



Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

The invitation was sincere, and well-intended; it was soliciting enrollment for a Christian ministry event, for people in the Marketplace. The headline was appealing: **"Begin to View Your Work as a Calling."**

The e-mail landed in my virtual box as I began my work as program host/emcee for a weekend conference called Prescription for Renewal, presented by World Medical Missions - the medical arm of **Samaritan's Purse**. I enjoy that role, every year: I've met and served hundreds of doctors, dentists and their spouses as they hear stories and opportunities for short-term medical missions.

One of this year's presenters was Bruce C. Steffes (meet him at www.mmhof.org/bios/steffes.html). He is a surgeon who transitioned his practice from mostly American with occasional missions to mostly missions with occasional American. If there was a **Halftime, MD** book, Bruce could be the co-author.

He made a great statement in his presentation Friday night: *"Medical work without evangelism is not medical missions - it is social work. Medical missions should not be viewed as a hook (for evangelism), but rather a consistent outflow and consequence of His love..."*

In **The Master's Program**, we encounter the question constantly: *Are career and*



calling always separate? Can't my career be my calling? Though framed with different phrases, the uncertainty is almost universal: Why can't I just "do my job," and do it "Christianly?" Or, to put it in terms of the upcoming seminar, Can't I just 'begin to view my work as a Calling?'

In some ways, it's easier to address that question for doctors than it is for lawyers and corporate CEOs. This weekend at The Cove, hundreds of medical pros and their spouses went through their own version of **The Master's Program** and **The Barnabas Group**: they had competent peers mentoring them on the particulars of taking their careers in American health care and reframing them as a Kingdom calling, practiced in places where their overt witness for Jesus Christ would accompany their care.

Drs. William Rambo and Lydia Engelhardt - husband and wife, from Charleston - retired early from their separate practices in South Carolina to focus on medical missions. Reason? They went to serve in places where,

"...without them, people would die... but they left no one in Charleston who would die without them." Why do it? "To extend the lifespan of people who have never heard the Gospel... and, then, to make sure they heard it along with their medical care." In Charleston, they had careers; in Africa, they've found their callings.

Monster.com is the web's most famous job search site. Their tagline? **Your Calling is Calling.**TM Even lost people long for a sense of purpose that goes beyond the paycheck; is it any wonder that Christians - with an eternal life expectancy! - don't find satisfaction short of significance?

Can one **Point of View** settle the confusion and controversy? *No chance.* It remains a chafe point that draws more attention through the span of your working life. The only thing worse than *not finding the answer...* is *not asking the question!*

Career is what you're *paid for*; calling is what you're *made for*. It's the difference between what you're *hired to do*, and what you're *wired to do*. Everyone has a *career*; only the redeemed have a *calling*.

Paul had no confusion: tentmaker, and apostle. Jesus did his time in his career (*carpenter*), but thank God he fulfilled His calling (*Savior*). Luke's day job was doctor; his calling was historian (*Luke, and Acts*). Some are compensated for calling; most treat them as parallel assignments, each vital for life.

If that question remains unresolved for you, maybe it's time to find your way into **The Master's Program** - for men, or for women -

to find out what God has to say about it! *After all, He is the Caller!*

Bob Shank

Bob Shank is Founder and Chief Mentoring Officer of The Master's Program (TMP).

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