

Wednesday Word June 12,2024

In 2007 I was a journeyman carpenter for Local Union 470 out of Tacoma. The out of work list was very short and there were jobs all over the western part of the state. Many schools were being rebuilt or remodeled to bring them up to code and to accommodate for massive influx of students. This was great for carpenters as we had plenty of work as many of the schools were wood framing and that kept us on the job for at least a year if we could get on the crew.

In my union days, we were encouraged by our local reps and union hall dispatchers to go to jobsites and “Hustle Work” or talk to the superintendent personally and ask for jobs. Whenever a new job would begin, many motivated tradesmen would line up at the onsite office to “hustle works.” I kept myself employed for a few years doing this.

In Fall of 2007, Orting High School began to prepare for a multi-million-dollar addition of a Performing arts center, new office space and gymnasium. As soon as the ground broke, I was down at the job shack banging on the superintendent’s door. I made it a habit to show up at the job at least three times a week to ask for work as this was an ideal job because it was so close to my home. I went there so often I became on a first name basis with the superintendent whose name was Ray Whitman. For three months I went to his office looking for work. Finally, when the slabs and foundations were poured, and the wood frame walls started to go up. At this point I realized I was not going to get this job and started to look elsewhere. The economy was really slowing down, and work was a bit hard to find. I was really discouraged one day while doing a little siding repair wondering what I was going to do to support my family. That very afternoon Ray called me and asked if I was ready to come to work. I was so thrilled. I showed up the next day and that job kept me employed for the next 8 months and there was plenty of overtime available. I was very grateful.

I learned a valuable lesson about persistence and patience through that situation. I saw an opportunity and pursued it for as long as I felt it would be beneficial to me. Naomi and I prayed for this job the entire time I was “Hustling” for it. Not only did it keep me employed, I learned a lot about flatwork and concrete which, once the job ended, helped keep me working when the economy went in to a recession.

Many times, we ask the Lord for things in prayer. Good things, righteous things, important things and it seems like there will be no answer or no help on the way. Sometimes we see the opposite result that we were petitioning the Lord for in this situation. This can hurt and cause us to question the goodness of God - it is only natural. Regardless of the outcome, if we would take a moment to look at the bird’s eye view of our prayer journey, I guarantee that we will see the workings of God and love of God laced in every step we have taken.

I know many of you all have genuine needs throughout our community. You need God to come through for you and your family and do a miracle that only he can do. My encouragement is to be persistent in prayer - be tenacious when contending for what

your request is. The apostle Paul said in Ephesians 6:13- "Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."

My encouragement today: Keep standing! And when you want to quit and sit: Keep Standing!

I love you and God Loves You!

Pastor Eric