

Vade Mecum

1. Something a person carries about for frequent or regular use.
2. A book for ready reference; manual; handbook.
[1620-30; < *vade mecum* lit., go with me]

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY
WADE GARNER

A personal invitation!

I want to personally invite you to attend our upcoming Spring Seminar on April 17, 2004, in Red Deer. It promises to be a fun-filled, active, and enjoyable day for all who are there.

Aside from the purchase of our home, our vehicle is probably one of the biggest investments each of us will make. The maintenance of that vehicle is something that needs to be a priority for us, but how many of us neglect our cars. I know for me, with the hustle and bustle of daily life, sometimes I just take my car and its reliability for granted.

Alana Bergin, our morning presenter, will provide us with useful information regarding motor vehicle maintenance. Please bring your vehicle operator's manual and your vehicle maintenance manual with you in order to get the most bang for your buck.

Our afternoon seminar will be presented by Rob Chubb. Mr. Chubb is an educator from Grant MacEwan College, and comes very highly recommended. The ColourSpectrums workshop will be highly energetic with lots of interaction among your colleagues. Those who have previously participated in this seminar say it will change your life and how you interact with everyone in the future. Those "repeat" attendees are looking very forward to participating in this seminar once more. What better endorsement could there be?!

The students from the Legal and Realtime Reporting Program at NAIT will be our special guests of honour again this year. They will be travelling together from Edmonton as part of their professional development program. It is always enjoyable for me to see our student reporters and get to know those who are new to our profession.

Of course, an ASRA event would never be complete without lots of good food, lots of time to mix and mingle, and lots of "chin waggin".

If I were able to, I would call each of you individually and invite you to attend in Red Deer. Although time is a limitation that prevents me from making those personal phone calls, I hope you will feel that you have been personally invited to attend. If you have any questions regarding the Spring Seminar, please don't hesitate to e-mail me and let me know if I can be of any assistance. You can always reach me at asra@shaw.ca.

I look forward to seeing each of you on April 17!

SPRING SEMINAR
April 17, 2004
Capri Centre
Red Deer, Alberta
12 ASRA Credits

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

**Registration
Continental Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

**Women's Car Care
Alana Bergin**

12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Hot lunch

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**ColourSpectrums
Rob Chubb, B.A.**

The ASRA is committed to advancing the court reporting profession by promoting court reporters as experts in the field of verbatim shorthand reporting; by providing continuing education to its members; and by advocating quality service, high ethical standards, and state-of-the art technology.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Which court reporter in Canada has the highest credentials?

As of November, 2003, our very own Sandra German, after passing her CCP (Certified Court Provider) examination. Her signature line now reads like this: Sandra German, RMR, CRR, CCP, CSR(A). Way to go, Sandra!

Other newly acquired accreditations go to the following:

CRR (Certified Realtime Reporter):
Leigh Mercer, RPR, CRR; Bragg Creek, AB
Ian Sutherland, RPR, CRR; Lethbridge, AB

RPR (Registered Professional Reporter):
Tiffany Vincent, RPR; Edmonton, AB

CSR(A):
Carolyn Levey, CSR(A);
Laurie Belsito, CSR(A); .

Participating Member:
Nancy Nielsen-Gill and Angela English.



Kerriann and Jim Desautels are pleased to announce the arrival of Liam James. He was born on November 30th, 2003 at Sturgeon Hospital in St. Albert. He weighed 9 lb 5 oz and was 20-1/2 inches long. Big sister Leah Mary is (sometimes) very pleased to have a baby brother.

Lisa (Kooi) Tebb is enjoying her new baby girl, Reagan Erica Ross, born October 31, 2003, weighing in at 8 lbs. 9 oz.



Congrats to Paula (nee Campbell) and Kevin Lee who were married in Victoria at Thanksgiving!



REMINDERS:

Contact your points person, Jennifer Wilkie, when you have updates to your credentials. This will not be done automatically through NCRA, or by friends calling in for their other friends who were with them taking the exams. (Although this is very considerate of you, we cannot update member profiles using that process.)

