



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

earnestly contend for the faith
Jude 3

Fishers of Men

May 2014

EarthDay, Parkway Plaza, SDSU, Phoenix Jazz Festival, Balboa Park

So many lost and so little time. This seems to dominate each outreach. Some 80,000 were at the largest EarthDay event in the world here in San Diego at Balboa Park. The theme seemed to be recycle, protect the earth and don't eat meat. The Hare Krishna's and the JW's out numbered the Christians 5 to 1. I spent most of the day there and experienced wave after wave of lost young people. Most have never heard the gospel clearly where they could understand how they can be right before God. It truly was heartbreaking.

I spoke with a Jewish man at length at EarthDay. I believe he is very near to becoming a Christian. He has my email. His name is Albert. Please remember him in prayer.

We gave out hundreds of tracts at Parkway Plaza. The following week I was able to preach at a church in Phoenix and met another brother and handed out tracts at a Jazz Festival.



The guy next to the man with white hair on the right is Scott. He's a Christian that helped me hand out tracts at the Phoenix Jazz Festival a couple of weeks ago.



Dianna on Easter morning in a Santee intersection, at Cuyamaca and Mission George Road.



EarthDay, Balboa Park, April 27. World's largest Earth Fair. I spoke with over 40 individuals one on one about the Gospel. Met some high school students that were on the companion bus of the bus where 10 students were killed here in California just a couple of weeks ago.

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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Points to Know from “My Experience in Mormonism” by one of our supporters Dave McCament

“There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” – King Solomon (Proverbs 14:12 & 16:25)

As humans we generally base our decision-making on our own personal experiences. Experiences can be factually-based or feelings-based. The most convincing experience to a Latter-day Saint (LDS) is personal revelation. It is a form of inner awareness or convicting insight which all believing LDS feel at any moment in time or place and which they interpret as the Holy Ghost (Spirit) testifying to the truth of the matter, whether it is in response to a prayer, a situation they are in, a book they are reading, or as they listen to another person speaking.

Mormons often testify to others what they have felt, saying the Holy Ghost has “born witness” to them that something is true. This is most often the case in presenting Joseph Smith as a true prophet of God. LDS also will testify to the truthfulness of their church, the Book of Mormon, and their current church leader, President Thomas S. Monson, whom Mormons consider to be God’s one and only true prophet on earth today.

Mormon scriptures describe the feeling as a “burning in the bosom” (see Doctrine & Covenants 9:8). What most LDS are not aware of is that their feelings are not unique to their religious experience. Members of other non-Christian cults have expressed very similar feelings about their faith. Psychologists have coined the term “enthralment” to describe the phenomenon of feelings of peace or joy that often accompany a person’s inquiry into spiritual matters, especially during the conversion process which proceeds joining a cult.

Even so, Mormons are absolutely certain that their own experiences and feelings are genuine because what they feel usually follows a personal inquiry via prayer. Believing that the Holy Ghost is the agent responsible for the feelings, when a LDS shares his or her testimony with another person, the Mormon is basing the correctness of their testimony on the premise that the feelings come from God.

It is very important to know that Mormons believe the Bible is intentionally compromised and incomplete (1 Nephi 13:20-40). It is the function of their additional revelations and scriptures to correct and “fill-in the blanks” of the Bible, making available to people since the ministry of Joseph Smith, all the fullness of the gospel as taught by Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry. Since their religion does not view the Bible as correct by itself, a Christian may make a legitimate truth-claim from the Bible to a Mormon, showing clearly where there is a conflict

between Mormon doctrine and scripture, only to find the LDS being either non-responsive, argumentative, or repeating their testimony in reply. Since a LDS’s testimony is subjective in nature (feelings-based), understanding their methodology for establishing truth is critical.

For those LDS who are searching and will exercise enough faith in the Bible to at least be open to dialogue, it might prove beneficial to establish with that individual what God has said in His Word to discern truth. According to the Bible, honest truth seekers need to:

- 1) Trust in the LORD, not in their own understanding (Prov. 3:5,6);
- 2) Test the spirits to see if they are of God (1 John 4:1).

How are these steps accomplished? By both knowing & obeying the Word of God (Prov. 16:20; John 17:17; 1 Peter 1:23-25; 2 Tim. 3:15). The bottom line: as true believers, we all need to validate our beliefs by the Bible and not by our subjective feelings (Hebrews 4:12).

What can you do to help reach your LDS family members and friends?

Pray for a rending of the veil of blindness that supernaturally imposes an inability to perceive truth, especially in advance of sharing Jesus and the Word of God. Ask God for wisdom in how to proceed and for discernment (James 1:5). Know what the Bible teaches about the basics of salvation and who Jesus is (1 Peter 3:15). Be available & offer help as led by the Holy Spirit through tangibles like food, baby sitting, Bible studies, a listening ear, etc. Live your faith: a faithful and uncompromising lifestyle is a wonderful outward witness to works-oriented religious people (Titus 2:7).

As a believer, be certain of this: our salvation is not the result of belonging to the right church but having a right relationship with Jesus Christ. The scriptures were given to us to testify of Jesus (1 John 5:11-13), to focus our faith on His finished work at Calvary (Col. 2:2-15), and to teach us what we need to know to be right with God (Romans 10:17; Eph 1:13). Trust in God and in the truth of His Word (Acts 20:32). Our great God and Savior will work the details out in your life for His glory and for your good (Rom 8:28). Amen

Thank you Dave. May God bless your efforts to serve Him.

What’s Happening and What’s Coming???

JW Convention this month... Just days away is the JW convention. I’m still looking for help with signs and open air preaching.

May God bless your efforts to serve Him,

Jerry and Dianna