

# SERVANT SOLUTIONS NEWSLETTER JUNE 2023



**Servant Solutions**  
YOUR RETIREMENT & FINANCIAL PLANNING PARTNER



## EMOTIONAL HEALTH IN RETIREMENT

**BILL BESALSKI, TRUSTEE**

The first twenty-five years of my working career were spent in the insurance industry where I relocated a few times within the Midwest, then to the East Coast, and finally settled in San Diego in 1990. In my late 40's, my wife Debbie and I sensed a strong call on our lives for me to leave that vocation behind and fill a vacancy at our growing church overseeing finance and administration. After completing seventeen years of full-time ministry, I have been fortunate to enjoy "semi-retirement" for the past year and a half. An affirmation that it is going well is that Debbie agrees it has been one of the best seasons of our lives. But like any new adventure, there have been lessons learned as well as unexpected challenges. Let me break these down into a few categories:

### **Things I am glad I/we did:**

- Took time to financially plan and made funding our retirement a priority.
- Developed a clear vision for this season that included a budget to support it.
- Recognized that my church vocational role was coming to an end and did not delay retirement.

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## A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

### MARKET VOLATILITY AND OUR CHRISTIAN WALK

At Servant Solutions, we often say the only thing that is certain about the market is its uncertainty. And Whew! Has it been uncertain! Some talk of a possible recession as the Fed raises interest rates to cool

**Jim O'Bold**

down inflation fears. Markets do not like uncertainty, so the vicious circle completes itself as we wonder where the markets will go next. Where do we turn in times of uncertainty? Our confidence is in the name of Jesus. We know that He will never let us down, no matter the circumstances of life – or what the investment markets throw at us.

Investment market volatility and the dynamics of living the Christian life with Jesus are two distinct concepts that operate in different domains. However, we can draw some analogies and comparisons between them:

**1. Faith and Trust:** In both investing and the Christian life, faith and trust play crucial roles. In investing, individuals put their faith in the market and the potential for growth, despite the “roller coaster” volatility. Similarly, in the Christian life, believers put their faith and trust in Jesus, relying on His guidance and provision even during challenging times.

**2. Uncertainty and Risk:** Both investment markets and the Christian life involve elements of uncertainty and risk. In investments, market volatility births a level of unpredictability, making it essential for investors to manage risk through diversification and informed decision-making. Similarly, the Christian life presents uncertainties and challenges, requiring believers to rely on their relationship with Jesus and the principles of their faith to navigate life's ups and downs.

**3. Long-Term Perspective:** Successful investing often requires a long-term perspective, recognizing that short-term market fluctuations may not necessarily reflect the overall performance of an investment. Similarly, in the Christian life, believers are encouraged to have an eternal perspective, understanding that their journey with Jesus extends beyond earthly circumstances and that the ultimate goal is spiritual growth and a relationship with God.

**4. Emotional Resilience:** Investment market volatility can trigger emotional responses such as fear, greed, or panic. Similarly, living the Christian life may involve facing trials, persecution, or doubt, which can challenge believers emotionally. In both cases, developing emotional resilience is important to make sound decisions and maintain a solid commitment.

**5. Guidance and Wisdom:** In investments, individuals often seek guidance from financial advisors or conduct research to make informed decisions. Similarly, Christians rely on prayer, studying Scripture, and seeking guidance from spiritual leaders to gain wisdom and discern God's will in their lives.

While these comparisons highlight some similarities between investment market volatility and the dynamics of living the Christian life with Jesus, it is important to recognize that the Christian faith encompasses a much deeper and profound spiritual aspect that goes far beyond material wealth or financial investments. The Christian life involves personal transformation, love for others, and a commitment to live according to Christ's teachings, which cannot be directly equated with investment market dynamics.

In times of market turmoil, my prayer for all of us is to fix our eyes on Jesus - the true Source of our hope and certainty. At Servant Solutions, our goal is to Improve Financial Security for Servants of the Church. Although there are always challenges to that end, we never lose the healthy perspective of where our certainty lies. Thank you, Jesus!

*James M. O'Bold*



## EMOTIONAL HEALTH, continued from page 1

- Knowing myself, I committed to a part-time consulting job in another industry that has proven to be very rewarding.
- Undertook a fitness plan that I consistently monitor.
- Sustained involvement in two men's groups and our couples' small group.
- Maintained open dialogue with church leadership regarding how I can provide support without getting in the way.
- Remained committed to my accountability relationship of nearly 25 years (*Thank you Ken!*).

