



Why? What? When?

**A Very Short Introduction for those
that have asked –**

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Leaving the Rat Race?



Do we work to live or live to work?

I have nothing against cooperate America *per se*. In fact, I just finished 20 years (2022) at the biggest company in the world. They have been good to me and have helped me see the world and fund many of my own personal projects. But... Like most, I don't see a reason to just "rinse & repeat" for the rest of my life. And for what? A nicer house that I'm never in? More travel with my laptop close at hand? No. Something clicked in me as I began seeing more and more of a *cult-like* worship around the proverbial *Gordon Gekko* (the fictional character from the movie *Wall Street*) in the office. What is ironic is that many look at me as the cultish one for leaving such a well-paying job to try something different; *counterculture* they say is *dangerous*. Maybe they're right?

Henry David Thoreau



The cost of a thing is the amount of what I will call life which is required to be exchanged for it, immediately or in the long run.

AZ QUOTES

The trouble with the rat race is that even if you win, you're still a rat.

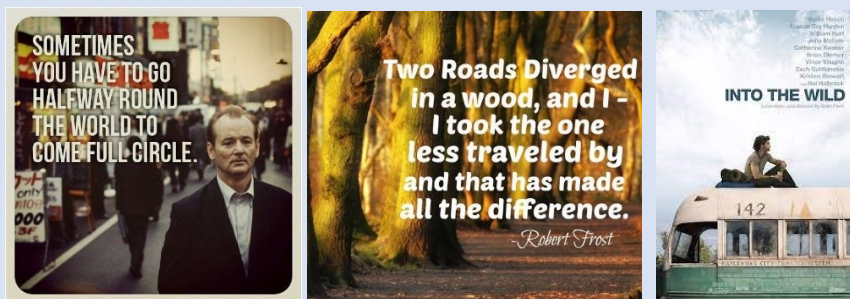
- Lily Tomlin

I have tried to keep one foot in corporate and one foot in freedom and it simply doesn't work. You just live for the weekend and even then, you're working. So, I hope this experiment doesn't end up with me

falling on my face; but if it does, so be it. Either way I hope it to be an example to others that there are at least options out there, and that money is definitely not everything. Moreover, I hope to help squelch the mindset of our job equaling our soul. People always ask, “**what do you do?**” When I say Walmart, they pause nervously: “**Like the store...**” When I tell them I am a senior-financial-manager at the corporate office they seem relieved; I am now acceptable in their estimation. Why am I more acceptable at corporate then if I was stocking shelves? In the words of Tyler Durden: “**You are not your job, you are not the car you drive, you are not the contents of your wallet...**” Or are we?



Again, I am not suggesting people leave their corporate jobs, minimalize or anything else. Everyone must figure that out for themselves of course; I am 45 years old (2023) so what I am referring to may not apply to everyone. But hopefully from my past mistakes as well as this newest adventure, I can at least share some pointers if you want to do something different than simply sign up for a 30–40-year mortgage and work your life away with your outlook always being on some **future** date and never the **present**. The second part of this is me building a simple, but nice home yourself (1500 sq ft, 4 bedrooms, nice furnishings, etc. for around \$30k). Not the **Taj Mahal**, but not a “**tiny-home**” either.





I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.

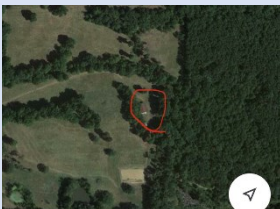
- Henry David Thoreau

Why Off-Grid?

No, I am not a prepper before you ask. Similar to Thoreau I simply wish to live more *deliberately* and *awake*. Building something from the ground-up, with your own hands, gives you a sense of accomplishment not found in paying someone else to do it. Moreover, I love the concept of **agorism** or counter-economics over that of mass consumerism (and to me personally this way seems much more *Christian* than living in a mansion and going to church on Sunday for maybe an hour if that). Also, it forces me to think holistically about most everything I do.

Whether it is something that simply goes into the trash, making sure my water doesn't freeze, that I have enough food stored away, how much solar I have to power with, or wood to burn; I must be conscientious about most everything. This makes me that much more thankful for even the small things as opposed to when I lived somewhere like NYC where you just dropped your trash in the garbage shoot and never thought about it again. I'm not trying to be like the *Amish* per se, but there is something to be said that living off-grid necessitates a type of simplicity that makes living much more intentional.

A few snapshots from the last year putting everything together:



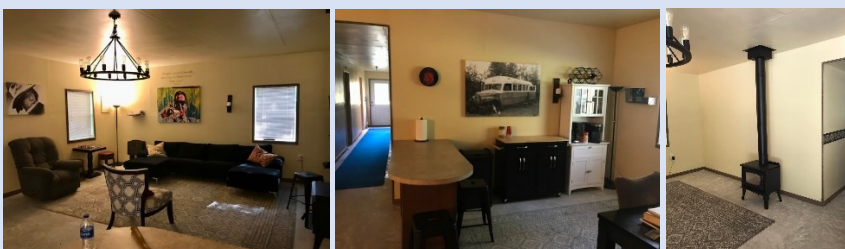
I had no clue what I was doing. Just trial & error and YouTube tutorials:



100% Solar powered, 1500 sq ft, 4 bedrooms, and only about \$30k.



