

STA REPORT FOR 6-25-15:

**From Bob:**

Our clientele today might best be considered "eclectic". A little bit of everything except argumentativeness. No Hoopfest basketball players came along though the downtown area around the bus Plaza is set to host almost 26,000 basketball players and around 250,000 spectators Saturday and Sunday! Basketball on downtown streets in 100+-degree weather does not sound like a good time but many of the younger players consider it a highlight of the year and take it in stride.

Three people said that today or earlier they had felt impelled to come and find out what we were about. They all expressed gratitude in varying degrees for the books they received. One lady who said she was led to our display for the first time today is a caregiver to a wheelchair-bound man who has recently shown interest in Christian Science. She was very pleased to get her own copy of S&H plus a copy of "The Ultimate Freedom" by John Wyndham. As mentioned in an earlier report, we find that the Wyndham book is a good complement or even intro to CS in some cases and it's nice to have it in our repertoire.

As we were packing up to leave, a bearded senior citizen, a man in women's clothes, came up and asked for a book, saying "Christian Science has always interested me." Yup, he/she was a colorful ending to a rather colorful day!

**From Tina:**

I'd like to tag along on Bob's report. Our last visitor of the two hour shift was an elderly bearded person - a less elegant version of Caitlyn Jenner - nonetheless a person who was very eager to get a copy of Science and Health, and who, in departing, promised that the book would be read "after the baby was due."

The memorable interactions were Liz and Kelly:

Liz is part of the cleaning team employed at STA and it is her childish joy to sneak up to one of us from behind and spook one or the other of us. Today she brought in her adult daughter and introduced us. After her daughter departed Liz returned to tell us about her own life-challenges, which included drug addiction and an abusive marriage. One morning she said she awoke from a night of drugging and realized she had gone through \$1,000 of purchases to feed her habit. She said, "that was it - I'm done with this cr-p." It's been seventeen years. She complains about her menial job but we discover that she is her own outreach team - she has helped five teens get jobs. On one occasion she found a young woman crying in the restroom. Liz said the girl told her she had hit rock bottom and was very alone and afraid. Our outreach gal wrapped her arms around the girl and told her she was never alone - God was right there with her. Liz said the girl had never known that God was present and was so grateful to learn that simple and profound truth. Liz has touched so many lives over the years at STA. She's got a potty mouth and out of deference to our table which is stacked with books about man's precious relationship to God, she often s-p-e-l-l-s out some of her more crude terminology.

I can't really speak for Jesus, but somehow I think Liz would have fit in just fine with the 'blue collar' disciples he chose to accompany him on his ministry.

Kelly comes to us in a quieter way. She has already read her first copy of the textbook and

says, "I lost so much weight after I finished reading it." She said that the first time she saw our outreach table she just walked right on by, not interested in the least. But, "the Holy Spirit pulled her back," she said. Today she wished to receive a new copy to read because of her challenging addiction to prescription medications. She expects results.

Bob said his Granny's oft-repeated saying was, "*To each his own, as he kissed the cow.*" Somehow that odd ditty fit today's interactions. Each one we met was unique. This was an eclectic group for sure; and each one was also part of the community of sincere seekers of Truth. A fine day at STA!