

"KNOCKING ON DOORS FOR CHRIST"

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

If you are like most people, you have been reluctant to knock on doors to extend an invitation to accept the free gift of salvation or to attend worship services.

Several years ago there was a boy who was very shy and never went to a church service. The reason was that his parents, too, were very shy and so they never went to a church service.

Due to his father's employment, this family moved several times during the boy's school years. Because of this, he considered several different cities and states his home. Even though they lived in various places and had some really nice neighbors, **never ONCE did anyone ever knock on their door** and invite them to attend a church service. Due to their shyness they just never went.

The **basic reason for never going to a church** was that they did not know they were condemned sinners and hell-bound (Romans 3:23; 6:23). They had the idea that they had to be good moral people and this was all that was expected of them or anyone else to be saved from the devil.

One day the situation began to change. A person from the nearby Christian Church rang their doorbell. This individual extended a warm welcome to the community along with a hearty invitation to church services. The person even offered to stop by and drive them to the service and introduce them to some of the church members. The caller also left the family some Christian literature which taught on the subjects of sin, salvation, and being fruitful for the Lord.

To really add icing to the cake, the church member called the family the day before they were to ride to church together and invited them to supper. This really helped in overcoming the shyness problem.

The family not only attended that Sunday morning, but also Sunday evening, and became "regulars" at the mid-week service. It was not very long until the family of three gave their hearts to the Lord Jesus and were baptized together for the "forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

There was indeed joy in the heart of the one who "knocked on their door." In fact, his only regret (and the only regret of the family of three) was that someone had not "knocked" sooner. The next "Fall" the boy enrolled in a Christian College. Today he is a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The father and mother also overcame their shyness and now serve as Bible School teachers in the local congregation in addition to service in the weekly church visitation program.

Now, I'm not saying that every door you knock on will meet with such a positive response, but let's not think that behind every door is a big bad wolf just waiting to consume us either.

There are many people just waiting like the family mentioned here. Indeed, God needs people just like you to accept the call to "seek them out." Will you do this for Jesus?

Seemingly, teachers of false doctrines, cults, and sects are always running way ahead of us when it comes to zealous door knocking. May we return to the Biblical way of evangelizing (see Acts 5:42). Once again, **will YOU accept the call** to be a "door knocker" for our Lord Jesus Christ?

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