

Lessons that Last

How faith, experience and a strong work ethic can shape the way we lead, serve and live

First of all I don't consider myself a voice of much, but I have had a lot of experiences in life, some good, some bad, some did not seem well but were of the best.

When we think about experience we generally are referring to now, or the past, not the future. Therefore, with the majority of experience being in the past we come to understand that expertise is the conclusive by-product of past experiences. In simple terms, expertise can be defined as knowing not only what to do, but when to do it, how it works, why it works and being able to adapt when challenges arise. It is the advanced knowledge, skill, and practice a person develops in a specific field over time. It comes from consistent learning, hands-on work, problem solving, and repeated

exposure to real-world situations. It comes from simply learning the hard way! Education is important, but if we cannot apply it, what is gained?

The farm was more than a place to live; it was a training ground for character.

And now we add faith to that expertise and it no longer is just a skill set but a way of accomplishing tasks, connecting with people, and if we can attain a faith in Jesus Christ standing at the center of everything, it becomes a way of living out life, which includes business.

Scripture was not reserved for Sunday worship alone. Biblical principles guide decisions, relationships, and

attitudes toward work. There is a clear understanding that labor itself is honorable when done with integrity and gratitude. Colossians 3:23 are more than words on a page: *"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."* Faith shapes humility, teaching that blessings come not merely from personal effort, but from God's provision and grace.

For myself, expertise (past experience) before the business world came from growing up in a farm setting in the "Plain Community," which I am still part of. The family farm setting is still idolized as ideal for learning the fundamentals of life and purpose and rightly so, as it is ideal. Growing up in that environment



taught lessons that no classroom could fully provide. Every season carried its own demands, and every task carried meaning. The farm was more than a place to live; it was a training ground for character. The values learned there—work ethic, perseverance, humility, faith and responsibility become the foundation for navigating life far beyond the countryside.

Life on the farm requires commitment from an early age. Chores were not optional, nor are they postponed because of weather or inconvenience. Fields needed tending, and animals still depend on care regardless of fatigue or circumstance. Hard work is not spoken of as a virtue; it is simply expected. The understanding is clear: if one person neglects responsibility, the entire team feels the impact. This way of life develops a deep respect for labor and consistency. It teaches that success does not arrive through shortcuts, but through steady effort repeated day after day. Harvests

came only after months of preparation. Crops endured storms, droughts, and uncertainty, yet perseverance remains essential. The farm is a living example of patience and endurance.

Faith shapes humility, teaching that blessings come not merely from personal effort, but from God's provision and grace.

Not all have the privilege to experience the agrarian setting, it is doable otherwise, but this is my journey. Meeting with nature daily and its demands and consequences has no substitute. For example, if it rains and the hay gets wet, so be it, there's no choice other than to accept it and make the best out of the situation. There's nobody to shift blame or argue with. When working with nature, decisions are made and results are final.

Nature is often called the best

teacher because it reveals truth through experience, consistency, and observation. Long before textbooks and technology, people acquired wisdom by watching the land, the seasons, animals, and the consequences of their actions. Nature teaches lessons that are practical, spiritual, and personal. Perhaps most importantly, nature teaches honesty. The ground produces exactly what is planted. Good seed and hard work usually bring growth; neglect brings weeds. In many ways, life works the same way. Thoughts, habits, and actions eventually produce visible results. Nature is the most mature and sure teacher we can train under.

Transition from farm life into a manufacturing factory setting seems, at first glance, like stepping into an entirely different world. Yet beneath the surface, the principles learned on the farm remain remarkably relevant. Manufacturing environments demand reliability, discipline, and endurance—



(717) 929-8780
www.eimpact.marketing

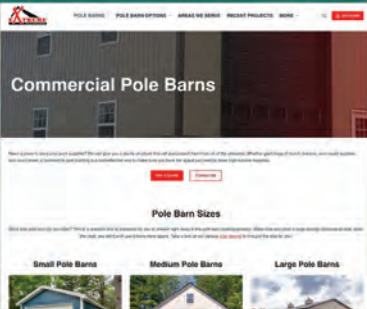
BOOK A FREE consultation

We help you **GROW** your business

Marketing | Strategy | Websites
SEO | PPC Ads | And More...

E-Impact has done a wonderful job helping our business grow. My website traffic grew quickly and in the last 5 years I have had more than enough work.

