

STA OUTREACH REPORT FOR 9-1-16 AND 9-8-16

9-1-16

From Bob:

In a way it's surprising that it's possible to differentiate what happens each week at our outreach---one might assume that after nearly 400 times at the bus plaza any commentary would be monotonous and boring! But, just as we humans are all a little different, things do ebb and flow and seem somewhat new with our "customers" on a weekly basis.

This was a rather big day. Fourteen copies of S&H plus several *Ultimate Freedoms* plus several copies of a Sentinel testimony about addictions went out yesterday. A new twist this week was that three people didn't know what metaphysics is about. That opened up brief conversations about the spiritual nature of absolutely everything, us included, and they all three seemed to get a tiny new idea they could ponder. They included a young man who has been around the block a few times, prison included, who started off by telling me of his new passion--studying theology. They each accepted S&H along with an invitation to learn more about metaphysical concepts.

The other thing I took away from today's outreach was the warm and happy welcome offered by a customer service rep, by one of the security men we often see, by one of the bus drivers who we have not seen for many months, and by one of the Plaza regulars. When we started in '09

we were warned by several people this was a "cold and decadent" place filled with criminals and drug dealers and lackadaisical staff. It would be nice to take credit for healing the surroundings!...but that scenario was NEVER true...the customers are simply often needy in major respects, and the staff people have always been supportive and vigilant. That seems to be a credo important to all of us who consider ourselves metaphysicians as well as good citizens: be supportive and vigilant...and don't let prevailing opinions influence erroneously. It's a joy to really try to see all as God's expressings.

Addendum:

It's official now. Our financial activities have been "adopted" by the Brentwood church. Those of you who wish to contribute financially to the Spokane Outreach may do so by sending your donations to:

First Church of Christ Scientist, Brentwood
Clarence Bargmann, Treasurer
1712 Mason Knoll Road
St. Louis, MO 63131-1200

Thank you very much to our past, current, and future contributors.

From Bob Thursday 9-8-16

A young man, self-proclaimed homeless and living on the

streets, looked at the display of copies of S&H in Russian and Spanish, then asked, "Do you have copies of Science and Health in English?" (He didn't notice the other part of the display which had a dozen or more copies in English.) It was thus obvious he knew what the books looked like and had come across S&H before. I showed him the English versions and he quickly took one and left. Later he came back as Tina was arriving and mentioned to us that he had been to the Bellingham, WA, Reading Room on prior occasions and was thus familiar with the several CS publications. We happened to have a used leather-bound edition of S&H under the display and offered it to him as a "special" book lovingly donated to us; it replaced the small cellophane-wrapped one he had taken earlier. He seemed to enjoy getting that distinctive version as all his own.

The only other interesting exchange happened with another young man who told me he had been quite active in handing out evangelical tracts downtown, especially to Hispanics like himself, until God had implied to him that he should back off from that and led him to a regular job. He asked if I wanted to pray with him; I told him sure, but I do it silently. (We've prayed out loud with others in need from time to time, but in this case it seemed he more wanted a spoken display of piety.) He dropped that idea and went on about Jesus/God on the cross and how God wants us to be humble, and so on. That pointed me in a different direction in talking to evangelicals. He mentioned two qualities God wants us to express, listening and humility, and I then added that we, as Jesus' sayings'

students, should be embodying others like peacemaking, love to all, truthfulness, joy, intelligence, discernment, non-judgmentalism, and more. He heartily agreed. We discussed that aspect. It was a basis we both shared and got us away from the various biblical literalisms upon which we would have disagreed. I'll work that approach further and see how it goes. This man didn't take a book but he did go away, very happily, with a leather-bound copy of the Bible (which had also been under the display but he said he'd love to have a King James).

So we could call this the day of the leather-bound books!

Over the past 92 months you have provided the resources to gift about 10,300 copies of *Science and Health* plus additional Science-related books, articles, and periodicals to the international community. As Ed Sullivan used to say, "that's a good sheeow"!