

STA OUTREACH REPORT FOR 2-18-16

From Bob: Today's outreach may be considered a potpourri of good things...certainly a variety! First, a young brassy woman came along who mentioned she was reading books from the library on spirituality and was happy to find S&H here in that same category. I noticed she was giving my face rapt attention. She said, "That stray part of your eyebrow is driving me crazy---can I pluck it?" Well...OK. It took about ten "plucks" on the one well-rooted hair but she finally got the offender and laughingly went on her way with S&H and also TUF. A fellow came over, almost doubled over laughing, and asked, "I saw the whole thing. Has that ever happened to you before?!" In a word, no.

A young couple came along. The woman said she read the S&H we gifted her some time ago, liked it, gave it to her mother then came back recently to get one for her sister. She graciously took another gift copy for herself today.

There were some brief but happy interactions with several others, one who said he was new in town and is looking for a church (he took a book); one who sized me up as a military person and tried to guess which branch and specialty (he was a bad guesser there but took a book); a man collapsed nearby and quickly received professional aid, but a terrific guy named Mike was pleased to join me in praying about the spiritual nature of man. Mike is apparently a lay preacher in a vibrant black church and

was intrigued to talk about the spiritual nature of everything---he said he'd look forward to 'checking this book out'; "Bubbles" as we jokingly know him (a man whose last name is Champagne or close to that spelling) came by as he frequently does, and this time mentioned that he had read part of S&H and liked it---after having the book for probably 4 or 5 years!

Then there was the woman with the big smile who rushed up and said, "I've been waiting for you guys to be here!" She mentioned she had a Bible from a Reading Room in Denver and was really looking forward to getting this book by MBE. So she did. The connection with the RR in Denver wasn't explained, nor why she waited for this opportunity to find MBE's book. She was happy and that's what counts.

It was a fun day and 16 books plus several ancillary books were gifted. By the way, the collapsed man seemed improved when he was taken away.

NOTE: Tina was out of town this day.

Feb 25, 2016

From Bob:

After some imagery came to me overnight it occurred to me that I needed to submit a substantive report for yesterday after all. Yes, it was quiet but there were some interesting people engaged. One was a fortyish nicely-dressed woman...with no

teeth, which is an indicator of substantial meth usage. We talked very briefly about the nature of the book. She quietly said, "I need this", and left. I've pondered more about how she said that and realize this issue is something everyone of us needs to see through. So many of the terrible things in the news from all locales is triggered by mistaken views of mankind under the spell of addictions. That claim is everywhere; it must be seen through.

Two men volunteered snippets about their military service. I frankly didn't believe either one (some analysis several years ago indicated that about one-third of men claiming to be Vietnam vets aren't). And that made me think---why would they do that? It surely has to do with their poor self-esteem, not seeing themselves anywhere near God's full-blown expressings...something else to view with spiritual eyes as we encounter all manner of men and women and children in daily life.

Last was a man who wore a backpack with a slightly seedy stuffed toy dog sitting on top. He said he was divorced from two wives but has five adult children; some time ago a daughter had given him the dog and he proudly carries it around with him all the time. Nice guy. After a few minutes he came back and asked for another book to give to a friend...yes, indeed.

These were events that made me ponder but had the same obvious and known-all-along conclusions---we must see selves

and others with spiritual eyes. To help that "seeing" one source has written that even if we must remind ourselves specifically to do that by some mechanical means, such means can be a good way to get moving. To that end, I've begun to carry a dozen shiny pennies in my right pocket. Every time during waking hours I can remember to stop and specifically claim my rightful heritage and that of all mankind, I move a penny from the right to the left pocket. Next day I start all over. Results from about three weeks of doing this mechanical reminder system are slightly embarrassing...but it's a commitment that makes sense.

From Tina:

"A REMEMBERED SCENE FROM THE STA PLAZA:

A fellow was listening to a couple of kids: "These were some of those we stereotype without

knowing their story, their circumstance, things they are facing. I heard a young person tells his friend he was too afraid to go home

because of his physically abusive father. His friend, a kid most would avoid because of his appearance, told his friend to come home with him.'" (from *The Slice*, Spokesman Review, February 22, 2016) Somehow, tenderness survives.

A man came up the escalator and looked right at me, writhed about, and very dramatically said, "Heal me! Heal me!" I could tell he was jesting but I felt comfortable telling him he was already whole. He liked that, and agreed, and then stayed around to chat and accept a copy of Science and Health. When I reflect back on the afternoon outreach activity I don't believe there was a moment when I was alone at the table. There was a steady stream of visitors. Richard Bergenheim wrote: "Christ

Jesus brought to mankind the priceless sense of man's spiritual sonship." isn't that what we are also doing as his disciples/apostles!