

A Testimony of Faith

By: Joneen Horton

The Setup: Thursday April 24, 1997

“Well Mona* I now you’re sick and the doctor recommends bed rest, but can’t you just suck it up and come in?” the operations manager asked. “I’ll see what I can do Bob*.” Mona replied softly. “Suck it up and come in! Can you believe that? I could pass out and die on the floor and they’d probably step over my dead body to hire my replacement!” Mona yelled through the phone to her mother.

Mona knew she had to make a decision. The doctor said her continuous nosebleed was treatable, yet she had to take two (2) medications and rest at least three (3) days. However, if she stayed off from work she may lose her job and rent was due in thirty (30) days. Mona sat fuming. Suddenly something occurred to her and she leapt to her feet saying, “I know God has something better for me, this can’t be it- I’m quitting that job!” Despite her doctors’ advice, Mona went out the same evening of her phone conversation with Bob and met with a business-networking group. She came home from that meeting more motivated and determined.

Stepping out...: Monday April 28, 1997

Monday morning Mona arrived at work both happy and excited. She went directly to the store managers’ office and presented her letter of resignation. “Where are you going?” asked Corrine* the store manager. “I don’t know.” Mona replied smiling confidently.

A Look Back: Thursday April 24-Sunday April 28, 1997

Mona had had an unforgettable, life-changing experience between her Thursday phone call with Bob and her Monday morning resignation. After returning from the networking meeting on Thursday evening Mona had scoured the want ads. She found there was a career fair at a local church that Friday morning. "I never heard of looking for a job at church" Mona thought "but I've got to find something soon."

The career fair was well attended and several employers were on hand. Talking with several company recruiters Mona realized that those who were most interested in her skills and experience were from the same field of work she was leaving! Discouraged and heading out, one recruiter stopped her to talk. "Oh great", she thought "someone else I don't want to work for." The gentleman asked her what she was interested in and after a few moments, he realized his company was not the "fit" Mona needed.

"Well Mona, it was nice meeting you. Before you go, can I ask you one more thing?" The recruiter asked. "Sure." Mona said. "Do you have a church home?" he questioned. Mona was shortly confused and stammered, "no not here, I'm originally from another state and I haven't found a church home yet." He smiled and continued, "You should visit our church." Mona thought and replied, "I have met so many people from your church and they have all asked me to come to church with them, but I never have." He smiled again and said, "I'll just say one last thing and let you go: delayed obedience is disobedience." Mona's stomach flipped and she stared at the gentleman for a moment before leaving the fair.

Have to do it: Sunday April 27, 1997

It's 9:00 am on Sunday morning Mona is wide awake thinking. "That man could've called me a b**** and I would not have cared, but saying I am disobedient, that hurts!" She pondered the statement while she dresses, while she ate breakfast and while she drove to the church.

The church was huge and didn't look like any church Mona had ever seen. There were no stained glass windows, no huge cross on the altar and no baptismal pool in sight. Mona began to feel uncomfortable yet she felt compelled to stay. The usher seated her five (5) rows from the "stage". Praise and worship were a blur, Mona did not know *any* of the songs, however it seemed everyone else did – all 2000+ people! "What have I gotten myself into?" Mona thought.

In a short while, a man in a suit came out. He greeted everyone and began praying. "If you have your bibles, open them to the book of Hebrews chapter 11 verse 1. Today we're going to talk about faith." He declared. Mona surmised, "he must be the preacher, but where's his robe?" The next two hours this preacher (what did he say his name was?) talked about faith. He defined faith, explained why it was different from belief and had the whole church reading the Bible scriptures aloud!" Mona was mesmerized. She had never heard anyone explain the Bible. For years, she had attended church and concluded she must be *too bad* to *understand* God's Word.

As the preacher was closing he said, "Let me give you an example of faith. Faith is quitting your job, not having another one to go to and knowing that God will take care of you." Mona sat on the edge of her seat. "How did that man know what I did, I don't even know him!" she thought. From this point forward, everything went in hyper-speed. Mona answered the altar call and when the counselor asked her what she would like to receive Mona blurted out "I'm

saved, but I sin a lot, I want to rededicate, I want to be a member and if I can I want to pray in tongues too!”

Fast Forward: Friday May 23, 1997

Mona’s last day of employment with Bob and Corrine was exciting and nerve racking. She had still not secured employment with another company. Ever the optimist she smiled and told everyone how great her new job was going to be. Approximately 1:00pm, Mona received a phone call. “Mona, this is Mick Pierce*, I wanted to let you know that after your group interviews, we’ve decided to offer you the job and want to know if you can start on Tuesday after the holiday?” Mona calmly said “yes.” Then she hung up the phone, ran, leapt, and shouted.

Afterthoughts: Wednesday April 27, 2005

I am Mona (Joneen), I still attend that church (World Changers Church International) and that preacher (Dr. Creflo Dollar) still teaches me the Bible in a way I can understand.

Eight years ago, my life changed. I had received salvation as a child and thought that was all I needed to go to heaven. I didn’t know that God wanted a relationship with me. But, now that I know...look out world!

By the way, I don’t recommend quitting your job without securing another one, unless you know that you know, that you know it’s God telling you to leave.

Peace.

* Names have been changed to protect the anonymity of the persons involved.