

The Lowedown

A monthly newsletter from the life and ministry of Dave & Jennifer Lowe

May 2007

It's Like Déjà Vu All Over Again

Last week marked the 82nd birthday of Yogi Berra, one of baseball's greatest players. Voted three times the league MVP, Berra has the distinction of having played in 14 World Series (more than any other player), while winning 10 championships.

Despite his many accolades, Berra may be more known for his witty quips. For example, he was quoted as having said, "Baseball is 90% mental, the other half is physical."

Another head-scratcher from Berra came when he said, "I didn't really say everything I said."

The most famous Berra witticism might be when he stated that, "it's like déjà vu all over again."

For us, this past month has been like déjà vu all over again.

It's been a busy month filled with ministry outreaches that have made me do a double-take while asking myself, "didn't we do that before?"

In mid-April, we held our 2nd Muslim-Christian debate on campus. You may remember that we had done this before back in the fall.

The second debate went very well; in some ways it went smoother than the first debate. During the first debate, there were several outbursts from Muslims in the audience.

We were able to avoid such distractions this time. Hiring security probably didn't hurt. We also told students that anyone who disrupted the event would be removed and that students would be subjected to possible disciplinary action through the Student Judicial Authority.

The topic of the debate was "Who was Muhammad?" Though the topic of Muhammad is very sensitive to Muslims, we were able to have a very peaceful, civil debate on the topic. I thought the Christian speaker made some very good arguments against

Muhammad without taking a confrontational or disrespectful stance.

Our other "déjà vu" outreach was our "I Found it" event which took place two weeks ago.

In case you didn't know, we did this on campus five years ago. However, the real inspiration for this outreach is rooted in a national campaign that took place in the 1970's. Churches of every stripe and denomination participated in this media campaign that included billboards, bumper stickers and buttons that all stated "I Found it."

As people became more exposed to the curious comment, the natural questions began to arise. What does it mean? What did you find?

Five years ago, we took the campus by storm with orange fliers, posters, balloons and around 400 students wearing orange t-shirts that said, "I Found it." Approximately 500-600 students attended a rally at the end of the week where they heard testimonies of students who had "found it" along with a message on "Why Christianity is True."

It was a significant event in the life of our ministry. It was so significant that our leaders this year wanted to repeat the outreach. As freshmen, they heard all about the outreach from the older students who had experienced it themselves. Yet they had not had the opportunity to experience the outreach for themselves.

So this year, we decided to do "I Found it Too" (the sequel). The concept was the same. 400 students wore lime-green shirts for a week while the campus was exposed to lime-green fliers, balloons and posters with the pictures of students and faculty who had "Found it too."

In addition to the shirts, we had a

huge 8 foot tall by 6 foot wide graffiti wall where students were encouraged to express themselves and share whether they thought there was anything to find.

We passed out 4500 newspapers that had articles on God and the testimonies of 4 students and a faculty member who had found everything from answers to insights to peace through their relationship with Christ.

Our presence on campus that week was amazing and people definitely noticed. It wasn't surprising that some took offense at our campaign, though the university was quoted in a campus article as saying, "*They appear to be acting peacefully and responsibly. They are certainly highly visible. But it doesn't appear any different than any other type of student recruitment effort, such as fraternity or sorority rush.*"

The best part of the week was the fact that many of our students had real opportunities to share their faith with class-mates and friends. Among our own students, the effect of the week seems to be nothing but positive.

Students seem more aware of the needs of the lost and they seem more willing and ready to take the initiative to share their faith than before. For those reasons alone, the campaign has to be viewed as a huge success.

To see more of the impact of this week, check out the following websites: www.i-found-it-too.com www.californiaaggie.com/news/2007/05/07/

Click on the link to the article "***I Found it Too campaign provokes controversy, debate***".

Thanks for partnering with us to help students "find it too."