

Evangelism Update 01-22-06

This newsletter has been formatted for HTML capable email clients (like Outlook Express, Thunderbird, or Hotmail). If you're using a text-only email client, I suggest reading the Evangelism Update online here: www.foolgiven.com/evangelismupdate.htm

Note from Jim:

Welcome to the Evangelism Update! I've decided to give our weekly "fishing" update a bit of a revamp and a new format. This email newsletter will contain links to evangelism resources, motivational helps, testimonies, prayer requests and details on upcoming evangelism in Southern Oregon. It's my hope that it will help those of you who are offering prayer support to know what's going on in our street ministry, and that maybe the stories and resources might help you in your own witnessing efforts.

Scripture of the Week:

For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. (2nd Timothy 4:3-5, NIV)

Quote of the Week:

"The gospel has not been clearly preached if the hearer doesn't know that not to make a decision is a decision." (Dan Arnold)

Evangelism Resource:

I came to Christ a little under two years ago. Shortly after that He lead me to the following message, and it was like a missing puzzle piece fell in to place.

Why do 80-90% of those making a decision for Christ fall away from the faith? What is the principle that Spurgeon, Wesley, Whitefield, and others used to reach the lost? Why has the Church neglected it? Don't let anything stop you from listening to this incredible teaching. Click the link below.

[Hell's Best Kept Secret](#)

Prayer Points:

- Jan. 25th-29th I will be at *Reignite!* in Los Angeles. It's a [GNN](#) seed sower reunion and "veterans-only" EBC for attendees of past Evangelism Boot Camps. We'll be witnessing and open air preaching at UC Long Beach, Hollywood, Huntington Beach and Venice Beach. Please pray for safe travel, that God's will

is done and that Jesus is glorified. Ask that He puts into place the divine appointments He has for us when we're on the streets sharing the gospel.

- Greg's wife (Patty) is suffering from a degenerative spine condition. She's seeking to get herself off extreme doses of pain medication and has finally been able to see a pain specialist that may be able to offer cartilage injections into her spine. Pray for wisdom and the Lord's direction in treatment and relief.
 - Pray for Gary. He's seeking the Lord but has not yet come to the narrow gate, while still battling the influences of the world and his comrades on the streets.
 - Pray against the influence of pot that we're encountering amongst the teens in Grants Pass. It has such a familiarity amongst them that they're not even hiding it but rather taking pride in the sin.
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Weekly "Fishing" Update:

God provided us with another full afternoon of witnessing. Greg and I prayed and headed out at 3pm. We spent about 2 1/2 hours along 6th Street giving out [Million Dollar Bills](#) and other tracts and this time the Dutch Bros coffeehouse crowd was left with [NZ Smart Cards](#) in hand.

Midway into things, I spotted a group of young teens skateboarding in the Wells Fargo parking lot. I did a couple of new sleight-of-hand tricks I've picked up and caught their attention. Soon I had the full group (about ten of them) around me. I did a couple of more tricks and then told them I'd give them some [Curved Illusion](#) cards to take with them if they did a street interview for our website. Of course, that lead into a one-2-ten and a chance to share the gospel. The most interesting thing was seeing how the Law did it's work and shut the mouth of sinners (Romans 3:19). They were boisterous and cocky, joking through the first part of the conversation and talking over each other. However, as I steered them to the mirror of the Ten Commandments and revealed their sin and showed them their guilt before the Judge of the Universe, they got quiet and listened. It began to rain on us so I had to wrap up quickly, but I touched on repentance and trusting the Savior. I let them know the [Curved Illusion](#) cards were tracts and had the message on them. Greg also gave them each the [Good Person Test](#) booklet. They prodded me at the end to show them how I did one of the tricks, so I made them promise they'd read the [Good Person Tests](#) if I did. They agreed.

You can listen to the Skaters audio on our webpage: www.fool4given.com/audios.htm

Caution: Sadly these kids use some pretty coarse language and make a number of drug and sex references during conversation.

