

Work where you want,  
Live how you want,  
Be who you want to be



# The Untemplater Manifesto

**Shatter The Template Lifestyle**

© 2009–2011 Untemplater.com. Photography © N. Cody  
McKibben.

...ALL THE STORIES ON UNTEMPLATER ARE BY REAL PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU WHO WANT TO SHATTER THE TEMPLATE LIFESTYLE.

## So What Exactly *is* Untemplater?

Untemplater has a simple mission – to inspire a special community of free-thinkers to **shatter the template lifestyle** in favor of a truly passionate, unique, and unconventional one. We reject the “deferred life plan” – the lifestyle template that boxes people into believing that freedom doesn’t start until you retire at 65.

Instead, we aim to live life on our own terms by taking action and working hard to pursue our goals and dreams *now*. Our motto is to **Work where you want...Live how you want...Be who you want to be.**

Untemplater will help you discover how to shatter the template lifestyle so you can **find the careers, relationships, and adventures that *make you come alive!***

## Introduction to the *Untemplate* Lifestyle

Take a deep breath, look around you, and ask yourself this question, “Am I doing the same thing as everyone around me?”

If you are, then chances are that you are on the path to the comfortable, stable “American dream.” You’ll spend your 20’s in a small cubicle grinding long hours to impress your boss, steadily and surely climb the corporate ladder, and retire in your 60s, finally able to enjoy life’s riches: **time with family**, **travel**, and the opportunity to **pursue your passions** as a full-time gig.

Is this the life you want to lead?

CAUSE THE HOUSE ALWAYS WINS. PLAY LONG ENOUGH, YOU NEVER CHANGE THE STAKES. THE HOUSE TAKES YOU. UNLESS, WHEN THAT PERFECT HAND COMES ALONG, YOU BET AND YOU BET BIG, THEN YOU TAKE THE HOUSE.

- Danny Ocean, *Ocean’s Eleven*



There are many blogs and books meant to teach and inspire you to leave your corporate existence in order to pursue a venture that you're "passionate" about. Most of these sites mean well and are inspirational, but they're written by *gurus* who've already "made it" and aren't in touch with *your* reality.

**Untemplater**, on the other hand, was founded by six twentysomethings who've done it and know what it's like to work hard to live the life that we want to live.

In fact, because the founders were so successful in 2010 they're now fully dedicated to their own projects full time and have passed the torch on to [Sydney](#) who is thrilled to keep the Untemplater dream alive!

Untemplater's goal is to build a thriving community for anyone who ever sought more out of life—and we hope to help you learn how to **shatter the template lifestyle**.

## This Manifesto Is Meant To Inspire

Below you will find the stories of several individuals pursuing the **untemplate** lifestyle.

Remember this one thing: **if we've been able to do it, then you can do it as well.**

Come join the fun at **Untemplater** and learn how you can **work where you want, live how you want, and be who you want to be.**

WORK WHERE YOU WANT...LIVE  
HOW YOU WANT...BE WHO YOU  
WANT TO BE

[Sydney](#), Principal Writer of [Untemplater.com](#)

## Untemplating the Mind

### Letting Go Of Fear Will Set You Free

For the first half of my life, I was the type of girl who was scared of everything. I hid in the corners at parties, turned **bright red** when my teachers called on me in class, dreaded walking up and introducing myself to people, was terrified of talking to guys, and shied away from big crowds. In other words, I was a total wimp.

I started to grow out of these fears when I was halfway through high school, but I was still a socially awkward mess. My self-esteem issues made me an easy target for getting picked on and it sucked. I let the dumbest things embarrass me and **my fears were paralyzing my everyday life.**



...I BOUGHT A 1-WAY  
TICKET CROSS COUNTRY  
AND NEVER LOOKED  
BACK.

It wasn't until my early twenties that I finally started to realize how dumb it was to be scared of everything. It really didn't matter what other people thought of me, if I screwed up, and that I didn't know all the answers or the right things to say in every situation. I started to let go of my fears one by one, and **embrace change**. If you want more out of life and love, you have to believe in yourself first and then start taking risks.

## Life Is Too Short To Stay Scared

In my quest for change, I decided **I needed to get some spice in my life**. My inner voice told me the first step was to escape from sleepy suburbia. I wanted more culture, better weather, great food, new opportunities, and an exciting social life. So I packed 2 suitcases, bought a 1-way ticket cross country to San Francisco, and never looked back.