So hopefully will encourage others if I can do this then ANYONE can.

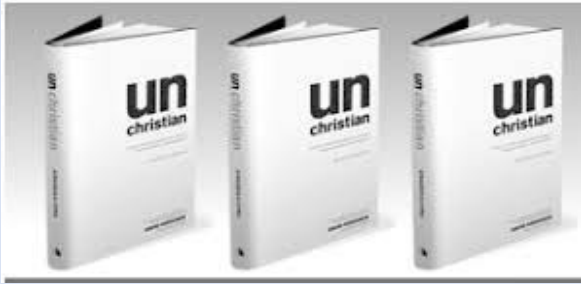


A sizable produce garden, zen-garden & media building.



As you can see my position is much more one of a *middle-way*. In other words, you can see this is far from being primitive and has a lot of nice amenities that most people of history could only have dreamt of. But at the same time, it is *primitive* by today's materialistic and overtly consumer mindset which forces one to *slow-down & breathe*.

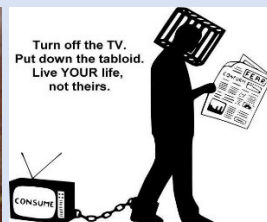
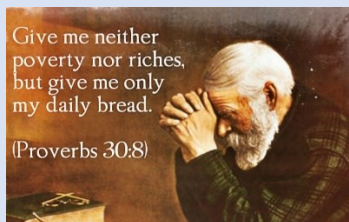
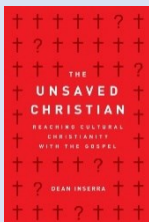
Unchristian –



Unchristian by David Kinnaman

The other element to this trek could be well described in the 2007 book *Unchristian* by David Kinnaman and in partnership with the Barna Group. My wife and I were newly married, living in Missouri and about to move to New York City for work and was gifted with this book on CD. Long story short, the book surveys thousands of American Christians vs non-Christians and the end result was there was little to no difference on how they lived their lives. The sinful activities endorsed by Christians in that book has only grown as we approach 2023 where a “hedonistic Christian” is the new norm. Not just in thought but also in action.

Suffice it to say, I wanted to be relatively primitive here so that our overindulged minds could better focus. The friends I have had over here are so distracted; asking about getting a phone signal, or constantly ask: “*what’s next?*” Between this and the non-Christian always complaining about Christians not practicing what they preach or more interested in *money* and the *world*, I am hoping this simple (but not too simple) setup that has its own substantial media-room, environmentally friendly and self-sufficient, will be a good place to center on God and detoxing from the *busyness*, while at the same time being a better example of “*practicing what we preach*”. That is the prayer anyway.



Why L'Abri?



Francis & Edith Schaeffer: L'Abri

Space does not do justice to explain “what” L'Abri is, but in a nutshell L'Abri is French for *shelter*. The first L'Abri community was founded in Switzerland in 1955 by Francis and Edith Schaeffer. Dr Schaeffer was a Christian theologian and philosopher who also authored a number of books on theology, philosophy, culture and the arts. The L'Abri communities are study centers where individuals have the opportunity to seek answers to honest questions about God and the significance of human life. L'Abri believes that Christianity speaks to all aspects of life.

*Much more information can be found at www.LAbri.org.

I have no desire to duplicate L'Abri but instead used it as a model simply because it worked as a living witness to the truth of Christianity in the 20th century and still does in the 21st. I have written several books and spoken on the truth of Christianity quite extensively, but L'Abri is a chance to actually live it out. Or at least that is the plan.

Moreover, Schaeffer was one of the first to write on the Christian's ecological responsibility. Not as some fanatical environmental pantheist as so many today, but as a bridge between right belief and right action. As a small example of this, my simple building here is 1500 sq ft with another 800 sq ft building fully powered (TVs, lights, fans, computers, etc.) by a handful of solar panels and a wind turbine. My *carbon footprint* is almost nothing here, but if I invited some of our well-meaning (though hypocritical) political leaders who preach *mother-nature* to live like this, they would say: “NO WAY”. *Actions do indeed speak louder than words it would seem (whether for good or bad).

What's Next?



Honestly who knows? Right now I just have to keep praying and Lord willing will take the plunge by 2024. This is not a *blind plunge* obviously but will hopefully walk you through that part either on social media, possibly YouTube or simply email me. But first... I need to reset my brain, detox from some of the elements that have dulled my Christian walk. This is basically my introductory stage, so hopefully a few years from now I will be writing how great everything went. Time will tell!

Website: www.TheLollards.org

YouTube: (Off-Grid Channel):

https://youtube.com/channel/UCEClrEaKriz5J_MfmdFnbOQ

Email: CreationHistory@yahoo.com



Winter is coming