



On Purpose

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

Volume 3 Issue 3 Fall 2008

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

President's Point

“Do you see a man diligent and skillful in his business? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men...”

—Proverbs 29:25, Amplified Bible

John Maxwell, noted author and leadership expert, defines success as “the point at which preparation and opportunity meet.” Thomas Edison, the great inventor and entrepreneur of the 19th century, once wrote, “Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.” In this issue of *On Purpose*, we feature the work of Dr. Mellisa Gibbons-Tankard, an educational psychologist and tutor from Bermuda. She truly has a “HARTT” for helping young people develop their potential. What does HARTT stand for? You must read on.

After interviewing Dr. Tankard, it became clear to me that developing one’s potential works in tandem with fulfilling their life’s purpose. As you develop your potential, you become keenly aware of your natural talents and vocational tendencies. In his book, *Now, Discover Your Strengths*, personal development expert Marcus Buckingham argues that it is far more effective (and efficient) for a person to spend more time developing and honing his or her natural strengths than focusing on weaknesses.

This, however, is not easy work. It takes constant, committed, and constructive efforts towards a singular goal. At the very least, it means finishing high school

(See *President’s Point* on page 2)

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“Don’t let another day slip by without putting your best foot forward for God.”

PFM Salutes President-Elect Barack Obama!



Photo: Dreamstime.com

Victor Hugo, the preeminent French poet and novelist of the nineteenth century, once wrote: “There is one thing stronger than all the armies of the world, and that is an idea whose time is come.” On Tuesday, November 4, 2008, ideas—socially, politically, economically, and otherwise—converged in the election of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States. Garnering nearly 54% of the popular vote, Obama became the first African-American elected as a U.S. President. Josephine Pickett, an 89 year-old election worker from Des Moines, was quoted in the *The Des Moines Register* as saying, “I’ve seen a lot of things happen in my lifetime. The Model T. A man on the moon. My kids just gave me a laptop...but I’ve never thought I’d see anything like this. Never.” Purpose-Full Ministries salutes the impact Obama’s historical election has had on the lives of many people, especially the young. They have been inspired to pursue their life’s calling with renewed zeal and sense of purpose. Keep hope alive!

-OP

A 'HARTT' for Helping Children Develop Their Potential

“When God wants you to do something, He lets you know.”

—Dr. Mellisa Gibbons-Tankard



Dr. Mellisa Gibbons-Tankard has a HARTT. She is the founder and director of Higher Achievers Reliable Testing and Tutoring Services, an educational consulting firm which she formed in October 2007. HARTT is based in Hamilton, Bermuda, where Dr. Tankard's clients range in age from preschoolers to twenty-somethings who want to know if they possess the aptitude to be successful in college.

With a Bachelor of Arts degree in Applied Psychology (Mt. Allison University, New Brunswick, Canada), an M.A. in Education and a Ph.D in Educational Psychology, both from Howard University, Dr. Tankard is well-equipped to provide a wide variety of educational, psycho-educational, and developmental assessments and tutoring services for her clients. Simply stated, Dr. Tankard has a passion to see children reach their full potential, no matter what their abilities or *disabilities* may be. She traces this passion back to her high school days where, in her own words, she was a “guidance counselor” to her peers, persistently challenging them to set higher and still higher achievement goals for themselves.



Photo: Dreamstime.com

Youth Workshop Still in Focus

As has been reported in *On Purpose*, work continues on “*FirstSteps: Discovering the Power of Purpose in Your Life*,” a workshop designed to help high school-age youth identify their basic talents/skills so as to connect with and better understand their life's calling. Although curriculum consultants have been identified, a major barrier to workshop development still exists: funding. Notwithstanding sluggish fundraising results thus far, PFM directors are optimistic that the *FirstSteps* workshop will be a transformational tool in enabling students to focus on setting and attaining educational goals and developing critical life skills. Stay tuned!

-OP

This passion is what compelled her to pursue collegiate studies in education and psychology. It would be her return to Bermuda after receiving her doctorate that would prove to be a turning point in her life.

For a while, she worked as a supervisor and psychologist at the Child Development Program, where her responsibilities consisted primarily of setting schedules and monitoring attendance of the field counselors, as well as other administrative tasks. It wasn't what she envisioned for herself. “I really was becoming someone I wasn't comfortable with,” she says. “People kept asking me—the secretary—to see their children. For a while I kept saying, ‘I don't have time.’ Having to say that was very hard.”

One day she had lunch with a friend, a corporate CEO, and shared her vision of one day forming her own firm. Her greatest fear, she told him, “would be to have to turn away clients who couldn't pay for my services.” Touched by her vision and passion, he said to her, “Mellisa, I believe in what you're going to do. I will put money aside. If someone comes to you and cannot afford your services, give me a call and I will pay for it.” “Tears came to my eyes,” she says.

She resigned from her job and launched HARTT. “Whenever I said I needed something for my business, it was as if the angels took it and God put everything in line. After clearly seeing the Hand of God upon my business, I realized that there was no turning back.”

For more information, Dr. Tankard may be contacted at harttservices@northrock.bm. -OP

(President's Point continued from page 1)

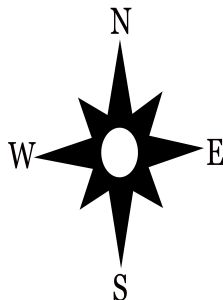
or getting your G.E.D. For some it will mean four years of college *and* post-graduate studies. For others it will mean acquiring a trade skill(s) (which will involve hours of formal training as well) and then spending a life time developing it. Again, success is where “preparation and opportunity meet.”

