



On Purpose

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

Volume 2 Issue 1 Winter 2007

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

President's Perspective

"I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong; neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favor to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all." —Ecclesiastes 9:11

Opportunities. We all have them. Our text above confirms this, declaring that "chance" happens to all of us. The difference between the doer and the dreamer is that one takes advantage of those "chances"—the other doesn't. But there's another compelling aspect of this proverb: *time*. I'm reminded of a poem about time, the author of which is unknown. It reads: "I have only just a minute, only sixty seconds in it; didn't seek it, didn't choose it; forced upon me I cannot refuse it; but it's up to me just how I use it; I must suffer if I lose it; give account if I abuse it; just a tiny little minute—but eternity is in it." The fact is that God would not give you a purpose in life without giving you an opportunity to fulfill it. What have you done with the "time and chance" that God has given to you? Remember, we all have them. *Carpe diem!* -OP

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"The central message of the forty-five minute PowerPoint seminar was that developing a clear understanding or vision of your life's purpose is vital to success in life."



Middle Schoolers Get 'First Glimpse' of PFM's Newest Youth Seminar

On October 9, 2006, the five hundred-plus students of Amos Hiatt Middle School in Des Moines, IA, got the first glimpse of PFM's newest seminar for middle school-age youth entitled, "What Do You See? Discover Your Potential." One session was held for sixth graders and a separate session was held jointly for seventh and eighth graders. Staff and students alike gave "thumbs up" to the event.

Beginning with the question, "What Do You See?", students were challenged to take a "visionary" approach to their lives. The central

(see *First Glimpse* on page 4)

ON BOARD: Meet the PFM Directors

This is the second of a two-part series focusing on the board of directors at Purpose-Full Ministries, Inc. Three of the six directors are featured below.

Marlon T. Perkins, Sr., PFM founder and president, is pastor of Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church in Des Moines, IA. He holds a B.A. in Political Science from Rhodes College and a Master of Divinity from Andrews University Theological Seminary. Pastor



Perkins' seventeen-year ministry has spanned the West Coast and the Midwest, as he has pastored in both Washington state and Iowa. In addition to a multitude of pastoral duties, he has conducted a number of seminars in the areas of theology, religious liberty and personal development. Pastor Perkins is a native of Memphis, TN. He and his wife Shurla, a registered nurse, are the exuberant parents of two children, Marlon Jr. (age 9) and Reba (age 8). They reside in southeast Des Moines.

PFM Directors Get Set to Sail

On February 22, 2007, PFM directors will set sail from Tampa, FL, on a five-day cruise to the tropical destination of Cozumel, Mexico. The purpose of the cruise is for directors to envision and engage in strategic planning for the ministry. The directors were pleasantly surprised at the affordability of such a cruise, when compared to expenses that would have been incurred had all of the directors flown into a city, rented hotel rooms, cars, and paid for food and meeting room space over the same period. The cruise is actually cheaper. This put a big smile on the treasurer's face! **-OP**



Elaine W. Lee is a Reading Resource Specialist/Coach in the District of Hillsborough County (SDHC) in Tampa, FL. She is employed at B.T. Washington School, where she models and coaches teachers. She is also a Preparing New

Educator (PNE) teacher and mentor for teachers, Public Relations Chair, and a staff developer. Elaine holds a B.A. in Education from The University of South Florida, and both an M.A. in Interdisciplinary Curriculum and Instruction and an Ed.S in Educational Leadership from National-Louise University. Currently, she is pursuing a Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership at NOVA Southeastern University. Elaine joined the PFM board in January 2006. In addition to her father, she has seventeen siblings, a daughter and son-in-law, and three grandchildren. A native of Griffin, GA, she resides in Tampa.

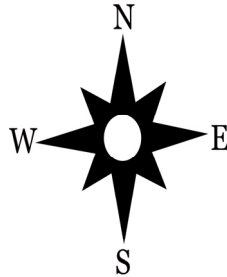


Dennis Baptiste, CPA, is PFM treasurer and an accounting consultant with Robert Half International in Atlanta, GA. He holds a B.B.A. in Accounting from

Bernard M. Baruch College at City University of New York. Dennis has over twenty-five years of accounting experience and has worked for several large firms such as Arthur Andersen, Time Warner, and AT&T. Dennis is an ordained elder and is currently serving his local church as church treasurer. His love for the Lord and God's church has led him to serve in various leadership positions within the church. Dennis and his wife, Sharon, have been married for over twenty-five years and have two children in college, Shanece and D.J. He joined the PFM board in November 2004. Dennis is from the western Caribbean island of Grenada. He and Sharon reside in Alpharetta, GA.

