

A Few Ohio Colporteur Experiences

Part 2

Luke

One of my favorite books to get out is the *Great Controversy* because it contains so much truth for this time. On Wednesday, June 7, I set a goal for at least one *Great Controversy*. I prayed about it on the way to territory and asked my prayer partner to pray for it too. My leader, Paul, dropped me off and pointed out a large house for me to start at. I went up and talked to a man who was putting a painting in his car. I quickly showed him what I had and he decided to get the *Great Controversy* and *He Taught Love*. I was amazed at how soon God answered my prayer!

David

The great controversy rages on day by day. In canvassing, one gets the opportunity to see it, even at the doors. Once upon a program in Northwestern Arkansas, I was canvassing an upper-middle class neighborhood in the evening. A young man came to the door and immediately I could sense something special about him. I showed him the books and he was very interested in the *Great Controversy*. After giving him the suggested donation amount and after he had returned to the door with the donation, his mother came to the door. I could hear her pleading with her son NOT to get the book. Her pleadings were sincere. Hitherto this, the young man's face had a very friendly and charming atmosphere, yet now I could see it troubled. In my heart, I prayed for the young man battling with this decision. Steadily, yet burdened, the young man pulled himself to hand me the bill of money. After attempting to take the survey, I bid him goodnight and departed. I was surprised and sympathetic towards him and praised the Lord for this victory. Assuredly he was perplexed as to why he had received so much trouble over one book, but I know why. He had just won an important battle in the great controversy!

Andrew

Titus and I were working towards each other on a street of businesses. Earlier, Titus had canvassed a car lot, but the secretary wasn't interested and the owner was too busy to look at the books. So Titus went behind the car lot and started canvassing the businesses there. Meanwhile, I saw a dark storm coming in and decided to head for shelter. I crossed the railroad tracks and went into my next business—the same car lot, not knowing that Titus had been there already. Just then, my leader called and told me to stay inside my business because a storm was coming and it was time for lunch pick-up.

The secretary was telling me about the storm (there was a tornado near her house, only a few miles away) and never mentioned the fact that someone had been there already. A few minutes later, the storm hit with fury—dark, black clouds rolled in, the wind whipped through the trees, and rain came down in torrents. After making friends with the secretary, I had an opportunity to show her most of the books, and she ended up getting a cookbook and the *Great Controversy*! Just then, my leader showed up and we headed towards lunch. That's when Titus told me that he'd been there already! God sometimes even uses storms to get books into people's hands.

Elisabeth

Kristina asked who wanted to do businesses and Titus piped up, "Elisabeth Does!!!" Since I had never been put on businesses before, I was not sure about it and was a bit scared. Stepping out in faith, I decided to give them a try. The people were friendly, but only a few Happiness Digests had gone out and it was nearly time for pick-up. I prayed hard that God would allow me to get some books out before lunch.

I went into one business and barely had started canvassing a woman, when her husband called on her cell phone! "Oh no," I thought, "now she won't make time to talk to me." To my surprise, she told him that someone was waiting on her, and said goodbye! I was able to show her nearly all the books and she picked out three books. The *Great Controversy* was for her husband, who liked history, *God's Answers* was for herself, because she enjoyed the Bible, and *Secret Keys* was for her grandchildren! But then she discovered that her checkbook was left at home! Praise God, she was able to come up with cash for the books—truly God does hear and answer prayers!

Esther

Our leader dropped my prayer partner for the day, Luke Riseley, off to canvass a street with me. We were tied at 1 book each, so of course we were both eager to get more out. We bowed our heads for a prayer, and I specifically prayed that we each would get out 2 books, not because of our skill or because we deserved it, but because Jesus died for these people, and we want them to experience the joy of salvation and the knowledge of the Bible truths our books have to offer. The first house I knocked on, nobody was home; I turned to leave just in time to see the next door neighbor accidentally let his 2 poodles get out. The cute little dogs started running around me, and I helped him catch them. He then asked what I was doing, and I replied, "I'm doing an outreach project in the area, and I'll show you what we're doing." I then proceeded with my canvass. He decided to get the cookbook, but was decidedly not interested in any spiritual books. When he brought out \$25 for the cookbook, a plan began forming! That donation was enough to get 2 books! I wrote out the receipt for the cookbook, and also checked the *Great Controversy*! I handed the receipt, and also a copy of the "GC". I said,

"Thanks so much. This is a book on history for you! Have a wonderful day! Goodbye!" With that, I left so he couldn't hand the GC back.

