

My three-day test

This article is from the "Edifying the Body" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's Web site, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Dec. 19-20, 2009.

By Leigh Allen

TYLER, Texas—It was a test of which way I would choose. Would I choose the way of our Heavenly Father and His Son? Or would I choose the way of man?

We regularly make decisions that affect our lives. Some affect us for the short term, while others for the long term. Either way, it takes courage and faith to make the hard decisions.

Early bird, no worm

My test trail occurred at my employment. At first it was easy. All I was required to do was to request days off from work three weeks in advance. So I decided to put in the request six months in advance of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Three months later I checked the computer at work to see if my request was approved. It had not yet been approved.

Two months later I checked again. This time I discovered that my request had been rejected. The reason given was that everybody's request had been rejected because of a new time clock that was replacing the old time clock.

It was now only three weeks before the Feast of Tabernacles. I learned that people were to make their request again by submitting paperwork to management. I did as I was told and handed the paperwork over to management.

Cutting it close

Later I discovered that management had not followed through with the paperwork. Now it was down to only three days before the beginning of the Feast.

I had no vacation time or personal time to use, because I had not been working there long enough. Taking a deep breath and exhaling, I made a tough decision. I decided that, if it came down to the wire, I was prepared to lose my job.

While talking with a fellow worker about how I was not going to be there much longer, she recommended that I take an LOA (leave of absence). I told her that I thought an LOA was for medical reasons only. She informed me that an LOA was not only for medical reasons, but for personal reasons as well.

So I headed to the personnel office and requested LOA papers. As I was filling out the papers, I ran across a line stating that it took 15 days to process this request. As I shook my head, I thought that the request would either go through or it wouldn't. I immediately turned in the paper.

On the next day I asked the secretary if the store manager had gotten the paper. She replied that he had not, but he would get them on that same day for sure.

Gliding paperwork

When I got home from work I decided to look on the Internet for information about how employers were to let people off work for their religious beliefs. I found it and printed the material.

I took the paper to work on the next day and was prepared to personally give it to the store manager. But it didn't work out that way.

As I was getting ready to go home, I went by the claim area and saw his office door open. No one was in the office. I took two steps inside the office and glided the paper toward his computer. Do you know what happened? As the paper glided in circles towards his computer, it landed straight up.

On Thursday I asked the secretary if the store manager had gotten the paperwork requesting the LOA. She said that she was just headed that way to hand it to him.

I checked with her later to see if he approved the request or not. She said that she had not heard one way or the other.

I told her that I was off work tomorrow (Friday) and that I would call her. She mentioned that I should call around 8 a.m. The Feast was to begin the next day (Friday) at sunset.

I called around 10 a.m. because I knew how busy it was in the office early in the morning. She informed me that the store manager had indeed signed the papers and that I had my days off for the Feast.

Although my mind was set to lose my job if necessary, that outcome did not occur. I praised the Heavenly Father and His Son. My trial went down to the wire, but They helped me.

Sometimes the trials we face are difficult. So please hold onto the truth and have faith.