

**News and Current Events :: Atheist ads to adorn New York subway****Atheist ads to adorn New York subway - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2009/10/21 7:00**

I read this and felt challenged....

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/US/10/21/new.york.subway.ads/index.html>

NEW YORK (CNN) -- Some New Yorkers may want to reconsider exclaiming "Thank God" when arriving at their destination subway station beginning next Monday.

Atheist organizations have purchased a month-long campaign that will place their posters in busy subway stations throughout Manhattan.

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Or at least that's what a coalition of eight atheist organizations are hoping, having purchased a month-long campaign that will place their posters in a dozen busy subway stations throughout Manhattan.

The advertisements ask the question, written simply over an image of a blue sky with wispy white clouds: "A million New Yorkers are good without God. Are you?"

On October 26, a dozen bustling New York City subway stations will be adorned with the ads as "part of a coordinated multi-organizational advertising campaign designed to raise awareness about people who don't believe in a god", according to a statement from the group, the Big Apple Coalition of Reason.

New York City's subway system is one of the busiest in the world with over 5 million riders per day and over 1.6 billion total passengers in 2008, according to the Metro Transit Authority.

Recognizing this, the Big Apple Coalition of Reason decided the "best bang for the buck" was to place posters in popular subway stations to capitalize on the amount of potential viewers, says Michael De Dora Jr., Executive Director of the New York Center for Inquiry, one of the associated atheist groups.

De Dora says the ambitions behind the advertisements are threefold.

First, the coalition hopes the promotion will enhance awareness of New York City's secular community. He explained that the coalition also hopes to encourage "talking and thinking about religion and morality," as well as support involvement in groups that encourage a sense of a social community for non-believing New Yorkers.

John Rafferty, President of the Secular Humanist Society of New York, another member group of the coalition, said the ads are in no way an anti-religious campaign. They are looking to reach out to more people who have similar feelings, but might not be aware of an outlet to express their beliefs, he said.

Rafferty and De Dora cite the American Religious Identification Survey, released earlier this year, as evidence of a shift away from organized religion. Those checking "none" for religion rose from 8% of the population in 1990 to 15% in 2008, effectively making "no religion" the fastest growing religious identification in the United States.

De Dora said that the "million" New York nonbelievers mentioned in the advertisements is the result of an extrapolation based on the survey's findings. With over 8 million residents living in New York's five boroughs, the organization projects over a million potential atheist New Yorkers.

De Dora said individuals "don't need religion to be good people and productive members of society" and ultimately he feels that groups of nonbelievers are "adding to cultural life of NYC."

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The United Coalition of Reason, which is a national organization that helps local groups advocate atheist ideas, approached the New York nonbeliever associations in August with an offer of a donation from an anonymous source to help fund the subway station ad campaign. The donation amount was for exactly \$25,000 and specifically allocated for the subway advertising promotion.

Rafferty says the groups involved expect no substantial backlash over their ads. Since news of the campaign was made public early this week "reaction has been mixed," De Dora said. He emphasizes that the Big Apple Coalition of Reason ads are not "forcing issues, they're just getting ideas out there," with the hope of fostering discussion in New York.

The ads are "not poking fun at religion and not being outright nasty," he said.

A year ago some unease was caused by advertisements that ran inside subway cars promoting Islam. While the ads themselves weren't controversial, they were partially funded by an imam of a Brooklyn Mosque who served a character witness for convicted 1993 World Trade Center bombing mastermind Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman.

In a statement to CNN, Metro Transit Authority Spokesman Aaron Donovan said, "The MTA maintains basic advertising guidelines with prohibitions on nudity, four-letter words, and the like. Beyond that, to accord with the First Amendment, our advertising guidelines are written so as to not prohibit the free exercise of religion or abridge the freedom of speech."

According to the Big Apple Coalition of Reason in their statement, the New York City campaign is just one component of a "nationwide effort" by the United Coalition of Reason that will see billboards and postings in transit systems across the United States

Re: Atheist ads to adorn New York subway - posted by Compton (), on: 2009/10/21 10:47

Quote:

-----A million New Yorkers are good without God

Since we can't see or talk to all of them...I guess we're just going to have take this on faith.

Re: Atheist ads to adorn New York subway, on: 2009/10/21 11:04

Quote:

-----The advertisements ask the question, written simply over an image of a blue sky with wispy white clouds: "A million New Yorkers are good without God. Are you?"

just say "no".

poor souls, I bless the Name, and thank Him for His Holy Spirit, truly "Oxygen" for the soul. Think about it, how bleak it must be to actually "believe" that this time, in these clay jars, is all there is.....it must be hell a brewing in any such impoverished soul. God have mercy on them In Jesus Name is my prayer.

play this Gospel offering in the subway., on: 2009/10/21 14:42

(<http://playmp3.sa-media.com/media/6860/6860.mp3>) "Sixty Minutes to Go!" by Ian Paisley (1968)

this is the sermon we should have looping thruout the NYC subways!

strong.

Re: Atheist ads to adorn New York subway - posted by kathleen1 (), on: 2009/10/25 19:27

I love what Pastor Carter Conlon said regarding this today at his church: God is so good, He has provided us all an opportunity to witness for Him. If you are on the subway and you see this sign the atheists are putting up, look at the person next to you, and ask them what they think about this? If they say they don't like it, admit you don't and ask them if they want to pray about it right there. This gives us all an opportunity to witness to others.

I do not live in NYC but I thought his attitude displayed a wonderful confidence in God. Some folks will get upset about this, and want to argue, or feel outraged. But I don't believe that is the correct response. To effectively challenge things like this, a display of the life and light of God in God's people is what is needed. He said let your light shine in this dark and perverse generation. He never said defend Him, or argue or debate or sue in court over things like this. Don't fret, or be afraid. God has it all in control. The devil may challenge Him but he always loses.

Re: , on: 2009/10/25 19:36

Quote:
-----Some folks will get upset about this, and want to argue, or feel outraged. But I don't believe that is the correct response. To effectively challenge things like this, a display of the life and light of God in God's people is what is needed. He said let your light shine in this dark and perverse generation. He never said defend Him, or argue or debate or sue in court over things like this. Don't fret, or be afraid. God has it all in control. The devil may challenge Him but he always loses.

Amen! Thanks for this, it's blessed me and helped me to re-focus... I'm sure these posters will be coming to subways here, too~ What a great opportunity to turn it around by witnessing for Him!

Re: Atheist ads to adorn New York subway - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2009/10/25 22:31

Quote:
-----A million New Yorkers are good without God

Quote:
-----Since we can't see or talk to all of them...

Quote:
-----If you are on the subway and you see this sign the atheists are putting up, look at the person next to you, and ask them what they think about this?

Almost sounds like having a good person test painted on the wall for you.

Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2009/10/25 22:38

"What a great opportunity to turn it around..."

"The devil may challenge Him but he always loses."

I think this is one of the things that God specializes in(Gen 50:20, Esther 3:6, Gen 3:15, 1Co 2:7-8)

Re: - posted by Santana (), on: 2009/10/25 22:49

One of them has a shirt that says:

NO GOD,
NO GUILT
Debaptize.

(I wonder if there feeling guilty of something.)