

I may be at a point in my life where I may be able (or forced) to make a radical change in what I do on a daily basis vocationally. I may even be at a point where I can choose to make my vocation an act of service and ministering to others physically, spiritually or both. So I thought it would be prudent to make a somewhat random list of the different work and ministry possibilities that have been floating around in my mind.

Some are practical and some are not so practical. Some would require us to completely change our lifestyle, sell our house, etc. and live more simply. Others would allow us to remain in our home but still change our lifestyle and live more simply. In the end, I hope that we can make the choice that will provide us 1) the most opportunity to understand and experience our God as well as 2) love and bless each other, our family and friends, our community and maybe even someday the world.

## **Work Possibilities**

### **1. Massage**

- 1.1. Pros - Massage has a lot of pros for me. I can stay healthy while working, work in the same industry as Wendy and my mother, decent hourly wage while working, not much to think about when I'm not working, holistic, contemplative and lots of opportunity to discuss Christ. There is also the possibility to open my own spa and run a little bit larger business if I feel that I need to in the future.
- 1.2. Cons - It could take up to a year to get licensed and require a pretty good amount of my time during that year. It also could take a while to build up a clientele, especially as a male therapist. Also there is the decision to make as to whether to rent a studio somewhere or do it out of my home (initial costs, etc.).

### **2. Direct Sales**

- 2.1. Pros - I have done well in this industry in the past and believe that I could do well again without much ramp up time. The income can be pretty high and is determined in large part by my ability and performance. There is very little liability for me personally. Witnessing opportunities.
- 2.2. Cons - The industry can be unstable, the people can be either too needy or too fake, I might need to become someone that I may be uncomfortable with in order to really thrive, in the past it has required too much travel and too many night time activities, rockstar-itis. Conflict with witnessing opportunities.

### **3. Limousine Business**

- 3.1. Pros - The main pro here is that the business is already somewhat established. The hourly rate when I am driving would be really good and the override when someone else is driving would be good as well.
- 3.2. Cons - The main cons here are that the business is most demanding on nights and weekends which would take time away from the family. Also the situations that I would have to be in if I were to be the actual driver can be less than wholesome. Maintenance, advertising and cost of vehicles.

### **4. Travel Agency / Group Travel Planner**

- 4.1. Pros - the general pros would be that we would get to have the benefits afforded travel agents and could enjoy a good amount of travel even on a limited budget. I like traveling and putting together groups.
- 4.2. Cons - need to establish a pretty good niche to make decent money in the travel business. The business tends to be very detail oriented...minute details....minutia...yuk! There is probably a substantial time and/or money investment required in order to get started.

### **5. Work For Airline**

- 5.1. Pros - the main pro-here is the travel benefits as well as working for a stable corporation. I could work in several different capacities. Corporate environment (More stability, less risk).
- 5.2. Cons - I would probably lose a great deal of my autonomy and the ability to control my time. I have not had a job for a very long time.

## **6. Clothing Consignment Store (with daughters)**

- 6.1. Pros – I would be able to run a business with my daughters and have access to great deals on clothes even if the business was only marginally successful. Seems like a pretty relational business. I would be able to meet the needs of families that need little help. Inventory would be relatively inexpensive.
- 6.2. Cons – I don't really know how to run this kind of business and do not know if there is a location nearby that would be ideal for this type of business. Not sure what kind of competition there is for this type of business directly and from craigslist/ebay/etc.

## **7. Coffee Stand (with daughters)**

- 7.1. Pros – I would be able to run a business with my daughters and if we could get the right location the business and not that hard to figure out. All three of my older daughters have worked as baristas and enjoyed it. They could eventually run the business without me.
- 7.2. Cons – I do not know if there is a location nearby that would be ideal for this type of business, It seems like if there was that would be a stampede to secure the location.

## **8. Manual Labor**

- 8.1. Pros – I would be able to be active while I was working and I could learn new skills. It seems like there would be a lot of satisfaction in a job well done. Humility. Work would not require as much high level brain activity all the time so I could clear my mind. Less stress
- 8.2. Cons – Pay is probably not good especially for an unskilled laborer. Hours are long in the summer and probably would require weekend work taking extra time from family.

