

STA REPORT FOR FEB 4 & 11, 2016

Feb 4, 2016, From Bob: A free lunch? Early on in the session today a man came along and offered me a sack lunch of apple slices, a banana, a cookie, a power bar and milk...I'd eaten earlier, so that was not interesting, but the mere fact of such an offering was inspiring. He said he'd made 20 this morning, had given almost all away so far, and recognized me as one who frequently has been at the STA and could be deserving. (Hah! My sense is that I look quite well fed, not with a "lean and hungry look", but his generosity was so pleasant.) It was quite an uplifting way to get going and I felt much gratitude, and shared such with him.

Again this week there was a strong sense of congeniality from the book recipients. Six or seven books went out during the allotted hour and a half. In addition, several people came along who had copies of S&H previously and wondered if this new cover was something different...and I noted to self that over the course of these eighty-five months since January 2009 we've gifted at least six different editions with different covers. So no wonder they stop and ask! As mentioned in earlier reports, it's nice to have several other useful books to offer those who come back out of curiosity like that. Those extra books offer great examples of how metaphysics is practical, and in easily understandable language. One such man was discussing one of those other books as I handed it to him...and suddenly I saw a doggie head poking up out of his cargo pocket on his jacket! We laughed. His teeny dog is a beloved senior citizen and travels around with him in the jacket pocket.

One man mentioned that he had S&H and liked it and wanted another copy for relatives. We're always pleased when that happens.

Feb. 11, 2016, From Bob: As I'm writing this I'm looking out at three rather large mule deer grazing in the next door neighbor's back yard...just a 4' vertical hop away from our yard and all the perennials starting to poke their heads out of the ground or budding out. These three have frequented this suburban neighborhood for some time, seemingly impervious to nearby dogs and waving-arms-at. Friendly coexistence is good....and we do enjoy seeing all the feathered and furred critters hereabouts.

Giftings were rather prolific today---11 or 12 copies of S&H and 3 of *Spiritual Healing in a Scientific Age*. An older woman came by to tell me she had really enjoyed reading S&H. That's always very satisfying and we try to draw them out to get a sense of what they've gained...hard to tell in her case but she was definitely sincere.

Several had more in-depth interests about how this all goes together in our contemporary culture and ultimately opted for both books. I had occasion to mentally address two noisy, unpleasant outbursts in the distance and was pleased that both subsided without further action. Another good day.

Addendum from Bob: That was quite a surreal experience with the two men! I didn't mention it in my report, but I could have absolutely sworn that I started with 24 copies of S&H on my shift, even remembering the boxes they came in (one full with 16 and another half full with 8), and gave out 11 or 12 copies---for absolute sure---and ended up with 19 or 20 left. Will have to see if this works with containers of oil!

Feb 4, 2016, From Tina: A wonderful man stopped by the outreach table and shared so many thoughts on a multitude of

topics...I was able to get a word in edgewise and then the topic would change effortlessly (by him). I told him he had a beautiful mind...he then told me he is a diagnosed, medicated autistic. At one point he noted, "You grace this place with your presence." Now, not all the conversation was comprehensible and I noticed he took up a lot of my attention, yet, in the meantime a few people just slipped in front of him and took copies of Science and Health without interrupting the 'conversation.' ("It's not what you see [at STA] but how you see...beholding the beauty of Mind's holiness.") This fellow asked me point blank, "When was the last time you FELT God's presence?"

What a grand time I have had since that question in answering it! And right then I felt completely comforted and comfortable that I needn't try to tell him 'when', as if I had to account for myself.

It is quite an eye-opener at times at STA!

The week before (I left this out of my previous report) a Congolese citizen spent a long time examining our French/English translation of S&H.

That same week a young man stood in front of me and said, "I hate God. I hate him forever. He killed...I was in pain. I read the Bible. I hate God forever!" He meant it. I asked him as he left, "May I say one thing in response?" "No!"

Dear readers, how would you respond? Would your heart go out to him? Mine did.

I loved the next query: "Is this just for women, or is it for men too?"

One person read the back cover of S&H and patted his heart and said, "That is nice."

Two teen girls took time to find out about S&H by also reading the back cover. One said, "This is cool!" Both accepted copies. And then two more young adults responded this way after reading that back cover:

"I want one."

"I want one."

"Can we have one?"

("You bet!")

Around 2:30 p.m. during my shift I notice, each week, the bus driver who comes early to STA and quietly prays for this bus community.

We've talked before. I know what he is doing. I love it. He is our silent partner, contributing to the bus station much the same way our treasured team of practitioners are doing each week.

I am grateful.

2-11-16 From Tina: Two men approached the table and started asking questions. I invited both to read the back cover and of Science and Health and both liked what they read and accepted copies. They were also were interested in Spiritual Healing in a Scientific Age by Robert Peel and both took copies. One fellow said he was led to come this way...he was just getting on the bus, he had even paid, and was directed to get off and come to the second floor where our outreach activity takes place. The other fellow said he had also been directed to change course and come to the table. Wait - something didn't click. Aren't you together? No they were not. By this time my hands covered my face in disbelief and wonder. They did not even know each other's

name so they shook hands and introduced themselves. They said they acknowledged that healing was not the sole bailiwick of medical professionals.

Reminded of a profound and unexpected question asked of me during last week's outreach I decided to ask them the same question - "When was the last time you felt God's presence?" The first guy said, without a moments hesitation, "Right now, right here!" The second fellow said he had been confined to a wheelchair and was told he never would walk - yet there he was, standing in front of the table, describing how his healing came, step by step (literally) by trusting God. He FELT God's presence. He said he now has a purpose: helping street people find shelter for themselves and their pets. Most shelters will not allow pets. He said he is trying to create a non-profit organization to facilitate this work in Spokane. The other fellow lit up, stated he was a student at a local college, and his current classes included one focused on teaching how to help with non-profit status with, get this! - a focus on finding solutions to assist the homeless (houseless). The fellows got all excited at the synchronicity and exchanged emails.

They shook my hand. They departed. Separate ways. It describes mountain top experiences in this week's Bible Lesson and I was aware that I was just shining.

A little lady told me her sister was a Christian Scientist. Then she shared how she herself prayed and how her prayers had been answered. She was specific.

Last week a fellow told me about a book (written by a Spokane resident) titled, The Spirit Stills the Storms: A Vietnamese Refugee's Bold Journey to Freedom by "Sam" Lien Le. The fellow thought I might like to read it since it seemed similar to a book we share, The Ultimate Freedom by John Wyndham. He

returned this week to tell me there was a copy of the The Spirit Stills the Storms available at the Friends of Spokane Public Library book sale going on nearby. He said it cost a dollar - I gave him one and he went over and bought it and brought it right back for me. Now this fellow stays at a shelter. He didn't have to reach out like that.

Whatever these connections are called, I will add my own words: a blessing and a benediction. I can vouch for them! I felt God's presence.