

STA REPORT 1/15/15

From Bob:

1/15/15: As we get very close to whatever hoopla we choose to generate around the 10,000th copy of S&H gifted into the community, Tina thought it would be good to get a picture of the recipient and the outreachers at the time. So she asked the manager of the STA office if she would be willing to take that picture. That woman's response was "above and beyond"! She will look forward to doing so and was so pleased about all aspects of this success.

We had a flurry of activity while setting up (three books out) and while closing down (two books and a serious conversation with a young woman who felt this was exactly the right thing at exactly the right time for her as she deals with addiction). Fifteen books gifted altogether.

Several brief interactions jumped out at me today. One man said "thank you for being here today---we're on the same team". Another said he's about half through the book and it's making sense to him. And another said he already had the book...hasn't read it, but his mother is reading it all the time!

Fine. You just never know where a book or ideas will travel.

From Tina:

A Christian Scientist in Utah shared her experience about preparing a Wednesday night reading for her church. When she arrived at church there were no ushers, no musician, and no one else in attendance. Just her, on a cold, dark night - she was sad beyond measure. She asked God, through her tears, "What is church about?" The answer she received, right away: "[Church is] for the community." So she conducted the service and had a very fulfilling experience - in fact, one worthy of sharing with a wider audience.

When I read how she described the meeting in the current CSJ, pp 46-47, I felt a kinship with her. Her encounter with the unexpected visitor was so similar to some we have during our CS outreach at the bus plaza. Last week a young man of Mexican/Native American ethnicity shined his light on us for quite a while. He, too, is doing outreach in the area - he, too, finds joy in sharing what he is experiencing of God's presence. He spoke of a couple of healings he has witnessed, including that of a man who is no longer wheelchair-bound. I thought of Mrs. Eddy's call to action, "... the self must be evangelized. This task God demands us to accept lovingly today, and to abandon so fast as practical the material, and to work out the spiritual which determines the out-ward and actual." SH 254. Our young

man's evangelism was completely believable, sincere - an inspired speaker, and an eloquent listener.

He departed with a copy of Science and Health, leaving behind one whose heart overflowed with gratitude for the many varied "church" encounters to be had at the bus station. I have enjoyed examining the mission of church in fresh new ways these past six years.

A student attending one of our local universities stopped by and asked me if I knew of any non-denominational books she could select for an assignment - the class subject: spirituality. I mentioned Zorba the Greek by Kazantzakis, The Power of Now by Tolle, and Pradervand's The Gentle Art of Blessing. She headed off to her next destination pleased, carrying a copy of Science and Health as well.

Tina