Jesus--We Have a Problem!

Hello Wendy

It seems people are trying to sell Jesus as if they were peddling all kinds of products, and they do it almost as badly as the companies who hire advertising agencies.

The soft-drink industry spends literally billions of dollars, exciting us with images of athletes who are paid to drink the sugary mix of toxic chemicals in an attempt to lure us into thinking that if we drink this or that soft-drink, we will be part of the In-Crowd. These messages are aimed at young kids who don't know any better, as well as adults who should know better than to buy into this misinformation.

One company has the nerve to suggest that the product they sell is made from "The Best Stuff on Earth." I'm not sure what Earth they are referring to, since the drink is full of sugar and other additives. Of course, they are not the only company that uses the word natural as if the chemical additives were fresh-picked this morning on a sunny
When it comes to religion, it gets worse. Jesus, we have a problem. The current crop of ministries promise a happy road to riches if we only follow "Jesus." Oh, really? Sounds like a come-on to me! I grew up in the Bronx, one of the five boroughs that make up New York City. In the Bronx, you learn very young not to believe everything you hear from every clown who tries to sell you something on the street.

There are a surprising number of religious institutions, going back over the centuries, that in the name of Jesus have twisted many of the simple teachings of His earliest disciples. A few of these well-known institutions literally twisted people's arms to make them believe as they did. This kind of arm-twisting has given Christianity a bad name. And this kind of religion has continued to take root in many of the faith traditions of our day.

At REACH-NYC we are trying to Bring Jesus Back! Now, that might sound like an advertising claim to you. "But wait, there's more!" as the deep-voiced announcer would say. It seems to me that bringing Jesus back into the church, and back into our lives, is vital for our Christian journey.

In the first-century small-group-style church, there was simplicity of spirit and a love for the pure teachings of Jesus and of the Apostles. Did you know that back in those days, the Apostles made house-calls? Yes, they did. It wasn't odd to have Peter drop by someone's home for a study on the teachings of Jesus. He had no fancy pipe-organ, no praise team, no greeters--just the clear, simple Word for hungry, searching people who wanted to learn more about their Saviour.

He would sit at the family table, enjoy some simple food with them, and then open their eyes to the teachings of Jesus. Imagine, an actual disciple of Jesus Christ, who walked with Him and learned from Him, making house-calls, and without the benefit of a booking agent or charging a high fee for his time.

What a strange concept!

Today, much of the teachings of organized religion are a far cry from what was taught by the Apostles. In fact, there was a time in church history when priests of the organized church taught that only the official head of the Church could be relied on to interpret doctrine. In fact, others were not even allowed to read the Bible. Amazing, but sadly true.

This Saturday afternoon, at 3:30 p.m., we are meeting once again to do something as simple as open the Bible, look at the Word, and share the clear and profound teachings of the early church. The early church was not polluted with odd concepts and strange beliefs, such as misunderstanding where we go after we die, or confusing faith with works in how we can experience a true walk with God.

Our small-group meeting will be held at The Seafarers International House, 123 East 15th Street, on the corner of Irving Place, between Irving Place and Third Avenue, in the Union Square area of NYC.

As you enter the building, just take the elevator or the stairs on the right to the Mezzanine / Library section where you will find us. Feel free to bring your questions as we open the Word and try to Bring Jesus Back into our lives and learn of Him.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."
--Matthew 11:29 (KJV)

May God give you His Peace.

Best regards,

Tony Romeo, Pastor

P.S.: Please help support this ministry with your gifts, as many have done from around the world, by making your check payable to "REACH-NYC" and sending your donation to:

REACH-NYC, P.O. Box 651, North Salem, NY 10560

All donations are fully tax deductible. REACH-NYC is a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Thank you for all your help.

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If you would enjoy a more formal worship experience that is also trying to Bring Jesus Back, please join us on Saturday mornings at 11:30 a.m. in the sanctuary of historic Manhattan Church, located in New York City’s West Village at 232 West 11th Street, just 1.5 blocks west of Seventh Avenue, South. Street parking is minimal, but there is indoor parking available on West 12th Street.

Our special guest speaker this Saturday, June 9, at 11:30 a.m., Dr. Steve Cassimy, will be presenting "A Conversation with the Word."

Check below for other meeting opportunities.

Manhattan Church is very easy to get to by bus or subway. The little map below will help you find us. Please join us in ministry to the people of the City of New York.
Saturday Morning, June 9, 2012, at 9:15 a.m.
FREE Breakfast with the Word
Study begins at 9:50 a.m.

Join us for a nice, warm breakfast of a healthy whole-grain NYC bagel, oatmeal, fresh fruit, and a hot drink, and wake up your mind with the study of God's Word.

This is a relaxed setting where all are invited to join in, no matter what your faith tradition.

We meet on Saturday mornings at historic Manhattan Church in the West Village, in an intimate setting we call Cafe Reach:
232 West 11th Street, NYC
just a block-and-a-half west of Seventh Avenue.
Breakfast is served at 9:15 a.m.
Study begins at 9:50 a.m.

See you for "Bible with a Bagel."
Invite your friends.

This free breakfast is sponsored by supporters of REACH-NYC and we thank them.

Click here for map of location of Manhattan Church

Donations to REACH-NYC help us in our efforts to reach out to the people of New York City. REACH-NYC is recognized by the IRS as a tax-exempt corporation, and all contributions are fully tax-deductible.*

Contributions can also be made by check payable to: "REACH-NYC" and mailed to:
REACH-NYC, P.O. Box 651, North Salem, NY 10560

Thank you for helping the REACH-NYC ministry!

*A receipt will be sent recognizing all contributions at the end of the year for tax purposes.