

# God At Work!

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Jermain Franklin is an anchor with TSN and a close family friend of ours. He is so close to us that I call him “Uncle Jermain.” I had the opportunity to interview him and was so encouraged by his story that I wanted to share it.

Uncle Jermain always knew that he wanted to work in sports. As a child he tried almost every sport out there but his favourites were basketball and hockey. “My ultimate dream was to become a professional hockey player in the NHL,” he remembers with a laugh because he later realized that wasn’t going to happen.

“You reach for the stars and may end up in the clouds but that’s still a pretty good place to be” says Uncle Jermain. That’s what happened with him, he reached for becoming an NHL player but became a reporter instead and is very happy with that.

Uncle Jermain showed a lot of perseverance. After he finished high school he went to University in Communications to try and pursue his new dream of being a reporter. Coming out of University he discovered how hard it was to get a job you’re happy with. He spent a few years working multiple part-time jobs. He volunteered at the local TV station, working behind the camera on gardening shows and all kinds of other things at that level. He wanted to get a real job in TV reporting and had sent demo tapes everywhere but never got a call back. Then God moved very powerfully in his life.

At the time, Uncle Jermain was going to a huge gospel church in Toronto. He had only been going there for 18 months. Each Sunday, the pastor invited people to the front of the church to receive prayer. Uncle Jermain usually didn’t do this but that day he decided he would. He and about 50 other people were walking up to the front of the church to pray when the pastor called out to him and said “young man your

dreams will come true.” Uncle Jermain was very surprised to hear this. He thought to himself, *but you don't know my dreams*. Later he realized that it was really God who knew his dreams.

Amazingly, five days later, Uncle Jermain got the call from TSN saying they wanted to interview him. When he went into his job interview, everything went very well. They ended up offering him a job in Calgary to work for TSN in reporting. It was a big change. They had to move to Calgary in two weeks, but Uncle Jermain was really excited. At the end of the interview, the interviewer asked, “do you know how I found out about you?” Of course, Uncle Jermain didn't know. The interviewer explained that it was late at night and he was in his basement putting away toys that his kids had left out. He went to the toy box and at the bottom there was a VCR tape. The guy decided to put it into the machine and see what it was. It was Uncle Jermain's demo tape. The interviewer decided to get in touch with this guy who seemed really good at reporting.

Uncle Jermain was so shocked to hear this. He knew that God had a plan for him. When he told my Aunt that he had gotten this job and they were moving to Calgary, she told him she just found out they were expecting! After almost four years of waiting, God had opened this door for Uncle Jermain. I am so glad he moved to Calgary for this job because this was how we met him and became close family friends.

After Uncle Jermain had moved to Calgary and lived here for many years he felt the feeling of being stuck again. He says it was like getting stuck in grade six for seven years. He loved being a reporter but felt he wasn't learning a lot of new things and he really wanted to be an anchor. He prayed for this to happen but he had to have great patience. For several years nothing changed.

Uncle Jermain always looked up to Joseph from the Bible. During that time, Joseph's story helped Uncle Jermain to persevere. Joseph had to have a ton of patience. Even though Joseph faced lots of really big challenges, he never lost hope and faith in God. That reminded Uncle Jermain how God had a path for him.

In the meantime, Uncle Jermain worked hard at his job but also made it a priority to live out his faith and give back to the community. “I had the opportunity, especially when I was in Calgary, to volunteer with different camps to...basically introduce the game [hockey] to underprivileged kids. That was really great,” explains Uncle Jermain. “That's one way I was called to help build the community.” He also took the opportunity to share his faith and when he got the chance, he encouraged athletes to talk about their faith. Uncle Jermain says, “Perhaps what was best about that was it gave other Christians an opportunity to talk about their faith, because the more you talk about it the better you become at it and the more confident in yourself you become, and not just yourself, but knowing that Jesus is by your side.”

Through all those years, Jesus was by Uncle Jermain's side. Finally, he got an opportunity to become an anchor with TSN in Toronto last year. Even though it was hard to say goodbye, it was so exciting to see his dream come true.

Even though Uncle Jermain is on TV every night in a big city like Toronto, he says the most important things are the ones people don't see.. “I'm a guy on TV and I don't mind being in front of people and in front of the world, but when it comes right down to it... if you help, and truly care for, and pray for the people around you, I think that's what really matters in terms of legacy. The stuff that people don't necessarily see is the stuff that matters the most to others and that's what's most important to me as well.”

Uncle Jermain is a formidable person, and I've always looked up to him. He trusts in God with all his heart. He knows that God has a plan for him. His story can help us all remember that even when you feel stuck like Uncle Jermain was, God is walking right beside you.

