

SOME THOUGHTS ON DELIBERATING DIVINE CALLS

What follows is a 1998 note from Pastor Wayne Mueller. As he explains, it is based on counsel he received years before that. While written with the pastoral ministry in mind, it has clear application to the teaching ministry. It also has workers who are married in mind, but family considerations often come into play for workers who are single, too.

Prof. Jonathan Balge -- MLC
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I can only pass along to you the advice I had from my fathers in regard to considering a call. I received the advice early in my ministry, and I have by thought and experience come to regard it as near divine.

Consider not how the place you are now can get along without you. That is the Holy Spirit's business.

Consider not how the place to which you have been called can possibly survive or thrive unless you come. If you do not come, the Holy Spirit will take care of them, too.

When you have a call, think as a steward. How can your talents best serve the Lord at the present time? Think kingdom, not congregation. Do not consider your professional future; the future is also the Lord's. Think only of how your talents can best be applied to the Lord's work today.

It is not necessarily selfish or unspiritual to decide on the basis of what you would most like to do. What you enjoy has a big impact on good stewardship of your talents. You will likely apply yourself most and best when you are doing what you enjoy.

And, of course, stewardship involves using all of God's gifts wisely. Don't forget, when considering a call, that your wife, your family, your health, and your salary are gifts of God, too.

Pastor Wayne Mueller