

New York Canvassing Experiences

Summer 2007, part 1

Sabrina

On my first day canvassing in Rochester, NY, I was having a great time. One house had about five cars parked in front, so I knew something was going on inside, and decided to do a fast canvass on the books. But a nice man came to the door and he really seemed interested in *Foods That Heal*. At the end, he decided to buy it, but he had to go inside to get his money. So, he invited me inside to where he and five of his friends were having a Bible study.

While I waited for him to get the money, I started showing his friends the books that I had, and two of them ended up buying the *Great Controversy*. I prayed with them, and one of them prayed for me: "I know this young lady didn't just come here. God was the One who sent her to us." So it was just a blessing to see people studying the word and truly seeking the truth. This man and his study group were all Baptists, and for me it was a divine appointment. Just to think that soon the Bible group will be reading out of the *Great Controversy* is such a blessing. The most beautiful part was knowing that God has a people who are searching for truth. I also learned that God is in control, and that I am just his helper. It is a honor to work for God!

Melissa

I met a lady named Annette who had major health problems. After I canvassed her on my books she showed interest in *Peace Above the Storm*. "But I have spent all my money on my medical bills." She cried, "I would get them if you were here next week." But I knew I couldn't come back. "Ok, that's fine. For those who cannot help out in a big way now, they gave us a little one. It is a stress reliever to brighten your day. Your neighbors have been helping with a couple dollars. Whatever you give is fine." She went inside to find a few dollars and invited me in for a drink of water.

Once inside, she looked at me with deep searching eyes and asked, "Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people? I know that I haven't been the best person. But is God really punishing me?" I had to cry out to God for extra special wisdom. I took her to the book of Job and told her his story. And half way through it her face expression changed to an excited joy. "I get it! I get it! I stopped and Satan is trying to get me to come back to his way. I am being tested." As we talked and prayed together, a calm came over her. She thanked me over and over for coming and called it a divine appointment. A few days later she called me to give me an update. God is blessing her as she is continuing to follow Him. And she will be starting Bible studies too. Praise the Lord! :)

Paul

During our last hour of work, a lady was looking at *More Choices, Foods That Heal*, and a children's book while one of our students canvassed her. Then the thought hit me, "There is a spiritual battle going on, I need to go pray," so I went back to the van, pleading with God for help in the situation. No assurance was given me that my prayer was answered so my prayer continued. Soon the student finished and said that the lady had decided to get a Cookbook and a Happiness Digest (*Steps to Christ*). This experience remind me of the spiritual battle of good and evil going on. Christ is the mighty conqueror and Satan trembles at the sound of Christ's name mentioned in fervent prayer.

Andrew

I knocked on the door and waited a minute. Just then, I saw a van backing into the driveway. The man got out and I canvassed him. He invited me in, and gave me some water, and bought the cookbook. Earlier in the day, it had seemed like I wasn't going to get any books out. I ended up getting five books out that day.

Shane

One morning, I prayed that I would get seven books. God blessed with two books out before lunch, so after lunch, I prayed that God would let me get two books on the first street. At one house, a man chose *Peace Above the Storm*, and at another house, the man got his son the *Story Book*. PTL! So now I had four books, but there were only a few minutes left to canvass. Paul gave me four more houses, but the first three didn't get anything. Finally a lady opened the door at the last house and she chose three books: Cookbook, *Health Power*, and *Peace Above the Storm*. I was so happy that God let me get seven books. My prayer was answered! :)

Esther

I walked into an ice cream shop, but they curtly dismissed me. As I was walking out the door, I noticed a lady sitting in their outdoor eating area. I approached her and began my canvass. "You're a Christian?" she exclaimed, "Me too! My husband and I are both born again!" So I showed them all six of our message books and they decided to get them all and donate one hundred dollars! The lady, turned out to be a travel attendant and she offered to help me get plane tickets for no service fee. She signed up for Bible studies and as I was leaving she said, "I really believe God arranged our meeting here." And I really believe that also! :)

Robert

I met a couple at a door and told the lady of the home that I was working on a scholarship project to do mission work in Mongolia. She was surprised and told me that her husband was a Non-Denominational minister and was currently working on a project in Africa. Just then, my leader came to work with me so we prayed together and they ended up getting two books, one being *God's Answers to your Questions* (selections from Bible Readings for the home). Then they informed us that their neighbor was a Seventh-Day Adventist and had given them wonderful fruit each year. This experience was a great encouragement to me and the books they got helped me reach my highest day in sales so far this summer. PTL!

