



## *God Clears a Path*

Sometimes, God brings us through intense situations to teach us faith lessons. Our whole life is a time of learning to walk by faith as individuals. In a corporate sense, the entire human race is also learning about God and choosing to trust or reject Him. We're being brought through situations that get us out of our comfort zone and test us to see if we'll stick to God's plan or try something else that looks more comfortable, feels safer, doesn't require us to look different, or maybe appeals to our lower nature in some way. The important thing is to know God's will and to walk according to His leadership.

We were called to go through an experience like this recently when my mother-in-law and sister-in-law were getting their green cards to immigrate to the United States from Mexico. This is something we had been dreaming

about for years because of the crime in my mother-in-law's hometown that was out of control and sometimes very deadly because of the cartel activity there. They live in a small town with contested territory between two rival cartels, making the situation bad.

Once we heard that the family-based green card petition that my mother-in-law's sister had submitted back in 2001 had been approved and they could start filling out paperwork, we started walking through the open door that had been opened by encouraging Yosi's mom and sister and helping the family pay for the form filling expenses. We weren't out of the woods yet, but we felt that if God had opened the door, no one could shut it. But that didn't mean that we wouldn't have times that tried our faith.

Once the forms were sent in, it was time to wait for the

interview date. At the outset, we didn't know how long we'd have to wait. Then, I found out later that it could take 2-3 years! Even though this was hard for us to hear, God knew we didn't have room to house them at the time anyway. But what do you know, after two years, we got a call from Yosi's family telling us that my mother-in-law's interview was scheduled for her green card, and within hours of that call, we found out about a housing option that was available for us in Alaska that would be big enough to house all of us! That affirmed that we were in God's will.

But now, there were more steps to climb in preparation for the interview. Original documents had to be collected and brought to the interview, updated documents had to be gathered, and their passports had to be renewed! These things might not seem like a big deal to us, but it is a different story when you live in a small town in Mexico and don't have a vehicle to get to the big city. Yosi's mom and sister had to make several 3-hour bus trips to the big city to work on getting passports. My wife's sister's passport wasn't ready until the day that they went to the big city to catch a flight to go to the town where their green card interview was going to take place. They traveled to the town, picked up the passport, and flew out the next day.

I'm abbreviating this story because too many things happened to list them all. Once they were in the city where the interview was going to be, they were expecting to receive a package containing the necessary documents for the interview. They had been shipped from Houston by Yosi's family for a pretty penny so they could arrive in Mexico on time. Unfortunately, the package was held up in customs and didn't arrive on time. Also, they found out that some of those documents were needed for a medical examination that needed to take place before the interview. But every time they came up to a barrier, God provided a workaround.

My mother-in-law lives and cares for her father, and while traveling for this interview, she had to leave him at home. He's relatively independent, but just as the devil would have it, he had a fall while my mother-in-law was away and broke his hip! Yosi and I were doing a tree job in Kentucky when we got the call about this and feared the worst. Praise God, though, the break didn't seem to slow him down, and he got into surgery the following day and was in good condition afterward. He was also taken care of by family and friends until Yosi's mom got home. All this at the age of 91!

Back to the interview. Finally, the package containing the documents from Houston arrived, and Yosi's mom and sister were able to spend a restful Sabbath to be better

prepared for their interview the following week. After the documents came, everything went smoothly. They went to the interview place on the following Monday. They did some preliminaries and then had their interview the next day. The interviewer was delightful, and she gave them their green cards! What an exciting day!

This is such a quick summary that I feel it doesn't do justice to the story, but it gives you an idea of what happened and that when God is leading, walls will crumble before you. We must remember that we can't just start running in any direction we please and expect God to clear a path before us. But as we humbly seek God's will through prayer and see Him leading in directions that will honor His name and follow His commandments, we can take courage and know that God is with us and will open the doors to man's vision and difficulties will be overcome.

God is a faithful God; may we always trust Him!

By Josh Fix



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