

DO SOMETHING WORTHWHILE EVERYDAY THAT MAKES YOU FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE

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Several years ago, my husband, Ian was working at an isolated mine thousands of miles away. Speaking long distance, on the phone with my sister one day, she asked 'Do you want your marriage or not?' Two weeks later I hopped on a plane with our toddler. I told Ian only two days before, so that he could meet us at the airport and ensure we had accommodation. Otherwise I would have added some extra excitement with more of a surprise visit.

A year later with a young toddler at home in the mining town and a second new baby, I started volunteering at our local community center. We already had many successful ladies evenings, but nothing for men. I came up with 'Blokes Astronomy Night' and asked Ian to help as he had a passion for astronomy. Several weeks later we repeated the same event, this time 'Chocolates Under the Stars' Astronomy Night for the ladies, as a result of public demand. I had stepped out of my comfort zone, doing something new, this gave me much more confidence and self-esteem.

Shortly after this I found myself nursing my mother in our own home, without the usual community support, because the mining town was very isolated. She had suddenly become terminally ill and was bedridden. I cared for her every need, 24 hours a day. During this delicate time, I also organized babysitting for our children and got help from local church volunteers to look after my mother, both at the same time, even though my husband was home. I was then able to attend college one night a week to achieve my Computer qualifications. After several months, she tragically lost her fight with cancer. I not only lost my mother, but my best friend too! I continued

to attend college, even though I was still grieving, and managed to graduate a short time later.

Then I became the ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Support for one of the largest schools in Northern Australia, making sure all the computers and the network kept functioning. Although faced with problems everyday, I found them to be exhilarating challenges. My previous career was in Office Administration. I'd never thought of myself as knowledgeable enough to take on such a responsible role. I started the computer course for fun, knowing it was important to look after myself, as no one else was. I assured myself that to take time out to look after me was the best thing that I could do for my family and myself, and I would be a better person for them too. The change was scary and uncomfortable, but I took a leap of faith and believed in myself enough, that I would learn the skills quickly and be competent in this new career.

During this time, my eldest boy had being bullied for 3 years at three different educational institutions. When I returned to the workforce in the Computer Support role, I thought he would be okay in a new school, but while working my new job, I was spending a lot of time helping and encouraging him to keep going to school. I saw him punched in the back while I sat in the back of the classroom, after the teacher advised me that there were no bullying problems! He just didn't want to go to school. I talked to the school yet they forgave the bully. I asked many times for my husband to help, but he wouldn't. He didn't have the skills or know how to deal with it, at the time. As a result, the help and support that I felt I should have, wasn't forthcoming.

For the first and only time in my whole life, I fainted from exhaustion in the playground at my son's school. After this, my way of thinking dramatically changed, on a very deep level. My direction in life then became very independent from that of my husband. I really got the message of how much on my own I was at the time. This was

a big turning point in my life, realizing how much of my life was up to just me.

Walking home from work, often quite late at night, was an interesting challenge. I had to keep a keen eye out for wild angry buffalo, which roamed our streets at night after the shops closed. However, it didn't stop me, as the walk was very invigorating and gave me time to think and refresh myself. I thought about how overweight I was after having two children. Then I became ill with a stomach virus. It was such a tough strain that a friend was hospitalized from it. I took off several pounds in the next few days. Instead of making up for it by eating extra food, I saw this as an opportunity to continue the weight loss. I proceeded to lose around 2 pounds a week over the next several months, reaching a total of over 44 pounds. I discovered that adversity can show us roads to success, as being ill led to my eventual weight loss which was a blessing in disguise.

I spent many late nights scouring the Internet for inspiration and came across Sandy Forster talking about her book 'How to be Wildly Wealthy Fast' before it had been named. I watched and waited. Then I saw her speak on national television. I knew that I had to be part of this support program. I joined, paid in full, and then told my husband afterwards! I knew if I told him first, I would never have joined. He made all the usual cynical comments that would normally crush me and take away any joy in it, but I was already totally committed. He soon got to like me being in the program.

After a couple of years, Ian also benefited from the extra inspiration, high spirits and new knowledge that I had. He used to think that every person he saw driving an expensive car was a crook. He now feels worthy of success and knows that honest people can make lots of money and live life with the highest integrity. He has become very motivated and is excelling in his own entrepreneurial adventures. We started what is now one of the largest Astronomy Club's in Northern Australia. Ian writes scientific articles for several publications and has his own Educational Astronomy website.

Now a mother to three wonderful children, helping them study has propelled me along a fulfilling journey of children's education. I spent many hours researching educational worksheets and embedding links to the best websites on the school computers. Now I create online educational products. This is something I never would have dreamed of doing a few years ago. Changing my career, participating in The Wildly Wealthy Women's program and doing things that are uncomfortable have opened up many new opportunities.

I now know that if you ever feel powerless and stuck in circumstances. Start by doing something worthwhile everyday that makes you feel uncomfortable, after a while you will see a shift in your belief structure. That's when the real changes happen. It doesn't have to be different everyday, even if it's the same thing for twenty days, as long as it's worthwhile.

Cherry Maclean is an Innovative Designer, Developer and Producer of Children's Online Educational Products, including Fun and Creative Educational Worksheets, Interviews that Kids can listen to from Experts, Science Experiments and much more.

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