

•Purpose-Full Ministries, Inc. •P.O. Box 35684 •Des Moines, Iowa 50315 •Tel: 1.877.651.4GOD (4463) •Fax: 515.280.7023 •Web: www.purpose-fullministries.org



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

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"I couldn't remember a time when I was fundraising and didn't even have to ask for a donation!"

President's Point

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." —Hebrews 11:6

As a pastor, I am always puzzled when a church member—with child-like sincerity—asks me the simple question, "What is faith?" Since we *talk* about faith so much within the life of the church, I always think the answer to such a question should be obvious. Well, apparently it isn't as obvious as I think.

The Random House College Dictionary defines faith as "confidence or trust in a person or thing; belief that is not based on proof." Ironically, the same dictionary also defines faith as "belief in *anything*." I believe that God is much more definite than "anything," for He "is". He wants our complete trust in Him. Complete trust in God—that's true faith. Our text above declares that He is a "rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." God keeps His promises!

You need to exercise faith in fulfilling your life's purpose. God implants His dreams and purposes into your heart, and He needs for you to trust Him. Why? Because when you surrender, completely, your will to God, it humbles you. You begin to truly recognize that apart from God you can do nothing. Surrender also strengthens your faith, as you see God act in profound ways on your behalf, in ways He otherwise would not have acted had there not been surrender on your part. Lastly, exercising true faith—complete surrender—always pleases God. True faith gives God "permission" to perform His providential prerogatives in ways that exalt His Name, magnify His people, and glorify His Kingdom.

When our original leadership team formed Purpose-Full Ministries, we were in need of seed money to get us going. I believed that God would provide the money—I just didn't know how. One night I called a friend whom I knew was good at grant writing and asked if she could help us write a grant for some start-up money. She asked me how much we needed. I told her that we needed \$5,000-\$10,000. "Is that all?" she retorted. "I'll give you that!" I sat stunned in silence. "Was she being cynical?" I thought, at the amount I suggested, as if to say, 'Come on, Marlon! If you're going to ask for money, then ask for some real money!" "I don't understand," I muttered. "Are you trying to say that my request is too small, that I should ask for more money?" "No, Marlon," she responded, "I will give you \$10,000!" I was incredulous. I couldn't remember a time when I was fundraising and didn't even have to ask for a donation!

What do you need to begin pursuing *your* life's purpose? Is it money? A building? A team of supporters? A special opportunity? Then, ask for it! Seek it! Believe that, if it be according to God's Will, you *will* receive it! "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." —*Philippians* 4:19. Live With Purpose.™





PFM Directors at the Captain's Dinner (L-R): Dennis Baptiste and wife Sharon (standing), Marlon Perkins, Elaine Lee, Madeleine Perkins, and Marsha Perkins-Cowan (standing). Absent: Andrew Wiggs. Photo: Copyright CCL Photography.

PFM directors are back from their strategic planning cruise aboard the Carnival cruise ship, "Inspiration". The five-day cruise to Cozumel, Mexico, proved to be of great benefit to all. Five of the six directors were able to make the trip which departed from Tampa, FL, on Thursday, February 22. Director Andrew Wiggs was unable to attend due to a business conflict.

For several of the directors, it was the first time they'd actually met in person. Directors Marlon Perkins, Marsha Perkins-Cowan, and Madeleine Perkins are siblings, and Pastor Perkins and treasurer Dennis Baptiste have been friends for almost fourteen years. Although Marsha Perkins-Cowan and Elaine Lee attend the same church in Tampa, the familiarity between some of the directors was limited to teleconferencing. The opportunity to meet in person, however, was invaluable.

After a fun-filled get acquainted dinner on Thursday evening, directors quickly turned their attention on Friday morning to the business at hand. Pastor Perkins led informative sessions on directors' legal responsibilities, non-profit practices and procedures, and fundraising. Saturday was a day off and was spent touring Cozumel under sunny skies and eighty-degree weather. Sunday was a day at sea and directors went back to work, focusing on the mission and vision of Purpose-Full Ministries and outlining a strategic plan for 2007-08. After considerable discussion, consensus was reached among the directors that youth should be the focus. In particular, the

Smooth Sailing:

PFM Directors 'Cruise' Into Strategic Planning Session

the directors voted to raise an estimated \$10,000 by September 1, 2007, to pilot a youth workshop for high school students.

The last order of business for the conference was the election of board officers for the 2007-08 term. All current officers were re-elected, except for the office of Vice-President, which saw the election of director Elaine Lee to that position. Outgoing VP Madeleine Perkins, whose term expired in January, will remain on the board as a director.

In addition to accomplishing a lot of work, the directors enjoyed themselves immensely, and have already begun discussing plans for their next cruise. Although it is uncertain when that ship will set sail, you can be assured that PFM directors are already on board!



