

Banta's Big Adventure

Road Trip USA

Summer 2007

Dave says:

A few years back I was sitting front row at a comedy club when the comic looked at me and asked “what’s your name and what do you do?” I replied “I’m Dave and I’m a builder”

“A *builder*? Oh, so people say ‘where’s Dave?’ and someone says ‘out in the garage, building *something*.” Funny.



Building things is what I’ve done for a living for the last 30 years, getting established, raising a daughter, being a husband and giving back to our community. But often it has felt like I was a stranger in my own life. This might explain the “he’s doing something” puzzlement I occasionally get from folks.

So why am I writing this article? Let’s see.

My dear wife of 21 years is Maran. Yes, sounds like Karen. Her motto is “who you really are makes a difference!” (Really, it does!).

Some of you who’ve been hanging around here for a while may know her, and of her dedication to the Network Marketing industry. She is a most amazing woman and I have been gifted beyond measure to have her in my life and humbled to be considered her partner on our journey together.

So I’m writing to you from “the other side”. The spouses’ point of view. The guy (gal) who is scratching their head as their

beloved leaps yet again into another one of those “pyramid thingies” (official name of the industry).

Brief but important background. I grew up in Ada, Michigan in the late sixties and early seventies. I went to school and hung out with Dick DeVos Jr. He was (is) one of the coolest rich kids I ever knew. Heck, he was the *only* rich kid I knew. His dad, Richard Sr. and his partner Jay Van Andel had done very well with a little start it in your garage business called Amway.

Well, those were the early days, and folks around town tended to have strong opinions about Amway and that whole pyramid 'thingie' thing. Let's just say that while I really enjoyed Dick's company, I didn't really want to have a lot to do with his Dad's company. And to Dick's credit, it never came up.

People grow and get involved in their lives, so over the years I've lost touch with Dick. I think things are going ok though. Last I heard he was running for Governor or something. Congratulations Dick!

So when my beloved wife Maran brought her first MLM opportunity to me about 15 years ago I think I might have said something like “Honey, I heard there was this really great streetwalking job on the west side.” At least Mar says that's how I was looking at her.

It's been a long road for me folks.

But the things I've learned along the way. When I look back now, it just blows my mind.

Maran joined her current company about two and a half years ago. Great company, great product, great plan and she is in *love* with it. And so am I.

Up until two months ago I was still working my job building things (big things, out of concrete!) and telling myself (selling myself?) that I could keep doing it as long as it took for her business to take off. I was working hard at feeling good about working hard.

And then it was gone.

I came home on a Thursday afternoon, a little early, and waited for Maran on the patio, with a cold one in my hand. “Hey babe, you know that job I used to have?”

I really have to give her credit. I mean all this stuff we’ve been studying must really work because she only spent about 30 seconds with this “Oh no!” look on her face, and then I actually witnessed the dawn of realization rise in her eyes.

Sparkling, twinkling she said “So what do you want to do? I’ve got your back babe.” I have got to be one of the luckiest guys on the planet, I swear.

“You mean we could go” I asked?

I had been dreaming of this for years, and suddenly, very suddenly, it was here.

Now we may be rich beyond our wildest dreams, we are, we are, we are, but that isn’t necessarily reflected at all times in our bank account. We took a quick look at our money and realized we had a simple choice to make, and make quickly. Stay or go.

Funny thing was, it was simple, really. We felt it calling us. We KNEW.

We wanted to be reasonable, you know, adjust to the shock, and sleep on it. We said we would wait until Monday to finalize anything. I ordered the POD Friday morning, it was delivered on Monday and we just packed all our stuff away, put a little road kit in the Passat, turned in



our keys on Saturday and hit the road. That was easy!

And the past 60 days have been an amazing ride. We headed to the company convention in mid August and we've traveled over 8000 miles, been to 20 cities, enjoyed the most wonderful times visiting family and friends and especially getting to meet heart to heart with so many really cool people in Maran's business.

We're not there yet, so light a candle for us if you're so inclined. But for all those spouses out there, who are scratching their heads at this "pyramid thingie", be patient and open yourself to the possibilities too.

