
The Story of Jesus

Published By Evangelist Van Billingsley

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A Door of Utterance

"Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:" — Colossians 4:3

As was Paul's desire, we stand in need of your intercessory prayers that God may open doors for our evangelism and for our deputation. It is only the steps which are ordered by the Lord that I wish to take, and we seek His direction every step of the way. Our sermon in this edition deals with the open door God has placed before us!

A Great Door

by Evangelist Van Billingsley

But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost. For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries. — 1 Corinthians 16:8,9

In verse eight Paul tells the Corinthians he will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost, then in verse nine he tells them why. The reason is a door that has opened unto him. He describes this as a great door. God used this passage to speak to my heart while praying about His direction for me in the ministry this past year. I learned a long time ago, concerning God's will in the ministry, to stay busy doing what God places before you and to trust God to open and close doors along the way. While praying diligently about His direction in my ministry and for open doors in my evangelism as we brought



the mission church to a close, I was contacted by my friend in the ministry about doing tent meetings with church planters. While troubled by the poor use of full-time evangelists in our area and other barriers to open doors to serve in the Bible belt, I was presented with a need in other areas; I was presented with the

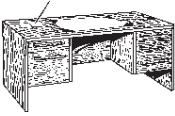
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Our Ministry News...

From the Desk of the Editor



If you have missed the news about the transition and changes in our ministry, I encourage you to check out both our summer and fall newsletters from 2011. These newsletters as well as other information can be found on our website. If you've missed this, in a nutshell, we are no longer operating a mission church and we are raising funds for a gospel tent and the related equipment for a tent ministry. The tent ministry will be a joint ministry with the Paul Redmond family, missionary evangelists to church planters, and will involve certain portions of the year. Other than this, we are continuing and expanding all other areas of our own missionary evangelism and I am currently doing deputation while also doing as much of this work in the field as possible.

The timing of this transition has been difficult for several reasons. Doing deputation for home mission work in our present economy is challenging to say the least. We began this move into deputation heading into the holiday season, which presented its own difficulties. Additionally, I find myself scheduling dates, with those willing to do so, for a year or more down the road at a stage when many missionaries would be still working

their full-time secular job, but I am already full-time in the ministry with very little support. With all these barriers, I have found many of the churches I've visited are more of a candidate for our help as a missionary evangelist than they are a candidate to support our ministry. This shows the need for the ministry we are striving to fulfill. In fact, the first church to add us for support during the transition was a church we helped plant doing our missionary evangelism. Through all this, God has been faithful!

At the time of penning these words, we are anticipating the sale of the bus used for the mission church which will provide funds for the RV conversion we need. When sold, this will provide a portion of the funds needed, but we must still raise additional funds to meet this need. We are trusting God to supply this need in His timing and we believe God's people will be used to meet this need. Your prayers are greatly needed and appreciated in this matter! We also must raise funds for the tent and trailer, but in an almost literal sense, we need the horse before we get the cart.

I have a busy spring and summer scheduled, but only God knows how the funds to pay the cost will be provided. The support is not yet there to cover our cost. The support needs

chart printed in our fall newsletter will be repeated below. We are still working toward stage one of our monthly support. This means funds must come from either extra love offerings or earned by pulling aside to find occasional secular labor. Please pray for this ministry, our safety, and the needs we face!

A Servant of Christ
Evangelist Van Billingsley

Our Support Needs:

Monthly Support

Our monthly support is divided into three stages:

1. *Required amount to survive while doing full-time ministry and deputation.*
2. *Amount to begin traveling with tent ministry.*
3. *Full support*

Small Bus / Motorhome Tent and Trailer

(...from cover) -- **"A Great Door"**


reality that there are struggling and lonely church planters who need help and that a tent meeting would be a great asset to those who have limited space to meet, who have out of the way facilities and many times have rental facilities only available on Sunday mornings. As I prayed about this possibility, the Lord placed this passage on my heart telling me there was a great and effectual door opened unto me.

I would like to point out three important aspects to this verse. First we see an **Opportunity**. An open door is a metaphor expressing an opportunity. We often speak of doors being opened or closed referring to whether an opportunity exist or does not exist, and a closed door referring

to an opportunity that has passed. This is not always a clear discerner of God's will in our life; we must be certain it is He who has opened a door. When we know God has opened the door, we know that it is a great door that is opened. When God opens a door to an area of service, we can be certain that this is a great opportunity.

Paul further describes this great door as an effectual door. This word "effectual" in our Bible is translated from that which we get our word "energy." It speaks of power, an activity, work, business or labor. This speaks of the **Operation** to be done. When a door is opened, it is time to get busy. We must get about the operation before us. We can expect

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hard work to lie ahead. An open door does not mean an easy road. It means there is much work to be done.

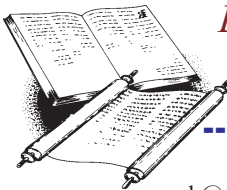
Then Paul declares the reality that there are many adversaries. Here we see the **Opponents** to our open door. These are described as many. The obvious opponents are those people and other forces who do not want us serving God. There are many who are opposed to the Gospel message. They call Christianity a religion of hate because it condemns wickedness. They call it intolerant because we say Jesus is the only way to God or to heaven. They say it is cruel because we preach on hell and speak of judgement. When we go to a town with false religions and churches without the gospel and we preach salvation, they become offended that we say they need something they do not have. They become offended that we say there is a problem with their lifestyle without

Christ. People will certainly oppose us, but our opposition goes further than people. Often circumstances and situations will oppose us. There are many obstacles and barriers such as getting support, our economy, dealing with doubt, dealing with our flesh, facing discouragement and so forth. All these things present themselves as opposition to our open doors in God's work.

This verse tells us there is an opportunity to do something for God. It tells us there is an operation to be done which will require much work and energy; much effort must be given to do this work. Then it tells us there will be opposition to this work, but we must not forget it is God who has opened this door to do this work for Him. There is a great and effectual door opened unto us, but there are many adversaries.

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(706)585-2026 • (334)644-4913

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vanb@mindspring.com • <http://www.sojministries.com>

1906 South First Avenue, Lanett, Alabama 36863

Working out of

Oakside Baptist Church - LaGrange, Georgia