

The Joseph Project Retirement—FAQ

June 8, 2011

1. Why are you ending The Joseph Project when there are so many people still unemployed?

We were clearly called by God to launch **The Joseph Project** in late 2008. Mass layoffs were pervasive. The American financial infrastructure was at risk. We answered the call to *alter the journey of business people between jobs*. We intentionally called it The Joseph “Project” because we assumed that we would help business people for a season. We felt that God would let us know when it was time to refocus on our core WorkMatters vision. That time is now.

Two and a half years later, economic conditions have stabilized. It is painful for us at WorkMatters to retire The Joseph Project when we still have so many friends that are searching for their next job or career. We have been blessed to have helped hundreds of men and women with job resources, networking and encouragement. We believe that we have been able to accomplish our mission to “alter the journey” of these people. It is now time to let God use other resources and other people to accomplish his purposes.

2. Were you considering ending The Joseph Project before Butch Scruggs (TJP Director) left?

No, we were not. However, we were observing and evaluating what the need for **The Joseph Project** was going to be in 2011. Butch’s departure did accelerate the discussions about the future of The Joseph Project. We needed to determine who would lead The Joseph Project and that introduced a number of other strategic issues for WorkMatters leadership to consider.

In the end, we determined that God was putting all of the pieces in place to make this decision the right one. Our vision at WorkMatters is growing by shrinking. Our emerging “less is more” vision allows WorkMatters to focus on changing culture through Professionals, Young Professionals, and College Students.

3. Did you look for another organization that could “acquire” The Joseph Project?

Yes. Several attempts were made to see if churches or other not-for-profit organization would take ownership of **The Joseph Project**. We could find no organization interested in doing so.

4. Did you consider changing the format and/or frequency of the meetings instead of ending it?

This was definitely looked at as part of the overall decision process. In the end, the decisions outlined above drove us to our final conclusions.

5. Would it be acceptable to WorkMatters to continue with The Joseph Project in an informal manner?

If a number of people wanted to continue to meet in some form or fashion, of course WorkMatters would be in favor of that. However, **The Joseph Project** name cannot be used and there would be no formal association with WorkMatters. We would be blessed to see God continue to use the idea and concepts behind The Joseph Project.

6. Could we still meet at JBU if we want to keep meeting?

WorkMatters could no longer be the sponsoring entity. Discussions about that would have to be separate and permission given by JBU to whatever group wanted to carry on a between jobs ministry.

7. Why is The Joseph Project ending so quickly?

We understand that this feels abrupt, but our leadership felt that it would be best for everyone involved not to drag this out. It is believed that once the announcement was made public that participation would decrease significantly. In the end, leadership wanted **The Joseph Project** to finish strong, not become a negative drain.

8. Would you consider allowing The Joseph Project to meet for a longer period of time in order to have time to determine how it could be run independently?

This decision was prayerfully and carefully made. As explained above, WorkMatters leadership feels this is the correct approach and timing.

9. Are there plans for The Joseph Project alumni gatherings or events going forward?

We have no plans to do this at this time. However, we would love to see the TJP alumni stay connected on-line, and possibly face to face.

10. Can you guide us to other helpful job and networking resources?

Yes, we are producing a document that summarizes these resources for our website. We will also continue to communicate any job related resources we are made aware of through our WorkMatters Facebook or Twitter pages.

11. Will the LinkedIn Joseph Project group still be available?

It will remain active until Wednesday, June 22. At that time, we are hopeful that a group of Joseph Project participants will desire to take ownership of it under a different name and separate administration. WorkMatters would need to work with those individuals to ensure that a clear process is in place for the new Linked In account to be properly run and managed.

12. How long will the WorkMatters Joseph Project web pages be available?

WorkMatters is in the process of making those determinations. On June 22, it will likely be reduced to basic information about The Joseph Project, including any and all information that we have to direct people to other valuable job search resources.

13. What will the final three weeks of The Joseph Project entail?

WorkMatters is committed to finishing strong with the final three weeks of **The Joseph Project**.

First of all, we are excited that Maxie Carpenter has agreed to facilitate the final three sessions.

On Wednesday, June 8, Maxie Carpenter will also be our speaker. He will be sharing on *Accepting and Growing through Change*.

On Wednesday, June 15, you will have an extraordinary speaker who will share his personal story of surviving job loss, how he has come back strong, and grown even stronger through his “between jobs” experience resulting in an even more successful career.

Then, on Wednesday, June 22, we are planning a very special final session of **The Joseph Project** that you will not want to miss. It will start with a celebration breakfast that all attendees, alumni and previous speakers are invited to attend. Then, we will have a final extended session featuring the world’s most influential “Between Jobs” Panel session! We are inviting every leader that has ever been a speaker at The Joseph Project to attend and share a few final words of wisdom to those between jobs, and to answer any and all questions. It will be a special day.