It's an honorable thing to support one another as we learn and grow. And you just might find yourself realizing your own dreams, too.

Namaste,

David (aka The Tall One)



Maran says:

People ask me how we had the nerve to take such a huge risk.

As though packing all of our stuff and putting it into a POD was a risk!

The greater risk and a risk I was not willing to gamble on would have been for David to replace his job in Jacksonville. Building big things out of concrete is a high stress thing to do. And he had been in a hi-stress, albeit hi-income kind of job for a long time, long enough for me to be a stay-at-home Mom while our girl was growing up. Diving right back into that? Nah... I just did not see that as being a wellness kind of direction for him to take.

It was just the two of us.

Our girl had graduated High School in 2005 and had moved out within the hour – oh ok she hung around long enough for us to throw a big party, but seriously it was two weeks later she packed her stuff into her graduation present and drove to Atlanta.

In 2006 David got this God Father type of job offer – I mean it really was such a good offer we could not refuse. So we emptied out the house in south Florida, left the keys with the Realtor and there we were in Jacksonville Beach in a rented condo. Sure we could have had two mortgages, but that idea did not excite me, so renting the condo felt better. And it was 350 yards from David's new office; making his commute just slightly longer than mine.

We eventually sold the house in south Florida and just never found anything in Jax that made us want to extend his commute.

Jacksonville is a gorgeous town with great people.

We really did enjoy our time there.

Go Jags!

And it just wasn't our perfect fit.

Here we were.

Me with a completely portable business, give me an internet connection and a telephone and I'm at work.

My business is thriving; I am one of the Top Team Builders in the entire company.

David's job had slipped into the historical classification.

Our lease was already up; we had a month-to-month agreement.

We had talked about living on the road for years, about twenty-four years, but hey who's counting?

We were packed and out of there within a week.

And suddenly life was like a Willie Nelson song ~~

Just can't wait to get on the road again
The life I love is sendin cards out with my friends
And I can't wait to get on the road again
On the road again
Goin' places that I've never been
Seein' things that I may never see again,
And I can't wait to get on the road again.

We spent the first week in Atlanta with our good friends Deb and Mark Harris.



On the road again
Like a band of gypsies we go down the highway
we're the best of friends
Insisting that the world be turnin' our way



In Atlanta, Anita and I went door-to-door to businesses giving away Heartfelt Unexpected GreetingCards, **HUGs**. We encountered very little resistance! ;-)

And our way
is on the road again
Just can't wait to get on the road again
The life I love is sendin cards out with my friends
And I can't wait to get on the road again.

We rode past
[Bonaroo](#).
How did they do
that smoke ring?



Look at this marvelous young one we ran across in Tennessee.
Our second stop was with our dear friend in Madison, Tennessee, home
of Terry and [Valerie White](#). The White family and maybe especially but
not only, the animal loving Gabby, were not only warm and gracious –
they were down right loving!



What a delight to be totally embraced by
these exceptional people. Baby Kallen is
pure positive Joy Energy. His Mama is
kept busy keeping up with him! Val who
prefers GiGi over Grandma is blessed at
his presence. Terry is the epitome of
"Gentle Man". Ahhh... life is Good. Just a
few days, but the memories will live on in
our hearts for a long time to come. Thank
you Val, Terry, Gabby, Sharon, Kallen
and Anthony.
Love you All.

And the journey continues... more later!

David Banta and his amazing wife [Maran](#) turned in the keys to their condo in Jacksonville Beach, FL in early June of 2007. They have spent the summer traveling around the U.S. connecting with Maran's team members and building Maran's network marketing business. As avid followers of [Abraham Hicks](#) they are purposefully following their inspiration and manifesting the life of their dreams.

David, in addition to being a 'master builder', was a past President of the Board at Unity of Hollywood and has participated in coaching intensives through www.GreatestNetworker.com/davidbanta

Maran adds:

Remember, Who You Are Makes A
Difference!

Maran

904.685.2336

We travel around the country giving away
HUGs

Make someone's day - send them a

Heartfelt, Unexpected Greeting Card

I'll even pay for it!

<http://ItFeelsGoodToSendOutCards.com>