### Surprising, unexpected blessings:

- After 17 years of arriving on Sunday mornings two hours before the first service and leaving one hour after the last, how much I treasure going to church on Sunday mornings with my wife (*and walking out the door together after one service!*).
- How my relationship with Jesus has deepened when



**Bill Besalski**

my daily walk is driven more by passion and not being part of my job.

- The friendships I have made through pursuing new interests.
- Seeing our church thriving at a very high level (*honestly, not surprising*).
- The joy of a three-hour window to do what I want.

### Unexpected challenges or pruning:

- With new Sunday rhythms and stepping out of other roles, I have found that some valued friendships with members of our church family have been hard to sustain.
- Trying to lower my golf handicap (*ha!*). Seriously, it shouldn't be that hard!
- After 40+ years financially preparing, it has been emotionally hard to spend those funds. Making the pivot from accumulation to enjoying its benefits has proven to be a hurdle.
- Realizing that this season of life, more than any other, is subject to sudden changes.

As I look at my lists, I see a common thread emerging that might be a key to living well in retirement. That is the power of being "CURIOUS." It's living with a greater awareness that I have a lot more to learn about almost everything. Curiosity tempers judgment and opens our minds to wisdom and insights. It is living with the awareness that one of the best investments of time is getting to know someone better. It is also realizing that deepening my relationships with God and the people closest to me will do more to improve the quality of my life than anything else. I'm attempting to live each day knowing that this is a season to be savored.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### PREPARE AND STORE YOUR IMPORTANT LEGAL DOCUMENTS WITH ARAG

Making a plan for you and your family includes preparing for the unexpected. Along with designating beneficiaries for your retirement accounts, it's a good idea to have legal documents in place to ensure your wishes for the future are carried out. Servant Solutions is able to help through a FREE service provided by our record keeping partner, Principal Financial Group. Principal has teamed with ARAG and provides a package of estate planning documents available to you at no additional cost. With access to ARAG's free online resources, you and/or your spouse can prepare these legal documents:

**Will**

**Healthcare Power of Attorney**

**HIPAA Authorization**

**Durable Power of Attorney**

**Living Will**

**Medical Treatment Authorization for Minors**

Here are the steps:

1. Log into your Servant Solutions account on Principal's website.
2. From the top bar, select "Planning Resources" and then "Principal Milestones."

Choose "Visit ARAG to get started" and complete your account set up. When you create an account with ARAG, your employer in this situation should be Servant Solutions. Once you have logged in, choose the Online Documents tab. This allows you to create planning documents via easy-to-use interactive software and then view, print and edit personal documents you create.





Mark Senseman

## THE POWER OF CONNECTION

Networking in the church world enhances connectivity, facilitates learning, promotes collaboration, and strengthens the overall effectiveness of individual churches and the collective body of Christ. These past

few months have been a great season for me in planting seeds with churches. As you may be aware, as more organizations enter our plan, our bargaining power grows and we are better able to pass along savings to our members. The new churches that we interact with will require continual cultivating and watering to yield the harvest we feel like God will bring. I have seen an early indication of my relationships yielding a return just based on my personal interactions with churches from my previous role at CDF Capital.

In my everyday communication, I understand the value of relationships with leaders like you and those who have trusted influence that can advocate for us. It is through these relationships that we connect with potential ministry partners and work like it is up to us while we pray like it is up to God. This approach is the best way to achieve the most significant growth while minimizing the expenses related to travel and sponsorship dollars that need to be stewarded well.

Servant Solutions is eager to partner with networked ministries that will allow us to develop relationships with Kingdom servants who need just what we have to offer. If you know another church or pastor in your town in need of a retirement plan partner, I would love to be introduced to them, to get to know their church and make a connection.

## RETIREMENT INCOME DIVERSIFICATION

### Where will your retirement dollars come from?

We are blessed to live in a day and age where average life expectancy is longer than ever. However, the added years mean that you will need to plan for additional living expenses. As you consider where your retirement dollars will come from, you'll look at how much you have, how much you'll need, consider opportunities for your money to grow, all while being smart about taxes.

Diversification is the golden rule of investment, and it becomes critical upon retirement. For most retirees, the primary sources of retirement income are **Social Security, Retirement Savings, Personal Savings** (and Investments) and **Earnings from continued employment**. Creating and utilizing multiple retirement income streams will put you in a better position to live your retirement dreams.



- The Social Security Administration states that these benefits should cover no more than 40% of the income needed in retirement.
- Your account with us at Servant Solutions.
- Any additional income streams including those that fluctuate with the market or sales (i.e. royalties)
- It is wonderful to observe persons who have given a career to the Lord's work find a new avenue for continued ministry.

*(Note: percentage examples are for educational purposes only and should not be relied upon for any other use.)*