

COLPORTEUR REPORT—PATERSON

Our recent colporteur efforts have been in the Paterson area in cooperation with the class there. A new experiment was tried—the four of us staying in an apartment, furnished by the Lord’s opening the hearts and hands of the Brethren. During our stay, from the middle of August to the beginning of December, 383 First Volumes, 3 Fifth Volumes, and 10 Tabernacles were placed. Also, a complete set of Volumes was placed.

Near the end of our efforts, some of us tried a combination of the Tabernacle and paper-cover First Volume. This appealed to several ministers. Also, one man brought an old red copy of the Millennial Dawn to show us that his mother had received our book from a colporteur in Brother Russell’s day. He was very interested in the differences between the Jehovah’s Witnesses and the Bible Students. He readily accepted the Tabernacle because of its author being Brother Russell and its discussion of consecration.

Colporteuring a large project, we came across some Jehovah’s Witnesses. One was especially interested in us, seeing our similarities. We discussed for about an hour and upon her request, we made a future appointment. Later that day we met her on the street and she called a Jehovah’s Witness truck driver over to speak to us. We discussed lively topics...the name of “Jehovah,” the organization, etc. When we went for the appointment, she was not there, so we returned the next day and talked to her for a few hours. She was not a baptized Jehovah’s Witness and used this as an excuse when she had no answers. It was a good experience and we left her, we hope, with food for thought, by our words, as well as “the Grace of Jehovah” booklet. Unfortunately, she wouldn’t take the First Volume, and she could not see why we didn’t meet with the organization. This was a good lesson to us...that the Truth in its purity must always be first in our hearts and minds.

Colporteuring as a possible future career has lately become a consideration of some of the younger Bible Students. Because of a school holiday, two junior members, Diane Wasilewski and Ruth Koterba, spent a colporteur day with us. We called on members of a housing project—the girls said that their biggest lesson was how few people showed any kind of interest. They were surprised at the rudeness of some and the various living conditions they encountered.

After following the four colporteurs around for a good part of the day, the two girls decided that they would like to try their hands at it. Armed with books, tracts, spiels learned, and one colporteur each, they set out to become official “speaking” colporteurs. They were very thrilled being able to give a general introduction to the book, placing three volumes, and becoming personally involved in the witnessing. We were all impressed with their “beginners” zeal and their willingness to call on and talk to people. They renewed our “tired” spirits and we were encouraged by remembering that we can’t expect all to have a ‘hearing ear’ like the true wheat.

We called on one woman that was having a study with a Jehovah’s Witness at that moment. The Witness answered all the questions for the woman...saying that they were very involved in study and couldn’t bother to listen. We left discouraged and wondered what we could have said more effectively on behalf of the Truth.

Perhaps the greatest blessing anyone in the Truth can receive is encountering a spark of interest after placing literature. Such was our blessing with one young couple. Former Catholics, they treasured the sincerity shown by the Jehovah’s Witnesses. Yet, still they searched for something more satisfying to their whetted spiritual appetites. They now own and have read the First and Second Volumes and the booklet “The Grace of Jehovah,” as well as obtaining “Little Foxes and Little Lambs” and the “Ten Camels” for their small son. We have since had the privilege of spending several evenings with them and with their Jehovah’s Witness friend discussing various differences between that organization and the Truth. Lord willing, we hope to reap many more joys by pursuing this blessed friendship.