

Contribute to the Co-Creation of an Evolving World.

I think most of us, particularly when we are young and contemplating a career, at least had some desire to make a contribution to a better world. I think there are many ways to contribute to a better world. That term means different things to different people. We usually associate that idea with being involved with one of the helping professions such as a doctor, nurse, or teacher. To some it means inventing a new product or discovering a cure for cancer. To some it is a call to public service or a religious life. To others it means creating a work of art which people find beautiful. And to yet others, the desire to entertain people is a motivator. The list is endless and I will not try to capture every type of work imaginable. I think the hard thing is finding a career which will blend the dual goals of making an adequate living and contributing to a better world.

Since how each of us does that is so unique to what our deepest motivations are, I would like to use as an illustration, my own experience of meshing together my deepest motivations with making a living.

Making the world a better place was my primary motivator from as early on as I can remember. Making the world a better place meant giving people opportunities to grow and succeed; rewarding people for their hard work; treating people fairly; and creating and sustaining organizations and groups which contributed to that. Making the world a better place was something I internalized as a place to put my skills and talents to work, and hopefully, to make a living at. It was, from one perspective, a very secular approach to changing things for the better. And that was fine. But considering my religious background and training, it was also a calling or vocation that echoed one of the most important directives that I remember from the Gospels: "Feed the poor, clothe the naked, take care of the sick, visit the imprisoned, etc." So, I thought I had a pretty clear direction of what I would do when I grew up. I wasn't aware of what the specific job might be, but I was sure that it would be something that would try to make the world a better place.

As I learned more about a broad range of things, I began to see my work with an additional dimension. I always saw making the world a better place as a good thing to do for the people in the world now. But as I learned more about evolution and science in general, I began to see another dimension to my work that was even more exciting and challenging.

As I mentioned in different places in several earlier chapters, I think the world is evolving and can evolve to a better entity. It is, in a sense, that the world is continuing to be created. And we, as intelligent, self-aware, and choosing human beings, can co-create the future with others and with God. I truly believe that we are all called to bring the world closer to the best that it can be, not only in terms of human beings, but the entire physical world that we all interact with.

I think and believe that it can be done. I don't think any of us has the power or ability to change everything, but I do think all of us are able to change some things for the better. I think we can do it from both organizational and individual perspectives and impacts.

Trying to make the world a better place has been, and still is, work that I truly enjoy. It fits me. It has allowed me many opportunities to use my skills and abilities, and to also grow them. I have had a lot of satisfaction in my work. The philosophical and religious motivations I bring to my work, even

when it is difficult, have helped me enjoy my work more than I would have done so without those motivations.

One of the things related to making and co-creating a better world is that it has always led me to do the best job I can on any job I have taken or assignment I have been given. Every time I approach a task, I do it with the understanding that if I do it to the best of my ability, I bring some measure of truth, beauty, and/or goodness into the world. Maybe it is wishful thinking. But based on all of the discussions in earlier chapters and how I see each of us living and flourishing as human beings, engaged with the realities in us and around us, I derive a great deal of peace and satisfaction in doing my work, whatever it is. How could I do less than my best when if I do my best, I further the co-creation of the kind of world we all would like it to be for ourselves and for others including our children and grand children? And, at the same time, I am advancing the ultimate reality of the loving union of all of reality with each other and with God? Every individual or group I meet and interact with and every project I undertake is an opportunity to encounter reality and make it better.

Almost any line of work any of us chooses to do can be a contribution to a better world as long as it is done well, that is, to the highest standards of the type of work we choose or are able to perform.