

# Faith in the market

**Her Christianity has seen Bernadette Addison through some challenging times and helped her bring up a family while maintaining her career. Larry Levy talks to a woman of many parts**

**S**he's brought up four children, held down a full-time job and kept busy trading commodities and forex. Some day soon, Bernadette Addison hopes to give up her IT job and trade full-time from home, giving a fair proportion of the proceeds to her church.

When Bernadette was 11, her mother converted to the Church of Jesus Christ and she was baptised along with her sister and two younger brothers. Shortly afterwards, her father walked out of the family home and never returned.

'Overnight I had to grow up,' recalls Bernadette. Her mother had to work and support the family and Bernadette took on many of the domestic responsibilities. She was also galvanised from being a middle-of-the road student to top of her class overnight.

After studying at Columbia University in New York, Bernadette qualified as a MCSA (Microsoft Certified Systems Administrator) and held a string of network management, data processing and IT jobs in a range of companies, including a five-year stint at Swiss Re and four years at Chase Manhattan Bank. Some of her jobs took her around the world.

Bernadette has always embraced change and self-improvement. Not really a social type, she likes to think things out and will often be by herself. In 1999 her brother Sean O'Connor introduced his sister to trading.

She began to study the website barchart.com and then bought the Ken Roberts course, TWMPMM (The World's Most Powerful Money Manual). She describes this beginner course as 'great for the basics'.

In 2003, Bernadette and Sean attended a course held by trader Larry Williams in Pennsylvania. Despite the wealth of technical indicators and techniques Larry teaches, she found the most useful and interesting section of the course the part about the COTR (Commitment of Traders Report). This data, published once a week, highlights for most major futures markets in the US how many



contracts are being held by commercials, large traders and small speculative traders. By analysing changes in the holdings of these three groups, Bernadette feels she can often gain an edge, particularly in commodities futures markets.

These days Bernadette employs three software packages and two data feeds to facilitate her trading style. She uses Vantage Point (VP) software for trade signals. Her primary technique is to wait for a crossover of the VP predicted short-term Average (PTS) over the real short-term average on 'faster' markets, including currency trades such as pound/dollar, euro/dollar/ and Canadian dollar/US Dollar. Bernadette uses the crossover of the VP predicted medium-term average (PTM) and real medium-term average for 'slower' markets such as wheat and corn.

She prefers intra-day to daily trades on currencies due to the overnight risk on US time, where the currencies can often make significant moves five hours ahead during the London morning.

Having attended the MTI (Market Traders Institute) course run by Jared Martinez, Bernadette now uses the Fibonacci trader package with special MTI add-ins. She uses trend lines combined with Fibonacci

retracement levels and pivot point techniques to trade forex. 'I use the trend-line breaks for likely direction combined with the various pivot point and Fibonacci levels to give me my precise entry, target and stop-loss levels,' she explains. Her cash forex trading and data feed come from forex market leader FXCM. The live data feeds directly into the Fibonacci trader software.

Two major lessons Bernadette has learned the hard way on her road to success are to cut your losses quick – 'a \$500 loss is better than a \$5,000 loss – and that patience is a virtue: 'Don't be trigger happy. Wait for that trade,' she says.

Throughout her career (and this includes trading) her faith has driven her and the Addison family spends Sundays church. Bernadette married Kirby soon after graduation and inherited his two young children, Jason and Kirby junior. Since then they have had two girls, Kirsten and Alicia, who are now 14 and 15 respectively.

Kirby junior, now 21, is in the US Army – about to be posted to Iraq. Bernadette's husband is now an assistant pastor and is looking to open a local church in their neighbourhood in Dover, New Jersey. ■

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