

STA REPORT 4/30/15:

From Bob:

Again, just when you think you've pretty much met with all basic thought patterns, a new one comes along. Today it was in the form of Michael ("named for the Archangel") a thoughtful but somewhat inconsistent self-described Nihilist who spent a good bit of time with us. We at the table had a general idea of what Nihilism meant but it was necessary to look it up later this afternoon for full clarification. My version of the definition, based on his comments and my juxtaposition of what it said in Wikipedia, might be "one who believes in nothing and is an extreme pessimist about everything else"...which statement, of course, is completely illogical. So were most of his arguments. However, it could be said a Nihilist may share a general view of matter and the physical world that is relatively consistent with Christian Science. Our man believes in the nothingness of matter but defines "love" as a chemical response in the brain. And does not accept anything written down because it was conceived by a human author. And thus chooses not to read books...including S&H, which he deemed poorly written (after reading the definition of Man, Mortal Mind, and a couple of other sentences).

The only reason to mention this interchange is because this is a strain of reasoning we should be familiar with. Some say that this kind of premise---"nothing matters"---is one of the main lead-ins to suicidal thoughts. And since that is an epidemic among the young, especially young veterans, it is important to understand and address in our thought whenever that subject hits us in the news or our communities.

And yes, we did gift about a dozen copies of S&H before, during, and after talking intently with Michael and two other returnees (Alan and Don) who like to check in with us!

From Theodora:

It was a pleasure to be standing at the table again and projecting Love. Bob and I had some rousing conversation between visitors, which made the time go very quickly for me.

We have several foreign language books that we have had for a long time. One of them we knew to be oriental but weren't sure what language. Well, today a lovely young lady named Lili came to the table. She wants to learn English and spoke with a heavy oriental accent. So I pulled the book out of the box, hoping it would be her language, but it is Japanese and she is Chinese. She mostly couldn't read it, but said she could a little and she pointed at a heading that she understood. The foreign language books have English on the left side and the foreign language on the right. So she took the book with much gratitude, as well as a small English language book. The Chinese book is very thick, so she wanted a smaller one she could carry with her.

Another thoughtful young woman, Jessica, first wanted to make sure we were not Scientology or Jehovah's Witnesses, etc. Bob urged her to read the back of the book, so she did and then smiled and said Wow! She also stated that she is LDS and fighting addictions. Her church Bishop basically wrote her off. I don't remember how she worded it, but she said she did understand he is just one person in the church, but she is now searching for a church. So we gave her the bookmark with the info on our two CS churches in Spokane and invited her to check it out. She said she will read S&H this week and come back to talk to us. What a joy that will be.