



Help getting off food stamps

Chris Jeub <chrisjeub@gmail.com>
To: Wendy Jeub <chrisjeub@gmail.com>

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From: **Andrea**
Date: Sat, Sep 22, 2012 at 6:56 PM
Subject: Andrea
To: "chrisjeub@gmail.com" <chrisjeub@gmail.com>

Ok, so I promised you an email. I will admit to cringing a bit when you asked if I or my husband had a resume. Brutal truth is that I have not written one since I was in high school. My husband hasn't needed one. I can give you a bit of history on both of us and you are free to ask any questions this doesn't answer. (You said you looked forward to the challenge-you are probably going to get just that, lol.)

I am 42. I am a high school graduate and that is about as far as my formal education goes. My husband and I have been married for 25 yrs and have 6 kiddos (3 girls and 3 boys-16,14,12,7,3 and 1). We married when I was 17 and my husband was 21. I finished my last year of high school during our first year of marriage. After high school I worked a brief period for a pizza restaurant and then for a phone service agency trying to sell coupon books (I was terrible at it.) In school I was an A student and a member of the Honors society. I have a LOVE of learning. I majored in secretarial work. Then, my husband decided he preferred me to be a stay at home wife. We had trouble having children for the first 7 yrs of our marriage (was given a 97% chance of never conceiving, I had severe endometriosis.) Through the Lord's grace (and His direction medically) we did. When Our first child was about a year old we began debating the whole homeschooling idea. I knew in my heart that it was the direction I wanted to go and my husband agreed. So, I have been a stay at home mom for the last 24 yrs or so. I love teaching, crochet and I am an obsessive organizer and voracious reader-when I can find time. :)

My husband's name is Adam. When we married he was working as a cook for a couple of diner type restaurants. He had a talent for it. Around the time of our first baby he needed a more reliable job and better income and he managed to get on with a local lumber company in California. He worked there a few yrs and they did layoffs because they were closing. That is when he got hired at another bigger lumber company- Sierra Pacific. He had been told they had excellent pay and benefits. He put in 11 yrs for them, but the work took a serious toll on him physically. He already has a tendency to a lot of joint problems genetically. By the time he left he had had 2 repair surgeries to his right elbow and tendon and one to the left and carpal tunnel surgery to his right wrist. It was when he woke up one morning with his back locked up and went into therapy for 6 months that he took the advice of his doctor and left mill work. The only other company that had good pay and benefits in the area was the grocery retailer Safeway. He managed to get on as a checker (for half his pay at the mill). But, that is where he learned his next talent-working with people in a customer service type of work. He quickly went to checker and then top journeyman checker. We lived in CA the first 4 yrs he worked for them and then he requested a transfer to Oregon because his sister asked us to come there. (He had been on disability due to surgery to his left knee.) got the transfer and we moved to Oregon where he put in another 7 yrs at Safeway. They were constantly trying to get him to go management but my husband didn't want to do that for

various reasons. Then he had to have surgery to his left shoulder and was on disability when the house we rented got sold. He had family in AR that wanted us to move here and we came. After he was released from disability he took his letters of praise and recommendations and spoke to the management at the local Kroger store about a job. They hired him that day. He has been working for them since 2009 and has been moved up from checker to front end supervisor. He is good with people and a perfectionist by nature. He LOVES football and basketball and sells some trading cards on Ebay. Sometimes he does good-most of the time (my opinion) it is not worth the hours he invests. And it has not really helped us financially. It is what my husband knows and what he is comfortable with.

Now the ugly truth is that we have been on food stamps since the birth of our first child (about 16 yrs). That whole crutch thing. I HATE IT. Every year when I renew it is a miserable time for me. I long to be free of it. I am always concerned that something will happen and we won't be able to get it and well.... I don't know how we would survive.

I want so badly to find a way to help us be independent. When I read your post I had been in constant prayer to the Lord to help guide me somewhere I could find answers to changing this. What is funny is it wasn't just your post- it was your decision to put up your own blog. At first I wasn't sure I would sign up because I try to limit how many emails I get (to stay away from too much time on the computer). But, I have followed your family blog for a long time and felt led to follow yours. Then at the end of that article you said you would like to help anyone looking to get away from government aid. I wanted to cry. I felt like the Lord had just personally stood in front of me and answered my prayer. But, I will admit that I fight fear and doubt.

You can not know how right you are about aid being a crutch. You literally become addicted to getting it, terrified to go without it. It affects so many of our decisions. Whether we can make extra money- because we lose some for every dollar we bring in. It affects to some degree how frugally I can shop. I cannot buy good buys on line or from any place that does not accept food stamps. And I have been treated like the lowest form of life by my social workers and given lectures on birth control. I want to say right now that I HIGHLY value any input or direction from you and your wife. You hold a great amount of respect in my book. But, please don't feel obligated. I just want direction, I would do any work needed. Know that my heart thanks you immensely. Let me know if you'd like to know anything else. I apologize for the lack of resumes.

Thank you,
Andrea