



GREAT CONTROVERSY PROJECT NEWS

HOPE INTO EVERY HOME

December 15, 2011

Interview with Delbert W. Baker



You were just starting your work at the General Conference when you were assigned to lead the Great Controversy Project. How did you feel at that moment?

I had no concept of the vastness of the program; how big it would be, how huge. Initially, I saw it as being simply a project. After getting into it, I see it as more of a calling. It is God-ordained and providential for this time.

I anticipate two impact waves: The first will be among those who read the book and are immediately impressed with the message and the beauty of it. They will be attracted to Christ and His church right away. Others will take time. They'll have to see the final events described in the book take place before they're moved. So we'll see a double impact: some initially, others down the line.

How would you describe the current state of the project?

We're in a moment of transition. I commend everyone for a rich, full, successful year with the Great Controversy Project. This year has been about

raising interest and preparing for distribution. With the incredible support of church leaders and members at all levels we have built a support system for this project and provided the tools for it to run smoothly over the next two years. Now we're entering the period of implementation, when the actual distribution starts. The books are being printed. They'll be rolling off the presses around the world by the millions. We have already heard many great stories of the impact of *The Great Controversy* in individuals' lives. God has been really good. As this project progresses, I expect we'll hear many, many more great stories.

Do you have a special message for the leaders throughout the world who've been working on this?

I thank them for their tremendous dedication, vision, and the creative ways they have devised to distribute *The Great Controversy* in their territories. We quickly saw that there was no one way to do this. Every division has developed the project in its own unique, indigenous way. One of the major reasons this program has enjoyed so much success is that we have let people do it their way. So I thank the leaders for their great vision and support in getting it off the ground. I also want them to know that we're praying for them as they begin

the work of distributing the book in their territories. We're waiting to hear the stories.

Is there anything you'd still like to ask of God on behalf of this project?

My request would be that He blesses our efforts with many souls added to His kingdom. I would also ask Him to give each of us the strength and wisdom to meet the challenges that will inevitably arise. This book strikes at the heart of the enemy's territory. The devil will do everything in his power to obstruct and disrupt our efforts. But God is far greater than Satan, so I anticipate that we'll see great progress as a result of the Great Controversy Project.

Delbert W. Baker | GCP Coordinator

The Great Controversy Over a Pen

One of the most eye-opening days of my canvassing experience was last summer when the great controversy was played out right before my eyes. We were canvassing on the second street of the day and the second house on that street. I found myself standing in front of the home of a 30-year-old man and his two children. I made my presentation to the man, but he didn't want any books. I pleaded with him to at least get *The Great*

Controversy and *The Man of Peace* (*The Desire of Ages*), but something seemed to be holding him back. I urged him a third time, and he finally agreed to buy four books (including *The Great Controversy*).

He invited me into his home and asked me to sit down as he looked for his wallet. After five minutes of searching, he came back with his wallet and debit card in his hand. Then he asked me for a pen to fill out his information on my receipt, but I didn't have one. He went back for another five minutes to look for a pen. When he found it, I gave him the receipt to fill out his debit card numbers, but the pen began to act funny. Every time he tried to write the numbers on the receipt, the pen wouldn't work. He kept trying, but it wouldn't write.

I suggested he try writing on the blank paper next to him, which he did, and it wrote perfectly. Then he went back to the receipt, and it stopped. We looked for other pens, but found none. Finally, I asked him if I could write down his debit card numbers. I prayed, asking God to let the pen work, and it worked perfectly! I saw how the devil was trying to prevent the truth from reaching this house. But God blessed in the end.

~Christian | Student Literature Evangelist, Michigan Conference

Reprinted from the book *One more Door, One more Story*.

Experiences with *The Great Controversy*

I was selling books one morning in a business district and canvassed a gangster and his friend (seriously). They tried to give me less than the

actual price for *The Great Controversy*, but I was persistent, and they finally bought the book . . . and ended up giving me an additional donation. As I walked away he was reading the book in the street.

Another time I walked to an apartment, and saw a young woman (late teens or early 20s) sitting on the steps. As I spoke to her I found out that she wasn't married, that she had a 5-year old son, and that she was living with her boyfriend. She never finished high school, and didn't have enough money to buy food. She started crying when I told her that God cared about her. She said she was agnostic and didn't believe in a God who cared about her. "How could He," she sobbed, "when I'm going through so much in my life?"

I shared with her the chapters in *The Great Controversy* about why God allows suffering. She started crying all the more and hugged the book. I tried to show her other books, but she wouldn't take anything but *The Great Controversy*.

She didn't have money for the book, so I gave it to her. As I canvassed the other doors in the apartments, I saw her still sitting on the steps, completely absorbed in the book.

Danielle Perez | Student, SOULS WEST

A Thought from *The Great Controversy*

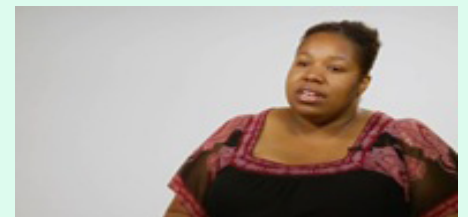
The spirit of Christ is a missionary spirit. The very first impulse of the renewed heart is to bring others also to the Saviour. Such was the spirit of the Vaudois Christians. They felt that God required more of them than merely to preserve the truth in its purity in their

own churches; that a solemn responsibility rested upon them to let their light shine forth to those who were in darkness; by the mighty power of God's word they sought to break the bondage which Rome had imposed (p. 70).

Sixty Seconds of Hope: Carol Brown

"Men are not to be left in darkness concerning this important matter; the warning against this sin is to be given to the world before the visitation of God's judgments, that all may know why they are to be inflicted, and have opportunity to escape them" (*The Great Controversy*, p. 449).

Click on the image below to hear how this statement gives Carol hope.



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