



Mike Nelson

Hassle-free relocating

Quite a number of us, at some time or another in our careers, are faced with the challenges of having to move — whether it's across town or across the country. Sometimes that move is an exciting job opportunity; other times it's due to necessity.

I have recently taken a job as superintendent at Dacotah Ridge Golf Club, a facility being constructed by the Lower Sioux Indian community in Morton, Minn. The piece of property we have is fantastic, Rees Jones is the golf course architect, and the resources are in place for a world-class golf course out here in southwestern Minnesota. I'm looking forward to being a part of this project.

However, there are many things to consider if you are looking at possibly relocating. Although the job opportunity may be attractive, you need to consider the important things in life before making a final decision. In my case, my wife and I had very recently had a baby, and the changes that we were going through — getting acquainted with the little one, my wife getting used to being an at-home mom, my new job — made for a potentially stressful situation.

I don't regret the decisions we've made, but actually going through the process opened my eyes to what's important in my life and where important decisions should have their beginning. I have a few suggestions that may be of some help to someone who is relocating. Some of these I implemented; others, I wish I had.

Take time off between jobs, if possible. Many things require your attention during this time. Getting your house ready to go on the market might require some touch-up painting, carpet cleaning or general organization.

You will also be busy scouting out

the area you will be moving to and looking at housing there. Leave plenty of time to become familiar with other aspects of the new area, such as schools, churches, activities, programs for kids and possible job opportunities for your spouse. See if you can make these scouting trips fun and relaxing instead of trying to squeeze in too much. You'll end up spending all your time on the road, where the potential for frustration is great.

If you are doing all the packing yourself, spread it out. Try to do a little everyday so when the time comes to load the truck, it won't seem so overwhelming. Also, as soon as you know your new address and the date you'll be moving, let the post office know, along with utility companies and any other agencies or organizations you do business with. This can be a hassle if you wait until moving day to change your address.

It's been a few months since we moved, and we're still getting settled in. Our lifestyle is somewhat back to normal, and we've met a lot of nice people. Having lived in a big city all my life, I'm dealing with a little culture shock. We're living just outside Redwood Falls, Minn. (pop. 5,100), and I'm still getting used to looking out my windows and seeing hay bales and combines within a few feet of the house.

But last night, standing outside my home, I couldn't help but notice the incredible display of stars. It was right about then I felt I could get used to this country living.

GCM

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What's your Viewpoint?