Proverbs 29:25 reminds us that *only* as we are diligent in our business (preparation) can we stand before kings (opportunity). With this in mind, don't let another day slip by without putting your best foot forward for God. You are destined for greatness. As someone once wrote, “every calling is great when *greatly pursued*.” **Live with Purpose!**

-OP

Upcoming Events

- **November 20-22, 2008**
Men's Conference
Hamilton SDA Church
(Hamilton, Bermuda)
- **February 15, 2009**
Board of Directors
Meeting



On Point

“Bring me men
to match my
mountains:
Bring me men to
match my plains:
Men with empires in
their purpose and
new eras in their
brains.”

-Sam Walter Foss



Do You . . .

- *like what you see in our newsletters, Web site, brochures and seminars?*
- *have **interests** similar to ours?*
- *have a special **gift** for working with children, youth, young adults, or people over 50?*
- *have **excellent** communication skills and enjoy speaking to various groups of people?*

If so, then we'd like to know!

Purpose-Full Ministries welcomes thoughtful suggestions and helpful tips that can increase our effectiveness. We also welcome enthusiastic individuals—whose values, gifts, and skills are compatible with our ministry—to partner with us. Contact us today at 1.877.651.4GOD (4463), or email us at info@purpose-fullministries.org.



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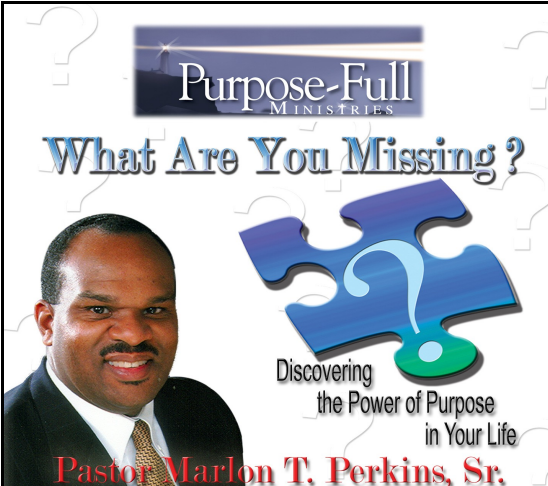
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What Are You Missing?

Discovering
the Power of Purpose
in Your Life

Pastor Marlon T. Perkins, Sr.

The Ultimate Why

By Os Guinness*

At some point every one of us confronts the question: *How do I find and fulfill the central purpose of my life?* Other questions may be logically prior to and lie even deeper than this one—for example, Who am I? What is the meaning of life itself? But few questions are raised more loudly and more insistently today than the first. As modern people we are all on a search for significance. We desire to make a difference. We long to leave a legacy. We yearn, as Ralph Waldo Emerson put it, “to leave the world a bit better.” Our passion is to know that we are fulfilling the purpose for which we are here on earth.

All other standards of success—wealth, power, position, knowledge, friendships, grow tiny and hollow if we do not satisfy this deeper longing. For some people the hollowness leads to what Henry Thoreau described “as lives of quiet desperation”; for others the emptiness and aimlessness deepen into a stronger despair. In an early draft of Fyodor Dostoevsky’s *The Brothers Karamazov*, the Inquisitor gives a terrifying account of what happens to the human soul when it doubts its purpose: “For the secret of man’s being is not only to live...but to live for something definite. Without a firm notion of what he is living for, man will not accept life and will rather destroy himself than remain on earth...”

Deep in our hearts, we all want to find and fulfill a purpose bigger than ourselves. Only such a larger purpose can inspire us to heights we know we could never reach on our own. For each of us the real purpose is personal and passionate: to know what we are here to do, and why...

The trouble is that, as modern people, we have too

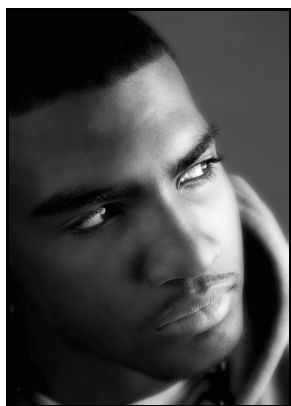


Photo: Dreamstime.com



Photo: Dreamstime.com

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

much to live *with* and too little to live *for*. Some feel they have time but not enough money; others feel they have money but not enough time. But for most of us, in the midst of material plenty, we have spiritual poverty...

Purpose can be found only when we discover the specific purpose for which we were created and to which we are called. Answering the *call* of our Creator is “the ultimate why” for living, the highest source of purpose in human existence. Apart from such a calling, all hope of discovering purpose (as in the current talk of shifting “from success to significance”) will end in disappointment...Nothing short of God’s call can ground and fulfill the truest human desire for purpose...

What do I mean by “calling”? For the moment let me say simply that *calling is the truth that God calls us to himself so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion and dynamism lived out as a response to his summons and service...*

“Follow me,” Jesus said two thousand years ago, and he changed the course of history. That is why calling provides the Archimedean point by which faith moves the world. That is why calling is the most comprehensive reorientation and the most profound motivation in human experience—the ultimate Why for living in all history. Calling begins and ends such ages, and lives, of faith by placing the final aim of life beyond the world where it was meant to be. Answering the call is the way to find and fulfill the central purpose of your life. **-OP**

*Os Guinness, author and theologian, has written or edited more than twenty books. Excerpts for this article were taken from his book, *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life* (Word 1998), pp.1-7. Emphasis supplied.



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