



n Purpose

A Quarterly Digest of News and Events
of Purpose-Full Ministries, Inc.

Spring 2006 Volume 1 Issue 1

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Pastor Marlon T. Perkins, Sr.,
Founder & President

President's Perspective

“What is now proved was once only imagined.” –William Blake

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *On Purpose*! The formation of this newsletter and ministry exemplify the very essence of William Blake's quote. We have devoted this first issue to telling you why.

Purpose-Full Ministries was officially incorporated as a non-profit organization in the state of Iowa on November 18, 2004. The dream, however, had been implanted long before that. Since age thirteen, I have always felt that I was “cut out” for something definite in life. As I write in my upcoming book, “although I didn't know exactly what [my] purpose was, I did know that it was a driving force in my life so potent as to propel me to academic and leadership excellence for six straight years in junior high and high school—and beyond.” It was also a moral force that made me constantly aware that certain behaviors were not only wrong, but that my life could be altered significantly if I engaged in such behaviors. This moral compass would continue to guide me throughout college, graduate school, and into young adulthood, despite occasional mishaps.

In the fall of 1989, my senior year in college, I finally came face to face with my life's destiny—a calling into pastoral ministry. For a while, a powerful struggle ensued in my heart. I was uncertain about the calling, primarily because I believed that ministry would not afford me the financial benefits I wanted in life. I was a political science major in college with a pre-law emphasis. Law *appeared* to be my career of choice, one which I thought would provide me the financial lifestyle I desired. My resumé included a summer internship in the Washington, D.C. office of former U.S. Representative Harold E. Ford, Sr. I was invited to be on our school's Mock Trial team each year between my sophomore and senior years. I was even asked to be photographed for the front cover of the pre-law brochure for the political science department! Clearly, it *seemed*, I was marked for a career as a lawyer.

I emphasize the words “appeared” and “seemed” because that's all my

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“I was uncertain about the calling, primarily because I believed that ministry would not afford me the financial benefits I wanted in life.”

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career-to-be was—an apparition. Despite the expectations of teachers, some friends, and even my father, I knew deep down inside that I was not “cut out” for the law. The Lord was patient with me, and in the process of time I eventually yielded to the biddings of the Holy Spirit and began preparing myself for pastoral ministry. Clearly, it has been one of the best decisions I’ve made in life.

As I would later find out, my calling into ministry was only the beginning. God had other purposes He wanted me to fulfill, one of which is Purpose-Full Ministries. Here’s how it all began.

On Sunday night, May 31, 1998, I lay in bed watching TV with my right ankle propped up on pillows. It was throbbing in pain after I had badly sprained it earlier that afternoon playing basketball. I flicked through the channels and stopped at the Lifetime Channel. I lay watching an interview with Suzanne Somers, who played “Chrissy” on the 1980’s TV sitcom Three’s Company. She spoke of her experiences of being sexually abused during her childhood. For years she had carried the pain of these experiences secretly bound up in her heart, until one day she decided to write about them. As she said in the interview, “One day I sat down and started to write, and eighteen months later I was finished.” The product of her writing was a best-selling book, *Keeping Secrets*.

As I listened intently to her story, I felt compelled to write a book myself. “This is interesting,” I thought. I had never before had such an

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Heart-felt gratitude goes to Ms. Deita Thompson of Buckeye, AZ. Ms. Thompson was the first major donor to PFM. Her generous gift provided vital “seed” money for the ministry’s formation. More importantly, it expressed her belief in our vision. From all of us at PFM, we say, “thank you” Deita for believing in us!



Let’s Go Cruisin’!

Plans are underway for the board of directors to go on a cruise together this fall. The eastern Caribbean cruise is scheduled for October 5-9 and will depart from Tampa, Florida. PFM vice-president, Madeleine Perkins, first proposed this idea and has spearheaded plans thus far. As she stated at the January 29 directors’ meeting, “this cruise will allow us to come together for the first time since forming the ministry and get better acquainted in a relaxed atmosphere. Actually, a cruise can [sometimes] be a more affordable alternative to, say, paying for hotel lodging, food, rental cars, etc., over a similar period of time. It should be a lot of fun and we can get a lot accomplished.” All aboard!

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Upcoming Events

- March 25 - Purpose Seminar (Brampton, Ontario)
- July - Purpose Seminar (Sacramento, CA)
- Purpose Seminar - Nashville, TN (Date TBD)
- September - Purpose Seminar (Nassau, Bahamas)
- October 5-9 -Directors' Cruise



On Point

“Destiny is not a matter of chance, it’s a matter of choice; it’s not a thing to be waited for, but a thing to be achieved.”

