

**The Monday Memo
from the desk of
Dr. John Stanko
Issue 81**

Recently I met with a man who gave me a suggestion for my website. His recommendation was to create a comprehensive list of purpose statements from other people. "If I had some things to look at," he explained, "I think it would make my purpose search a lot easier." I think that is an excellent idea.

So let's build that list to help this man and others find their purpose. If you know what your purpose is, please send me an email telling me what it is. I will take your purpose and compile an ongoing list that can be accessed on the purposequest.com website.

While I am compiling this list, which I will release in two weeks, I thought I would include a list of purpose statements that I mentioned in a Monday Memo last year. I found the lists below in a book entitled, ***Whistle While You Work: Heeding Your Life's Calling*** by Richard Leider and David A. Shapiro. The authors refer to this as a list of "Calling Cards," a concept they developed to help people like you and me find our life's calling and purpose. They explain:

Each of these callings describes a core gift. Each calling comes directly from someone's experience. We have been collecting callings in seminars, workshops, and coaching sessions with individuals and groups from all walks of life. The list of 52 callings we have come up with represent the "essence of essences" in our research. (This doesn't mean that there are not callings other than our 52; it does, however, mean that these 52 represent those that have best withstood real-world testing.) -- page 35.

I suggest that you study the lists below and see if anything stirs you. Feel free to focus on one of these phrases that seems

close to a description of who you are. Allow God to "energize" that statement and make it your own. You may even want to use that calling card as your purpose statement until something better comes along. Or you can modify it in some way to make it a better fit for you. I hope the Lord will do for you what He did for me: By building on someone else's words, I was able to define my purpose. If nothing seems to fit, then hopefully the list I will have from your fellow readers in two weeks will be of help. If you're searching, be encouraged. Help is on the way. Have a great week!

List of Calling Cards

Category: Realistic

1. Building Things
2. Fixing Things
3. Growing Things
4. Making Things Work
5. Shaping Environments
6. Solving Problems

Category: Conventional

1. Doing the Numbers
2. Getting Things Right
3. Operating Things
4. Organizing Things
5. Processing Things
6. Straightening Things Up

Category: Investigative

1. Advancing Ideas
2. Analyzing Information
3. Investigating Things
4. Getting to the Heart of Matters
5. Putting the Pieces Together
6. Researching Things
7. Translating Things
8. discovering resources
9. making connections

Enterprising

1. Bringing Out Potential
2. Empowering Others
3. Exploring the Way
4. Making Deals
5. Managing Things
6. Opening Doors
7. Persuading People
8. Selling Intangibles
9. Starting Things

Social

1. Awakening Spirit
2. Bringing Joy
3. Building Relationships
4. Creating Dialogue
5. Creating Trust
6. Facilitating Change
7. Getting Participation
8. Giving Care
9. Healing Wounds
10. Helping Overcome Obstacles
11. Instructing People
12. Resolving Disputes

Artistic

1. Adding Humor
2. Breaking Molds
3. Creating Things
4. Composing Things
5. Designing Things
6. Moving Through Space
7. Performing Events
8. Seeing Possibilities
9. Seeing the Big Picture
10. Writing Things

**The Monday Memo
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Issue 82**

I like Sundays. It's the day that I prepare to send [The Monday Memo](#). I never thought I would be able to keep this going and here I am sending you issue 82. I am a little behind on responding to some emails with questions. If you haven't heard from me, you will this week. And I need to hear from you as well. Please send your purpose statement to me this week so I can compile our purpose list for others to access and find help in defining their own purpose. More on that later.

This week I've been thinking about a man in the Bible named Nehemiah. Nehemiah was the cup bearer for the king. In other words, he was a butler, a servant. We aren't told how he came to this trusted position and we don't know much about Nehemiah. He just shows up on the scene as a servant. That is how many of God's leaders were prepared for leadership: through service to others. If you are a servant leader, someone may take your leadership away but they can never take away your ability or desire to serve. That is the constant factor in every servant leader's life.

But that isn't what I want to show you from Nehemiah's life. While he was serving, a group of people came from Jerusalem:

The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire." (Nehemiah 1:1-3).

First of all, Nehemiah questioned the men who came from Jerusalem. He was interested in Jerusalem so he asked questions. What are you interested in? About what do you ask questions? What is your burden? About what do you like to read and study? That was the first indication that Nehemiah was pursuing his life purpose, without even knowing it. He was simply asking probing questions about a special interest he had. But the real indicator of his purpose is found in the next verse:

When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven (Nehemiah 1:4).

When Nehemiah heard the report about the poor conditions in Jerusalem, he cried. That is often an indication of your purpose. What makes you weep? What makes you angry? What moves you to fast and pray, to call out to the God of heaven? I'm sure others heard the same report about Jerusalem that Nehemiah heard, but none of the others were moved like he was. That's because his purpose was to rebuild the city of his fathers, which he did by first rebuilding the walls and then repopulating the city.

You may not know your purpose yet because the situation that will release and define your purpose isn't ready to receive you. Maybe you will rebuild something that isn't yet in need of repair. Or perhaps you will invent something but the technology for your invention isn't quite in place yet. Maybe you will save something or someone who isn't even lost at this time.

But that doesn't mean you can't be preparing. Nehemiah was serving the king. You don't serve the king unless you're good at what you do. It is safe to assume that Nehemiah was committed to excellence and doing superior work. When you don't know what your purpose is, pursuing excellence is always a good way to prepare.

I encourage you to spend this week trying to answer the questions I have raised above. Identify what makes you cry or angry. Reassess your commitment to excellence and make sure it is where it needs to be. Be willing to prepare for your purpose even though you have no idea what it is. If you'll do that, then a situation will present itself to you just like it did to Nehemiah. Then all that you've been through will suddenly make sense. Have a great week.

