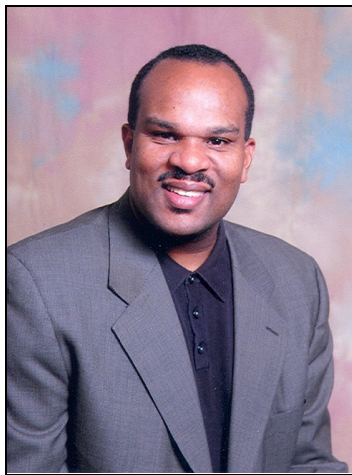




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Pastor Marlon T. Perkins, Sr.,
 Founder & President

President's Point

"As you know, I have been very fortunate in my career, and I've made a lot of money—far more than I ever dreamed of, far more than I could ever spend, far more than my family needs . . . To be honest, one of my motives for making so much money was simple—to have the money to hire people to do what I don't like doing. But there's one thing I've never been able to hire *anyone* to do for me—find my own sense of purpose and fulfillment. I'd give *anything* to discover that."

As the story of this successful businessman suggests, as told in the book *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life* (Os Guinness), we all have a central purpose in life. This purpose goes beyond what we do to make a living, such as paying the bills, keeping food on the table and clothes on our backs. It surpasses shuttling our kids back and forth from music lessons and sporting events. Indeed, even our sometimes frantic desires to keep up with our favorite soap operas or to acquire our favorite high-priced toys fall far short of giving us that deep sense of personal fulfillment that only comes with living what you were *meant* to be.

If this is true, then why do so many, like the successful businessman, fail to understand their purpose or "calling" in life? Why do so many live—according to the poet Henry David Thoreau—"lives of quiet desperation?" Could it be that many simply aren't *listening* to God?

(See *President's Point* on page 2)

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"Why do so many live—according to the poet Thoreau—"lives of quiet desperation?""



'FirstSteps' Youth Workshop Gaining Traction

As has been reported in *On Purpose* and on our Web site, PFM has plans to expand its workshop for high school youth from roughly a two-hour

PowerPoint seminar to a six-hour workshop. The seminar, entitled "*FirstSteps: Discovering the Pathway to Purpose In Your Life*," was launched in July 2006. It's primary aim is to help youth identify their basic talents/skills so as to connect with and better understand their life's calling.

Recently, PFM founder and president Pastor Marlon Perkins began talks with a Des Moines, IA-based youth organization about the possibility of collaborating on this project. "Funding organizations," says Pastor Perkins, "love to see two

(See '*FirstSteps*' on page 2)



PFM volunteer Merlaine Bissainthe

PFM Welcomes Law Student As Newest Volunteer

Merlaine Bissainthe, a second-year law student at Drake University Law School in Des Moines, became PFM's newest volunteer in July 2007. A native of Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Merlaine attended Ft. Lauderdale High School, where she was actively involved in the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Interact Club, and KidsVoting. She went on to attend the University of Florida, where she graduated with a degree in Political Science in 2006.

As an undergraduate at UF, Merlaine participated in organizations such as Campus Advent, a Seventh-day Adventist youth outreach on campus, which ministered to students as well as residents within the surrounding community. As the Community Service Director for Campus Advent, Merlaine coordinated efforts to help raise funds for the 2004 Tsunami victims, "just as Christ ministered to the needs of people in His day," she says. Additionally, Merlaine was a member of the Student Honor Board, Virgil Hawkins Pre-law Society, Nu Alpha Lambda Christian Service Organization, and a Guardian Ad Litem Volunteer.

This Florida "gator" comes from a family of two loving parents, two sisters, two brothers and two cats, named Prince and Jean-Mathieu. Her love for Jesus, outgoing personality, broad academic background, and studious habits made Merlaine an attractive candidate for PFM. "My life goal," she says, "is to make a difference in the lives of others while allowing the Lord to use me as His instrumental vessel."
-OP

(President's Point continued from page 1)

One afternoon, George Washington Carver stood in a front a window in his Iowa home ironing a shirt. His life up to that point had been a hard one: he lost both of his parents to night riders as an infant at the close of the Civil War, was later denied access to the college of his choice because of the color of skin, and started (and stopped) several businesses because of ill health due to a weak constitution.

As he stood brooding over his misfortunes, he was suddenly struck with the notion of applying to yet another college in order that he might pursue the career of his dreams—horticulture. He dismissed the thought as foolhardy, especially since he had already been denied higher education at one college.

