



As You Go...

Matthew 28:19

June 2013



As part of the ministry of Mountain Movers International, Bezeugen Ministries is pleased to provide you with your free monthly supply of gospel tracts along with the encouragement to hand out one tract each day "As You Go."

Are Gospel tracts effective is a question I get asked quite often. I am guessing most of you get asked that question also. This month I thought I would give you some examples good and bad of how they ARE effective.

I find in my experience that when I am asked that question people are looking for an answer in terms of number of salvations etc. Since we don't track those kind of stats because we believe they are just seeds planted that can be grown today, tomorrow, or 10 years from now I have searched for another way to answer the question. I have found that this verse in Revelation seems to hold true to Handing out Gospel tracts. In Revelation 3:16, Jesus states "So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth." (ESV) So lets look at this from a different perspective. Instead of asking how effective are gospel tracts let's ask what is the impact of a gospel tract on someone who receives it. By looking at the verse in Revelation we see 3 different responses: Hot, Cold, and Luke Warm. We all know that Luke Warm is the most dangerous. When we are handing out tracts we see all three of these impacts on people.

The response we see the most is the Luke Warm one. People will politely take it then throw it away or not take one because "They are Good". These people miss the whole message because they do not care enough to even read what the card says. Their luke warmness causes them to miss a very important message that they need to hear.

Even as I go about my day handing out tracts I see examples of the cold response. There is a restaurant near my house that has three tables made out of doors and plexi-glass. The point of the tables is for customers who come and eat and put their business cards under the plexi-glass. Naturally, I put tracts under there too! Recently, while eating breakfast I was looking at some of the names on the business cards and I noticed one of our tracts had been ripped into pieces and put back under the plexi-glass. We see these violent "cold" reactions sometimes. Not just at the restaurant, but also at sporting events where people might tear up the tract. I can only imagine the conviction of sin that the person must be under when they read the tract to have such a violent reaction to tear the card up. In other cases, I've had people contact the ministry through email, phone and even text messaging from the contact information on the tracts upset about the message on the tract or concerned for their salvation.

My belief is that because the Holy Spirits convicts people of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:8) they'd rather get angry with the messenger than deal with the sin in their life and get right with the one true God of the universe.

On the flip side, when I go about my day and interact with people like cashiers or wait staff I'll hand them a tract and say "it's a Gospel tract." I'd say something like 99 times out of 100 the person will say "THANKS!". It seems to really brighten their day. Some of the people may be strong believers in Christ and are encouraged to be reminded of the Gospel. Others have the opportunity to hear the Gospel for the very first time. But the overwhelming majority of interactions is positive. Let me leave you with one last example from a text message I got Friday night to our ministry phone line that said "I'm not sure that I'm ready." I exchanged a couple of text messages with this person and quickly realized that they are content with their life of sin. But, something about the tract has started to awaken her conscience. The Holy Spirit is at work in her. All because one of you gave out a tract or left it someplace for her to find it. Please be encouraged to keep handing out the tracts. People are reading them. I can only imagine the stories I hear and the contacts I receive are the tip of the tip of the iceberg of those who are actually being impacted.



Bezeugentractclub.org



80-BEZEUGEN
802-393-8436



btc@bezeugen.org



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