**I didn't have a job waiting for me** there, no family members nearby, and only about \$500 in my checking account. Risky? Yes! But I was tired of feeling stuck and living in other people's shadows, so **I took a chance**.

...IT WAS THE CRAZIEST  
THING I'D EVER DONE  
AND IT FELT FANTASTIC!

**It was the craziest thing I'd ever done and it felt fantastic!** I finally felt like my life was in motion. It took a lot of networking, job applications, and tons of rejections, but the more I reached out to people and put myself out there, the more **things started to move**. I followed every lead and ended up getting an amazing job with a small business owner.

If I hadn't made the choice to let go of my fears and start taking risks, I would still be a scared and lonely gal with one boring and unsuccessful life.

## Happiness Is A Choice

Some people are born optimists. Others like me, and perhaps you too, have to stumble along and go through all sorts of craziness and darkness before finding a path of positive thinking.

**My life was stuck in a stand still before I started to take risks.** I was depressed, moody, and frustrated until I learned to squash my fears, stop worrying so much, and focus on the positives. Once I decided to get up, take action and break out of my funk, my life turned around completely. **If I can do it, you can too!**

**Join me on Untemplater** where you'll read real life stories of people who've found happiness by taking chances and **pursuing their passions**. Even if you don't know what you want to do with your life yet, don't fret!

You don't need all the answers now or a laundry list of awards under your belt to be happy. Make the choice to find the positives in yourself and every situation. **You're more powerful than you think!**

## The Power Of Our Minds

Once I began to take control of my thoughts and started thinking in a new way, **my life started moving forward**. My mind had been holding me hostage for years by filling my thoughts with fears of failure, fears of embarrassment, fears of taking action.

Untemplater will show you how to shatter the template lifestyle, but ultimately **YOU have to believe that you can have a better life**, and be willing to change. Even if this isn't something you're comfortable with right now, that's okay. We all have different tolerances for risk and embracing change.

...YOU'RE MORE  
POWERFUL THAN YOU  
THINK!

...YOU CAN BREAK FREE  
OF THE FEARS AND  
ROADBLOCKS THAT ARE  
LEAVING YOU STUCK IN A  
TEMPLATE LIFESTYLE...

Just try to **keep an open mind** and recognize that even though our minds are powerful, they can also get lazy and stall. Apathy is a clever trick our mind traps us with because it attacks when we're weak.

So if you want to change your life around, you better be prepared to dodge these types of traps. **It takes determination, initiative, and optimism to get your life off of autopilot.**

## The Untemplate Lifestyle Has Never Been More Realistic

The amount of free resources out there today is phenomenal, especially since I can remember the days *before* the Internet. There's no reason to keep making excuses and putting your dreams on hold anymore.

If you're willing to put in the effort, **you can break free** of the fears and roadblocks that are leaving you stuck in a template lifestyle.

## You Can Shatter The Template Lifestyle

...FOCUS YOUR ENERGY ON  
SEEKING OUT THE CAREER,  
RELATIONSHIPS, AND LIFE  
EXPERIENCES THAT MAKE  
YOU COME ALIVE!

**Untemplater is a supportive community** that you can go to for guidance and find **real life stories** of people who've shattered the template lifestyle and want to help you do the same.

Focus your energy on seeking out the career, relationships, and life experiences that make you come alive!

**Work where you want...Live how you want...Be who you want to be!**

Jun Loayza

## Untemplating Entrepreneurship



Tick tock... tick tock... it was 5:00pm and I had another hour of grueling grunt work to get through before I could catch the train home. I was a financial consultant at a top 50 consulting firm making \$55,000 my first year after graduating college. In my friends' eyes, **I was leading a successful life and on my way to getting my MBA, working my way up the corporate ladder, and retiring at age 65 a wealthy and successful man.**

But something just didn't feel right. It wasn't the 60-hour workweeks, nor was it the fact that I could only hang out with my friends and girlfriend on the weekends; it was the fact that I was **just another drone following the template lifestyle**. If I stayed on my current path, I would die an **ordinary person** who followed the average "American Dream."

## The breaking point...

On a cloudy morning in November 2007, I dragged myself into work and sat in my four-walled prison. My Managing Director walked in an hour after me and dropped a towering stack of printed excel sheets on my desk: "Hey Jun, I'm in a real time crunch and I need you to QA these excel sheets for me by end of day. Thanks!"