At the same time, Luke also got 2 books out on his side of the street. What a blessing that God is faithful to reward the faith of us colporteurs!

Alex

I came to a door and the lady began saying, "NO, NO, NO!" as soon as she saw me. I just continued on, stating what I was doing then showing her both a cookbook and a message book. When I realized that she probably was not interested in helping me out, I showed her a little happiness digest, and canvassed her on it. She was still saying, "NO, NO, NO, NO", but when I mentioned that, "people have been helping out with a donation", she stopped saying no and said, "well I can do that." then she went out to her car, but her wallet wasn't there. She took me back to the apartment, and finally found her wallet. Surprise, surprise, it was right by the front door. She opened her wallet and she had maybe two fifties and some smaller change. Her attitude changed and she asked me what I had. I showed her all my books, and she ended up getting three books a Peace above the Storm(Steps to Christ), Great Controversy, and a healthy cookbook.

Another man told me that he did not have his wallet on him, so I dropped down to a happiness digest. He then said that he could probably help out with 10 dollars, and he pulled 20 dollars out of his pocket. I canvassed him on a few books and he got a Great Controversy and a He Taught Love(which is Christ's object Lessons).

The Minister's Wife, by Kimberly

It was early afternoon when I got to a small little church which was called the Bible Holiness Church. I knocked at the church door but nobody came to the door. So I went to a little house that was right by the church where a very pleasant looking lady with a child in her arms came to the door. As soon as I saw her I noticed her very conservative attire which helped me to recognize her as the pastor's wife.

I started to ask her questions about her church roots and her ministry which all she kindly answered. Then I started my canvass on the Kid's message set. As she was going through the books she asked me if this was something similar to Uncle Arthur's bedtime and Bible stories. I was very excited as I told her that this was a sample of Uncle Arthur's Stories. Apparently she grew up with the Uncle Arthur's stories from her childhood which her family used the books as their family devotions.

She readily agreed to get a 4 book set (all message books) 3 kid books and the Great Controversy for her husband. Before I left she gave me a nice cool bottle of water and a cup of water to my street partner.

I pray that the books that she got will help her and the family closer to heaven and to God's true remnant church.

4 Book Set, by Tralina

All week I was having excellent success in getting many books out and much donations coming in. Thursday came, our last day for the week. I was getting kind of puffed up in my own mind that I was doing pretty good and that I was alright. So, God instead taught me a big lesson this particular day. I got out absolutely no books out before lunch, but I was getting many Happiness Digests out.

Right before lunch I was able by the Lord's grace to get The Story Book out to a Pentecostal Pastor. A big storm came up right at the time for lunch pick up. As I was waiting in a gas station looking for my leader to pick me up and as I was watching the wind blow and the rain pour down in sheets, God spoke to my heart and told me, "See, it is not you that are getting these books into the peoples homes and businesses, but it is me. Tralina, you must always rely on me and trust in me- not in yourself."

After lunch I didn't get any books out all evening either, but that was ok with me. Then, 10 minutes before pick up for the day, I came to this certain house, and there was a man pulling out of the driveway in a van. He said, "If you would have come 3 seconds earlier I would have been here." I said, "Oh, ok, can I just show you real quick what I have?" He said sure, then he told me to go to the house and go around to the side and there will be a man and he will be really interested in what I was showing.

So I went to the side door of the house and sure enough, a man comes out. I told him that the man who just left said that he would be really interested in what I had. He was shocked and didn't really believe me. But I repeated it again and told him that the man in the van said the he would really like what I had. He then became very interested. I canvassed him on 3 books- a Cookbook, Peace Above the Storm, and The Great Controversy. He wanted them all. So he wrote out a check for over the amount that people usually give for 3 books. So I gave him a choice for a fourth book, either He Taught Love or the Desire of Ages. He picked the Desire of Ages.

As I was walking down their driveway the Lord impressed me again and said, "See, I am the One that makes you to prosper and grow." I love how God is so gentle and kind in rebuking me for not wholly trusting in Him and how He kindly leads us in the way of righteousness. This day really showed me how true John 15:5 is: "I am the vine, ye 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."