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Brother Jed and the Green Man-Mizzou



Bro Cope and the Green Man

Almost Persuaded?

"As Bro preached, Clayton started talking to me. He said, 'When I first heard you I was an atheist. After listening to you for a while, I became a theist. I listened more and I decided to stop sinning, but now I do not know what I am.'"
Read Friday's report to find out what Bro. Jed said to Clayton.

Bro Cope and Brother Jed have been making a great team on campus. They are at Southeast Missouri State this week and then off to Ohio for two weeks. Bro will go back to work but he will be taking half days to meet Brother Jed on campus in Ohio. Then Brother Jed will be preaching in the great Northwest for a month. The plane trip plus car rental will be \$1000. Any help that you can give with the expenses of these trips would be a blessing. You may give through Pay Pal by going to brojed.org or mail a check to our home office address CMUSA 2402 Longview Dr. Columbia, MO 65203. Thanks for all. *Sister Cindy*

THE DELUDED ATHEISTS

Truman State University, April 19, 2010,

When Bro and I arrived on campus three students welcomed me back. I had given a copy of Who Will Rise Up? to Aaron last year and he said he really enjoyed the book, especially the story of the Rabbi who asked for my watch. We did not get a crowd until 2:30, which was surprising since there were several groups with tables set up promoting their organizations. So there was a lot of activity but they were ignoring us.

The crowd I finally gathered at 2:30 was very attentive. At 3:30 a boy came out and started reading from Richard Dawkins' The God Delusion. He complained about God destroying the world with a flood. I asked him if he knew what Noah was doing as he was building the ark. He admitted that he did not, so I explained that Noah preached and invited people into the ark which symbolized the gospel of Christ. The young atheist settled down for the rest of the day and had a group of atheist friends around him.

The books by the new atheists are definitely impacting the students. Dawkins and his ilk are not difficult to refute but so few will take a stand against them. I do not remember encountering an atheist who is well versed in the Bible and I believe that includes Dawkins.

The only time the crowd really got stirred was when Bro was speaking on geography. I had another quiet and listening audience from 4:30 to 5:45. The size of the crowd varied from 25-65 throughout the afternoon. Several students commended me at the end of the day and thanked me for coming. One well dressed man said he used to listen to me as an undergraduate and he appreciated my ability to entertain the students in an informative way.



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

University of Central Missouri, April 20, 2010,

Immediately, I drew a crowd on the steps of the Student Union. This campus requires speakers to fill out a registration form 24 hours in advance. A policeman hung around for an hour or so, but he did not interfere in anyway. I introduced Bro after preaching for only 30 minutes.

Taren, a girl in a skirt so short it barely covered her buttocks, came over and sat with me. She talked to her pastor over her cell phone and invited him out to listen. Later he showed up for a while. He is supposed to return tomorrow with the evangelist who is holding a meeting in his Baptist Church. I suggested to Taren as a young married woman she ought to dress more modestly. She first defended her dress as modest but later said she was a new Christian and did not have the money to buy new clothes. She was pleasant and seemed moved by my preaching but questioned my approach. The girl has potential and indicated that she was serious about God. Mario, a catholic and fraternity brother, who professes to be a Christian, explained my approach to her. He does have a good understanding of what I am doing but he salted his explanation with swear words. After he left Taren asked if he is a Christian why does he swear.

After a while another girl approached me with her friend and asked, “When are you going to preach again? We feel we have a relationship with you.” Her statement said a lot to me. I am always being told that I am doing it the wrong way. They tell me to “take the approach of friendship evangelism and build relationships with students before sharing the gospel.”

The fact is many students feel that they have a relationship with me. Yet, I preach to students up front and I am not simply sharing my faith I am broadcasting and proclaiming my faith. I relate to them as a group or crowd but they relate to me as an individual. Meanwhile, the Holy Spirit individualizes my words to their hearts and minds, which explains why countless numbers of girls are convinced that I have pointed them out and called them whores. In reality, this I have rarely done, even when they have openingly confessed that they are sexually active. The Holy Spirit takes my words addressed to a crowd and personalizes these words in the souls to which my words apply.

“Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful (Proverbs 27:6)” A true friend will reprove and rebuke sin. I am afraid that a lot of what passes for friendship evangelism is simply kissing up to people in a deceitful way with a hidden agenda not simply to make a friend but a convert.

Bro reported that three students, who had talked to me last year, acknowledged that our approach opened up hundreds of opportunities for them to witness after a day

of preaching. They also asked Bro about how to get started in a ministry such as ours.

Confrontational evangelism is friendship evangelism done in a manner which will reach hundreds in a day whereas the modern approach called friendship evangelism may take weeks with one person before the Christian is advised to share the gospel. Less sharing and more preaching is the call of the hour. The time is at hand!

A banner was hanging from a lamp post next to my preaching spot from which I read in my last preaching turn, "As a member of UCM Community, I will join in building a disciplined community." I asked, "Where is this discipline? I told the students they were undisciplined in their language, thinking, studying, and general way of life. I said, "Jesus called disciples, men that he disciplined to be holy and stand for Truth." We have few true disciples in the church today. Biblical discipline is rarely promoted from our pulpits. I would like to know what the university is doing to promote discipline beyond the banner.

THE LOCAL CLERGY, WHERE ARE THEY?

University of Central Missouri, April 21, 2010,

Before I started preaching the Baptist evangelist, who is conducting a revival in town, introduced himself. Taren the mini-mini skirted girl from yesterday told him about us. He talked with Bro and me about the necessity of going out to where the people are to evangelize. We talked with him and the pastor for about five minutes before I had to start preaching. I asked the evangelist if he would like to speak to the students after the crowd gathered. He indicated that he had to save his voice. Bro prayed with the ministers as I started preaching. I preached for 20 minutes without gathering much attention. I was about ready to quit and wait for the next break, when some fellows, led by Mario from yesterday, loudly came up with their lawn chairs and cigars ready to take front row to be entertained for the afternoon. Mario asked a man who was manning a golf cart to move it out of the way so that the students could gather along the wall. This was helpful. I soon built a crowd with these guys in the front row smoking their cigars.

I noticed the evangelist and pastor were off at a distance talking with and then praying with several students. I was disappointed that they did not stay around for

very long. There would have been plenty of opportunities for them to witness. Bro and I suspected that if they stayed in the area they would be painted with the same brush that we are and it might do damage to their image in the community. But at least they did come out. I cannot understand why in a small town more pastors would not come out of their offices when they hear that hundreds of students are gathered in the center of campus and talking about religious issues. For that matter, where are the campus ministers? I would think a campus minister would be spending most of each day on campus. But this does not seem to be the case. Don't these clergymen have an obligation to check out those who are influencing so many youth within their parish?

The crowd was about twice the size of yesterday ranging from 150-200 for much of the afternoon. Taren the Baptist girl was not as friendly today and she was still dressed provocatively.

I discerned that late in the afternoon I may have pricked the conscience of a girl who was flaunting her lesbianism. When I told her that she could change, she said, "That would make my mother happy." I really pressed in on reminding her of her obligation to honor her mother and father. She claimed that her father was OK with her lesbianism. I told her that she must stop being so obsessed with sex. I reminded her that she is a woman and she was made for a man. As I exhorted her I detected a change in her countenance as she was considering my admonitions.

Mario kept begging me to sing the gay song. I agreed to do it towards the end of the day if he would join me unless I heard him use any cuss words. So with Mario and two of his friends I sang the gay song after getting a promise from all the gays present that they would not be offended or commit suicide after hearing the song.

