

Section III

Celebrate Everything!

If you have read any part of this book, you may have observed that an important recurring theme is the general concept of learning from experiences. Life, after all, is a journey. Things don't happen in a vacuum. Everything that happens, happens for a reason. Everything that happens is relevant. There will be peaks and valleys in your life. My uncle David (my father's brother) is fond of saying "Don't forget to smell the flowers." He's right.

I am blessed. There is so much for which I am thankful. I could write an entire book about my wife Lynn, who has been CEO of our household for nearly 30 years. I could go on for hundreds of pages about our daughter Lindsey, my first born. I have said often, and I mean it: "The world is a better place with her in it." (Lindsey has been a youth group advisor since she graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 2004. She has already made a difference in hundreds of lives since then.) And our son Ben is just entering the world of business.

This section of this book may seem off target for some. If you read this section, bear in mind that you simply cannot separate your business life and your personal life, really. You may feel the urge to compartmentalize things. And that is appropriate. But don't forget to appreciate everything and everyone. Life is short. You will be tested. So offered here are a few select stories of events that have caused me to think long and hard about the meaning of it all. I will resist the temptation to get all spiritual and philosophical. There are lots of smart people who have more ability than I to articulate the meaning of existence. All I am saying is celebrate everything. Find joy in the smallest things and you will hopefully find greater fulfillment in your career and work life too.

If you are in a hurry, go ahead and skip ahead a few chapters.