

God Opened the Door!

One of our national leaders had a vision that we should hold a mass crusade in the large national cricket stadium. Because of political and religious tensions in the country, I knew it was impossible unless God opened the door. We stood back in amazement as God opened one door after another. My landlord was a highly placed police official. When asked if such a meeting was feasible in Pakistan, his reply was, "I don't see why not. In fact, my best friend is the stadium manager; why don't you let me write a letter of introduction to him."

God opened the door for an apostolic preacher to minister in the crusade. I phoned Brother Billy Cole to invite him, and without any hesitation at all, he said, "Brother Shalm, I will be there." Brother Doug Klinedinst accompanied him and preached the last night.

God opened the door to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, who gave us permission to use the grounds and a contingent of fifty police officers for protection. For use of a stadium that normally cost \$7,000 per day for a cricket match, he said there would be no charge.

God opened the door to two federal cabinet minister's offices and the parliamentary secretary for foreign affairs. Their presence brought extra security and 90 minutes of news coverage for three nights, showing people receiving the

Holy Ghost and healing on the 9 o'clock news. This reached not only the 140 million Muslims in Pakistan, but 28 neighboring nations as well. Most of them were Muslim countries where it is against the law to preach or own a Bible. In several of these countries, there is not a single Christian church of any denomination.

God opened the door for finance. Ten thousand dollars raised at the previous General Conference in America was designated for the Pakistan crusade. In Pakistan, a nation where the average income is approximately the equivalent of one dollar a day, \$11,000.00 was raised for the crusade.

God opened the door to the hearts of the people. In a nation where the United Pentecostal Church was an outcast because of our doctrine, God opened the hearts of nominal Christians and Muslims towards us. The crusade was featured in consecutive issues of the largest Christian-owned news magazine. Nominal Christians paid for and erected a large billboard at the city's main intersection, advertising the crusade.

A conservative estimate of seventy five thousand people gathered over three nights, and of the forty-thousand on the last, only 2000, or five percent, were actually members of the United Pentecostal Church. At least ten thousand were Muslims, most hearing the Gospel for the first time in their lives.

God opened the door and no one could shut it. When Satan tried to close the door with three massive violent political demonstrations in our city during the three days of our crusade, and a shutdown of all public transport, God kept the doors open through fasting and prayer.

God opened the doors and windows of Heaven. On the second night alone, three thousand people received the Holy Ghost. Thousands were healed as God opened blind eyes, deaf ears, mute mouths and paralyzed legs. As cameras recorded the scene, God opened a Muslim woman's hand that had been tightly clenched and paralyzed for twenty-eight years. A Muslim man who had been brought to the meeting on a stretcher, paralyzed as a result of a brain aneurysm, came bounding to the front of the tent, proclaiming loudly that he had been healed.

Our second crusade was held in the city of Islamabad, with Brother David Murphy. We arranged to use a huge sports ground, and had already set up the tent, sound system, and platform, when 24 hours before the first meeting was to begin, the State Bank of Pakistan called to say that the ownership of the land was in dispute and even though we had police and city permission, they could not allow us to use the field. All the equipment was taken down. While the local pastor worked on making alternate arrangements, Brother Murphy, his team, and my wife and I went to prayer. The next morning a nominal Christian man

who worked at the State Bank head office was able to get us an interview with the Bank President. After an hour of waiting for their decision, they called us in and said we could go ahead and use the sports field. Our men quickly reassembled the tent and at 6 o'clock the meetings began.

God opened the door and blessed mightily. Crowds of 6,000, 10,000 and finally 20,000 gathered. Approximately 500 people received the Holy Ghost and many miracles of healing were testified to.

God opened the door with finance for our third crusade. From the time of the first crusade, our pastors in Karachi, a city of 14 million people, had been requesting that we hold a similar crusade there. Due to a lack of finance, we had been unable to do so, but 2001 was the year of the *"Follow the Fire"* crusades, and as \$20,000 was generously donated by burdened people in North America for a crusade in Pakistan, the decision was made to hold it in Karachi.

God opened the door to healing. Brother Douglas Klinedinst and Brother Bentley Ball came as the speakers. There had been a tremendous spiritual attack against the church, and many people from around the world joined us in prayer. It was immediately following this that we held our crusade in Karachi. With crowds of 10,000 on the first night, 18,000 on the second night and 25,000 on the last night, the Lord poured out a spirit of healing, and many outstanding miracles took place. Wheelchairs and crutches were brought to the front by

people who no longer needed them. A wonderful spirit of worship engulfed the entire congregation on the last night. Once again we witnessed three thousand people being filled with the Holy Ghost in a single service.

The pastors in Lahore approached me about having our fourth crusade there. Brother Jamali, our assistant superintendent, went to the manager of a large outdoor arena, and told him we wanted to hold a large Christian convention. Even though the manager had already promised the arena to another religious group, he canceled their booking and instead rented it to us for three nights, for 25% less than the normal rate.

God opened the door again. We were thrilled that our Foreign Missions Director, Brother Bruce Howell, agreed to speak at this meeting. For security reasons, we had to cancel our first night because a cricket match between India and Pakistan was being held in an adjacent stadium. The Lord did in two nights what we had hoped to accomplish in three.

God opened the door of faith. On the first night Brother Howell preached a powerful message on healing. He then prayed a prayer of faith. At that moment, a Muslim driver of one of the rented buses came into the arena to see if his passengers were ready. This man had a tumor the size of a grapefruit in his stomach. As he was driving the bus later that night, he felt the tumor dissolving.

The next night he came and testified in front of 17,000 people that Jesus had healed him.

During the service, many written prayer requests were brought to the pulpit. Among them was one for a lady lying in a coma in a hospital in Islamabad, 250 miles away. We learned later that as Brother Howell prayed, at that exact time, this lady opened her eyes, sat up and minutes later, left the hospital, totally healed. In that crusade we estimated at least 1,000 people received the baptism of the Holy Ghost for the first time.

John Arcovio came with a team of nine men for our fifth great crusade (in 2004). This added a new dimension to the crusade, as our local people saw how they worked together in the Spirit. Brother Arcovio used different men to speak each night as he felt directed by the Holy Ghost, and this impacted our ministers. Since then, national evangelistic teams have been formed and have ministered around the country.

This crusade exploded in a powerful spirit of worship. Another 1,000 were filled with the Holy Ghost, and a number of lame people were healed, in addition to many other miracles.

God opened the door for mini-crusades in 2005. In addition to our large meetings, we have also held a number of mini crusades in different cities.

Brother Eli Hernandez in May, Brother Moncy Matthew in June, and Brother Steve Willoughby in October ministered with powerful anointing. In these three meetings, over 1500 people received the Holy Ghost, and over 400 were baptized.

God opened the door for the Lahore Crusade this year, although the devil tried to shut it. Impossible! On the final night sixty-five buses were rented, and every inch of space in the auditorium was filled with people from all over the city. Over 17,000 were in attendance and 4,500 received the Holy Ghost. We thank the Lord for the teams organized, and funds raised, by Brothers John Arcovio and Raymond Woodward.

The impact of these crusades in the nation of Pakistan has been tremendous. Not only have we experienced numerical growth, but among our pastors there is a sense of confidence, vision, and excitement. We have learned assuredly that God opens doors.

“See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it”
(Revelation 3:8, *NKJV*).