A policeman monitored the gathering all afternoon. The crowd was lively but overly frivolous for most of the afternoon. At one point I chatted with the university ombudsmen, who had been informing students that I had every right to do what I do and he was encouraging the students to ask me questions. A journalist and photography student asked to interview me inside the building and then outside he wanted to take more pictures. He wants to arrange for me to have a formal debate on campus. However, if it takes place it will probably have to be next semester. Apparently, there is a large photography school on campus. There were more students than usual with expensive cameras. Many students wanted me to pose with them for pictures.

April 22 at 1:09am, I received the following message over facebook from Jessica Sutton the photographer:

Although I am a atheist, and I know you think I am "going to hell"; I believe you and your counterpart put on a good show today at UCM. Your views, stories, and proclamations of the bible were still sane. You may be a right wing crazy nut, but you truly believe in what you are talking about and can back it up in an understandable manner. Your friend however needs to "lay off the LSD". His views made no sense what so ever. He is crude and ridiculous. (Please take his whistle away)

Thank you again, for your crazy preaching on a fictitious bible. It was a wonderful show that filled my day with laughter. Please come again next year so I can get even more photos.

*As always,
the admiring atheist.*

IN THE GARDEN

Truman State, April 22, 2010,

Several organizations had tables set up in the zone where I usually preach. Several of them were also playing loud music. At the first break I did not get anyone to stop. I walked around with my colorful sandwich board sign and staff. After a while a Catholic boy engaged me in a conversation by asking, "What is a rebellious woman?" After a while a girl joined in our conversation concerning the role of women.

I returned to the area under the oak tree where I usually preach. However, I concluded with the loud music that area was not likely to work for us today. I walked around campus and finally settled in a sitting area of a memorial garden in front of the library where a few students were sitting. I told them to check out the sign to make sure that they were not doing anything listed. One smoking girl shamelessly admitted that she was a fornicator. A male engaged me in a debate concerning free will. He said he did not believe in free will and men were not accountable for their actions. He claimed men were dishonest because they were poor. I taught him on the difference between a *causation* and an *influence* but he refused to accept my points. He did shake hands with me before he left and the Lord used our argument to draw about a dozen students.

One thoughtful boy asked me concerning my doctrine of sanctification. At first I assumed that he was testing me. However, it became evident that he was genuinely wanted to know how to overcome sin. He also asked what God's purpose was and then answered his own question saying, "To glorify himself." I responded that what glorifies God is when men love and obey him. God demonstrates his glory by overcoming evil with good. God will be glorified in the end when he establishes that his love is greater influence than the force of evil. We also discussed the issue of God's foreknowledge. A smart blond coed had a number of thoughtful questions and challenges concerning limited foreknowledge.

Eventually, Bro, who had tried but failed to get students attention at our regular location under the tree, came down and joined me in the garden. He entered into our conversation and eventually conversed with the smart blond for a good thirty minutes concerning foreknowledge.

Meanwhile, the fellow who asked me about sanctification continued to press me on that issue. He acknowledged that he sinned everyday and asked me if I thought he was a Christian. I replied, "I will reserve that judgment to God, but the fact is that you do not have to sin everyday and your sin is displeasing to God." I opened the Bible and went over Romans 6 verse by verse. He then asked if I thought that Romans 7 referred to the Christian experience. The young fellow said that he was reformed in doctrine. But he was not arguing for Calvinism. Bennet T., who had posted a picture of the two of us together on facebook, also listened for sometime today. He said that he was seeking Truth. I concluded the day by praying for both the man seeking sanctification and Bennet who is looking for salvation.

There was a man with a hoe in the garden, who I supposed to be a gardener. He at times stopped working to listen to me. Even when he was working, I could tell he was listening. Before, I concluded in prayer he asked me to tell how I turned from a hippy to a preacher. He had heard me say earlier to a boy wearing a tie dyed shirt with a peace symbol on the shirt that I was once a hippy. The afternoon reminded me of the scene in John 20 outside the sepulcher when Mary encountered Jesus whom she initially thought to be merely the gardener. Of course, without our Lord's resurrection on that Easter Sunday my teaching today in the garden would never have taken place.

