



Update From Carol King

Open Air Campaigners

February 2019

cking310@gmail.com

Since I've been in Scotland, I have had a chance to get to know many international students. Jahan, a Muslim woman, is here studying pre-med, and I have had several conversations with her. I have to be careful in my conversations because she confided in me she was offended when someone else spoke to her about her religion. She didn't provide the particulars of the conversation, so I am not sure exactly how the gentleman offended her. I want to be careful not to make the same mistake.

Emmanuel is a young man from Italy. In my first conversation with him, he claimed to be an atheist. In a later discussion, he brought up Augustine's Confessions. I pointed out that I don't commonly hear of atheists reading the works of St. Augustine. He then back-pedaled a bit from his atheist position. I am not exactly sure where he stands in relation to God, but I have a feeling he is also unsure about it.

Please, if you think of it, say a prayer for Jahan and Emmanuel.

I met a missionary couple from the U.S. who work with Navigators. They organize outings for international students. I accompanied them on a day trip to Glamis Castle in October and met many international students. I was able to have a good conversation with one young woman from Italy. I am hoping to accompany them on their next day trip in March. It not only gives me a great opportunity to connect with international students, it also gives me an excuse to visit an historical site outside of St. Andrews.

My research cohort is an interesting group of people from all over the world. Although the majority of us are from the United States, we have people from China, Ethiopia, Australia, Ireland, and of course the UK. Some are fellow missionaries. One woman was working in India prior to coming to Scotland. Another was working with CRU on U.S. college campuses in the Midwest. Others are pastors, one of whom is pastoring an evangelical church in Puerto Rico. There are two pastors from Australia, one of whom is an Anglican priest.

Although we come from a variety of traditions and backgrounds, we work well together because we share a common goal. The goal is to seek the truth and to seek it in such a way that it will serve the church. We may not agree on every point, but we all agree that "there is some theological truth of the matter and that this truth of the matter can be ascertained and understood by human beings (theologians included!)" ~ Oliver Crisp. The Truth that we are seeking is not an abstract concept, but the Person of Jesus Christ, the One whom John refers to as the Logos.



VATICAN

Next week, I will be traveling to Rome where I will visit the Vatican and attend an inter-faith conference on inter-faith relations at Foyer Unitas. The keynote speaker will be Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University. She will discuss how understanding Jesus' parables requires understanding Jesus' own Jewish context. How would the parables have been heard by Jesus' original Jewish listeners, and how might those original messages still hold meaning for Jews and Christians, and everyone, today?

In my next newsletter, I will tell you more about Logia, a group that supports women in ministry and women in the field of theology.

Thank you for your ongoing support. It means so much to me, and I pray that God will richly bless you.

Carol



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OAC/USA is trusting the Lord to use this ministry to impact 25 cities in America with the Gospel through open-air evangelism and other ministry by means of strategic establishment of branch ministries by the year 2025.