



TRUTH & RIGHT

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THOUGHTS FROM THE FAIR

“Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest,” John 4:35. We had three days of the best weather ever during the fair this year. While prior years brought rain and wind to contend with, this year had practically perfect weather conditions. While it was most certainly much easier this year to manage the booth and keep things dry and from flying off the table, the diligence to continue utilizing the opportunity to reach the community with the gospel every year at the fair, “rain or shine”, reminds me of the wisdom taught in Ecclesiastes. “He who watches the wind will not sow and he who looks to the clouds will not reap. Just as you do not know the path of the wind and how bones are formed in the womb of the pregnant woman, so you do not know the

activity of God who makes all things. Sow your seed in the morning and do not be idle in the evening, for you do not know whether morning or evening sowing will succeed, or whether both of them alike will be good,” Eccl. 11:4-6. Just as the farmer who waits for perfect weather conditions to plant and consequently fails to reap any crops from failure to sow any seed, we will also fail to have much success in evangelism if we are waiting for the perfect conditions in life, weather-wise or other ways, to spread the gospel. Even with the prior knowledge of the poor weather conditions to contend with in years past, the tent was rented and put up, and we did our best to spread the Word, and were even blessed with near perfect weather conditions in the process. Some observations made during the fair lead me to

believe we ought to continue to take advantage of the opportunity each year, “rain or shine”, and spread the seed of the gospel during those three days at the fair.

Curiosity It was encouraging to see the genuine curiosity many had about what was going on at our booth. On the very first day before many of the crowds of people would show up to attend the fair, one of the volunteer workers came over to test their bible knowledge with the trivia game. While they were in the middle of the game, the woman beside us selling jewelry came over to see what was happening. Standing behind the volunteer worker, she would either nod in agreement or shake her head no in response to the many true or false questions being read in the game, as if she were playing along, curious to know what questions were being asked and seeing if she knew the correct answers. We had an interesting moment when one of the true or false questions I read was, “True or false: You must be baptized to be saved.” The woman standing behind began shaking her head no very confidently, and the volunteer worker playing the game quickly responded and shouted “False!” When I explained to

them the answer was true, they both seemed very curious to want to know why. I had the volunteer worker playing the game turn to various passages I gave her in one of the bibles we were handing out to read out loud about baptism. They both listened and seemed curiously surprised and even content to settle the matter from the verses read. Two days later when we were taking the booth down Sunday afternoon, as I was walking by the woman selling jewelry beside us who had stood watching and listening to the game, she was explaining to someone at her booth what we were doing and how she thought it was such a great idea. People are curious and people are interested.

On one occasion, a couple of young boys stopped by the booth, noticing the wheel with the point values and leader board and competition bells, asking what kind of a game it was. I said it was Bible trivia, and one of the boys said, “What’s a bible?” I said we had several they were welcome to take for free to read and find out what it is, and they both took one and walked away, looking through the pages. People are curious and people are interested. One of the features that tends to

