

A Survey on Success

The use of surveys to obtain information and to make judgments about business decisions is growing in popularity, particularly with the advent of the computer.

Leslie Flynn, author, editor and artist, tells the story of a prestigious alumni association that was attempting to discover the levels of wealth and success of its graduates. So it resorted to questionnaires, and one of them was sent to a former student, now a missionary in Colombia, South America. Here are some of the questions the association asked, and the answers it received:

1. **Do you own your own home?** Yes. (He had paid the tribes people \$125 for his palm-thatched dwelling in the Amazon basin.)
2. **Do you rent quarters elsewhere?** Yes. (He and his family occasionally stayed in a house where missionaries were crowded together for conferences.)
3. **Do you own a boat?** Yes. (He had a dugout canoe tied up at the riverbank below his house.)
4. **Do you plan to travel during the next two years?** Yes. (He and his family were going home on furlough.)
5. **What is your income?** Under \$10,000 per year.

Flynn suggests that the computer probably spit out an analysis with the notation, "Data incompatible." But this man is both rich and successful. He possesses great spiritual wealth as a child of God and as a citizen of heaven.

Those who work every day with the residents of Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home may not be listed among the world's rich and famous, but they are successful because they are doing the work to which God called them – a work of eternal value.

--Beecher Hunter