

Special Edition >>>

“Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:10



The sower went out to sow his seed...

Fair Evangelism

6 Days at the County Fair!

A team of people spent six days at a Minnesota county fair planting kingdom seeds.

Seven people participated over the course of the week. We talked to people, handed out Biblical reading material, and offered a Bible study later in the month (and a couple signed up.)

We handed out website links and encouraged people to check it out and be a Berean.



The Seed of the Kingdom

Looking for good soil!

We are not responsible for the soil, but we do have a responsibility to sow the seed that we have been given, for we have been given the word of the kingdom.

Matthew 13:1-9; Matthew 13:18-23

Sowing kingdom seeds means stepping out of your comfort zone. And since you don't know the kind of soil the seed is falling on, the more seed you can sow, the better chance some will find the good soil.

This first year at the fair was a learning experience. We compiled many good ideas to incorporate next year that should help get people to interact a little more and get more dialogue. We were blessed to develop more confidence and became more comfortable stepping out of our comfort zones to share God's truths.

Over the week we were also blessed as we were cursed and falsely accused, and we learned better ways to dialogue with people with different beliefs. We learned how to deal with many different reactions of people and we recognized that the seed we were sowing was falling on all different kinds of soil: rocky, thorny, much along the road, and we hope some will prove to be good soil.

All the people who sacrificed their time and comfort levels were blessed in great ways. This was a great opportunity to grow in the ability to share our faith and stand up for what we believe in. It would be excellent practice for anyone wanting to be better able and equipped to share their faith, and it was a week's worth of active mission or evangelism training.

But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

1 Peter 3:14-16



Fair Evangelism 101 Tracy Zhykhovich

After spending over 60 hours at the fair this past week, I'd like to share some of the things I learned, put into practice and some of the conversations I had.

After being attacked the second morning and told I would go to hell, I realized I needed to always be ready. Satan attacks when we are not expecting it! I asked for prayer immediately and felt the covering as brethren lifted me up before the Father.

- **Pray & Have People Praying For You**

I went home that evening and refreshed my knowledge on how to refute the lies that have infiltrated much of professing Christianity.

I had many interesting conversations over the course of the week. One of them was with a Jewish Liberal Democrat Union person in the booth next door. One of the main things I took away from that conversation was: Building Bridges. I realized that the conversations I had been having with the Democrats and Socialists across the aisle, was just that.

- **Build Bridges, Not Walls**

I knew there would be controversy in views with those across the aisle, so I set the stage early with each new person that rotated in all week.

I would inject in the conversation early how so many "Christians" give me a bad name, and how I am offended that so many people today don't understand how people can hold opposing views and yet be civil and act friendly towards each other. For example, if one of us is a Republican, and the other a Democrat, we should be able to dialogue in a civil way and still act friendly towards each other. (Of course they agreed. And, by the way, I told them up front that I have one King and am not involved with world politics.)

Later in the day one of them called me over and asked what I thought about the LGBT issue. I told her it didn't matter what I thought about it, or what she thought about it, and quite frankly, I didn't care who slept with who; but as a Christian if I believe the Bible, it says homosexuality is a sin. But, if someone doesn't believe the Bible, then it really didn't matter what the Bible says.

I then reiterated that just because you and I have different views doesn't mean that I hate you or am going to act in an evil way towards you. We can still be friends and kind to one another. I also added that I was offended that so many labeled me as homophobic or a hater just because I believed that homosexuality was a sin; but I also added on that adultery was just as sinful. She added in fornication (as if I didn't think that was a sin) and I wholeheartedly agreed.

The Socialist I was talking to told me she thought Jesus was a Liberal and that he didn't condemn the prostitute. (She didn't understand that teaching was not about the prostitute, but those wanting to stone her. And she neglected to comment on that when Jesus *was* talking to a prostitute, he told her to go and sin no more.)

- **Be Bold & Address Issues Before They Come Up**

As I was trying to build bridges with those around me, the Baptist booth down the way was building walls. (Interestingly, there were three different Baptist booths at the fair and they all believed differently!)

I had a conversation with one of them who stopped by early on and he wasn't able to refute anything I said. So, they sent their Associate Pastor over later in the week, "undercover". (You just don't know the FUN you missed!) ☺

I had left the booth and he came over and was inquiring about our timeline and some other things with the person at the booth, not letting on who he was or that he was a pastor. Then he began interrogating her very arrogantly, disrespectfully, and certainly not in love. When I returned with the third person he let loose. "What about this?! What

about that?! And he would not even let us answer fully before he jumped to another misrepresented verse. When we had the brief chance to ask him a question, he never answered it and jumped to another question. At one point he said, “I have all these verses and you only have two!” My reply was that he still hadn’t answered either of the two!

His wife and children stopped by and she mumbled under her breath that we take things out of the Bible. We informed her that it was actually their KJV that added things in.

