

Call the Labourers, and Give Them Their Hire

Evelyn was young, full of hope, and a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Chile. She got a job and married a returned missionary. And then life began to get difficult. Like many other young couples, they discovered how difficult it is, at times, to survive. Their total income amounted to only \$420 a month, not enough to cover their expenses.

To make matters worse, Evelyn was forced to quit her job in order to escape the harassment of her employer. She tried for more than a year to find other work, but she stuttered when she spoke, and even simple questions seemed to confuse and terrify her. Evelyn's self-confidence was so low and her confidence so shaken that when asked about the things she could do well, she could only think of two: she was a good Young Women leader and she could cook. Her greatest desire was to get a job—any job—that would pay \$240 per month.

In December 1999, the Church established an LDS employment office in Santiago, Chile, and when Evelyn heard about it, she decided she'd see if there was anything they could do to help.

The center was starting its first Job Search training class, and Evelyn attended. In class, she learned how to prepare a resume, how to find job leads, how to establish a resource network,

and how to interview. Her classmates helped her feel capable and worthwhile. Her feelings of self-worth and confidence grew.



Although she had been beaten down by many discouragements, Evelyn was an avid and grateful learner. She practiced what she learned in class with her husband, as well as with the missionaries and specialists at the employment center. She developed a strategy for finding a job and began doing the things she had learned in the Job Search class.

Two weeks later, she returned to speak to a new group of students who were starting on their own road to finding employment. She could barely contain the tears as she told other members of the class about how, after following the instructions given in class, she had set appointments for 10 interviews. What was more, she received two job offers in one day.

Excitedly, she told the members of the class about her new job, earning not \$240 but \$340 per month—40 percent more than she had hoped to earn.

Soon after she accepted her new position, Evelyn's husband walked through the doors of the Santiago Chile LDS Employment Center. "Is this where I sign up for the Job Search class?" he asked.