

## **STA REPORT FOR 3/19/15:**

In case you don't know how to access the website, here is the URL: <http://christianscienceoutreach.org>

You can read the current report and/or go to Archives to read past reports in PDF format.

**Enjoy!!! Theodora**

### **FROM TINA:**

Barb and I were standing side by side at the outreach table for two hours this afternoon yet everything she wrote about in her report (except for the precious indoor sparrow couple - with one of them on a high-up ledge obviously sitting on a nest while the other bird kept watch very nearby) is new to me.

I enjoyed the interchange I had with a fellow who seemed to know the Bible 'thoroughly' - verse by verse. I am glad we are not expected to do that in CS! Anyway, he certainly had the myriad books, chapters and verses down pat, but his literal interpretation outweighed the spiritual. Although we did not debate, and he did not want a copy of Science and Health, our discussion was thoughtful and progressive: He told me he was disgusted by the people who would rather get S.S.I. than work for a living - even though they were capable. He described a few examples he had personally witnessed and added that "those people would never accept Jesus." I offered that the hypocrisy could be condemned but never the person. The conversation went on for quite a while and that, perhaps, is why I didn't know about Barb's encounters -until she submitted her wonderful report!

Several times today we needed to clarify to our visitors the difference between Christian Science and scientology - and without fail the listeners expressed relief that we weren't sharing scientology. In my years doing this outreach I have never encountered anyone who had something good to say about the latter or expressed an interest in learning more about it.

One young woman, with a lovely little toddler in a stroller, announced

she had found a new store downtown - Christian Scientology. When she said it was located on Spokane Falls Boulevard we figured out she had noticed the downtown CS Reading Room (which has been in that location for a quarter of a century or more) and we assured her that it was not related to scientology and that she was so very welcome to stop in and have a quiet place to read more about CS and its healing mission. Actually, the RR has 'found' her, as has Science and Health.

Another woman approached the table, shared a bit about her life and said she was raised Catholic and has gone through all the Sacraments. She said she loves her religion and will never leave it but also likes to read about other theologies. She added that there were things that bothered her about her life-long affiliation with her church and that she wanted her own daughter to avoid being indoctrinated like she was. She wanted her to choose her own belief system. With a little encouragement to read the chapter on prayer she accepted a copy of our offering.

On page 346 of this book we love to hand out Mrs. Eddy reminds us Who it is we should choose to serve, and then asks, "Who is ready to admit this?"

Who?

We?

Me?

Who indeed!

Barb's report for 3/19/15

Once again the "up" escalator was closed, so it was a little quieter than usual on our upper floor. Even the pair of nesting sparrows who reside in the Plaza near the ceiling were having a restful afternoon. Early in our 2-hour shift, Tina and I both firmly reassured a couple of folks that we were not in any way related to Scientology, and that seemed a relief to each of them.

A gentle woman shyly walked up to the book rack, and I invited her to take a copy. She was hesitant, and tried to explain that she didn't read well. Thinking that she might do better in a language other than English, I asked where she was from originally, and she said

Micronesia, the island of Chuuk (as nearly as I could understand her soft voice). We talked for a bit about being far from home, but God being with us no matter where “home” was. After hearing a little about “Science and Health” she did take a copy because she knew a relative who would enjoy it. She was sincere, loveable and gracious, and I felt blessed to meet her.

Somehow two women were drawn to the table (I really do know how), and said they were both having marriage problems. They seemed to sense that we had something that could help. After being shown the chapter on “Marriage” and being told a little about Mrs. Eddy’s life, they gratefully took a copy each and one asked for prayer as well. She walked away before I could talk with her more, but it seems that there are more requests for prayer lately. People truly are reaching out, and even though they may not know of Christian Science treatment, scientific prayer is bound to bless.