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URL: <http://christianscienceoutreach.org>

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Enjoy!!! Theodora

STA REPORT FOR MAY 7, 2015

From Tina:

Thank goodness for Theodora's practitioner office located across the skywalk in the Bank America building! Not only do we get to store our bookrack and table there, but the thousands of Science and Health books we've purchased over the years are shipped to her office, so we needn't lug them across town ourselves. In addition, her office has a wonderful full length glassed wall facing the hall where passersby can look in and see what's happening: Today I changed the little display in the window to show our Pastor opened to Genesis I in the Bible and opened to the Genesis chapter in our textbook. I printed out the wonderful poem by Woodruff Smith titled "Genesis 1 or Genesis 2," - and the testimony which accompanies it written by Lona Ingwerson. I placed them between the two books. They were included in this week's metaphysical article by Rick Stewart which can be found at CedarsCamps.org (download #2). There is a little spotlight focussed on the books as well as the printouts of the poem and testimony - I hope someone lingers and reads what's being shared!

Meanwhile, at our station in the bus depot in front of the up escalator, Bob had an opportunity to talk with one of the repairmen who commented, "Here we go again." The moving stairs' constant malfunctioning keeps him busily employed. His demeanor was outgoing and happy as he worked, although he confided to Bob that he has MS and would be needing to use escalators himself one day. Bob shared Science and Health with him. Nice.

A young man was offered the book and read the back cover. "I'll accept it. I live at the Union Gospel Mission." I mentioned that another person who stayed there was admonished to not read "that book." I added, "But I know you are a thinker and can choose what you read for yourself." He replied, "That's correct!"

As we were about to close shop for the day a sweet, child-hearted man queried, "That Christian Science?"

"Yes," we replied.

"That's good stuff."

We had a Genesis 1 day.

Tina

Morning In May

Grass grows in the night...
Wind in the chimes pulls music from the air, ...
in all these years of living,
one more astonished awakening.

"Morning in May" by Rosalind Brackenbury
from *Bonnard's Dog*. © Hanging Loose Press, 2015.

From Bob:

We were pleased to have a terrific conversation with a young man of obvious intelligence, a self-professed atheist who grew up in an evangelical church and had heard negatively of CS. Theodora asked what those negatives were. It turned out as is so often the case that he was misinformed about the particulars, about doctors, etc. He barely stayed around to talk, at first, and wanted nothing to do with anything that smacked of Ye Olde Theology. So we couched the discussion in terms of modern science, noted how so much of the Bible is a Jewish set of documents, culturally misunderstood from a Gentile or Western perspective, sometimes mistranslated, and/or not intended to be taken literally, and how newest scientific discoveries keep pointing toward a metaphysical junction point. Theodora showed him the definitions of "devil", "heaven", "hell" and others in S&H, which allayed some of his fears that we were just another form of Bible-thumpers. He still was not ready to take a book after almost 20 minutes of discussion and mentioned he's skeptical that we can explain away matter and all its foibles. He again started to walk away at that point. Theodora leaped into the breach by saying, "Skepticism is good!" He turned back, took a book, said he'd read it just based on her response.

Many interesting things occur in sharing with the public. Sometimes one wonders about the facts presented by some people but we always try to love first and take them all as truthful children of the Almighty. A man came to me while I was alone at the table and asked if I was Christian. I said I was. He then asked if he could "lock shields with me"...which I quickly assumed meant being in solidarity with him as in the times of the Roman legions when they held their shields close together in battle. I said yes, I'd support him. He reached out, took my hand in a strong grip and began to pray. Of course I assumed the prayer position and listened to his long, passionate prayer about his girlfriend/fiancee who had killed one of their children and this morning had attempted suicide. He prayed for her recovery and rejuvenation, for the lost child, and that God would leave no scars on the other children. Wow. I said to him, "That was absolutely beautiful. Would you like more prayer for your family?" He said yes, then hurried away before anything else came to mind for me to say. Maybe nothing was needed. So once more, we ask that our readers pray: in this case for Brian's

family and all families here and abroad who are struggling with painful, confused, debilitating circumstances. May we, and they, see the light.