

## THE DILIGENT WILL BECOME RICH

Is one business better than another? Can a certain profession assure you of success? Are all doctors rich? Are all farmers poor? You know what? I have learned that all businesses can give you an equal opportunity to prosper.

I have a friend who operates a junkyard, and he buys a new car every year. I have another friend who is a vendor in a public market, and he earns 2 times more than most corporate executives I know. But not all junk yard operators are successful and not all public market vendors earn as much. So what determines the success of a business? People today would say that it is about finding your strengths. I do not completely agree, instead I believe it is about developing diligence in the business you choose to pursue.

Proverbs 10:4 says, "Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich." What is diligence? In Hebrew it is *chawruts*, a picture word of a man panning for gold. A diligent person commits himself to the work before him until he succeeds in his task. He will convert his weaknesses into strengths, not because he wants to but because he has to. He will persevere until he finds gold where there seems to be none.

Farming is not my strength but I had to study it because we wanted a simple life in Bukidnon. I do not have a green thumb, so I need to work with people who have it. I believe my strength is to create systems and also to teach, but these did not feed my family in the beginning so I had to learn the intricacies of farming - often by trial and error. One of my other weaknesses is reading financial statements but in order to find "gold" I had to address this concern, not because I want to but because I have to. If ever we have gained relative success in a business that does not often profit, it is only because we stayed put, persevered and developed diligence in the business God entrusted to us.

Are you struggling with the business or job God has given you today? Are you frustrated with the many challenges you need to overcome? If you stay put and decide to be diligent, I believe you can succeed in whatever you have to do.