



# **BORN AGAIN DREAMMAKERS**

THOSE WHO WENT ASTRAY  
BUT FOUND THEIR WAY

JOANN LIM LESIUCZOK

*In our dreams, we find Hope.*  
*In our failures, we find our Character.*  
*In eachother, we find Connection.*

*When I change the way I love, I change the way I live.*  
*When you change the way you love, you change the way you live.*  
*When we change the way we love, we change the way we live.*

**SHARE & TELL!**  
We invite and encourage you to print this, post it, email it, tweet it, pin it.

Help us send this book to the ends of the earth and back and get it into as many hands and hearts as we can. There is someone in this world we wrote this for and we may never know who that person is. We need your help to ensure that this special person gets this gift.

ARE YOU IN OR ARE YOU IN?

We ask that you do not make changes to any of the entries or sell this content.

Thanks!

All stories were generously given  
by their authors.

Born Again Dreammakers was conceived  
by Joann Lim Lesiuczok.

Cover and layout design  
by Drew Lesiuczok

ISBN 978-0-9878099-4-0

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Thank you to the amazing individuals who took a leap of faith and courage (not to mention their precious time) to share their stories. I am inspired and incredibly grateful for each and everyone of you. May this special project-a work of heart, go on to be greater than you and I can fathom. More importantly, may it give you the courage to press on when you want to give up, inspire you when all you can see is a blank canvas, and empower you to give life everything you’ve got and then some...

**WHY? SIMPLY PUT, BECAUSE  
YOU MATTER. YOU MATTER.  
YOUR LIFE MATTERS  
AND  
OUR WORLD (INCLUDING ME)  
NEEDS Y(OUR) BEST.  
IT’S NOT A QUESTION;  
IT’S A ROCKSTAR STATEMENT.**

With Love and Gratitude,  
Joann Lim Lesiuczok

IT BEGAN WITH  
A SIMPLE IDEA:

“What would be a fun project to work on with the people I love?”

THE  
INSPIRATION:

(Born Again) Dreammakers.

THE  
T(ASK):

Ask the people I admire, love, and do life with the same ques-  
tion and invite them to respond in one page or less (this was  
easier for some than others...no names in particular Dad).

INSERT  
THE QUESTION:

What’s the BEST mistake you’ve ever made?

THE  
TRUTH:

We have all had dreams at some point about who we want to  
be, what we want to do, where we want to live, who we want  
to marry, etc.

AND...

along the way, some of us went astray...BUT we found our way.

These

ARE

*OUR*

**STORIES...**

## IAN PEEBLES

### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE OTHERS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

Adventurer, Advisor and  
Genuinely Good Natured  
Person living a FULL  
TILT LIFE!

**T**he best mistake of my life was leaving everything in my life behind and travelling the world for a year. I left my job as a Sales Executive for a large office equipment company, moved out of my penthouse apartment, parted ways with my girlfriend and left the city I called home for five years. At 25, my life was all fitting together but I had this powerful urge to explore the world. I would put to use savings I had earmarked for this trip since my first job at age 14.

My boss, girlfriend, coworkers and many friends told me this bold plan of mine was a mistake or gave thin veils of approval. The concerns focused on how much money I would be spending and how far back this would put my life and career. They told me I was making a mistake. However, my parents were very supportive and I was totally undeterred.

After landing in Sydney, Australia on my solo trip, I initially questioned what I had just done. I had never traveled on my own and did not have a definitive plan. I sputtered initially and briefly wondered if my doubters had been right.

However, very quickly as I headed north from Sydney I met five fellow travelers on my tour bus who were all in similar circumstances. We became inseparable friends and would travel together for the next four months across many countries. I created new and unique friendships, learned about new cultures and was exposed to entirely new perspectives on life.

After eight months on my own I was joined by two close university friends for the next four months. We created so many memories together and still chuckle at the stories from our trip. Our friendship grew powerfully during the next four months together.

