

WHY CONTINUE TO PREACH?



How does Jehovah help us in our ministry? Holy Spirit assists us: Jesus emphasized the close link between God's spirit and the preaching work. **Acts 1:8**

When the first-century Christian congregation was persecuted, the brothers prayed to God for help to keep speaking his word with all boldness. Jehovah answered their prayer, infusing them with his spirit and giving them the zeal and determination needed to keep on preaching. As a result, they continued without letup boldly declaring the good news. **Acts 4:29,31**

He also gives us the Angels to support us: **Rev 14:6,7**. This shows that the preaching work of Jehovah's Witnesses has got angelic backing and direction. Jehovah is using his angels to direct interested people to his Witnesses, or vice-versa, they guide the Witnesses to such ones.

Experiante 1: In Brazil, a group of Witnesses were completing their house-to-house calls one Sunday when one of the group said: "I want to continue working a while. For some reason I want to go to that house." The one leading the group suggested that they leave it for another day, but the publisher insisted. At that door the Witness found a woman who, with tears streaming down her face, said that she had just been praying for help. She had previously been contacted by the Witnesses but had not shown interest in the Bible's message. However, the sudden death of her husband had made her realize her need for spiritual help. She had looked for the Kingdom Hall, but in vain. She had been praying to God for help, and now it was at her door. Not long thereafter she was baptized. She was convinced that God had heard her prayer and had taken the needed action to provide an answer.

Question: Who do you think sent the publishers to her house?

Experiante 2: Ann-Marie, was suicidal because of suffering vicious treatment by her husband. “I decided to end my life,” she explains, “but for some reason I decided to pray to God first. I remember saying, ‘Why can’t you help me? For so long I have hoped in you, but to no benefit.’ I concluded my prayer thinking there was no purpose to life, so I might as well be dead. At that moment there was a knock on the door. I decided to ignore it, hoping that whoever was there would eventually go away.

“The knocking persisted, and I grew agitated. I wiped away my tears and went to see who was at the door, hoping to free myself quickly so that I could do what I intended. But,” Ann-Marie says, “thanks to Jehovah, it did not happen that way, for when I opened the door, I found two women standing there. True, I was very confused, and I did not really understand what they were saying. But they offered me a book that would explain that life has a purpose. It was just what I needed to rekindle my interest in life.” Her visitors arranged a regular Bible study with her. Ann-Marie learned to become a friend of God, which in turn, gave her a purpose in life. Now she helps others develop trust in God.

Question: Who do you think sent the publishers to her house?

We should not be discouraged by not-at-homes or those who are not interested in our message. Even if 80% of our visits were not-at-homes, and 20% were not interested, we still have many reasons to be joyful. Primarily, because we are pleasing Jehovah. Also, we are helping the angels determine the condition of people's hearts.

Take a typical day in field service.

At the first door we go to, after we knock, a woman peeks through the window, sees us, but has never wanted to talk to us, so she doesn't answer the door. We note it as a not-at home, leave a tract, which the woman rips up. The angels make note of the condition of the woman's attitude.

At the second door we knock at, no one is home since the husband and wife are both at work, as they always are; but we leave a tract. That night when the couple gets home and sees the tract, a conversation begins. "Those Witnesses were by our house today. They sure are persistent. I wonder why they call so often?" The angels are watching and make note of this.

At the third door we knock at, no one answers. This is because the woman at the first house called her friend at the third house and warned her that we were coming. She says: "Wow, those Witnesses sure are persistent. They just don't give up." We note it as a not-at home and leave a tract. Being curious, she reads it and thinks, "this is actually interesting. Next time my friend calls me, I will ignore her." Again the angels see this.

We knock at the fourth house and no one is home. However, a lady across the street sees us. The Witnesses had knocked at her door last week, but she cleared us off. She says to herself: "Those Witnesses sure are persistent; but I must say, they are always very well dressed. Even their children are well behaved. Maybe I should listen to them the next time they knock at my door." Again, the angels make note of it.

We knock at the fifth house, and again, no one is home. But a council truck passes by. The driver tells his co-worker: "There go those Witnesses again. Actually, aren't they the ones that don't accept blood transfusions?" The driver replies: "Yes. You know, there was something on the news the other day about doctors now saying that surgery without blood is best. How did them Witnesses know that?" Once more, the angels make a note of this.

So at just these five houses, there may have been five not-at-homes marked down, **but look at the different attitudes and circumstances the angels were able to observe.** Now imagine how many of these same scenarios they observe being played out around the world each and every day. How important it is that we be in the ministry to help our angelic brothers take note of the responses we receive at the doors.