CSR(A) is a designation to be used ONLY by reg-istered members of the ASRA who meet the following criteria of POARA (Professional and Occupational Associations Registration Act):

- 8(1) A person is eligible to be registered as a certified shorthand reporter if that person satisfies the Registration Committee that he:
- is a practising reporter,
 - is of good character and reputation, and
 - has
 - successfully passed the Alberta Shorthand Reporters Association's Certified Shorthand Reporter examination,
 - successfully passed both portions of the National Court Reporters Association's Registered Professional Reporter examination, or
 - been registered as a participating member for at least one year immediately before the date of the application, and
 - has graduated from a National Court Reporters Association recognized school of court reporting, or
 - has at least 5 years of work experience as a court reporter.

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38 Rutherford Drive
Red Deer, Alberta
T4P 2Z2

<http://members.shaw.ca/asra>

For a list of CE policies and article tests, visit our website at:
<http://members.shaw.ca/asra>

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NCRA News

NCRA MIDYEAR CONFERENCE
APRIL 2 – 4, 2004
San Francisco, Calif.

NCRA ANNUAL CONVENTION
JULY 29 – AUGUST 1, 2004
Chicago, Ill.

NCRA Website – www.NCRAonline.org

VOICE WRITER AMENDMENT PROPOSAL DRAWS MUCH DISCUSSION

The proposal to admit voice writer/stenomask reporters as members has generated a great deal of discussion, both for and against, on the NCRA Online Forum. As of Wednesday, about 300 messages

were posted in the Bylaws and Amendment Discussion section specially created to keep the various message threads in one place on the forum.

A forum subscription is free to members, so it costs you nothing to take advantage of this valuable information exchange. Just go to the NCRA home page at www.NCRAonline.org and click on Forum in the NCRA Resources box.

CAPTIONING IS 30 YEARS OLD

TV captioning is 30 years old in December. On December 3, 1973, The Captioned ABC News was first broadcast on WGBH-TV in Boston and a few other TV stations in New England. Within a year the program was available nationwide over PBS.

Jeff Hutchins, an industry consultant and one of the early shapers of the captioning profession, relates in an e-mail marking the anniversary how the job was accomplished. "The Captioned ABC News was produced by The Caption Center at WGBH using a staff of seven people," he writes. "It took them 4-1/2 hours to transcribe and edit the text of ABC's World News Tonight, which was recorded at 6:30 p.m. The commercials were removed and replaced by new material put together by The Caption Center in order to provide deaf viewers with a complete newscast -- weather forecasts, sports scores, news updates (in case a 6:30 story had developed further by 11 p.m. when the show aired), and special features for and about deaf people.

"This program remained on the air nearly 10 years, until realtime captioning became viable," Hutchins continues. "By 1980, it was carried on approximately 140 PBS stations across the country and was seen by over one million deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers, proving that there was an audience eager for captioned television programming."

CNN STORY HIGHLIGHTS REPORTING AND CC EARNINGS POTENTIAL

Court reporting and broadcast captioning are two careers that have the potential for six-figure incomes, according to CNN Money. The story, which appears on CNN/Money.com and CNN.com, can be viewed at http://money.cnn.com/2003/12/09/pf/more_sixfigjobs/index.htm. The item also was discussed on the CNN cable network December 10.

The story is one of a series by CNN/Money senior writer Jeanne Sahadi that highlights careers that

most people don't think about as having a high earning potential. While six figures is the exception rather than the norm, it is important that reporting and captioning are recognized as vital careers with significant potential.

ASCII: THE 8-TRACK OF ELECTRONIC TRANSCRIPT TECHNOLOGY

By Brian DiGiovanna, RMR, CRR, CMRS and Rebecca A. Askew, Esq.

The legal industry is known to be resistant to change. Many legal professionals still consider WordPerfect 5.1 as the word processing "Mecca!"

Similarly, the standard for receiving transcripts electronically in many minds is ASCII. The use of ASCII for transcript distribution led to the innovation of technology to better control how transcripts are viewed. Now, greater benefits are available to both the transcript author and the customer who uses this technology for transcript dissemination and viewing. Just as DOS was replaced with Microsoft Windows, improved electronic transcript technology has supplanted the use of ASCII transcripts.