I was happy with the way the day turned out. We did not have a lot of students around us but I sensed most of those listening were honest seekers. I believe that eternity will prove this to be a very profitable day.

Alas, I received an email from Taren from the University of Central Missouri today indicating that she had hardened her heart towards our ministry. I responded

by answering her questions and concerns but her reply was even more adamant against confrontational evangelism.

PRISCILLA, THE SURPRISE PLAYER OF THE DAY

University of Missouri, April 23, 2010,

It rained all night and all morning. I prayed last night and this morning that the Lord would give us a pocket of dry weather so we could preach this afternoon. We had planned for Priscilla to accompany Bro and I to campus and I did not want to lose this time with her. At 11 AM it stopped raining so we took off to campus.

When we arrived, there were about 50 people milling around Speakers' Circle. They were from the International House of Prayer (IHOP) in Kansas City. The local IHOP had invited them over to spend the day witnessing on campus. One of their leaders, a middle aged woman, cornered me and started witnessing to me. She was too touchy feely and personal for me. She asked me if I was born again. She wanted to know if I was filled with the Holy Spirit. I gave her rather short and abrupt answers because I had my mind on what I was going to do. As quickly as possible I got away from her and started preaching on the outer circle at the class break. Some of the IHOP people scattered to different parts of the campus but a large number stayed in the Speakers' Circle area.

A black lady from IHOP handed me a NT opened to the Introduction to the Book of Acts. She also was touching me. She said, "You need to read this. God is not angry with these students." She repeated her refrain a number of times. I replied, "God is angry with the wicked every day. Sin angers God." I quoted Romans 1:18 and other verses dealing with God's anger.

Surprisingly by the end of the break I had not gathered anyone to listen. One of the IHOP young men had jumped up on a wall and he was preaching on God's love. There were people sitting on the wall on the outskirts of the circle. I opened the NT the lady had given me and started reading from Roman 1:18 and onward commenting as I read. A young man from the Great Commission interrupted me

with some thoughtful questions so I stopped to talk with him. We conversed until 12:30 so I decided to stop and wait for the next break. Bro started preaching at 12:40 and by 1 PM he had gathered a crowd in the inner circle of about 25 students.

As Bro preached, Clayton started talking to me. He said, "When I first heard you I was an atheist. After listening to you for a while, I became a theist. I listened more and I decided to stop sinning, but now I do not know what I am."

I said, "Clayton, you must now surrender your life to Jesus." He wanted to know what that meant. I answered, "Surrender your will to him. Obey him in all things." I eventually asked if he would be willing to do that, but I realized from his response that he actually did not know enough about Jesus to know his will. I exhorted him on the importance of reading the Bible and visiting churches.

At 1 PM I had an appointment with David a journalism student, who had been assigned to interview someone in the community. So I excused myself from Clayton. David was well prepared for the interview; he had read my website; he had no notes and he took no notes. His questions were such that got me talking. I enjoyed conversing with the young man. I assumed he was a Christian or else he had good breeding. He was from Bolder, CO.

David said, "When I decided to interview you some time ago. I put out a message on facebook asking if anyone had seen you. I had a huge response from friends and relatives all over the country. You are a legend. It is amazing how much you get around."

Meanwhile, a tall young preacher from IHOP had asked Bro if he could speak. Bro gave him center circle. He was straightforward and knew how to project his voice. He primarily appealed to the students by teaching on how Christ would fill the void and emptiness in their lives.

