

CHAPTER 23 Thobekile Mutezo

God-given Opportunities

Every one of us has opportunities for greatness, success, to better ourselves, and to serve God in a greater capacity and live the life of righteousness.

Did you know that there are dreams that come true without being dreamt about, but through God? In Jeremiah 33:3, the word of God says: *"I will show you wonderful and marvelous things that you know nothing about."* The Lord will show you marvelous things in your personal life, in your family, in your job.

Thobekile had never thought, planned, or had dreamt about relocating to the United Kingdom. Little did she know that God had something in store for her. God made it happen for her and her family. One evening, her husband came home from work and mentioned that one of his friends sent him an email about a company that was looking at recruiting people from Africa to work as surveyors in Scotland. Thobekile mulled over the idea of relocating and encouraged her husband to apply for the post to see what would happen. At the back of their minds, it was just fun. They never actually expected a response from the Company.

"If the application is successful, what are we going to do? We are settled and comfortable and happy with our lives. It's also something we have never thought about. If I got a job, what are we going to do?" he asked his wife. "If the opportunity presents itself, we will pray about it. It will be in God's hands. We don't know what he has in store for us. God is in charge of our lives. When he opens a window for you, no one can shut it," she told him. Thobekile and her husband were devout Christians.

A week after filling the on-line application, the husband got an e-mail back with the dates for the interviews in Botswana. The couple were so shocked, yet pleasantly surprised. It was time to think seriously about what they wanted to do in life. This was going to be a game changer as well as an adventure for the whole family. It was agreed that the husband

went for the interview. If he got the job, it was going to change their lives. Thobekile had to support her husband; even though she was not going to be in the interview room.

On the day of the interview, the wife accompanied her husband, even though she was not going to be holding his hand in the interview room. She made sure they arrived with enough time to sit, relax, and have a coffee to settle her husband's nerves. When he went in, the wife found a quiet place and prayed hard.

"I think I have got this one in the bag," he told his wife when he came out of the interview room with a huge smile on his face. "How did it go?" she asked him. "The interview went very well," he told his wife confidently. "Thank God. I have never prayed so hard in my whole life. If you get the job, this is going to change our lives," she said.

They went back home and to their lives as usual. When they didn't hear anything for two weeks, they thought that he didn't get the job after all. It hadn't been their dream to relocate to the UK anyway.

The husband was convinced from the interview that he might get the job, therefore he needed the response regardless of the outcome. He was interested on the feedback so he could improve his skills for the next interview, etc. Now into the fourth week, the husband came from work with a bunch of papers in his hand with a big smile on his face. When Thobekile realized the smile on his face, something rang in her mind – the interview! Very curious, she asked the husband, "What is it? Tell us the good news. You look very excited and what are all those papers for? Are you working from home tonight?" A lot of questions were thrown at him at the same time, not even given the time to respond to any of them.

Thobekile's heart was now pounding very fast and she was a bit scared at the same time asking herself unanswered questions, "What is it? Is it promotion at work, or did he get the UK job? Eventually the husband handed the bundle of papers that he was carrying over to his wife and he said, "Read it for yourself." The wife received the papers without any hesitation and quickly read through, quietly, for about two minutes. Then she lifted her head up and said congrats with a big smile on her face and went on to say, "That's us going to UK. Surely God have no respect of a person. If the portion is yours, He will surely direct it to

you without fail. We give all the glory to the Almighty.” At this point in time, the husband was just quiet, asking himself whether to accept the offer or not. On the other hand, he was trying to weigh all the options and also looking at the advantages and disadvantages that may come with the package. He was struggling to come up with appropriate answers for all the options he was looking at and thinking about them.

The difficult part of it was that this man was a mummy’s boy. Now the dilemma was, if he decided to take the offer, how was he going to cope being far away from his mum that he visited every month or even every forty night. Now thinking of being away 12,000 miles away was really a challenge. Funny enough, Thobekile was thinking the opposite of it. She kept on reading the letter through and through, smiling, pinching herself, asking herself, “Is this real or is it a dream?” She was just waiting for the husband to ask her if they were taking the offer; she had already had the answer, and never even thought twice about it as she believed that this was an opportunity from God. She had no doubt about it.

