

STA REPORT FOR 1/29/15:

FROM BARB: In this week's Bible Lesson on Love, we have the story of the Good Samaritan. In it is a little phrase I'd never given much attention to before. In the KJV it says the priest came "by chance," and the Levite "likewise." Not so for the Samaritan. He just came. Some seem to come to the outreach table by chance, but some come and have needs met, and do good to themselves and others.

A Native American man, going into treatment for alcoholism soon, humbly asked for a copy of "Science and Health." A young couple who appeared to be travelers, took two copies. A "recovering alcoholic" of thirty two years was assured that he was not and never had been an alcoholic in God's eyes, and that what was in the book would show him his true freedom. A woman who had some experience with Scientology in her background was very relieved to know we were not connected with that in any way. She said she was "deeply spiritual," and she was eager to learn more about Christian Science and check out the other local resources for doing so. Another woman and her son, who was perhaps nine or ten, inquired about the book. She asked for a copy for herself, and so did the son. The mom said they would give his copy to his grandmother, but the boy insisted that he wanted his own copy to read. After a little discussion between them, they were encouraged to take three copies, for which they were very grateful. The boy was so serious about wanting to read the book on spirituality and healing, and we'll trust that it was not "by chance," but by Love's design.

FROM TINA:

"Lost and Found"

So the Shepherd seeks out his flock...he is among his sheep that are scattered... the 'shepherd' was me early this morning: my chicken flock likes to forage outside their fenced enclosure when the snow has melted in places, and that's just what they were doing yesterday. Only, I forgot to leave their gate open so they could get back into the hen house for the night. It was after dark when I realized the mistake and I found 14 of the 15 huddled in a tight mass, easy prey for those who need to hunt by night. I encouraged the chickens to head on in while I searched for #15. I couldn't find her. At dawn today I found her and I thought of the Shepherd's devoted love for his sheep, and my own love felt just as deep and caring for my little flock. This week's Bible Lesson example became my reality...and then, later, Barb's and my reality as we staffed the outreach table at noon. There seemed to be a 'lost sheep' walking past us – a young man whose dejected, forlorn appearance drew compassion. The Bible promise: "[I] will save my flock and they shall no more be a prey" became our prayer.

Well, today I did lose my little list where I often note encounters made during the two hours of each outreach. Sometimes things move so fast that I don't always recall what to write about when I get home, and these notes are helpful reminders. At least seventeen copies of Science and Health were shared during the shift. Searching my memory of the day I "found" these recollections:

A young woman had difficulty describing where she was from, but I gathered it was an island in Micronesia. She had been in the U.S. for two months. Not having a translation of Science and Health to share with her - and she obviously was interested in receiving a book on spirituality and prayer - I offered to read the back cover of the book to her...we turned away from the table and I slowly read the three brief explanatory paragraphs to her, with my hand placed on her shoulder. It was a precious time. During the sharing, I felt someone trying to get my attention by tapping on my back. I didn't want to lose the connection with the dear young woman, so I asked the 'tapper' if I could have a few more minutes. Fine with him. Barb told me she had just offered him a copy of the book on spirituality and he said he was very spiritual because he came from a nearby reservation. She asked him if he knew me, told him my name, and it turned out we are distant relatives. He found a book that meant a lot to him. He found a distant relative. It was a happy experience.

I know we reached our 10,000th copy threshold today. Surely it is momentous, but more thrilling is the certainty that there are some who have/will find in its pages just what they are searching for - and, the peace and joy and power that the author has given to so many through her inspired listening and study will have touched so many here in Spokane where "Found" is the operative word.