A Brief History

ASCII is an acronym for American Standard Code for Information Interchange. Developed by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) in 1963 and finalized in 1968, ASCII is arguably the most basic of the standards set for data exchange. As computers can only understand numbers, ASCII converts letters, digits and symbols into 127 different numerical combinations that allow data to flow easily among various data processing systems.

When introduced to lawyers by the court reporting industry, ASCII provided the first electronic method for distribution of a draft or final transcript in a medium other than paper. Although far from perfect, ASCII revolutionized the way in which transcripts could be disseminated by the court reporter. Joseph N. Spinuzzi, a partner with New York-based DocuServe Group, recalls: "When our customers received their first transcript in ASCII format, they could not believe it. Lawyers and legal support staff were relieved of the burden of transporting paper transcripts to courts and to depositions. Customers were so excited about receiving their transcripts electronically, that they overlooked the shortcomings of ASCII."

Flexibility vs. Integrity

Once the newness of ASCII wore off, customers be-

gan to quickly recognize the problems associated with receiving a transcript in ASCII format. ASCII does not have a viewer specific to its format but is viewed through a computer's word processing software (i.e., Word, Word Perfect, Works, etc.). Because of this flexibility and the basic nature of the code, ASCII documents are unable to keep formatting intact when opened. It shapes to whatever rules are in place in its current viewing environment. This presents an issue in documents where formatting is essential, such as the line and page numbering found in transcripts. The result is that it does not provide an accurate representation of the original paper document.

Paul Rayborn, a federal official court reporter from the Northern District of Florida, found that he had attorneys "grumbling about an ASCII transcript not being a 'perfect copy' of the original record filed with the clerk." Attorneys tended to blame the imperfections of the transcript sent in ASCII format on the court reporter.

Another flaw in the ASCII format centers around the lack of security features associated with it. An ASCII document, as explained above, is normally opened using word processing software; the document is easily altered using the tools available with that same word processing software. In transcripts, where accuracy and integrity are essential, the continued usage of ASCII becomes problematic.

Technology to the Rescue!

ASCII is pervasive in all industries, not just the legal and court reporting industries. Similarly, Portable Document Format (PDF), another industry-agnostic technology, has been introduced as an alternative to ASCII transcripts. In fact, some CAT software, such as Stenograph's caseCATalyst4, includes a Print to PDF function that essentially takes a picture of the original transcript, thereby protecting its page and line integrity. The PDF printing, searching, and formatting capabilities overcome many of the ASCII obstacles; however, they often have larger file sizes and impede quick transmission via Internet (e.g., PACER) and e-mail servers.

New electronic transcript dissemination and viewing technologies have been developed specifically to aid the court reporter in e-mailing a better quality transcript. One such innovation, the E-Transcript Viewer, was created in 1996 by RealLegal as a method to securely and accurately send and view electronic transcripts. This technology performs like an envelope wrapped around an ASCII, making it user-friendly and interactive while protecting its integrity. After finalizing a transcript, the court re-

porter simply imports the ASCII file into the software to standardize formatting and to activate full-text searching, condensed printing and password protection features. The new file is an encrypted, virus-protected, digitally signed E-Transcript, which can be safely and securely e-mailed to customers in either .EXE or .PTX format.

Because of the timesaving features incorporated into these new technologies, they have become the preferred method of transcript dissemination for judges, attorneys, and support staff. With the click of a mouse, end users can search the transcript text using the hyperlinked word index, or easily cut and paste relevant portions of the transcript into their word processing document for reference. The new electronic transcript maintains the same line and page integrity as the original paper transcript, and it can be viewed from anywhere. Although end users do not need special software to use the features, these transcripts easily import into most transcript management software packages.

Just as people thought nothing could be better than the 8-track tape, advances in technology changed that perception. The same is true with the usage of ASCII for transcript distribution and viewing.

This article first appeared in the October 2003 issue of *LegalTech Newsletter* with information on the two authors following.

Brian DiGiovanna, RMR, CRR, CMRS, is an official court reporter in New York and Special Advisor for Courtroom Technology, Supreme Court Civil Division.

Rebecca A. Askew is a licensed attorney with 18 years experience in various forms of litigation, including commercial, criminal, family and appellate.

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No wonder proofreading is so hard! Thanks, Shaayna Fuerst, for this submission.



