

Testimonies:

Pastor Paulette Harrison: God is a healer! Sister Dynia Lewis sprained her ankle while practicing track at her school. Her mother Sister Nova Lewis called and asked me to pray for her. I prayed and the Lord immediately caused the swelling to go down and gave her a healing. I praise God, and give Him all the glory for His healing power!

Minister Shaundra D. Smith: God Is My Advantage. I give God the glory because He gave me a job, and it was exactly what I needed. In light of my situation (recent grad degree recipient, working for pennies), as of late, I had really been seeking God about turning my situation around. While I possess certain talents and have academic experience, I am frankly not marketable where corporate America is concerned, so I needed the kind of opening that only God could give me because I don't look like much on paper (my resume). I needed a miracle.

About a month ago, I just flat outright asked God for a sign. That very day when I got up from prayer, I had an email from the woman who had been my supervisor where I was an intern for a company called Envision. She was writing to tell me the latest she had learned about the writer's position that she at first told me about last year. The position had finally been approved but would not open for hiring until the third quarter. I thanked her for the information and went about my day. About an hour later, I received a text message that said something about a proposal writing opportunity and highly substantial starting pay. Because the text message didn't show a name, I thought the message was spam, so I ignored it. Another two hours or so later, I received another message from this same source but this time, I recognized the manner of speaking and realized that the message was from a colleague of mine. He reiterated his previous message and asked if I wanted him to pass along my information to put me in contact with Mr. Gonzalez, the man who was looking to hire proposal writers. God had given me a sign.

After Mr. Gonzalez and I were slated to meet via Microsoft Team, I told my parents and a couple of others very dear to me about this job opportunity and all agreed to fast with me. What had been scheduled to be a 30-minute informative chat about the position and the company turned into a full-blown interview that lasted more than an hour.

I learned during that interview that Mr. Gonzalez, like me, is a University of West Florida alumnus, and he wants to "give back" to UWF. He went on to tell me the story about his getting his first big job after grad school. After being hired, he asked his employers why he, who had virtually no experience, had outshined the other candidates. Their response was that he was hired because he had been the only applicant whose emails and resume did not have any typos—Mr. Gonzalez understood what it was like to just need a chance. After letting him do most of the talking, I was told by Mr. Gonzalez that I seemed to be a good fit for what he wanted for his writing team and that he wanted me to meet with his senior writers for a second interview. I knew within my heart of hearts that I had said nothing overly impressive to Mr. Gonzalez, yet he was impressed by me enough to send me forward to a second interview. I knew God had been my advantage.

After that second interview with the senior proposal writers, I had no clear indication of how it went. All I could do now is wait. I prayed and fasted for another week without hearing anything. So, then I decided I had to do what Gideon did, ask the Lord for yet another sign. That very day when I got up from prayer, I had an email from Mr. Gonzalez. He said that he and his senior writers were very impressed with me and that because they wanted me to be a part of the team, they were creating a position for me. In both interviews, I had been enthusiastic, but unembellished—it was no secret I lacked professional experience. But God is good. Even in this

created position of Proposal Editor, I will be paid the same as I would have been paid for the Proposal Writer position. By having this position, I will get the chance to progress to the writer position and beyond. Furthermore, they are willing to work with my timeframe so that I can finish out teaching this semester.

When I laid out my request before God as to what I needed in a job, one of my requests was that I would have an employer that would not only be willing to work with the skills I have but that would also provide me the tools and opportunity to grow. I also needed benefits. I wanted a career. God worked EVERYTHING out; the job He gave me is everything I asked for. At some point during this experience, I held my resume up to God and asked Him for the job at KBR because, after all, God gave Mr. Gonzalez—my would-be boss—his job at KBR. The Lord holds the king's heart in His hand, and He turns it whichever way He wants. And so, the heavenly Father, not regarding what I look like on paper, created a job just for me; He made room for me.

I learned what Abraham realized when it was clear that he could put no confidence in his own body at 100 years old believing God for a son: God is our advantage.