

Anonymous (Giving)

I Kings 5 describes Solomon's preparations for the building of the Temple. Verse 6 says "now please assist me with this project. . . I will pay your men whatever wages you ask; for as you know, no one in Israel can cut timber like you Sidonians!" (The Living Bible) The scripture jumped out during my morning devotional on March 30 and Wilson Branch, a friend and neighbor of my mother came to mind. His reputation as a lumberman and woodsman is excellent. My father always said "Wilson is the best woodcutter in this area and he knows more about forestry than anybody else around here. Call him first about your timber."

In 1971 my sisters and I were left a small piece of wooded land. It was naturally seeded in hardwood timber and left for 35 years. In 2004 my oldest sister, my daughter and I walked the property lines with Wilson. He made suggestions about the maturity of the trees, disease and insects affecting them, and time to cut. My sisters and I contracted with him for the timber cutting. The contract and timber were forgotten in the press of more immediate concerns until that morning in March. The scripture lesson of that devotional coincided with the "Catch the Vision" campaign for Grove City Alliance. I was in prayer several times over the next few days for Wilson and that timber. Unknown to me, Wilson had started cutting timber during the week of March 30 and a check for my portion was received at our home in Grove City on April 3.

Unexpected boon, found money, giving over and beyond. . . whatever we call it, God knew 35 years ago His purpose for that small piece of wooded land, timber and the resulting money. He provided the seed, growth and the harvester in His time. Praise the Lord for His vision and provisions!