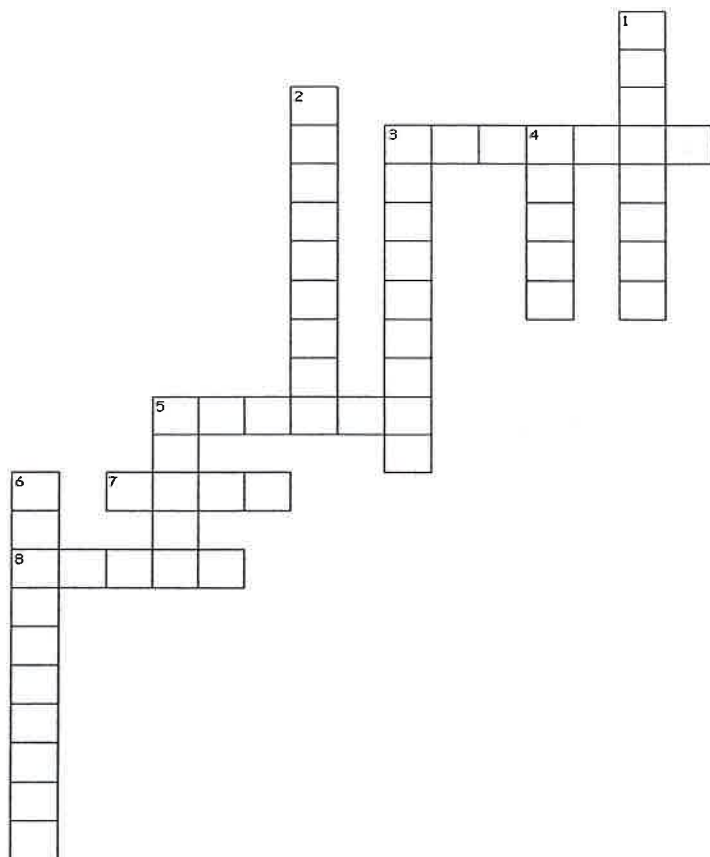
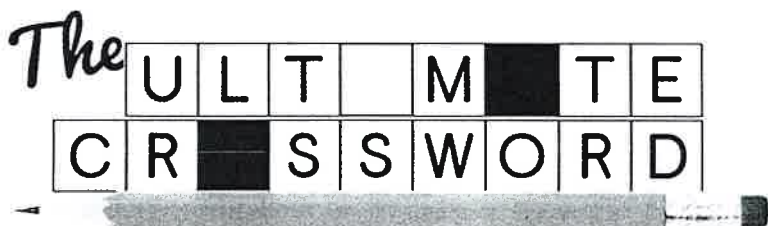
be a great draw for the kids is having your name on the leader board. Several come back to play again and again to try to have the honor of seeing their name recorded. One young girl, Abby, kept coming back to play again and again trying so hard to get a top score. At different times, as she would hear more questions that she was not familiar with, she would ask follow up questions that would allow us to talk more about the bible. At one point, determined to improve her score, she asked if she could take one of the bibles home with her to study up on to be ready to get more questions right. People are curious and people are interested.

One of the perks of where the tent we have set up each year is located, is it provides front row seating to one of the main events at the fair, Friday Night Wrestling. While Paul reminds us that we are not wrestling against flesh and blood in our spiritual battle, these guys most certainly are (even if it is fake) and the crowds go bananas for it. Before the actual event took place, one of the wrestlers and someone associated with it came to the booth asking if they could take one of the free bibles. We gave them one and as we saw them flipping

through the pages and passing it around, it became apparent that it was going to end up being used as a prop in some kind of way in their wrestling match (wasn't sure if to be used by referees to quote from or perhaps provide some "healing" for someone after a beat-down). Whether that bible is now being used as a paper weight, or stuck under the leg of a wobbly table, somebody has it who has the opportunity to read it and Isaiah says, "So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it," (Is. 55:11). People are curious and people are interested. – Daniel Ruegg



"Though the fig tree should not blossom and there be no fruit on the vines, though the yield of the olive should fail and the fields produce no food, though the flock should be cut off from the fold and there be no cattle in the stalls, yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and He has made my feet like hinds' feet, and makes me walk on my high places."
Habakkuk 3:17-19



ACROSS

- The kingdom is like a ____ cast into the sea gathering fish. (Mt. 13:47)
- Sick people were cured touching the ____ of Jesus' cloak. (Mt. 14:36)
- Peter walked on water, but after being scared, he began to ____ (Mt. 14:30)
- What comes out of the ____ comes from the heart that defiles us (Mt. 15:18)

DOWN

- A prophet is not without honor except in his ____ (Mt. 13:57)
- Pharisees transgressed commands for sake of their ____ (Mt. 15:3)
- Jesus gave the loaves to the ____ to give to the crowds. (Mt. 14:19)
- The disciples thought Jesus was a ____ walking on water. (Mt. 14:26)
- Jesus thought the crowds would ____ looking for food. (Mt. 15:32)
- Jesus felt ____ for a large crowd of sick people following Him (Mt. 14:13-14)