

He leaves a top job at a top company

All to answer God's call

By Jen Young
RECORD CORRESPONDENT

One of Lennoxville's major employers, the ETFS insurance company, has said goodbye to its vice president of human resources of eight years, Chris Hornibrook, as he sets out on a spiritual mission to help local professionals balance work, family, faith and focus through the introduction of TMP (The Master's Program) to Sherbrooke.

"I loved the role of human resource champion for ETFS. I helped to build a profitable business," says the New Brunswick native (who has a master's in social work from McGill University). "As much as I enjoyed my contribution at ETFS, I decided I was even more interested in helping leaders discover their unique spiritual calling and partner with them during this life altering transition."

The life altering experience is TMP, a three-year program described as "an executive MBA in kingdom leadership", which Hornibrook completed last year.

TMP, based in Orange County, California, is a non-profit founded by Bob Shank in 1984. Its mission is to prepare Christian leaders to change their world and build God's kingdom through their lifestyles and influential service. Shank, who Hornibrook describes as his mentor and inspiration, says the goal is to help men make change.

"We are a generation that was bred to win," Shank explains on the TMP website (at www.mastersprogram.org). "Most men I know have not clarified the work that God gave them to do. We want to help men clarify that work, and put a plan on the table to complete it before they leave."

Working under the slogan "Your career is what you're paid for. Your calling is what you're made for", Hornibrook is embarking on this pioneer effort in Sherbrooke. He will offer workshops and individual coaching sessions, and plans to launch the first Canadian cohort of The Master's Program this winter. He also hopes to develop collaborations with other successful men's ministries and to expand to other parts of Eastern Canada.

He says people must recognize that



COURTESY

Chris Hornibrook, wife Karen, and their kids.

change is scary.

"Few people can handle major change by themselves, and big decisions are best made with lots of research and planning," he says. "It's difficult to start something new, but it's even more difficult to start a cutting-edge ministry. I always encourage men to plan and try new things. Don't be afraid to go out and try something challenging. It's only through risking failure that we find the best answers."

Hornibrook, with the aid of his brother-in-law Reg Allatt, is launching the entrepreneurial enterprise to effect a legacy that will stretch beyond this life into eternity.

Occupying the unique niche of "strategic life-planning and kingdom entrepreneur," Hornibrook will mentor Christian marketplace leaders as they make the transition from their primary career — that is, the work they are paid

to do — to a life that includes the pursuit of their calling and the work they are made to do. According to Hornibrook, this middle-of-life transition is the second-most difficult in life, overshadowed only by his and his wife Karen's initial decision to follow the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

"I feel this is my calling," said the 43-year-old. "I want to focus my life's energy on helping men transition from living a life of success to a life of true significance."

Losing his father suddenly at the end of June has also inspired Hornibrook.

"Dad's legacy is a life not lived in vain! I am writing about his life because I was so touched by the stories men told me about dad's influence on their lives. Some of his most fruitful years were the 11 years following his retirement as he focused a lot more on what he was made for, as 'a fisher of men!'"

By June 2010, both Hornibrook and his wife plan to focus their attention on their calling, beginning with a year of "celebration," as they take a sabbatical year and travel with their children.

"The strategies presented in TMP have been employed by hundreds of discriminating leaders over the last decade," according to Hornibrook. "This gives me tremendous credibility as we bring this assistance to career professionals in Canada."

While all this may sound very New Age, Hornibrook says the basic need for the service he provides to his clients is bound to grow.

"More and more Christians are facing the big transition from career to calling and will want to do more of the work they love to do."

For more information on Hornibrook's mission, or TMP, email chris.hornibrook@mastersprogram.org.