

Challenge Ministries



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

earnestly contend for the faith
Jude 3

Fishers of Men

July 2013

Balboa and more Balboa...

One thing is certain in San Diego, there are always people at Balboa Park, 7 days a week, rain or shine. This is the first month I can remember that Balboa Park was the only place we officially went to this month. It is rare at Balboa Park that we don't speak with people from 3 or 4 different countries. The good news is, the vast majority of tourist from other countries speak English reasonably well.

I think it is easier talking to strangers at Balboa Park than those you run across in your day to day travels and especially those you know. However, if you start where it's easier then it becomes a given that you will seek ways to speak with people you see often.

If you recall, last month we went to the JW convention. Although no one would talk with us (not surprising), we placed 4 videos on YouTube that we filmed there. So far over 2,000 people have watched them. Judging by comments and emails I receive daily, most are angry JW's. The point is not to make them mad, but rather to make them think. Only the Holy Spirit can convict them.



The Hari Krisnas here seem to get along fine with the "Tarot Card Reader". They were pushing books on "Yoga". We had a very lengthy conversation of about 12 seconds after I asked, "What are you going to do with your sins?"



Dianna and I took an afternoon off walking on the San Diego Bay sidewalk. Of course I took a few tracts just in case. This young man was from out of town and I got to explain the "million dollar message".



This is a quick self portrait with 4 Christian girls from Canada and John. One girl is on my left (invisible), and John's hat and forehead is peaking out on the left of photo. I've never met Canadian Christians with such enthusiasm for sharing the gospel and had to get their picture.

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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Challenge Ministries

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*All contributions are tax deductible

Witnessing to JWs

We were just finishing our hot dog at Costco and noticed 3 young teenage boys which were obviously JWs. They were dressed nicely and had been out door to door with the Watchtower magazine.

I really hadn't planned to speak with them but felt compelled to ask if I could sit with them a few moments and they warmly agreed. I sensed if I were to have an impact at all I must express that I genuinely appreciated their zeal as well as had great concern for them.

I stressed the importance to always "carefully" test what we believe as well as what we are taught with the Bible. Our understanding of who Jesus is is critical. I explained how Thomas refused to believe that Jesus could possibly rise from the dead after such a horrendous crucifixion. But Jesus appeared personally with the body that had been on the "torture stake" and Thomas calls Him "the God".

The young man in the blue nearest the camera pulled out his smart phone and looked up John 20. I had him read it to the others. How marvelous to see the impact of the Word of God as they listened. Would it not be wonderful that God would save all 3 of them?



If you guessed Costco, you are right. Santee to be exact. Had a delightful conversation with these 3 young Jehovah's Witnesses.

Witnessing to a Mormon

I often sense when speaking with a Mormon that they are Mormon before they tell me. However, 2 times this month I spoke with 2 individuals who were LDS that I never would have guessed.

In both situations we spoke of the heart of the gospel and man's desperate need to trust in the finished work at the cross. We both used Christian terminology but radically different meanings. Sadly, even though I am very knowledgeable in their doctrines I failed to see there was a problem until I asked where they went to church.

One of the women had only been a Mormon for less than a year so knew very little of their distinctives. She had even been warned before and asked them point blank if they taught that God was married and they answered emphatically NO. I shared with her that this was a basic teaching in Mormonism and that in time she would be taught the more radical doctrines of Mormonism. She was obviously very troubled but strangely NOT angry at me which so often is the case.

I shared with her that Mormonism was radically opposed to Biblical Christianity. The fundamentals of the faith have been radically distorted in Mormonism.

I shared the Bible was very clear that there was only one God and that He had always been God. She was quick to say she truly believed it. Yet Mormons are striving to be a god over their own planet as our God had likewise done. She was very perplexed. Rather than halting the conversation she was eager to hear more and promised to check these things out.

The other conversation I had just a week later was a young woman pushing a stroller. She had family from Utah near where I grew up. I explained how I had been challenged to read the Book of Mormon which was the beginning of a careful investigation of Mormonism. I shared how I bought and read many LDS books. I was amazed at what I discovered. I shared many of the fundamentals of the LDS church were not only in agreement with the Bible but were not in agreement with the Book of Mormon.

Rather than her getting angry which is usually the case, we had a very sincere talk. She promised to check out what I had brought to her attention. I thanked her for her time and we parted on good terms.

We can only trust God for the increase.

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

700 tracts to the Philippines... Because of your kind financial support we were able to help the pastor from the Philippines who asked for help with tracts exposing the Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons. We hope to hear from him in the future of the help that this was in his ministry.

ComicCon July 20... Lord willing just a few weeks away is an international event here in San Diego. Comic-Con. Attendance expected 126,000. It's actually a 3 day event but Lord willing we'll be there on Saturday the 20th. We've interviewed people, handed out tracts, and done some open air preaching in the past. Perhaps more of the same this year.

Parkway Plaza... The last few years we've gone to Parkway Plaza Mall in El Cajon several times a year with great results. I hope to lead a team soon, hopefully this summer to Parkway. If you live in San Diego area perhaps you'd be interested in helping at the table or just come and pray with us.

May God bless your efforts to serve Him,

Jerry and Dianna