

Challenge Ministries



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

earnestly contend for the faith
Jude 3

Fishers of Men

February 2013

Balboa Park, San Diego State

It was another busy month. The focus again this month was Balboa Park and San Diego State. We were able to have 9 outreaches at these 2 locations and several thousand tracts went out.

A couple of things stand out. I spoke with a young man (Eric) in his 20's at Balboa Park who had been raised in a Christian home and now had decided that he just didn't believe it anymore. However, his wife had become a Christian and insisted that he come to her weekly Bible study. He had been going along for the sake of peace but his heart wasn't into it. I decided to basically start at the beginning with creation then the fall and man's rebellion, followed by the promise of the messiah and the fulfillment in Jesus. I spoke of the reliability of the Bible, prophecy and the evidence from science for creation.

I then proceeded to tell him what it meant to be a Christian and what it didn't mean. He had been lead to believe that a Christian was one who prayed and God would answer his prayers and make him feel good. He was really trusting in his feelings and the assumption that we come to God for "your best life now" (a Joel Osteen quote) rather than for forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

He said that our meeting had been like a revelation in truth and he had many things to think about. I hope to hear from him soon.

A similar experience yesterday at SDSU. A young woman had again been raised as Christian but now had taken college courses comparing religions. Her new belief was all roads lead to heaven and no one way to God. She admitted she was NOT a Christian although she understood what it meant.

We had an excellent dialogue about the claims of Christ being the only way and that having a head knowledge only was not necessarily a Christian. None of the other great religious leaders had done anything for your sins nor did they claim to.

She really had never given the resurrection of Jesus great thought and it's stamp of authenticity on the historic Christian faith.

I see so many young people who walk away from the faith that they were raised with. I believe much of the issue is that they really never understood what it meant to be a Christian and a disciple of Jesus. One that is truly born again will have trials and struggles but God will see to it that he perseveres in what he began He will complete. Praise God.



Believe it or not the man in the white hat is from the same area in the Philippines that Gil is from. They even spoke to one another in the same Filipino language about the gospel.



John is witnessing to this man at Balboa Park. There is no one anywhere around but there seems to always be someone to talk with about the gospel.

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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*All contributions are tax deductible

JWs at my door

In the last 10 years the JWs have avoided our home in their door to door work. However, last month a middle aged man and his 12 year old son knocked on our door. They had no magazines or Bible (which I've never experienced before) and did not begin with the perilous times we live in etc. Rather they wanted to know if we knew someone who may be interested in a new project they were involved with helping those that were blind to read. No mention that they were JWs or even the Bible.

I immediately asked if they were witnesses to this they replied yes. I told him I met some witnesses recently who could not answer my question about the "light getting brighter and brighter". I pointed out the January issue of this years Watchtower magazine which says witnesses have been wrong on dates for the end of the world yet they should still be followed. If a witness was expected to believe and teach these false dates at the time and refused to do so, they would have been disfellowshipped. Later the organization would defend itself that they must have the truth because they admit their mistakes. We had an excellent discussion which included the gospel message as well.

HAVE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES GIVEN INCORRECT DATES FOR THE END?

Jehovah's Witnesses have had wrong expectations about when the end would come. Like Jesus' first-century disciples, we have sometimes looked forward to the fulfillment of prophecy ahead of God's timetable. (Luke 19:11; Acts 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 2:1, 2) We agree with the sentiment of longtime Witness A. H. Macmillan, who said: "I learned that we should admit our mistakes and continue searching God's Word for more enlightenment."

Why, then, do we continue to highlight the nearness of the end? Because we take

seriously Jesus' words: "Keep looking, keep awake." The alternative, to be found "sleeping" by Jesus, would prevent us from gaining his favor. (Mark 13:33, 36) Why?

Consider this example: A lookout in a fire tower might see what he thinks is a wisp of smoke on the horizon and sound what proves to be a false alarm. Later, though, his alertness could save lives.

Likewise, we have had some wrong expectations about the end. But we are more concerned with obeying Jesus and saving lives than with avoiding criticism. Jesus' command to

"give a thorough witness" compels us to warn others about the end.—Acts 10:42.

We believe that even more important than focusing on when the end will come, we must be confident that it will come, and we must act accordingly. We take seriously the words of Habakkuk 2:3, which says: "Even if [the end] should delay [compared to what you thought], keep in expectation of it; for it will without fail come true. It will not be late."

Photocopy of the January 1, 2013 issue of the Watchtower magazine admitting that Jehovah's witnesses have had "wrong expectations" (made false prophecies) about when the end would come.

Mormon Missionary...

I mentioned a few months back that I had met a Mormon Missionary at Balboa Park. This was a Sunday afternoon and he along with several other missionaries had set up a table down the main walkway at the park.

I have now spoken to him 3 times on different occasions at the park. It's very ironic that this young man attended my same High School and lived in the same city a I did over 40 years ago!

We've had excellent discussions on Mormonism vs. Christianity. I believe he is convinced that all the evidence points to the fact Mormonism cannot be true. However, his greatest struggle is with his "testimony". A powerful feeling that Joseph Smith was a prophet and Mormonism is true.

Please pray for Elder Bitner that God will open his heart and mind to the glorious gospel of Christ.



Elder Bitner is on the far right who attended the same High School as me in Utah. Our paths have crossed 3 times over the last few months. He's very open to the gospel and the true God. Please pray for him.

What's Happening and What's Coming???

Darwin's Birthday February 12... I try each year to debunk Darwin on his birthday either at the Natural History Museum or the Museum of Man. It is on a Tuesday this year so I may go to San Diego State. I will report next month and let you know what happened.

Parkway Plaza the week before Easter... Lord willing we'll be at Parkway Plaza the Saturday before Easter. I'm working on making this happen with the endorsement of a church in Santee called "Faith Bible Fellowship". This isn't until the end of March so we will keep you posted.

Preaching in Phoenix... I've been asked to preach at a church in Phoenix the first part of March. I would appreciate your prayers.

In Christ,

Jerry and Dianna