Do You Know... Your 'PQ'?

Just as the acronym "IQ" supposedly measures your intelligence quotient, your "PQ" is an (unscientific) measurement of your purpose quotient—the de-

gree to which you have a clear understanding of your life's purpose. Take our quiz below to measure your PQ. (See 'Key' on page 4)

- I have a clear understanding of who I am and what I should be doing with my life.
 □Yes □No
- 2. My job gives me the best opportunity to fulfill my life's purpose.

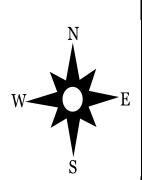
 Yes
 No
- I often get distracted at work and daydream about doing something else with my life.
 □Yes □No
- 4. It is difficult for me to get out of bed in the morning to go to work. □Yes □No
- 5. If I knew that I were to die soon, I would be at peace knowing that I have fulfilled my life's purpose.

 No



Upcoming Events

- July 8, 2007
 Board of Directors
 Meeting
- October 26-28, 2007
 Seminar Training
 Alpharetta, GA



On Point

"The poorest person in the world is a person without a dream . . . The most frustrated person in the world is someone who has a dream and doesn't know how to bring it to pass." -Dr. Myles Munroe. The

pass." -Dr. Myles Munroe, The Principles and Power of Vision



What Happens When Young People Develop Focus in Life

By Dr. Elaine W. Lee, Ed.S, PFM Vice-President

Young people who develop focus early in life possess a special blend of spirituality, intelligence, and self-discipline. This is important because, after all, youth are our future. For youth who are focused, it is important that someone—parent, guardian, other relative or friend—serve as a mentor

who, themselves, possesses a patient ability to listen to the young person's dreams and provide direction to foster their growth and development.

Through personal observations as an educator in various learning environments, I have found that youth who are focused require a sincere connection with their parents, teachers, and mentors who share their journey and experiences. Remember, "It takes a village to raise a child." It is important to study the whole child. In this process, youth need nurturing, encouragement, and support of their unique personalities. As a result, they will develop to their highest potential in character, education, and personal vision.



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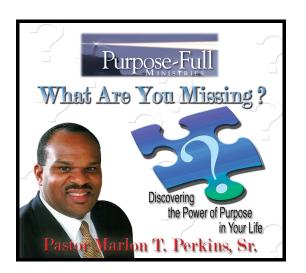
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Becoming A Leader

By Dr. Myles Munroe © Bahamas Faith Ministries International. (Reprinted by permission.)



It is a tragedy for you to go to the grave and you never showed up on earth. This tragedy is possible because most of us are mere products of our environment, lacking the will to change, develop, and maximize our own potential and become who we really are. We

die mere products of our environment. However, we must aim to become who God designed us to be. He designed us to be leaders. How do you become the leader you are born to be? How do you know when you have become that leader?

All of us are born originals even though most of us die as copies. God created in you the capacity to lead. You were born to lead, but you have to become a leader. Capacity is not always equal to reality. God demands that you do not die the way you were born. It would be unfair to my grandchildren for me to leave this world the way that I met it. When I leave, my existence on this planet should have affected this earth to such a degree that is different when my grandchild arrives. That is the mark of a leader. If the world or your neighborhood is the same way you met it or worse when you die, you have to ask yourself if you wasted your time here on planet earth.

Leadership is becoming what you were born to be by becoming something that your generation demands now. God knew what your generation needed so He gave you conception at the appropriate time. True leaders are not made by election or appointment. They



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

are not made by men. Simply holding a position of importance does not make someone a leader nor does taking courses in leadership. Resolving to become a leader does not make you a leader. Only discovering God's purpose and being inflated by that purpose can make you a leader. You have to get in touch with why you were born. When you get in touch with that, God does something.

There has to come a point in your life when God inspires you. He breathes into you all of the things necessary to accomplish your goals because you have discovered His purpose for your life. If this never happens, you die without ever having truly lived. When you connect with why you were born, you become a dangerous person. You become dangerous because from the moment you discover your purpose for living, you declare independence from everybody else's opinions. No difficulty will deter you. No disappointment will alter your vision for your life. Why? It is too late. You have already seen something that is greater than the disappointment and any other obstacles that may come along. The world needs individuals who are real leaders and not just people with titles. -OP

'Key' from page 2

If you answered "yes"...

- To questions 1, 2, and 5, congratulations! You are well on your way to experiencing a purpose-full life.
- To question 1 only, what's holding you back? Get going!
- To questions 3 and 4, and "no" to questions 1, 2, and 5, give us a call <u>TODAY!</u> Your PQ is hemorrhaging due to a lack of purpose!!



DISCOVER THE POWER OF PURPOSE IN YOUR LIFE

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