

An unfulfilled professional career

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Care and Personal Assistant

Freedom Ministries require a flexible friend to assist their evangelist Alyn Haskey in his ministry.

Duties include providing personal care, driving, liaison and assistance in ministry.

Salary £7,000 p.a.

In the first instance, please send s.a.e. for further details to Freedom Ministries, PO Box 24, NOTTINGHAM NG3 4LD.

ROYAL NATIONAL MISSION TO DEEP SEA FISHERMEN

43 Nottingham Place, London W1M 4BX

A Christian-based charity has a vacancy for a **CLERK/VDU OPERATOR** in their Head Office situated in the West End of London.

Applications please to arrive by January 31st 1995.

Exciting Opportunity

To attend Bible School!

In exchange for a few hours' work each week you will receive free Bible training and full board, own room, meet new friends - in well established Full Gospel Missionary Training Centre.

Don't delay! Details from Tel 0779 838251 or write New Hope Bible College, Peterhead, Scotland AB42 7DQ

"BETHANY"

is the home of 6 people who have a learning disability. There are vacancies for:

- 1 Deputy Manager (Grade D Nurse)
- 2 Assistant Manager
- 3 Waking Nights
- 4 Care Assistant Full or Part-time

These appointments have arisen due to additional staff requirements.

All staff must be sympathetic to the Christian faith.

For application form SAE to: 'Bethany', 32 Llanthwy Rd, Newport, Gwent NP9 4LD

Fairmile Court Christian Conference Centre
Ashcroft Park, Cobham, Surrey KT11 2DN
Tel: 01932 865574

CHEF REQUIRED

For this busy (80 cover) centre. Must have C&G 706/1 or equivalent (opportunity for further training) & experience. Live-in position - full board and own room for single person. Ability to work both on your own and as part of team essential. Salary negotiable, depending on experience.

For a job description and application form write or phone Mark Comins, Manager.

Simon Watkinson discusses the difficulties facing disabled people looking for jobs

I REMEMBER the 18 September 1991 quite vividly as it was the day of my graduation. Four years of relentless toil had culminated in an Upper Second in Computer Studies.

Because of my bad legs and suspect balance which result from a brain haemorrhage suffered as a child, I was very nervous about walking across the 30 metre stage in front of all those proud parents. The relief at not tripping on this platform coupled with the elation of receiving my degree lasted for about a week. It then began to dawn on me that getting any decent job wouldn't be easy.

To date, my endeavours to find suitable employment have sadly met a wall of discrimination and amount to just four interviews and 400 rejection letters.

As the latest work experience on my CV is voluntary and not computer related, my quest for employment is currently entangled in a vicious circle because the last programming experience I had was three years ago, during my time at CERN, the physics laboratory in Geneva.

I have found, to my cost,

that The Disabled Persons (Employment) Act of 1944 which states that companies with 20 or more employers should employ at least 3% of the workforce who are registered disabled, is seldom enforced.

In fact, the Department of Employment has found that about three quarters of firms subject to the quota fail to meet the 3% figure, but since 1944 there have only been ten prosecutions with fines totalling a mere £350.

The only way of having a reasonable chance of getting an interview is by not mentioning the fact that one is disabled, but then one may be subject to embarrassing and hurtful questions at interviews, such as: 'How did you hurt your leg?'

While most other ethnic minorities justly have their legal rights, disabled people don't have many, so new Government measures to correct this unfair imbalance are desperately needed.

The fact that having a

disability nowadays means being a second class citizen has been proved by some very ominous statistics.

In 1985, when the UK economy was on an upturn, the Labour Force Survey found that an unemployed able-bodied person had to wait for two to three months before getting a job, whereas an unemployed disabled person had to wait approximately 20 months and a New Earnings Survey in the same year found that on average disabled men earned four-fifths of their non-disabled counterparts.

Survey

A Government commissioned survey conducted by Social Community Planning and Research (SCPR) in 1989 found that 40% of working age disabled people in employment or training were more likely than non-disabled people to be in low paid, low-skilled jobs.

Moreover, in 1990 The Spastics' Society found that a disabled person is six

times more likely to be turned down for an interview than his able-bodied counterpart, even if his qualifications and experiences were the same.

Many employers wrongly view disabled people as a drain on scarce resources, but this was shown to be a nonsense by a Government-commissioned survey conducted by IFF Research in 1990, which found that 80% of employers nationwide said that disabled employees perform the same or better than non-disabled employees.

Moreover, other studies have confirmed that disabled workers are less likely to take time off sick and have fewer accidents in the workplace compared with their non-disabled colleagues.

The sadness of all this injustice is that there seems no end to the criminal waste of a wealth of talent. Furthermore, the self-respect and confidence that only a job can bring is being denied to most disabled people when they especially need both the stimulus of meeting others



Simon Watkinson: 'The elation of receiving my degree lasted for about a week'

at the workplace and the sense of independence associated with earning a living.

Trying to overcome a disability and lead as full a life as possible must rank as one of life's toughest hurdles and those with the strength and character and determination to handle the emotional and physical pain of such an uphill struggle have a lot to offer any employer.

They certainly deserve more than the corporate cold shoulder.

PHOTO: PHIL TAYLOR



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