

STAND TO REASON

MOMENTS OF TRUTH

“You’re Taking High Schoolers Where?!”
This may well be the trip of a lifetime for these students.

February 17, 2006

Dear Friend,

Berkeley.

The name alone is enough to conjure up thoughts of tie-dyed individuals deep in meditation or wild-eyed university professors making outrageous claims. Berkeley is certainly known for its diversity of thought and also its antagonism of Christianity. And it is where I am taking Christian high schoolers on a one-of-a-kind trip.

In fact, by the time you read this we’ll have already spent a couple of days in Berkeley. Our group of 24 staff and students will have arrived on the 17th of February and we will return to Southern California on the 22nd.

And what is it exactly that we are doing there?

We are intentionally exposing kids to a secular worldview ***in order to protect them from that very worldview***. Think of it as an inoculation. Why do people get a flu shot? To inoculate themselves from the flu virus. Indeed, people purposely expose themselves to the virus in order to protect themselves from the virus. That’s exactly what we are doing with these students.



*Preparing students at Rock Hills
Church for Berkeley...*

While in Berkeley...

- ...we will meet with Mark Thomas, founder and president of an organization called the Atheists of the Silicon Valley. Mark will be giving us an hour lecture on why atheism is true and Christianity is false, with Q & A to follow.
- ...we will survey U.C. Berkeley students at Sproul Plaza, a popular lunch time hang-out. We’ll ask them specific questions about their religious and moral views, hoping to spark deeper conversation.
- ...we will meet with David Fitzgerald, a member of the San Francisco Atheists and someone who has publicly debated Christians. David will attempt to persuade us that Jesus never really existed and the Gospels are simply fabrications.

- ...we will spend some time with the Reverend Bill Hamilton-Holway, minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. Reverend Hamilton will bring a message to our group that it is okay to believe...well...anything you like.
- ...we will spend some time at the home of Dr. Phillip Johnson. Dr. Johnson wrote the ground-breaking book, *Darwin on Trial*, and has spear-headed the Intelligent Design movement. He is a courageous Christian who has dedicated his life to battling the secular forces at work in our culture. Dr. Johnson will spend some time challenging our students, the next generation of Christians ambassadors, to take this culture for the cause of Christ. (*Not only will this be an honor and privilege for all of us but this is the highlight of our week*)

This is but a brief snapshot of our week in Berkeley.

Are the students and staff going on this trip a bit nervous? A little. But we have spent the last 6 weeks preparing them. Every week they've been required to read three to four chapters from various books. They've spent two hours with me every Saturday night, being trained to engage non-Christians worldviews and learning why Christianity is the most reasonable thing to believe. During our last training session I encouraged students that ***if Christianity is actually true then every argument against Christianity will be flawed by its very nature.*** Now it is my job to show them where and how.

Needless to say, we need your prayers. Pray for us each day, through the 22nd. God is going to do some incredible things in the lives of these young people. I can't wait to share all of those things with you in next month's newsletter.

Invading Berkeley,



Brett Kunkle
STR Student Impact

Send Us Your E-mail Address!

Throughout the year we send out brief e-mail updates in order to let you know about special prayer needs, upcoming events, or opportunities for you to participate in this ministry. However, many of you who receive this monthly newsletter do NOT receive our e-mails and therefore, miss out on these important updates.

So, in order to ensure that you receive these important updates, you can help us by doing one of the following:

- (1) Send us an e-mail with the word "Update" in the subject line. You can send it to: brett@str.org
- (2) Write your e-mail address at the top of the enclosed response card and send it in.