

Community of Hope

going on a spiritual journey... together!



Newsletter

Email: info@communityofhope.org.au

Mind Body Spirit Festival Nov 2011

Festival: but of what?



LINLEY WILSON

Recently a crew of us from the Community of Hope represented the Lord Jesus at the Mind Body and Spirit Festival, in 'Jeff's Shed' Exhibition Centre, Melbourne. These festivals are always an important event. Going there, one sees people of every age and description, thronging the aisles, milling around the displays and booths: searching for something.

How often do we sense that 'there is no accident in your coming here today' when talking to seekers at these events. We do not always know what is happening in a person's life (though we can often guess) but God is busy, holding

us through the Bread of Life that satisfies, or offering the one perfectly fitting jigsaw piece to complete the picture, if you prefer.

One such person was 'Molly' who approached our stand, looked at me, and said: 'I think I spoke to you last year. You said to be careful when I was looking around at all these things'. Turned out that we had indeed spoken. Molly was 'closer to God now' than she was last year, but still had not fully committed her life to Jesus. As we talked, the intensity of the eye contact dimmed the goings-on around us as she drank up the conversation. We discussed what commitment meant, and I spoke to her of standing on the edge of the diving board, without having actually taken the plunge. We can pray for 'Molly' that she only comes back again, if at all, to tell us she is a follower of Jesus.

What a privilege though, to be able to cut straight to the chase, with people opening up the depths of their lives to us, as we are led by God's Holy Spirit to speak truth into their lives. We can ask to pray with them, and to follow them up if they are willing. While extended after-Festival contacts are rare, they do happen. I personally have been meeting with and texting, a young man I met almost exactly a year ago at the Festival. This intelligent man had been 'burned' by a well known arm of the established church (all too common..) and was seeking for truth and relationship in the heavenly realm. I firmly believe he has met Jesus, and is showing all the fruits of a joyful, converted new Christian. however he is still experiencing difficulty finding a suitable spiritual home, despite much help and many tries.

Pray the Lord of the Harvest that he might raise up many more workers to reap in this plentiful harvest field of Festival ministry, even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper can be glad together. Thus the saying one sows and another reaps is true (John 4:36).

Moments from the Mind Body Spirit Festival November



I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to share the "Illusions" with several people at the MBS Festival. The morning began a little slow but soon all 4 tables were filled constantly and at times we could have had 8 tables as there were people waiting and keen to talk but not enough presenters! A good problem to have I think and a challenge for us to encourage more to get involved.

One family I spoke to was Kiah (13) Montanna (6) and their mum Francine. They were keen to understand more about the gospel after the presentation and stayed for around 35 minutes! They were challenged about their own salvation and although they made no commitment, they left with the knowledge of their Saviour who died for them. They were also happy to receive a Bible each to keep as their own. It was a similar story with 18yo Ashlea and her mum and another man Rod. Such a blessing of a day...I didn't want to leave! ...**from Steve Taylor**



The first hour was quiet, so it gave me a chance to meet with the other presenters we started with prayer for the day which gave me a sense of peace and put the day into perspective. I met a lot of people who enjoyed the presentation. One young man, Nathaniel, stood out as a very intelligent computer software programmer very serious and thought about accepting the bible for some time. I got the impression he would go away and study the bible diligently. It was a special feeling to be part of Gods plan for people's lives.

...**from John Kavanagh**



Flat out is my experience of this years MBS - talked until my voice was going....shared love languages only and found that people showed heaps of interest in knowing their love language but relatively few were prepared to discuss on a deeper level things of the faith. I have not experienced this to this degree before. There have always been a few but this time many women indicated their gratitude and were happy with knowing the concept of love languages but did not want too much deeper discussion. There were 2 exceptions and both indicated they were happy to have ongoing contact - so we will see what comes of that.

One attends a spiritualist church, reads her bible and was open to me sharing my faith. The other struggles with a mental illness, was very self aware and may be open to attending a bible study group. Please pray that these ladies will reply to my email and that the former will contact me. In summary I found MBS to be worth the effort to thwart the enemy's stronghold on lives that count and thank God for this opportunity. ...**from Liz Wilson**

Saturday morning went pretty well.

The first lady I spoke to was aged about 45-50 and of Sri Lankan background. She said that she prayed to God, Jesus, mother Mary and sometimes the Hindu gods. I explained that Jesus claimed to be God's only son, and she told me she got a different feeling when she prayed to God and Jesus than when she prayed to the others.

She really seemed to be seeking God and said she knew that he had to come first in her life, even more important than her own children. She gladly took a new testament and I told her that praying to God/Jesus and reading the bible would make it clear to her who God is. She was very happy and said she'd been unclear on these things for a while and thanked me for helping her understand. That was probably my best interaction on Saturday.

Most common objections I got were:

-How can a good God allow suffering? -Everyone has their own truth / various paths lead to God.