Thobekile still read through the letter time and again. These words came out of her mouth as she was still looking down on the papers, “God is real. He is faithful and just. He does not care about your background, your status, or who you are, but He opens His door for you when it is the right time and take you to another level, towards your blessing in store for you.”

Remember, these people had no plans or dreamed about UK in their lives, so really an opportunity like this was unbelievable and beyond their expectations. In short, it was a miracle, indeed a revealed hidden opportunity I tell you. This was not a man-made thing, but a miracle from God. Thobekile raised her voice, giggled, and said, “Thank you Lord,” and she burst in tears of joy. She continued to thank the Lord and the husband joined in and they were both in tears. We were faced with the dilemma of whether to take the job or not.

During this emotional time, the husband looked at his wife in tears and asked her, “What do we do now? Do you think we can accept this offer or just let it go since we had no plans of relocating at the moment, and again it is very far from our parents?” The wife responded very gently as she had realized that her husband was still not keen on this. If she was not careful enough, this opportunity could just go under the drain and they may never get another opportunity like this again.

With a soft loving voice, she looked at her husband right in his eyes and said, "I think we can give it a try darling and see how it goes. If it does not work for us, we can always come back." She then went on and said, "I think this is our breakthrough and I believe God has got something big for us over there in the UK. I used to hear people talking about miracles, but today a miracle is at my door step. The husband did not accept the suggestion there and then, but he said, "Okay, I heard all what you have said. But before we make any decision, let's sleep over it for a day or two, and do some research about Scotland and everything else." The wife responded with a disappointed voice, "It's actually a good idea. Let's pray about it and hear what the Lord says about it." Now at the back of her mind, she was convinced and prepared to convince her husband to take the offer and that there was no going back about it.

Three days down the line, everyone in the house was busy praying and researching on Scotland and the entire UK. They both came up with advantages and disadvantages, but agreed to compromise. The husband agreed to take the offer. The wife was very happy and continued to thank the Lord for the marvelous things that He was revealing for her family. Now it was all joys for both husband and wife and they agreed not to break the news to anyone, even to the children, until everything was in place, such as a work permit, visa, etc.

Like she said before, this was not a man-made thing, but God's appointed time. After the husband accepted the offer, everything went on very well. The work permit and visa were processed smoothly within a short space of time. This was towards the end of the year, Christmas time, and they were in Botswana. To them, it was a really good end of the year with a big breakthrough so they went home with joy.

Now after everything was in place and it was the time to break the news, the dilemma was how were they going to say this to other family members, and how were they going to take it? The husband and wife had never showed any interest of going to the UK before and now it would be, "We got the job, everything else is ready, and we will be going on such a date." It was hard for them, especially the husband, so he decided to leave everything to the wife to tell the family as she was the one who was more interested about it.

Well, the wife was fine with that. She went ahead without wasting time and told those she thought they were supposed to know and everyone was happy about it. The time came and the husband left first for the UK. Then the family followed after two months and when they arrived, their entire lives changed. Life in the UK was completely different from Africa although it was a bit stressing, but it was for the best. Now they have lived there for over a decade and they have not decided to go back to Africa at all.

When they got into the UK, they only rented a house for six months. They then managed to secure a mortgage and became landlords in a foreign land before they were able to do that back home. Remember, earlier on the wife said, "You never know, maybe God has got big things for us in the UK." Things were happening and everyone around them was amazed how their life was moving so fast, especially when they managed to secure a mortgage in less than a year. Surely God was in control and He was at work with them, revealing their hidden opportunities.



UNITED KINGDOM

Thobekile Mutezo is an Internationally Published Author, born and raised in Zimbabwe. She has worked in customer service, and has done several vocational studies including cutting & designing. She has ten years of experience in social care, working with children. She lives in Scotland with her family, and enjoys empowering her children, especially in today's world which is presented with many life challenges. Thobekile's passion for children is also partly fulfilled by being a Sunday School teacher. She is passionate in helping people

achieve their goals, and this has led her to pursue a BSc (Hons.) degree in Occupational Therapy.