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Winter 2017 Ministry Report

Hello all!! Were well into 2018, and I'm finally getting around to my final report for last year. It was a good winter season, with some struggles, but much to be thankful for. I hope this report is an encouragement for you. I also pray you will take a look at our prayer requests, which includes some ways you and your church can get involved with or partner with this ministry too. I hope to hear from you!

DIVINE APPOINTMENTS

Vhing at UC Berkeley – Not all divine appointments are with unbelievers. Vhing is a missionary pastor who's mission filed is the UC Berkeley campus. I met him the first day I came to UC Berkeley to check out ministry opportunities there. Since then we've been able to preach together several times, and even when we don't, it's a huge encouragement to know that other believers are engaging students there too.

Rose at Christmas in the Park – Rose and her friends came up to our literature table at Christmas in the Park, and asked some very pointed, rather aggressive, questions. I had a feeling there was something underlying her hostility, and that something eventually came out. Rose has two "dads", and clearly was expecting an attack. But I didn't attack her. I treated her respectfully, and gave Biblical answers. Many times, I've seen unbelievers put off their guard by a kind (but uncompromising) word. Don't be afraid of LGBT folks. Be kind and preach the Gospel.

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Muslim Girl at SJSU – Sadly, Christians have not always done well in dealing with certain groups. One, as noted above, is homosexuals, and other people from the LGBT community. Another is Muslims. Many times I have spoke to followers of Islam who have treated hatefully, or fearfully. I've even had them break into tears when they are treated respectfully. Understand, this is not to (continued next page) Presenting Christ By All Means Everywhere, since 1892

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(continued) minimize the false nature of their religion, but to encourage you to preach the Gospel rather than running the other direction.

On this day I was preaching and reading scripture on the San Jose State University campus, and a young girl came up and asked "Do you hate Muslims?" I told her no. She said "But don't you think Muslims are going to hell??" I told her all those who do not have their sins paid for will, then asked "But don't you, as a Muslim, think I'm going to hellfire since I reject Muhammad?" She got very quiet and said, "Well, yeah." Many people, and



particularly the younger generation, have gotten so used to reacting emotionally with righteous indignation that they don't know what to do when you don't hit back. So pray that God helps you keep a level head, and all but the most hostile people will be willing to talk. *CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK*

As usual, I spent much of the month of December focusing on ministry at Christmas in the Park. And as usual, it was a great time! It's a great time for those not used to street ministry too, and I had many believers come by and join me. Below left is Pastor Manny from Trinity Bible Church in Morgan Hill preaching the Gospel. It is SUCH an encouragement to see pastors on the street! Below right is Joseph, who joined my for couple weeks, learning the ropes of Biblical street preaching, before returning to his PHD program at Cornell. And to the right is one of my favorite evangelism partners, my daughter Melody, who spend an afternoon with me handing out tracts. What a blessing!! Please consider bringing a group out from YOUR church next year.





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Witnessing Tip – Find YOUR Gospel Tract!

One of the best tools I know for sharing the Gospel is a good Gospel tract. Some balk at using them, believing we should be talking to people one-on-one, not just handing them something. But it really should be a both/and, not an either/or prospect. How do you start that conversation? A tract is a great way. I would encourage you to spend some time looking at tract websites (I highly recommend Tract Planet and Living Waters), and find a tract that works for you. You want to find a tract that you feel comfortable using to start a spiritual conversation. So look for a few you like, and try them out, to see which ones "fit". It will make witnessing a lot easier.

Praise, Plans and Prayer

Praises:

 New Van – In our last newsletter we asked for prayer to find the right ministry vehicle. God answered our prayers! We now have an older model Dodge Grand Caravan, in excellent shape, with very low mileage. It has already been a huge blessing, and allowed me to use my Preach-o-Matic. God is good!



Teaching the final Bible lesson for Word Play at Home Church. The teaching team, and the kids, were a huge blessing.

- *Christmas ministry*, and normal street ministry, has been really good the last couple months, and I've made some great new ministry contacts.
- Kids Ministry I had the privilege of teaching for a kids club at my home church the last couple months of 2017, and it was a great blessing. I'm really looking forward to working with kids more.

Plans and Prayer Requests

- Support A number of people gave one-time gifts this month. THANK YOU!! We are still praying for more support, and particularly regular monthly supporters. Please consider partnering with us!!
- Kids Bible clubs I have a lot of ideas and locations in mind, and will be praying and walking local neighborhoods over the next few weeks, praying God shows us the best locations and provides connections with local people and churches. Is this something you church might want to participate in? Look for more information to come soon.
- School and University Ministry Please pray God continues to open doors at local universities (particularly at San Jose State, where I've trying to get past some administrative red tape), and in local high schools as well.

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Christmas – It's the Best Witnessing Time of the Year!! Clockwise, from upper left: Set up at Christmas in the Park, James and Pastor Manny in a deep conversation, Scott passing out tracts, Paul Adams preaching, me preaching.

OAC Quick Facts:

- OAC has been at the task of evangelism since 1892!
- Our ministry is to the lost in the open air, to those who will not or cannot come into our churches
- Our staff minister as a family. We help one another and work together for the Lord
- As OAC missionaries, we are not in this alone partners of all kinds are needed.
- Full-time OAC staff can currently be found in 15 states and in over 30 countries around the world! See oaci.org for more information

To support the ministry, you can:

- Pray! This must be God's work. Lift it to Him.
- Donate! We are able to continue due to your
- gifts. Visit *yoursoulmatters.org/blog/donate*Join us! We can't do this alone. Come out and minister with us. You will be encouraged!
- Spread the word! Pass on this information to friends, family, and your church leadership.

For more information on the above, please contact us at <u>dan@yoursoulmatters.org</u> or 408-768-9262