

October 22, 2012

CHANGE

This is Jill Duffy, with Community Comment

This is the time of year when the energizing and crisp air of Fall greets us in the morning; the cozy comfort we feel as we pull on our favorite sweaters and fire up the wood stove. Even though our seasonal changes are not as dramatic as the reds and golds of Aspen country, the trees and grasses are enveloped in a hue of warm colors, salmon holed up in deep pools waiting for the winters rain, while migrating geese, songbirds, ^{and} hawks fly overhead. It is the season of change.

Last week we had a couple of students to the house for dinner. One young fellow is an exchange student, originally from N. Carolina, pursuing his Masters degree and his friend is finishing her Bachelors at HSU. He'd never been to California before, and reflected that the North Coast had far exceeded his expectations in terms of the stunning beauty and scenery, ^{the} small towns, ~~communities~~ and interestingly the strong presence of panhandlers and visible marijuana industry.

In a momentary pause in conversation, he offered he didn't feel that there'd be a lack of opportunities when he finished school. That since finishing his undergrad degree and leaving his small town to pursue his master's, he had experienced new regions, communities, observed, and developed a more tempered understanding and view of the world. It was clear he did not say this in judgment of his friends from his small town who had chosen to remain –

but rather when they talk with him about their limited employment opportunities, and the desire to make some 'real' money and ~~desire~~ to see the world, that they didn't really want to change- he told them of the oil fields in South Dakota he'd been too, noting one could work like a dog for 6 mos to a year, and return home with a nice nest egg - if one was willing to ~~make the change and sacrifice.~~ ^{BREAK FROM ONE'S COMFORT ZONE}

He pondered about how it is that so many people seem to see more road blocks than opportunity, and curious why many expect to have a perfect life handed to them. He does not come from wealth and means, just a kid who has persevered, developed relationships, has an appetite for knowledge, said yes to opportunities, lives on a tight shoestring and, is willing to take the risk that making a change will work out fine.

On a bittersweet note. For me the time for change has arrived. For just shy of 3 years, I have been a regular commenter here. As I have noted before, sometimes it's a challenge to prepare Comments that listeners would find of interest, and sometimes the Comments seem to write themselves.

I've accepted a position that will require a tremendous amount of focus and energy, and to do it well I am resigning from a variety of volunteer activities, including this one.

So, thank you to KINS listeners – I appreciate hearing what stories and issues resonate with you, thank you to Brian and all the KINS employees I have sincerely enjoyed working with you all.

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