



*Disclaimer: These are rough notes we use to prep for the show. Please excuse typos, etc.*

## Simple Life Together Episode 73: Well...Not Exactly Farewell. Just Simplifying Simple Life Together

Hi and welcome back to Simple Life Together

A podcast dedicated to leading a simpler life in the modern world

I'm Dan Hayes.

And I'm Vanessa Hayes.

Well, welcome back to the show! On the last episode we talked about “work - life balance” and, of course, we made the big announcement that this episode of Simple Life Together will be our last regularly scheduled episode of the show. Well, guess what we're talking about today?

**Topic:**

**BLUF:** OK...we had intended this to be more of a “finality”. But, truth is, we’re having trouble with this because SLT is a big part of our life together. If it sounds like we’re waffling a bit, that’s because, well, we are!

So I guess we should just jump right into the dirty work and break it all down for you...

First off....it hasn’t been an easy decision!

What started off as us documenting our journey to simplify our lives, turned into something more...something better than we expected!

We unexpectedly built an amazing community of supporters and like-minded people

- 154 countries

We’ve gotten and continue to receive such heart felt support from that community...especially when we shared some of our toughest challenges

We’ve also made some amazing friends along the way  
We were blessed with opportunities to speak about our life and our podcast at different conferences and on different podcasts

We've been blessed with the opportunity to meet many of the folks who inspired us both personally and professionally...Leo Babauta, Joshua Becker, Patrick Rohne, Mohammed Tohami, The Minimalists, Joel Zaslofsky, Dan Miller...just to name a few. Even better...we've gotten to meet some of our loyal listeners and supporters...how cool is that? And, we've helped others in the community who are just starting out and making a real impact; folks like Dave & Sheryl Balthrop, Chris & Sarah Weycamp, JF and Cheryl Moreau, Lara Blair, and others.

We were blown away by the amount of positive feedback about the show and how we influenced others to simplify their lives too. Feedback that brought us to tears. We never thought we could impact people the way that we did and be impacted by them, as well.

The podcast helped us to really focus on what was important to us...and solidified our passion for simplicity and to live more deliberate and meaningful lives

**But producing the show isn't all  
sunshine...(revelations with the podcast)**

Although we love sharing and teaching others, over time, the success of our podcast led to the feeling of obligation of having to produce awesome content ALL the time.

And let's face it...our lives just aren't THAT interesting that we have some type of major topic to talk about for 40 minutes each week.

Still, we started realizing that the show was shifting from documenting our journey to "having" to produce good educational content each and every week, then every two weeks. Some of which took a lot of time to either research...or compile coherent thoughts.

And again, while we love to teach, we started to feel the pressures of the podcast from:

- Coming up with content
- Arranging our week to fit in research, recording and editing...
- Dealing with tension between the two of us...running out of content, waiting until the last minute to produce, the time obligation, defining roles and expectations, mistaken assumptions of who should do what, etc.

We get along really well and, for the most part, what you

hear on the show is what you get with us. (I mean, folks can't believe we've been married for 9 years...most think we're still newlyweds the way we act around one another ;o)

But every once in a while, working together on the show stretched things a little bit. Not too often, but definitely more so when we started feeling like we HAD to do a show as opposed to the times when we just couldn't wait to share something. Hopefully, those tougher times were transparent on your end and you weren't any the wiser. They weren't often, but hey, we're human, you know?

But that's not all...we've also reached a part of journey where it made sense for us to pause the podcast a bit and shift from regularly scheduled content to "targets of opportunity-type" content...at least for now.

As we discussed on the show, part of defining the life we wanted was finding out where we wanted to settle down and call home.

We were on 3-5 year plan to hit the road in tiny teardrop camper for a year...travel the US...and hopefully find the perfect little town of our dreams.

Well...things suddenly changed this summer when we actually did discover the perfect town for us. And we'll be moving there some day when the time is right. We need to work toward making that happen smartly. That will be a shift in priorities for us.

Speaking of "when the time is right"...we promise we'll come back and fill you in on WHERE we picked and why...but although we have some contracts signed, Dan doesn't want to jinx anything before the closing. Right now we're scheduled to close next month, so we'll be sure to come back and talk about it then.

So, we're coming into a time of refocus. The cool thing...is that we've reached an important waypoint on this part of our journey, and now it's time for us to refocus and work toward that end.

