

June, 2022

My Dear Friends and Family:

Thank you for being patient with me as my ministry update is long overdue. Lots of doctor's appointments and forgetfulness are factors. Old age is creeping up and I am beginning to be moving at half speed. The good news is that ministry has not stopped. The Gospel is going out. Although how we reach people for Christ has changed over the years, we still find people are open, ready to listen and responsive.

Even Muslim's seem more responsive. A clean cut 17 year old young man on a bike stopped to look at our Riddle at Hermosa Pier. "I'm not a Christian but I am interested in your Riddle" When I asked him what he was he replied "I'm a Muslim". He looked very European, in his light skin and looks. As it turned out his folks has emigrated from Algeria (which explained his light complexion) but he was born here. He was very interested in why we see Jesus as God. I related passages from John 1, Hebrews 1, and Colossians 1 that show how Jesus was the instrument of the creation of the universe, and that He even holds it together (Col 1:17). With power like that, He certainly was able to pay for our sins with the sacrificial gift of his blood on the cross. Jesus in effect, let His own creation put Him to death on the cross in the supreme act of love. That argument seemed to impact Hakim. I gave him a Gospel and a Jesus film, which includes English and Arabic, as he was bi-lingual. Our conversation was cut a little short as his parents called, and he had to leave. I was encouraged by our encounter.

The very next Friday at Newport Pier, I noticed three young men trying to figure out our riddle. The same question came up that Hakim had come up with about Jesus being God. "I think I know where you are going with this" I replied. Mohamed Laughed. "Yeah, were Muslims" he told me. They were from the United Arab Emirates and they were going to school here. They were quite friendly, and I used the same arguments I had used with Hakim. They also took Jesus films. I prayed that good seed was planted!

Another Newport phenomenon is the flood of Mormons that are there during the Summer. They rent out the beach cottages as a graduation presents to their, high schoolers. Some from as far as Utah. Frank was able to keep a dozen or so of these LDS kids, who on their Bikes, in conversation for over thirty minutes. They had excellent questions and wanted answers. How can you Pray?

Pray as our team has been weakened by Covid. Several have had it. Frank has it now. So far I remain free.

Pray as Santa Monica has been difficult to get into lately.

Pray that my night vision will be restored, so I can drive at night, and for stamina in ministry. As I get older.

Pray that hearts will remain open to the Gospel

Thank you for your part in the ministry!

Russ Hodder

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