

Position Description

Nov. 7

Ephesians 1:22-23, Luke 6:20-31

Before I finished my sermon I received this flier, announcing a job opening. It seemed so important that I decided I'd better share it with you today. My sermon will have to wait until another Sunday. Let me read it to you.

Two thousand year old international company with an outstanding reputation and branch offices all over the world announces:

Positions open now for Saints. No experience necessary. Extensive on-the-job training. No special skills required, but all the talents and energy and intelligence the applicants possess can and will be used in this position.

The CEO insists on only three qualifications:

First: Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Applicants need to accept Jesus as their Lord and savior. This belief will transform the lives of applicants and make them eligible for the position of sainthood. Applicants without this qualification need not apply. But others should be assured that even faith the size of a mustard seed will be sufficient. Possession of this qualification make it possible for applicants to fulfill the other two qualifications.

Second: Hope. Applicants who have faith that Jesus Christ saves and strengthens and guides them in the present will necessarily have hope. They will know that they can depend on Jesus Christ for their future.

Third: Love. The company insists on this qualification, since so much of its work depends upon it. However the CEO has found that faith can lead to gratitude to the Lord Jesus and love toward him and those he loves. While love among those in our branch offices (known in the company as churches) is usually natural and expected, the boss has a special concern for the poor, and hungry and grieving, so saints are expected, encouraged and empowered to extend their love to them.

However it is important for applicants to remember that only slight amounts of hope and love are required. As was stated above extensive on-the-job training can and will be carried out. This will increase the worker's qualifications and effectiveness.

Compensation: Saints will not receive monetary compensation. However they will be invited to supper with the Boss at least every month, and they may receive spiritual nourishment from attending weekly branch office meetings (otherwise known as Sunday worship) and from reading the training manual (that is, the Bible) every day.

One of the perks of the position is that saints may communicate with the CEO at any time of the day or night, for as long as they like. The CEO will listen to their problems, their ideas, even their admissions of mistakes and can be relied upon to take appropriate and merciful action.

Another very important consideration is that the branch offices help greatly to increase job satisfaction. The joy saints find in working together on projects that really matter, the friendships they develop, the mutual sharing and love, add to the attractiveness of the position. Saints are also encouraged by knowing that they belong to a company whose employees stretch not only throughout the world, but also throughout the centuries. They can find inspiration from the fine and loyal work saints in the past have performed for the company.

Applicants need to be warned that the position of saint can be, not only difficult, but also life-changing. Saints are expected to go wherever the CEO sends them and to undertake any mission. This may involve extensive travel. Mother Theresa was sent from Europe to India. It may involve danger and imprisonment, even martyrdom. Martin Luther King is only one example of this kind of saint. On the other hand it may require generosity. For instance, Gavino Travino donated the very land on which Community Presbyterian church resides. Many saints tithe. One woman in Redlands donated an inheritance to Church World Service. It may involve using ones skills in a special way. Willis Cadwallader used his skill to write the history of Community church. Some of the saints tutor children. Others use carpentry skills to build cupboards and repair the church or work for Habitat for Humanity. Some sing in choirs or help lead worship. Some bake cakes and cookies and pies for their branch office. Some teach Sunday School. All applicants need to be open and willing to whatever the CEO calls them to do.

If you choose to apply for this position, you will get the job.

The most important consideration is that by taking this position you will be embarking on the most exciting, rewarding, and satisfying adventure you can imagine.

And the retirement benefits are out of this world!

We are honored and excited today that some of the saints of God have chosen to join this branch office (this church) today. We bid you welcome.

As approach the table that the Boss has prepared for us. I want to invite any of you who haven't applied for the position of saint--any of you who haven't yet accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior to search your heart. Isn't it time to make the commitment that will save you and bring you forgiveness and new life? Isn't it time to join us at the table? And I want the rest of us to give thanks to Jesus, who gives us himself in this meal and who joins us with all the saints throughout the world and throughout history. And may God bless us all.