Throughout my year abroad I deeply changed and grew as a person. I challenged my fear of heights through skydiving and completing three bungee jumps. I earned my Scuba Divemaster certification and completed over 100 dives. I lived for the moment and created memories I would cherish my whole life. I absolutely knew that I had become a better person during my trip and the memories and experiences were invaluable. I feel so lucky!

My wife tells me that she was intrigued by my travel experiences and this in part, drew her to me. Needless to say, I would do it all over again in a heartbeat!!!

My advice is to step outside of your comfort zone and seize opportunities whether they are convenient or not. You don't know when you might get another chance. Don't let others dictate your goals & desires—take ownership of your own self-development. Take chances and never lose sight of the big picture!

Happy Travels,  
Ian

**I LEFT MY JOB AS  
A SALES EXECUTIVE  
FOR A LARGE  
OFFICE EQUIPMENT  
COMPANY,  
MOVED OUT OF  
MY PENTHOUSE  
APARTMENT, PARTED  
WAYS WITH MY  
GIRLFRIEND AND  
LEFT THE CITY  
I CALLED HOME FOR  
FIVE YEARS.**

## LISA POOLE

### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE OTHERS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

Toronto wedding planner. In love with love, snowboarding, sunsets, mountains, Muskoka, French wine, puppies and my husband. Inspired by moments, and by making memories that last forever.

### COMPANY

In Love With Love

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### WEBSITE

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(coming soon!)

I am a perfectionist. Every day I strive to be the best worker, friend, daughter, sister and wife that I can be. Failure is something that I have often feared and find hard to accept, but over the years I have come to realize that it is in fact a gift.

Mathematics has never been my strong suit. After struggling through first year statistics at the University of Western Ontario and a frightening first semester in second year advanced statistics, I realized despite my efforts, that I was failing. I also realized that without passing advanced statistics that I would not achieve the credentials necessary to pursue my dream to become a teacher. After several meetings with a guidance counselor, I decided to forgo a four-year advanced Bachelor of Arts degree and to wrap up my time at Western a year early with a three-year general B.A. The minute I made the decision I felt like I was making a huge mistake. I had a horrible feeling that I was selling myself short, giving up too easily, taking the path of least resistance. I felt like a failure. I had no plan and even less of an idea of what I wanted to do with my life.

I spent the summer following my graduation trying to plan my next move. Do I start applying for jobs to start paying off my student debt? Do I go back to school and pursue postgraduate studies? I had not even considered travel until my boyfriend (and now husband) suggested that perhaps a year off to reflect and travel might not be a bad idea. We started researching potential destinations and saving as much money as possible. We finally decided to move to Banff, Alberta for a year so that we could enjoy the

stunning landscape and experience the best snowboarding of our lives. Moving across the country and away from my comfort zone was scary, but it turned out to be one of the most incredible experiences I have ever had.

Banff taught me so many lessons and played a huge part in shaping me into the person that I am today. It taught me how important travel is and opened my eyes to how much beauty there is to experience. Banff allowed me to meet new friends from all over the world and to develop my passion for the mountains and west coast living. It taught me that no matter where you are in the world that your family and friends will always be there for you and that no distance can break those bonds. Banff taught me about relationships and love and gave me some of the best memories that I have with my husband Mike. Banff changed me and taught me more than another year at Western ever could have. It gave me the time to make good decisions regarding future educational goals and allowed me to come back home more in tune with myself and my aspirations than ever before.

I will never regret the decision to cut my time at Western short. At the time, it felt like a mistake. But, it opened the door to new opportunities. I no longer fear failure the way I once did. Rather, I welcome it and look forward to what I will learn and the opportunities that will present themselves. In those moments when life seems less than perfect, I am reminded that imperfection is beautiful. It's a form of freedom and a quality that I now embrace.

I HAD NO PLAN AND EVEN LESS OF AN IDEA  
OF WHAT I WANTED TO DO WITH MY LIFE.