## **9. Christian Educator**

- 9.1. Pros - I love to teach, I would love to teach about God, I would in essence be paid to study and share the Gospel... what could honestly be better than that?
- 9.2. Cons – the pay is probably pretty low, I would probably need to finish a masters degree before I can work (and maybe even a teacher cert), I might have to move in order to get a good position in the right environment.

## **10. Author (Just go with it!)**

- 10.1. Pros - I love to write and would be able to express my thoughts to a wide audience. I have several book topics already bouncing around in my head.
- 10.2. Cons – I have absolutely no rational basis to believe that I can get a book published, much less get an advance to live on while writing the book(s).

## **11. Event Promotion / Recreational Equipment Rentals/Coordinating**

- 11.1. Pros – This could work well with the limousine business and would be creatively challenging. It would allow for a good amount of participation in fun activities. Clientele would probably be pretty fun to work with. Very social.
- 11.2. Cons – I do not have a very well-defined business concept thought out for this. Startup and momentum would probably be pretty challenging. Minutia.

## Ministry Possibilities

1. **Existing Ministry** – The easiest way to get involved in ministry is probably to look for open positions or obvious needs within existing ministries. It will be wonderful if I could find something that really matched up well with my passions for youth, family ministry, teaching, multimedia and community service.
2. **God's Garage** - I could open a garage as a ministry and provide automotive repair at significantly reduced amounts or even for free. I would employ a couple of strong Christian mechanics who were also very good with youth and then allow kids to work off their community service hours or work as some sort of a voluntary apprentice...the goal being to influence the youth working in and around the garage while providing a very needed service to the community as an obvious and practical application of God's love.
3. **Christian Coffeehouse** - This is pretty self explanatory. It would be a creative challenge as well as an intellectual one to create and foster the right environment that would attract different types of people to one location to share beverages, treats and faith. I could involve my children here as well as baristas etc.
4. **Christian Club/Lounge** – I have often thought about opening a Christian nightclub to provide an alternative to the normal nightclub scene that would not only attract Christians but that would be done well enough to attract non-Christians as well.
5. **Handyman and Needs Coordinator** – 1. Find people from our local community that can fill needs that are all around our local community 2. Find the people that have needs that the people we have found can fill and make it happen.
6. **Skating Rink (Youth/Family Ministry)** – Get some financial partners and/or raise the funding to build a skating rink. Staff it with people who love the Lord, love people and love to skate. Open the doors and minister to everyone who comes. Pray to break even financially (after supporting my family and the families of those involved) and be able to engage myself in full time ministry for God. (There are lots of additional possibilities with this kind of facility)
7. **Lighthouse Ministry** – Move into a neighborhood that has obvious physical and spiritual needs. Meet those needs the best of your abilities. Find others willing to do the same. Mentor them and send them out to their own neighborhoods to do the same. Would require developing a ministry model that would cover everything from financial development, skills training and spiritual development.
8. **Fundraising for Something I can get Passionate About** – If I'm going to invest my time energy into something, why not make it something that I can be very passionate about? I am good at raising money and presenting so the fit would be good. (negative would probably be the need for travel).
9. **Wells or Village Adoption** – I can create or fold into a ministry that focuses on digging and maintaining wells as well as micro-loans and adopting villages. As an alternative I could also create or fold into a Ministry that provides similar services for families in the states and even locally.
10. **Awareness Trip Coordinator** – This could probably tie in with the Travel Agency/Group Travel Planner idea in the Work Possibilities section above. I could create a ministry wherein I would develop specific travel and experience packages that would allow the participants to become very aware of a social condition or spiritual need by immersing them in and around it. This could be a great catalyst for change locally and throughout the world, because if people could actually experience the tremendous weight that most world lives under as well as the spiritual depravity most of the world is subject to, they would be more passionate about ministering to these people.
11. **At Risk Youth (All Youth)** – Anything ☺

12. **Bible College** – Just go and see what God can do with that....
13. **Itinerant Missionary** – radical times call for radical thoughts 😊
14. **Christian Media** – Hmmmmmm... I obviously love multimedia, and I especially love well-done Christian media. So, there may be something for me to pursue in this field even though I do not have any formal training or highly developed skill set here.