

DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY



By Tom Waters

HERE we are already launching into a new year—a year full of the doors of opportunity! All of us here at Restoration International are excited about the opportunities of service, partly because of what God is calling us to personally, and also because of what we've seen God doing in the lives of others. We want to share one of the many doors of opportunity God opened this past year that testify to His ways and means to accomplish His will.

It all started with an invitation to do a ***Marriage—Heart to Heart*** seminar and a heartfelt desire to reach out to the community. Kirk & Maryann had a burden from the Lord for their town. As a businessman in the community, Kirk had begun to realize that a very high number of customers he was seeing for repeat business were getting divorces. Little did he know, while his burden increased, that this community had the second-highest divorce rate in the nation.

As Kirk & Maryann prayerfully searched for the right place to hold the series of meetings they seemed to hit a brick wall. In their extremity they prayed for God to open the way and show His hand. This is exactly what the Lord wants us to do. He invites, “Call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me.” Psalm 50:15. This is where it gets exciting! The town mayor got involved. A Christian himself, he wanted this seminar for his community, and in a short time, finding a facility was no longer a problem. Influence is a power, and what a blessing when we can see God using it in higher places under His divine guidance. A lovely college auditorium was made available for the seminar.

Then a prominent local pastor from another denomination got involved and invited Kirk to come to his church and as many other church congregations as possible to give personal invitations to attend the seminar. Soon a local marriage counseling agency got

the album “Marriage—Heart to Heart”, listened to it, and told their clients they needed to attend the seminar as part of their recovery. Flyers started going up in town. The newspaper called Kirk & Maryann for a front-page interview, and a week before the seminar, did a feature story with Alane and me. It seemed that the whole town came alive to this door of opportunity. When the Christian TV station became aware of the focus of this community outreach, they hosted a half-hour interview with Kirk & Maryann. When we arrived in town, we also enjoyed the opportunity to participate in a one-hour television interview. What a blessing in both interviews to be able to share the powerful principles that God has in His Word for marriages and families!

The day before the seminar we met with the mayor of the town. As we were being seated, I noticed a Bible laying open on his desk. I wondered if he really used that Bible, or if it was something there just to “look good” but the fact that it was open made me desirous to know if he really read it. So, during our conversation I commented on the Bible. What a delight to all of us as he immediately began to share with us how important the Bible was to him. He told us that it was his source of wisdom in dealing with the complexities he faced in being the mayor. He wanted us to know that he began every business day with his staff reading from it and praying with them.

We invited him to introduce the seminar to the community on opening night and he said he would consider it a privilege. Before we left his office, he asked if we could have a special prayer together. He prayed a beautiful prayer for the needs of his divorce-plagued community and God’s blessing on the seminar.

It was also encouraging to see the Lord providing even in the little details. Kirk & Maryann were pleased when they saw how nice the auditorium was. It had a large stage with a variety of elegant background curtains, a beautiful grand piano, and a rich looking pulpit, but something was still lacking. It needed a touch of greenery and flowers to add warmth to the atmosphere. Kirk went to the local nursery where he had done previous business to rent some plants. The person he talked with there was interested in what he was doing. After he shared with them about the seminar, they said he could take all the plants and flowering shrubs he wanted at no charge. God was working on the heart of person at the nursery in at least two ways. First, the interest in the seminar and secondly, the personal influence as a Christian businessman Kirk had in the community.

Another exciting providence was the blessing of Edgemont Video Productions being there to shoot the seminar for DVD production, which will be available soon. This opens up a new opportunity for groups and churches to have the seminar when it might not be possible to schedule us personally and it could be your door of opportunity to reach out to your neighbors and community. How good the Lord is! His ways are higher, His plans are bigger, His resources unlimited as we come to Him in faith.

Many times God uses the simplest transactions to make a strong impression, which will later, as in this case, open the way for His further purposes. How are we representing the Lord in the daily **doors of opportunity** we encounter? We are told, “In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.” Ecclesiastes 11:6.

What a joy to our hearts to see more than twenty couples of various faiths come together and open their hearts to the only solution in having a heart to heart marriage. Christ is the power of the gospel and a transforming power to every marriage where there is a willingness to be changed.

The apostle Paul encourages us, “Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men.” Galatians 6:9 & 10. So let’s be faith-full in this New Year. **As God presents the doors of opportunity, beginning in our own homes, let’s make the most of them**, united to His enduring strength. May God be our ever-present help, the source of all our wisdom and the power of our resolves for the new year. And may we each one not just look for, but be a part of hastening the coming of Jesus in the clouds of glory!