

Here's where the rubber meets the road. This is not just another book to read; this is a process for putting you on track for meaningful, purposeful, and profitable work. Follow this step-by-step process and you'll see your dreams come to life and experience the exhilarating joy of doing work that releases your passions and strongest abilities. Put yourself on this time schedule so you radically change your level of success if you have ever felt that your work is just a necessary exchange for a paycheck. Work through each step and keep moving even if you feel you could do more work on a particular step.

Each day's assignment refers to a section in the book. You may want to do a quick overview and read some of the examples of people who have dramatically changed their view of work as they found that sweet spot where work and play become indistinguishable. This is a process to get you through those inevitable and perhaps unwelcome transition points in your life.

Check off each day's activities as you complete them. See yourself getting closer and closer to the work you love. *Start the countdown – today is Day Number One.* 

### Here are some beginning tips for this process:

- Talk to everyone; don't be secretive. Tell people about your future plans.
  Sharing your ideas will help you believe they are reachable and it will reenforce your commitment to making them a reality.
- Integrate all material as you complete it. Each piece is important to accurately define the best opportunity for you.
- This schedule is designed to take approximately 30 minutes each day for the next 48 Days. Be consistent about taking at least that much time each day. Don't plan to just catch up on the weekends. The material will become more real if you digest a small portion each day.
- Write out your responses to the Countdown to the Work I Love questions at the end of each chapter. Your plan will become more real if you are writing it out. Don't just hope that general thinking will change your future. Without a clear plan you will repeat what you have already done.

#### DAY: Check off each day's activity as you complete it.

1. \_\_\_\_ Review this schedule. See yourself completing all steps on Schedule as outlined. Recognize you are not waiting on your future to appear; you are going to

plan it. Read the Introduction in 48 Days to the Work You Love and sign and date the commitment at the end. Read Chapter One. Ask yourself what work has meant to you so far. Then ask yourself what you were "born to do." Has your work and what you were born to do been a match, or are they different? Complete the questions at the end of Chapter One. 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Read Chapter Two. Recap your own work history. How close to the national averages are you in the length of your jobs? Were the changes in your work a result of circumstances or something you did? Be careful in answering this be totally honest with vourself. \_ Complete the *Countdown to the Work I Love* questions at the end of Chapter Two. Write out your answers. Your plan will come alive if you write your responses. Realize you are simply clarifying your past at this point – so you can then describe changes needed for the future you want. 5. Read Chapter Three – *Creating a Life Plan*. Are you comfortable seeing work as simply one tool for a successful life? Are you making deposits of success in the other important life areas? **6.** \_\_\_\_\_ Talk to 2 people today about your new understanding of "vocation," "career," and "job." See if you can describe them in a way that gives those people new hope and inspiration. Complete the Countdown to the Work I Love questions at the end of Chapter Three. 7. Dan talks about people who have inspired him along the way. Name 3-4 people who have been positive mentors for you. Could you contact them again and ask for their advice? 8. \_\_\_\_ Read Chapter Four. Complete the Personal Checkup. Overview the 7 Areas for Achievement. Success typically does not "just happens." It shows up as a result of making deposits that are positive, healthy and success building. What are you doing in each of the seven areas that is building the success you want? **9.** Describe a time in your life when indecision caused you to lose an opportunity. You have now learned a simple 5-step process for removing the crippling effects of indecision. Think about any major decision you have ever made. How long did it take you to make that decision? Will you agree that indecision in any area cripples us in other areas of our lives? Can you agree that 48 Days is long enough to:

- 1. State the problem
- 2. Get the advice and opinions of others

- 3. List the alternatives
- 4. Choose the best alternative
- 5. ACT

Now complete the *Countdown to the Work I Love* questions at the end of Chapter Four.

- **10.** Read Chapter Five. Recognize that "divine discontent" is a good thing. It is likely God prompting you to take a fresh look at where you are and where you are going. Recognize that meaningful, purposeful work will integrate your:
  - Skills & Abilities
  - Personality Traits
  - Values, Dreams & Passions

The more you know about yourself in these three areas, the easier it will be to recognize work that fits you.

**11.** List your Personality Traits –

Common personality traits are grouped into four categories:

## A. Dominance (Driver) - Lion -- Eagle

Takes charge, likes power and authority, confident, very direct, bold, determined, competitive.

## B. Influencing (Expressive) – Otter -- Peacock

Good talkers, outgoing, fun loving, impulsive, creative, energetic, optimistic, variety seeking, promoter.

### C. Steadiness (Amiable) - Golden Retriever -- Dove

Loyal, good listener, calm, enjoys routine, sympathetic, patient, understanding, reliable, avoids conflict.

