

Evangelism Update 04-23-06

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:

Our first mini-EBC is coming this July. Click below for details.



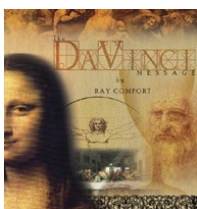
Scripture of the Week:

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? (Romans 10:14, NLT)

Quote of the Week:

"Let the love of Jesus constrain you to go out into the highways and hedges to compel poor sinners to come in. Some may say, 'This is not proceeding with a zeal according to knowledge;' but I am persuaded ... the Gospel must be propagated in the same manner as it first established, by itinerant preaching. Go on, dear sir, go on and follow your glorious Master without the camp, bearing His reproach. Never fear the scourge of the tongue, or the threatenings that are daily breathed out against the Lord, and against His Christ. Suffer we must. Perhaps, we may sing in a prison, and have our feet in the stocks; but faith in Jesus turns a prison into a palace, and makes a bed of flames become a bed of [feathers]." (George Whitefield)

Evangelism Resource:



Living Waters has created a new website where you can send DaVinci Code enthusiasts and they can hear a wonderful 13-minute gospel message.

www.davincimessage.com

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 survived the beatings and the crucifixion therefore He is not divine. Since He didn't really die, the resurrection did not actually happen.

You: What you're referring to is often called the "swoon theory". Books like *The DaVinci Code* are trying to suggest it as fact. However, while it may be a plot device for a fictional book or movie, it doesn't hold up to logical scrutiny. Let's think about it for a minute. First, realize Jesus endured a number of trials, a scourging, the crown of thorns, the crucifixion and a spear thrust in His side, which meant a large amount of blood loss. He then goes three days without medical attention. He most likely didn't eat or drink while sealed in the tomb. He'd have to push a stone away from His tomb's entrance which probably weighed a couple of tons. Now He has to physically overcome armed Roman guards with nail-pierced wrists and feet. Seriously, think about this!

Joe: Well, when you look at it that way...

You: Further, Joe. Consider that His followers were in hiding at the time, after fleeing and denying Him the night before the crucifixion. How is a battered and fatigued man, in desperate need of medical attention going to convince them that He's the risen Messiah? These very men radically changed to martyrs willing to suffer torture and execution for the Gospel and their belief in a risen Christ. It'd take more than a man who fainted on the cross and regained consciousness some time later to inspire that. No, the swoon theory is a farce.

Joe: You make a good point.

You: No, Jesus was crucified and He died. The next logical question then is why ... why did He die on the cross?

Weekly "Fishing" Update:

Wednesday morning at the DMV I met a woman that was reading a Frank Peretti book. Since it was Christian fiction, I used the book as an icebreaker which lead to giving her a [NZ Smart Card](#) tract. That then lead to giving Smart Cards to the other dozen or more people in line. Traffic had delayed me in getting there, so I didn't get into open air preaching before the doors opened. However, it was great to see a number of people reading the gospel message on the back of the cards and I did get into a brief conversation with the woman about our street ministry and sharing our faith.

OK, now when it comes to Saturday I have to throw in a "**Praise God!**" It was a great time in the field! Both Randy and Greg were able to make it. We each opened in prayer and headed out. This was the first time we had our full team of three together, and maybe God threw in some blessings as a way to celebrate ... you'll see what I mean. As we hit the corner by the post office, we spotted a group of people further down by the city building on the corner of 6th & G Street. They were holding a big "Jesus Saves" banner! We introduced ourselves and learned they are with the House of Prayer, a non-denominational Christian fellowship here in Grants Pass. I got to talk with the pastor (Gene Anderson) and he told me I had to come and speak at their church. They are very interested in getting equipped for street witnessing. I told him I'd love to host the eight week *Way of the Master* [Basic Training Course](#) for their church and he said it was a "done deal".

After this we headed up 6th Street and I spotted Josh sitting on the patio at the Dutch Bros coffeehouse. I stopped to give him a CD of some songs by Derrick Trent ([Eternal MOG](#)). It's excellent Christian hip-hop/rap

music and includes a "street mix" version of the [Good Person Test](#) at the end. Josh said that was great because his dad (who's in the ministry) had been pressing him to make a Christian rap album, and this would give him something to start from. He also added his dad won't even listen to any of his current music. I have to say Josh himself has warned me about some of his lyrics when he shared some of his instrumental ("beats only") music with me. (I've mentioned witnessing encounters with Josh before ... keep praying for him).