Captioning The Word – From a realtime captioner's perspective

By Joanne Agard, CSR, RPR, Burlington, Ontario

As a captioner at New Life Pentecostal Church in Milton, Ontario, Canada, I have had not only the honour, but the privilege of captioning many Sunday morning sermons delivered by one of God's great pastors - Reverend Dan Rogge, but for everyone who comes in contact with him, young or old, he goes by the simple, unassuming name of "Pastor Dan". He is full of love, compassion, inspiration, energy and spiritual guidance. He is assisted by his very capable and loving wife Natalie, and a devoted team of workers including a music/worship pastor, youth pastor, other musicians, technical assistants and our team of captioners.

New Life is a unique church where everyone involved with the service works together as a team to deliver the word of the Lord to not only their every day congregation, but to a very special group of people - the deaf and hard of hearing congregants.

Our great leader, Pat Gardiner, gathered up a team of captioners to bring the sermon to the deaf and hard of hearing congregants. This lady possessed a dream where she envisioned that her beloved church would be the first Canadian church to reach out to the deaf and hard of hearing, and that originally she would be the one to provide this much needed service. After a year of captioning at the New Life Pentecostal Church, Pat's health deteriorated and she was no longer able to caption the

sermons. This is where the "Captioning Team" entered the picture.

Pat would not let her dream die. She is a hero in this true life story. With some of her captioning friends being aware of Pat's health problems, and her wish to continue captioning services at the church, a team of dedicated volunteer captioners was formed.

The team consists of six senior captioners, along with student captioners, where everyone freely shares their knowledge and their experiences while continually learning from each other and supporting one another. Our egos are left at the door. It is interesting to note that each one of our captioners follows a different religion.

Captioning at New Life Pentecostal Church has changed my life in many ways. It began simply by giving my time and skills, once or twice a month, but has blossomed into the establishment of life-long friendships, an admiration for fellow captioners, a renewed interest in the teachings of the Bible and most importantly, a recognition that I am able to make a positive contribution, regardless of how big or small, into the lives of deaf and hard of hearing people who can now "hear" the sermon through my voluntary efforts. We are their communicator and are greatly valued.

Everyone benefits from this ministry - the deaf, the hard of hearing, the congregation and the individual captioner. Remember, you are captioning in a loving and very forgiving environment - have no fear if "Nebuchadnezzar" is not written perfectly the first time - while at the same time receiving words of appreciation, encouragement and respect from members of the congregation for the assistance you give. Where else would one receive all this while fine-tuning your captioning skills! I highly recommend volunteering your time and skills to your church, synagogue or place of worship.

Think about it. You can make it happen. Just believe in yourself and then give of yourself.

Please let us know if you have captioned for a church or are presently captioning for a church. Also, we have put together a package of articles and information on church captioning available upon request.

Joanne Anderson of "The Captioning Team" in Milton, Ontario, Canada, can be reached at plgardiner@hotmail.com

Steno Outlines:

The following were sent to us by Bernice Radavich, RDR, CRR, CPE, from Lemont, Ill.

New Testament TPHA0 TEFPLT
Matthew PHAUT or PHAUTSDZ
Mark PHAURBG
Luke LAOUBG
John SKWRAUPB
Acts A*BGTS
Romans ROEUPLS
1 Corinthians TP-RS/KREUPBS
2 Corinthians S-BGD/KREUPBS
Galatians TKPWHRAEUPBS
Ephesians TPAOEPBS
Philippians TPHREUPBS
Colossians KHROPBS
Thessalonians THOEPBS

Classified Ads

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3	\$23.85	\$5.30	\$29.15	\$2.04	\$31.19
4	\$31.80	\$5.55	\$37.35	\$2.61	\$39.96
5	\$39.75	\$5.85	\$45.60	\$3.19	\$48.79
6	\$47.70	\$7.50	\$55.20	\$3.86	\$59.06

Other contact information: 4005 ~ 43B Avenue, Leduc, AB. T9E 4V2
Fax: 980-8045
Email: ppr@telusplanet.net

Please be advised that Joan Rikansrud is no longer with Stenograph. A new district rep will be appointed, but in the interim you can address any inquiries you have to:

Cindy Krol
1-800-323-4247, ext. 5012
ckrol@stenograph.com

ComputracePlus Software uses GPS to track down stolen laptops plus other features that can prevent thieves from getting into certain files.

