



STEVE & MARILYNN VOUGH

# Blessed & Highly Favored

## Steve's Classic Burgers

by Steve and Marilynn Vough

### Hearing the Message

So, there I was. Delivering pizza. Enjoying the easy job that I had. I had owned two businesses before and managed a few others. I was loving not having to be the boss. Then IT happened. You know what IT is don't you? That is when God tells you He has other plans for you. And WOW did He. He wanted me to open a burger restaurant in this empty storefront and Glorify Him with it. Yeah. Right. (*See beginning of this paragraph*). But He said "That's not what I said". So the battle began.

### Receiving the Blessing

A month after arguing with God and finely surrendering to the idea of opening a restaurant I told Marilynn, "I think we're going to open a restaurant." She wasn't sure how to feel about it, but knew in her heart if this was what God wanted, He would bring it about; or if not, He would not. We prayed for confirmation and we both kept getting the scripture Jeremiah 29:11. All the time we discussing it we never told anyone.

I began making lists and planning the whole thing out.

### Accepting the Assignment

My wife will tell you she still wasn't sure what to think of it all that it all just seemed like an unreachable reality.

One Sunday Marilynn prayed for more confirmation, specifically that God would speak to her through the message if it was indeed what we were supposed to do. In the middle of the message the Pastor said, "When God calls us to do something, even if it seems unreasonable, just do it, because if you don't you will miss out on blessings."

On September 27, 2014, before going to bed I prayed a simple prayer; "God, if this is what you really want, give us one more confirmation." On September 28<sup>th</sup>, a friend was up about 3:30 in the morning and posted, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." JEREMIAH 29:11. It was the first thing I saw when I turned on the computer and opened up Facebook that morning." I turned and looked at Marilynn, and said, "we're opening a restaurant."

### Stepping Out On Faith

The next person I told was a friend at church. He said, "what kind of restaurant?". When I told him a 'burger restaurant' he said, "you know I used to manage the #1 burger restaurant in the country, want the recipe?" So my wife took the recipe, and for two months worked on tweaking it to make it our own.

Marilynn had heard me say often that if someone is going to open a business, you need to have at least a year's worth of money to cover house bills, and the business bills, including the cost of equipment and supplies needed to start. It's logical; according to man anyway. In order to follow this logic, we would have had to wait a long time to open the restaurant. God certainly does not think like we do. Isaiah 55:8-9 says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

### Faith in Action

We had no idea how God was going to do this. We had no money; we basically lived from paycheck to paycheck. We tried in our own logic to work a couple things out that involved other people, but obviously this wasn't how God planned to provide. We started applying for credit cards, and we

eventually had enough to start. Again, God doesn't think like we do, and if God wants to use credit to begin His plans then He will.

With the credit cards received we had enough to begin, but that's all we had; that is along with several people in the church who helped tremendously. If there was a talent that we needed, someone stepped up and volunteered.

When everything was already in motion and we were nearing completion of the remodel, the sewer company said we needed a grease pit, which would not fit anywhere in the budget. The credit we had left was just enough to buy the final supplies, and food to begin, a little over \$8000. We got a couple quotes the cheapest being \$8000. If we put in the grease pit, we wouldn't have the money to begin. I said, "God, you got us this far, I know you would not get us this far and then just stop." The next day we got a credit card in the mail for \$8000. Not an application for a credit card, but a credit card. God has been so faithful.

## Only God

We wanted to open on March 20<sup>th</sup>, our wedding anniversary, the day of new beginnings. But we had our first DHEC inspection on March 19<sup>th</sup>, and due to six minor issues, we did not get our 100%, which is needed to open. On March 20<sup>th</sup> we got a re-inspection and we still needed a brighter light in the walk in, that was the only remaining issue. The inspector happened to be going to the flea market on March 21<sup>st</sup>, the following day, to do some work, and on a Saturday, on her way from the flea market she stopped back by to recheck the light. We got our 100%.



On Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup>, after church, we fired up the grills for the first time to cook hamburgers and fries for all those who were a big part of opening that restaurant, and to have our dedication. We wanted to bless them for begin such a blessing.

One week after opening we got our first surprise DHEC inspection. We passed with a

100%. On April 1<sup>st</sup> I received a message that we had won the Golden Spatula award. It was April Fool's Day and my initial thought was it had to be a joke, however, she knew too much information about the DHEC inspection and so I called. WLTX came to do an interview and give our award. For those of you who don't know what a Golden Spatula award is, it is a golden spatula given to the restaurant that is selected out of all the restaurants that received a 100% on their DHEC inspections. Out of four restaurants who received a 100% we were chosen for the Golden Spatula award. God had provided our first advertisement, for free.



On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016, we had another surprise DHEC inspection and received a 100%. Then on March 24<sup>th</sup> we relieved our second Golden Spatula Award. A young lady from WLTX came out to interview me, and while she was there asked about the Later Meal Program and said she wanted to come back and do a story on it. And she did. That story spread across the country and we got recognized by our own Governor Haley.

There are many other stories about God's hand in this ministry. New ones every week. For us, for our customers, and for people who have never been here but we are praying for them.

We are continuing to grow. We are looking about how to seat more customers. These are growing pains we didn't think we would have for a while but are being blessed with now. Stop by and see us. Grab a burger. You won't regret it.

God bless you.

Steve and Marilyn.

Web Identity: [www.ClassicBurgers.org](http://www.ClassicBurgers.org)

## Guiding Scripture

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.  
Matthew 25:35

## Location

Steve's Classic Burgers  
817 St Andrews Rd. #106  
Columbia, SC 29210

## Community Giving

Later Meal Program: [www.LaterMeal.org](http://www.LaterMeal.org)

First Responders Appreciation

Veteran Appreciation

## Restaurant Atmosphere

Faith Based and Family Friendly

Alcohol and Tobacco Free Environment

Come as You Are

Prayer Request Board

Free TWC WiFi Access

Outdoor Seating Available

## Menu Items

Salads: Grilled Chicken and House  
Meats: Chicken Strips, Burgers, Hot Dogs, Corn Dogs, Sausage Dogs  
Sandwiches: Grilled Cheese, Patty Melt, Cheese Steak, Chicken Sandwiches  
Sides: Fries, Fried Mushrooms, Baked Beans, Tomato Soup, Potato Chips, Mozzarella Sticks, Onion Rings, Chili Chees Fries  
Desserts: Ice Cream, Pies, Brownies  
Beverages: Pepsi Products, Coffee, Tea, Iced Coffee Latte

## Payment Methods

Visa, American Express, MasterCard, Discover, Apple Pay, PayPal and Cash