Do you know what "QA" means? It meant that I had to take out my calculator, whip out my red pen, and individually check each excel equation by hand to make sure they were all correct!

It was salt on an open wound. I stormed into the bathroom, looked in the mirror and asked myself this question: "Would I be happy living the life of my current Managing Director?"

The answer was clearly "No."

**That day I made the decision to leave my corporate haven and pursue my own startup venture full-time.**

...I WAS JUST ANOTHER  
DRONE FOLLOWING THE  
TEMPLATE LIFESTYLE...

## The transition was anything but smooth...

Sometimes it seems so easy doesn't it? If Mark Zuckerberg could build Facebook from his college dorm room, surely I could build my startup into a large empire and make millions.

Little did I know that one of the prerequisites for entrepreneurship was **sacrifice**:

1. I moved back home with my mom and brother to save on costs like food and rent
2. I stopped investing in a 401K, lived off the money in my savings account, and only paid the minimum monthly payments on my student loans
3. I told my girlfriend that we had to significantly cut back on movies, dinner, and that we had to postpone the vacation we were planning

**Entrepreneurship is not glamorous.**

...ONE OF THE  
PREREQUISITES FOR  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP IS  
SACRIFICE...

## Untemplate the entrepreneur

A significant portion of the untemplate lifestyle is leaving **what you HAVE to do** for **what you WANT to do**. In my case, I broke my template by having the courage to leave my corporate job and pursue my startup dream.

**But this is just the beginning.**

Untemplater is not just about breaking the corporate lifestyle; more importantly, it's about breaking **every** **template lifestyle**, including that of the entrepreneur.

The Template Entrepreneur:

1. There is **no work/life balance**
2. You **must use social media** to market your internet startup
3. **Seek funding** to get your startup off the ground

Untemplater will help you learn how to break out of the template-entrepreneur lifestyle.

...A SIGNIFICANT PORTION  
OF THE UNTEMPLATE  
LIFESTYLE IS LEAVING  
WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO  
FOR WHAT YOU WANT TO  
DO...

Cody McKibben

## Untemplating Travel

### Going Through the Motions

When I applied to university, I had **no idea** what I wanted to study. I went because it was just **what you do** after high school—the **next step in the ladder**. Neither my dad nor my mom graduated from a four-year university—because they'd become young parents instead—so you can **bet**, I was going to go straight to college and get my degree! I worked through college to pay for rent, food, and living expenses, and my dad, bless him, paid for a large portion of tuition and books, but the instant I went beyond the four-year limit, I had to pay my own way.

College taught me plenty of valuable lessons—as did paying my own way. I'm definitely thankful to have parents who were willing and able to help me get my education, but the **expectations** (and **consequences**) that I was subject to demonstrate the **prevailing middle-class Western mindset**—the paradigm **template lifestyle**—that most of us are plugged into starting at birth.



...IF I COULD GO BACK I  
WOULD HAVE TAKEN A  
YEAR BREAK TO  
BACKPACK AROUND THE  
WORLD AT THAT POINT...

## College to Career Trial & Error

In retrospect, if I could go back I would have taken a **year break to backpack around the world** at *that point*, or even just to **experiment** at a junior college to discover what I was **truly passionate** about *before* going to university. But I played **the game**. I thought maybe I'd like to be a social studies professor and wanted to gain a deeper understanding of different belief systems around the world, so I graduated with a degree in Humanities & Religious Studies and a minor in History.

After college, like many graduates, I promptly put my degree to absolutely **no use!** Instead, my part-time student job magically turned into a full-time staff position. This, again, was really the **easy, boring path** for me to take, and although the majority of my job duties were to simply *be there* to manage the Dean's office every day, I was exceptionally fortunate because working with the business professors is what turned me on to my true passion—**entrepreneurship**—and being assistant to the *Dean* of the College of Business came with some great benefits.

**Serendipitously**, I was able to meet and learn from **CEOs of Fortune 500 companies**, a **Federal Reserve president**, and people like **Warren Buffett**—the most skilled money-manager and **richest man in the world**, and one of my **heroes**.

...EVEN AS EMPLOYEES,  
WE NEED TO BUILD AND  
MAINTAIN A GREAT  
REPUTATION AND BRAND  
OURSELVES TO STAY  
COMPETITIVE...

