



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

earnestly contend for the faith
Jude 3

Fishers of Men

January 2013

Balboa Park, San Diego State

Can't believe it's the end of 2012. Actually it's 2013 as you read this! God has been so gracious this past year. We were able to make our goal of over 100 outreaches this year. This is the third or fourth year we were able to do so. Actually, this is not a boast in any way just a delight that God has given His hand of blessing in both time and strength.

Bible John's prostate cancer surgery went well. He hopes to be back witnessing in a week or two. A full report will be available in a couple of weeks. Please continue to pray for him.

We finished out the year with several trips to San Diego State and Balboa Park. Our 2nd largest event ever (after U.S. Sand castle competition) was December Nights at Balboa Park. They say 300,000 attendance over 3 days. We purchased a 26 inch T.V. with DVD player and showed the video "180" (a Christian documentary comparing abortion with the holocaust) at night near the drop off point for the busses. Thousands saw at least a part of the video. We sang Christmas Carols and handed out hundred of tracts as well.

One of the freedoms that we are observing that is slowly slipping away is our freedom of speech. Although our constitution protects this freedom, in the real world it is gradually fading.

We have been told more than once we could not hand out tracts or do open air preaching. Our signs are now under fire that they can be used as a weapon and therefore cannot be made of anything thicker than a quarter inch. Even a Styrofoam sign we are told may need a permit. Cameras and video tapes can likewise cause problems. Sound amplification has been an issue even when no city ordinance is violated. Using a T. V. to present an opinion is also criticized.

Canada is seeing the result of this suppression and has outlawed hundreds of ministries and removed their tax exempt status. I believe that hate speech will become so broad in America that one day we may not be able to say homosexuality is a sin or that there is only one way to God.

Perhaps one day we will be told not to speak in the name of Jesus. Then we will have to say as Peter and John: "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." Acts 4:19-20



December Nights at Balboa Park. These officers and others were constantly around us concerning our free speech. This officer is explaining why we can't hold a cross on city property. They eventually allowed it.



Here's the cross illuminated. We did show the movie 180 several times with amplified speakers. Thousands heard at least part of it. With the mic we shared 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... Brackets Gone???

I remember years ago when a favorite apologist of mine, Walter Martin spoke in La Mesa about the New World translation. Of special concern was Colossians 1:16 and 17 where the Watchtower changed the meaning of the text by adding the word “other” 4 times in their bible. The first editions of the NWT had the words added but not in brackets. It wasn’t long after Martin criticized them openly and in print that the Green edition of the NWT put the word [other] in brackets to show it wasn’t in the original but was added for clarity. The brackets showed they were being honest about this addition even though the original NWT was not.

However, now that people have forgotten about this the new versions (Blue edition 1984 NWT) has once again removed the brackets. Witnesses now won’t have a clue that something is up unless someone points it out.

Interestingly, the newest JW.org official web site still uses the previous edition which has the word [other] in brackets.



We were right off the sidewalk at December Nights where thousands walked by. We sang Christmas carols and encouraged others to join us. Here three people that were walking by joined in.

The Church of Jesus Christ?

Although the Mormon Church ‘today’ bears the name of Jesus Christ, this wasn’t always so. When the Church began in 1830 the official name was, “The Church of Christ.” (see Doctrine and Covenants 20:1).

In 1834 a unanimous vote was given by the leaders and members of the Church to REMOVE the name of Christ completely. The official name was changed to, “The Church of The Latter Day Saints.” (see History of the Church, vol. 2, p. 63).

After almost 4 years of existence without the name of Christ, Joseph Smith gave a revelation to reinsert Christ’s name into the Church which it is still known by today, i.e., “The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.” (see Doctrine and Covenants, Section 115).

Mormons tell us that the true church must have the name of Jesus in its name but few know that their own church did not always have the name of Christ.



This is Frank at Balboa Park during the day. Frank is retired and active in witnessing. He’s been going with us on Tuesdays and attends a church in Santee.

What’s Happening and What’s Coming???

Parkway Plaza... Lord willing we’ll go to Parkway Plaza in El Cajon and set up a table there soon. We’re hoping to go there with another Church from Santee and help them do some evangelism.

The Border is near the top... It’s been around a year since we’ve been to the border so it’s in our sights again. We have more than once handed out 1500 tracts and dozens of one on one talks during our outreach at the border.

Feb 5th Childrens outreach... Hundreds of kids will be at the free museums the first Tuesday of February in Balboa Park. We have a new children’s canvas presentation on how God speaks through the creation.

Any Ideas??? If you know of any large events in Southern California we’d be interested in doing an outreach there. Just send me an email: jerryben@cox.net

May God richly bless your efforts to serve Him this coming year.

In Christ,

Jerry and Dianna