September 2021

My Dear Friends:

Thank you for the prayers and gifts that have encouraged and sustained me in ministry! I am thankful that our ministry is going forward, and souls are being impacted even during these difficult times. Let me share with you some encouraging stories from our ministry at the piers.

During the course of one evening at Redondo Pier, I counseled three Spanish speaking families. I learned some Spanish in school, and on a Summer trip to Central America many years ago. I am thankful that I know enough to be able to share the Gospel in that language. Two of the families were believers, but the father of the third family was not a believer, although his wife and children were. I was able to give him some materials in Spanish, that included a Spanish Gospel, A Jesus film and a tract that clearly explained the Gospel. Pray that these materials and a believing family will bring this man to Christ.

Brian and Tu were a young Asian couple that I met at Newport Pier. They had never heard the Gospel before. I asked their religious background and they admitted they were Buddhists. They also confirmed my contention that Buddha never discussed the idea of a created universe, or the idea of a conscious and permanent life after death. They were intrigued by the idea of such things, and eagerly accepted a Jesus film and the other material that I offered them. I believe that God arranges the circumstances of our salvation, and that He will lead Brian and Tu to someone to complete my seed planting by leading them to Christ.

Derrick was a young man I met at Seal Beach. After he solved our posted black-light riddle, which leads to the Gospel, I explained to him further what the message of Christ to us was. Although he was a Roman Catholic and very religious, he had never taken the step of understanding what a personal faith in the Savior was all about. He told me he desired to live for God and avoid sexual temptation. Since he was very good looking, I asked him if he was a "girl magnet". He smiled. "Yes, I guess I am, but not always to the right type." I explained further to him what a personal faith in Jesus was all about, and I believe he understood. I encouraged him to read the Bible and understand Christ further. His response was interesting. "Yes my priest has been telling me the same thing". I gave him a Jesus film and explained to him "This will, I believe will make Jesus clear to you, and why he came, and you need to do to respond to Him." My prayer is that Derrick will make that final step and truly trust Christ as his savior.

How can you Pray?

- 1. Because of Cataracts, and possibly other eye issues, my night time vision has been deteriorating for some time. It is now reached the point that it is dangerous for me to drive at night. I am thankful that my daytime vision is unaffected! My VA eye doctor tells me that the cataracts can be removed when they were advanced enough. I believe that time has arrived! Pray that this issue can be resolved quickly, as you can understand , most of our ministry is at night, and working around it will be difficult.
- 2. One praise, is that Santa Monica Pier (our most fruitful ministry location) has opened up to us again. It had been closed to performers (our permit falls under that category) because of Covid restrictions.
- 3. Pray that our Townsend St kids Bible club, will increase in numbers, and also pray for our continued need for nearby parking.
- 4. Praise God for our faithful team of volunteer workers who make this ministry possible!

Thank you for your vital part in this ministry!

Russ Hodder

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