

Evangelism Adventures
Super Bowl XLVI - February 2012

Hello and welcome to this edition of 'Follow the Fisherman'. I'm your host, Steven Henry. Thank you so much for joining me :)

So, this is an update on some of our evangelism adventures in Indiana talking with people who came to enjoy the idolatry of football - talking about eternity. It was a crazy fast-paced weekend! Below are just a few of the stories - check with Bill Adams @ www.superbowloutreach.org for more :)

Also, you can find our pictures here:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10150555864713325.381926.542013324&type=1>

And you can find this story online, on FB, here:

<http://www.facebook.com/notes/fishing-stories-conversations-about-eternity/follow-the-fisherman-2012-episode-3-/318270641559073>

We arrived around 1 AM Friday morning - the warfare to get there was incredible! But, God got us there and safe :) There were 100+ evangelists on the streets this weekend and God protected us all and used us - thanks so much for your prayers :)

Friday:

So, Friday, we ate breakfast, heard some teaching from God's Word - then, we hit the streets! Most of us all piled into the 2 main buses. We arrived at something called 'Monument circle' - it was a big roundabout area with a large monument and fountain in the middle - though the fountain was dry, probably for this event. The monument and stuff in the island had a number of details that made me think of Freemasonry, but I didn't look at it too closely. Yet, on this trip, I talked with my first 2 freemasons and shared the gospel with both of them - it was pretty exciting :)

So, first off, we all prayed, then spread out. Jason Karroll and a few others started preaching at one section, while several of us passed out tracts and talked with people. The main thing I remember about that, was the nice lady who said that the speaker was rude. So, I asked her what she meant and noted that he hadn't insulted anyone. She just said that we should share the gospel with our actions. So, I gently reminded her that Jesus both preached and had talked with people - He initiated conversations about eternity. He didn't wait for them to come. We talked some more, but I don't know that she caught the point. Praying for her - I don't remember her name.

So from there, a couple of us went over to preach where they had the large XLVI letters (probably 25' tall - huge, inflatable - you can see them in the pictures). I was joined by Ed. He let me warm up the preaching and I preached to the crowds for about 30 - 45 minutes before an officer walked up to me and asked if we could talk

for a minute. We moved over a little and he kindly informed me that I was preaching in one of the 2 areas that were leased to the SuperBowl Event and he asked if I had a permit. He said he respected how I was handling the people and he wasn't going against what I was preaching, I just either needed a permit for preaching or I had to move over 20 feet. I checked and found out that I/we didn't have a permit, so we moved. Kind gentleman - even allowed me to shake his hand as I thanked him. The police handled us very well during the whole weekend - very unlike what they're doing in Orlando. That was somewhat due to some Christian lawyers working with the Super Bowl Outreach team and somewhat due to your prayers - thanks! :)

So, from there, we went back to the spot where I had been preaching because a gentleman who was walking through stopped and wanting to talk to me, since I was the one preaching. He is a follower of Christ and we had a wonderful conversation, but I cannot remember his name... oh well - God bless Him and continue using Him there in Indiana! :)

So, from there, Ed and I looked for the rest of our team to get warm and had lunch. After lunch, we talked some people, passed out some tracts, and then I set up on a corner that seem ideally suited for conversations and preaching - it was! :)

I think I preach 4 to 6 hours there - reading through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John ~ teaching as I went, calling for repentance pretty often and explaining that pretty often - something like stop-light preaching. After that I taught through some of James ~ it was great! But, when I was done, my voice was completely gone - for the rest of the weekend :P ~ oh well. I learned a few ideas for next time, though. A few preachers told me that you don't want to do any cough drops (like halls, etc) because the chemical and menthol will numb your throat and you can then preach again, but are doing more damage. (Ricola cough drops are different though, because they are natural.) And, they also told me that you want to keep your throat hydrated all day with as-close-to room temperature water as possible. ~ Those are pretty cool to remember for next time! :)

But, the best part of the day was right in the middle of the afternoon when 2 young men came by - Chris and Aaron. They asked me something about what I was preaching and got into a conversation. They are both college-age and had some genuine questions about God and the Bible. Both of them believed in the 'god' of Rastafarianism - which came across as a pantheism system, but I did a brief search and it seems to be a false religion that confuses and twists Scripture too.

