



Veritas Forum

April 2015

"Well...", I paused, "it sounds more to me like you have a problem with the [Catholic] church, not a problem with God per se", I let that sink in.

Professor Zoeller paused thoughtfully. "You know, I've never thought of it that way, you may be right..."

"Just a thought.", I allowed. We were at the Veritas Forum at UMass, the highlight event for a week long apologetics outreach sponsored by Cru and other Christian groups during passion week. Each day two lunch time topics were addressed over a meal. Topics ranged from the reliability of the Bible to gender issues from a Christian perspectives. And each evening there was a more substantial forum.

It was after the question and answer time, and the student union ballroom was abuzz with conversations. Over 200 students, staff and faculty were in attendance and Dr. Zoeller, a world expert in thyroid hormones, had just presented at the Veritas Forum representing the atheist perspective.

"Well can I ask you this?", I continued, "What would you consider the top evidence for you, as a scientist, against the resurrection of Jesus Christ?" His opponent Dr. Ian Hutchinson from MIT had just offered the Christian perspective on science and faith, and on the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

"I can't, I don't have any. I'm familiar with the evidence,

but I can't commit [to the resurrection], neither can I dismiss it out of hand", he admitted.



"Thank you for your time", I replied, as we allowed the next person in line to approach Professor Zoeller. With me was, Soun, a biochemistry student, who has been investigating the Christian faith for over a year now. We had just asked both professors about the evidence for and against the resurrection, and the forum itself was on the topic of Faith and Science.

"So what did you think?", I asked Soun.

"I think I agree with Professor Hutchinson.", replied Soun. As Soun and I talked more over the next couple of days, it was clear that the Lord was continuing to work in Soun's heart. Please pray also for Professor Zoeller and the openness of his heart. It was clear from my conversation with him, that he was very disappointed with the Catholic Church over the child abuse scandals. But, the door is open for us to continue our conversations over faith, science and morality.





"The highlight of my week goes back to my 2nd day on the beach. Paired with another freshman named Sam, we were both new and felt a little daunted.

As we walked along the beach, we asked God to lead us where He wanted us to go.

Soon enough, I saw a young woman sitting on a towel by herself. She looked available and we felt God put her in our path for a reason, so we walked over and introduced ourselves. As we went through the questions, they were eager to respond and clearly were enjoying the good conversation. Once we got the the question addressing what happens after death, we received some interesting answers. As we learned more of their background in the church, they all explained how they were from vaguely spiritual backgrounds but had fallen away and no longer associated with the church.

We talked on and on about their experiences, past traumas, and hopes for the future. It ended up being about a two hour long conversation. After they explained

their thoughts on everything, we shared our personal beliefs. We went through the Knowing God Personally booklet with them. We explained how God loves everyone, unconditionally. And how our own sinful nature keeps us from Him.

When we pointed to two diagrams, one showing Christ in the center of our lives and the other showing ourselves on a pedestal, we asked them which one best represented their lives. They all said the self-centered one. When we asked them which they wished their lives could be, they all excitedly pointed to the one where Christ was the center of their identity.

They said the longed to know him on a personal level. Sam and I were of course psyched, so we showed them a prayer they could pray that would represent their change of heart. After reading it over on their own, they said it was a commitment they were ready to make. Together we all held hands and said the prayer. We were all so filled with joy and gave hugs, took prayer requests, and promised that we'd pray for each other. Let's just say Sam and I, who started on the beach with low expectations of ourselves and high expectations of God, walked away in awe." - Gina, Freshman @ UMass

Spiritual Conversations - 5262
Gospel Conversations - 2453
Accepted Christ - 268

Prayer Corner

1. Please pray that we will abide in Christ, the source of life and light. That we may be refreshed in Him and satisfied by him. That we will experience His goodness and joy to overflowing.
2. Please pray for us as we seek to be wise and godly parents. Pray for our children that they will walk faithfully with the Lord all the days of their lives.
3. After 9 years at UMass God has led us to an opportunity for us to minister in a different manner with Cru, please pray for us as we look to transition to our new role. We'll be writing more on this in an upcoming prayer letter.
4. Please pray for our student leaders to grow in dependence of the Lord and His Spirit. And to be bold in sharing the gospel. Please pray for them as they lead next year without us.
5. As part of our celebrating 10 years on staff, we have been reading our own prayer letters from 2006-2015. It has been a wonderful journey so far and we are blessed to recount God's kindness in His calling us sinners to participate in his generous and beautiful work.

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