

## **When Christ Opened a Door for Me**

### **BY RICHARD VINYARD**

For years, as I read the scriptures and studied them, I wondered what had become of the power of God as manifested in the lives of the Disciples. When I was saved, the thing that appealed to me most was the ministry of deliverance and healing. I sought all the information I could obtain from older brethren. However, when I expressed my feeling and desires, I was told to be cautious, that I would destroy my ministry, if I became too strong on divine healing.

#### **SOFT PEDAL HEALING**

Therefore, listening to those whom I had counseled with, I put on a soft pedal and taught it only as a believer's privilege. But, being stirred as I read the Word, time came when I had a nervous breakdown and, on visiting a physician, was told that only a six months' rest could help me. Since I had no money and was unable to preach or work, I threw myself on the mercy of God and, in desperation, sought His face and He healed me. Within three weeks' time I had the best health I had had in years. However, as time went on, I found myself hungry for more of God's truth and power, but could find no one who could teach me properly.

I then heard of Reverend William Branham, was shocked at the statements made about him, and staggered at the thought of seeing anything like it! Yet had such a burning desire to see it. I was invited to co-operate with one of his meetings, his first visit to Kansas City. Needless to say, I was glad to be invited. When I saw the power of God so marvelously manifested through his life, I said to myself, "I have always believed this is the way it should be and that this is God's plan."

#### **TEEN-AGE COMMENTS**

I then cried out to God to forgive me of my shortcomings and to heal my body of other afflictions, as I believed! God healed me again. Praise His Name Forever! The thing that stirred me most was on Sunday morning when I was visiting the departments of my Sunday school and overheard my teen-age boys talking of Brother Branham's ministry and I stopped, where they could not see me, and I listened to learn what impression the meetings were making on my boys.

After much praise of Brother Branham and his work, one of the boys said, "I believe Brother Vinyard can do the same! Isn't he God's servant too?"

That cut my heart. I could no longer stand on the sideline and listen. I went in among them to face their feelings. One of them challenged me with the words, "Why don't you do these things? Don't you believe in Christ too?"

I made a confession that day that was hard to make but honest. "I was not where I should be with God," was the only answer I could find. On one side I faced The Word; on the other side, lives which I was to influence. I asked them to pray for me, as I intended to meet the conditions. One of my boys said, "I know you will make it." He had confidence in me. I was deep in thought and concern for days after.

## **FELT DISSATISFIED**

Two months passed with seeming fruitlessness and I again became restless and dissatisfied with my ministry, feeling that I was a complete failure. In June of that year, God awakened me one morning at four o'clock and began to speak to me. He told me He had seen the longing of my heart all those years and that, from that day on He would give me a ministry of healing and wherever I should go, people would believe when I prayed and He would heal them.

I well knew the voice of God, for I had heard it many times in the past years in His ministry, in my call to preach His Word, to build a church and a parsonage and to give when He wanted something of my life. I was sure! There was now no doubt in

my mind. I knew it was God! I slept no more that day, but pondered these things and wondered how it would all begin.

The next Sunday morning on my way to church the Lord told me to tell my people what had happened. That morning I preached on healing and told my congregation what the Lord had revealed to me. I then prayed for the sick and many were healed by His power. From that day on, God began to move in my life. Doors opened everywhere. From June through September I was kept busy preaching in local churches, praying for the sick, and seeing God heal them. The first "stone blind" man I ever prayed for was healed on the spot and still sees today. Praise God! LOVED HIS CHURCH

I was very happy in my church, loved my people and had no thought of leaving them. However, on my vacation I went East for a revival with old friends of mine, never thinking God was leading me out to the evangelistic field. In the third week of that meeting Christ again appeared to me, in person, and asked me if I would go to the Eastern part of the United States and minister for Him. I did not want to give up my church and told Him how dearly I loved my people. He then said, "Would you love these people for me, as you love your church?" I answered, "I don't know anyone out here, and no one knows me." He replied, "I set before you an open door, and no man can close it." With tears streaming down my face I said, "Yes, anything Lord, anything!"

I wondered what my wife would say when I told her what had happened but, before I could tell

her anything, she came to me and said, "God has called you to leave your church, and to give your life to the healing ministry!"

### **INVITED TO SPEAK**

The next day we were visited by a Dean of a Bible school and invited to speak at a convention. I made no promise but said I would pray about it. I waited upon God and He said, "Go!" With fear and trembling, I obeyed. The principal speaker was asked to step aside and give me the meeting. Graciously, he did so. I felt embarrassed, but God said, "I am with you!" From the first night God did great and mighty things in answer to prayer. The convention closed and I went back to my church, after a month's absence, to tell them of the great results and to praise God.

I was home only two days when I received a call from New York City. I then did not know a soul in New York and thought, "Who can that be?" It was a pastor whom I had never met, inviting me for a meeting. I hardly knew what to say. But I again heard the Lord say, "This is an open door." Therefore, I accepted the invitation and, from that day to this, God has confirmed His promise, performing all manner of great miracles and healings wherever I have ministered, whether in large or small churches.

**HE IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, AND TODAY, AND  
FOREVER!**

We have seen thousands come to Christ, and find Him as their personal Savior and Baptizer and churches have been brought into existence, as a result of my answering the call from God.

**TO HIM BE ALL THE GLORY—FOREVER!**

Excerpt by Healing and Revival Press 2005. Taken from "Men Who Heard From God" by Gordon Lindsay published in 1953. Minor typographical and language corrections made.