

Abilene Christian University

Digital Commons @ ACU

Landon Saunders Documents

Landon Saunders Papers

4-2011

Filing a Flight Plan for Finishing My Work and Enjoying the Rest of My Life

Landon Brady Saunders

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.acu.edu/saunders_docs



Part of the [Film and Media Studies Commons](#), [Practical Theology Commons](#), [Radio Commons](#), and the [Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Filing a Flight Plan for Finishing My Work and Enjoying the Rest of My Life, Box 4, folder Heartbeat Planning, 2011, Landon Brady Saunders Papers. Center for Restoration Studies MS #575. Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives, Brown Library. Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX.

This Manuscript is brought to you for free and open access by the Landon Saunders Papers at Digital Commons @ ACU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Landon Saunders Documents by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ ACU.

Filing a Flight Plan for Finishing My Work and Enjoying the Rest of My Life

Three Challenges

1. How do I finish my work in a way that makes sure that the learning and insight gained over past 40 years is not lost?

*Life That Loves to Happen was the fullest flowering of effort to communicate with outsiders. Would like to update that presentation and attendant follow-up materials as both an online presentation and as a core universal presentation that can be used and adapted by others including those currently mentoring. While designed for universal audiences it will be skewed toward young adults.

*The Three Wishes effort preserved and brought together all the products and messaging of Heartbeat's 40 years. The same thing now needs to be done to capture the story, the evolution philosophy, theology, insights, strategies, and tactics behind Heartbeat. This effort The Heartbeat Virtual Institute would provide a playbook for training and nurturing current and future thinkers and communicators.

2. How can energies and funds be focused to complete the work as described above?

*Give less time and energy to FR and annual Retreat (retreat hiatus for at least the next 24 months)

*Reduce monthly overhead where possible (significant reduction of services in Lubbock)

*Considered move to home base with less overhead but fear that such a move would be too time consuming and disruptive at this point especially since all strategic archival materials are in Norwich area.
(See Update On Temenos Exhibit Don Williams Only)

*Mike Cope to assume full responsibility for funding and managing his phase of the work.
(See Elements for Adjustments to MC Responsibilities Exhibit)

*Establish a smaller but sustainable base annual budget
assured with commitments of longtime top donors.
(See Elements for Sustainable Annual Budget Exhibit)

3. How in conjunction with Executive Board to create
a plan to provide for the continuity of Heartbeat's work
at a minimum for the maintenance of its online presence
upon the death or incapacitation of founder?

*This plan would ratify our plan from years earlier that
Heartbeat would not have an official successor to its founder.
But rather would live on as an idea personified in the lives and works
works of others.

*At the same time this plan would however assure that the complete
playbook of Heartbeat content, strategies and insights as manifested
by the Life That Loves to Happen Online Seminar and The Heartbeat
Virtual Institute would continue to be refreshed and made available.
(see Elements of Plan for Heartbeat Continuity exhibit)

(Update On Temenos Exhibit B for Don Williams Only)

House and grounds are in relatively good shape.

Improvements:

- *Turned one garage bay into a beautiful home gym.
- *Added Mitsubishi air conditioning systems to master bedroom and library.
- *Replaced refrigerator, microwave, washing machine
- *installed a water softening system
- *constructed a drainage system for water softener output
- *created drainage system to stop water from entering basement
- *constructed a simple shed for firewood
- *major improvement to roads
- *lawn care, tree care and bush hogging
- *building stone walls to create an entrance
- *annual servicing and repairs to furnace.
- *replacing well pump

Work that needs to be done to house:

Problem of ice dams and resultant water damage.

Many standing seam steel roofs in area have this problem.

Requires vigilant snow and ice removal from one area in back of house to prevent any further damage.

Accumulated water damage in addition to water damage as a result of a plumbing mishap estimated to be at least 4 thousand for sheet rock work and paint. Last interior repainting took place 10 years ago.

Furnace is needing more and more attention each year and will likely need to be replaced in the next 2-3 years.

One large tree is near house represents a threat to the house and may need to be cabled or taken down.

Many neighbors have enhanced their properties by clearing underbrush to give better approach views to their properties.

