

By Jon Jost

Growing up, I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do for a living, but I was pretty sure that I wanted to work with my hands. I always liked to help dad any time he was building or fixing something. When I was twelve, our family moved out to the country and, with the help of friends, we built our own house. I learned so many different aspects of construction which I had been clueless in previously. We learned framing, plumbing, wiring, dry walling, taping, painting, tiling and more. I didn't realize it then, but God was training me for what He wanted me to do as a career.

During my high school years, in between studies, I worked at many different jobs - including working for a hog farmer for six dollars an hour. It was awful, as you would drive into the farmyard and it would reek to high heaven! But after working in the barn all morning and then stepping outside, it smelled like Waterton National Park! I also worked for two seed-cleaning plants, a cattle ranch, and about fifteen different farmers in the area.

When I was nineteen, I took a job with a local farmer who owned many sections, and also did custom swathing on the side. After two years, it had been going really well and I figured that I was going to farm for a living; they had said they were happy with my work and offered me a full-time job. As marriage was just around the corner, I decided to take the job.

Only a few weeks after harvest was done, there was a break in the farm work, so my older brother [Jesse] and I decided to fill our time by helping a guy in a town nearby build his seven thousand square-foot house. One morning, on our way to work, just two months before my wedding, I stopped by the farmer's house to drop something off. He told me that he had something he needed to tell me. He informed me that he had hired on a mechanic and was not going to be needing me in the spring. As you can imagine, being laid off two months before my wedding was pretty hard to swallow.

So, I ended up continuing with my brother, working on the same house. We learned how to fix the framers' mistakes, did the insulating and vapor barrier, the dry walling, and a lot of tiling. The man that we were working for had a lot of experience and taught us many things about construction. The other cool thing was that, after our wedding, he hired on my wife as well! Just as we were finishing with him, our neighbours from ten miles away had heard that we were doing drywall, so they offered us a job doing their basement. When we had finished there, our uncle asked us if we would do his basement. God made it clear to me then what He wanted me to do, as He kept placing work on my lap.

Well, that was three years ago and looking back I can see how God was working in my life: He took away the job with the farmer (which meant very long hours and would have left very time for me to

invest in my family, and it paid less than half of what I make now), so that He could bless me with an independent job that gives me a lot more opportunity to reach out to the people in our community. It also gives me much more flexibility to be with my family.

All my life God has been incredibly faithful and has shown me unmistakably that He is in control and knows our needs even better than we do. He has always given us all that we need and has enabled us to stay debt-free. There have been a few times that He brought us to the very bottom of our "financial pot" just to show us that He is our true provider. There was one time, for example, that we were not going to have enough money to pay our rent and God prompted someone (that we had never even met before and didn't know we were in need) to give our landlord two hundred dollars towards that month's rent. Another time, we had fifteen hundred dollars in our bank account and after paying all our expenses, we had fifty dollars left.

One more incident comes to mind: The head gasket went on our family vehicle that doubled as my work van. At the time, we were low on money, but because God has always been so faithful to us, I got excited to see what He was going to do. Sure enough, He provided a family van and a separate work van. Again, after paying for both vans, we had fifty dollars when I made my next deposit. I could go on and on with stories of God's provision and direction. I encourage you "to seek first the kingdom of God." And as you do, He has promised that all these other "things" will be taken care of. He has taught me from a young age to take everything to Him in prayer and to "cast all my cares upon Him." And also "to trust in the Lord with all [my] heart and to lean not on [my] own understanding," and in doing so, He has directed all of my paths.

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