

Alone in the Wilderness: Doing what's right when everyone else is doing something else

Written by Julie Desmond

Thursday, 23 January 2014 14:54



Black History Month always brings out the bravery in me. Courage is not my strongest suit, and I usually think twice before I do anything very risky. But when I remember what other people have gone through, with no certainty that the outcome will be satisfactory, let alone safe, I am encouraged, again, to take chances, to stand up for what I know is right, and to bring others along when I can, ostensibly risking their lives, too, but doing it anyway.

Standing up for one's self and beliefs is easier if you can reach backward and find confidence in past successes. When were you scared? When were you reluctant? Was there ever a time when you stepped away from your fear and just "did it anyway?"

Lately, I've been facing some big decisions. While talking it over, a career coach friend reminded me of an adventure my college aged daughter and I experienced a few years back. We were on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Portugal. In our part of Portugal, no one – no one – spoke English. Well, maybe the concierge at the hotel, but not very well. We had arranged for a horse ride through the Portuguese National Forest. We bribed a cabbie to take us to the remote location and begged him to return for us later on.

The stable was... there was no stable. The horses lived among the trees. The trainer lived in a tin can of a camper nearby with his wife and small (3 years or so) child. There were no saddles and there was no common language, let alone cell phone service. No one in America knew we were there, literally. We washed the horses, and learned, mostly through demonstration, how to calm the horses by doing a few yoga poses on their bare backs. Then we headed into the wilderness, with only a very foreign stranger as our guide.

When the cabbie (thankfully) returned for us four hours later, we had had the time of our lives! Scared? Terrified! Do it again? In a heartbeat! Sometimes, when you feel like you're alone in a very foreign wilderness, you just have to jump on that horse and ride forward, trusting your gut that things are going to work out okay.

Julie Desmond is IT Recruiting Manager with George Konik Associates, Inc. To hear about job openings, send your resume to Julie at jdesmond@georgekonik.com .