

THE HAVEN NEWSLETTER

THE PARLIAMENT OF WORLD RELIGIONS REDUX

I remember when I went to the Parliament of World Religions in Chicago of 1993. It was the second time one had occurred (the first was in 1893!) and it was quite an experience. Hundreds of different religions and cults were represented and over 8,000 attended. Numerous religious dignitaries including the Dalai Lama, Cardinal Bernadin, Phyllis Curot, and others made public appearances. The thing I didn't expect there was the large amount of academics from MIT, Cal Berkeley, Oxford, Cambridge, The University of Chicago and so on. I also got to meet several Christians who had come from all over the country to witness to people there. In all it was a great mission trip.

So I was more than excited and had planned the trip to Melbourne, Australia for over a year to attend the fifth Parliament. There were over 285 different religions and 12,000 attendees. The Dalai Lama and the usual cast of luminaries made their expected appearances. There was an advisor to the President of Iran there and well as many different kinds of Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, Urantia readers, Scientologists, Adida and so on. This was the best mission trip I have ever been on. Between Mark, Rita and myself we must have had over 50 quality

conversations with people from literally all over the world. It seemed like everywhere we went to eat, to stand or just rest for a minute – someone would come up to talk to us.

I had many good opportunities to talk to people about the Gospel but among those the best was with a young Sikh from Birmingham, England. The Sikhs had brought a beautiful exhibit which was covered with interesting information about the Sikhs, numbers, worship centers, etc. The young man there served as a guide and told me about quite a few things. On one panel of the display was a statement about how through numerous reincarnations the Sikhs chant the holy names of God to receive forgiveness for their sins. (I wrote a paper on Sikh beliefs this past summer – if interested go to the website to see what they are all about). In our conversation I brought up this panel and had him explain to me what that meant to him. I told him how while it does seem that words might cover up some sins, they just as surely can't cover up others. I illustrated this by saying that suppose I accidentally bump into him and he spills his drink. I would say I am sorry and nice guy that he was he would probably say "no worries" (we were in Australia after all!). My words would have been enough to deal with the issue. Then I

said – but if I raped and murdered your sister – do you think me saying "I'm sorry" would be enough? He seemed startled at the illustration. I went on to say how we as humans rape and murder and do such horrible things to each other. The Sikhs understand this well as they have been persecuted and killed by both Hindus and Muslims for five hundred years. Mere words do not seem sufficient to deal with the brutality of how humans treat each other. Then I went on to explain why God had to send Jesus to die on a cross for our sins – that a horrible crime required a just response. God would not wipe the sins away like spilt milk (an analogy I have been told by new age types!) but we couldn't pay it ourselves and even if we could – we wouldn't want to. He got real quiet when I brought up Jesus. I explained how God's incredible love displayed on the cross had made a way for idiot drunks like me to come to know Him. I told him how the resurrection of Jesus from the grave showed God's incredible power to do anything – and how that can stop the vilest of all people from their sin and destruction and turn them towards the Lord. He didn't say too much back – but you could definitely see in his eyes that he was thinking these things through. Another Sikh I talked to for over an hour was from

Another Sikh I talked to for over an hour was from Amritsar in India – which is the site of the Golden temple – their most sacred spot in the world. Another great conversation ensued. A few days later I was thinking about the possibility of the Lord saving this man who lives right in the heart of the Sikh world – what amazing things might happen through that?

Mark and Rita had some awesome conversations with people throughout the week as well. Mark met a new ager who lives less than a mile from where Mark does in Denver! He had come all the way to Australia for the event. We had a good talk with him and he is going to meet with Mark. Rita had an ongoing talk with a young lady who

was into the new age and was just entranced by all the different religions. An orthodox Jewish fellow who ran some of the Casino operations across the street came up to us at lunch and we had a good talk with him. Another time we were resting on a bench and a new age fellow came up to tell his tale and while I am talking to him, a Buddhist chaplain at a hospital came up and engaged with Rita and Mark. And on and on and on it went.

On Sunday there I was blessed to preach at Calvary Chapel Melbourne. We made some wonderful friends there. Thanks to the Lord for Pastor Andy and Neil and Lorraine Alvsaker for putting up with us – especially when we got really sick.

We thank the Lord for your help in sending us to Australia. It was an incredible time of ministry and sharing the Gospel. Please be in prayer for all the different people we talked to and for Calvary Chapel Melbourne as they minister in that community.

Thank You,

Bill & Terri.

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Future Events

April 6,13,20,27 – Home Bible Study – The Gospel of Matthew continued.

March 31 - April 2 – Evangelical Ministries to New Religions annual conference, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, MO. Presenting “Nietzsche, the Death of God and the Emerging Church; with Hegelian subterfuge and Postscripts”

April – May 11 – I teach classes in Ethics and Intro to Philosophy at Community College Aurora

April – May 15 – I teach classes in Philosophy of Religion and the Book of Acts at Horizon College Denver.

April 17 – Psychic Fair, Colorado Spring, CO.

April 22-23 – International Society of Christian Apologetics annual conference, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, TX. Presenting “Nietzsche, the Death of God and the Emerging Church; with Hegelian subterfuge and Postscripts.”

May 4,11,18,25 – Home Bible Study – The Gospel of Matthew continued.

June 1,8,15,22,29 – Home Bible Study – The Gospel of Matthew continued.

June 5,6 – People’s Fair – Downtown Denver. Our staff welcomes Monroe E. Free Church Youth Group to share the Gospel to the hundreds of thousands of people at the fair alongside us.