At 2 I started preaching again. It was difficult getting traction since the IHOP brethren were talking to a lot of the people hanging out at the Circle. I introduced Priscilla who held the sign which listed sins. She started at the top and asked which of the students fornicated. Then asked about which ones got drunk. One short haired young man said he did both of those things. Priscilla brought him out. When I started preaching again, I zeroed in on him. After a while, he asked me about war. It turned out that he was going to be return to Iraq in a few days for a second stint. When I heard that, I changed my attitude towards him and began to give him more respect, thanking him for his service. I said, "We can cut you a little slack for fighting for your country. "

I reminded him of the necessity of him getting right with God since he was going into harm's way. He showed me a wrist band memorializing a dead soldier friend. I told him as soon as he got back to Iraq he needed to talk with a chaplain. Meanwhile, another of the IHOP preachers asked to speak. As I walked out of the center of the circle I asked the soldier if I could pray for him. I grabbed his hand and the spirit of prayer came upon me. I prayed for his protection and victory over our enemies and that he would through our warrior king Jesus claim a victory over sin. I could tell a number of the IHOP people were impressed with my prayer since they are big on praying with the students.

Hal, the IHOP preacher, had a lower key presentation than the tall preacher. He gave his testimony of how he was converted out of hippiedom. Afterwards he asked if there were questions. Tanya, a skeptic, who hangs out on the Circle, asked him if he believed that God had absolute knowledge of the future and that man had free will. Hal affirmed that he did. Tanya asked, "How then could God create beings that he knew would end up in Hell?" Hal said that he was an Arminian and did not believe that God had predetermined who was going to Hell. He said that he could not reconcile God's Sovereignty with free will, that it is antimony, a mystery.

Bro wisely changed the subject when he took his turn being careful not to contradict Hal. As Bro was speaking one guy, who I think was from IHOP, told me that he appreciated my boldness. The young fellow who earlier had interrupted my preaching to briefly preach sat down beside me. He wanted to get me filled with the Holy Spirit. I said I am filled with the Holy Spirit. He said, "We need to get filled with the Holy Spirit every day." I explained that I am a man filled with the Holy Ghost and I walk in the spirit; I do not need to get refilled every day. The boy was glassy eyed.

As we were speaking the black lady, who had tried to tell me earlier that I should not tell the students that God was angry, sat down with us. She had experienced a dramatic attitude change as a result of talking with Priscilla. The lady had come up to Priscilla and said to her, "Your dad frightens me."

Priscilla then explained our methods and message. She changed the ladies mind. The lady said, "We are preaching too much on God's love. The students need to hear a message against sin and hear about God's wrath." She asked Priscilla if I would be willing to come and talk to the local IHOP.

When the lady sat down beside me and the glassy eyed boy, she said to him, "Stop telling this man he needs to be filled with the Holy Spirit. He is filled with the Spirit. He is a man of God; he is doing the right thing." She went on and on

complimenting and encouraging me. Meanwhile, a girl from IHOP was in center circle basically just repeating to the students that God loved them. She thought the most important message was to walk up to people and put a smile on their face by saying, "God loves you." A local lady from IHOP finally stepped up and gave the students a stronger exhortation.

Finally about a dozen IHOPers took center circle and sang praise and worship songs for 30 minutes. All in all, I was impressed with the IHOP people. They were careful not to contradict or discredit our ministry as other Christian groups often try to do. They were respectful and did not interrupt us except for the two incidents which I have mentioned.

At 3:45 Natalie sat down beside me and said, "Brother Jed, I will be graduating in May and will not have the opportunity of hearing you again. I have always enjoyed your talks out here. You are a legend." She claimed to be a Christian and a Catholic. I asked her about her smoking. She said she needed to stop especially since she was going into the field of education. I exhorted her to turn from all sin, put her complete trust in Jesus and get involved in church.

We left campus at 4 PM with the dark clouds returning. By 5 PM it was raining again. God did give us that pocket to preach and Priscilla made the day by turning around the black girl from one who opposed us to a defender of our ministry. Bro referred to Priscilla as "the surprise player of the day."

Bro Jed



You may donate to CMUSA by mailing to our home office at 2402 Longview Dr., Columbia, Missouri or through Pay Pal by going to our web site, brojed.org. Gifts are tax deductible.

II Cor.9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver.