



The Breakthrough

By Yinka Oshin

In my book, *Diary of a Coincidental Pastor – Embracing the Divine Appointment in your Disappointments*, a pressing challenge I identified was the need for me to secure a 9 – 5 appointment that will support my family, facilitate my writing and publishing projects and not impact drastically on my pastoral responsibilities. It was a tough period, as securing a 9 – 5 appointment that met these criteria was proving difficulty.

I quote a paragraph from my book – *“As I continue to ponder and change my complaints to God into seeking Him for help; it became clearer that securing a 9 – 5 appointment might bring relief to the home front in the short term but the price in the long term will be greater both for the home front and the Church. The Lord kept encouraging me to hold on Him; to persevere in my place of assignment and not to let go my vision and dreams for my writing and publishing projects. It wasn't easy but we kept plodding on by faith.”*

In April 2018, about 3 weeks after the public launch of my book, *Diary of a Coincidental Pastor – Embracing the Divine Appointment in your Disappointments*, I was busy doing some Church admin work, the TV was on Sky News; it was during

this period that there was an increased news coverage on the effects of plastics on aquatic life, the ocean and environment. Then I heard a piece of news item, that to reduce the effects of plastics on the environment, there has been an increase in the demand for milk in glass bottles. Immediately, the Lord said, I should process that piece of news item properly. I was puzzled!

The Lord clarified further, if there is an increase in demand for milk in glass bottles, don't you think there will be an increase in demand for people to deliver them! Instantly it became clearer, milk in glass bottles are not sold in the supermarkets, they are delivered by milkmen (now I am aware, that we have milkwomen too). God was pointing me to a job opportunity, a unique one for that matter, as I quickly realised that milkmen will work at night (not 9 – 5). I immediately googled milkman vacancies and to my utter surprise, there was an ongoing recruitment campaign with an open day planned at my local fulfilment centre (about 3miles – 15 minutes drive and 45 minutes on 1 bus + walking).

“As I continue to ponder and change my complaints to God into seeking Him for help.”



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I was amazed at God’s leading and grace! I immediately completed an application for the role of a Home Delivery Driver (Milkman). I was very hopeful for this opportunity and trusted that God that has started the process, will complete it.

In early May 2018, I attended the open day recruitment campaign, heard a talk about the company, the role and a tour of the fulfilment centre. I was very excited, as I got confirmation that the role was not 9 – 5 and the working day does not include Sunday (Saturday night); which means I will be able to maintain my pastoral responsibilities with some adjustments. I will also be able to support my family. God is awesome! Couple of days later, I was invited for an interview; and to the glory of God, I was offered an employment as a Milkman. I started in the new role late May 2018. I was elated and full of gratitude to God. He works in wonderful ways; I was searching for a 9 – 5 appointment that will support my family, facilitate my writing and publishing projects and not impact drastically on my pastoral responsibilities. He knew the best appointment that will meet these requirements was a 11pm – 7am, the role of a Milkman; He knew this role will later give me an opportunity to write another diary, contributing to my writing and publishing projects. He had to make sure, I was expectant and positioned to embrace His divine appointment in the disappointments of life.

To put this breakthrough into perspective, check the small box on the right. I read this some months later; it was included in our Community Newsletter – 19 people attended the open day recruitment campaign, 11 were invited for interview, 4 were hired; I was privileged and blessed to be among the 4 that were hired.

 A graphic on a blue background. On the left, the text 'You Spoke.' is written in a white, cursive font. To its right is a white megaphone icon. Below 'You Spoke.' is the text 'We Listened...' in the same font. To the right of this text is a white glass milk bottle.

You gave us some fantastic questions to think about over the past quarter, showcasing your honest opinions, ideas and feedback. We truly Value this, so please continue to send these in.

Below is just one of the questions we received:

Q. How are we attracting new talent?

A. We recently held our first recruitment day at our Erith Fulfilment Centre which was hosted by Mark Chapman, Supply Chain Director and Steve Allen, Regional Manage. 19 people attended to find out more about the business and have a tour of the site. Following this 11 were invited to attend a one-to-one interview and four were hired. Due to it’s success we will be rolling out recruitment days across all our regions.

The Breakthrough in Context

To place the breakthrough in securing an appointment as a Milkman in context; the following are the list of various job vacancies I applied for before and after securing an appointment as a Milkman.



PhD Studentship University March 2015	PhD Studentship University March 2015	Digital Content Producer Christian Training Organisation December 2015
Social Media Content Writers Christian Media Organisation January 2016	Training Officer Training Organisation January 2016	Social Research Interviewer Research Organisation March 2016
Parish Pastor Church & Charity Organisation September 2016	Editorial Content Manager Christian Association December 2017	Waste NVQ Assessors Training Organisation January 2018
Administrator Christian Conference Team February 2018	Administrator Christian Charity February 2018	Document Administrator Legal Office March 2018
Customer Assistant Supermarket April 2018	Milkman (Home Delivery Driver) Dairy Company April 2018	Administrator Science Association December 2018

I wasn't shortlisted for an interview for most of them except two – PhD Studentship and Social Research Interviewer. I secured an appointment to work as a Freelance Social Research Interviewer. The paid employment (Milkman) that I was able to secure an interview and eventual appointment was the one revealed by the Lord.

I was aware that I might be over qualified for the role as I hold a B.Sc Agriculture and M.Sc Animal Science degrees; however this did not deter me from embracing a divine appointment. I work at the delivery end of the dairy industry rather than working at the back end by managing dairy farms.

As I mentioned to a colleague, if he could do it and make a living out of it; so, can I, irrespective of my qualifications. On a brighter note, at least I have realised that milk does not just appear at the doorstep; it takes hard work behind the scenes to make it happen. I am privileged to be one of those that make it happen.

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As documented in my book, *Diary of a Coincidental Pastor – Embracing the Divine Appointment* in your Disappointments, the Lord made a demand on my life and drafted me into the office of a Pastor. My role as a Pastor does not have a bearing on me doing this job; I am laying an example to others to embrace divine opportunities that might be disguised as hard work and require humility to get the full total benefit.

During training, whilst introducing ourselves, I could sense the odd expressions, when I introduce my previous role as a freelance publishing consultant. It seemed obvious others were wondering what is the connection between publishing consultant and a milkman? I was wondering myself! Now I know!!!

Please note, this is not to imply that you can only work where you have received clear divine guidance. The jobs I applied for were based on roles I could match my knowledge, skills and experience. I was glad to secure the Freelance Social Research Interviewer role. However, in my journey as a Milkman, it became obvious, that the manner of

securing the role was the Lord's way of ensuring I was at the right place, at the right time to explore and maximise the opportunities that has been prepared for me.

"I have observed something else under the sun. The fastest runner doesn't always win the race, and the strongest warrior doesn't always win the battle. The wise sometimes go hungry, and the skillful are not necessarily wealthy. And those who are educated don't always lead successful lives. It is all decided by chance, by being in the right place at the right time."
Ecclesiastes 9:11 (NLT)

I was made aware of this opportunity at the right time – I was actively seeking a paid employment and was expectant for an answer to prayer. By being at the right place – my place of assignment as a Pastor. I see this appointment as a direct reward from the Lord for persevering in my place of assignment. So, it was less of a struggle for me, when with all attempts, I made to exit the role; I was divinely detained for a purpose – this publication you are reading.