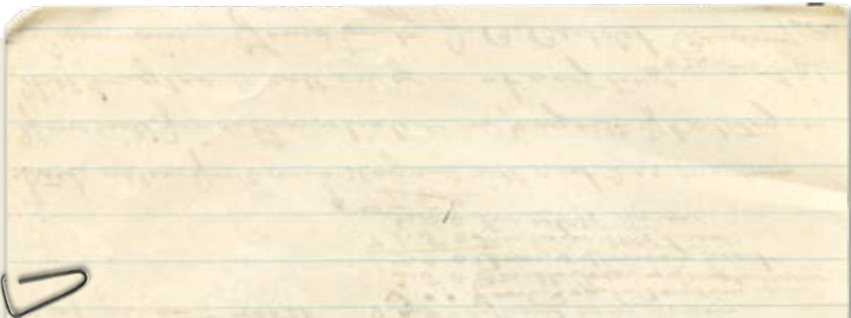
As always, check the website for more events. There is always much to pray for.



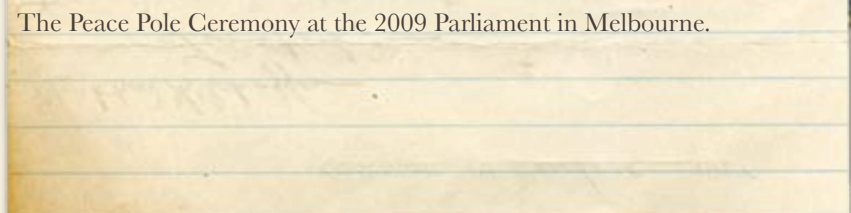
Prayer Requests

We thank the Lord for each one of you. We have blessed to serve in missions for over twenty years now and hope Lord willing to continue to do so until the Lord calls us home. My board has informed me that our support is down over \$22,000 from the same time last year. We pray that our Father will continue to support this mission. Please prayerfully consider what part you might have in this endeavor. We also just got a bill for five hours that Terri spent in the emergency room two weeks ago for a kidney stone and the bill is over \$8,000! While Samaritan Ministries, a Christian program that pools money from thousands of Christians to pay for member's bills, will pay probably 75% of the bill – we will still owe a large amount of money. We are not asking for extra help with this – but we are praying that our regular support will pick up so that we can pay our regular bills. Again we appreciate and thank the Lord for your prayers and consideration in this.

1. Thanks to the Lord for so many good things happening in our family. Our family is always an adventure and we thank the Lord for the blessing that they are. I am so thankful for my wonderful wife Terri (we celebrate our 32nd anniversary this summer!) - As many of you have said for so long – how can she possibly put up with me all this time? I consider this living proof of a God who can and does do miracles. The kids are pretty much doing well. Shawn has released his second CD as Argyle Street (www.theargylestcampaign.com) He and Kelly are living in Albuquerque, NM and are doing well. Gabe and Shania are stationed at Camp Pendleton in Southern California and are also doing well. Scott has just joined the Army and will be going for basic training and hopes to go to officer candidate school this next year. We are very proud of he and Gabe and their service to our country. Andy enjoys going to our Bible classes and is still looking for a job. Rose is taking the Acts class, working two jobs and wondering what the Lord has for her. Joey is still struggling with his faith – but is working and taking classes at Metro State. Johanna is doing a great job as mom to Kevin and Kevin is doing a great job and growing and being overwhelmingly cute! Jonathan is still a struggle but we do see some signs of hope there.
2. Please continue to pray for my family's salvation. I do have some good news on the cancer front – both of my parents and my stepdad are currently doing quite well with their treatments. Continue also to pray for my step-moms relative who was kidnapped to the Muslim world and cannot be found.
3. Please pray for some friends and co-workers who have serious health issues. Our dear fellow ministers at Haven, Mark and Rose Roggeman, are both dealing with some pretty serious concerns. Also pray for many who have pressing chronic issues such as Becky C, Sherri C, Liz H, Sheila H, Julie, Gordon L, Rebecca G and others. Also pray for our friends Susan L and two of her grandchildren who have all had surgery recently.
4. Pray for the miracle of repentance and reconciliation in the marriages or now ex-marriages of Greg and Karina, Mike and Julie, and way too many others. Two Christian couples we have prayed for help in their marriage for many years – have gone the way of divorce. Pray for healing in their families and for restoration of their walks in Christ.
5. Pray for the salvation for the Muslims, Gnostics, Mormons, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, as well as our homosexual transvestite nun friend, some Japanese Buddhists I talked to recently at the psychic fair and many others wiccans, new agers and others. Also please pray for the many people we talked to at the Parliament in Melbourne. Pray that the Holy Spirit will bring them to Christ.
6. Pray for the Haven staff. In addition to the issue with Mark and Rose mentioned above, please pray for Jim and Barb Choury as they raise more support and Jeff and Sandy Chrisman as they work on some family concerns. Rita had a great trip to Russia and was allowed to share the Gospel in all sorts of venues and we thank the Lord for those opportunities and her safe return. Pray also for Jonathan and Carrie Jolly who are coming along Haven as potential Ministry Associates as well.
7. Please pray for our many friends and children who are serving with our military. As we have seen recently at Ft. Hood, the war is not necessarily so far away. Pray for soldiers like Carlos and Matt and Josh and Nick. Pray for sailors like Josh N. We thank the Lord for all of them and so many others who serve us all.



The Peace Pole Ceremony at the 2009 Parliament in Melbourne.



THE HAVEN NEWSLETTER



FROM:

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