

Stephanie Potts

Haven Ministries 2015-2016 Report



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For those of you who don't already know I left federal government service in 2014 due to some health issues that have subsequently been resolved. However, after much prayer and discussion with Jim I decided not to go back to the government. Instead, I felt God was calling me in to full time Christian service with Haven Ministries located here in Denver, Colorado. The following paper is a summary of my work with Haven since I joined as a missionary in the summer of 2015.

About Haven Ministries

Haven Ministries exist to glorify the one true God, and to serve Him with all our heart, soul, strength and mind. The specific intention and direction of the ministry are expressed in three ways;

1. Haven Ministries seeks to directly evangelize and disciple the lost, particularly those trapped and deceived in non-Christian religions, the New Age Movement, cults and the occult. We seek out the lost, going to their events, bookstores and seminars, sharing the Gospel and challenging the errors of the evil one.
2. Haven Ministries is committed to helping other Christians reach out to their loved ones, neighbors, co-workers and cultists who come to their door. We recognize that the Gospel is received more often when shared by a friend or loved one and so seek to teach Christians how they can respond to the arguments and question offered by non-believers. We send literature and offer personal counsel to anyone who asks, all without any fee.
3. Haven Ministries is also committed to educating the Church at large on these types of issues as well as other Biblical and apologetic concerns. We offer seminars at numerous churches, schools and other public forums.

2015 and 2016 Year End Report

My Muslim Friend Hadi:

I met Hadi at the Denver People's Fair in June of 2015. He is a computer engineer living in Erie, Colorado and is originally from Pakistan. He is married with two girls and is associated with an organization called the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA). Some believe that ICNA is a front for the Muslim Brotherhood, but this has not been confirmed. Hadi is certainly a very conservative Muslim, but says he does not believe in sharia law. It's hard to know whether he is telling the truth on this, but he seems genuine.

Hadi and I have discussions almost every week, debating Christianity and Islam. He seems more interested in showing Islam's superiority than in really being open to the truth. However, God has been using him to train me to reach other Muslims and I certainly feel very confident when these opportunities arise. The biggest question that I have is how can Muslims believe in the Quran, when it has been proven to be false. It says that Jesus was never crucified on the Cross, but rather he was replaced by someone who looked like Jesus. Biblical scholars agree that Jesus was crucified and they mention nothing about any indication of him being replaced by a look a like. And these scholars include atheists and agnostics such as Bart Ehrman!

Please pray for Hadi and his family. Pray that his heart will be softened to the good news of Jesus Christ. That he will see Jesus as Lord and Savior and not just as a prophet.

Ministry to Mormons:

Haven Ministries focuses a lot of attention on cults, but what is a religious cult? We would consider a cult a religion that twists original scriptures for it's own purposes, alienates its members or former members from their family, and or practices things in secret. The Church of Latter Day Saints fits all of these criteria. They have changed scriptures in the King James Bible to fit their idea of salvation. They also tell their members that they have to turn their backs on any family member who leaves the church and is thereby destined for "outer darkness". Finally, all the ceremonies that take place in their temples are done in secret and the public are not allowed in for these ceremonies, including weddings. Even members of the Mormon church are not allowed in the temples unless they are considered worthy enough.

Every June a group of Haven missionaries travel out to Manti, Utah for a week for the Mormon's Manti Miracle Pageant. 2016 was my first time going out for this event. The Pageant is similar to a Christmas pageant, but takes place in the summer and is a reenactment of the founding of the Mormon faith. There are missionaries that come in from all over the country to witness to the hundreds of Mormons that come in each day for the pageant. You should join us! The local evangelical church provides all the training on Mormonism that you will need.

I met numerous people while I was there, but a young Mormon missionary named Sierra really struck me. She was unable to answer my questions about Mormonism and was quite distraught after our conversation. She was clearly struggling in her faith, but was unwilling to discuss the logical fallacies in much of the Mormon doctrine. I am sure the idea of having her family turn their back on her was a frightening thought! So many people are lost and yet, like Sierra, refuse to examine the truth for fear of losing everything they know. Please pray that God will give her the strength to examine the problems I addressed with her and that He will open her heart to the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

College Campus Ministry:

My Haven colleague, and friend, James Choury started a placard ministry to reach people on the street in a non-abrasive way. Very few people are blessed with the gift of street ministry so this is a great way to start a conversation with people without offending them right off the bat. The top picture on the cover of this paper is of me and my friend Rita as we hold up our placards at Metro State University in downtown Denver. James, Rita, myself, and our colleague Jon Evans, stand out in the campus square each Wednesday as students walk by and are puzzled by the vagueness of our placards. This works like a charm and allows us to plant seeds in the hearts of the students week after week. We even have a group of three regulars.