**WHAT WOULD  
YOU LIKE OTHERS TO  
KNOW ABOUT YOU?**

I am 81 years young! I have a real zest for life and living. Each day I wake up and embrace the day the lord has given by spending time with my family, cooking and watching my soap operas!

**T**he best mistake I have ever made was being resentful of what others were given. After being married, it was expected that I would work on my husband's family farm. My husband came from a family of four (three brothers and one sister). All of the siblings and their spouses worked on the farm. Our days were often very long and laborious. The work was physically exhausting and paid nothing, we worked for food and a place to stay. I enjoyed working, being along side the people I loved and in a country I adored.

I was happy to work along side family but was very resentful toward my sister-in-law. Although she too worked on the farm, after marriage she was given a home to live in and an abundant dowry. Both my husband and I felt ill treated—why was she given so much and we were given nothing. The anger and frustration grew with each passing day. It began to consume me and transformed my labour of love into one of resentment. As time passed, the concern was no longer for my self, but for my two girls. What would we be able to give them if we had nothing of our own?

No longer content with the life we were leading, my husband boarded a boat and came to Canada, where we (my daughters and I) would join him one year later. Being illiterate, and having a language barrier made it extremely difficult to perform even simple tasks. Leaving behind my family and my beautiful Italia to begin a new life in Canada where I watch my girls and now grandchildren flourish has given me the opportunity to look back at my feelings of anger and be thankful. In my case, my feelings of anger and resentment became the catalyst and reminder to never undermine the power of hard work, the strength of my own two hands and my health. Never wait to be given anything. If you want something in life YOU are responsible for making it happen. It is my hope that those who read my story realize the power, strength and self-pride you gain in creating your own path in life. As long as you have health, and motivation, the strength of your OWN two hands will create unprecedented opportunities.

\*This entry was translated from Italian to English via Esterina Grego, granddaughter of Rosina

*Being illiterate,  
and having a  
language barrier  
made it extremely  
difficult to perform  
even simple tasks.*

Clichés aside,  
higher  
education  
was sucking  
the soul  
out of me.

## HAMZA KHAN

### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE OTHERS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

Digital Strategy @RyersonU.

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Teaching @SenecaSoMe.

Speaker. I talk higher ed,  
productivity, lifestyle design  
and all things digital.

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**T**he best mistake I ever made was going to university. While I wanted to go to college to pursue filmmaking, my first generation South Asian parents had other plans. They came from a background of economic scarcity, and brought preconceived notions of success with them to North America. This included the idea of the “career trinity”—doctor, lawyer or engineer. The movie industry was out of the question.

Being young and passive, I didn’t put up much of a fight. And so I dragged my feet through two years of undergrad (changed my program thrice) and grew increasingly disengaged from all aspects of life. Clichés aside, higher education was sucking the soul out of me. One day I decided that I was done with subjecting myself to academic rigor for classes that didn’t excite me, for an eventual career that I would end up half-assing.

In hindsight, university proved to be a testing ground for me, where through process of deduction, I strengthened my resolve to pursue my passions. I switched my major to English literature, a subject that I truly enjoyed. I immersed myself in co-curricular activities, which offered an outlet for my creativity and energy. By the end of my four years, I had completely morphed my experience from reluctance to transformative. The benefits of going to university continue to grow: a large and diverse network; the rehearsal of multiple scenarios which continue to play out in my personal, professional and academic lives; the ability to think outside-of-the-box; frameworks for better understanding the world; the ability to think critically and the discipline to continue learning.

Going to a place that completely removed me outside of my comfort zone was easily the best mistake I ever made. That’s where I learned a great deal about who I am and what I want my legacy in this world to be.

## DREW DUDLEY

### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE OTHERS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

Founder & Chief Catalyst of Nuance Leadership. West Wing junkie. Collector of penguins.

### COMPANY

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Writing about your “best mistake” necessitates reflecting on all of your mistakes, which is probably why I’m writing this with a scotch in one hand.