## How Connecting with Like-Minded People Empowered Me to Take Control of My Own Destiny

I learned a tremendous amount from the Dean and the College's experienced professors, and as my interest in business grew, I'd travel to Stanford's Graduate School of Business in my off-time for Global Entrepreneurship Week and conferences with **innovative green and social entrepreneurs**. Two books changed my life: the first one being Tom Peter's short but impactful Brand You, which opened my eyes to the emerging "**free agent nation**" where even as employees, we need to build and maintain a **great reputation** and **brand ourselves** to stay competitive in a crap economy where job security no longer exists.

In 2006, partly prompted by Peters' message about **personal branding**, I started publishing my own whacky thoughts online at [ThrillingHeroics.com](http://ThrillingHeroics.com). **Starting a blog** was probably the **best** decision of my life—I immediately started connecting with people around the globe.

## How Breaking the Rules Lets Me Live the Lifestyle of My Dreams

The second book that **radically changed the way I look at life** was Timothy Ferriss' *The 4-Hour Workweek*. I learned that **all the rules of traditional business had changed**. Working 40- to 60-hour weeks and waiting until retirement to do what you really want to do isn't the *only* option.

So I decided to **create** my own **Untemplater lifestyle** where I could work and travel at the same time. I spent a year and a half building a business that I could run **remotely** from *anywhere* on the globe—making my business "**location-independent**" and becoming a **digital nomad** freelancer. And then I went for it! I bought a one-way ticket and headed for Thailand.

Creating a business I could operate from anywhere has given me the **freedom to choose where I live, when I work**, and it has enabled me to travel and free up **more time** to put into **relationships, writing, volunteering**, and other **side projects**.

**Traveling is easier than you think**: with a little resourcefulness, you'll be amazed what sort of great experiences you can have for free or very cheap! You will see some **incredible things** that will change the way you think about the world.

...IT DOESN'T COST AS MUCH AS YOU MIGHT THINK TO LIVE YOUR IDEAL LIFESTYLE OR SET ABOUT ON ON A JET SET TRAVEL JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD, AND IT REALLY ISN'T ALL ABOUT MONEY ANYWAYS!

Adam Baker

## Untemplating Family

I was good at Math and Science. I had high standardized test scores.

My **path** was **clear**... Honors Engineering. What else was there? That was **the path**. No one in particular forced me into it. My parents didn't push me into it. My high school counselor didn't push me into it (or do *anything* now that I think back).

Don't get me wrong, **somebody**, or rather **something** was pushing me. I just couldn't pinpoint the source of it. It just seemed like that was what I was **supposed to be doing**. This was my **next step**. Why? Not because I **chose** it, but because it was the **accepted path** on my current **life template**.

Well, that lasted 3 semesters. Which I'd like to point out is one more than the minimum required to fail out (they let you go at least 2 semesters by default). So, I had that going for me.

I returned home and got to work. I picked up a job **opening the local McDonalds** in the morning and **closing the local pizza parlor** at night. After only a month, I was promoted to shift manager at both locations, but that didn't change anything. I was working **sh\*\* jobs**.

And **why**? Why did I come home and immediately dive into 80+ hours of work? Why not **join the Peace Corps**, join the **Army**, live in a **self-sustaining community**, **hitchhike to Alaska**? Sure I needed to pay to live, but there are **thousands of options** to do that. At 19 years old, McDonalds was my plan B. The sad truth was I **couldn't see any other options**. There were no plan C, D, E, or F's. I was **blinded** by the **script that society had written** for my life.



## Modeling the success of giants...

Flash forward a couple years. Managing fast food led to playing poker. Playing poker led to running local poker tournaments for hundreds of people. Running poker rooms led to real estate (well, the police dictated that one, but that's another story).

Things certainly weren't **perfect**, but I was starting to get a **glimpse** into plans C, D, E, and F.

I started reading **personal development books** (the exact same ones I made fun of only a couple years previous). I started **studying success stories** and business biographies.

I noticed that almost without exception, the people whose stories I was reading had **screwed up lives**. They came from **horrible childhoods** in some cases. Almost all of them **failed out of traditional education**. They started in **their parent's garages** or some desolate **third world country**.

They **worked day in and day out** for *years*, without reward. But there was a reason they were sacrificing. There was a common bond between nearly every story I read.

*They were finding ways to **break the template life** had dealt them.*

They weren't simply playing the cards they were **dealt**. They were **changing the game** mid hand.

