
Restoration House Ministries

E-Newsletter

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Dan Clymer tells Disciples Days' students the story of Harvard

Harvard Visit Reveals the Mission

No Harvard campus tour is complete without a stop by the Coop, the official campus bookstore. Just walking in and browsing the shelves provides a scholarly experience, not to mention the tees and sweatshirts for sale. So after rubbing the bronzed toe of John Harvard's imposture on the "Statue of Three Lies" and walking across The Yard, we crossed the street with friends visiting from Oklahoma. Pausing to capture a group photo, we heard a perky female voice. "Would you like me to take a picture of all y'all?"

That's unique, I thought. The phrase, "all y'all"—a colloquialism atypical to New England—seemed as distinct as an OSU Cowboy's cap amid the Cambridge Crimson. An energetic young woman seated in front of the Coop left her laptop to take our picture.

"I've not heard that phrase in a while," I stated. "Where do you call home?" A simple inquiry turned into a 15-minute synopsis of her 20-something life's story. A student at Boston College taking summer courses at Harvard, she seemed eager to engage. An extensive traveler and gifted linguistically, she quickly discerned we were from "away." She shared her philosophy of learning the local language down to the accent which, by her account, served her well when living abroad. To demonstrate, she broke into an Irish baroque that allegedly caused customs to question her passport upon her departure from Ireland.

“I love Ireland,” she said, pointing to her red hair and green eyes as evidence of her familial heritage. She questioned if I had traveled there, and then shared a particular fondness for a site where Druid priests gather for ceremonial rituals

“You see,” she said, pointing now to the tattoos on her wrists and forearms, “I’m a fairy.”

Enthusiastically, she shared her life experience of growing up in an affluent, but disconnected family. Their properties included a wooded area where she spent much of her time, alone but comforted by nature. While in Ireland she connected with the Druids and found her “true home” surrounded by other professed fairies. The validation of her identity as a fairy came from a child who called her such upon seeing her in an Irish forest.

The longer she talked, the more questions formed in my mind. Is she for real? Intoxicated? Or is she merely demonstrating enthusiasm for her spirituality—NOT a religion, as she quickly emphasized in response to my inquiry about her God or god.

“Are you a Christian?” she queried. With my confirmation she related that fairies, like angels, are creatures of well-doing. “But my personal spiritual center is the willow tree. It’s feminine and its appearance is welcoming, embracing the traveler who rests under its boughs.”

I noticed the rest of the group exit the Coop and head down the street. We were on a schedule with an appointment across Boston.

“I’d love to talk with you more, but my group is moving on,” I explained, realizing this conversation would end prematurely.

“Yes, I saw them leave the Coop,” she responded.

My benediction, though heart-felt, seemed largely lacking, “Grace and peace to you.”

“Thank you. Enjoy your day.” And with that, our conversational trek through her spiritual journey faded as I turned to catch the others.

My thoughts raced. This bright young woman identifies herself as a fairy whose spiritual center is the willow tree? And people believe the Bible is a myth?! How did she miss Jesus? How many people do I walk past that are seeking their “true home” and find in it something else?

Within each person exists a longing for something mystical, extra-terrestrial—the perfect fantasy where good overcomes evil and our human needs are satisfied. God authored the ultimate story through Jesus. Compassion embodied and embracing the weary traveler, restoring the fallen, connecting the lonely. But when God’s story is unknown, unexplained, or unaccepted, the voids within attract substitutes.

This fall approximately 250,000 students will return to Boston area campuses. Sojourn Collegiate Ministry (www.sojourncollegiate.com), a partner with REUNION Christian Church (www.reunionboston.com), exists to help college and university students on their journey back to God through a redemptive life in Jesus to make a difference in the city of Boston and the world.

Of course, the need extends beyond the campuses of New England and necessitates multiplying outreach efforts in all of the churches. Your partnership with us fuels these efforts at transforming the spiritual landscape of New England and beyond with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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