Creating a mental collage of your mistakes is a humbling experience. The process reminded me that while the vast majority of my most important lessons emerged from my mistakes, the single most transformative insight I ever reached did not. Rather, it emerged from a single statement in a late-night conversation.

3 a.m. is nature’s intoxicant. Sometimes we’re lucky enough to find ourselves engaged with a mind or two long past everyone else has gone to bed on some random Tuesday. One of those conversations where you run out of the pre-packaged perspectives you’ve always shared and are actually bringing new things that you think out of one another. The quiet, the trust, the respect (and yes, the exhaustion) breaks down some of the walls that previously only a couple too many beers could remove. You take intellectual chances, and you share the things that scare you. It was during one of these middle-of-the-night exchanges where a woman I had come to respect tremendously revealed her approach to decision making: “When I don’t know what to do in a situation, I ask myself, ‘what would the person who I want to be do in this situation’? Then I do that.”

That insight helped me realize that ultimately every mistake is a decision, and I came to understand that that each of my poorest decisions was a child of my decision-making process. Looking back, I realized that my decisions had never been about who I wanted to be; rather, they had always been about what I was going to get. If a decision would reap rewards it was desirable, if it would bring consequences it was to be avoided.

On the surface this is a pragmatic approach: we establish what we believe our options to be, look at each one in turn, and make our best-informed guess as to what would happen if we choose it. We can compare the anticipated results of “option A” to those of “options B and C” and select the one we hope provides the highest positive return. In those situations where none of the options seemed to reap a positive benefit, we can choose the one that delivers the fewest consequences.

The problem is that we often have very little control over what happens. What actually transpires after we select “option A” is ultimately always just a guess. All too often the rewards we can get, and the punishments we are trying to avoid, are determined by forces largely beyond our control.

However, while we cannot always control what is going to happen, we can always control who we are. Sometimes it’s the only thing over which we have control. As such, I’ve amended my process.

I no longer ask, “What will *happen* if I do this” when making a decision. I ask only “Who will I *be* if I do this?”

I still make mistakes, and my decisions still have consequences, but they are now rarely consequences that I cannot live with down the road.

*When you don’t know what to do in a situation, ask yourself, “what would the person who I want to be do in this situation?” Then do that.*

Since I have made that the fundamental mantra of my decision making I have lost many things. I have lost money, I have lost jobs, and I have lost friends.

However, I have never been lost.

LOOKING  
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I REALIZED  
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HAD NEVER  
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WANTED TO  
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THEY HAD  
ALWAYS BEEN  
ABOUT WHAT  
I WAS GOING  
TO GET.

For the first time  
in a long time,  
I felt like I could  
breathe again.  
I was excited  
to live again (and  
in some sense, learn  
how to live again).

## JOANN LIM LESIUCZOK

(PRONOUNCED LESS-UH-CHUCK)

### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE OTHERS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

Making It Happen Specialist  
& Connoisseur of Life. Foodie.  
World Traveller. Soccer Player.  
Allergic to Mediocrity. I help  
people live Rockstar lives.

### COMPANY

Big Picture. Fine Focus.

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**T**he best mistake I ever made was taking a job at a company and staying way past the expiry date.

It was the spring of 2005 and I had just graduated from The University of Western Ontario (now known as Western University). I was a new graduate with NO job offers. After a month or so of applying, a recruiter approached me with an interesting offer. The recruiter sold the role to me as “this client is looking for someone to run their upcoming client appreciation event for their big clients. The contract is 3 months to permanent.” With no other (interesting) offers, who was I to say “no.” So I did what most people would do and said, “yes!”

