



MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE TEACHER

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS CAREER?

At first I wanted to study Theology to please my father but soon realized that this was not for me. I received a bursary to study Teaching at our local college in Worcester and took the opportunity. I always wanted to be involved in working with the community and working with people this was my opportunity. As it was teaching I was willing to give it a chance.

WHAT TRAINING DID YOU UNDERGO, AND WHERE?

I Studied four years at Söhng College of Education where I completed my Diploma in Education and one year after that my Higher Diploma in Education. A few years past and I realized I needed further development to do more. I continued my studies at the University of the Western Cape where I completed my B.Ed. (Honor's) degree.

Teaching is one of those careers where change comes quickly and you as a teacher must be able to work through the changes and equip yourself to cope with these changes. In order to be fully equipped I attended workshops, seminars presented by the WCED as well as courses outside the WCED.

WHAT DOES YOUR JOB ENTAIL?

My work entails educating children, empowering children, developing children to become responsible people who can take their place in society. Shaping their young minds and encouraging them to follow their dreams and goals. Developing them socially, emotionally, physically, mentally, psychologically so that they can equip themselves to cope with the challenges they going to face in their future life and the real world.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST?

You ever heard that saying in The -A- Team "I love it when a plan comes together "?

When your learners just come and surprise you. Whether it be their marks you've never expected, a sweet or apple on your table not knowing who put it there or when the learners do exceptionally well or they just say thank you or when you see your learners succeeding in life. I am a primary school teacher usually learners will forget you when they finish high school or go to university yet there are those learners that will come back and look how you are doing.

Four years ago there where this learner in my science club he was not the best in science but willing to learn. He was so eager I made him team leader. We had the yearly science competition which we won that year. This year he is matric specializing in physics, and other sciences. These moments are priceless. He started his own little science group.

This is what makes it worthwhile. There are so many examples too many to tell. It's priceless when they enter your classroom full of life and so young and you meet them again when their children are in your classroom. That is what makes teaching so different from any other career.

WHAT IS THE LEAST ENJOYABLE PART OF YOUR JOB?

Unfortunately you will at some stage experience where

you do not get the support from parents when you want to help learners and you don't get the parents involvement. They just do not care .This is what upsets me the most.

You certainly will have your share of disciplinary problems and coping with it in productive ways and mechanisms .Remember the people setting up our policies are not teacher's and do not realize the consequences of each decision they make.

3 IMPORTANT QUALITIES THAT YOUR POSITION REQUIRES?

You must be able to take leadership, adapt, and be a hard worker.

IN 1 SENTENCE, DESCRIBE YOUR JOB?

The greatest , innovative , challenging , fast changing, hardworking job because you are creating lawyers, doctors , entrepreneurs, ministers, professors , policemen , and even presidents for the future of our country.

EXPERIENCE VS TRAINING?

In teaching you can be qualified and have the highest qualification but if you have not taught you still have nothing.

Working with those young minds is a completely different story; every day is a learning curve. I am teaching for fifteen years and the most I have learnt was in the first seven to ten years.

I have started to settle in always equipping myself within my career. Learning from my colleagues -teaching skills, handling discipline, school finances and the list is endless.

ADVICE FOR GRADE 11 AND 12 LEARNERS CONSIDERING THIS CAREER?

Teaching is not for everybody. You must have passion, leadership, assertive abilities but also at the same time be subtle and understanding to the fact that each learner you are working with is different.

TYPE OF PERSON THAT WOULD ENJOY THIS KIND OF CAREER?

The type of person considering teaching should be very passionate about teaching. You must love what you do, working with all different types people and the ways that people think. Remember everyone will not always agree with you. You must be assertive within the rules. Always be on top of your field. Learners will challenge you to see how much you know. Always be willing to learn from others.

WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU HAD TO OVERCOME?

The first two years of my teaching experience was the most difficult. I was teaching at a High School with learners almost as old as I was. The help I got was at a minimum but I made sure that I had help from a few older teachers in my home town. Had to travel 70km to school every day and 70km back with the little SGB salary I got. At that stage it was not about the money I believed in gaining the most teaching experience I could get to apply for any contract or permanent post. During that time I lost my sister and mother due to illness. I decided to board at a colleague's house.

My luck changed in my fourth year where I got a one year contract in my home town. I worked as hard as I could to prove myself making myself available for all activities and committees at the school. Ten years back I was appointed permanently at this school.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED?

You need a B.Ed. degree or Diploma in Education

IS CONTINUING EDUCATION AND FURTHER STUDIES IMPORTANT IN YOUR TYPE OF CAREER?

It is very important. Education changes every day the learners change, policies change, technology changes even history changes, science changes therefore you must always update yourself in terms of being a teacher. ■



Cecil Felix

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