

# *Doing the Impossible*

*By Kristina Reeve*

“Colporteur, witnessing at the door, isn’t that scary?” My stomach churned at the thought. “People must be very talented to do something like that! I’ll get nervous, forget the canvass, and get so embarrassed that I’ll never try it again!” Shivers ran down my spine as thoughts spun wildly around. “Who knows what kind of people live behind those doors? There could be a robber waiting! A young person could *never* be able to do it.”

God had better plans. He gave me a love for the people living behind those unfriendly-looking doors and a desire to show them a better way of life. God provided strength to press towards the unknown, to try it out and see what colporturing was like. As I began the first day of colporturing, with fear and trembling, God gave miracles and proved that it WAS possible to do it! After a couple days, I was convinced—literature evangelism and door-to-door ministry was where my heart found the greatest joy and satisfaction.

Stepping out in faith, I flew from my quiet, country home in Washington, to the cities of New Jersey. What a shock! Not only were the people of the city quick to slam the door, but the program I joined was so diverse with foreign students that Americans were outnumbered! Here I was, sleeping on the floor in a room with 10-12 other girls, half of them whispering to each other at night in other languages, clear across the continent from home, knowing no one except my mother and brother who came with me!

During that first summer, I had the craziest experiences including laryngitis and being bit by a dog! I wasn’t a high seller, but no matter what happened, determination and a love for the work kept me going. By the end of the summer, I had decided that it was the best summer of my life and wouldn’t trade it for anything! Sure, sometimes the heat was intense (the last week was 105!), the humidity was high, and I felt tired. There were frustrations like nobody home, not much interest, or people who are just plain mean. But the good experiences, answered prayers, and miracles small and large FAR outweighed the few discouragements. Out there, we learned that God is real and prayer is POWERFUL!

A year later, I was ready to work with our young, energetic friends living near my home. It was a blessing, and everyone gained a better knowledge of God’s power and love. Each day we saw many miracles and I will share two of them with you now. Let us travel in time, to a cold, snowy Monday in February, 2002.

The day started like any ordinary Monday—not very many people were home. A young friend and I were working together, trading off who spoke at the door. Many times during the afternoon, we paused to pray that God would lead us to those who needed help.

At one house in a nice neighborhood, a woman came to the door with a telephone. “I’m not interested.” She stated bluntly, interrupting the first couple sentences about *Health Power*<sup>1</sup>. That is one of the most common objections, but unbelievably, my mind went completely blank! (Don’t worry, experienced colporteurs sometimes do it too! ☺) Words were being jumbled and she was about to shut the door!

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<sup>1</sup> A book on health by Dr. Hans Diehl and Dr. Aileen Ludington

Not knowing what else to do, I dropped down to our smallest book, *Happiness Digest*<sup>2</sup>, praying silently that God would give one more opportunity to show her a book.

“Are you Jehovah’s Witnesses or Mormons?” she questioned, cautiously leafing through the pages. (Praise God for the direct answer to prayer!) Opening the *Story Book*<sup>3</sup>, we showed her that we were working with the Bible Story Company. From there, God impressed me to show her the children’s Bible storybooks. That seemed strange—there were no children’s toys anywhere, or anything that made it look like she might have children! “Do you have any children?” I asked, pulling two of the books from David’s bag. “Yes!” she answered, “I have two children, ages 8, 10.” Her face lighted up when she saw *Jesus Friend of Children*<sup>4</sup>, and she quickly put the telephone back to her ear. “Can I call you back in a few minutes?” she asked the person on the other end, “Someone is at the door.” Going inside, she wrote a check and bought the book. Praise the Lord—He can even work with blunders!

On our last street that day, a young boy came to the door, so we asked to see his parents. “My dad is right here,” he motioned inside the room. Looking in, we saw a large man nearby, watching Television. “Come inside and close the door,” he requested, “its cold out there!” We complied, and began showing him the books. His boisterous laugh interrupted the *Health Power* canvass. “Here I am eating junk food!” he exclaimed. We showed him *My Friend Jesus*<sup>5</sup>, but he handed it back, saying that he already owned the book. We gave him *God’s Answers to Your Questions*<sup>6</sup>, because he did not like to read. “What church are you working with?” he asked, looking at me critically as he laid the book on his couch. “We’re Christians,” I replied. “Like *Seventh Day Adventist* Christians?” he interrupted. “Yes!” I exclaimed with a smile, “Have you heard of us?” Shaking his fingers at us, he laughed loudly. “Cursed be any Seventh Day Adventist who enters this house.” I smiled and closed him on those two books—*Health Power* and *God’s Answers*. He finally decided to get the *Health Power*! He handed us the money and we left the house.

You may have noticed something I forgot. Yes, the *God’s Answers*—it was still sitting on his couch! I did not even realize it until we were back on the street. The man must have needed that book, and God knew what is best. However, we were now short on money. “David,” I said, “pray that God will give us \$5 for a *Happiness Digest*, to cover the extra book.” God is faithful; at the next house, a woman gave us \$5 for the *Happiness Digest*. Praise God!

My prayer is that these stories will inspire you to let God lead in your lives. He may not call you to go across the ocean, and He may not call you to door-to-door evangelism. Nevertheless, He has a special plan for your life. No matter what happens to you, or how bad your circumstances may appear, God will be there to give strength and help through every difficulty. He is the best friend we could ever ask for. Dear reader, let us give Him our lives today!

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.” (Isaiah 6:8)

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<sup>2</sup> Small version of *Steps to Christ*, by Ellen G. White.

<sup>3</sup> Stories from *Uncle Arthur’s Bedtime Stories*

<sup>4</sup> Children’s stories from the life of Jesus, taken from *The Bible Story* set.

<sup>5</sup> Stories about Jesus for preschoolers, by Etta B. Degering

<sup>6</sup> Adapted from *Bible Readings for the Home*