

## Evangelism Update 04-15-06

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](http://www.fool4given.com/evangelismupdate.htm)

---

### Note from Jim:

I'm sending the newsletter out a day early, because I wanted to provide you with a new tract I designed to tie in with the Easter holiday tomorrow. You can print ten to a page on the preformatted Avery business card sheets (#5371 or #8371) that you can get at any office supply store. I ended up creating two different options for the front of the card. Click here to preview [Front #1](#) and here to preview [Front #2](#). Both options are included in the zip file, so you can pick and choose. Click here to [download the file](#) with the MS Word docs so you can print your own.

---

### Scripture of the Week:

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil -- the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. It is only by God's grace that you have been saved! (Ephesians 2:1-5, NLT)

---

### Quote of the Week:

"The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed." (Hudson Taylor)

---

### Evangelism Resource:

Click below to listen to this encouraging audio from the Great News Network.



### Questions & Objections:

With *The Davinci Code* opening soon, I thought for the next few weeks that I'd offer responses to some of the more common questions and objections the movie may raise.

**Joe:** Jesus was married to Mary.

**You:** That idea originally comes from *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*, a popular book from 1980s. In fact, Dan Brown (*The Da Vinci Code* author) was recently involved in a court case in England over allegedly plagiarizing from this book. Historians make it clear that the ideas contained in both these books have no historical grounding. Further, none of the earliest Christian documents make any mention of the fact. This includes the Gospels, early Christian writings. Even the "other" gospels alluded to in *The Da Vinci Code*: Gospel of the Nazarenes, Gospel of the Egyptians, Gospel of the Ebionites, the Gospel of Mary, Gospel of Peter, etc. -- none of them refer to Jesus marrying Mary.

**Joe:** They said the Gospel of Philip refers to Mary as Jesus' "companion" and said this means His wife.

**You:** They say in the Aramaic the word "companion" could mean "spouse". The Gospel of Philip is actually Coptic, not Aramaic... so the word's meaning in Aramaic is irrelevant. However, the word used is neither Coptic nor Aramaic but actually borrowed from the Greek. It's *koinonos* which is a clear reference to a friend or associate and not a spouse. It's a simple matter of fact that the one shred of proof *The Da Vinci Code* points to for Jesus' marriage doesn't hold water. That should be expected though when you contrast fiction against fact and history.

**Joe:** Ya, I guess so...

*Note: The basis for this response comes from [The Davinci Code: Companion Guide](#) by Campus Crusade for Christ.*

---

### Weekly "Fishing" Update:

I was running solo again today. It looked like I might get rained out. 6th Street was more or less deserted. However, the Lord intervened! The rain stopped long enough to grant me nearly an hour and a half at my alternate fishing hole in the Walmart parking lot. People wouldn't really stop to talk, but I was able to give out around 120 of the tracts I'd printed up ([The tomb is empty!](#) -- see my note above).

Now, I want to share a fishing report that comes from a dear brother in the GNN. It's my prayer that his experiences and observations will convey the importance of witnessing and preaching to the lost from a place of genuine love and compassion.

<>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <>< <><

I am going to post what happened while we were out witnessing in downtown Springfield, MO. This post is what I and my team observed, **and it reveals what happens when someone does not show love and compassion while witnessing.**

This has to do with a street preacher that was a guest of someone I invited. He carried a sign on a stick that said something to the effect of, "Repent and Trust Jesus Christ" and "You Must Believe In Jesus Christ". The sign itself drew a bunch of hecklers and name calling right from the start. He began open-air preaching. The part I heard was pretty much straight-forward preaching: sin, law, righteousness, judgment, hell, repentance and trusting in Christ. He said people who are drunkards, adulterers, fornicators and homosexuals will go to hell if they don't repent.

Well, after he got down, he had about 50 people surround him and start hammering him with questions. He started answering questions lifting his Bible and still speaking in an "open air" voice -- kind of condemning. He told one lady with a nose ring she was going to hell. He told a girl with tattoos she was going to hell. He declared the King James Bible is the only one to use. A bunch of theological questions were being batted back and forth. Many people were upset! I have been out there witnessing one-2-one and doing open air preaching for quite a while and we've never had this happen. **Later, when he lifted up his Bible and was calling a man a liar, the man finally took his Bible out of his hand and threw it across the square.** The preacher condemned another girl that was a Christian because she didn't know chapter and verse where to find a Bible verse she quoted.

My friend, who is also the youth pastor of my church, was out there by chance. We agreed that this street preacher was quoting a lot of things correctly out of the Bible, but his tone was condemning and did not come across out of compassion or love. Our youth pastor heard the preacher say something off the wall and he said, "O Lord". The preacher heard him and told him that he was using the Lord's name in vain. People were all fired up! I heard a couple of different people say they didn't want to be a Christian if Christians were like him.

I joined the crowd that was gathered around the preacher and listened. One long-haired gothic guy was asking a question about the trinity that the preacher was giving some odd answer to. I started talking to Chris (the goth). He then told me, "you need to be over here doing this preaching... not this guy!" I even had sinners giving the [Giant \\$100](#) tracts to the preacher.

People came up, asking if this guy was with me. They are apparently beginning to recognize me from open air preaching and witnessing at the square. I told them no. I knew nothing about him, other than that he was a guest of someone I'd invited. I decided to jump up and open-air. We started with trivia and gave away some stuffed animals. We drew a good number of the crowd over, but some were still over arguing with the preacher. However, the people that gathered around us were angry -- not my normal bunch. They were mad because of the other preacher. One of my usual hecklers told me even before I went up... "I'm not going to heckle you, but I did the other guy." I took a girl through the law and grace. It was difficult to get through it because of all the commotion going on.

**After my open-air, I had young people take tracts ([Million Dollar Bills](#)), and rip them up in my face then light them on fire and throw them on the ground. They were so angry because of this other preacher.** I followed them for a while, talking to them. Finally, I informed them I was not with that preacher and I didn't hate them or their homosexual friend. I told them that one day they will stand before God and be held accountable to everything they've ever said or done... including ripping up and burning a gospel tract. I told them I love them, but sin is sin... including homosexual sin. Unless one repents and trusts in Christ, the Bible says they will go to hell. After I finished, one guy shook my hand and said he knows I am out there trying to do a good thing.

We spent more time putting out fires (even literally) than we did witnessing tonight. PLEASE, when you go out to witness, make sure you are prayed up and have a real compassion and love for the lost. Make sure that it comes across in your voice. Your tone and your body language make all the difference in world. This is the same stuff that Kirk and Ray teach us in the [Way of the Master](#). It's the same thing that the [Great News Network](#) believes. After this experience, I definitely agree 100%.

I thank God for you all!

Brad

---

### Prayer Points:

- *The Davinci Code* movie opens May 19th. Life & Death Ministries plans to be outside the theater that Friday and Saturday night. [Click here](#) for more details. Pray for laborers and support in this effort.
- 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)

---

### Calendar:

- **Davinci Code Outreach**  
Medford, OR / May 19-20  
[Click here](#) for details.
- **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.

---

**These newsletters have no copy-right. Take the liberty to share them with others.**

May Jesus receive the glory He is due!

'til the nets are full...

---

### **Jim Jones**

"Sin and hell are married unless repentance proclaims the divorce." - Charles Spurgeon

**Email:** fool4given@charter.net

**Phone:** 541-295-2227

### **Great News Network Local Leader**

**Web:** [www.southernoregongnn.com](http://www.southernoregongnn.com)

