

Taking on the *volcano*

by Robert M. Gignac

Today, I am discussing “The Volcano”. What is the first thing that you would feel if you were near a volcano that was almost about to erupt? Of course, you would feel heat.

We all have things in our lives and businesses, which because we don’t handle them or deal with them promptly or properly, begin to get, well, hot! Have you ever used the phrase “I’m in hot water”? That generally means that there is some situation, dilemma, or task that we have to deal with.

The volcano is symbolic of the challenges we face in life, the problems from which we run away. What does this mean to you? What volcanoes do you have in your life? If you found out tomorrow that you only had only six months to live, what would you do differently? Change job? Change company? Change friends? Change relationships? Watch television?

We continually need to be develop-

ing ourselves, changing, growing; these acts are all part of human nature. We are designed to grow and achieve. Unfortunately, we don’t want to hear that we have to change. We would rather talk about our circumstances, about how hard things are, about why we cannot do it. We need to realize what we have in our hands.

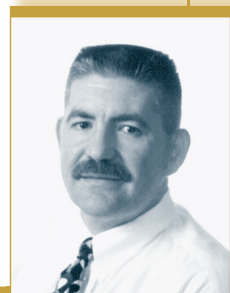
I’m thinking of a story about the early African explorers who had come upon some small boys playing with golf ball-sized rocks—a game similar to marbles. They offered the small boys candy, which they liked, and in the end, the boys exchanged several dozen rocks for two handfuls of candy. What the boys did not know was that they were playing with large uncut diamonds. They had no idea of the value of what they held in their hands. Many times, we as small business owners are like this. We are blind to the potential within our organizations and ourselves.

Why? Because we are afraid to fail. Yet, we know we are going to make some mistakes—we need to make some mistakes. The person who has never made a mistake has not done anything serious yet. If you have not made any big mistakes, taken a serious risk, lost some serious money, then you haven’t started living yet. Take a chance. Have some adventure. Sometimes life will just happen to you and you won’t have time to say “No!” You will only have time to act, to take the leap of faith. So, trust yourself. Know that everything will be all right.

But I know, you’d like a guarantee. So fine, here’s one: We all eventually die. It seems to be a little known fact—we cannot get out of life alive. It’s not a matter of “if”, it’s only a matter of “when”. That is life’s only guarantee (okay, perhaps taxes as well). Did you want me to tell you being an entrepreneur or running your own business would be easy? Did someone tell you when you were younger that life was going to be easy, only filled with great times and fun? If they did, they lied!

Think for a moment about how things would be different for us if we were to act as if we only had six months to live—forcing us to live our lives now? We need to recognize this is the only chance we get. Try to take the leap every day, to jump in and see if life spits us back out. Remember, the only person that it has to make sense to is you. You are the one for whom it will have a sense of joy and achievement. Feel the heat. Take on the challenges. Go get your volcano! SBCM

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