

Are You a Fred?

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Recently I was handed a national best seller book titled *The Fred Factor* by Mark Sanborn. For those of you who do not know, the book is based on the powerful true story of Fred, the mail carrier who passionately loves his job and who genuinely cares about the people he serves. Because of that, he is constantly going the extra mile handling the mail of the people on his route, treating everyone he meets as his friend. Fred sees this as an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those he serves.



This book reminds me of the dedicated teachers and administrators working in Adventist Education across Canada. They are passionate about their ministry and their students, and genuinely care about the people they serve. So because of that, they are constantly going the extra mile, wiping the tears of sad students, encouraging parents in parenting, rejoicing when students come to Christ, spending time talking with and praying for students, being the school janitor and teacher/principal—all things not in their job descriptions. Our teachers and administrators see school as an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the people they serve.

Martin Luther King once said, "If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted or Beethoven composed music or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause and to say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.'"

The question could be asked: Are we sweeping the streets of our jobs so well, that all the hosts of heaven and earth can say, here lived a great _____ (you fill in your position) who did his/her job well? The text Matthew 25:21, "You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" (NIV) comes to mind when thinking about Martin Luther King's statement, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

How can we be sure that we are being a Fred? The book gives four principles to follow:

1. Everyone makes a difference
2. Everything is built on relationships
3. You must continually create value for others, and it doesn't have to cost a penny
4. You can reinvent yourself regularly.

For more specific information, read the book! It's an easy read. If you are interested in finding out your Fred Factor quotient, take the simple test at <http://www.fredfactor.com/test/test.aspx> to see where you stand and then you can take positive steps forward to becoming a better "Fred".

My challenge to all is when we stand before God and are asked "...not what we have read, but what we have done" our answer can be, we were being a Fred! (Quote by Thomas Á Kempis)

Resources:

- <http://bible.cc/matthew/25-21.htm>
- Sanborn, Mark (2004). *The Fred Factor*. Random House, Inc.
- <http://www.fredfactor.com/befred/principles.aspx>