

Testimony from Karen Westmoreland regarding her new employment position

After missing the church yard sale this summer the Lord showed me that I could sow the men's ties that I had on hand. I thought to bring to Leadership Class for Charles Dudley on Thursday, but that week I did not attend. That Saturday evening while getting things together for church the Lord put Shawn Decker on my mind. So I put the ties in a gift bag and looked for him to come in Sunday morning. I met in the coffee shop and handed him the bag and explained to him how the Lord put him on my mind. He immediately asked what I was believing for. I didn't anticipate that but having heard Pastor Eddie talk about doing this with others, I knew what I wanted.

See, I had been a product of a reduction in force in 2013 and was working part time for a government agency. Just during the fall of 2015, I began to desire full time employment. Bills were catching up and debt piling up. I'd searched through the vacancy notices at the job and considered what the position entailed. I decided I didn't want them. But I did want my bills paid in full and on time. Then I said, I wanted an increase in work hours. I thought at the time it was all I could do.

Shawn offered some advice- 1) update my resume, 2) look outside my department for opening, 3) be willing to work in a different position

I knew Shawn's advice on point. This wasn't his first time talking with me about employment. When I was let go, he told me to not to pursue

Money but make getting the word of God out the priority-serving, people, the gospel is what I heard. I took that and know its part of the reason I was working now.

Shawn also did something else amazing! He began to share the ties with others. Twice sown seed reaps a bigger harvest!

Well, within a couple of weeks my work load increased requiring me to have longer hours. Within a month, I another position was open within the agency. I again looked at its duties but came to a final decision that I wanted to keep my position but do this full time-Facilitator for Family Partnership Meetings for the Department of Social Services. Final Answer.

Other opportunities to sow came over the summer and I was able to plant seeds for the full time FPM Facilitator position.


In August, a door opened for me. While talking to the facilitator for the city of Roanoke, she stated she was leaving and advised me to watch for

Her position to be advertised. I did and applied on 9/9/16. I knew this was MY JOB!

However the devil had his plan. He began to ask if I would stay at the County if they offered me a full time facilitator position. I pushed back the question at first but then restated my final answer-I work full time as the FPM Coordinator for Roanoke City DSS. In fact the County did offer a full time position but it carried a case load. Two things I did not want, cases and on call responsibilities.

I was so sure it was my position that I wrote a start date for November 21. I did not interview for the position until November 4<sup>th</sup>!! I prayed for the best answers and acknowledged the favor of God. Nothing significant happened during the interview but I knew it was mine. I kept thanking God for the position, provision, his favor, and his goodness. I finally heard from the city and began working on 12/6/17.

Two things I know helped me for sure to remain focused on my goal. Having the advice from Shawn Decker and seeing him every Sunday as a reminder that I had seed in the ground.

  
2/8/17