At any rate, they thought God was the 'sun'. And I quickly pointed who the real God is and from there we moved to the subject of sin and rebellion against God. Their next question was if the Bible was written by man, and I answered that question with 3 points ~ 1> The Bible uses the phrase thus says the Lord numerous times (I gave them a wrong number, seems to be about 418 or so) ~ The Bible does not claim to be written by man, but by God. And 2> I briefly mentioned it's prophecies, but then

mentioned and discussed Jesus' words in John 14:6 - **"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"**

They tried to say that Jesus was just an enlightened leader, but I pointed out that Jesus makes a bold statement here - and He isn't claiming to be one of many. He is claiming to be God. And I then pointed out that this leaves us with only 3 options concerning Jesus. Either He is: a> He was a lunatic, b> He was a liar, or c> He was and is who He claims to be - God. I then noted that Jesus taught with such clarity that He obviously isn't looney. And, He healed so many people of so many diseases - one of them chimed in about him opening the eyes of the man born blind - so, I continued that God will not give His power to someone who is fake or a liar, and they agreed. So, I noted that brings us to only 1 conclusion - He's God. We can repent and come to Him or reject Him, but He's God.

That then led to some more questions about some things I can't remember, but somewhere in there I mentioned masonry and how it is false. And Aaron shocked me by saying that he had just joined that. My mouth dropped for a few seconds, then I caught my breath and God helped my brain remember where I was headed. I first checked to see if he really was in masonry or just goofing off, and after a few questions he said that he didn't want to get into it, but that he just joined the green lodge somewhere. I quickly described how it's a satanic cult where they insult Jesus as just a good prophet, and it's a sex-cult. Aaron quickly analyzed what I was saying and said that he was now realizing how serious this was and how he needed to get out of there. I said yes - burn your contract. Aaron then lamented that he had just paid the initial \$150 fee to join, and he was doing okay before joining and now he was homeless. I again repeated that he needed to get out of there and burn that contract and never look back. He thought for a second and nodded. Then noted out loud a few minutes later that our conversation was a God-send for him. I agreed that God does arrange these types of things.

Chris and Aaron and I talked another several minutes - I gave them a couple of tracts, met one of their moms and they left. ~ Please join me in praying for them that God will provide for them, but that they will take their need to get right with God seriously and that God will drive Aaron out of masonry. Thanks :)

So, after that I preached a number of more hours - and the crowds passing by just listened and quite a few of them took tracts from my Dad and Madre and Dave Berg. I pray a seed was planted in their hearts that God will bring them to repentance and to fully surrender their lives to Jesus. While preaching, though, I did get a number of people who gave me a thumbs up and said thank you and such. We don't get that here in FL - many here are hardened. So, that interesting and encouraging.

So, after I was done, Dave Berg took over and preached for a good hour. It was neat to hear him preach and talk with a couple people who stopped by. He had a couple of hecklers and couple of would-be trouble-makers that we had to nicely send off, but other than that, it was really good. :)

So, at about 9 that night I was exhausted. I heard a street-preacher once say that preaching uses up the much more energy than we normally consume in regular activities. I agree :) Still glad God helped me to do that - first time preaching for several hours straight (with food breaks of course) ~ :)

So, we all loaded on the buses when they could get through the traffic, then we headed to our bunks, chatted and got ready for bed - up till the early hours of the morning - then slept.

Saturday:

Got up - prayer, at breakfast, grabbed lunch. A few people had to stay behind because of exhaustion and cold ~ and the rest of us loaded up on a rainy Saturday morning.

It was a good day, though I could barely talk :P ~ I took quite a few pictures of team members preaching and prayed for the teams that I saw and was with.

