



be ready always to give an answer
I Peter 3:15

earnestly contend for the faith
Jude 3

June 2022

Pacific Beach, SDSU and Balboa Park

Often I have reported a never before experienced event and this month was no exception. Let me explain.

Brother Marc accompanied me to Balboa Park on a Saturday just a couple weeks ago. As we entered the park near the Rueben Science Center there were a number of religious booths setup. Several I had never seen before. One had a large blue canopy with the words, "The Church of Jesus Christ."

I know several Christian ministries that often go to Balboa Park with banners with the name "Jesus Christ" on them but this one had nothing hinting what they stood for.

My initial thought was perhaps the Mormons but they never would simplify their name in public without adding "of Latter-day Saints." As soon as I saw just two books on the table I suspected perhaps one of the offshoots of Mormonism, which happened to be right. One book was the Bible and the other was the Book of Mormon. There was just one man in the booth with a young teen there as well, perhaps his son. He assured me they were not part of the Utah Mormons but none the less believed in Joseph Smith.

Many years ago I read a book describing over 100 splits and splinter groups who likewise believe in the Book of Mormon but reject polygamy and the many gods of Mormonism. When I challenged him on how he could believe Joseph Smith a prophet and yet reject what he taught. He had no problem agreeing that Smith was a fallen prophet but yet still should be followed.

I pointed out that the Bible describes only two types of prophets, true or false. If you teach a false god or doctrines that contradict the prophets you shouldn't be listen to. In the



The Church of Jesus Christ is a splinter group of the followers of Joseph Smith, the Utah Mormons being by far the largest with over 16 million members. I have never before talked with anyone of this group. This group worldwide only has about 25,000 followers.

Old Testament they would be stoned. He insisted the Book of Mormon didn't contradict the Bible and should be followed. I countered why do we need it if the Bible was sufficient? If it teaches something different then it falls under the condemnation of Galatians 1:8,9 where Paul pronounces a curse on those who preach another gospel even if it were an angel of heaven (which is the very roots of this religion).

We had a spirited conversation for 20 minutes with multiple arguments proving this religion was false. I doubt that he had ever had a Christian that knew his religion better than he with a powerful defense of the true gospel.

My final 3 arguments focused there never was a "total apostacy." Jesus had kept His promise to build His church. Testing the Book of Mormon by praying for a feeling is unbiblical. And that the Book of Mormon's teaching that we are saved "after all we can do" is a false gospel. Tragically, once you have your mind made up facts don't matter.

NEWSLETTER

Challenge Ministries is a non-profit Christian ministry dedicated to the defense and proclamation of the Gospel and Biblical truth.

Founded by Jerry & Dianna Benson

E-mail: challenge.min@cox.net

web sites:..... www.challengemin.org

Challenge Ministries

P.O. Box 20195

El Cajon, California 92021

*All contributions are tax deductible

More about May...



This is a residential area on 39th Street in San Diego. The Church of Jesus Christ as mentioned on our front page is this building. Their sign just beyond the fence says, The Church of Jesus Christ.

The church above known as “The Church of Jesus Christ (Bickertonite) is another cult that challenges the Bible as a sufficient guide. Without exception, the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ is modified, twisted, or added to. The Apostle Paul calls it “another gospel.”

One of the great difficulties when witnessing to these people is that they often use Christian terminology but have different meanings. Even this group was very deceptive in that they were “fulfilling the great commission.” They said they believe in Jesus and the Bible and we are saved by faith in Jesus.

Sounds Christian doesn't it. Well, there is certainly nothing wrong with the words. The problem is the meaning of the words and what accompany the words. I am convinced that one does not need to know every particular detail of where these people have gone astray, but rather just be very grounded in what the Bible teaches. Bank tellers used to study carefully what real currency looked like and then when the counterfeit showed up they would immediately recognize the forgery.



This is brother Marc speaking with a professor at SDSU. The reason this photo is precious is that I have offered this aged professor a tract literally dozens of times over many years on this campus. He always simply shakes his head no and I always wish him a good day. Until last month. Brother Marc actually engaged in a short conversation with him. He's been a professor here for 20 plus years (I forget what he teaches). Although the gospel wasn't presented nor did he take a tract, there is a dialog beginning and the door is cracked open for future. PTL.



Dianna is sharing a million dollar bill with this lady and her dog. The dog seemed quite interested in the bill which made a good conversation starter as well as a good reason to read it. We are convinced that on many occasions simply giving someone “a million bucks” and few kind words is the best way to honor God.

What's Happening and What's Coming???

SDSU... School is out for the rest of the summer. Lord willing we'll be back in the fall.

Balboa Park will be home base for a while... The number of visitors to the park continues to increase as we move into the summer months. Even week days has a fair amount of activity. We discover each week we are going into all the world at this single location. What great opportunities we have here in San Diego!

Jesus and the Qur'an... The tract is complete except for a final check for punctuation, grammar etc. Lord willing we'll have it printed and send you a copy next month.

*In Christ,
Jerry and Dianna*