

God's Intervention

Country Club

True Story

By: Ronald Willis

Upon moving from my little town where I was born and raised in Tennessee to the big city of Memphis, Tennessee, I started building homes for a local contractor. Upon running out of homes to build, I ran into a wonderful man by the name of Van Walton of Town and Country Construction. His brother helped start Holiday Inn. Van was like a father to me. I knew how to build a home, but Van taught me how to deal with the people. Van knew people and built the best of homes. I was very proud to work with some of the best of the best carpenters. From day one Van put me in charge of all the projects. I was so proud to be part of an excellent company, but it became crazy.

After working for Van for several years, I was given a chance to build the same quality homes for Burns and Doggett for a lot more money. Working with them was even crazier than working for Van. After working for Burns and Doggett for more than two years, I went out on my own again, building custom homes, doing remodeling, etc.

One of my first customers was a lady that wanted her bathroom remodeled. She called, asking me to come over and give her a price. She had been over to Europe and purchased a magazine to read while she was flying back to Memphis. She showed me the pictures of the bathroom in the magazine that she wanted for herself. I almost fell out, when I realized that the picture in the magazine was of a young lady in the shower completely nude, showing everything.

I kept my cool and informed her that I would give her a price to do the remodeling within three days. I contacted my mirror man, plumber, electrician and tile setter subs, put the cost within a contract and I took the contract over to the lady's house, thinking I was a little high on the price, but she was smiling when she signed the contract and handed me a check to order the needed expensive items. The job went so smoothly and everyone that saw it loved it.

From there I was overwhelmed with calls to do additions and remodeling jobs. We got so busy I had to turn jobs away, but when an interior decorator whom I had worked with before called me, asking if I would work with him remodeling the Memphis Country Club, I could not turn such a job like that away. Walking through the front doors was like meeting the president of the United States. The magnificent entrance opened into a very impressive room with a grand fireplace. All I could think about was, "I am walking into a place of honor that Elvis Presley was not able to do!"

I met the interior decorator and director of the club. We went over all that they wanted to get done. I agreed to do the job, for cost plus twenty percent. They also agreed to pay my team twenty-five percent more money for we had to work from ten pm to seven am so that we would not interfere with their daily routines. We would rope off an area, work all night and then clean it up so that no one had to deal with equipment, materials or dust.

Each area was roped off every day when members were there, until all the work was completed in that area.

One day the interior decorator and the director of the club wanted to meet me downstairs at the club to show me some more work they wanted to get done. The club director was showing me a bunch of large pipes with white cloth coatings, that he wanted us to remove and build out some new offices. I looked at the interior decorator. He was shaking his head from one side to the other, telling me don't do it without saying a word.

Later I found out it was asbestos that the director wanted me to remove along with the piping. I thank God for putting that interior decorator in my life. He almost certainly saved our lives from dying a horrible death from asbestos. He also got us some of the most wonderful jobs in Memphis. Many times, he would embarrass me as he would tell the owners that I knew how he wanted things and if the owners wanted to use another contractor, he did not want to be part of the project.

I know it was God that put that interior decorator into my life.

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 others' lives.

Let us know how God has intervened in your life!

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