

CRIBB<S>NOTE - June 22, 2008

Change is inevitable. That is what life is all about. “Everything must change,” and there is nothing we can do to stem the tide. So, when Jesus called his disciples to give up everything and follow him, he accelerated the process in their lives. Sometimes we may be intimidated by the thought of change. It feels like we are losing control or making an undesirable sacrifice. Change can be uncomfortable. At least, initially, it can knock us off balance. But, just as change is inevitable, we are made to adapt and can make the adjustment to live with whatever may come.

I am very familiar with change. Just a scan of my biography signals a life that has taken the “road less traveled.” While mine is not an extraordinary life, it has been something other than routine. At last count, I’ve lived or worked in nearly two dozen cities across the United States and traveled to more than 20 countries. My nomadic nature goes back to childhood when I moved throughout our small home in South Central Los Angeles in search of a place to sleep. Even then it was not unusual for me to roam between rooms to spend the night on the couch, floor, or cram some space in the bedroom reserved for my two sisters, our grandmother and me. Fortunately, my parents eventually were able to add-on to our house that made space for a more permanent and stable sleeping environment.

All of us have something that causes us to rearrange our lives and do things we previously had not considered. We have to make changes. The most difficult aspect of any change is when someone else or circumstances beyond our control force us to do something that has an impact on our lives.

The first time I experienced such an event was when my contract with a television station was not renewed. In that moment, I realized my career was not in my hands. Strangers had the power to dictate whether or not I would work. That sent me in a very different direction, but there was one thing they could not control. I was still a journalist. Although my employment site changed, my commitment to journalism was stronger.

Although I did not initiate the change, I discovered the world was much larger than a cubicle from which short excursions occurred. Living without an exclusive contract liberated me to do new kinds of reporting. I started my own production company and began traveling internationally. The change opened my mind, eyes, and life.

For the twelve disciples who followed Jesus, their lives took on an adventure they would not have taken without the radical departure imposed by their obedience to the call. Can you imagine breaking out of your zone of familiarity and entering a completely different space?

We are called by Jesus to explore and experience deeper depths of life. Faith, courage, and obedience are required to go where we’ve never been before. Take the plunge into faithful service and presence; and know with confidence God goes with you.