**Quitting (Again)? | Mar 2013**



by [**David**](http://www.learnservelove.com/author/david/) on March 13, 2013 in [**By David**](http://www.learnservelove.com/category/by-david/), [**Reading PA Updates**](http://www.learnservelove.com/category/reading-pa-updates/)

When most people find out someone is leaving their job, the first question is: “So, what will you be doing?” Typical answers usually involve phrases like: “better work”, “more pay”, “greater opportunity to grow professionally”, “nicer work environment” and so on. This is usually followed up by the congratulatory statement: “Well, good for you. You have to do what makes you happy.” We’ve all been there before or might even be there in the not too distant future.

I’m currently at that point and I’ve had that conversation a few times already as I have decided to leave my job (again). However, my answers why are a little different and not what people expect to hear. The long and short of it is, I am not leaving FLEETWOOD for another job. In fact, I do not even have another full time job prospect on the horizon . . . because I am not looking for another job. I will not be doing better work, earning more pay, with a greater opportunity to grow professionally in a nicer work environment. The truth is that I have decided to leave FLEETWOOD because the involvement requirements were beginning to take over other areas of my life that are actually more important to me.

In an early December post ([“What’s Next?”](http://www.learnservelove.com/whats-next/%22%20%5Co%20%22What%E2%80%99s%20Next?" \t "_blank)) on our “Learn. Serve. Love.” blog I wrote: “We are seriously reevaluating our work situations and planning ways to free up more time for Bible training, discipleship, relationship building and language study as we continue towards the goal of Christian service in other locations as God leads.” More recently, the stresses of trying to live two diverging lives (work and missions preparation) caused us to call out for God to make it very clear what we were supposed to do to make that statement a reality. The very next morning I was invited into my boss’s office for a conversation about assuming more responsibility and workplace commitment. It was suggested that if I couldn’t commit even more to the demands of the ever increasing workload then maybe it was time to look for another job. That’s usually not what you would want to hear, but it was the clear answer from God that we needed. Shortly thereafter I resigned.

I want to let you know a little more about myself and the reasons behind this decision. My priorities are set by a very different standard than what our current culture and society says should be our standard. I have been working professionally for 8+ years and it has provided me with a decent amount of success, advancement and recognition in my field of work. I have quite a few patents, my designs have won awards and I’ve had the opportunity to work on some really cool projects with some great people. It has allowed me to travel around the world and go on some nice vacations. But, here’s the kicker, it’s never enough. The world will entice and then push us to our limits before demanding more. It promises us success and recognition but what it does provide never really satisfies. I know I’m young and it’s still very early in my career but I’m beginning to see a trend and I want to break this cycle before it really takes over. Here is one of my favorite quotes that relates to this thought process:

“If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world . . . probably earthly pleasures were never made to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing. If that is so, I must take care, on the one hand, never to despise, or be unthankful for, these blessings, and on the other, never to mistake them for something else of which they are only a kind of copy, or echo, or mirage. I must keep alive in myself the desire for my true country, which I shall not find till after death; I must never let it get snowed under or turned aside; I must make it the main object of life to press on to that other country and to help others do the same.” – CS Lewis in Mere Christianity

That quote sums up the inner longing that I believe we all have or at least had at some point in the past before allowing it to get “snowed under or turned aside.” It’s been a gradual process and over the past few years, God has renewed that inner desire in my life and I have finally decided to make the main object of my life to “press on to my true country and help others do the same”. Some people can do this within the framework of the professional workplace and I even tried to for many years as well. It is difficult and there are many temptations to let that inner desire fade behind the “concerns of the world and the deceitfulness of riches.” I do not feel that is where I have been called to stay. Rachel and I feel called to go. Where? God will lead. Our only requirement at this point is to be ready. He has already shown us a few things that we can do right now to be ready for His further guidance.

We will both continue taking classes at Lancaster Bible College, continue in our discipling relationship with another nearby family, continue hosting and co-leading a Missional Community Group through Reading City Church. We will also get more involved with the needs of RCC as they reach out to Reading and surrounding communities, and spend more time with family, friends, and current missionaries as well as reading, studying and praying as we seek God’s leading in the “extra-local” missions direction ourselves. We will be trusting God to provide for us as He has faithfully done so many times in the past. Even just recently, He has provided me with a small amount of freelance design work that will help take care of our needs (though, not our wants) and allow us to spend the majority of our time working towards these other priorities.

You may sum all of this up with: “Well, good for you. You have to do what makes you happy.” In response to this well-meaning statement, I want to say one last thing. Are you doing what makes you happy? Tune out the ringing phones and river of emails for a second and really consider this for a moment: Are you really truly happy? What are you looking to as the source of your happiness? Is there any empirical evidence showing that source can provide the happiness you are desiring? If an honest evaluation leads you to the conclusion that you are not as happy as you thought you would be at this point, and that maybe the world and its promises have let you down a little, consider what God’s Son, Jesus Christ had to say on this topic: “I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” (John 10:10 & 15:11). Just as “good” is the enemy of “best”, so is “happiness” the enemy of “joy”. The inner desire we all have can only be filled by the One who made us with it. Since He made us, He knows how we function best. He is calling us to come after His heart of love, joy and peace. Once we submit to our Maker, our true joy can be filled to overflowing.

David

P.S. As always, I would LOVE to discuss any of this with you in more depth whenever you have time. Let me know . . . I’m now more available than ever.