# D. Compliance (Analytical) - Beaver -- Owl

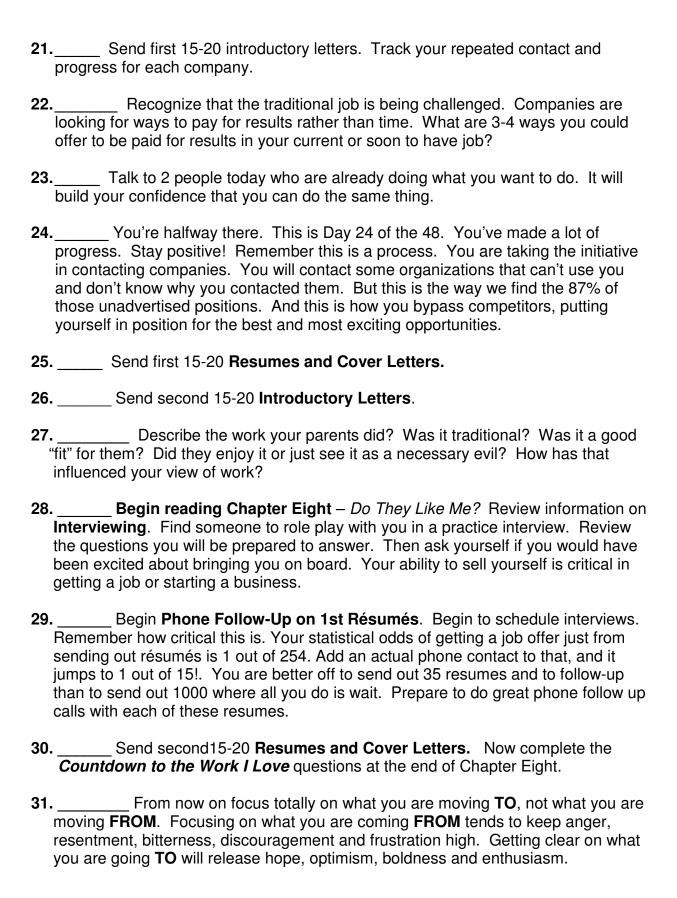
Loves detail, very logical, diplomatic, factual, deliberate, controlled, inquisitive, predictable, resistant to change.

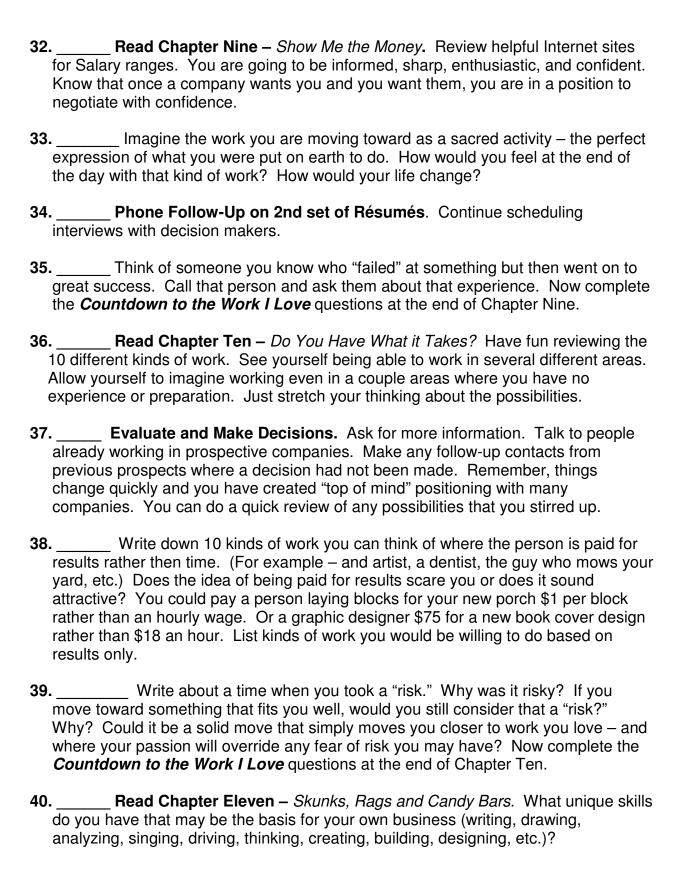
Ask others to help you see yourself through their eyes. Recognize that you are unique; there is no merit in being like everyone else.

