

God's Intervention

Trustworthy & Fair

True Story

By: Ronald Willis

Upon moving from my little town where I was born and raised to the big city, Memphis, Tennessee, I built several homes for a contractor that was slow getting things done. Before my first Christmas in Memphis, I could see that we were about to run out of work if we did not get some more concrete footings and slabs completed very soon. For several weeks I told this contractor that we were going to run out of work, but he never heeded my advice.

At Christmas my crew went back home to our little town and never came back. So, I signed up to work for Town and Country (Van Walton Construction). Van is the brother of William Walton, former vice chairman of the board of Holiday Inns. William was an awesome man. I never got to work on his home, but I did get to meet him and his daughter.

Van was like a father to me. I knew how to build a house, but Van taught me how to talk to people about their dreams. He had a wonderful way to charge people. He charged people cost plus 20% . It was good for all the parties. Van would meet me on Saturday mornings for breakfast and after we ate we would go to the office for me to learn the ropes. Van constantly had me running from one project to another. I never knew where I was going to be or what I was going to be doing.

When a new contractor (Burns and Doggett) started building large custom homes around Memphis they both came to me where I was finishing a set of bookcases in a beautiful home we had just finished building. I thought they were very rude, coming on the jobsite to offer me a job, but they told me that they needed me and they would pay me three times the money I was being paid by Van, plus they would give me a new truck every two years.

I went to Van and told him what they offered. He said he would take it, so I did. Believe me I earned every penny of my pay, but I loved my work. After working little more than two years with them I realized that I was building so many homes that I didn't even know who the owner was. So just before Christmas I asked for a meeting with both of the owners. I told them, I've had enough. I could not deal with all the projects we had going all the same time. I would have gotten \$3,000.00 in a Christmas bonus, but I resigned before Christmas. I did not want to take the money and leave.

They both asked me what I was going to do. I told them that I was going to build homes for people I could get to know, personally, them and their wishes.

I had so many people call me asking me to build their home because I was trustworthy and fair. I had a wonderful group of sub-contractors and employees in the feel that I trusted to complete the projects on time and per the owner, architect, interior decorator, landscape architect and structural engineer. My supervisor checked on all our projects every day. I had a receptionist, office manager, personal secretary, an architect and a full-time draftsman working out of our office and we had several crews working on several projects all the same time.

We had a lot going on but I knew each and every one of our employees, sub-contractors and owners!
I learned to give back to the community and to always keep your employees and owners happy.

After having two heart attacks and a divorce, I moved to Florida.

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It is my sincerest hope that everyone who reads this, will reflect back on his or her own life. See where God has touched them and given them the ability to serve in other's lives.

Let us know how God has intervened in your life!

DO YOU REALLY CARE?
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO SHARE, WITH PEOPLE EVERYWHERE?
DO YOU REALLY CARE?
WILL YOU TAKE THE DARE?
SPREAD GOOD NEWS EVERYWHERE?
THE CROSS OF CHRIST TO BEAR?
DO YOU REALLY CARE?"