About mid-day, though, things got interesting for lunch. :) ~ I saw my group eating at Starbucks and catching up over lunch - it was warm in there but too crowded for me to get in. So, I went to Arby's where my Madre and I had eaten on Friday, so, I came back to get a bite to eat and warm up a little. I didn't know I was about to be surrounded by what appears to have been a gang.

On the way into Arby's I noticed some guys with red beret hats. I talked with them briefly and found out that they are a volunteer group called the 'Guardian Angels' ~ Little did I know that they were watching a group of guys inside. I thanked them for what they were doing. One guy took a tract, the other guy noted that they had to concentrate - since they were on duty. That made sense. I was cold and headed inside.

Inside, I ordered lunch and when it was ready I sat over at a booth that was in good view of the counter - glad I did - God's guiding I'm sure. Dave joined me at the table. I started to feel nervous as I noticed that there were what looked some homeless guys around me - about 8 or so talking in their little groups. So, I prayed and continued to eat while watching all of those people around me. They looked like separate groups, until one guy did a card trick of 3 cards and asked me to pick the red one. What he didn't know about me is that I have seen a lot of scams on the streets of Orlando. I knew his scam and called him on it - but, only when he tried to include me. I said no thanks man, I'm not going to play your game. He then showed it to some young people nearby. I felt like God led me to expose this - and I told them that they didn't want to be a part of it - it's a scam. It was about that time that I realized that all 8 or so guys were together, and that I was indeed right - it was a setup. What trick they had ready - I don't know. God didn't let them. Two different guys had wads of hundred dollar bills that they showed off... that told a lot. They were apparently good

at stealing - I assume pick-pocketing, but I didn't really put all of these pieces together until after we left.

So, this group of guys all tried to play it cool, as if nothing was going on. So, I kept eating and chatting with Dave. Dave noted to me later that one of the guys just glared at me the whole time - I didn't notice that, but I did have a sense of what was up (and kept praying). These guys then tried to fool another young man into their trick. It was then that I also saw another guy with a 3 cup game - another scam. I told him this young man that this was a scam and he shouldn't mess with it, so he tried to leave and the guy grabbed his jacket and tried to make him stay. That was a wow. I knew it was trouble. By now I had apparently irritated all of the guys, but because God was protecting us, they didn't know what to do. So they started to leave - until they looked out the window and saw the 'guardian angels'. One guy even confirmed it for me when he said '*man, there's three of them*' - one quick glance out the same window confirmed these guys were trouble and they were worried about getting caught. So, Dave said to me that we had a captive audience - we should preach to them. I noted that I didn't have the voice - he could do it. So, he preached and I finished my lunch. Because of the sheer conviction of the 10 Commandments and God's impending judgment, they started to leave pretty quickly there. I had the chance to chat briefly with the one guy who Dave had the most connection with and gave him a tract. He seemed to be thoughtful and doing a lot of thinking. And with that, we left.

That was a bit exciting! A little too exciting! Take tip from me, if you notice you're around a gang in a restaurant - move :) ~ and don't forget to pray - God is the only who has your back. He's your and my protection when we rely on Him, and sometimes He uses the most interesting of situations to completely protect those who are walking in obedience to Him. :)

So, the rest of the day I spent praying for street-evangelist and lost souls - until later.

I did have a good convo with a young lady named Connie. She was trying to get people to sign up to give regular donations to a charity called 'save the children'. I asked some questions and she told me about how they use the majority of the money to feed, shelter, and educate kids in Africa, so they can have a 'normal life'. She then gently tried to get me to give, but I said that I couldn't. She was surprised - she had given a good sales pitch, but I had something that I wanted to share with her hoping it would move her thinking toward eternal things. I explained that when we give to a ministry that only feeds people but doesn't help them to get right with God through repenting of their sins, then we've done nothing for them in light of eternity. I then explained that I support ministries like 'Gospel for Asia' because it gets food to hungry people with the gospel and truth of Jesus Christ. It was then that she noted that she's a Christian and we talked some more. I encouraged her to check out 'Gospel for Asia' ~ I think she would do very well at that ministry. Anyway, good conversation. She took a gospel tract - please pray for her.

