

"No one should be in this profession who doesn't have to be."

That was the advice I received from a university department chair many years ago. He might not have been talking about my current profession, but the advice was clear and has stayed with me all my life. I understood then, and I am more certain now, that no one should work in a career field who isn't right for it; who doesn't love it; who doesn't persist in the path when others lose interest.

If you must be in the profession, you do not give up, become apathetic, lose faith, or stop caring when demands, drudgery or difficulties arise. Even under the inevitable changing circumstances when the ideal is replaced with the real. Those who *"have to be"* will usually go on steadfastly, knowing there is purpose - however small or large, however humble or great, however appreciated or not appreciated that work may be viewed by others.

I know I am that kind of a person - the one who is perfectly *"built"* for my profession; the person who needs and has to be in this line of work. And yet every time I interview for new positions, I trust and respect that discovery process - the employer's assessment - hoping for the good of the company and myself that only the right people are chosen.

So here am I, submitting not just my interest but my sincere willingness to devote my all to it - for two reasons:

I love people - all people, everywhere. I have a genuine concern for their welfare and a desire to make a positive difference in the lives of others. It may sound odd or clichéd, but it is true. Know me, and you will know that of me. I believe as John Donne meditated, and Hemingway reiterated, *that "...any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; It tolls for thee."*

All men, women and children of this world are equals. Within them is value immeasurable. We share a common bond. Any individual's gain, loss, sorrow, heartbreak, success, failure, happiness, joy or personal disaster is partly mine. To think otherwise is to misunderstand a universal truth. But to be motivated to action, to demonstrate such belief, such knowledge - what must we do? More importantly, what must I do? ***I serve.***

I have discovered that service helps, it changes, it improves, and it makes a difference not only for others and their circumstances, but my own. I find deep satisfaction and a sense of accomplishment in my own life when I serve, often in spite of my own motives or agenda. And because of those rewards, service is ultimately the selfish thing to do. Muhammad, Gandhi, and the scriptures advocate, *"When you are in the service of your fellow beings, you are only in the service of your God."*

Through service we positively aid and add to the collective bank of human greatness. I fully understand we cannot do all things to help all people in all their situations, but we can do what we can do. I find immense joy and happiness in that. I have volunteered, donated, worked, supported, given hope, raised up, and sacrificed time, talent, sweat and blood - making it part of my daily agenda to assist wherever and whenever I could, as much as I could.

I know having a love for people and a desire to serve should qualify me for the work. And yet I realize that one must also possess the skills, experiences and temperament for it. I trust your judgment. It will be a great honor and opportunity to serve - should you also discover, that I *"have to be"* in your employment.