...I WAS BLINDED BY THE  
SCRIPT THAT SOCIETY HAD  
WRITTEN FOR MY LIFE. IT  
WASN'T A CUSTOM SCRIPT.  
IT WAS A COPY OF A COPY  
OF A COPY....

## Debt, Marriage, & Kids: The lure of the template life.

**Reading** these stories was one thing. But making the jump to **apply them** to my life was another. I wasn't quite ready. I had just gotten engaged to my high school sweetheart.

Courtney was in the last few years of putting herself through college through a mixture of part-time jobs and **massive student loans**. I brought **several thousand dollars in credit card debt** from my last few irresponsible years.

### And life started happening. Quick.

Our wedding was only 7 months away from the engagement. Courtney had a year left in college and I started a real estate company. 3 months after marriage, we were **pregnant**. 5 months after that, Courtney graduated college and starting working. At that time, I myself was working **80+ hours** again in the real estate business.

### Engaged, Married, Pregnant, Finishing college, Starting a business...

**Student loans, credit cards, jewelry loans, car loans, and money borrowed from family**. We weren't behind, but we had a nice little collection of **burdens** that were growing. In fact, the only thing that was missing was the **white picket fence** and the **mortgage**. And don't let me fool you... we *were* house shopping.

Again... **why?** We hadn't really **chosen** this path. It just seemed like each life event we went through had a '**next logical step**'. It was like we were playing a **board game**. We were rolling the dice and trying to advance around the path just as quickly as we could.

...THERE WAS A COMMON  
BOND BETWEEN NEARLY  
EVERY STORY I READ.  
THEY WERE FINDING WAYS  
TO BREAK THE TEMPLATE  
LIFE HAD DEALT THEM...

## But then it happened...

I'm convinced childbirth is God's way of **smacking people across the face**. At least that's what it felt like in our situation. We had started to **clean up our finances** a little throughout the pregnancy, but **bringing her home from the hospital** took it to a whole new level. We finally made the connection that we were fortunate to be granted an **enormous amount of freedom** in life, but that we were giving **big chunks** of it back. **We were paying chunks of our freedom in debt payments** by trying to follow a path that **we** hadn't chosen (at least consciously).

So we decided right then and there to **take back control over our life**. We weren't sure we were making the **right decision** (whatever that means), but we *were* sure we wanted to test out some other paths. We decided that over the next year we were going to **aggressively attack our debt, sell everything we owned**, and spend a couple years **living and traveling overseas**.

**We knew it wouldn't be easy, but we were eager to start living intentionally.**

## The first step: Dominating our finances.

We realized that the first and most tangible obstacle was our mess of a **financial life**. We weren't behind on payments or getting foreclosed on. But we certainly were on that path if we didn't **change** something.

Over the next year, we struggled to adopt **frugality, budgeting**, and life without constant **credit**. We had **lots** of learning to do... some strategies worked great and others failed horribly. But we kept up the intensity until we slowly installed **new habits**.

We slashed our lifestyle and sold everything we could (including our small business and rental property). The more **small wins** we began to have the more **momentum** it

...IT JUST SEEMED LIKE EACH LIFE EVENT WE WENT THROUGH HAD A 'NEXT LOGICAL STEP'. IT WAS LIKE WE WERE PLAYING A BOARD GAME...

seemed like we were building. Finally, at the beginning of 2009, **we had paid off everything but our student loans** in full. We had **cut up and canceled all of our credit cards** and closed all of our old loan accounts. Most importantly (for us) **we had also managed to save over \$15,000** for our trip on one income.

## Our overseas adventure...

Our next big step was learning **how to travel**. That kind of sounds funny, but people who have done it can relate I presume. Our first destination was **Cairns, Australia**. We had planned to find an apartment get a couple touristy jobs on the beach and just relax. Well... It didn't turn out that way.

After learning of a shortage of teachers in **New Zealand** (Courtney's a teacher), we decided one night to hop on a plane and head to Auckland, NZ. Once again we weren't sure what the *right* decision was. We were just **going with the flow**. There was one thing for sure, though. **We were driving the bus**. **We** were the ones in **control** (for better or worse). After a month or so in Auckland, Courtney found an elementary school willing to sponsor her for the remaining part of the year. We leased a tiny, one-bedroom apartment in the heart of Auckland city and for the first time got a small taste of **downtown city living**.