As he continued his ironing, once again he was struck with the idea of re-applying to college. After a few moments of "arguing" with himself, he finally gave in.

Next, he applied to Simpson College in Indianola, IA, and was accepted. After graduating from Simpson, he went on to Iowa State Agricultural College and became the first African-American to graduate from that school. Thus began a distinguished career which led him to gain the nickname "the peanut man" because of the many inventions which he derived from the peanut.

Today—right now—will you stop long enough to listen to God's purpose for your life?

"Cause me to hear thy loving kindness in the morning: for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee" (Psalm 143:8). Live with purpose!
-OP

(FirstSteps' continued from page 1)

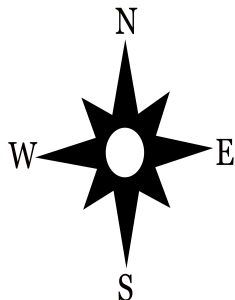
or more entities working together on a project. By combining resources, organizations increase their chances for receiving grant funds.

Combining resources will not only enable us to stretch our dollars, but hopefully we'll also be able to maximize the effectiveness of the workshop overall. I'm excited about the possibilities."

We solicit your prayers on behalf of this much-needed outreach for youth.
-OP

Upcoming Events

- **February 17, 2008**
Board of Directors Meeting
- **April 27, 2008**
Board of Directors Meeting



On Point

“The challenge with vision is that it’s given in a moment but worked out over a lifetime. Vision was designed by God to carry you for a lifetime.”

-Dr. Roland J. Hill,
Pastor & Author



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 public speaking skills and enjoy speaking to various groups of people?*

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What Are You Missing?

Discovering the Power of Purpose in Your Life

Pastor Marlon T. Perkins, Sr.

Force of Character

by Ellen G. White*



Christian life is more than many take it to be. It does not consist wholly in gentleness, patience, meekness, and kindness. These graces are essential; but there is need also of courage, force, energy, and perseverance. The path that Christ marks out is a nar-

row self-denying path. To enter that path and press on through difficulties and discouragements requires men [and women] who are more than weaklings.

Men of stamina are wanted, men who will not wait to have their way smoothed and every obstacle removed, men who will inspire with fresh zeal the flagging efforts of dispirited workers, men whose hearts are warm with Christian love and whose hands are strong to do their Master's work.

Some who engage in missionary service are weak, nerveless, spiritless, easily discouraged. They lack push. They have not those positive traits of character that give power to do something—the spirit and energy that kindle enthusiasm. Those who would win success must be courageous and hopeful. They should cultivate not only the passive but the active virtues. While they are to give the soft answer that turns away wrath, they must possess the courage of a hero to resist evil. With the charity that endures all things, they need the force of character that will make their influence a positive power.

Some have no firmness of character. Their plans and purposes have no definite form and consistency. They are of but little practical use in the world. This weakness, indecision, and inefficiency should be overcome. There is in true Christian character an indomitableness that cannot be molded or subdued by adverse circumstances. We must have moral backbone, an integrity that cannot be flattered, bribed, or terrified . . .

Many who are qualified to do excellent work accomplish little because they attempt lit-



tle. Thousands pass through life as if they had no great object for which to live, no high standard to reach. One reason for this is the low estimate which they place upon themselves. Christ paid an infinite price for us, and according to the price paid He desires us to value ourselves . . .

None should consent to be mere machines, run by another man's mind. God has given us ability, to think and to act, and it is by acting with carefulness, looking to Him for wisdom, that you will become capable of bearing burdens. Stand in your God-given personality. Be no other person's shadow. Expect that the Lord will work in and by and through you . . .

Man can shape circumstances, but circumstances should not be allowed to shape the man. We should seize upon circumstances as instruments by which to work. We are to master them, but should not permit them to master us . . .

There is a picture representing a bullock standing between a plow and an altar, with the inscription, "Ready for either," ready to toil in the furrow or to be offered on the altar of sacrifice. This is the position of the true child of God—willing to go where duty calls, to deny self, to sacrifice for the Redeemer's cause. -OP

**Ellen G. White (1827-1915) was a co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. During her seventy-year ministry she wrote extensively on Christian doctrine and lifestyle. Excerpts for this article were taken from her book, The Ministry of Healing, pp. 497-502.*



DISCOVER THE POWER OF PURPOSE IN YOUR LIFE

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

-PFM