But, my last great conversation for the day was my favorite! Ed and I were together again and our whole team moved out to another corner of the whole party district. There were crowds coming and going - great spot. So, someone was preaching - maybe Rudy - maybe Jason... I don't remember. But, as we were looking around, praying for the crowds passing by and handing out tracts, Ed and I noticed a guy nearby who was sitting on a patch of grass with a sign behind him that said 'Consider Christ'. I thought for a minute on that trying to figure out where this guy was probably coming from. Ed and I talked briefly and we figured he was probably someone who was very young in the faith or didn't know Christ at all, but we figured it was some version of watered down Christianity. We were close on our guess :), but this turned out to be more interesting than we knew.

So, Ed and I walk over to where this guy has parked himself. He was dressed in a military camo outfit and was sitting on what appeared to be a well-used army blanket. So, we walked over and this gentleman quickly invited us to sit down and chat, so we did. His name is John. I asked John about his banner and he gave the general synopsis - about what I expected: he was out here hoping that people would see how nice and happy he seemed and would come over to talk with him. We talked to him a little about how Jesus did it differently - Jesus actually approached people and struck up the conversation, rather than waiting for them to come to Him. John basically agreed and we also talked briefly about the fruit of salvation - meaning if we are following Christ, we'll be growing in obeying Him, as He says in John 14:15,24 and Luke 6:46, etc. John agreed with that too and noted that we have to keep our 'templar' clean, so He can fill us and use us. That sounded ok, but not quite right. But one word stuck out strongly in my head - 'templar'. Now, those of you who keep with and/or have heard anything about freemasonry might recognize that key word from their lingo. So, I thought I'd ask - the answer I got was a wow.

So, I asked: 'Templar? Isn't that something to do with masonry?' But, before I could finish my question, John agreed that yes, he was into masonry and then told us that he is one of the 'Knights of Templar'. I thought - oh!, but John continued and explained that he is actually a 32 degree mason, and a teacher in the freemasonry system, and that he is an elder at a local 'church' and also told us that he was surprised to have been able to climb to this level in only 2 years. (John had gotten to the top of the Masonic ladder - 32nd degree on the Scottish Rite side, or the 13th level on the York Rite side.) Ed and I looked at each other - we were both thinking '*um, is this where we leave, more like: RUN!*' ~ But, something told both of us that this conversation was set up by God and knowing that people were praying for us, we sat down with John on his army blanket and talked for another 15-30 minutes. Great conversation!

John had been part of the military and shared some of his experiences with us, and Ed thought to thank him for his service. I typically do too, I just hadn't thought of that - I was clearly distracted on the fact that he was a freemason and I was trying to find the right way to use the Bible to reason with him so that he could be saved!

From there, John started to explain that he believed that the Jesus and god of freemasonry were the same as the Jesus and God of the Bible. And, before we could answer that, he also stated that Islam has the same 'god' as well. We gently contradicted him and started to show him some verses and quote the essence of some parts of the Koran to him to help him see that the god of Isl*m isn't the God of the Bible. As we talked more, John saw what we meant. He agreed that if Isl*m says that Jesus is only a good prophet and not God, and that Jesus (according to Isl*m) couldn't have been the 'Son of God', then those are two different gods - one True, and one fake. So, from there, we then worked to help him see that the 'god' of masonry isn't the same god as the God of the Bible, but that was too deep for him - he couldn't understand that. So, Ed and I focused in on helping him to see that there was a high probability that his wasn't saved yet - since that was the most important issue. Throughout the conversation, John had made comments about how he thought he was a brother of ours through Christ, but Ed and I knew he was talking about a different 'brotherhood'. Ed and I worked several different times to show John that he was trying to earn his way to Heaven and that he didn't hate his sin yet (which he proved with one of his stories about his old way of life in the military). After a number of minutes of conversation on this and us explaining more of Jesus' own words, including Matthew 7:21-23, John was starting to see that he really might not be saved yet, and that did concern him. So, we wrapped up this wonderful conversation by praying that God would open his eyes - helping him to not trust the freemasonry system, but to read the words of Jesus and really check himself and asked God to bring his heart to the point of repenting of his rebellion against God, including immorality and lying, etc - and surrendering his life to Jesus Christ, to serve and follow Him. All 3 of us prayed - pretty good :). But, before we left, we gave him our contact info and really challenged him to read through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and take those words to heart, to double-check himself, because we told him that we are concerned for your soul and want to see you in Heaven. John appreciated these words and we left with that.

