

## Three Miracles

By Diane Dotson

So often what we strive hard against is exactly what God has in mind. Diane Dotson learned this in a most unique way.

In 1986, during our third year of marriage, my husband was finishing undergraduate school. We lived in Maryland, but he wanted to attend graduate school in a northern suburb of Los Angeles called Sun Valley, a place I'd never heard of. It was far away from family and friends and if we moved there, we would be alone, but my husband really felt God wanted him to go. I didn't want to go, but I trusted God even though I was very resistant.

We decided to make a deal. I said, "If I can get a job out there then we will go, but it has to be a job that will pay enough and allow us to buy our first house." I wanted the first home we owned to be in Los Angeles, so I set the bar very high thinking there would be no way for that to happen.

I worked in engineering for the army, so I applied to a number of different engineering companies, from Goleta all the way down to San Diego, California. Soon all the rejection notices began to pour in, but one night I received a phone call.

The caller told me they were located ten minutes from Sun Valley, miracle number one! He said, "Have you heard of this program?" I hadn't but apparently it was well known. The caller stated that the company wanted to interview me, so I agreed to fly out.

During the interview I told them every reason not to hire me, that it was work I was unaccustomed to and a position that intimidated me. I then returned home and my husband met me at the airport, very excited. I, however, was very under-enthusiastic. I said, "Well, we will see what they offer, if they even make an offer."

The next day I received an offer and it was below the amount of money we believed we would need to buy a house. Consequently, I very confidently rejected the offer and said, "Thank you very much, but this does not seem to be the opportunity for me." I thought it was done, but then they called the next day and offered me a salary package well within the range of affording our first home! God had provided two miracles: proximity to Los Angeles and the ability to own our first home. Miracle number three was on the horizon.

One evening shortly afterward, we were sitting in our living room preparing to watch the news, our usual habit. We were in this constant, "Okay Lord, do we go? Do we not? Finally I just said, "You know what? Okay, I think I agree." The two miracles we'd been shown were clear signs, so we looked at each other, hugged it out, and said, "We're going to California!"

We then turned on the television to decompress from it all, and the Wheel of Fortune was on. They had just solved the puzzle, and the answer to it? "California here we come." Our jaws dropped open in disbelief. Miracle number three! This was significant for me, because I believed that I would be at this company for three years until my husband finished graduate school. Instead, we would live there for seventeen!

During that time, God gave me other miracles within the work itself. I was able to do things that other women who worked there could not do and they would ask me, "How are you getting to do this?"

God gave me favor, but I needed the affirmation that we were supposed to be there in the first place. Only God!