Three months later, the company offered me a full-time role and as my mum would always say, “now you have benefits and a regular pay cheque.” As a new grad, this sounded great! The first year was wonderful, then the second year rolled around and things started to change. Though the people were wonderful, the atmosphere was different. And when things got tougher, I stayed. Though happy mornings turned into dreaded mornings, I stayed. Though I was miserable, I stayed. It was like a bad relationship that I just couldn’t seem to break free from. I loved the people...well most of them. They had become my family. I was comfortable there. And then one day it happened. They broke up with me. Five years after I first entered this relationship, it was now over...and I was relieved. For the first time in a long time, I felt like I could breathe again. I was excited to live again (and in some sense, learn how to live again).

You know how some products have “expiry” dates? This was certainly the case with this company/relationship, except I didn’t listen. And like consuming things beyond the expiry date, I got sick. I wasn’t my best self. I went from happy to miserable and the person I saw in the mirror was no longer someone I liked. But when they broke up with me, I felt like I was finally free. I felt the blood rush back, and it was as if after a time of hibernating (numbing myself), I woke up.

My Best Mistake I ever made was staying in a relationship way past its expiry date. The lessons I learned were invaluable. I am no longer willing to engage in a conversation or relationship that isn’t win-win-win or one that doesn’t bring out the best in one another. I learned that true friendships rise above ugly circumstances. Lastly, I learned to confront the darkness within and take responsibility for my life and happiness. After all, reaching my potential and living my best life was no one else’s responsibility except my own (something that I consistently remind myself of). My real mistake (that came via my best mistake) was in believing that my happiness was the responsibility of everyone else. Those days are long over and this once caged bird is now flying free and living fulfilled.

## BILLY ANDERSON

### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE OTHERS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I'm a Courage Coach and Speaker. I kick people out of their comfort zone so they can make a difference with their life.

### COMPANY

Made You Think Coaching

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I succumbed to the biggest fear in the world (the fear of what other people think of us) which led to my biggest mistake: not allowing myself to be 100% me.

When I started my own Coaching & Speaking business, the real me wanted to empower people to make a difference with their life, to stand up for who they wanted to be, to go against the grain and live a massive, impactful, grab-your-life-by-the-you-know-what kind of existence.

But my inner voice said, “Whoa, easy buddy. You can’t do that. It sounds emotional and hippy-ish. You want to work with downtown executives, because that’s where the respect is. That’s what “success” means, right? You should call yourself an Executive Coach, not a Courage Coach. Won’t business people in expensive suits with MBA’s role their eyes when you tell them you’re a Courage Coach?

My Inner Critic won (for a couple years, that is). I went for big corporate clients. I wore safe clothes and spoke with big words. My first website was borrrrrring. And, not surprisingly, it felt like work. Hard work.

My new website tells how I was 5 years old when my Mom heard me crying in my room and I said, “You’re born, you live for a while, then you die. What’s the point?” My

business tagline used to be “help people and teams deal with change”, but now I “kick people out of their comfort zone so they can make a difference.”

Damn that sounds exciting!

Now I go for clients with whom my Values are aligned; people who want to have a positive impact with their life. And surprisingly, that can include “corporate” people! I still dress nice but I wear my Superman belt buckle and extremely funky socks. Every time. If they don’t like it, I’d rather know right away instead of trying to force a fit that just isn’t there.

I surround myself with people who support me and my goals. In the words of Dr Seuss, “The people that mind don’t matter, and the people that matter don’t mind.”

When you live true to yourself rather than others’ expectations, your true gifts rise to the top like marshmallows in hot chocolate. You meet the right people and build more authentic relationships. You find better-fitting careers! The kind that don’t make you feel like barfing on Monday morning because you can’t stand your job. You find love everywhere, and gosh-darn-it that just feels swell, doesn’t it?

So get out there and be 100% you. It takes constant determination and courage (I still screw it up sometimes) but a kick-ass version of you is waiting to make a difference. It’s time for all of us to be awesome.

