

Resource Guide for Reading's Community

A Faith experience

Going through Redundancy

Wondering what next?



Redundancy experience, journey and resolution!

Outline:

The redundancy experience – the actual experience of being made redundant

The journey – could be weeks, months or years

The resolution – how I have arrived at where I am now

THE EXPERIENCE

Imagine the following situations:

Being forced to show colleague how to change the door entry code

Christmas Eve being the last working day – lunchtime experience of God's peace at beginning of December in St Mary's Church after being advised that morning of impending redundancy

On 2nd January not being able to return to desk – bleakness

The redundancy experience can also be likened to Job's experience i.e.

- Brought down to a rock bottom experience
- Loss of ability to work
- Loss of ability to provide for family as main breadwinner
- Loss of self-esteem
- (sometimes) possible loss of health – depression – nervous breakdown
- (sometimes) family breakdown

I am going to refer to those who experience redundancy as VICTIM, because this is a result of man's fallen nature. As a consequence – man is destined to work:

Exodus 23:12 "six days do your work"

Gen 2:15 "God took man & put him in the garden of Eden to work it"

THE JOURNEY (PROCESS / ACTIVITIES / SUPPORT)

a) Process

- being processed by (what is now) Jobcentre Plus
- tedium of regular signing on
- very lengthy forms

Tackling Redundancy January 2012

- loss of status – treated like any other unemployed person
- need to ensure all benefits claimed – may need to seek help from C.A.B.
- seek external help from Reading Employment Support Centre (now closed); CAB; Nquire; Communicare
- claim travel costs for interviews – not always poss. for interviews arranged for following day due to internal Jobcentre procedures
- Jobcentre organised training courses – in my case interesting but not particularly helpful in finding work

b) Activities

Involvement in:

Reading Employment Support Centre (describe), then became TEA shop – now New Directions. Received good advice e.g. “treat job search as full time job”; “keep full records of all job seeking activities” (for presentation to Jobcentre etc). Available help with CV and interview techniques

Networking with others in similar situations – bounce ideas around

HNC – chance to redeem minimal academic qualifications

Keeping comprehensive record of job applications – 600, including 40 job interviews

Christian Community Action – driving & admin help

Advice from other external sources e.g. outsourcing organisation’s manual

c) Support

Positive and Inappropriate

Positive (appropriate) support is extremely important

Part of church family’s role – very strategic element in victim’s life in order to keep them focussed, & trusting in God e.g.

- Weekly time of prayer with mature Christian friend
- Regular prayer with small support group
- Pastoral visits
- Words of scripture and general encouragement
- Constant encouragement from folk at church
- Practical gifts of money, food vouchers, help with mortgage etc
- Unexpected Christmas parcel from F.A.I.T.H. Christian Group

Tackling Redundancy January 2012

- Occasional generous treat e.g. Starlight Express, Lion King etc
- Car replaced

Isaiah 58: 11 – “The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.”

Philippians 4:19 – “.... And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus”
Not only all needs met, but also over and above those needs – what grace!

A short word about inappropriate support:

Insensitive gifts e.g. cast off clothes, clearly past their best c.p. - CCA, they wouldn't pass on shoddy goods to clients

Insensitive comments e.g. “have you thought of doing something else?” – a good title for a book about this subject perhaps? i.e. expectation that victim should take jobs that don't take into account their skill set
Assuming victim is a Christian - unless they have clear and definite leading from God to take a lesser role, then it's not the other person's place to suggest work which will demoralise them still further.

THE RESOLUTION

How did I get from there to here?

Prayer team at church agreed principle of self employment with aim of setting up taxi firm

Obtained full Hackney Carriage taxi licence from West Berks Council

Worked for Theale Taxis for a year

Listened to Joel Thomas (The Globe) message in car park at Theale Station – (below)

31.8.99 - we met with Joel to discuss and pray about situation – set definite targets (show); set date for start as 1.11.99, inc money for 1st tank of petrol!

1.11.99 – call from Premier Office Supplies resulting in 2yr job with them as Purchaser Manager

2002 3rd redundancy (from Premier) – now 52 years old

1.11.02 – journey starts into full self-employment, starting with Telco Global, leading to creation in 2011 of Prelco Consulting Limited providing cost reduction services to the business sector.

EXCERPT FROM JOEL'S SERMON AT T.F.C. 2009

We are raised up to be the representatives of God. People think that if you show that you're humble you've got to be poor. As you learn to trust God, as you learn to depend upon God, as you become faithful to God, God becomes faithful to you (draw near to God and he will draw near to you). This is not a prosperity gospel – it's **CONDITIONAL** – you've got to learn to trust God, and in return God will provide for you.

When you know that God has spoken to you, you are positive. You don't talk in terms of "if"; "maybe"; "perhaps" – you get straight to the point and declare what God says.

Isaiah 55:11 says: "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it"

We need to appropriate God's word to our situation, and if God says something appertaining to our life then it cannot return to God void until it is accomplished. We walk by faith and not by sight. Faith allows you to believe it and then it begins to happen.

Everyone is special to God – Satan will try to knock out our self-esteem. Others may say uncomplimentary things, or we can get into a situation where we don't think we are a person of much value.

We are saved for a purpose – we are a people of destiny!