

Challenge Ministries

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

earnestly contend for the faith
Jude 3

Fishers of Men

November 2009

Octoberfest (La Mesa), PETCO Park, Seaport Village, Balboa Park twice, Halloween Gaslamp San Diego

It would be hard to image a more diverse crowd of people that we spoke with this month. Several JW's, Muslims, Catholics, Atheists, a pastor, Christians, the Devil, Wonder Woman, and many that had not given spiritual things any thought. Some very moved by the gospel and some angry and defiant of this gospel.

Some cursed and some were near tears. Some were encouraged to press on with this message to the world and some church goers said our message was too negative. They tell us that Sin, judgement, wrath, and hell, should be very distant to our message of love and acceptance. One thing is sure. No one was neutral!

"Preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season" II Timothy 4:2



Dianna and I rode the trolley for the first time to the 3 day, La Mesa Octoberfest. Once we were vendors here for a dozen years, now we go to share the gospel. We handed out over 500 tracts in 2 hours. A hour after this you had to take baby steps through the crowd it was so busy. These 4 kids were delighted to get the million dollar bill and asked for extras for their friends.



Seaport Village. Ricky trying to bribe a security guard (NOT really!). Two more officers were called for a clarification of our 1st ammendment right. Even though this sidewalk around the corner is open to free speech, here it is controlled by Seaport. The tree in the top left and grassy area is city property and open to free speech. We agreed to move and check further. Bible John looks on in the red shirt on the right.



I'm not sure how to describe Halloween, downtown San Diego, but WILD would be a good start. 10s of thousands of young people came from everywhere to see and be seen. Pastor Gill and I did open air preaching and we interviewed dozens on the street. Here I interview the devil and Hillary about the after life, which will be on YouTube for all the world to view in a week or so.

NEWSLETTER

Challenge Ministries is a non-profit Christian ministry dedicated to the defense and proclamation of the Gospel and Biblical truth.

Founded by Jerry & Dianna Benson
E-mail: challenge.min@cox.net
web site: www.challengemin.org

Challenge Ministries
P.O. Box 20195
El Cajon, California 92021

*All contributions are tax deductible

How can you be saved without WORKS since James 2:20 says faith without works is dead?

“But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?” — James 2:20

When Christians are faced with this verse for the first time it often throws them since it “appears” that works is necessary for salvation, just as Mormons claim. Even the next verse seems to agree when it says, “**Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?**” (James 2:21)

Verse 19 gives considerable insight into the problem.

“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.”

James is giving a very potent example of a certain kind of “belief” that does NOT save a person. This “head knowledge” only is no different than the “belief” of devils. They obviously have not yielded their heart and soul to the Lordship of the Lord Jesus Christ and have not trusted and committed their lives to Him. Their works demonstrate they have not been born again and are in rebellion against God.

In reality, true saving faith or a true saving belief, will produce good works. You don’t do good works in order to be declared righteous in God’s sight, you produce good works because you are saved.

Ephesians 2:8-10 puts the whole thing into perspective:

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

Notice how James 2:18 says “SHEW ME thy faith without thy works, and I will SHEW THEE my faith by my works.” Because your fellow man cannot see your heart, your faith is demonstrated to him by your works.

Titus 3:8 explains it like this: **“This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.”**

JW Witnessing Encounter

Jehovah’s Witnesses have marked our house for years as a home NOT to visit. However, they still visit the neighborhood and now often on Sunday afternoons.

2 Sundays ago from this writing the witnesses were coming down the street and as usual walked by our house. However, I was part way down the drive way and called out to them, “I have something you might be interested in.” Actually, Dianna saw them go up the street and retrieved one of our tracts that we gave away at the JW convention. She gave it to me to share with them.

“What is it?” they called back.

I proceeded to show the elderly gentleman and his associate the photocopy of the 1995 Awake! where “the Creator’s promise” is that the return of Christ would be before those witnesses of 1914 would die. Current editions removed the prophecy because they have all died. He looked intently on the photocopy and then declared it a fake! I challenged him to take it and look it up since the date and page were given. At first he refused to take it but when I told him of how he was controlled by the organization he angrily took it. I was shocked that he would even touch it and then actually take it. This is very rare indeed.

I then pointed out that not only has the faithful organization made false prophecies, but his own Bible says Jesus is God. He said Jesus was a “little god” with a small “g” but never the true God with a capital “G”.

I asked him to look up Thomas’ calling Jesus the true God in John 20:28. He read it aloud to me. I asked him why Jesus doesn’t rebuke Thomas and remind him that he is the created angel Michael.

I’ve never had a JW give me this response before which shows how desperate they are for real answers. He said, “Jesus was being “GRACIOUS” to Thomas.” But why does Jesus go on to compliment Thomas for his statement and for those who have not seen and yet believe.

With this he angrily left, but with the tract. Although he said he’d been a witness for 40 years, perhaps God will open his eyes to the truth of His glorious gospel.

What’s Happening???

Millions given to Challenge Ministries!!!... Actually, your kind gifts last month will enable us to continue to print and give away our million dollar bill tracts for the rest of the year. We are overwhelmed and so appreciative of all your kind gifts. Thank you.

Seminars in Sunday Schools... For those who live in Southern California, I would be delighted to come to your Sunday School class and share on the Mormons and the JW’s or how to share your faith. I can tailor one class or a series. Just send a message to the P.O. Box or send me an e-mail at: jerryben@cox.net

Police Ignore us at PETCO Park!!! After 3 squad cars came to ask us to refrain from tracting at PETCO last month, it was refreshing to have them ignore us handing out gospel tracts in the entrance of the baseball park 2 weeks later. PETCO security was still quite disturbed. The head of security told me that he was NOT under San Diego jurisdiction but that because the turnout to this Padre game was down he wasn’t going to insist we leave. Actually, I had the municipal codes in my pocket that gave us free speech, but why labor the point. I smiled and wished him a good evening and he left. We handed out nearly 500 tracts and spoke with many fans as well.

Your Warriors in Christ, *Jerry and Dianna*