**I WENT FOR BIG CORPORATE CLIENTS. I WORE SAFE CLOTHES AND SPOKE WITH BIG WORDS. MY FIRST WEBSITE WAS BORRRRRRING. AND, NOT SURPRISINGLY, IT FELT LIKE WORK. HARD WORK.**

## EMILIA FARRACE

### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE OTHERS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I'm the founder of Simply Elaborate Creative Agency and The Lighthouse Project, Director of Marketing for Scribble Me Silly; twenty-something writer and all-around entrepreneur, dreamer and inspiration seeker living in Toronto. Lover of cats, coconut oil and a hearty game of gin rummy.

### COMPANY

Simply Elaborate  
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It's hard to choose just one mistake to classify as the best one I've ever made, but the one that has kept popping up in my mind would be the mistake of leaving my adventure in Calgary, Alberta too soon to move back home to Toronto. What made it a mistake was jumping on a job opportunity that was great for the time being, but not in the long run.

I was desperate to get out of a bad relationship (apparently just breaking up didn't seem possible) and wanted to move home. The job offered plenty of promises but not a lot of money. Scratch that, no money, but I convinced myself that I would just learn as I went along.

The company was fast paced, but small, and there wasn't a lot of room for sales representative development so pretty soon, I was left in the corner cubicle, unsure of how to answer the phone and no one I really felt comfortable with to show me the ropes of the place.

Within months, I had used up all my savings and felt tired, dissatisfied and broke. After two years of living in Calgary, two years that I spent and saved equally—and vastly – I couldn't understand that now, while living back with my parents, paying no rent and having absolutely no expenses, I couldn't handle the money going out.

I began working after hours on my side business, Simply Elaborate, to generate some income and pretty soon I was up until all hours of the night, designing and developing – literally having no life so I could produce gas money in order to drive myself to work during the day.

After a while, none of it made sense. I was working fifteen-hour days and seeing no results so finally – enough was enough and I quit my sales job. My employers were gracious and not surprised and so, I embarked on “going at it alone”.

It was scary and work didn't come as easily as I thought it would but over five years later, we're now Simply Elaborate Creative Agency, working with clients in Toronto and Calgary, with a team of five and growing, we're doing just fine. Collectively, we aim to inspire and encourage other entrepreneurs to follow their dreams, providing them with solid foundation in digital marketing to back them up.

Basically, I don't want other entrepreneurs to have to make a huge financial mistake before embarking on something that could be great. If I had that money I'd saved and just went for it – who knows how much quicker I would have “made it”. Then again, if I wasn't forced to test myself so quickly – I may not have even ever tried.

After a while,  
NONE OF IT MADE SENSE.  
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SO FINALLY—ENOUGH  
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I HAD NO REAL  
AMBITION  
OR DESIRE  
TO CONTINUE  
GOING TO  
SCHOOL.

## DREW LESIUCZOK

### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE OTHERS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I am a husband, a creative person, and a future dad.

### COMPANY

Freelance graphic designer and designer for Sportsnet Magazine and Sportsnet.ca

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The best mistake I ever made was deciding to work instead of going to school right out of high school. I had no real ambition or desire to continue going to school. I did not enjoy high school very much, and wanted to have a break from the school system. So I took a job, pretty far from home, without giving it much thought. This was a mistake. Maybe things would have been different if I had done a different job, but I did this one. It ended up being a miserable time for me: riding the bus for about four-and-a-half hours everyday, and doing a job I really didn't enjoy. This ended up being the best mistake, because I was able to see the value of continuing my education and was able to learn some valuable life lessons. So luckily, after six months of working this job, I applied to a local college for graphic design, since that was something I had a bit of interest in, and got accepted. I went into debt to go to this school, but I didn't care. I knew what I wanted and more importantly, I knew what I didn't want. Looking back now, I can see that taking that job was a mistake, but one I needed to make. And my life is better for it.

## GEORGE LIM

### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE OTHERS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

Husband of close to 40 years, proud father (in-law) of Jay (and Lucy) and Joann (and Drew) and even prouder grandfather of Jackson

**A**fter graduation and on my return from England, I was instantaneously employed by Ford Motor Company in Singapore as the National Parts Manager. It was a joy to drive a new car every six months and what made it more interesting was the opportunity to see my next car being assembled on the line. My close association with those in the automotive industry was more than just a fellowship—it was a partnership on which business developed. Life was good...

