

Evangelism Update 03-26-06

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 at the online archive: www.fool4given.com/evangelismupdate.htm

Note from Jim:

April Fool's Day is this coming Saturday. Use the opportunity and make it a springboard into witnessing. Here's an April Fool's tract you can print out and use to share your faith. It prints as a full-sheet (8.5" x 11") and you can use either plain white paper or colored paper.

http://www.importantmessages.org/april_fools_tract.pdf

A brother in the GNN designed this. I thank God for you, Jeff Fuller.

Scripture of the Week:

"A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak. The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you." (Matthew 12:35-37, NLT)

Quote of the Week:

"A man says to me, 'Can you explain the seven trumpets of the Revelation?' No, but I can blow one in your ear, and warn you to escape from the wrath to come." (Charles H. Spurgeon)

Evangelism Resource:

The DaVinci Code movie is coming out May 19th. The tag line for the movie is "Seek the Truth."

<http://www.sonypictures.com/movies/thedavincicode/>

With trusted names like Tom Hanks starring and Ron Howard producing, the world is prone to eat this up. Considering the book is already a popular bestseller, we should be expecting people really aren't dividing between fact and fiction.

For those who don't know, the story centers around Tom Hank's character seeking out supposed truths hidden by the early church. They're blatant heresies, such as Jesus was a guru of sorts, but a mere man. That He had sex with Mary Magdalene in religious rites (to experience God) and they in turn had a child together. It's full of secret societies and intrigue, which the lost feed on. Email me if you'd like some resources in rebutting and debunking The Da Vinci Code.

I advise prepping ourselves on how to handle questions and objections stemming from the movie and how to turn the enemy's ploy to our advantage. We should be able to use this movie as a springboard and witnessing opportunity very similar to how The Chronicles of Narnia opened doors. For starters, Living Waters has just released a wonderful new Da Vinci Code gospel tract. While the movie is a hot item, I plan to be outside the

theater as it's letting out ... passing these out and putting the truth into people's hands.

Click the picture below to go to their website and check out the new tract.



Questions & Objections:

O. I don't believe in Jesus.

A. Do you believe there was ever a person named Julius Caesar? Why?

We have ten manuscripts in existence pertaining to the life and times of Julius Caesar. That's considered a lot of evidence in historical terms. Approximately 1,000 years fall between the time of Julius Caesar (the Gallic Wars) and when these manuscripts were written.

Now, when it comes to the life and times of Jesus Christ, we have approximately 5,000 manuscripts in Greek. Adding in other languages (such as Latin or Aramaic) brings the number up to 24,000. Partial manuscripts have been dated to within 30 years of the actual events and complete manuscripts within 100 years. The historical evidence for Jesus is overwhelming compared to the record that Julius Caesar ever even existed.

Let's take it a step further.

Dr. Simon Greenleaf was one of the greatest legal minds that ever lived and one of the principle founders of the Harvard Law School. He wrote the famous legal volume entitled, *A Treatise on the Law of Evidence*, considered by many the greatest legal volume ever written. He believed the resurrection of Jesus Christ was a hoax. However, after thoroughly examining the evidence for the resurrection, Dr. Greenleaf came to the exact opposite conclusion – that the witnesses were reliable and that the resurrection did in fact happen! He wrote a book entitled, *An Examination of the Testimony of the Four Evangelists by the Rules of Evidence Administered in the Courts of Justice*.

Sir Edward Clarke, Professor Thomas Arnold, Dr. Simon Greenleaf (Harvard), Gilbert West and Lord Lyttleton (Oxford) – all testify that the legal and historical evidence for the death and resurrection of Jesus stands as trustworthy.

Weekly "Fishing" Update:

Witnessing this weekend seemed to center around two particular conversations that I want to share with you.

The first was a conversation I had with Frank. As an extension to our street ministry, I login and take [888-NeedHim](#) calls for a couple of hours on Fridays. Frank was one of my calls. He actually started by telling me he was sitting in his car smoking a cigarette and drinking a beer. (Yes, I asked and he was parked ... not driving). He'd heard the number on the radio and just called to see if it would work. He didn't have any real questions or reason to call. We got to talking and, per the [Way of the Master](#), I promptly swung to the spiritual and asked if he considered himself to be a good person. He honestly answered "no" he didn't think he was. Often this response stems more from horizontal regrets with friends, family or a spouse and not a vertical conviction toward God, so we looked at the mirror of the Ten Commandments anyways which lead into the gospel.

Frank is 32 and comes from a Catholic background. He has a lot of anger against the Catholic church. He's also been burned by "born again" hypocrites and is struggling with the flesh and a lot of sin issues: lust, alcohol, hatred, etc. I spent time just honestly sharing with him, taking him to the cross and explaining what I could. I told

him I wouldn't lie to him, that I don't have a simple prayer or magic bullet that'll suddenly make his life better and smooth out his relationships. Jesus doesn't specifically promise that. However, his biggest problem and greatest concern right now is eternity and his salvation.

