

THOUGHT I WAS A STAYER. FOUND OUT I'M A MOVER!

Memphis, TN to Carrollton, TX
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Project Summary

At our July, 2011, Van Lunen Fellows Conference, we were given an outcomes assessment where Van Lunen alumni were asked if they had changed employment since they had participated in the Van Lunen Fellows Program. A third of the participants indicated that they had changed employment. At the time, I judged my situation and believed that I would be a “stayer” in my position as the President of a large Christian school in Memphis, TN. On the Monday after returning from Calvin College, I met with the chairman of the board of our school. I found out that morning that I was going to be a “mover” instead of a “stayer”.



Project Results

When a person has a sudden change in job status, an initial reaction might be to immediately start with a job search. It is important, however, to take the time to decompress, grieve the loss, and reassess the future. It is important to filter emotions and accept that emotions associated with job loss resemble common reactions to death and divorce. Holding on to resentment can prevent one from moving forward.

Reaching out to a support group is important. Praying is paramount as one asks God to provide guidance and strength and to help deal with anger and other negative feelings. Patience is necessary although difficult to maintain. The process takes time. Due to the cyclical nature of education, there are typically defined hiring seasons. Coping won't last forever.

God has given me the perfect position as the Elementary Principal at Carrollton Christian Academy in Carrollton, TX. God is good!



What I Have Learned

- Accept negative feelings but don't let them rule you
- Keep healthy
- Avoid isolation and seek support
- Help others and volunteer
- Live in the present
- Take responsibility for yourself
- Learn to accept what you can't change
- Budget
- A pink slip can have a silver lining
- Quiet your mind and remember that God is in charge
- Keep the Roloids handy!