Many people don't know what they get into when they get involved in freemasonry. They don't realize that the 'god' of freemasonry is Lucifer and his lie is that the real 'god' is a three-headed monster called 'Jo-Bal-on' ~ a mix of 'Jehovah' (Yahweh), 'Baal' - a perverse Babylonian god, and an Egyptian god named 'Osiris'. (At the top of the shriner's ladder, a chief shriner learns that the 'god' of the shrine is 'All'h' and m*hammed is his 'prophet'.) Many in masonry also don't typically know that it's a fertility cult that includes life-oaths to this satanic system, a commitment to even perjure oneself rather than expose an evil deed of a fellow mason, and according to the masonry system, they can 'worship at every altar', because all gods are the same to them. They also insult Jesus Christ as just being a good teacher and inspired leader, not God in human flesh, the only sacrifice and hope for repentance from sin and rescue from the judgment we deserve because of our rebellion against God. Also, they don't realize that those who are in Christ have found the light, therefore they should have nothing to do with masonry which says, among it's initiation statements, that a new 'mason' is coming out of 'darkness' into the 'light' of Lucifer - the fallen angel, satan. Jesus is the true Light. Satan is the Father of lies. ~ If John had

understood the Bible better, than we could have talked with him more about this, but he was too confused on that. ~ Please keep John in your prayers. And, pray for all of the masons that you know. The real God of the Bible answers prayers! Those involved in masonry do not want to be in Hell for all eternity. They need to repent of their rebellion, and give their hearts and lives to Jesus. ~

By the way, if you would like to know more about what those in masonry believe, I encourage you to get (the late) Ron Carlson's 2 DVDs on it - and you can see his other stuff on other cults and false religions too. Ron's 2 DVDs on masonry are: 'Freemasonry - the Masonic Lodge, and the Shriners' and 'Freemasonry - from darkness to light' ~ both are very helpful. :)

So, nothing else outstanding that I can remember here - just good convos at the camp and then sleep.

Sunday

We got up, prayed, at breakfast, studied God's Word, grabbed lunch, packed up for home, and then headed to downtown Indianapolis. Little did we know that the crazies were going to come out today.

When we arrived on a main corner, we quickly saw some out of place signs that we recognized - Westboro. To say my first emotion was shocked is an understatement. But, I was quickly finding the rest of the groups around us interesting too.

On the sidewalk next to the Super Bowl Stadium was the wackos from Westboro - oh about 20 of them. In the middle of the street were the police - about 30-40 of them. Then on the other side of the street were young people with signs that advocated the homosexual lifestyle. As one of my friends put it - extremes. :) ~ My Madre and I quickly assessed the crowd and decided that we should first try to talk to the pro-homosexual group. By the way, do your best not to talk to the Westboro team or say very little to them - many of them are expert lawyers and they make up stuff so they can sue you and take money from you, and that money will be used to continue to further their agenda. Not fun, no? What I'd still like to know is who funds them - because the more I see about them and the reproach they bring on Jesus' name while they clearly don't believe the Bible yet call themselves 'Baptist', I'm certain there's someone funding them. Maybe government. Maybe a global tycoon. I don't know, but I do try to pray regularly that God would tear them down and keep exposing them as liars.