When I'd come up to meet Josh, we found out that a woman who was speaking with him was a visiting missionary from the Ukraine. She was actually in the process of starting a witnessing encounter with him! Praise God! The Holy Spirit is continuing to work on this guy. We shared [Hell's Best Kept Secret](#) CDs and some of our tracts with her and a friend of her's from a local church. We talked for a while and considering that the whole thing was just on the heels of meeting the House of Prayer group, it was great!

Josh had to leave, and as we continued to talk with the missionary another young man (Don) had come and sat at the table next to us. I'd mentioned my church and all of a sudden he chimed in; showing interest in what we were talking about and telling us the church he attends. Don told us a number of stories of what God was doing for him (getting \$100 bills and other things). I then took the opportunity to shift gears and ask him, if I only had three minutes to live -- what would he tell me I need to know to get to Heaven? We had a long talk (over 35 minutes) and I shared as I could, hoping to balance Don's focus on the "blessings" against the sacrifice at the cross. This may be my favorite witnessing encounter to date. You can listen to the audio at our website by following the link below. (Greg even chimes in for a few minutes on this one.)

After saying bye to Don, we headed back down 6th street while handing out tracts (mostly [Million Dollar Bills](#), [Good Person Comics](#), and [Living Dead Cards](#)). Randy had to leave shortly after this, but Greg and I continued on down to Riverside Park. We gave out a few tracts on our way into the park and passed a drunk man laying on the grass. A little ways past him we came across a woman talking with four teen girls. She had a cute little dog on a leash, so I approached them saying "anyone with a cute dog gets a million dollars today!" They all got millions. I found out the woman had called the police to have the drunk man removed, she was kind of being a mother hen at the moment for the girls because he had been acting rather creepy. We waited with them, and I think they felt a little safer with Greg and I there. Eventually, the police came and made the drunk empty out his bottle before seeing to it that he left the park.

Afterwards, the woman went off to the side talking with Greg and I started a one-2-four with the girls (Selana, Sarah, Brittany, & Sam). We had a good conversation about what happens after you die. When we were done, I asked them what were the two hinges on which the door of salvation swung open. One of them promptly answered **repentance and trust (faith)**. You can listen to the audio of this encounter at our website as well.

About the time we finished talking, the drunk man had come back to the park drinking from a large can of beer. The girls told us to stall him while they scooted away and called the police. He came right up to Greg and I, asking if we were Christians. His name is David. I gave him a Gospel of John and an [Are You Good Enough To Go To Heaven?](#) tract. He said he was a Christian too, and not to judge him by the fact that he drank. We questioned him on that; pointing to Galatians 5 and 1st Corinthians 6 where it says drunkards will not inherit the Kingdom of God. He started defending himself by trying to classify what "drunk" was and giving excuses like the fact that he wasn't drunk and could walk a straight line. I shifted gears into the Good Person Test; hoping that something might penetrate the drunken haze. We held up the mirror of the law to show David his sin for what it was and he told us he hadn't really sinned for over three years. Greg asked him what repentance was and if it included turning from sin. David started to demonstrate how he'd ask for forgiveness of his sins by kneeling in the grass and holding out his arms. Right then he saw the two cop cars that had rolled in on him. While David protested to the police, we moved off to where the teen girls were sitting.

Without really thinking about it, I pointed out to the girls that this was a live, real-time example of what happens when we don't truly repent; when we ignore the threat of the Law and come wandering right back into our sin. Greg pointed out that was a great and vivid illustration.

We then headed back up 6th Street passing out tracts and having some small encounters on the way to our cars. Greg then prayed in closing, thanking God for the blessing of laboring alongside Him in the fields.

I've posted two new witnessing audios at our website. Click here and go to our [One-2-One Audios](#) page. The

new ones to look for are:

- Don at Dutch Bros
- Selana, Sarah, Brittany, & Sam

Prayer Points:

- Pray for the seeds that were sown.
- "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)
- Please pray for our Lord's blessing over the Souther Oregon Seed Sowing mini-EBC we'll be holdig in July.
- *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.

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 details.
- **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...

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

