

STA December 15, 2016

So...my volunteering trust was undermined a bit when an elderly woman approached me and asked if I knew that people who take copies of **Science and Health** were sometimes encouraged by their pastor(s) to dispose of the book - to get it out of circulation and readership. I was somewhat wary when Togan, a young man adorned with one huge fake diamond earring asked for a copy - he said wanted to read it, on this frigid day, at the library. He also took **The Ultimate Freedom** after I, as they say in library circles, "booktalked" it. He took a CS Sentinel as well and encouraged his nearby friends to come listen to our discussion. I can't read minds, but I am mindful of sincere seekers. And he was sincere.

We want to acknowledge the generous donors of back issues of the periodicals for use in Outreach over the last months. Thank you all so much. We have enough magazines for the time being. Having often read testimonies in the periodicals, how some have found Christian Science by coming upon a copy of the Sentinel, Herald, or Journal at a laundromat, at a beauty salon, or some other public space, and we find it is so nice to have copies to share at STA.

A man asked if he could have a copy of **Science and Health**. He asked if he could read me something on page 418 that touched him deeply. He obviously had read the entire book before today's encounter. He read in a clear, loud voice easily heard by anyone listening nearby - he read the entire page. He quoted from other pages. He asked about local church services. He shook my hand and hugged me. He helped dispel the first visitor's negative observation about *where* our books wind up. My trust in recipients

was restored.

Someone else asked for directions to local CS churches. We have a bookmark with addresses and contact information. Bus schedules and routes are posted in the depot; and I have often drawn simple maps to assist the inquirers on how to get to church.

The one 'constant' during Outreach is that each week's encounters are unique. I often wonder how I could write up my shift activities without repeating myself. I am glad it takes care of itself.

A shout out for this week's Cedars Camp metaphysical article by Craig Ghislin, C.S., whose writing touches on these experiences we have at STA: "The general population is largely helpless in the face of challenges to God's allness. But as we have seen, when we turn to God, we can see through the lies to what is really going on." Eyes wide open!