A little while after this, I came across a trio of bikers at the Dutch Bros hut. I got their attention with some sleight-of-hand and ended with the [Curved Illusion](#) cards, telling them they were gospel tracts. We got to talking and I learned one of the men (Ron) was the chaplain for the juvenile correctional facility. I shared a couple of CDs with him ([Hell's Best Kept Secret](#) and [True & False Conversion](#)). I also asked if he was able to show DVDs at the correctional facility and he said yes, so I gave him a [Greatest Gamble](#) DVD to show the youth in there.

Wrapping up the night, we came across Gary. He's the young guy I mentioned last week that played a worship song when we were out on the streets. Gary was talking with Christopher. We broke the ice by showing Gary the new tricks I'd learned. I then showed Christopher the [Curved Illusion](#) cards and give him a pair. He looked at the gospel message on the back and handed them to me saying, "No thanks." He said he had his own spirituality. I tried to get him to talk to me about what he believed but he declined. We kept talking and though he kept challenging us on being Christians, he was tight lipped about his own beliefs. He called us intolerant, saying we shouldn't be on the streets imposing our beliefs on others. I told Him it was my beliefs that had me out on the streets. I shared my own testimony and how the Law had convicted me: taking him through lying, stealing, blasphemy and lust. I told him how I realized I would be judged guilty by God and in turn deserved Hell. I said that I couldn't keep quiet. While I couldn't change people's minds or really even convince them, I could at least warn them of judgment and to escape the wrath to come. I told him it wasn't me being intolerant, that it was Jesus' own words that He was the **only** way to the Father. I gave him the courtroom analogy of facing a \$500,000 fine or life in prison, with no money of his own. He'd need someone to pay the debt and that's what

Jesus did -- paying our debt under God's Law on the cross. Christopher apparently became convicted. He waved his hands saying he'd heard enough. Telling me I just needed to love people and respect what they wanted to believe, he stormed away. As he went to cross the street, I told him love wasn't always tolerant -- if he had a brother or sister messed up in crystal meth he wouldn't just tolerate what they were doing, he'd speak against it in love. Tears were starting in my eyes and I called after him that if he wouldn't weep for himself, I'd weep for him. He got across the street and stopped to say "judge not!" I told him that verse tells us that the standard we use to judge someone is what will be applied to us which was exactly what I was trying to tell him, we both stand guilty. If you break God's Law it will break you. I told him if I was in a mostly empty lifeboat and people were still on the Titanic, they could wave me off and tell me to let them be but I would still be pleading with them while it was sinking.

We then talked with Gary for a little bit, about our motivation for witnessing. I told him I'm driven by verses like Ezekiel 33:1-9 and he knew the passage. He nodded and mentioned the watchman on the wall. I saw Christopher coming back across the street at the corner. I thought maybe he was coming back to talk, but he passed us and mumbled that he had been going wrong way. (I thought that was rather telling.)

Our last encounter of the night came while we were still talking with Gary. A group of five teens came up to us looking for munchies -- they were obviously stoned and quite open about their pot smoking. They weren't in a state of mind to really stay and talk with us, but I was able to hold their attention with a few sleight-of-hand tricks and get some [Curved Illusion](#) tracts into their hands. I primarily mention this, because we encountered the same openness and pride about pot smoking with the skateboarders earlier. The Lord put it upon my heart to make this a prayer point and target the influence amongst the youth of Grants Pass.

God granted us a good chance to labor in the fields. Pray for the seeds that were sown. May Jesus receive the glory He is due!

Calendar:

- **Downtown Fishing Hole** (Recurring)
Street witnessing each Saturday (3 pm to 5:30 pm) downtown along 6th Street. Meet in the Budget Internet parking lot (4th St & F St).
 - **DMV O/A** (Recurring)
Open Air preaching Wednesdays at 8:40 am to the people waiting for the DMV doors to open.
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May Jesus receive the glory He is due!

'til the nets are full...