## Our future...

There are **always going to be ups and downs** and we've had our fair share. Had we stuck to the **template lifestyle** we had in Indiana, we'd be farther "ahead" according to a lot of traditional definitions. Once again, I can't tell you what we did *right* or *wrong*. There's a fine balance between active lifestyle design and recklessness! All I can tell you is that **we are having a blast, learning a ton, and growing more than we had thought we could**.

**For now, we'll take that. For us, that's what breaking the template is all about.**

WE ARE HAVING A  
BLAST, LEARNING A TON,  
AND GROWING MORE  
THAN WE HAD THOUGHT  
WE COULD.

## 10 Thoughts for Creating Your Own Untemplater Lifestyle This Year:

...THE UNTEMPLATER LIFESTYLE MEANS PRIORITIZING YOUR PASSION OVER MONEY, OVER STATUS, EVEN OVER CREATURE COMFORTS...

1. Most people are content to live a **comfortable lifestyle**, doing something they're not all that passionate about in order to pay the bills and do what they like on the weekends. But, **ask yourself if that's really what you want. Or do you want more?** The Untemplater lifestyle means **prioritizing your passion** over money, over status, even over creature comforts.
2. Realize that **nobody** else is going to come along and magically fix all your problems and pay all your bills for you. That is a destructive Disney fantasy that isn't real. In the new economy, **"job security" is an oxymoron**. You've got to establish a **personal brand** and **maintain your reputation** online even if you just want to remain employable.
3. Remember what Tim Ferriss says in *The 4-Hour Workweek*: we don't really want to *be* millionaires. Instead we want to **experience things we think only millions can buy**. But money isn't the only currency, and by bending the rules of your reality, it can frequently be easier, cheaper, or even free to accomplish the things you want.

...SEEK UNCONVENTIONAL  
SOLUTIONS THAT WILL  
MAKE THE LIFE YOU  
WANT POSSIBLE...

4. Stop playing the game, **stop trying to keep up with the Joneses**. Embrace **minimalism**, detach your value from the things you own, and **ignore others' expectations**. When you accumulate stuff just for the sake of having possessions, they begin to **own you**. More likely than not, you can invest more time and money into the **experiences** you want to have—**time with friends and family, philanthropy, travel**—and live a much more **fulfilled** life.
5. Just because **everyone seems to do things one way** doesn't mean you **have** to. And just because a majority of people seem to use a certain set of tools to get the job done doesn't necessarily mean they're the right tools for **you**. Seek **unconventional solutions** that **will make the life you want possible**.
6. If you still want to discover **what kind of work you're truly passionate about** and excites you when you get out of bed in the morning, take a weekend retreat to somewhere nearby where you can get away from your normal routine, consider a **media hiatus** (don't read the paper, watch the news on TV, or read your favorite blogs online for at least a few days) and do some **self-talk** and search in *yourself* for what you really care about. How can you **provide real value to the world** in a way that will return to you and allow you to earn a living?

...THERE IS NO LAW THAT  
SAYS YOU HAVE TO PLAY  
BY THE RULES OR  
FOLLOW THE CROWD....

7. With the increasing availability of free and cheap wifi internet access all around the globe, it's becoming **increasingly possible** for **anyone** to work from home, the coffee shop, or *anywhere*. Leverage the different purchasing power of currencies around the world, and you can **vagabond** your way around the globe while you do freelance work from your laptop!
8. **Social media** makes it much easier for anyone with enough motivation to share their **ideas** with a **global audience** and build a **successful business** online these days.
9. If you choose to build an Untemplater lifestyle free of dependence on any one location, if you **live abroad** or go on **extended travel**, just by **immersing yourself in the unfamiliar**, you'll experience an increased rate of **learning, creativity** and **resourcefulness** that will serve to reinforce your **abilities as a producer**, rather than a passive consumer—sharing and **adding something to the world**, whether that's in the form of a business or something else.
10. Even though everybody seems to do it, **there is no law that says you have to play by the rules or follow the crowd**. Your time here on this earth is a **finite resource**, precious short—**how will you choose to spend it?**



## Don't Stop Here. Take Action!

Hope these stories have entertained and **inspired** you. Untemplater is a **thriving community** for *anyone* who ever **sought more out of life**—and we hope to help you learn how to sidestep the traditional life to find the **career, relationships, and lifestyle** that make you **come alive!**

For concrete, actionable steps to live an **unconventional** lifestyle, join the fun at [Untemplater.com](https://www.untemplater.com) to work where *you* want, live how *you* want, and be who *you* want to be.