



# Grace Focus

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## I Go Before You

The Lord impressed me several months ago to share all that He's done in my life "career wise" and I kept putting it off. I finally said, "ok, after I get a job I'll share my testimony." I hope this helps someone struggling to let go and let God. God is faithful; He'll never let you down if you put your trust in Him. He goes before us and makes our path straight.

I guess I'll start from when I graduated high school. Pastor asked Angie and I to give a speech at graduation. There are really only two things I remember about that speech. The first is I had said, "I want God to be the pilot of my life". There used to be bumper stickers that read "God is my co-pilot" and I remember thinking when I read that, "I don't want God to be my co-pilot, I want God to be my pilot". The second thing was in reference to David; when God was with him with the Lion and Bear and then Goliath. I remember thinking "if God was with David He can also be with me in whatever circumstance life gives me".

Fast forward almost 30 years later and lots of things have happened. Now, I was never one to particularly like school. I was always fascinated with nursing, but back in 1987 there was no way was I going to go to school that much more to be a nurse! My dad spent a lot of time in the hospital during my teen years and I was always amazed by the nurse's ability to do so much, I was literally in awe watching them! However, all I wanted to do was get married and have babies. Yes, nursing seemed so amazing, but marriage and babies, YES, that's what I wanted! God was gracious and gave me the desires of my heart. However, before any of this happened, I had to logically think, "how am I going to support myself"? So, I decided I would do a one year program at Dorsey Business School. At the end of that year I was a certified Word Processing Secretary. Honestly, at the time, I could only type about 35

wpm, but God was faithful; He knew where I was going and what my future held. During our last couple days there, Manufacturers Bank came in and hired me to work in their secretarial pool. I only worked in the pool for a couple months before I was picked up to work as a full-time secretary. I worked there for two years when one of my co-workers said there was a position for an Executive Secretary in Dearborn. I went for the interview and it "just so happened" (we all know that's not how things work when God is the pilot of your life) that I was getting married the same day as my future manager's daughter. He said, "Well this can't just be a coincidence" and I got the job! *Just so happens* Naum and I ended up living in Dearborn/Dearborn Heights for 10 years, only 15 minutes from where I worked.

I worked for Bob Sellen for 7 years. After I had Jordyn in 1997 I really didn't want to work full-time. By this time I was making decent money as a second income (also a huge blessing) and really didn't want to give up my position completely. I started doing some research and discovered a thing called "job sharing". It was fairly new at the time, but thought I would present it to my manager thinking the entire time, "He'll never go for it, there's no way". Well, to my surprise he said, "let's post the job a see what happens." Enter *Cris*, my future job share partner.

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I found out later that Mr. Sellen had *just so happened* to decide to retire in April and didn't really care if one person or two people worked my position since he wouldn't be there anyways. So, we're interviewing Cris for the job share and it *just so happens* that we have the same birthday, December 23rd. For me, that was a sign and our partnership worked out perfectly. The job share remained in effect for 12 years!!! It enabled me to work from 9-3, two to three days a weeks, get my kids on the bus and be home by the time they got off the bus. It enabled me to keep up my skills and help support our family. It really was the perfect job for a working mother, one that only God could have provided for me. He knew from the time Manufacturers came in to hire me in 1988, where I'd be and what our family would need 14 years later! God is my pilot!

In 2001, our family moved to Fenton. I told my then manager, Nancy, that the drive was just too far and with three kids I didn't want to be so far away. Well, it *just so happened* that our office was in the process of moving to Farmington Hills (all of which I was completely unaware of). She suggested I work from home on my scheduled days until the office was moved; seriously?? Enter another blessing! They provided me with a cell phone, computer and fax machine so I could work from home from Sept. of 2001 until Nov. of 2002. I worked for Nancy until 2006 when she decided to retire. Enter Rhonda, the only Christian manager I've ever had and my absolute favorite! She too loved our job share arrangement.

I worked for Rhonda from 2006 until 2009. To Rhonda's dismay (and mine), Comerica Bank, who bought out Manufacturer's Bank several years prior, decided to eliminate all PT secretarial positions. Rhonda took Cris and I to the conference room and told us about our job elimination. We were offered either positions downtown or a severance package. Downtown was really not an option for me from Fenton so I elected the package.

So, I went home and cried for three months! I had no idea what I would do. Looked in the paper for jobs and nothing sounded good. God is my pilot! Yes, while I was devastated, I kept thinking, when one door closes another one opens. I decided in August of 2009 to enroll in community college. Terrified, I attended my very first college class. I ended up liking it and did very well. Now remember, I hated school back in 1987, wanted nothing to do with college. What I found out was, as our lives take different turns our priorities change, as do our goals. I decided to go for Medical Assisting. I figured it was an 18 month course, I could complete it quickly and get back to work in no time. I finished my first year strong and only had a couple more classes to take the next fall. In Sept of 2010 I enrolled in Phlebotomy, sat there and thought, "what am I doing, I want to be a nurse, I've always wanted to be a nurse." The time had come! I decided right then and there I was going to pursue my dream of nursing! I went home dropped all my classes and registered for the prerequisites for the nursing program. I had to pass the nursing entrance exam, college algebra, biology, microbiology and pharmacology classes before I could even take my first nursing class. Talk about scared! Did I mention there was a three year wait to get into the nursing program? To make a long story short, I did it; I became an RN in February of 2016 at the age of 47!! Yes, 7 years later! God is faithful!

As I began to search for jobs I had the attitude of "When doors open I'll walk through, the rest is up to you God!"



## Sonya Angelovsky

*Above: Sonya with her three children. (Left to right: Megan, Jacob and Jordyn)*

I applied for several positions before landing an interview at Huron Valley Sinai Hospital, and I was offered a PT midnight position. I had never worked midnights, never wanted to and Naum didn't want me to. However, we talked about starting at the bottom like everyone else. I said, well Lord, you've opened the door, I'll walk through, the rest is up to you. I was schedule to start May 9. I received a phone call on April 30 from my manager, asking if I'd be interested in a FT DAYS position!! Ummm, yes please! (I've said all that to get to this)... While speaking to my manager, I heard the words, I GO BEFORE YOU. I knew it was in the bible somewhere, but I wasn't sure where. I looked up the phrase and it actually appears a couple times, however, I believe the Lord was speaking Isaiah 45:1-3:

***"Thus says the Lord to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held – to subdue nations before him and loose the armor of kings, to OPEN before him the DOUBLE DOORS, so that the gates will NOT be shut: I WILL GO BEFORE YOU and make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and cut the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden treasures of secret places, that you may know that I, the LORD, will call you by your name."***

To me the double door means, the first door was a job and the second door was days. I walked through the first door and he opened the second door. The crooked places are distorted or bent paths and the gates of bronze and iron gates area all the hospital policies and red tape. The hospital I hired into is a union hospital, jobs are first supposed to be offered to internal employees based on seniority. However, because I didn't start until May 9, this path was not straight for me, but God changed the crooked distorted path and made it perfectly straight! I didn't have to figure it all out! God went before me and prepared the path! God is my PILOT! He has my course set, I just have to be willing to follow HIS navigation! Thank you Lord!!! God has been so faithful to me in so many other areas. He has given me a "peace that passes all understanding" in times when there was nothing I could physically do to change a situation. I have no doubt he will complete what He has started!

I've recently found out that changes are coming at the hospital again, but I'm not worried! God has it all planned out, He's already prepared the path before me.+