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Dr. Champion

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Relativity of Significance

For this essay, I have chosen Brady McLaughlin. Mr. McLaughlin is the CEO and co-founder of GoRescue Brands Inc. He went to the University of South Alabama, as well; he later attended UAB and Faulkner State Community College at the same time. Mr. McLaughlin stated, “my goal was to get out of college as quickly as possible.” Mr. McLaughlin has worked in many fields, including law enforcement and public safety, as a police chief and firefighter. He was an undergraduate professor at Troy University, teaching three and four-hundred-level courses on Foundations of Emergency Management, Criminal Justice, and Terrorism And Homeland Security. Brady McLaughlin has four children and a wife that he continually balances with his career and hobbies. This balance was one of the first reasons I considered Brady McLaughlin. As an entrepreneur and a family man, Mr. Mclaughlin seemed to be the perfect interviewee. Someone that is in a position I wish to see myself in. A position where every choice you make has lasting significance.

Brady McLaughlin’s college career started at the University of South Alabama, where he took EMT courses. Mr. McLaughlin then attended UAB and spent his summers at Faulkner State Community College for his undergraduate degree. During our interview, he discussed how he went from “having zero credits in high school to having one-hundred twenty credits and graduating in about two years and nine months.” Mr. McLaughlin wanted to get out of school as fast as possible. He dedicated his time and effort solely to his future, yet he stated that “academics did not prepare me at all.” He also acknowledged that “high school was harder than college, college was harder than grad school, and grad school was harder than real life.” Mr. McLaughlin told me that things outside of the classroom in college are what prepared him for real life, such as when he was a Residential Advisor at the University of South Alabama. College taught him how to communicate formally, but his “real life” skills are attributed to the communities and people he engaged with on campus.

Brady McLaughlin may not have found significance in college, but college gave Mr. McLaughlin the tools for success in a career he found to be significant. Without further education, Mr. McLaughlin may not have met his wife, he could have never realized the possibility of entrepreneurship, and he may not have found his passion for saving lives. GoRescue was founded on the question… How can we save more lives? As a 911 Dispatcher, Police Chief, firefighter, Private Eye Investigator, and registered EMT, Brady Mclaughlin determined that the best way to save lives was to make every person a lifesaver. He and the people of GoRescue Brands Inc. have realized this idea by holding CPR training courses, AED training courses, and AEDs themselves to schools, hospitals, and hotels. (AED Definition). Brady McLaughlin has found significance for himself and others that benefit from his products across the United States.

Brady McLaughlin may not have found significance or purpose until later in his adult life, but the meaning he found is grand. Mr. McLaughlin and the GoRescue team, including my mother, indirectly save lives daily. Mr. McLaughlin stated that he works sixty – seventy-hour weeks and sacrifices his time and effort to save as many people as possible. I asked Mr. McLaughlin, “If you could speak to your younger self, what would you say to him?” he stated, “I would reassure myself that I am on the right path.” It is courageous for a man that has experienced the stressful life of a CEO and say that he would willingly indulge in the stress if it meant the result, lives being saved, remained the same. The Four Core Values Mr. McLaughlin instills in himself, and the people that work at GoRescue are 1. Honor God. 2. Excellence in service. 3. Balanced living. 4. Stewardship through accountability. Brady McLaughlin defined a life of significance as the “eternal impact you make on other people.” Every moment has the same eternal importance as the last. “Are you encouraging them in their time of need? Are you praying for them? Are you saving someone’s life? Are you caring for an abandoned child?” Significance can be as minor as giving a thumbs up to someone having a difficult day or as major as giving someone CPR. Brady McLaughlin’s significance can be described as leading a life with good works dedicated to God.

*This appears to be a great interview.*

*But remember, there is more to this assignment. I don’t just want to get to know your interview subject; I want to know how this interview relates to you and affects your sense of a LOS.*

*Regarding Brady, I feel like I know him a little bit, but mostly regarding his job. Give me a sense of his life outside of his job*

*You have a good introduction of the subject and why you selected him to interview. At the end, provide a conclusion that relates more to you and what you gained from this interview. Is there anything “actionable” that you can take away from Brady’s example?*

Works Cited

McLaughlin, Brady (CEO, GoRescue Brands Inc.) Personal Interview, October 7, 2022