

What Were You Thinking?

By Carol Polk

Essentially every financial advisor and psychologist in America might tell you that I'm crazy. While there may be unrelated evidence to verify that diagnosis, here's their area of questioning: What could possibly make someone walk away from a wonderful job in a well-respected organization, take a huge pay cut, give up a great benefits package for benefits that are "out of this world," and head down an uncharted path to start a new ministry? Well, it is hard for many to understand the God-inspired transformation behind this seemingly illogical walk of faith.



On a specific night God began to stir in me that He had something else for me to do for Him. This stirring continued through months of searching, filled with God-moments, blessings, and invaluable lessons through the surrender process.

Meanwhile, Ardmore Baptist began to explore its next ministry to make a difference outside the church walls. The Missional Engagement Team settled on a 20-year-old successful model that empowers folks in poverty for better life and employment opportunities through classes in life skills, job skills, and Bible Study, along with one-on-one Christian mentors. They also began to publish brief articles in the *Ardmore Announcer* about the future ministry, eventually developing a job description for its first leader.

The articles caught my attention, connecting with several aspects of my background, and I assumed I would be involved in the future ministry as a volunteer. Eventually, however, I understood that God was calling me – and had been preparing me for a lifetime – to start this new ministry. My audible response as I finished reading my future job description: *"Oh!"* Full surrender was at hand, and I began to hum, *"Trust and obey for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."* <- Sammis>

Since I quit my job and started with a clean slate, God has walked with me down a long, slow road to lay a solid foundation for the ministry, now called **Pivot Ministry: For a new approach to life & work**. He affirms daily that I am doing His will, providing spiritual nourishment, blessings, and divine appointments that I could not accomplish on my own.

God is calling volunteers and donors to launch and sustain the ministry, and I know that He will provide participants who are ready to make life changes. I'm confident that He will direct us to the right location, curricula, and launch date. I have no doubts, although there will surely be bumps in the road as we go. My faith remains unshakable! *"Faith is the victory!"* <- Yates>

If we listen and if we allow Him, God transforms our lives for His glory, opening doors that we could not even imagine. I am eternally grateful for Ardmore Baptist's vision and how God is transforming my life in both tiny steps and giant leaps of faith.

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)