

STA OUTREACH REPORT FOR 9-10-15

From Bob:

Today was the day of the LONG conversations. I had a wonderful 30-minute discussion with a young man, and later began one with a young woman---a friend of our granddaughter---that lasted about 20 minutes with me and then continued with Tina after I left. She will share that one.

As noted, an intelligent, deep thinking, articulate young man came along who said he had heart to heart sessions with a practitioner several times but still wasn't clear what Christian Science is all about. And he has a physically painful issue right now so would like to know more.

We started with the definition of God to set the scene, then moved on to what man is as the expressing of those qualities. He found the synonyms for the Almighty ever-presence quite congenial. I told him that is the essence of CS---God is spiritual qualities (which, I mentioned, I sometimes collectively refer to as "Fred" to escape the subconscious old concept that "God" is a remote somebody beyond our reach), those qualities are everywhere, we are the full-blown expressing of those, we are naturally and completely spiritual and harmonious, and it's up to us to live--and see in everything---who and what we actually are.

Then, to juxtapose, we talked about what appears to our physical senses in physical terms---how light "packets" bounce into our eyeballs, the sensors there are somehow stimulated, then they send an (upside-down imagery) set of impulses through the nerves to the brain, and something there decides what we have "seen". It's almost humorous how that whole system is described and it clearly shows how "what seems to be" is so subject to even an array of physical

(mis)interpretations.

We then talked about how Love "sees", how Life "sees" and both of us shared valuable insights into relationships and that which we call our lives. He was quite Bible-literate and shared various passages that say or suggest Love is the key in everything we do or think. I pointed out that loving himself is an integral part of all that. This was a bit of an "aha" moment for him. We agreed that love is the missing link in so much of how we live our lives...not just love for each other, but loving all the qualities that make up what we term God and us as the "expressings". This mutual sharing continued apace on a variety of related subjects. I was so grateful to meet, to be able to clarify some things, and be stimulated by this fine man.

Bob

From Tina:

[following Bob's shift and report]

I took over the outreach table from Bob and the friend of his granddaughter stayed on. Between interactions with other visitors we talked until the end of my shift, an hour and a half later! I think she would have followed me to my car and it's expiring meter time to hear answers to her many many concerns! Earlier I had been thinking about why we were doing outreach and the answer came in a lovely statement from the CS periodicals: "You are there to speak from your heart..." "When you're loving the person who is asking the question, you find that you are enabled, **enabled!** to say things that you didn't think you could."

This young lady was so sincere and willing to entertain new

ideas. I was reminded of Jacob's wrestle with the 'One like a man' - telling him, "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me."

And I might add that our own visitor was enjoying her own new view of God and man. In fact, I felt we were both "glimpsing the nothingness of material life and intelligence and the mighty actuality of all-inclusive God, good."

(SH52:19-23) When she mentioned the word 'firmament' I listened to what she thought its definition meant and then showed her its definition in the glossary in S&H. When she described her concept of 'heaven' I again turned to the glossary. She would say, "I like that." Sometimes tears would well up when she was learning something that especially touched her thought.

So there we go. I closed up the display at the end of the second shift and we shook hands with both hands which melted into a hug and a kiss on her cheek. I felt such love.

And one more thing about hands: in this week's Bible Lesson titled "Substance" in section five, Proverbs 3:27 is included, and the KJV translates it, "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it." The Message translation says the same thing in a different way, " Never walk away from someone who deserves your help; your hand is God's hand for that person."

This was a clapping/clasping hands sort of day.

Tina