

# Challenge Ministries



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

earnestly contend for the faith  
Jude 3

## Fishers of Men

December 2011

### He is Worthy

The end of the year is always a time of reflection and well as a time to take a breath and consider life. I believe there has never been a better description of life than that given in the "Westminster Confession" which is:

**"Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever."**

We can't help considering at this Christmas Season the birth of the King of Kings, the Lord Jesus. We appreciate more than a baby born in a manger. We see what the Gospel of Matthew says of Him:

**"And she shall bring forth a son, and you will call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."** Matthew 1:21

In our culture more than ever, the Christian Gospel is under attack, especially the cross. The Bible tells us why in I Corinthians 1:18-21:

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

We are so grateful that God chooses to use believers for His purpose in giving the Gospel to the sick. We plant and water but He gives the increase in His own time. What a wonderful Savior we serve.

This Savior, this King, is the creator. Colossians says all things were made by Him and for Him and by Him all things consist. John (12:41) said Isaiah saw the glory of Jesus when he saw the angelic creatures chanting back and forth, "Holy, Holy, Holy. It's hard to fathom that the creator who is worthy of all praise and glory would rescue sinners with His own life. I don't know if we will ever comprehend the depth of what took place on the cross. The closer we come the grander it will be.

May the God of peace give you joy unspeakable and may we delight in Him daily.

Perhaps the greatest Hymn of all time is "The Old Rugged Cross" which is at the very heart of our message.

### The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suffering and shame;  
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

#### Refrain

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it some day for a crown.



This is our lighted cross we carried in with batteries and an inverter to power it. We hung it on a street sign 10 feet high at December Nights at Balboa Park. They say attendance is 300,000 plus. This spot was the heart of the event. I don't believe there has ever been a cross here. Hundreds took photo's and many tracts were handed out. Just before we left police arrived and insisted we take it down. Since we were almost finished we obliged. Another day perhaps.

## NEWSLETTER

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

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**Challenge Ministries**

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\*All contributions are tax deductible



This photo represents one of the highlights of the year. This is Jason. He's 12 years old. He's from Las Angeles and preaches open air in 2 languages. He simply recites Bible verses in English and Spanish which represent the character of God, man's need, and the gift of salvation. This photo was taken a couple of days ago at December Nights at Balboa Park (300,000 attendance). His dad let me film him under our lighted cross doing open air preaching. I plan on having the video on YouTube soon.



As we were leaving Balboa Park a couple of weeks ago there was a group of Cheerleaders near one of the museums. I asked Ricky to go into the middle of them and give them a million dollar bill and talk about the gospel and I would take his picture. He obliged and was greatly blessed. We often challenge each other in this way which definitely produces boldness.



This is Pastor Gil speaking with a Muslim man at SDSU at their table promoting Islam. He may be a professor there. We spoke to him at length concerning the "justice" of the God of Islam vs. the "justice" of the God of the Bible. Allah is merciful we agreed but not JUST. Thus the superiority of the Christian God (the true God) who is "merciful and just" as demonstrated at the cross.



Our opportunities to talk with JW's at Balboa Park is diminishing since they refuse to talk with us. This lady on the right with her back to us is a Jehovah's witness that I spoke with earlier in the day that is un-related to the group at the table. She seemed perplexed at John 2:19 that Jesus said He would raise His physical body but witnesses reject it. She promised to check

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

**31,800 tracts have arrived. 800 Gospel of Johns. 300, "180" DVD's and 10 copies of the Bible....** Now the fun part. Giving them out! Lord willing they'll be gone sometime next year.

**NEW 180 DVD...** We purchased 300, "180" DVD videos and have been giving them out the last couple of weeks at SDSU. They should all be given out before the first of the year. This is an excellent 33 minute documentary comparing the Holocaust with abortion. The gospel is also given clearly at the end. Please take the time to watch the video for free on YouTube. Just type in "180 Movie" and you can watch for free. Nearly 2,000,000 people have watched it already on YouTube in the last 2 months! We were able to get the DVD's for \$1.00 each.

**We are especially grateful for all your prayers and support this past year and wish you and your family a blessed Christmas. May God grant you a great passion for Him and may He speak through you with power.**

Blessings,

*Jerry and Dianna*