

# Challenge Ministries



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

earnestly contend for the faith  
Jude 3

## Fishers of Men

June 2010

### Balboa Park (3 times) and Parkway Plaza Shopping Center

As usual, we went to our favorite, or at least most popular fishing ground, Balboa Park. There are always people there of every kind from all over the world. It seems this year especially we have had many heart to heart conversations with many that are at the very door of becoming a Christian. Some of my favorite times sharing has been with young people. I spoke with 3 teenagers at once about the gospel at Balboa Park. Although they were young and had little religious training, it really overwhelms me the interest they had about spiritual things, especially considering they were talking to someone older than their father. Obviously, the Holy Spirit was at work. I sensed that they were not far from the Kingdom of God.

After 2 years being away from Parkway Plaza and the Walmart we have returned. I was able to get a permit for a Saturday afternoon with a table directly in front of Walmart. We gave out about 600 tracts in 3 hours. How wonderful that in America we still have the right to do this.

Ricky spoke with a young woman for quite some time about the gospel, only to find out she lived in his apartment building, 25 miles away. This could be a great opportunity to follow up. I spoke to one young mother with 2 kids about the law, judgement, and the gospel. This woman was genuinely convicted as she shared her husband was a Christian but she was not. She thanked me over and over and said she needed this message and desired to get her life on track.



I spoke with "Harvey" at Parkway Plaza for about 20 minutes. He's studying with the Jehovah's Witnesses. I shared with him the serious errors of the Watchtower. Unfortunately, these people are "my friends" as he put it. I believe God did ordain this meeting ultimately for His Glory.



John (with the white hat) spent a considerable amount of time speaking with this man about the gospel at Balboa Park. Notice the number of people in the photo. 3 or 4 of us will usually hand out hundreds of tracts on any given day.



Here's our table at Parkway Plaza in front of Walmart. Dianna and Ricky are talking with 5 people at once. People really will talk about religious things if you just try.



Ricky is talking with 3 young men about the gospel. Dianna at the table with another conversation. Sadly, most Christians NEVER share a clear presentation of the gospel with anyone.

## 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

### Another approach to: Witnessing to a Mormon

As I stated last newsletter, I like to stick to the fundamentals of the faith, the foundation of Christianity, when I speak with Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses. Who is God? Who is Jesus Christ? How are we saved? These are the BIG three but there are other topics that are certainly worth discussing, such as the scriptures or how do we test truth.

Other approaches also can be beneficial. Here is one that I do use from time to time but NEVER alone. What I mean is, this approach pulls the rug out from Mormons (shows that Mormonism cannot be from God), but it does nothing to rescue them from their sins. Therefore you must always allow time in your discussion to share the truth of the gospel.

In this approach you would provide documentation proving the man-made nature of Mormonism. Errors and problems that are so serious that Mormonism could not possibly be true. Ultimately, actually photocopies is best. However a tract is good if it has good documentation. Even a verbal discussion will also have an impact.

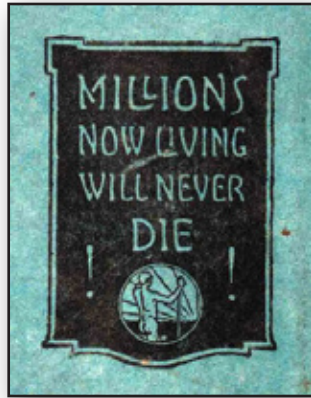
The history of Mormonism is filled with floods of evidence that Mormonism cannot be from God. An example is that all LDS scripture, the book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great price have undergone major changes. The Book of Mormon has over 4,000 word changes since the original 1830 edition, many changes were doctrinal. The revelations, Doctrine and Covenants, have had thousands of changes as well, some have had hundreds of word changes in a single revelation.

How can it be that a revelation given to Joseph Smith on a particular day at a particular place can years later have hundreds of words added which radically change the meaning.

The First Vision has evolved over time where it has little agreement with the original. The LDS History of the Church has likewise had thousands of changes. Photocopies of these changes can really shake up a Mormon.

Of course we ultimately desire that they turn from error and believe truth. The greatest truth is of course salvation complete in Christ.

The logo on the cover of the Jehovah's Witnesses book, "Millions Now Living will Never Die." It stated clearly on page 89 & 90 that we can "confidently" expect the return of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in 1925.



### Witnesses at our door

As the JW convention approaches, witnesses are very active inviting locals to attend the convention. Just a few days ago as I was preparing to go to Parkway plaza for our tract outreach, a team of witnesses were headed up our street. Since they always mysteriously miss our house (we've been marked), I have to go down the driveway and wait for them.

I had just a moment to grab several tracts and a photocopy of the Watchtower's claim to be a prophet. As the witnesses came down the street there I was at the base of the driveway.

"Are you Jehovah's Witnesses" I asked. (it's always good to ask questions that you know how they will answer and then control the conversation).

"Yes we are" they replied. (It was a husband wife team).

"May I ask you a question?" I asked.

"Of course" they answered.

"In what way have you tested the Watchtower to determine if they are God's organization?"

"What do you mean?" the husband (William) asked.

I explained that many religious organizations claim to have the truth and all others are false (as the Mormons). God commands us not to believe every thing we hear but put those in leadership to the test (I John 4:1 & I Thess. 5:21). Two such tests are that they must not teach doctrines contrary to God's word, and they must not give any false prophecies (Deut. 18). At this point I showed William the photocopy from the 1968 Awake! where even Watchtower leaders admit that predicting an end of the world that does not take place was false prophesying and that God was NOT using that organization.

I explained Russel's false prophecy about 1914 and Rutherford's false prophecy about 1925 and the house of princes at Beth Sarim here in San Diego.

Many seeds were sown and William and his wife said they would come back in 3 weeks to talk more. I pray that they will return and that perhaps God will have mercy on their souls.

## What's Happening???

**JW Convention San Diego...** Lord willing, by time you receive this newsletter we will have once again gone to the JW convention at Qualcomm Stadium. The date of the event changed to the last weekend of May which is when I'm supposed to be preaching at a church in Phoenix, just 300 miles away. However, rather than drive we decided to fly which will give us the opportunity to go to the Stadium on Saturday morning and possibly Friday night. The newsletter had to be printed on the day of the convention which is also when we leave. Long story short, next month we will report.

**Outdoor Video System Fails...** Our first attempt of playing a video on a 12 foot screen for 2 hours from a single battery failed. We were able to get one hour and the battery inverter overheated and burned up. A low voltage circuit didn't work as designed and we're in the process of getting another. We are getting closer and hope to actually use it in public within 2 months.

**Padres at Petco in San Diego...** We plan to do a tract outreach at Petco Park before next newsletter. We've had run ins with the police and security in the past but have straightened the matter out with the San Diego Police. By next month we should report on this tract outreach.

**Border planned for summer...** We were so pleased with the border outreach recently that we're planning on several more. We've purchased 3,000 tracts in Spanish. We're still looking for interpreters that could come. If you know Spanish this would be a great short term mission outreach.

**Ex-Jehovah's Witness support group...** Carol Hartman (a Christian and ex-Jehovah's Witness) has a support group for ex-JWs in the San Diego Area. You can contact her at: [c.hartman@att.net](mailto:c.hartman@att.net).

Thank you for your prayers and continued financial support.

Your Warriors in Christ, *Jerry and Dianna*