* Ian is an agnostic computer science major who staunchly believes in evolution as an explanation for the origin of the species. However, Ian seems to be opening up to Christianity with each week that he comes by!

* Sydney is a young woman with clear anxiety and anger issues. She seems more interested in proving us wrong on the issue of evolution than examining the reliability of the Bible, but I'm just glad she stops by every week. Please pray that the Lord will open her heart.

* Matt is the son of a pastor, but never had his questions answered by his parents or the church. He is the poster child for why the church needs to be better equipped to defend it's faith. Matt is a highly intelligent young man that gets answers more from his teachers and friends than he does from the church. His interaction with friends on campus has been one of the main reasons he left the church. Please pray that God will lead him back and that we will be able to answer all his questions.

While we are at Metro State University we also interact with other groups such as Jehovah Witnesses and Hare Krishnas. There is a picture of me on the cover of this paper where I am talking to the Hare Krishna group. It's not a flattering picture, but it gives you an idea of the number of Hare Krishna's that come each week. I could really use your prayers on ways to reach them more. They have a temple and restaurant called Govinda's (another name for Krishna) in Denver that Rita and I will be visiting in the future, but I'm not sure if this will amount to much since we don't want to take away from their business.

New Age Fairs:

Two to three times a year we visit local New Age festivals where hundreds of psychics, astrologers, and energy healers share their arts with the public. The Body Mind and Spirit fair takes place in the spring and fall at the Denver Merchandise Mart and is a very large event. The Athena Goddess Festival is a smaller event that takes place in Northglenn, Colorado.

The Athena Festival is focused on empowering women to become the goddess they were designed to be. Like the Body Mind and Spirit fair, they promote divination techniques such as the channeling of spirits to gain power and knowledge. In the picture to the right we have Janine (in the middle) an energy healer and heyoka (sacred ceremonial clown), and Anna (on right) a Catholic believer from Mexico who also embraces energy healing. Janine said she was studying Hindu Chakra healing when she was approached by a Lakota medicine man saying her aura suggested she was a sacred clown in a past life. Janine now follows a mixture of Hindu and Lakota Indian spirituality.



I also had a very long conversation with Anna about the dangers of energy healing. I was able to exchange information with both her and Janine so please pray that they will be open to getting together and discussing Christianity in the future.

United Indian Missions International:

In 2016 I started a new partnership for Haven Ministries with United Indian Missions International. I have a real heart for Native Americans, especially since they have staggering rates of suicide. As a result of this new partnership, in October 2016, I was able to help arrange a conference for Navajo and Havasupai pastors at the Broken Arrow Bible Ranch in Vanderwagen, New Mexico. Be sure to see the picture on the cover of this paper to see me with the group of pastors and their families.

This conference was focused on getting the pastor's trained on how to respond to Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, and 7th Day Adventists. Please pray that they will have success in passing this knowledge on to their congregation. The Mormon church is very active in Native communities and likes to claim that Native Americans are descendants of the lost tribes of Israel, despite the clear lack of evidence for this.

While at this conference, my colleague Jon Evans and I were able to give a demonstration of our placard ministry. We tailored this demonstration toward the issue of contextualization of the Bible and how this creates confusion amongst native peoples. I will be posting a video of this presentation to You Tube soon! In the mean time, please enjoy the paper that I have included in this mailing on the subject of contextualization. I hope you find it enlightening.

Conclusion

Thank you so much for taking the time to read my report. If you would like to stay up to date on my work with Haven Ministries please send me an email at **stephanie.potts442@gmail.com** and I will add you to my distro list for my monthly emails.

If you would like to support my ministry please visit my Haven Ministries page below and click on the Pay Pal link.

<http://www.havenministry.com/missionaries/stephanie-potts/>



Stephanie at the Manti Temple before the Manti Miracle Pageant, June 2016.

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