

The Fall and Rise of Marco Antonio

The fall of Marco Antonio began on the day he submitted his letter of resignation.

He had been serving as director of finance and administration for a company in Brazil, but he knew the company was facing severe financial challenges, and he felt it was only a matter of time before the company folded. So, he resigned and began his search for another job. He didn't anticipate any problems. After all, he was well qualified; he had skills that would benefit many companies.

He would be just fine. Or so he thought.

He began the usual process—e-mailed his resume, spoke with friends who were professionals, contacted headhunters, and searched through the classified ads. He had a few interviews, but no job. For a year he searched for a job, without success. He canvassed more than 100 employers. He even visited a few professional placement specialists who made miraculous promises, but only after an exorbitant financial investment on his part—and money was something that Marco Antonio didn't have, at least not any more.

Things got worse. His wife of 12 years left him, and, because his finances were so tight, he was forced to move back with his parents. He had so little money that he couldn't even afford bus fare to search for a job.

Marco Antonio was at the end of his rope when a friend recommended the LDS Employment Resource Center.

"From the moment I entered the door, my life changed," Marco Antonio later wrote. The people there were optimistic and friendly. One couple had come all the way from the United States to help people such as himself find employment.

"I signed up for a career workshop and as it progressed, I became fascinated not only with the things that were being taught, but with this religion that was so interested in helping me. They didn't question the origins of my faith or my religion. At that moment, I knew I was in the house of God."

At the end of the first day, Marco Antonio realized he had wasted a full year of his life looking for a job. He went home that night and went through all the handouts and notes he had taken from the class. "I marveled at how simple but effective the principles were," he says. "All you had to do was follow the instructions step by step."



Not long after, Marco Antonio learned about an employment opportunity at a local TV station. It looked perfect for him, but he had been disappointed so often, he tried to keep himself from getting too set on the idea. He went through the steps he had learned in class. He set up an appointment and began reviewing in earnest the material he had learned in class. The more he studied, the more confident he became. He practiced interviewing. He practiced how he would answer tough questions.

"The interview went exactly as we had practiced," he writes. He was called back for another interview. And another.

"The final chapter of my story," he writes, "is that tomorrow, a month after I discovered the LDS Employment Resource Center, I begin working for a large company where I can grow professionally. I know without a doubt that without faith in God and help from the people of the LDS Employment Resource Center, I would not be where I am now."