-William Jennings Bryan
(1860-1925) U.S. Congressman,
Secretary of State, Presidential
Nominee

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inspiration, but at that moment it was strongly imprinted on my mind. I quickly grabbed a yellow pad of paper and jotted down several working titles. I felt inspired to write about the search for my life’s purpose. I immediately felt confident (writing had not been one of my strongest gifts) because I felt that I could write about something I had actually *experienced*. The Holy Spirit was working indeed!

As I wrote, my passion to talk more about purpose grew. I felt strongly that the message of purpose had a purpose: to reach the masses for Jesus Christ. I wrote a proposal for a continuing education course and taught it at a local community college. I began conducting seminars for churches and other groups. And then, one day in November 2004, I had a conversation with two of my sisters, Marsha and Madeleine. We talked about the book and I told them that one day I envisioned starting a ministry devoted to helping people discover and pursue their God-given purpose in life—complete with a board of directors. They immediately got plugged in. Within two weeks of that conversation, Purpose-Full Ministries, Inc. went from gestation to full birth. Those same two sisters, along with a small group of some of my closest friends, now sit on our board of directors.

PFM Welcomes New Directors

At its January 29, 2006 board meeting, PFM directors voted three new members to the board of directors. **Elaine W. Lee, Ed.S**, is a Reading Resource Specialist at Booker T. Washington K-8th School of Excellence in Tampa, FL. **Andrew L. Wiggs, MBA**, is Channel Manager of eBusiness with HSBC Bank North America in Chicago, IL. **Charles Ikner, Sr., MBA**, is an Oncology Sales Specialist with Novartis Pharmaceuticals in the Atlanta, GA, metro area. Each of the seven directors will be featured more in-depth in the summer issue of *On Purpose*. **Director Michael O. Perkins** submitted his resignation but will continue in a supportive role to PFM activities. We have appreciated his dedicated service!

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The next logical question seems to be, “where do we go from here?” The mission of Purpose-Full Ministries states: “*With a view towards eternity, Purpose-Full Ministries, Inc. is dedicated to encouraging and equipping individuals to discover and pursue their God-given purpose in life.*” With this end in mind, we will seek to inspire *and* inform many—across the generational spectrum—through a variety of mediums including seminars and conferences tailored for youth and adults; consulting, coaching and prayer support; concerts and musical recordings; radio and television productions; an interactive website; instructional materials such as articles, books, workbooks, CD’s and DVD’s; an inspirational product line; children’s materials and much more. We envision this ministry serving as a catalyst in the transformation of people’s lives, leading many from living “quiet lives of desperation”, as the poet Thoreau once wrote, to living Christ-centered, Kingdom-directed lives of purpose.

For instance, we see hundreds of young people, after being touched by some aspect of the ministry, committing themselves to seeking and fulfilling God’s purpose for their lives. We see them entering an array of vocations with a sense



To live *with* purpose is to live *on* purpose.

of purpose and determination, many of whom will become leaders in their respective fields. We see them—whether single or married—being committed to a virtuous lifestyle and the Biblical pattern for marriage and family. We see them becoming active participants in the affairs of their communities, so that generations younger than them might benefit from their example.

Additionally, we at PFM understand the power of the media to impact a person’s thinking, whether for good or for evil. Through radio and television interviews and productions, we will endeavor to express the power of God-given purpose in a clear, convincing manner, prompting many to turn to God and seek His purpose for their lives. We desire that our website serve not only as an “address” for the ministry, but also as an informational, inspirational and interactive tool to help foster the process of purpose-full discovery.

Because learning begins at the earliest stages of life, we will endeavor to develop an entire line of children’s products, using age-appropriate materials to convey the timeless principles of God’s love, redemption and purpose. We see parents of varying cultures using our children’s materials to supplement the devotional materials used during their family worship times. We also see schools and/or children’s groups, where possible, featuring our materials as part of their curriculum or extracurricular programs.

If all of this sounds ambitious, that’s because it is. We do not believe that we can do this on our own, for it “*is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes*” (Psalm 118:23). You have a God-given purpose in life. This belief is the foundation of our existence as a ministry. In coming issues, we hope to clarify the essence of purpose-full living and inspire you to seek Jesus, “*the author and finisher of our faith*”, in a deeper, more purpose-full way. One day it may be said of your life’s purpose —“what is now proved was once only imagined.” God bless!

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