Titus

As I knocked on the doors one morning, people were refusing to open their doors long enough to even take a look at what I was doing. Walking quickly between the houses, my prayer was "Lord please use me to encourage someone so they see the truth in these books that will set them free!" While finishing the prayer, I met a woman (Rachel) who seemed very formal and businesslike. But my prayer was being answered before my eyes! We made friends quickly and as I handed her *Peace Above the Storm*, she told me, "I found out just yesterday that my husband of seven years is cheating on me."

Words cannot express the pain I saw in her eyes. Turning through the book, I showed her how each chapter helped me to find in God a friend that never leaves or lets us down. "This is what I need right now!" She exclaimed. She got *Peace Above the Storm* and *He taught Love*. After we prayed together, her eyes filled with tears and she gave me a grateful hug. "Thank you so much for coming! You don't know how much this means to me, I'm sure God sent you here."

Izhar

I didn't want to just be some salesman bothering people at doors, so one particular morning I prayed that God would help me to be a blessing to someone. That afternoon, an older woman looked at all the books but she didn't have any money. She ended getting *Happiness Digest* (*Steps to Christ*). Then we started talking a bit, and I asked if she wanted me to pray for her. After our prayer, she had tears in her eyes. She told me how she cherished young people and cared about other people and how I was a blessing. She thanked me and we said goodbye. But before I left her front yard she stopped me again and told me that I had made her day. I thank God for letting me show others His love.

Adam

A friendly lady was interested in *Peace Above the Storm*, but didn't have quite enough money to cover the book. I told her she could have it, which made her very excited. Then I asked her to pray that others would give enough donations to cover the rest of the cost. She promised to do that and I was on my way. Shortly down the road the Holy Spirit reminded me of the Bible study card I had failed to give her, so I ran back and knocked again and she answered with a friendly smile. I gave her the card and prayed with her, After we were finished she was so happy and said, "You made my day! I am so glad there some good teens in this world." She had been praying for me right before I came back and she signed up for Bible studies! :) God is good.

Miriam

I was canvassing the ghettos of Rochester and having a blast! I'd just been dropped off on my first street of the morning. I came up to this one house and noticed a middle-aged black lady sitting on the porch. I greeted her and began to show her what I had. She told me, "Come in the shade, Honey. Here pull up that chair and have a seat. Now show me what you're doing." She smiled interestedly and began pouring over each book I handed her.

When she came to *Peace Above the Storm*, she slowed down and looked carefully at each page. When she saw the promise pages, she began reading the promises carefully and nodding fervently. She was quiet for a while, her face turned slightly away from me, but as she read the promises, a tear fell and dropped onto her shirt. When she turned to me, her eyes were brimming with tears. She told me how she was going through some things, and it was so hard. I sympathized with her and encouraged her with some promises that had been precious to me in hard times. I laid my hand on her shoulder and listened while she said how hard it was and how she knew it would all be all right in the end, but that it was so difficult, and oh, she didn't mean to cry and get all worked up about it, but she couldn't help it. "Of course I understand, I will really be praying for you," I comforted her. "So do you think we could pray now?"

We prayed and afterward, she said how glad she was I had come. Then she said a beautiful thing, "I know it was God who sent you here. I know His voice. I can recognize His gift to me. I realize when He sends someone to me." As I was leaving, I gave her a happy D, as she didn't have any money. She thanked me over and over. As I thought about what she had said, that simple faith and beautiful trust, I remembered the verse that says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they know Me." John 10:27-28.