(Elements for Adjustments to Relationship with Mike Cope Exhibit C)

- *After two years in which LS participated in raising funds for MC and in making it possible for him to launch the What Really Matters Project it is now time for MC to take full responsibility for his funding and work.
- *MC while being a skilled and popular communicator has shown very little aptitude for vision, planning, fund raising, passion or toughness necessary for facing the inevitable challenges and vicissitudes of working with a non-profit organization such as Heartbeat.
- *Despite my greatest hopes for MC he has shown very little progress or willingness to progress in develop the necessary mindset for working with outsiders. He is still to his core a progressive evangelical minister and pastor. He is still Preacher Mike and seems to have no real desire to be anything more. At minimum I thought he would be able to be Heartbeat's inside man to bring our message to the churches but Mike has been willing to even really learn that message. That is not to say that he can not or will not have a highly successful ministry.
- *During the two years most of Mike's time and energies have been deployed in non-Heartbeat related activities. Including teaching a freshman Bible course at ACU each semester, a heavy speaking schedule, maintaining his church related blogs, and writing a book for the evangelical market on his experiences surrounding the life and death of his daughter.
- *While there has been no official change in the nature of his relationship with Heartbeat pending discussions with Executive Board. He has received the message that I will no longer be able to aid him in his fundraising which among other things has prompted him to explore putting his work under the umbrella of a non-profit created by his sister in law. Mike has many connections and opportunities and is highly motivated to carve out the appropriate niche for himself and his work.
- *During the initial fundraising for Mike's support we gathered pledges of \$ and most of those pledges will expire in April 2012. One approach for the transition is that Mike continue under the Heartbeat umbrella until April of next year during which time he would continue to receive the actual funds coming in from those original funding sources and any others that he might develop.

*Another approach would be for Mike to form a new non-profit or come under the umbrella of another non-profit or church and that those donors would simply be directed to send their contributions to the new entity.

*If in whatever new shape his work takes he wishes to continue forward with the What Really Matters program focused on young adults then Heartbeat would give Mike the What Really Matters brand, the websites associated with that project as well as the video materials and study guides created for that program.

*Ideally this transition will be presented as a successful spin off of a program rather than some precipitous break which would not be the best for either Mike or Heartbeat.

(Elements for Sustainable Annual Budget Exhibit D)

(Elements for a Plan for Heartbeat Continuity F)

Phase 1: 201~~4~~⁵-201~~5~~⁶ This is the minimum time period required to both relaunch Life That Loves to Happen Initiative online and as a program that others can adapt and deliver to audiences around the world and also to create The Heartbeat Institute as both an online source for learning the Heartbeat approach and for me (LBS) to personally take several groups through the training which would also be captured and made a part of the online program. Michael Hawkins will be working with me daily to complete these two tasks and if I should die or become incapacitated during this phase of the work he would be able to complete the task.

Phase 2: 201⁵ and beyond. Every year after 2015 that I can work. Michael Hawkins and I will continue to add to strengthen and further develop both the Life That Loves to Happen Initiative and The Heartbeat Institute. I would like to personally train and mentor as many people as possible to carry on in the effort that Heartbeat has begun. But by 2016 the main body of the work I wish to do will have been done and if at anytime in phase 2 that I should die or be incapacitated I would like to have either set aside or secured funding commitments that would be adequate to maintain a dynamic web presence for both the Life That Loves to Happen Initiative and The Heartbeat Institute and for Michael Hawkins to guide and administer these two programs. Tim Minnix has agreed to aid Michael in any fundraising efforts that may be needed and to the handling of the finances and fillings. Beyond their ability to sustain the effort it is at this point unknown. A younger generation resulting from the training described above may emerge to pick up the mantle from Michael and Tim and I wish to entrust them with making that decision. The happiest thought would be that the work of those being trained will so supersede the work we have done that these two programs will no longer be needed.

From a funding point of view the work of Phase 1 will require a larger base of funding as well as any portion of Phase 2 when I am still able to work. Beginning in phase 2 if I should die or be incapacitated the need for work funds would be significantly decreased.