

Princeton Prayer Letter, Princeton, NJ (July 25, 2003)

Present to Witness: 1st Princeton University student to join the Evangelism Team on the Streets, who was an athlete of Swedish origin, and was a member of [Athletes in Action \(AIA\) at Princeton University](#) and two students from the from The College of New Jersey and two Evangelists that would go to Princeton on a weekly basis.

James and Tim - James told me he had some Buddhist/Egyptian beliefs about heaven. Although very eloquent, I was surprised by how little thought went into some of his remarks, such as, "*King James wrote the Bible*" and so on. Both he and his friend (Tim?) were well read in philosophy, though had hardened hearts towards Christianity. Tim was into **Osiris** and also into some legend of **Aztec Gods** who spread faith from America to the rest of the world. Tim was absolutely scary--not in touch with reality. James took information on Biblical prophecies and said he'd talk to us in the future.

Andy and his friend (can't remember his name) - Andy and his friend (both students at PHS, appeared to be "believers," though not "born-again"). They thought they'd go to heaven because they "respected God" and obeyed the *10 Commandments*. I asked them if they had ever broken a commandment and they admitted they had. We talked about sin and the need for a Savior, about Jesus living the perfect life, being a perfect sacrifice, and the confidence we can have in God's promise--I told them how wonderful it is to walk in the truth and not need to worry about what others think of you or that your secret sinfulness would be uncovered. I challenged them to continue to seek God and to pray about it--overall a positive interaction.

Tracy and her husband, Michael - Talked to her for an hour and a half. Liz had a lot of questions such as: "Why is there *suffering*?" (told her about [determinism/free will](#)), "What about *evil*?", "Why are we *accountable* for our sins?", "What is the *evidence* that the *Bible is the Word of God*?", and "What about the insufficiency of good works for salvation?" She believed that since we cannot be **100% certain about anything**, that her belief was just as good as mine and you should not tell people they are wrong because you can't be certain yourself. She believed that her belief was good for her because that was the kind of belief she needed at the moment, and yet she also claimed to believe in **absolute truth**, but she didn't seem to have much inclination towards finding that truth. She found it hard to accept the fact that the "**outside**" truth can be contrary to her feelings and intuitions. In the end, she was not open to Christianity because she could not reconcile her intuitions about who God was with the existence of *divine judgment, heaven or hell*. Her personal belief was that people got into progressively better "**heavens**" according to how good a person they were in this life. Pray that she would escape the swamp of intellectual complications and receive clear insight into the Truth, plain and simple. Also, that she would read [Isaiah 53](#), [John](#), [Romans](#), and [The Case for Faith](#) by Lee Strobel as I recommended. Michael told me that they had lived together for seven years (fornication) prior to getting married. **No shame shown at all**. They were married last August Michael was raised Roman Catholic (**RIC**), but doesn't believe in Purgatory or lots of other beliefs of the *RIC* church. Still, he wanted to believe that most Roman Catholics would go to heaven. We discussed the **5% born-again stat** from *George Barna* (that also includes Protestant's) and why we need a Savior. He took the book [More Than A Carpenter](#) and a [Gospel of John](#) plus a book on Christianity by Max Lucado. Seemed open!

Michelle - a young Spanish woman took the two-question test (2QT) and did not pass it. Michelle did not believe in [hell/eternal](#) condemnation. She could not understand why there is a judgment. We explained to her that **God is holy and righteous and hates sin**--God [cannot overlook sin](#) because of His nature. She did not like the concept of [original sin](#) and that [animals](#) are **not** on the [same plane as human beings](#). We are made in the [image of God](#) and *Christ died for man*, not animals. Michelle told us she did not like the **two-question test sign** and did not agree with us. Michelle (angrily) and her mother then went into the movie theater.

Cheryl, Harold and Claudia, three African-Americans, stopped and spoke with us. **Cheryl** took the two-question test, but did not understand the **Gospel**. Cheryl has been attending the "**Jehovah Witnesses**" for over a year--she was a former member of some "**Islamic**" group in America. (The Muslims use the "**Jehovah Witnesses**" anti-trinity literature.) We explained to her that if [Christ was not God](#), then there would be [no forgiveness of sins](#). We explained to her that the concept of the **Trinity** was in the **Old Testament** (see **Q8** located at <http://www.njiat.com/faq.html>). *Man or any created being* cannot pay for anyone's sins. Cheryl asked about **John 14 28**: "*The Father is greater than I*" and why did [Christ pray to the Father](#). We explained to her that when Christ was on earth 2000 years ago, **He was both man and God**. He limited his *office and work*. The word "**greater**" in the Bible is referring to [office and work](#) and not in reference to [being or nature](#) (see **Q9** located at <http://www.njiat.com/faq.html>). As obedient servant of God, Christ was under the Father's authority and therefore the Father by virtue of His office in redemption is said to be greater. **John 14:28** is referring to the [economical Trinity](#) and not the [ontological Trinity](#). There is a word in the Bible to [contrast superior and inferior](#) beings--the word "**better**" (**Heb. 7: 19; 8:6**). We told her that "Jehovah" is a mistranslation of the Hebrew word "YHWH"—the word "Jehovah" first appeared in Europe in the late Middle Ages as an erroneous translation of YHWH. (The Jehovah Witnesses reject that humans have an "[immortal soul](#).") We also explained to her that if an [honest atheist](#) reads the Bible he or she would admit that **Christ said he was God**. We encouraged her to read different translations of the Bible and we gave her the tract entitled "[The God of Israel: One God or Three?](#)"

Chris, an Indian man, stopped and talked to us. He was a [Hindu](#) who converted to [Buddhism](#). He would tell us that [he did not believe in religion](#)--we told him that a **belief system is a religion!** He thought that religion hindered one's mind toward ultimate fulfillment. He was very narrow-minded and could not think logically. We explained to him that [there is truth](#) and that **different worldviews** are not equal. He stated that we should [not be dogmatic and push our beliefs](#) on other people--we responded by stating that the [other religious worldviews](#) are being [propagated](#) including [Buddhism](#). He went on to say that animals are on the same plane as humans and that there is no evil. He said there was an elephant that could paint and a dog that could play the piano—we said it was ridiculous to assume that animals can create art like [Leonardo Da Vinci](#) and other humans. He walked away angry.

Liz and Kito – Two teen-age girls. Liz is Roman Catholic (RIC); we talked about [grace vs. works](#) but Liz was not very open. Kito is from **Japan** and just listened.

Gabe – He was very open to Christianity and accepted parts of the Gospel. He had to run to work. He works seven days a week.

Josh and Tom – Took the two-question test (2QT) and failed it. They said that they are doing their best to do "[good things](#)". After explaining the Gospel message, they said that they [accepted Jesus](#) and are searching for the truth by visiting different churches. They both received a [Gospel of John booklet](#)--a friend showed up and they had to leave. **PS**—*Josh did ask for prayer for his friend Steve, who has leukemia and needs a bone marrow transplant. He needs a donor.*