I gave him Ray's analogy about trying to clean-up the spider web on their porch. It kept coming back ... until they addressed the core issue and finally killed the spider. Frank had been talking about moving to get away from people, and I told him there is something to be said about removing ourselves from temptation. However, until the matter of our sinful heart (the spider) is addressed we'll find ourselves facing the same struggles and falling into the same snares. I told him he had to humble himself at the cross and then get up on it to die with Jesus. Once Christ gives him a new mind and a new heart with new desires, that's when the cycle can change.

We ended up talking for 40 minutes. Surprisingly, as we were wrapping up, he asked for a number where he can reach me directly. He's from Kentucky and currently in South Florida. Since I'm in Oregon, I felt safe in giving him my number ... besides it's a mobile phone. He said that he'd call and we'd talk again.

Please, pray for Frank.

The next conversation was with Sarah. Saturday, Greg and I met for our street "fishing" at 3 pm per usual. However, God had His own plans. It was threatening to rain, in fact the first sprinkle was starting. Patches of blue could still be seen in between the clouds, and I suggested we go hold up at Dutch Bros to see if the rain would pass. Instead of taking our normal route to 6th St for street witnessing we headed up to D St and over to the coffeehouse. The shop was full as others apparently shared the same idea we had about escaping the pending rain. We ordered a couple of coffees and started to head back outside when I felt a tinge of conviction and swept back through on a tract attack. Everyone got [Smart Cards](#).

We then stepped out onto the patio where I came across a family. I stopped to give the parents [Smart Cards](#) and then showed the kids the [Curved Illusion](#) tracts. During this, a young woman (Sarah) had come out of the coffeeshop and started to talk to Greg. She had been inside reading her Bible and had taken one of the [Smart Cards](#) I had passed out. After reading it, she had come talk to us. She was glad to see us out witnessing, but was a bit upset with our use of the Law in sharing the gospel. Greg spoke with her for a little bit and then introduced me as a [Local Leader](#) with the [Great News Network](#). Sarah asked if we could go back inside and talk.

It was a great conversation. We talked for an hour at least. Sarah is 18 and involved with her local church. She was bright and asked intelligent questions, not the usual rabbit trail questions or roadblock objections we often encounter in a debate. She asked about things and then openly listened to my answers. Her Bible was still open on the table, so I walked her through different scriptures, showing how Paul said the Law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ (Galatians 3:24). That he says it's the Law that brings the knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20) and he in fact wouldn't have known coveting was a sin except for the Law (Romans 7:7) which is a direct reference to the Ten Commandments. I then gave her the analogy showing how the modern church has the tendency to present the "cure" without first showing people they have a "terminal disease". I explained how the Law also stops a sinner's mouth (Romans 3:20). That helping someone take a good, hard look into the Mirror of the Law strips away the objections and self-righteousness. The Law doesn't save them or cleanse them, it just leaves them helpless and recognizing the need for the Savior. It makes the cross make sense.

She brought up that this approach seems to contradict God's love, so we went through John 3 (3:3, 3:16, 3:18, 3:36). I explained that it's actually in recognizing the offense of our sin and that we've lived in open rebellion to Him ... that we justly deserve His judgment ... that we can truly appreciate the amazing grace in His sacrifice at Calvary. That it's by recognizing the fullness of His wrath, we in turn can recognize the richness of His Love. I touched on a lot of the points I've presented earlier in a post at our website called [The Love in the Cross](#).

She asked about my personal testimony and I shared it with her. With the Holy Spirit's leading, I went over my conversion experience and then shared some other stories and bits from a witnessing encounter to further show how the Mirror of the Law reveals the desperate need for a Savior we all have in common. Nothing is more important than someone's eternal salvation, which is why we were out there. It's a simple gospel ... we broke the Law, Jesus paid our fine.

Sarah then asked if she could pray for us, and she did right there at the table. She extended an invitation for us to join her class when they go out witnessing, so I left her with our Fishing Team Flyer which has my contact info on it and a [Hell's Best Kept Secret](#) CD. Lastly, let me add that shortly after we got there, the rain had stopped. It

had really lasted just long enough for God to steer us to Dutch Bros for this divine appointment. Praise Him!

Pray for Sarah. She has a real zeal and passion for God. Pray that His will is done through this encounter and that our Lord will equip her as an amazing seed sower and laborer in the fields.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for my grandmother. She's facing some health issues and will be going to the Mayo Clinic in AZ . Also, pray for strength and wisdom for my mother who is her primary source of care at this time.
 - I'm working with another GNN Local Leader to organize a two day mini-EBC here in Southern Oregon in July. Please pray, if it is God's will, that we'll find blessing and favor in coordinating this event.
 - "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields." (Matthew 9:37-38, NLT)
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Calendar:

- **Mini-EBC - Southern Oregon**
Grants Pass, OR / July 21-23
[Click here](#) for the event flyer.
- **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.

If you would like to join us, [click here](#) to send us your contact info.

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May Jesus receive the glory He is due!

'til the nets are full...