Anyway, so we knew not to talk to those crazies. So, my Madre and I decided to talk with the other side, and we found them to be somewhat open. If you go to our Youtube page - username: work4Jesus, you can see one conversation I had with a young lady named Gina. It went pretty well - she doesn't like the Bible, but I'm praying that she'll continue to think about what we talked about. She was obviously convicted at the end of our conversation. From there, I then struck up a conversation with someone who at the end admitted that they are 'transgender' - dressed as a

lady. Either way, didn't bother me. She's a soul that Jesus died to save and quite probably can be saved, if she repents.

'Her' name was 'Eva' and we had a great conversation. We started on the topic of love - went for a real definition, like differentiating between man's self-centered 'love' and God's '*agape*' - unconditional love. That then easily led to the conversation about absolutes and then the 10 Commandments. From there, she told me that she thinks all 'gods' are equal and she's selected the Hindu set of 'gods'. So, it was quickly apparent that I couldn't make progress until I tore down her hope in these false gods. So, I walked her through the logic of how there cannot be a collection of 'gods' up there who will determine our fate, when the Islam 'god' hates the Christian and Jewish God. She agreed, but wasn't letting go yet. So, I walked her through the simple fallacies or the 'karma' system. And my main point in it was that she had altered the definition of the word 'good'. God's definition is perfection and He can't be bribed. We talked some more and she began to realize what I was saying. We covered a lot of topics in our half-hour conversation. At a certain point though, I went to the subject of Jesus and His bold claim in John 14:6, and how that proved that He did not recognize any of those other 'gods'. So, it was an either or. And then I walked her through the logic of how we are rebels by choice - not making mistakes, but intentional choices against God - evil choices against God. She had to agree at a certain point, but it was clear that many years in a college has hurt her badly and scrambled her values system.

She asked me a few last questions that we walked through Biblically. I don't remember the first 2, I think one of them had to do with Jesus proving Himself as God and the Word of God was written by God - something like that. Then, her second to last question to me was what verse(s) are the 'Westboro' group claiming condemns homosexuals. I clarified that God does not condemn the homosexuals, but calls them to repent. I then noted that she could find God's teachings against the lifestyle choice of homosexuality in Romans 1:18 through the end of the chapter, but that God wants them to repent - and not for them to continue in their rebellion and perish.

And then her last question - and it stood out, was this: Do you know anything in the Bible that talks about transgender. I was not expecting that kind of an open question. I told her that I could think of some verses that implied it, but did not remember any that spoke clearly to it. I did note that the lifestyle clearly violates what God established - He created man and woman, nothing in between. She agreed. And I did also note to her that those in wicca or the occult allow demons to do strange things to them - and that this might answer her question some. She nodded.

We wrapped up by me asking her if she had a Bible. She did. So, I left her with the challenge to read through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and to take it literally. She agreed, we shook hands, and parted ways. ~ Please pray for Eva - I don't know how 'she' got to where she is, but she seemed to really be thinking about giving her life to Christ. I pray she does.

So, after that crazy conversation, my Madre and I took a break to eat, and then we noticed that our best audience for talking with and handing tracts to were walking through. As soon as you said out loud that those Westboro people are crazy and don't believe the Bible, they were instantly willing to talk with us and take our tracts. We had that numerous times - we wish we could have stayed there longer since it was such a active fishing ground. But, our group headed off, so we did too.

So, in a nutshell, that was some of our fishing adventures in Indianapolis for the Super Bowl XLVI. Next year is scheduled to be in New Orleans. Please be praying that God brings His fear on that place and shows His wrath on the those who maintain perverse lifestyles. Thanks!

So, with that said, this is Steven Henry signing off as your host for this episode of 'Follow the Fisherman'. I hope you'll join me for our next exciting time of sharing the gospel with lost souls, calling them to repent and give their lives to Jesus Christ. ~ Take care ~ a growing follower and fisherman, Steven :)