



be ready always to give an answer
I Peter 3:15

earnestly contend for the faith
Jude 3

Fishers of Men

April 2009

San Diego City College, San Diego State, and Balboa twice

This month we tried to target the youth. 2 colleges and Balboa Park. San Diego City College was a real joy. Ricky and I went in the late afternoon. Kids were still roaming around. No one seemed in a hurry and practically everyone we approached took the time to talk for 5 to 15 minutes. Perhaps a third told me they were Christians. We always challenge them to describe the gospel, and then challenge them to live their faith and share it regularly. Several young people I spoke to seemed very troubled. They were not Christians. Although I don't know their trials, true peace can only come by knowing their creator and delighting in Him.

Ricky sat and talked with at least a half dozen young people for 15 minutes or longer at City College. He patiently explained the gospel and answered their questions. I can't tell you what a joy it is to see an old person (meaning older than the kids of course), sitting down and talking about "religion" and the God that created them.

Balboa Park was a real encouragement this month. Both times other Christian groups and Churches were there sharing the faith. On the 29th, just a few days ago, perhaps 30 or more Christians with tables, tracts, open air preaching, and even a gospel paint presentation. Praise the Lord.



McDonalds parking lot, downtown San Diego. A bus load of high school singers touring from Bakersfield stopped for a bite to eat. Everyone got a million dollar bill and we talked to many about how one is saved. Ricky is in the middle without a hat. Wonderful experience!



San Diego State, March 21. The campus had an open house on this Saturday. Booths, performances, and LOTS of kids. The Amazing Ricky (with the blue hat) goes through a crowd on the "Freedom Stairs" as they watch a performance handing out tracts and talking to people.



San Diego City College, March 12, Thurs. evening. If you ask Ricky, "How do you talk with a stranger sitting on a wall by himself about the things of God?" Ricky would say, "You walk up, sit down and talk about the things of God." Another 20 minute conversation with eternal benefits.

NEWSLETTER

Challenge Ministries is a non-profit Christian ministry dedicated to the defense and proclamation of the Gospel and Biblical truth.

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Mormonism Challenged

An Honest Message to Mormons

We would like to have some sort of outreach to the Mormons. There are many possibilities since there are numerous Wards, Stake Centers, A Mormon Temple, and the Mormon Battalion in Old town in the San Diego area.



We do need help, so if you would like to be involved please contact this ministry. We are also open to ideas and events that you are aware of.

The tract we would use is one that we designed specifically for this purpose, "An Honest Message to Mormons."

In just a single page, we present serious problems with the LDS First Vision, LDS Scripture (photocopy of original Doctrine and Covenants revelation compared to modern editions), as well as many foundational Biblical doctrines compared to Mormonism. Of course it ends with the Gospel.

We feel this is the best tract we have to give to a Mormon.

The tract begins with the handwritten statement:

"This message is written out of a heart of compassion and concern for those valuable souls who are putting their trust in the system of Mormonism."

Following this statement it says:

The purpose of this pamphlet is to honestly present and document evidence that is not generally known among Mormons and to compare the teachings of the Mormon Church with the Word of God, the Bible. Accurately evaluating ALL the evidence for one's faith is necessary to keep from being deceived. If what you believe is true, you have nothing to fear from investigation. Your eternal destiny is dependent upon whom or what you put your trust. Your family will even be affected by your decisions. What a tremendous responsibility!

Please prayerfully considering getting involved in this outreach.

Jehovah's Witnesses Challenged

"John 17:20 ...to my God and your God"

John 17:20 is perhaps the most difficult to answer of all the passages that witnesses use to prove that Jesus is not God.

Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. (KJV)

Witnesses bible reads similar:

Jesus said to her: ... 'I am ascending to my Father and YOUR Father and to my God and YOUR God.' (NWT)

From the Watchtower.org web site (the official JW web site), they say this about John 17:20:

"TIME and again, Jesus showed that he was a creature separate from God and that he, Jesus, had a God above him.... Since Jesus had a God, his Father, he could not at the same time be that God."

I like the way Peter Barnes ends his commentary on this passage in his book "*the Watchtower in Light of Scripture*":

"We see in a most remarkable fashion how the Bible writers portray Jesus like the two sides of a coin. They are continually presenting His human face to us and then as it were a few verses latter turning the coin over and presenting His Divine nature to us. This theme runs all the way through the New Testament Scriptures." (page 212)

Jesus was Son of Man and Son of God. He truly was human and deity at once. He was sent by the Father. He submits Himself to the Father's will. He recognized the headship of the Father and yet the Father calls Jesus, God (see Hebrews 1:8). Jesus can call His Father His God from the perspective of His humanity. On the other side of the coin Jesus taught that we must honour Him as we would honour the Father (John 5:23). Humanity. Deity.

Witnesses insist that it does not seem reasonable therefore is must not be true. They do this in many of their doctrines. Instead they should carefully examine scripture and surrender to the revealed truth of God.

More Stuff Happening!!!

Newsletters now online... We now have most of our newsletters for the past 3 years on our web site. They are in the exact format that was printed. The last 2 years you can see at a glance the outreaches as well as the topics covered.

\$100,000 tract... World's first (as far as we know, \$100,000 gospel tract. This tract is the size of a credit card which is a replica of America's largest Gold Certificate ever printed, used by the Federal Reserve Banks in 1937. The back side has been carved out with the Gospel inserted. We've already printed and distributed nearly 300 to see how they are received by non-Christians. My opinion... AMAZING. We'll have 1,000 printed on credit card plastic (slightly thinner) by next newsletter. They are considerably more expensive to print given the custom colors on plastic and special size. We're including one printed from our laser printer and cut by hand in this newsletter envelope. If you'd like more, please send a contribution and let us know how many you want.

Earth Day Coming... Less than 3 weeks away is Earth Day 2009 at Balboa Park. Last year 60,000 attended. Lord willing we're planning on attending and doing the Creation and Gospel presentation to a crowd that is dominated by a mother earth mentality. We'll video tape and put on YouTube for the world to view.

Jehovah's Witness Convention... First part of June at Quallcomm ten's of thousands of JW's will assemble. We're hoping to do for the first time, "Open Air" defense of the faith evangelism. More to come.

Please pray for us and help financially if you are able.

Your Warriors in Christ, *Jerry and Dianna*