Soon after, I was offered to head an automotive department of a large trading institution in Singapore and one of my mandates was to undertake the study in the viability of establishing a local manufacturing plant for brake linings, brake pads and clutches to service the needs of the automotive industry in the region. As the result of the report, a manufacturing plant was subsequently set up in Malaysia. Life was good...

Slowly but surely a sense of success began to creep in...I was approached by a “head hunter” and soon took the position of Regional Manager of Bendix Mintex for South East Asia based in Singapore. As the Chief Executive Officer in Singapore, I enjoyed myself in that position, travelling extensively to the Philippines, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia promoting the sales of brake linings, brake pads & clutches. The rewards in terms of remuneration was outstanding, my benefits package was remarkable, a company vehicle at my disposal, and entertaining was just a regular routine. I enjoyed working with this company. Life was good...

I recalled one Saturday morning when my sister received a letter stating her application to a local teacher’s training institution was turned down. No reason was given but we all knew it was racial discrimination in Malaysia—a prominent situation even to this very day, and that engaged me to look beyond. I was forced to make a call—the need to make a decision for the betterment of my son who was then 3 months old. I recalled holding my sister’s hands comforting her that better days would be forth coming. And I looked at my son...and in my mind, I battled the question of what would be in store for him. It took me less than a heart beat to release my thoughts to my wife—“let’s migrate to Canada where most of your siblings are located”.

Leaving my parents, aunties & uncles, cousins in Malaysia was indeed a tough challenge, not to mention my employment, which I enjoyed so much. What was even tougher was to begin a new life in Canada. No one was willing to employ a new immigrant - every interview I attended, ended up with “you are qualified, but lack CANADIAN

EXPERIENCE. In my mind, I wondered how I could gain CANADIAN EXPERIENCE if I was not given a chance...it was like asking which comes first, the chicken or the egg? Subsequently, I submitted myself to acquire that “Canadian” experience by taking any job.

I became a parts man in an automotive dealership, working on minimum pay, obviously because I lacked Canadian experience. My heart broke out loose when I was thrown a broom & instructed to sweep the floor. From a highly paid executive in Singapore where my office was swept clean every day by a maid to one who had to sweep the floor in Canada to earn a living was a massive lump in my throat that was difficult to swallow—a dramatic change of roles. Unbelievable...but with an aching heart I did...my tears dropped endlessly...my pride vanished...my egoism disappeared in a flash...all for the thoughts of giving that child a better opportunity. In my early years, tears frequently fell voluntarily as my mind played back the good times in Singapore & my heart ached excruciatingly.

I endured the challenges by comforting myself to the thoughts of WHY I came to Canada in the first place, and I focused on that each & every time when my mind wandered back to the good days in Singapore. Eventually, I engulfed myself with the notion that the bridge behind is burnt...moving forward is the only option...

With 33 years behind me in Canada now, and as I see the well being of my son & my daughter plus the joyous addition of our grandson, Jackson to the family; not forgetting our very own well being, what appeared to be a mistake of coming over to Canada in the very first place, is the best mistake I ever made! I now look back with satisfaction and forever thanking The Lord for strengthening my whole self to overcome all the shortcomings & endure challenges of my early days in Canada, in order to experience this rewarding life of retirement - one of comfort & joy!

*Fear not for I am with you; for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Isaiah 41:1

FROM A HIGHLY  
PAID EXECUTIVE  
IN SINGAPORE  
WHERE MY OFFICE  
WAS SWEEP  
CLEAN EVERY DAY  
BY A MAID TO  
ONE WHO HAD TO  
SWEEP THE FLOOR  
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EARN A LIVING  
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THAT WAS  
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**WHAT IS  
THE BEST MISTAKE  
YOU'VE  
EVER MADE?**