Absolute Software
#800 - 111 Dunsmuir Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 6A3
1-800 220-0733 or
604-730-9851
info@absolute.com
www.computrace.com

A lock I can recommend for laptops and flat panels is:

Kensington Notebook MicroSaver, available at Compusmart. Quality of locks and prices vary.

Information tidbit submitted by Shelley Arthur.

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda is seeking qualified Court Reporters to fill existing vacancies in its court reporters unit.

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) was established for the prosecution of person's responsible for genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of Rwanda between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1994. It may also deal with the prosecution of Rwandan citizens responsible for genocide and other such violations of international law committed in the territory of neighbouring States during the same period.

The ICTR is governed by its statute, which is annexed to Security Council Resolution 955. The Rules of Procedure and Evidence, which the Judges adopted in accordance with Article 14 of the Statute, established the necessary framework for the functioning of the judicial system. The Tribunal consists of three organs: Three (3) Trial Chambers plus the Appeals Chamber; the Office of the Prosecutor, in charge of investigations and prosecutions; and the Registry, responsible for providing overall judicial and administrative support to the Chambers and the parties.

The ICTR is located in Arusha, Tanzania. Arusha, halfway between Cape Town and Cairo, is situated at the foot of Mt. Meru, in the north of Tanzania, Approximately 200km for Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. Arusha and Nairobi are tourist towns, the gateways to many national parks like Serengeti, Lake Manyara, Mt. Kilimanjaro, Ngorongoro, etc. Arusha is 1,379 meters above sea level and as temperature and rainfall vary with altitude, the climate in Arusha is very different from other tropical regions. Arusha gets quite cold at night especially from May – September.

The ICTR is a multicultural work environment, employing about 800 staff, representing 83 nationalities.

Court Reporting in the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

The use of Court Reporters in the ICTR is pioneering as this is the first time the UN is employing members of this profession as International civil servants. The Court Reporters Unit (CRU) is part of the Court management Section of the Judicial and Legal Services of the Registry. It is organized into two groups; English-

Speaking Court Reporters and French-Speaking Court Reporters. Currently, it comprises 30 (thirty) Court Reporters (15 English-Speaking and 15 French-Speaking). There are two Supervisors (one for each language pool). The number of Court Reporters will increase with the advent of ad litem judges and the approval of the request for transcript editors.

Under the direction of the two Supervisors, the CRU is charged with the verbatim recording and production of all the permanent records of all judicial proceedings of the ICTR, including the timely provision of transcripts to Chambers and parties.

This process includes, *inter alia*:

- Verbatim recording in Court (Stenotype machine shorthand process);
- Transcribing of the stenotype shorthand into English or French text (editing);
- Proofreading of the text by the author, including research of spelling, citations etc;
- Proofreading of the same text by another Court Reporter;
- Preparation of the index;
- Merging of transcript;
- Printing, copying and transmitting for filing.

Currently, the ICTR has three (3) Trial Chambers. A team of five Court Reporters cover each Trial Chamber. The five Court Reporters take turns of approximately one and half hours each court session. Final transcripts are expected 48 hours after each court session. A system with Audiosync and Stenovox is being put in place with the objective of producing transcripts within 24 hours. In the mean time, draft transcripts are produced daily to assist parties and judges prepare next days hearings. Daily drafts are expected at 7:00 p.m. on each day of hearing.

Working hours:

An average court day runs from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. with lunch break from 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

Salary:

Court Reporters are classified in the Field Service Level, category 4 (FSL- 4) of the UN personnel system. Depending on years of experience, Court Reporters may be classified from echelon 1 – 12 of the FSL4 category. Court Reporters' annual gross salaries range from \$50,000 USD - \$60,000 USD, excluding benefits. This salary range is one of the highest in civil service administration.

Privileges and immunities:

Working as a Court Reporter in the ICTR gives you diplomatic status in Tanzania. Article 105 of the United Nations guarantees immunities and privileges in the interest of the organization. However, these privileges and immunities will not cover staff members who fail to fulfill private obligations (non payment of bills, or failure to observe laws and police regulations).

