

THE GREATER ADVANTAGE, INC.

market-driven high performance coaching for business and life

Break Camp and Move on

By Kim Bettie

journey to the promised land

I love to read the Bible story about the children of Israel and the journey to the Promised Land. There are so many lessons for us to apply to our lives. The Israelites were the descendants of Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel after he struggled with God until he was blessed. Jacob's family moved to Egypt and grew into a large nation. The Israelites worshipped one God and the Egyptians worshipped many gods. Afraid they would soon be outnumbered, the Egyptians enslaved the Israelites to kill their spirit and stop their growth. After 400 years, God heard their cries and freed the Israelites from slavery. God overcame their enemies, miraculously parted the Red Sea, and fed them manna from heaven along the way.

As they rested by the mountainside one day, God spoke to them and said "You have been at this mountain long enough. It is time to break camp and move on." He gave them very specific instructions for taking possession of a land that was their inheritance. A small group formed to check out the Promised Land. The report came back and it was good, but there was a catch. Huge giants currently possessed the land and they would have to fight them. The children of Israel were afraid of the giants and complained they would have been better off in bondage. This act of rebellion resulted in 40 years of wandering in the wilderness instead of living in the Promised Land.

my break camp experience

I had a "break camp and move on" experience a few years ago. Despite the success I had experienced in corporate America, I always wanted to have my own business. One morning I asked God if I should try to take advantage of the buy-out package circulating within my organization. I felt in my spirit that God said, "Yes." He encouraged me to go to the office that very day and request the buy-out.

God gave me very specific instructions. I was to say "I've been at this mountain long enough and it's time to break camp and move on." I was also to mention my unhappiness with the lack of opportunity for work/life balance, and my frustration about the direction in which my career was headed. This was very confusing because at the time none of this made sense. First, I absolutely loved my work as an executive coach. My schedule was flexible and allowed me to pick up my daughter everyday after school. Finally, the buy-out offer was about to expire, and it was not customary to ask for one.

facing the giants

When I got to work that morning, I prepared to face the first giant, my leader, a very traditional manager from the 'old school'. Before I could even ask to speak with him, he called an emergency staff meeting to make some special announcements. Effective immediately, my position was going

to change due to corporate restructuring. My flexible schedule would come to an immediate end, and I would no longer be able to pick up my daughter after school.

This was my moment. I stuttered and tapped danced around the issue, as I tried to ask for the buy-out. My leader thought I was silly to leave such a good company. I should be happy to have a job. Finally, I took a deep breath and said exactly what God told me to say. All of a sudden there was a shift in his attitude and my leader was on board. He filled out forms and made several phone calls on my behalf. He seemed determined to help me secure the buy-out package.

There was one more hurdle to get over. I had to speak to our Executive Director. She was a very beautiful, perfectly dressed, and very professional woman, who displayed little or no emotion. She did not seem very friendly because she rarely interacted with us on a personal level. I felt faint as I walked up the spiral staircase to the 39th floor, where the executive offices were located. I entered her office and sat down to face my next giant.

As I told our Executive Director the words God told me to speak, she suddenly began to talk to me about my hopes and dreams. Before I knew it, she held my hands and began to pray. As her perfectly spiraled curls bounced up and down, she continued to pray with intensity, while her colleagues passed by her glass walled office. As she blessed my new business goals, I knew at that moment I had faced my giants and won. God met me on the front line and took out each giant one by one. He enabled me to experience victory without even having to fight.

closing thoughts

Research tells us that even the most successful people have at least one area in their life in which they are stuck. Are there areas in your life where God is telling you to break camp and move on? When you look at the giants in the pathway to your dreams, do you move forward or shrink back? I want to encourage you to give some thought to a time in your life when you faced your giants head on and took possession of a dream. Examine exactly why you had such courage at that time. What was the key to your success? Transfer the lessons learned to those areas in your life where you seem to always back down. You have been at this mountain long enough, it is time to break camp and move on!

do you have a break camp story?

Tell us about it. Share your break camp story and inspire others. Everyone has a story. Just email your break camp story to livingfaith@greateradvantage.com. Please send PDF or WORD files only. We may feature your story in a future issue of *Iff*. Thanks for sharing.

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