When their one little son stepped up to me and boldly said that I had to believe in Jesus as my Lord or I would get thrown into hell, **JUST LIKE YOUR BANNER SHOWS**, I asked him, which hell, and his mother pulled him away and told him not to listen to us. (We had just discussed with Pastor James the three “hells” in English.)

My daughter calmly asked him if he thought that if she didn’t believe in the Trinity, would she be saved. First he said yes, then he thought and said NO! In the end he was mocking us and even bowed on the ground to one of us before flying off like Superman.

- **Be the “Aggressor” and Ask Your Questions First and Don’t Answer Theirs Until They Answer Yours**

Early the next day we had sent our own “undercover” person there to see what they were saying to people. She felt they contradicted themselves too often. One minute you didn’t need to be baptized to be saved, and the next, you did. She told them that she had been to our booth and thought it made much more sense (about who Jesus and God were.) They told her we were Jehovah Witnesses and a cult, along with other untrue statements; but they said that they felt so sorry for us in our deception.

Later in the day, their Senior Pastor was walking by our booth in the evening and I went out to talk to him. I approached him and asked if he was the pastor of their church. When he said yes, I told him, very quietly and calmly, that I would appreciate it if they would not be telling people lies about us – that we were Jehovah Witnesses and a cult.

- **Don’t be Ashamed & Call Them Out**

I also told him that the day before his associate pastor had been quite rude and confirmed what the Democrats and many others thought about Christians. They had just told me the day before how Christians can’t get a long and are not very loving, and then he demonstrated just that. I shared that I had been trying to build bridges, and Pastor James destroyed it and made a bad name for us all.

I think by having this conversation and pointing out what others see, we left on a friendly note. I shared that we disagreed on these issues, but if we were professing to be Christians, then we should act like it.

- **If You Profess to be A Christian, Then Act Like Christ!**

Everything was much more peaceful after this. Even the first man (from the Gideon booth) who told me I was going to hell, smiled several times at me and said hello. The last day as I packed up he came by to talk more, this time with a different demeanor and we had a good conversation. He said he had read Anthony Buzzard’s “Who is Jesus?” booklet, which made me happy, even though he still didn’t understand and was trying to convince me otherwise. Even so, we ended on a good note and agreed that we enjoyed the dialogue.

Pastor James also took one of the same booklets. When he went to put it back I asked if he was afraid to read it, so he ended up taking it and said he would read it. I don’t think he did yet, but please pray for him that he would and that his eyes would be opened, as well as for all the others who took material or will check things out online.

- **Have Posture & Look Them in the Eyes**

There was a “Spiritual Survey” booth at the fair as well. We went and took the survey with different people as they changed out (since they had to listen politely as they did the survey) so more people would hear about the kingdom and why we didn’t think we would go to heaven when we died.

My 12-year-old came back flustered the first time because the guy wouldn’t listen to her and kept changing the subject (which seems to be a common thread with these people.) She told him that she would be back with her Bible.

My other daughter sat for over an hour with a man listening to him and then explaining what the Bible taught on death, the kingdom, who Jesus was and how many Gods there are. She started the survey with a lady but when she couldn’t answer her questions about heaven half way through, she called in reinforcement.

We must continue to improve upon how and what we share with people. We must understand that we have a responsibility, and we must love the truth enough to share it and gently instruct people while building bridges.

- **We Must Practice, Practice, Practice Evangelism if We Hope to be Effective Witnesses of God’s Kingdom Hope**

Fair Evangelism Next Year...

*Will you step outside of your comfort zone?
Will your church accept the challenge?*

Consider putting a group together in your church and getting a booth at a county fair in your area.

We will be putting together an informational packet with ideas and suggestions as to how to set up and run a booth.

This is a great learning experience and will help stretch and strengthen your faith and evangelism skills.

You don't have to be a theologian, and any age can participate. We had as young as 12 years old working with us.

Not only did we talk to those walking around the fair, but there were several other booths from various churches. This was even a bigger challenge and really aided in our growth and witness. They were not always very friendly, but in the end peaceful.

One thing that really surfaced as a result of the badgering and "attacks" was the need that our people *really* have, to talk more about our distinct truths with one another so that we can do a better job of being confident and being more willing to present these truths boldly and without hesitation or apology to others.

We all believe these truths, but so often we remain silent because we are intimidated by how aggressive the opposition is. We realized how essential it is to have good posture and be on the offensive ourselves asking *them* to explain this and that verse, rather than the other way around.

Please reach out if you have any questions or want more information.

A big thanks to the Minnesota Missionary Society and to Restoration Fellowship for their support!



In The Next Newsletter

- *Report on Maksim's Summer Travels*
- *Report on Amir's Missionary trip to the Hindi Community in Pakistan*

We will be presenting more information on this outreach at the National Missions Conference in October.

More info:

<https://kogmissions.com/kingdom-m-missions-academy-conference-training/>

Also, we will offer a pack of information upon request for those interested in doing Fair Evangelism. It will also be valuable for any other evangelism you or your church wish to engage in.

Questions are a key in dialogue and at first contact. We will provide different ideas for this as well.