...**from Peter Marrinion**



Ken Brookes

Sharing the gospel at Festivals using star poster "Understanding the signs"

An elderly gentleman was ushered to my the chair in front of my table. The gentleman seemed perhaps a little unsure of what he was getting into. I introduced myself and invited him (Tom was his name) to sit down. In my introduction I make it clear that this is not about finding a personal horoscope in the stars; rather that the message revealed is much bigger than that, a universal message. To demonstrate that it is universal I refer to the common naming of the constellations across several ancient cultures - for example the naming of Virgo (Latin, the virgin) is common to Sanskrit, Hebrew, Greek. Tom appears to become more relaxed.

The presentation progresses:

Virgo - the virgin is the image of a woman, always depicted holding a sheaf in her hand - the first woman was given the promise that her seed would be central to the whole human story.

Corvus - the crow. The brightest star appears like a beady eye, eyeing off the grain in Virgo's hand. It is as if the crow is already to snatch away the seed at any chance he gets. At this stage I read Revelation 12:4 **"The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child [the Seed] the moment he was born. She gave birth to a male child.."** I have the words in bold type and hold them forward so Tom can see them as I read. He is definitely taking it all in.

We go on to Hydra the serpent, the conflict between the Seed [good] and evil, a vivid depiction of the nature of this world we live in.

Libra (scales). Tom can see here the aspect of judgment; that ultimately justice will prevail, that all things are finally brought before the Just Judge. We are indignant when someone walks out of court and we think they didn't get what they deserve. This is a good lead-in to Crater (the cup) - the cup of God's wrath. I refer Tom to Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane. Nobody wants to be under God's wrath - and Jesus was no different in that sense "if it be possible, let this cup pass from me" - it wasn't possible. And so we come to Crux.

After a discussion about the Southern Cross on the Australian flag and the facts of if/when the Southern Cross is/was visible from Jerusalem I talk about the death of Jesus being the answer to sin - generally and individually.

Because of Tom's obvious involvement and responsiveness I ask if he has ever personally accepted Jesus as his saviour. His answer is of the 'not really' type. I then suggest that he can and should do that. His response/demeanor I took to be positive. I then thought, well why leave it at that. I suggested to Tom that I would like to pray with him (eyes open is fine), and ask his permission. Willingly given. So we prayed (well, I was the one speaking) with our eyes re-tracing the gospel story through the signs in the poster.

At some point I had emphasized that these are signs, just signs. The real message is shown clearly in the



Bible and that message is Jesus. I asked Tom if he had a Bible. He did - no need to give him one.

As he left He thanked me and said "Ken it's a great thing you are doing there." I thought of Matthew 10:12,13 "As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it"

Tom was receptive. May the peace of the Saviour be with him.

Giving Thanks for the past year opportunity to...



..run 19 venues/festivals

..work with 35 volunteers

..share with 1200 seekers

..give away 300 New Testament Bibles

..have supporting churches

..be helped by financial supporters

..hear some great stories

of people we met during the year

**.. with God's guiding hand we
are looking forward to what
he's going to do in the Next Year Coming**

Need Resources?

**Want to know more about the Community of Hope
and the methods we use?**

**Visit the website - watch a video
www.communityofhope.org.au**

HELP

**Cheques can be made out to :- Community of Hope
and posted to: 30 Leonard St Bayswater Vic 3153**

Bank Transfer to:- Community of Hope

Bank CBA BSB 063174 Acct 10060853

A receipt will be sent if requested.

We are also looking for volunteers to:

- ~ Help as presenters with more stalls being shown this year
- ~ People to train interested churches and individuals
- ~ Administration / Newsletter

Need more info, then please contact James Brown

Office: 281 Colchester Rd Kilsyth Vic 3137

Email: info@communityofhope.org.au

Dates for up coming festivals

Saturday 7th Jan
WONTHAGGI TOWN HALL
WONTHAGGI
South Gippsland

Sunday 8th Jan
Cowes Cultural Centre
COWES Phillip Island

5th February
The Kernot Hall
Crn Princes Drive & Monash Way
MORWELL

More Festival Dates Coming

26th February
Ballarat Convention &
Exhibition Centre
613 Main Road
BALLARAT

25th March
The Berwick Youth Centre
79 Manuka Road BERWICK

29th April
Box Hill Town Hall
1022 Whitehorse Rd,
BOX HILL

27th May
ALBURY /WODONGA
To Be Confirmed

22nd July
Darebin Arts & Ent Centre
Crn Bell St & St Georges Rd
PRESTON

26th August
The Melton Community Centre
High St, MELTON

30th September
The Kernot Hall
Crn Princes Drive & Monash Way
MORWELL

21st October
Frankston Art Centre
Crn Young & Davies St
FRANKSTON

***Mind Body Spirit Festivals
June***

***Melbourne Exhibition Centre
Southbank, Melbourne***