

INTERVIEW

WITH RICK MCLAREN



“Happiness is a state of mind” is the philosophy adopted by Rick McLaren.

As a teenager he was faced with choosing between living with wealth of money or wealth of hard work. Even then he seemed to be able to distinguish

between what would or would not be the right path to happiness for himself. He chose the path of hard work. But he always seemed to be drawn to moral living and learned life skills and principles from the Boy Scouts and Y.M.C.A. At least, he reflected, he was not drawn into gang life.

At home he had been raised in the high Anglican Church and later attended the United church. It was after he met Marie, who was Presbyterian, that he started attending Presbyterian churches.

Rick sees himself as being more spiritual than religious. While on a trip to the Holy Land, he had a spiritual experience at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Israel. This experience involved the

realization that there is something outside himself looking after him. Subsequently he took courses in university exploring moral issues and values clarification.

His philosophy is based on faith in a supernatural being, everlasting spiritual life and a Bible that is truth in its own context. By paraphrasing a famous question, Rick says, “Ask not what Christianity and your church can do for you, but ask what you can do for Christianity and your church.”

These days he is writing a handbook on death and dying. It is based on things that he and others are finding helpful at this time in their life. There are some passages written by him and others by people with specific specialties. Hopefully he will finish his part as no one else can write from his perspective.

If, as Rick says, “Success is measured in attitude,” then Rick is successful. He possesses a very positive attitude about everything we talked about.

written and submitted by Phyllis Dobbie

LOOKING FOR A JOB THIS SUMMER?

Ever wonder what might have happened if Jesus had consulted an employment agency when selecting his disciples? Here's what their evaluation might have been:

“Thank you for submitting the resumes of the twelve men you are considering for a management position with your new organization. Our staff psychologist and vocational aptitude consultant have

interviewed each of them and have run their observation through our computer analysis.

“It is our opinion that most of these individuals are lacking sufficient education, background experience and vocational expertise to be capable of undertaking the enterprise you have envisioned. Nor do they appear to have a team concept.

“Specifically we have been

able to determine that Simon Peter is emotionally unstable, is given to outbursts of temper and had even been known to curse. Andrew is cynical and lacks leadership qualities. The brothers James and John place personal interest above company loyalty. Their ego problem has revealed itself in concern over table seating positions. Thomas demonstrated

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