



Closed Doors

by Jean Easley

The travels of a missionary are sometimes perilous and often costly both on the mission field and on itineration. The price of one itineration trip proved to be well worth the cost as we learned an invaluable lesson about closed doors. The missionary always prays for open doors. If the churches will open the door to having the missionary come, he believes that the people will readily accept his burden for the field God chose for him and will help to support his work. A closed door, therefore, was not very welcome. Nobody likes a closed door.

We were living on the "Eastern Slope" of Colorado. Bro. Easley had been diligently filling our calendar with mission service dates, and we had been having very good, fruitful services, not only in Colorado but in other places as well. One weekend, however, proved to be very difficult, and, try as he might, Bro. Easley was unable to fill all the services. What's more, the service scheduled for that Sunday morning was about 450 miles away from our home, a long way to travel for one service.

But my husband was not one to cancel a hard-earned service, so we prayed and set out for the "Western Slope." On the way, the devil came along for the ride and tried to discourage my husband by saying how that the travel would cost more than the offering would be and how we were wasting missions money on this trip. Bro. Easley just shook off those thoughts and said we would go and pray and have a good service and not worry about the money--and see what the Lord would do for the people of the little community and little church of Dove Creek!

The Sunday morning service was a good service; there was a good spirit there; we had an altar call; and we were happy with the outcome. After church, the pastors asked where we would be for that Sunday evening's service, and Bro. Easley explained that for some reason he had just not been able to fill it. It was a dreaded closed door.

The pastor immediately said if we were free that he would like for us to stay and preach for him again Sunday night, and we happily agreed to stay. It was that Sunday evening service to which God made a special visitation! What a move of God we had during that service! We were so glad we were there, even though it was planned at the last minute. The Holy Spirit moved on all the people, and we remained in the altars for a good season of prayer.

We were having a bite to eat with the pastors after church, and the pastor joined us a little late and gave us our offering. He handed Bro. Easley the check and said, "I think this will help you on your way." Amazingly, from a very small congregation, the check was for \$1,106.00, the single biggest offering we had ever had up to that time! Praise God! The pastor told us later that a lady that had not attended the morning service was there that night and felt God leading her to give a big offering, which she did.

It was a very important lesson for us to learn about closed doors. We learned not to despise them. Because now when the doors close, we look to God to open the right door at the right time, as He did for us on that trip!

Yes, we had been taunted by the enemy on our way to Dove Creek. But when Monday morning came and we left there for the trip back home, the devil had to find another ride. He couldn't get in the car this trip. There was too much rejoicing in the Lord over victories won, and the devil doesn't like it when we rejoice in God!