

STA OUTREACH REPORT FOR 12-10-15

From Bob: It was a good day at the outreach. Rocky start, however, as the ramp from our new storage facility is overly steep for our book display tower on the cart...lost the folding table and the miscellaneous storage box on the first try! We'll work it out.

A gentleman who appeared to be a street person came along. "Hi! I'm a Christian Scientist but I'll take another copy of S&H to hand out." He was not familiar with the *Century of CS Healing* so I gave him that and he was a happy man. He actually did seem quite sincere and mentioned using the nearby Reading Room.

Then there was a woman who, she said, already had an S&H. She then described how she and her aunt were involved with an evangelical church which includes "laying on of hands". I mentioned to her how some early followers of MBE, and perhaps MBE herself at one time, used that technique in healing efforts, but quickly it was stopped as they got a stronger sense of the truly spiritual basis of healing. She appreciated that idea of going from a material action to a fully spiritual approach. A few minutes later she came back and asked for another S&H "to make sure she still had one". Another youngish woman talked about how she and her fiancée want to pray for themselves, and the world. Her attention was drawn to *A Century...* and I gave her a copy along

with S&H, plus a copy of *The Ultimate Freedom*, to get a sense of how a metaphysical approach has proven to be effective.

A young man, responding to our sign, "Spiritual Healing for All", mentioned how that topic has been an interest to him ever since childhood. Off he went with the book.

Lastly, a "searching" woman came over to show me a picture of her daughter, age 26, who she said has some mental issues and has been missing for two weeks. Beautiful young woman. I offered to, and did from then on, carry in thought that there can be no separation within Mind and that Mind is fully represented/expressed in each and every spiritual being...which is who her daughter and all the rest of us actually are... and she was grateful. This sort of thing happens from time to time at our bus plaza and I'm glad to be able to apply a mustard seed worth of spiritual expectation.

From Tina: Bob told me about the missing young woman when I arrived for my shift. During a quiet moment I supported the family's search with this revision of Mrs. Eddy's declaration - making it my own prayer:

The prayer that reforms...and [finds the missing girl] is an absolute faith that all things are possible to God, — a spiritual understanding of Him..."(SH 1:1-3).

A woman listened to my explanation of the book's contents,

then stated she was a Catholic, and then asked, "May I have one for my mother?"

Another woman, Catherine, seemed to want everything, and kept asking about the cost of subscriptions to the periodicals. She said she didn't have much money so I encouraged her to go to the downtown RR and read everything there for free. I added that it was a wonderful place to ask for and receive answers about what she was reading.

A fellow broke away from his companion and inquired about the book on display. His head was covered in dreadlocks (my husband calls them "ropes in hair") and his demeanor was one of sincere inquisitiveness. He said he had just started reading the Bible in jail and asked if there was anything in Science and Health about the Bible. I assured him there are references to the Bible on almost every page. We talked a bit about reading the scriptures for inspiration, and that Science and Health reveals that God does not condemn His creation, nor are Bible verses ever to be used as weapons. That, anyhow, was the gist of the conversation and the fellow left with a book and a "thank you."

An older man asked if we had any copies of The Christian Science Monitor he could take. We didn't, but I told him about the basket of periodicals outside the RR filled with copies free for the taking. Then he asked if we (referring to Christian Scientists) celebrate Christmas. Oh yes! Every day!

A young girl stopped by, said she had been raised in a Christian cult and wondered if CS might be a cult. I told her that 'cult' was often used in name-calling by those who are ignorant, and/or unwilling to find out about a theology for

themselves. I shared my two favorite healings with her and offered her a copy of S&H. She said she didn't want a book but was happy to hear my story.

A young father carried a sleeping child in his arms as he came up the escalator. A little while later I noticed sharp words spoken between him and someone who may have been the little child's mother. I don't know the whole story, but what I witnessed made me sad so I started to pray, and the hymn that begins, "Peace be to this congregation, Peace to every heart therein;" came to mind. For the first time in over seven years of doing outreach I caught a glimpse of my "congregation" of bus station people and that it would be okay to offer my prayer: "in Christian Science ... [my prayer] shall be offered for the congregations collectively and exclusively." (Manual) So I did.

A young man passing by at a quick pace smiled at me. I smiled back. He pointed to a copy of S&H and said, "That's a great book!"

Amen,