

STA OUTREACH REPORT FOR 8-25-16

From Barb:

This week's Bible Lesson on Christ Jesus buoyed me up with many applicable citations to keep in mind while staffing the outreach table for the first time in quite a while. For instance, "one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren."

So the people who look poor, the ones who look unkempt or unloved, or those who look right through me as though I'm invisible, they're all my brothers and sisters to be seen in their true light as the spiritual children of God.

The first young woman who asked for a copy of *Science and Health* took it outside and began reading it while she smoked a cigarette and waited for a bus. Receptivity can be measured by the removal of shrink-wrap!

Another woman, with fewer teeth than most but a lovely smile, read the back cover and happily took the textbook and an older C. S. Sentinel.

A third lady was very grateful to get a copy and said, "Awesome! I'll start reading it tonight!"

One man asked if what we had displayed was "free

literature.” When told that it was and that the book was about spirituality and healing, he happily replied, “I dig it!” and took a copy.

And lastly, a man asked for and was given a copy of the textbook and a paperback Bible he saw in our cart.

Thank you, Tina, for your help in getting me set up. It was a rewarding and enriching hour and a half.

From Tina:

While I was helping Barb set up for outreach in bus station, a man, just like the ones she describes in her report, asked where donations for fire victims were being accepted. There has been a call for donations because of the major fires that enveloped our region last Sunday. He had a bag full of items to donate. Compassion and generosity are qualities in this population that I am grateful to have witnessed.

I read a little poem recently that I want to share with you all,

*In all innocence,
the avalanche
consumes
the valley*

Have you ever thought of fire being innocent as well? I have begun to.

The cart was placed in a heavily trafficked area and from Barb's report there was good sharing going on during her shift.

On my shift a "houseless" man visited with me. I felt comfortable asking him how long he had lived on the streets - 30 years! He is 35. He had an interesting history which I won't go into...he didn't want to carry anything extra so my offers were declined. He uses his cell phone to connect to the internet wherever he can find wi-fi so I recommended the webpage ChristianScience.com. He crochets.

The woman who wears a huge sombrero stopped by to take a copy of the Sentinel. She's flashy and wears a lot of bling. I am reminded of the Paul Simon song, "She's got diamonds on the soles of her shoes." I bet she does! And a soul full of diamonds to boot. She chose a magazine with a message on its cover that resonated with her.

Five months ago I met a young woman at outreach who was on her way to visit her newborn son who was in the hospital (four weeks). I don't remember our conversation back then but I do remember feeling a great deal of love for her. Did I speak of spirituality and healing? I don't recall. Today she brought little Jordan to meet me.

A man took a copy of *Science and Health* and said, "It's literature."

Another person took a Sentinel "to read in bed tonight."

Last December I gave a copy of *The Ultimate Freedom* by John Wyndham to a woman who had been asking questions about Christian Science. We met at Starbucks after outreach today and she tried to return the book. "Did you enjoy the book?" "I loved it." I told her to keep and share it. She mentioned a close family friend that had spent two years in the Hanoi "Hilton" in solitary confinement during the Viet Nam war. He too drew on his faith for

survival. She asked me to sign her copy (hope you don't mind, Auriel) so I did: "Tina and Julie loved this book and it belongs to her now to share with others - 8/2016."