

A Brand New Computer

Psalm 37:5

*Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him;
and he shall bring it to pass.*

One of my favorite experiences of God's provision is a story that took place in Washington, Pennsylvania. I had been working on researching unreached people groups and writing profiles of those groups. Simply stated, an ***unreached or least-reached people*** is a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize this people group without outside assistance.

I had been doing this since 1985 while in Pitman and continued in Washington. It was then 1995. I was using an old 80's computer. It was difficult to use and had unusual sized discs for saving information. It was slow and outdated. It wasn't compatible with other computers and I could not do graphics with it. I couldn't do Internet searches so I was in need of an upgraded IBM compatible computer.

I had written and compiled over 2000 profiles of unreached people groups. I had been praying about it and telling the Lord that I had been doing this now for 10 years and I needed a better computer. I desperately needed an upgraded computer so I could complete this task. I told the Lord that if this was what He wanted me to be doing then He needed to provide a better computer. I had done my shopping for computers through the then popular *Computer Shopper magazine* and had found a computer that really would service me well. It cost about \$1,000. I didn't have \$1,000 to buy it, so I cut out a picture of the computer and put it on my prayer bulletin board. It was a very specific request for that computer.

A few months after I started praying for this, I was visiting an elderly shut-in lady from our church. When I finished praying with her and serving communion she handed me an envelope with a check for the church and said, "This is my offering and my tithe for the church." Then she had another envelope and said, "Pastor this is for you. It's not for the church. It's for you personally. God told me to give it to you." I thanked her and said goodbye. When I got home Marilyn wasn't there but I thought I should open up the envelope and see what it was. I opened up the envelope and amazingly there was a check for \$1000.

I was like a guy that won the lottery. I walked around the house shouting "Hallelujah and praise the Lord. God answered prayer!" Marilyn came home and I shared with her what God had given us and she said, "Praise the Lord I've been praying for \$1,000 for some urgent home needs we have."

I was frustrated. I had prayed for this \$1,000. This was my priority. I was doing God's work. This was not some frivolous household thing for the family. As we talked about it, thought about it, and debated it, the Lord finally told me to let it go.

Let it go. Let it go? How can I just let go of a thousand dollars that I prayed for? I went to my study and prayed. I wept. I cried out to the Lord, "This is what I've been praying for. How can it be that somebody else is going to take it away?" As I prayed I sensed the Lord say again, "Let it go." In the end I resolved to let it go to the family need. I wrote in my journal that I received \$1,000 in answer to prayer, and then I had to give it up, so God must have something better. I continued to pray. Another six months passed.

About that time I got a phone call from a young man from our church. He was in the hospital and said he wanted me to come and visit him. He wanted to tell me what happened to him that night in the hospital. I found this 26 year old business man sitting up in bed with a nice laptop. I sat down and he told me his story.

He told me that he had gotten very sick a couple of days before. They rushed him to the hospital. The doctors did all kinds of tests to find out what was wrong. The doctor had said he didn't know what he had but it looked very serious and was life threatening. The young man was facing a critical issue of life and death. That night, he said, as he was praying Jesus came into the room and talked to him about his sin. He asked the Lord to forgive him for his many sins and for not walking more closely to the Lord. Then the Lord Jesus reached out, touched him and healed him.

Then he paused and continued, "Pastor, this is why I called you. Before Jesus left my room He turned back to me and said, 'Pastor LaFountain has a need and I want you to provide it for him.'"

He looked at me and stated, "Pastor, Jesus told me you have a need. He also said it did not have anything to do with your church work. It is something to do with a ministry the Lord has given you. I need to ask you, what is that need?"

He knew nothing about my unreached people groups, but he said the Lord told him to provide whatever it is I had been praying for. I laughed and said "Well, I've been praying for a Lamborghini. We laughed together. "No, I'm serious," he said. "The Lord says I am to provide you what you need and have been praying for. I'm going to provide it whatever it costs." Reluctantly, I told him the story of my research on unreached people groups and my need for a better computer and software. As I finished that story he showed me his expensive business

laptop and asked it if would do. But I answered, "No, what I need is a desktop computer so I can do color graphics, scan pictures and download images so I can get the images of unreached people groups into the files."

He asked me to leave the room while he talked to his wife. I left the room and I waited outside for five minutes until they called me back in. Smiling he said, "Pastor my wife and I have talked about this and we know that God has ordained for us to provide for you, so here's what I'm going to ask you to do. I want you to go out and find the very best computer that you can buy, the monitor, the computer, the scanner, the printer, the software, and everything that you need in that computer. Spare no expense. Money is not an issue. I will pay for it whatever it costs."

I was blown away. I went home and pored over my *Computer Shopper* magazine for another couple weeks until I found all the items I needed and ordered them. I handed the bill to him and he paid for it. I still have the receipt today. It came to \$5,500. God provided every dime.