

Fourth Quarter Strategies – Saturday, February 28, 2015

Change is certain. Change is constant. On the surface, we might think that our lives are not faced with constant change, but they are. I've remained in the same career with New York Life for the past 31 ½ years and my family has worshipped at the same church for the past 28 years.

Well on this recent anniversary, we found ourselves visiting a new church and considering moving our membership after all these years. Making this change has been tough, but we now know this is our Lord's will for our lives and we're prepared to *move forward*. During those 28 years we experienced some interesting times which included merging with another church, purchasing an existing church building and property and seeing our senior pastor retire after 46 years of service. As a body of believers we faced plenty of challenges along the way, but saw our God take us through it all. But now, Janet and I have peace in making a change after all those years of service.

During my many years as a New York Life agent, I've experienced much change as well. The company has remained committed to serving its growing clientele through the agency system, but our business has constantly evolved. With the advent of the computer and the internet, the whole industry has taken on a new complexion. What hasn't changed is my love for the business and the opportunity to serve through my knowledge of a fairly complex business. Through it all, I still see God wanting me to stay right where I am, serving my clients as best as possible with the skills and tools He's given me.

I'm especially thankful for the close relationships that will continue through my involvement in CBMC and the *Connect3* training completed several years ago. It's helped me focus on building new relationships with fellow Christians that have truly been *iron sharpening iron* experiences in my life. Church life is important in our walk with Christ, but I credit the maturity in my walk to CBMC.

At this point, I have no idea how God wants to use us at this new church, but I know He knows and He'll show us in His perfect timing. Church is only one facet of our walk with Jesus, but it's extremely critical to *"not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing"* and we must *"encourage one another - and all the more as you see the day approaching!"* (Hebrews 10:25) For me and my family, we have experienced the importance of close fellowship during our trials and we know the value of being there for others in their trials as well. As our lives transition, I see exciting times ahead allowing us to grow as a family and serve God in new and diverse ways. There's a fresh scent in the air and I know we are in His will!

Change is a natural progression in our life journey and it takes many forms. Few stay in the same career for a lifetime these days. We will all face challenges on our journey, and it does no good to look back on the past. We must press forward just as Paul persevered on his final journey to Rome.

Here to serve,

Jim Langley

Passages to Ponder: Daniel 2:21, Hebrews 10:23-25; Acts 21:10-15; Romans 12:1-5

© 2015, all rights reserved. Note: Jim Langley has been an agent with New York Life since 1983 and an active member of CBMC of Santa Barbara since 1987. These "Fourth Quarter Strategies" discussions are designed to "light a fire" under Christian business and professional men so we might be more effective in the marketplace for the sake of Christ, our Lord and Savior!

Passages to Ponder: Daniel 2:21 Hebrews 10:23-25; Acts 21:10-15; Romans 12:1-5

Daniel 2:21 New King James Version (NKJV)

²¹ And He changes the times and the seasons;
He removes kings and raises up kings;
He gives wisdom to the wise
And knowledge to those who have understanding.

Hebrews 10:23-25 New King James Version (NKJV)

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Acts 21:10-15 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁰ And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹ When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his *own* hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver *him* into the hands of the Gentiles.'"

¹² Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³ Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

¹⁴ So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, "The will of the Lord be done."

Paul Urged to Make Peace

¹⁵ And after those days we packed and went up to Jerusalem.

Romans 12:1-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

Living Sacrifices to God

¹² I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Serve God with Spiritual Gifts

³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.