

God really opened a door for me. I was invited to preach to the youth in an United Methodist Church at Albuquerque, New Mexico. I have already preached there twice. I remembered what Paul said to be wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove. I prayed for God to open their hearts to salvation and conviction. At first, I was fearful they could reject me for preaching anything that might offend them. But then, I knew it was all in God's hands. As soon as I landed in Albuquerque, I was amazed the place was not like a desert, but mostly, like a city. I arrived in front of the large doors of the United Methodist Church. I sighed and said, "Ok, God. Here it goes." When I walked up the platform, I tripped! I nearly fell on my face to the pulpit. That was an embarrassing first impression! I quickly got up and gave a nervous laugh, "Heh! Heh!" Not many laughed. I took a breath and blurted out my sermon. Without stopping, without hesitation, without thinking about my mistake, I just kept on preaching. Somehow, the Holy Spirit moved.

After preaching on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, about thirty people received Christ as their Saviour! One woman got scared about Hell that she told one of the members in church, "I think my husband should get saved too, or else, he will burn in Hell!" In another day when I preached, I blasted against the Roman Catholic Church for their persecution against the Protestants. The teens were moved about the sufferings of the martyrs during the Inquisition period. Unknowingly, two young people in that church were Roman Catholics! Oops! It was too late to take back my preaching. However, God always worked things for good. In the invitation, two of those Roman Catholics raised their hands for salvation. Praise God! Throughout my entire time with preaching to the United Methodist church, I was amazed to see two adults raise their hands for salvation as well! Some adults thought the preaching would only apply to the youth, but it seemed that the message also applied to them.

One of the elders in that church approached me and said, "You know Joel Osteen's sermons are pretty good." I became nervous and thought to myself, "What is he going to say?" You know what he said? He said, "But I know what his problem is."

His problem is that he doesn't preach about sin and hell, like you do." I was overjoyed to hear such a statement. What was even better is that my mother heard the news and told me, "All the youth in that church are now reading the Bible and praying." Did I hear that right? Yes, I did! Whoo! Hallelujah! Who would have thought that God worked out such wonderful blessings for me in that church. I enjoyed a great time in that church, and the church was kind enough to invite me again. Brethren-in-Christ, modern churches today know what is truth, and they will receive the truth, despite of its negativity, if they want it. Don't compromise. Hold fast.