

March 2023

My Dear Friends and family:

It has been a very long time since I have written. Last October I had a relapse of my rheumatoid arthritis. If you know anything about this disease, you know that it is extremely painful, and can affect every part of the body. After my medication dose was changed, and the pain and swelling went away, I had other symptoms that lingered, making me feel pretty lousy for nearly three months. I was not able to get much done in the area of ministry or much else. Right now, I am feeling much better, and am getting active in ministry again. Right now the VA is putting me through a series of medical tests to make sure that I am truly OK. Pray for me that they will give me a clean bill of health., and that my disease will stay dormant. I did some ministry during this period, though it was difficult. Being out at night aggravated my condition, but I still was active with our kids Bible club at Townsend St and in teaching in my Sunday fellowship group. I am happy to report I am again active in our weekend pier and beach ministry.

At Redondo Beach Pier, last weekend, foot traffic was too low to successfully preach, so we put up our "riddle" up on the paint board, and we were able to counsel about fifty five people. Ryan was a young man who used to be active in a Christian church. He had drifted away, as he began to look to science for the answers in life, but now seemed to be thinking of coming back to the Lord. "I have seen some of my friends who trusted Christ, and I can't deny the changes I've seen in their lives", he told me. I gave him some material that I thought would encourage his way back to the Lord.

The previous week at Newport Pier, I talked with some Mormons who seem to gravitate to that location. Their religion is so close to Christianity. The evil one deceives them into thinking they are part of the family of God. When I asked them the key question. "Do you think you are going to Heaven?" the answer was "I hope so". One girl who answered in that way had two male friends with her, who took gospel tracts when she would not. I think God was using my arguments to make some headway in their lives.

As we pulled into Townsend St, I heard a woman's voice call out "Russ, do you need a parking place?". She moved her car so we could get in. Janet had been our club up to seven years ago. I looked up her record, and she had done all of our take home Bible lessons, which took her probably two or three years to complete. I was blessed that she remembered my name.

Please pray for my continued health and strength as I engage in the ministry God has called me to.

Thanks so much for your prayers and financial help!

Russ Hodder

Open Air Campaigners

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