I'm even considering going back to work for a bit. While I enjoy working with my individual clients, I've whittled them down to just a couple. Truth is, I really miss being part of a big team. It sounds a little crazy, but I do miss the "mission" aspect and the social aspect of a formal work environment. So...I'm exploring options on that end.

But just like in any journey, when it comes to careers

there are breaks along the way...if you're lucky that is.

Back in our military days...during patrolling, we would occasionally take breaks on our mission called "sills halts"...that's S-L-L-S for stop, look, listen, and smell. Those halts would let you take things in and sense what was going on at that point in the operation. A time to just focus. I think we need to do that with life, too, and I feel like this SLLS halt I've taken has really refocused me on what I love and what I excel at. And that's being in a leadership position with a team.

**So this is what we've decided**...keeping in mind our original goal of the podcast and in light of our new focus in life....**It's not the end!** As we have things to share, we will. That's what we started out to do and that's what we want to continue to do. Just not on a regular scheduled basis. But the sharing will continue. And I think it will be a better quality because it's not rushed, forced, or done out of a sense of obligation...but from a point of sharing and community.

Many many thanks! We can't thank the community enough for your constant support of SLT and hope you continue to support us when we do decide to pop in from time to time!

We are blown away at the community on Edit and Forget FB private page...and plan on keeping it going and participating as long as the group is active

We'll pop in from time to time, but the really cool thing is that it's really at a point where it's a bunch of great folks that have a ton of advice and support to offer.

## **FEEDBACK:**

Alright so on to the Feedback segment...

**Tiffany wrote (btw, she wrote a beautiful letter but this is the shorter version of it):**

Last Christmas season I was feeling really overwhelmed with life. At the time, I was a mom of two and pregnant with our third child. As the year ended, I decided that 2014 was the year I was going to simplify my life. My husband and I attended the New Media Expo which was held in our home city, Las Vegas, last January. We spoke with Jared Easley, and he mentioned your podcast and said that I should check it out. I went home and downloaded your podcast and fell in love with it right away. It was exactly what I was looking for.

I started going through every room in our house. It was



amazing at how quickly and easy it was for me to get rid of things at first. A couple of months later, my husband and I started talking about our dreams and goals in life and where we wanted to raise our little family. My husband was a civil engineer and worked for a local engineering firm. He worked long and tiring hours.

We began to discuss the details on what it would take for him to quit his job. We decided to buy a single wide modular home (700 sq. feet) that was about the price of a used car. We moved it onto our family's land and went from paying \$1,300 a month in rent to a mortgage payment of \$150. Our house downsized by more than half.

Now, I can't say downsizing was completely easy. In fact, there were times when I was in tears. Many of our family and friends thought we were completely crazy and couldn't understand why we would make such a huge lifestyle change. My husband had a high paying job and we lived in a big house in a nice neighborhood. As expected, there were a lot of doubts among family and friends which made me feel alone and different.

However, because of the "Simple Life Together" podcast and other simple living blogs and books, I was able to

stay motivated and encouraged to continue on our path. It's been 3 months since the move and I am happy to say that our life is going extremely well. Our house is very small, but my kids love having their dad around more. In fact, my husband and 4 year old son go on hikes every morning in our backyard. (We live on a few acres of land with desert hills to explore.) I can clean our house so much faster than before which gives me more time for my 3 small children. I actually play with them and don't feel as overwhelmed with all my household chores. My husband's new business has had a great start ,and he is so much happier doing what he loves to do.

I just want to sincerely THANK YOU for all the time you put into your podcast and into the simple living movement. Thanks again for making such a huge difference in my life. My family is living a more intentional life because of you, and I will be forever grateful.

**Tonya said:**

My only real question is....are you sure? Are you really going to stop podcasting? NOOOOoooooooo!!!!

Seriously, several months ago another of my favorite podcasts (Cultivate Simple) stopped podcasting and as I was queing up this episode of SLT I was literally thinking "I'm so glad Dan and Vanessa are still

podcasting and I can get my weekly "booster shot" to motivate me to keep moving toward a simpler, more intentional life."

I admire the fact that you live out your philosophy of life. I'm sure that (as much as I don't like it!) you've made this decision after careful consideration and that it's based on your five pillars. Podcasting is such a one-sided relationship. I feel as if I know the two of you, almost as if you're dear friends, and yet you don't know that I exist. You've given me encouragement, motivated me, steered me toward great resources, challenged me to think about my choices....but all I can do for you is give you my thanks and let you know how much I appreciate all of the time and effort you've poured into SLT. This podcast was produced in a very professional manner, the content was excellent and it was well organized (go figure!) You've made a positive impact on my life, and I'm sure on many others.