Entitlements:

Installation grant: This is compensation payable by the UN towards the initial extraordinary cost incurred by staff member and his/her family members as a result of relocating to a new duty station. It provides considerable cash at the beginning of assignment or reassignment to a duty station.

Post Adjustment: Salaries are adjusted at each duty station to take into account the various cost of living factors.

Mobility and hardship: Duty stations are classified according to the standard of living taking into account the availability of certain basic needs like security, water and electric supply, road infrastructure, etc. On a linear scale from A – E, countries are classified, with those having abundance of the basic factors like in Europe and North America falling in the A category, and war zones falling in E category. Other countries are classified depending on the degree of availability of the basic factors. The rate of compensation for working in the various categories is inverted. Mobility and hardship is highest in war zone, gradually reducing to minimal in countries falling in the A category.

Language Allowance: Court Reporters are classified in Field Service category and are thus entitled to be paid a language allowance if the staff member has demonstrated proficiency in two or more UN official languages. The UN official Languages are English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese. The two working languages of the ICTR are French and English.

Dependency benefit: Staff member can claim dependency benefit in respect to spouse and children. In fact, the pay scale is higher for those with dependents and spouses than for single staff members. These benefits are accrued only after proof of birth/marriage/divorce decrees are certified by the Chief of Personnel and planning section.

Educations grants and Education travel grants: International recruited staff, whose duty station and place of residence is outside staff member's home country is entitled to an education grant in respect of each child in full-time attendance at a school or university. Staff member may apply for an advance against this entitlement at the beginning of each school year. This grant does not exceed 75% of the actual fees. The entitlement extends to paying of two round trip ticket for child's from place of education to the duty station each year.

Other entitlements are Rental subsidy, Participation in Joint staff pension fund in which spouses and children under 21 are automatic beneficiaries, Staff assessment avoids double taxation by exempting employees of UN from national taxes, Annual leave which accumulates at the rate of two and half days per month, Home leave is granted every year at the expense of the UN for staff member to visit home country; family visits enable staff members to visit eligible dependents not residing in duty station; also sick leave, maternity leave (16 weeks), Special shipping entitlement of 50 kg (unaccompanied) in respect of each outward and return trip for education grant, home leave or family visit.

For access to application forms and other information, please email Lorraine Nordstrom at anrp@cablerocket.com.

OFF THE RECORD:

Q MS. Z: Are you seeing a counselor at this time?

A No. For what reason?

Q To help you deal with the stresses in your life.

A No.

MS. Z: I am. Anyway. Off the record.

MS. Y: So am I.

MS. Z: Scratch that.

(Submitted by Lorraine Nordstrom.)

MR. ANDERSON: Now, that's on the understanding here that we can locate

all the accountants. It may be that in 1996 it was a different accountant. But we will try. We know what you want, and we will -- so, yes, that undertaking is granted. And the poor court reporter can figure out what the undertaking was when she goes to do the transcript."

POOR COURT REPORTER'S COMMENTS:

[\\$&@*~\)!!@*~\\$&\\$*\(@A#&\(!*~!@&!@\(*7!!!](#)

Thanks, Litsa Konicki. Haven't we all been there!

Q MR. X: Now, why is it that you did not go back to McDonald's?

A Because of the fast food pace. I was very limited in what positions that I could work. Being a breakfast coordinator, you're qualified to work anywhere and everywhere. Since the accident, drive-through was it, and drive-through's usually where you put your weakest link in the restaurant.

MR. Y: Hey, I worked drive-through.

(Submitted by Lorraine Nordstrom.)

Every twist and turn

There is potential for joy in every moment, whatever the situation. The only reason your job is boring, is because you choose to see it as such. The only reason your neighbor is unpleasant, is because you think of him as such.

Accept what is. Find the good in everything that surrounds you. Nothing will ever make you happy, until you decide to be happy. Accept what is, and you have the ability to make it whatever you want. Nothing can make you happy, and yet you can make happiness from anything.

Struggle and strife, laughter and fun, tears and smiles are all part of the same incredibly lavish symphony that is life. The richness of being alive is never conditional. It won't all be fun, but would you really want it to be? Rejoice in every twist and turn of the path, because that is where the living is.