- J. Lapp, Extreme Pole Buildings





Acu-Form
ROLL FORMING EQUIPMENT

Manufacturer Of Roll Forming Equipment

OUR PRODUCTS

Panel Lines Trim Machines Uncoilers	Shears Slitters Corners	Wrappers J-Channel Ridge Caps	Custom Machines
---	-------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------



Order Machine Based On Your Needs



Full-Service Shipping & Installation Available



Customer Support



Versatile Growth Options



View our products at acuformequipment.com




10850 County Road 320
Millersburg, OH 44654

P: (330) 674-4403
F: (330) 674-4035

wayne@acu-form.com
acuformequipment.com

the very qualities forged through years of farm work. Showing up early, staying focused during long hours, and having the satisfaction of completing difficult tasks become natural habits rather than burdens. With the physical and mental demands of factory work, the adjustment feels familiar because hard work has already become a way of life. The ability to persevere through difficult conditions is invaluable. Factory work often carries pressure: deadlines, equipment failures, staffing shortages, and demanding production goals. The ability to remain calm under pressure and continue moving forward even when circumstances are difficult is essential. When machinery fails or workloads increase, there is no panic—only determination to solve problems and keep working.

Another important lesson that carries from the farm into manufacturing is the value of teamwork. On the farm,

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

Colossians 3:23

every member of the family had a role. Cooperation is essential because no one person can accomplish everything alone. That same mindset translates naturally into factory leadership. Successful production depends upon people trusting one another, supporting one another, and understanding the importance of every role within the process. Leadership in manufacturing is not simply about authority or titles. It is about influence,

reliability, and example. People are more willing to follow someone who understands hard work firsthand and who is willing to stand beside them during difficult moments. Encouragement becomes especially important in environments where stress and fatigue could easily discourage employees. Many workers faced personal struggles outside of work while also carrying demanding responsibilities inside the factory. A leader shaped by faith and perseverance can offer more than instructions; he can offer hope, patience, and understanding. Sometimes the most meaningful leadership comes through listening, helping someone through a difficult day, or reminding coworkers that their efforts matter.

When we decide to no longer punch the time card and become a business owner the challenge of balancing work and family can become very real. It begins with understanding that both require

Factory Direct Garage Doors for Sheds



The Anniston

- ◆Quality sectional garage door systems.
- ◆Hardware designed for smooth operation and long life.
- ◆Four models in your choice of Black, Brown, Almond, White or Sandstone.
- ◆Deliveries to the Midwest and South.
- ◆Lifetime Limited Warranties!

Kevmar Manufacturing
Arthur, IL 61911

sales@kevmar.net 217.543.2828



intentional time, attention, and presence. Balance does not always mean giving equal hours to each every day. It means making sure that neither work nor family is continually sacrificed at the expense of the other. One of the most important principles is learning to be fully present wherever you are. When at work, give your best effort and maintain integrity in what you do. When at home, give your family your attention, patience, and involvement. Many people are physically home but mentally still at work. Real balance happens when the people closest to you know they matter more than the demands of a schedule. Setting priorities is essential. Work provides income and stability, but family provides emotional strength, purpose, and legacy.

A workplace can often replace employees, but families cannot replace a husband, wife, father, mother, or friend. Understanding what matters most

helps guide decisions about overtime, commitments, and personal time. People who grow up in hardworking environments sometimes struggle to slow down because productivity becomes tied to identity. But family often remembers not how many hours were worked, but whether love, encouragement, and time was shared along the journey. Work supports life, but family gives life much of its meaning.

Faith, vision, and mission needs to guide these interactions. In both farming and manufacturing, people desire dignity, purpose, and encouragement. Servant leadership is a model for leading others with compassion and humility. True leadership is not about controlling people, it's about building them, inspiring them, helping them succeed, lifting morale, and treating others with respect. It's about being mutually profitable... meaning employer, employee and your customer. True success is measured not merely by

productivity, position or profits, but by the impact made on others and by the strength of the relationships built along the way. These is an equal responsibility shared by employers and employees to fulfill Colossians 3:23: *"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."*

A life built on faith, integrity, and perseverance leaves an example for future generations. Whether standing in a field at sunrise or walking through the noise of a factory floor, the same principles remain true: work with purpose, lead with humility, encourage others, and put all trust and honor to God through every season of life. God Bless,

A Fellow Servant. **PB**

Firman Miller is the Operations Manager at Paint Valley Parts, Millersburg, Ohio.

ARCHIE VENTS™



U.S. Patent #11946263, 10907358 & 11649635

NEW—PanelVents™ and Jacked Vents™ designed for metal roofing

Golden Rule
FASTENERS

Ph: (334) 283-4030 Fax: (334) 283-4032 Email: info@goldenrulefastenersinc.com