Thank you so much for sharing your lives and philosophy with all of us. If you decide to come back, I'll be ready to listen! In the meantime, best wishes and blessings as you continue your simple life together.

**Belinda from Australia wrote in too:**

I found your podcast a couple of months back and really enjoy listening to you. You are so entertaining and in sync with each other. Dan's jokes and the way Vanessa finds him so hilarious is really sweet (and Dan does say some really funny things!)

I have picked up so many tips and ideas from Vanessa regarding organising and Dan's tech talk is given in a way that is understandable for all. I love your youtube videos Vanessa - thanks for putting them out there. I also love your saddleback bag and if I get to the USA next year I will be saving up to bring one back to Australia with me! I enjoy hearing about your life and that even though you are on the other side of the world our values as well as challenges are the same.

I have a long drive to work and long days whilst there so listening to you talk about camping in your tear drop camper with your family is a real escape for me.

My hubby and I are now empty nesters and you have planted a little seed that we too should simplify our lives and enjoy living in the moment.

You have given me much food for thought and I really hope you continue your podcast even though it will be irregular. I feel a bit cheated as I just found you and now you will not be podcasting as much!!!

I wish you all the best with both your business ventures and simple life.

Thanks for giving so much and being so candid with your listeners - you are real people who share both setbacks and accomplishments which is why you are so appealing to an ordinary wife and mum like me.

I do not normally comment but have been meaning to do so for a while - when I heard the latest podcast and that you were stepping back a little I just had to say g'day!!

**Lisa from Pennsylvania:**

I'm curious and anxious to find out your plans for the future, as I'm sure you wouldn't have made such a major decision without having a great plan in mind.

Of course I have to be happy for you, but I am very sad for me and all your other listeners. In my opinion, in my short 10 months of listening to podcasts, you are my favorite. You also happen to be one of the first podcasts I found on the topic of simplifying and organizing. You responded to my questions quickly and you just seem so down to earth, and people I can relate to. I have gained so much from you although, I have not yet put much into practice as I would've liked.

Per your request Dan, the one thing that you mentioned that you might do a podcast on and I don't remember you doing it, is on iPhone basics tips tricks or 101. Since I got my first smart phone, my iPhone in December, there is still much, including tips, I would like to know about it.

I will continue to listen to your archives, as they are my inspiration. I wish you the best, sincerely, - Lisa

P. S. I would absolutely love to go to simple rev, however due to the distance, as I live in Pennsylvania, I simply can't afford to do so. So if you're ever in Bethlehem, look me up.

**Sherry Carver** also had some kind words...

**From our Edit and Forget It FB page...**we love each and everyone of you but we have to give a shout out to: Ellis, Lisa, Leland, Nessa, Meg, Angela, Toni and Kristie. Thanks for your support (even when filled with sarcastic humor. Leland felt like someone stole his lunch...ha! ;o)

Speaking of Edit and Forget It...like Dan said, we're going to keep it up! It is such a valuable community for so many...including us, so we're going to still participate

there...and in the Simple Living realm....it's in our blood now!

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**CONTACT INFO:** Remember...you can find all our contact info at [SimpleLifeTogether.com/vanessa](http://SimpleLifeTogether.com/vanessa) or [SimpleLifeTogether.com/dan](http://SimpleLifeTogether.com/dan).

### Wrap Up:

OK, so that's it for Episode 73 of Simple Life Together. Honestly, we're so happy it isn't goodbye. We'll be back from time to time to share our journey with you, and hopefully provide you some information, entertainment, and enjoyment along the way.

If you find yourself missing us in between our visits, scroll through the older episodes of the back catalog and re-listen to some of those. That'll hold you over until we get back to doing another show. You can find links to all our shows on one page by going to [SimpleLifeTogether.com/showlist](http://SimpleLifeTogether.com/showlist)

And as usual, you can find all the links and info from

today's show at [SimpleLifeTogether.com/073](http://SimpleLifeTogether.com/073).

So, fare well for now, friends....but until next time...and it won't be too long, we hope you enjoy your...

SIMPLE LIFE TOGETHER

**Resources and Links:**

**Supermom vs Super Mom**