



EXPERTS AT DEVELOPING CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TALENT

LEADERSHIP COACHING NEWSLETTER

This Month's Topic: **Bill Gates Retires and is Having a Blast**

May 2009

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I have been intrigued with following billionaire co-founder of Microsoft Corporation, Bill Gates' career for many years because of his ability to lead and grow an amazing product and an amazing company. Last summer Fortune Magazine (July 8, 2008) *Gates After Microsoft* wrote an interesting article on Bill Gates, since he has decided to retire from his day to day operating role at Microsoft and what life might look like next for him.

This article got me thinking about living life full out, starting now, versus waiting for retirement. Why wait to make a bigger difference until we retire? Why wait to do something that fully and completely satisfies us? This article gave me a new mantra, "Why wait; let's get started!"

I think many of us will "do" retirement differently from our parents and grandparents, where one day we are working on the job, and the next, fishing on Golden Pond blissfully until the end of our days. I wondered how one of the world's most public personalities might treat his retirement. This article not only gave me great insight into the "new retirement" paradigm but also how we might bring a little nirvana, curiosity, and fulfillment into our every day lives starting right now.

So what does Bill Gates do with his time now that he is retired? He says he is spending more time, reading, watching university courses on DVD, and redirecting his time and efforts towards more philanthropic pursuits. He is exploring the world "outside" of his current box. To solidify our understanding of his extreme curiosity, and maybe at the same time to encourage us to become more curious, he reminds us that if our idea is to be inside our zone of competence, and always know where we are, we won't do anything out of the ordinary. He says, "You have to be confused, upset, and think you're stupid; if you're not willing to do this, you can't go outside the box." Remember he says, "Lewis and Clark were lost most of the time."

Tips I learned and you can incorporate:

Broaden your knowledge into areas that interest you. Read about them, learn about them, blue-sky brainstorm about them.

Find smart people and form an informal group that has better ideas than you do to talk through your ideas with.

Take courses.

Expand your curiosity.

And most of all make it fun for yourself; you never know what your crazy, stupid, wild idea will yield. And in the meantime, you'll be having a blast.



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Recommendations

Recommended reading: "*Bill Gates, Biography*" by Jeanne Lesinski

Recommended Corporate Leadership University training courses: [Click here](#). These courses are conducted by Vision Quest Consulting at your location of choice. Call or email us for more information. 978-692-4454, wcapland@visionquestconsulting.com

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