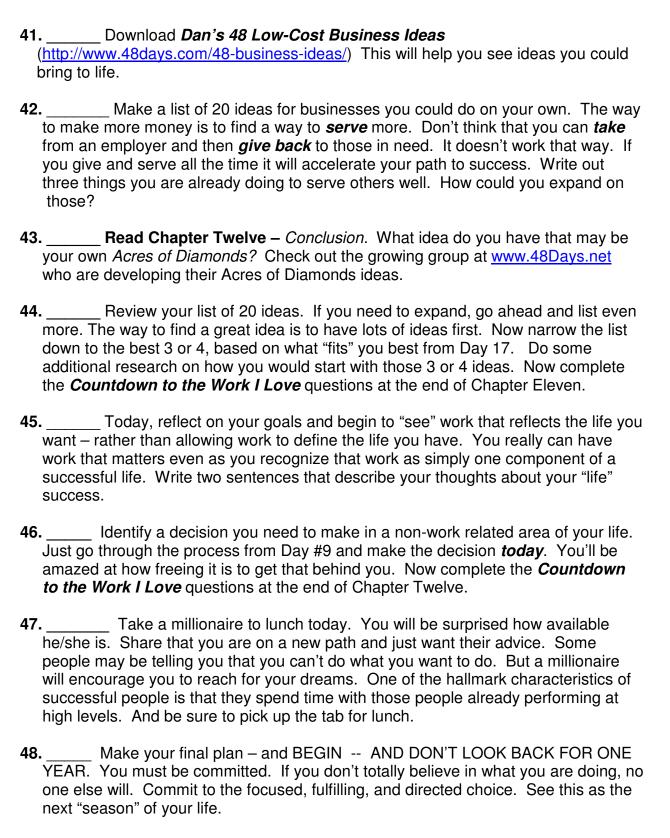
- 12. \_\_\_\_ List your Dreams & Passions -- What is it that you find naturally enjoyable? If money were not important, what would you spend your time doing? When do you find the time just flying by? What are those recurring themes that keep coming up in your thinking? What did you enjoy as a child but perhaps have been told was unrealistic or impractical to focus on as a career? You must include these in some form in your work otherwise it will be missing a critical element.
- **13.**\_\_\_\_\_ Be comfortable with this process of looking inward. Many people look outward too quickly and jump at what appears to be an opportunity only to discover

inward. 15% is the application of what you then know about yourself in finding - or creating – work that fits. Now complete the *Countdown to the Work I Love* questions at the end of Chapter Five. **14.** Spend today believing that you were totally responsible for everything that has happened in your life so far. Just for today you can't blame anyone for anything. If you accept responsibility for your losses, you will also put yourself in the driver's seat for some big wins. Start imagining doing work that is fulfilling, meaningful and profitable – every day from here forward. 15.\_\_\_\_\_ Now we're getting to the "nuts and bolts." Read Chapter Six. Think through how your current resume sells you. Does it position you for what you want to continue doing, or is it just a historical overview of what you've done? Explore whether a chronological or a functional resume will serve you best. Create your resume. List your Skills & Abilities -- Skill areas could include: Sales and Marketing, Administration, Budgeting, Computer Programming, Customer Service, Mechanical Ability, Accounting, Supervising, Graphic Design, Counseling, Training, Writing, Organization, etc. Use the Sample Resumes found in the Appendix of 48 Days to the Work You Love to help create the resume you are confident will open doors for you – in the work you love. 17.\_\_\_\_ Make a list of 10-15 kinds of work that blend your (1) Skills & Abilities, (2) Personality Traits, and (3) Dreams & Passions. This is where you can start to get creative about what your work will look like. It may not be a traditional job but you can create it to fit you. Now complete the Countdown to the Work I Love questions at the end of Chapter Six. Begin reading Chapter Seven – Finding Your Unique Path. Like the Robert Frost poem suggests, believe that you are going to find the "road less traveled by" and that will make the difference for you as well. 19. By now you may be seeing all the new job possibilities and the new models of work that don't look like traditional jobs. But even if you are considering starting your own business it's a good exercise to create a stellar resume. You need to clarify your 2 or 3 strongest areas of competence and be true to those, whatever the application may be. So now build your list of 30-40 organizations where there would be a potential match for your areas of competence. Spend two hours with your city directory or a national business search engine, where you can get a brief company history and profile, and the names of proper contact people. 20. Start the clock on your Job Search. Compose your Introductory & Cover Letters. Use the samples found in the Appendix to shape your own. Now complete the Countdown to the Work I Love questions at the end of Chapter Seven.

six months down the road that it is not a fit. You are doing the important work now. 85% of the process of choosing the right career path comes as a result of looking







And congratulations on making the choices for fulfilling, meaningful – and profitable – work!