Upcoming Events

-  **February 22-26, 2007**
Directors' Cruise
Cozumel, Mexico
-  **April 14, 2007**
Purpose Seminar
Nassau, Bahamas



On Point

“The quality of a man’s life is in direct proportion to his commitment to excellence, regardless of his chosen field of endeavor.”

-Vince Lombardi



FirstSteps Youth Workshop Looking to Take Next Step

Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, “You cannot always build the future for our youth; but we can build our youth for the future.” This is the goal for the PFM youth seminar, “*FirstSteps: Discovering the*

Pathway to Purpose in Your Life.” The approximately sixty-minute presentation, which debuted in July 2006 to a small group of incoming freshmen of North High School in Des Moines, IA, challenges youth to reflect critically on their interests and natural giftedness, discover their own purpose, and learn the various potholes that lie in the road to their success. PFM has bigger ideas, however. We plan to expand the workshop into a full school day (approximately six hours), enlist other youth to serve as aids, and solicit local businesses and civic groups to sponsor food, materials, and workshop memorabilia. An estimated \$8-10,000 is needed to fully develop the overall program. For more information about this project, visit our website at www.purpose-fullministries.org. -OP



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What Are You Missing?

Discovering
the Power of Purpose
in Your Life

Pastor Marlon T. Perkins, Sr.

What Happened to Time?

By Marsha A. Perkins-Cowan, PFM Secretary

My mother, now deceased, once told me, “To the young, time moves slow. To the old—time moves fast.” Have you ever thought to yourself, “Where did all the time go?” It seemed only yesterday that the days were long; waiting for the next day was like waiting on eternity. I can also remember my mother saying to me, “Slow down, take your time, because you have all the time in the world.” My mother was right: the older I’ve become, the faster time is moving. Now, I want time to slow down. I want my aging to become slower instead of faster. I want my hair to stop becoming brittle and gray. I want my sagging facial lines and circles beneath my eyes to slow their process of aging. I want to be able to eat pizza in the morning and drink a chocolate milkshake with a banana peanut butter sandwich at midnight—without getting sick!

Several years ago, a TV commercial showed an elderly lady who had fallen on the floor and calls 911 crying, “I’ve fallen and I can’t get up!” My friends and I would joke about that commercial and imitate falling down and calling someone for help.

Well, the other day I fell and I couldn’t get up. I looked around in embarrassment, because I couldn’t jump right up like I once was able to or even run if I wanted to. I became frightened as I thought to myself, “What happened to my body? Why can’t I bend down whenever I want without having to hold onto something? Why am I moving so slowly? When did I start asking people to speak louder so that I could hear better, or when did I



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

start asking for the large print so that I could see the words better? Why hadn’t I noticed that time started to move at lightning speed, while I’m still thinking, ‘I have all the time in the world?’ *When did I start growing old?*”

I am now finding *the* time to slow down and take notice *of* time. I take time to tell my loved ones that they are loved and that I truly cherish them. I take time to look in people’s eyes as I pass them by and say, “Hello. Have a God-blessed day.” I may not be able to slow my aging, or change the sagging facial lines, or stop my hair from graying, but I can slow time by taking the time to appreciate time. **-OP**

First Glimpse from page 1

message of the forty-five minute PowerPoint seminar was that developing a clear understanding or vision of your life’s purpose is vital to personal achievement and success in life. Students were especially challenged to reflect deeply on their individual gifts and skill sets, with a view towards discerning the relationship between their giftedness and their ultimate purpose or direction in life.

With “What Do You See?”, Purpose-Full Ministries continues its commitment to providing “purpose-full” seminars in an age-appropriate format to various youth groups, sectarian and non-sectarian alike. “What Do You See?” was the second youth seminar produced in 2006. A seminar for high school-age youth entitled, “*FirstSteps: Discovering the Pathway to Purpose in Your Life,*” debuted to incoming freshmen of North High School in Des Moines on July 28, 2006. **-OP**



DISCOVER THE POWER OF PURPOSE IN YOUR LIFE

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