Stephanie's News

Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is within you. 1 Peter 3:15

Challenging Times

Hi all. I hope you are all fairing well during these challenging times. I noticed that many of you on the Navajo Reservation are probably on lockdown right now. I have mixed feelings about this as I think it is very dangerous to allow the government to gain such power, even during such extraordinary times as these. But at the same time I know that the apostle Paul instructs us in Romans 13 to submit to the government. I think Jesus would submit to the government until they start to force contradictory teachings upon us or until they start to single out Christians and/or Jews. Let's all pray for guidance on how to balance our approach to government with our need to defend our religious freedoms.

I have recently written a blog article entitled <u>Who Will We Be? Will the Coronavirus Create a Constitutional Crisis?</u> I highly encourage you all to read it as our history hangs in a balance as we decide who we want to be as a country. Will we be a virtuous country that looks after one another and provides no strings attached help to those in need, or will we continue to look to the government – of whom we don't trust – to keep the contract? Will we continue to buy more and more things that we don't really need in order to make up for the lack of relationships we have with one another? Will luxury out live love? Will we be a covenantal system based in Judeo-Christian ethics or will our hatred for Donald Trump lead to the tyranny of the majority as it did in France during their 1789 revolution? Do we want the dictatorship of socialism or strong community discipline? The time to decide is now as America's future has never been threatened to this degree before.

I also wanted to share a few verses with you that I hope will give you peace during these upcoming days of continued quarantine.

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:17

I will not cause pain without allowing something new to be born, says the Lord.

Isaiah 66:9

Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.

I Peter 5:7

Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you. Hebrews 13:5

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

Body Mind Spirit Expo, Chicago

On March 7th I attended the Body Mind Spirit Expo in Chicago, and while there I had a very good conversation with a young man named Cullin who was working for a Scottish medium and spiritualist named Marc Stuart. Cullin grew up as a Catholic, but clearly had never picked up his Bible, as he said he first got into the occult through his mother - who was also at the expo - who said the Bible actually promoted mediumship and spiritualism. What?! It was hard for me not to bust out laughing. Instead, I had him read verses such as Leviticus 19:31, which clearly states "Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God." I subsequently asked him what he thought of the verse and he had his canned argument ready to go - the Catholic Church corrupted the Bible; therefore, the book can no longer be trusted. I asked him what his evidence was for this statement and he said it was only a theory. I was about to share with him J Warner Wallace's book Cold Case Christianity – which destroys this argument that the Bible is not reliable – when his boss, Marc, came over to break up our conversation. It was clear right off the bat that Marc didn't want Cullin talking to me and that he wanted to monopolize the conversation so I would not be able reach Cullin for the gospel. Marc kept giving me the same canned narratives of Christianity isn't scientific and the Bible isn't reliable, but every time I asked for evidence he said "it's a fact that everyone knows." I responded by saying "Really? Well I apparently didn't get that message; therefore, can you elaborate for me?" He subsequently chewed me out for wasting his time and for trying to talk to Cullin rather than talking directly with him. I reminded him that it was Cullin who approached me, but it was clear Marc was not going to let this conversation continue. He became very agitated and told me to leave. So I did. But I did come back a couple minutes later with a note for Cullin that had my contact information on it as well as the information for Cold Case Christianity. Please pray that Cullin will get the book and will read it. He is clearly being controlled by Marc and doesn't know how to think for himself.

Later on I had a brief conversation with Kim from the local Christian Science reading room. She was a very sweet lady who was clearly very emotionally attached to her faith. I felt the Holy Spirit telling me to just befriend her and not go into my normal apologist mode. I was hoping to touch base with her the next time I was in Chicago, but with the Coronavirus situation developing the way it did this did not work out. Please pray that I will be able to maintain my relationship with her and that God will use me to reach her for the gospel.

My last conversation was with Cora from Share International. According to their website, Share International is a "worldwide network of individuals and groups whose purpose is to make known the fact that (Buddhist) Maitreya — the World Teacher for the coming age — and his group, the Masters of Wisdom, are now among us." Like many religious groups at these fairs they believe they are gaining

divine knowledge and power from these spirit guides or "Masters of Wisdom". But as Christians we know that the Bible warns us that Satan masquerades as an angel of light (2 Corinthians II:I4) and that we should always test the spirits to see if they say Jesus is Lord (I John 4: I-3). These "Masters of Wisdom" deny the Jesus of the Bible and tell their "students" that Jesus was just a man who became aware of his divine nature.

Cora is a firm believer in UFOs and believes aliens are spirit beings who came here from other spiritual realms to help us become more enlightened and to help us with our "environmental crisis". The Maitreya says that the alien beings are not evil and they do not abduct people, despite the inordinate number of reported cases to the contrary. I encouraged Cora to see Gary Bates' movie *Alien Intrusion: Unmasking a Deception*, which

provides ample evidence of the horrible things that are done to people when they are abducted by aliens, which are more likely demonic forces. However, when these abductees have faith in the authority of Jesus Christ, and call on Him to remove these aliens from their lives, the aliens immediately leave and never harass them again. What amazing power in the name of Jesus!

Please keep Cora in your prayers. My friend Don Veinot had a long conversation with her at the last expo that was in Chicago. She is a lovely person and is open to what we have to say. Please pray that God will continue to use Don and I, and any other Christian who crosses her path, to bring her out of this dark organization of Share International and into the light of Christ.

Prayer Requests

My cervical fusion surgery back on January 6th went very well and I am healing quite nicely. I no longer have the numbness and shooting pain going down my arms. Praise Jesus! However, I still have terrible occipital neuralgia and will most likely need to have another surgery to correct it. I have been dealing with this for 18 years as well and have exhausted all conservative treatments. I see my neurosurgeon on April 21st – assuming it doesn't get cancelled because of the Coronavirus – and I hope to get the surgery scheduled when I am there. However, since all non-emergency surgery has been been postponed for the indefinite future I have no idea when I will be able to get in to have the surgery done. Please pray that it will be sooner rather than later. The occipital neuralgia takes up a good portion of my life.

<u>Haven Ministries</u>' trip to <u>Pagaincon</u> in Minneapolis was cancelled as well as all future ministry opportunities. We are all getting antsy just sitting around the house. Please pray for opportunities to open up to share the gospel remotely while we are all still in quarantine.

Finally, my 95 year old grandmother – who had been in hospice for a long time – finally passed on March 25th. Between the coronavirus and a bunch of administrative things that need to be done, I don't see my Dad and his brother and sister being able to mourn any time soon. Please pray that things will move along smoothly and that the probate process won't be overly painful. They saw grandma decline slowly over the past two years and it has been a challenging time for them. They need peace and time with the Lord right now.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

Stephanie

