

Greener Pastures by Jeanetta Chrystie

“...knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance, and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint...” – Romans 5:3-5 (NASB)

I'd worked hard, really hard, coming in early and staying late to make preparations for a computer system conversion. The first time I'd experienced this stressful job task, it lasted over 6 months; and I declared I'd never put myself through those kinds of stressful, long hours again. Yet, here I was at another employer in another state, doing it all again.

Managing computer centers is a thankless job. There are endless lists of user requests for updates and changes. No matter what you do, the best you often hear is “It's about time!” when you get to each user on the waiting list of work. A thank you is extremely rare. Eventually you decide to move on. Perhaps the next job, you think, will be better.

Based on my experiences, and the sermons of many ministers, I've concluded that often times God puts us in difficult situations for a reason. Sometimes it is because we have the necessary skills to accomplish the task. Sometimes we're just in the right place for God to use us in a particular situation. Sometimes it's with personalities God wants us to learn how to get along with, or how to influence them for Christ. Other times, stressful jobs were a necessary stage in learning new skills for future use.

Are you considering a job move? Perhaps one has been thrust upon you by a downsizing or merger. Whatever reason you are now facing a job search, speak to God first about what you have learned in the past. Then listen to God about what He wants to teach you and grow in you. Your next job may be in the same career, or it may take you in a whole new direction. As long as we're following God's leading, He can use it for His purposes in our lives and the lives of others.

Prayer: Dear Lord our Provider, Guide us as we realistically assess our skills and character. Show us where you have grown us, and where we need to grow. Prepare us for our next employment position or ministry. Open the doors of your opportunity and blessing in your time. In Jesus' name we ask, Amen.