

The Stranger at My Door

Like you, I never know when God decides to set up a divine appointment in my life. He just lets me know on the spot and I have to be ready for it.

Some years ago I had as neighbor a very special family. The man's body was covered with all kinds of tattoos, from his face all the way to his feet, and a few piercings. He was a rather impressive looking sight of a man. As I'd walk passed his house on my way to or from church, I would cordially greet him. The man would never smile, but with a very serious face would merely acknowledge my greeting. As time went by, I developed the prayer: ***"Lord, how do You want me to tell him about You?"*** In fact, the Lord did answer that prayer. This happened when one of his two little girls fell quite ill and landed in the hospital. I went to visit them and shared God's love for him and his two brothers and their wives. From that time on, my neighbor Rudy became my brother in Christ.



After that experience I invited Rudy and his family, as well as his two brothers and their families for a Christian movie at church, just for them. It was a fantastic night, where they opened up and shared very personal matters of the soul, mistakes they had made in life, years in prison they had wasted, marriage problems, etc. I followed up with house visits, Bible studies, more frequent stops at their house, marriage counseling, and other important interactions. Some time later, Rudy and his family had to move to a different house and we said our good-byes. This was a couple of years ago. Just recently, a loud knock was heard on my front door and it was no other than my dear Brother in Christ, Rudy Padilla, who was just passing by and wanted to come and let me know that he was still staying away from alcohol and drugs, working on his relationship with God and his family and that they were reading their Bible every day.

Before leaving, Rudy explained that the only reason he dropped by was to thank me for sharing Christ with him and his family and that Jesus had made the biggest and greatest difference in their lives.

Like me, it is very likely that God has brought some "Rudys" in your life, people who have made some serious mistakes in life and have paid a very high price for them. I like to encourage you to pray the prayer God placed on my heart for Rudy - "Lord, how do You want me to tell him about You?" Maybe it will just happen that that stranger may just become your new brother in Christ. It may be that God will use you in that stranger's life and that God will also use that stranger's life in your own heart, and all will learn very valuable and meaningful lessons about God's amazing grace... for all of us live by God's grace and for God's glory.

Eternally grateful, Franc Ortega