've had a number of 'phone calls from people who were blessed, also a beautiful letter from a couple who were there to hear him. Why wasn't I at church with Rob? I was still recuperating from a terrible flu bug that left me weak for days after!

Hildur, February 1, 1996

My name is Robert Morck. I was born and baptized at Bogotá, Colombia. The year was 1960. I have one brother and three sisters. They love me just the way I am.

Because I was born with a condition called "Down's Syndrome", some people thought I would never learn to read or write. But God and my parents knew I could. I learned to spell by playing Scrabble with my Mom. We also "played store" so I could learn about money matters.

Before coming to Canada for furlough in 1976, my doctor said I should not return to Bogotá because of certain stress factors there - like high elevation and high pollution. So, my parents decided to continue their Spanish-writing-ministry here in Camrose, while I received vocational training at Centra Cam - where I learned several skills.

For the past two years I've been involved in their Community Options program. This means that I get acquainted with the needs in the community and can volunteer to help wherever needed.

Right now I go to Bethany four hours a week to play games with whoever needs a partner. At the Treasure House I get experience as a cashier - two times a week. Three mornings a week I go to Augustana, setting up for refreshments to be served after the chapel service. I hand out bulletins and hymn books as people enter chapel. Then, when refreshments have been served, I do the clean-up. Also, I sometimes do cleaning at places like the Senior Center and here at this church.

I'm glad that Jesus is my Savior and Lord. I like to read the Bible, pray, and worship Him with others here at Messiah. I like Nora Gilbertson's Sunday School class, too, and wish that more of my friends would come along to learn about Jesus and His love.

My friends know that I am a Christian, and when we have Centra Cam and bowling banquets I sometimes pray the table prayer before the meal.

I do not work at Centra Cam's recycling depot, but I want to thank those of you who recycle and do all you can to protect God's world from more pollution. This way we help make old things become new again.

Because I sometimes find it hard to express myself, and the words I want to use just won't come out, I'm happy there are people who have patience with me and some of my friends who have the same problem.

I want to thank each of you at Messiah for making me and my friends feel welcome here. And I thank Pastor Cam for inviting me to share with you what the Lord has done and is doing in my life. God bless you all!