

A Few Ohio Colporteur Experiences

Part I

Melissa

A skeptical gentleman opened the door slowly and asked what I wanted. After showing him what I was doing, he said, "You need to talk to my wife." He led me through his house and out to the back porch to a party they were having. She was surprised to see me walk up, but was very friendly and we had a nice visit. She told me that she was a chaplain, so I showed her all of the books. Before I could say much about them, she quickly said, "I want these!" She chose *The Great Controversy*, *Desire of Ages* and *God's Answers* (excerpts from Bible Readings). Praise the Lord for even interrupting a party, to spread His truth to seeking souls!

No one answered my knock at the Saint Michael Catholic church. While walking away, I prayed, "Oh God, please let me talk to someone." Just then, a young man walked up to me and asked, "Do you need something?" I showed him the books, especially emphasizing *Desire of Ages*. "This one combines the four gospels into chapter form." I shared enthusiastically. "I enjoy how it brings out lessons to apply to my daily life." He was excited! "I'm studying to be a priest," he informed me. "So this takes the story of Jesus from the four gospels and puts them into chronological order?" he asked. "Yes!" I answered, "and it's my absolute favorite!" "I want this one." he stated, pulling out his wallet. Praise God, he got the *Desire of Ages*.

Robert

Eastern Kentuckians Baptists are definitely not the best authorities in other non-Christian religions. Growing up in a Baptist family, I am no exception to the rule. My first week of canvassing, shortly after becoming an Adventist, was definitely a new experience. One day, I found myself canvassing a protestant-looking older lady. After canvassing her on several message books, including the protestant canvass for the *Great Controversy*, I was promptly informed that she was a Buddhist! She wasn't interested in any of the books, so I asked some questions about her beliefs. We talked for a moment, and then I re-canvassed her on the *Great Controversy*, this time giving the more historical canvass. She thought her husband might be interested.

He walked by just then, and sat down on the patio chair. We began discussing history and religion, and after explaining what I was doing, he got the *Great Controversy*! After I left the home, I knew that the Lord had walked with me. He had prepared me and these people so that they might find the truth through the Lord!

On the second week of this summer, I had three days of one-book sales, and was in need of encouragement. The Lord provided it! After canvassing a couple on a cookbook, they became interested in my church affiliation. He was a Presbyterian pastor, and informed me that he was receiving SDA literature, and using it in his sermons! Their son is vegan, so they prepare him vegan meals whenever he comes to visit. This taught me an important lesson. Sometimes when we are out there alone, we forget that the Lord uses many different people to spread His truths—even those who are not Adventist.

Elisabeth

I had not sold anything all day, and we were in the "power hour"—our last hour of canvassing for the day. I wondered if God was trying to test me, to see if I could still happily go on without getting any books out. I was praying that if it was God's will, I would get at least one out. Soon I met a Catholic woman who had a Baptist brother trying to get her to study the Bible and go to his church. She was not sure if she wanted to go. I was impressed to show her *He Taught Love* (Portions of *Christ's Object Lessons*). "I want this one," she stated. Since she gave a larger donation, I gave her the *God's Answers*, also. She was so happy to get both of them and I'm hopeful that she will visit our church sometime! In Isaiah 65:24 it says, "And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer, and while they are yet speaking, I will hear." Praise the Lord, He answered my prayer!

Titus

On our first day of canvassing, I had gotten out a few *Happiness Digests* (*Steps to Christ*), but no books. My prayer was that someone would get all my message books and sign up for Bible Studies. I ran between every house, eager to reach my goal. Soon we were on our last street, with no books out and still no one wanting Bible studies.

At the next house, I prayed extra hard that the right person would come to the door. A young man answered my knock and stepped outside. He was the only Christian in his home! This gave me a good opportunity to show him the message books. Suddenly, before I could ask him, he asked ME if I knew anyone who could study the Bible with him so he would know the Bible better! He signed up for Bible studies and then purchased *The Great Controversy*, *Desire of Ages*, *Peace Above the Storm*, *He Taught Love*, and *God's Answers*!

God had answered my prayer all in one house by impressing this young man to sign up for Bible studies and to take all the message books! PTL! :-D

Miriam

The golden shafts of sunlight deepened more and more until they came directly from the gilded western horizon. While working, I prayed that God would help me live my life right.

Standing in the doorway of a cute house, I noticed my reflection in the glass storm door. The evening sun was touching my hair with gold and I began to feel a little vain. "Oh, when the lady comes to the door, she'll see my pretty hair." I thought. Just then, "Not I, But Christ, be seen, be known, be heard." flashed into my head. When I looked again, there was an ugly dead leaf stuck in my hair! God uses funny ways to teach us lessons.

David

Behold! What wonders God hath wrought! Being a canvassing leader has its benefits and lessons. It has greatly helped to increase my faith. When the students have been dropped off, I look for a place to pull over and pray for them, asking for a specific goal or blessing for that student. I continue to press that petition to the throne of God until I receive an answer. What a blessing it is to receive a call on the radio saying that he/she needs the exact amount of books that I had asked for them!

"Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24

One morning, a young man, very new to canvassing and to the precious truth contained in the books, was on my team. Knowing that the devil was not happy with his presence in our program, I prayed especially for him, asking God to help him have a three-book set. Within five minutes, this young man merrily radioed me asking for three slices of bread (books)! God is honored when He answers specific prayer. This way it is much harder to attribute it to happenstance. With joy, I delivered those books and praised God for both affirming the young man in canvassing, as well as affirming me in persevering prayer.

Paul

The Holy Spirit has power to convince men to change their minds and do the right thing. One day, Josh and I met a man, who, when we showed him the books, said he was not interested. So we tried to show him The Bible Story Company, who we were working with and dropped down to a *Happiness Digest*. He didn't look happy as he got up from his chair and headed toward the screen door. To my surprise, he said he would give us one dollar for the *Happiness Digest*! God is so good. We need to expect great things from him, even changing "Nebuchadnezzar's heart."

Andrew

My first day out, I canvassed a lady who said she didn't have money because she was trying to help her grandson find a job. I prayed with her and she started crying. "Here you are," she said, "praying for us, and we didn't get anything!" She went inside for some money and bought a *Happiness Digest*.

A few days later, I met a kind lady who bought two books from me. As I was leaving, she said, "Without you knowing it, you have been a blessing to me!" Praise God for the ways he allows us to bless other people's lives!

Jessica

An older gentleman was working in the yard, but I was a little hesitant to canvass him, because he didn't look friendly. After praying for courage, I walked up and began to canvass him on *Peace Above the Storm*. He flipped through the book and asked who I was with. After I told him that I was with the Bible Story Company, he asked what religion. "Seventh-Day Adventist Christian!" I answered with a smile. He closed the book and asked what I did on Saturdays. I told him we go to church and then do something as a family or with friends. He asked if we went to the grocery store, pharmacy or any other store on Saturday. I told him no, so he reached into his pocket and pulled out his wallet. "I respect people who follow their beliefs." he informed me, "so I'll buy one of your books."

Luke

My leader had been encouraging us to claim promises for quite some time. I try to claim a promise every day but on this particular day I forgot. When I finally remembered we were already out canvassing. "Why bother taking the time to look for something now?" I thought to myself. "I'm out working now." Soon I noticed that only a few books were going out and I might not reach my monetary goal. *Peace Above the Storm (Steps To Christ)* has inspirational bible quotes at the end of each chapter, so I scanned it and found a quote that applied to me. "I am the vine and you are the branches. He that abideth in Me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit for without Me ye can do nothing." John 15:5,6. I began to claim this promise and asked God to help me abide in Him. Every time I saw a plant with branches it reminded me to pray. Just as the branch could not produce fruit without being connected to the plant, I could not get books out unless I was connected to the true vine, Jesus. I ended up having a great day and reached my goal with the Lord's blessing. PTL! :-D

The Paint Shop Man, by Tralina

Benjamin Moore Paint Store was my next business to canvass, so I waited as one of the employees went to get the manager. I canvassed the manager on a cookbook and Peace

Above the Storm, but before I could finish, he raised up the cookbook and asked three of his employees to come and look. He named one of them in particular and told him that since he liked to cook that he needs this cookbook. I canvassed him on the cookbook, *Peace Above the Storm*, and the *Great Controversy*. He seemed very interested in the cookbook and the *Great Controversy*, but decided on the cookbook. Then he asked where I was going to college. "I'm studying to be a missionary overseas and want to share the health message, the eight laws of health and teach them about Jesus." I answered. He was very impressed with my future goals and gave me \$30. That was more than needed for the cookbook, so I tried to give him the *Great Controversy*.

"No, I don't want you to have to do that and get behind." he protested. "If I accept it, I'll feel like I need to pay more." "No," I assured him, "I really WANT you to have it. It is a gift from me, to you." Praise God, he accepted *The Great Controversy* and then shared something with me that I'll never forget. "I know that by me helping you, I will be helping tons and tons of other people when you go overseas and be a missionary."

That really impressed me that we are not an island—we all have an influence on one another even when we meet someone only briefly passing by or visiting only once in a paint shop. It reminds me of that Bible verse that says, "*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*" 1 Cor. 10:31.

Kimberly

On our fourth day of canvassing, I noticed a couple sitting in their backyard, enjoying a nice campfire. I felt strongly impressed to open the gate and ask if I could join them. They readily agreed and the gentleman brought me a picnic chair to join them. I started canvassing the cookbook, but emphasized the message books. They didn't have any objections to the books and were them, making comments to each other on how interesting the passages were. I prayed for the right time to close and they readily accepted to get all the message books! They encouraged and thanked me for coming.

This experience reminded me of the verse in Acts 18:10 "*For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.*" I was encouraged by the fact that God has many people in the city of Columbus, Ohio who are waiting for the message. It is our privilege to bring the precious truth to these hungry souls. I am so thankful to be a part of God's work in this city!