**The Monday Memo
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Issue 83**

Greetings from Dallas, Texas. There is a Billy Graham Mission in Dallas this weekend and I am going to attend tonight's meeting. There is no greater example of someone fulfilling their life purpose than Billy Graham. Dr. Graham has conducted crusades for more than 50 years and has changed the world by doing what he does best over and over again. He is now 83 years young, and I believe I had better go see him now or miss a great opportunity.

I wonder what Billy Graham's parent saw in their son, and whether or not they saw his life purpose? I ask that because I have been thinking about Moses and his parents this week. "At that time Moses was born, and he was no ordinary child. For three months he was cared for in his father's house"(Acts 7:20). What did Moses's parents see that enabled them to recognize their son was no ordinary child? When our son was born, his nose was flat against his face. His hair was standing straight up even though it was wet. Not only that, but his ears stood out and he was various shades of red, purple and pink all over his little body. When the nurse handed him to his mother, she looked at him, then me and said, "Maybe he'll be intelligent!" (I'm glad to report that he has grown to be a 25-year-old man who is both intelligent **and** handsome!)

I think Moses's parents looked at him and saw his purpose. At the time of Moses' birth, Pharaoh had ordered all male babies to be thrown into the river. But Moses's parents didn't throw him in, at least not right away. They cared for and hid him for three months; then they complied with Pharaoh's orders. But when they did, they put him in a basket first. You know the rest: Pharaoh's daughter found Moses and raised him as her own.

Because his parents saw his purpose, Moses was able to know it as well, probably at an early age. We read: "He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian. Moses thought that his own people would realize that **God was using him to rescue them**, but they did not" (Acts 7:24-25). Moses knew he was to rescue Israel, but there were two problems: Israel didn't recognize this and Moses tried to fulfill his purpose in his own strength by killing Egyptians. What a long road he had to go, killing one Egyptian at a time. He probably said to himself, "One down, three million to go!" Later, after 40 years in the

wilderness, Moses rescued Israel not with a sword, but with his shepherd's staff.

If Moses's parents saw his purpose, then parents have the ability and responsibility to do the same for their children. Our daughter recently got a wonderful job with a great company because she is a gifted salesperson. We saw that when she was only four years old. We tried to keep that before her as she went through university and now she is operating in her purpose. We as parents can play a big part in directing our children in the way they ought to go as determined by their purpose. What do you see in your children? What makes them extraordinary in the sight of God and men?

But if we can see it for our children, then can we also see purpose for other people? When we can't see purpose for ourselves, often there are others that clearly see our purpose. We need to seek their advice and input and use it as a guide to find our way home to our life purpose.

And finally, there is no minimum age to know your purpose. Moses, Samuel, David, and Joseph, just to name a few, all knew their life purpose when they were young. A young person can know their purpose and no one should discount what they are seeing, no matter how young the person seeing it may be.

I trust that you will apply this insight to your life and the life of your children, friends or associates this week. Look to see what makes these people extraordinary and maybe one of them will take their place on the world's stage, just like Billy Graham has done. But sorry, I have a crusade to go to. Doctor Graham's purpose is calling me! Have a great week.

**The Monday Memo
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Issue 84**

I got home from Dallas yesterday and last night celebrated my 28th anniversary with my wife by going out to dinner. Today we went to see an opera together. That is the second opera we attended this year. I certainly am getting cultured! After all these years, my wife would probably say that it's about time!

I wanted to make some comments about the list of purpose statements that were submitted over the last two weeks. If you haven't seen that list yet, you may want to access it at <http://www.purposequest.com/purpose.htm> or write me with the word "list" in the subject box and I will send it to you. There are 75 sample statements on the updated list. Here are my comments:

1. I'm surprised I only received 75 statements. Either people were too busy, shy, or confused to respond. I know all of us get a lot of email every week and it's hard to keep up with it all. I was reminded that I must constantly work to make my writing concise and helpful or it will get lost among the multitude of messages that vie for your attention every day. (There's still time to send me your statements. As you do, I'll keep updating the purpose list on the site.)
2. There were some themes that were noticeably missing from those submitted. Only one had to do with prayer, and there were no statements that involved some basic activities like pastoring or the prophetic. I think many people are looking past the obvious to develop a purpose statement that is more complicated than it was meant to be. I think that I have contributed to this and I will explain what I mean later.
3. It is hard for many people to talk or write about themselves. Purpose requires that you talk about you--what you do and who you are. Some people sent me their purpose with an explanation almost apologizing for what they do. Others used words like "I think," "sometimes," or "by God's grace." Purpose requires that you focus on you and make a strong statement about who you are.

Two months ago I incorporated a new ministry and gave it the name **PurposeQuest International**. I have identified **PurposeQuest**'s purpose to be "bringing clarity to your purpose, order to your world." Notice that I did not say "finding your purpose"

but rather bringing clarity to your purpose. I think I have put too much emphasis on finding purpose and that may have caused you and others at times to look past the obvious--past who you are and what you're already doing--to try and find a sophisticated, smooth statement of purpose. Some of you "care for other people," others "pray and God listens," and some others "speak for God" in certain situations. Those are simple, but profound statements of purpose. What's more, you already **know** that's what you do; I want to help you clarify that. You don't need my help discovering it.

To that end, I am planning a **PurposeQuest** seminar in Dallas, Texas right after the first of the year. On Saturday, January 11, I am going to assemble people in Dallas who want to not only clarify their purpose, but also help others define theirs as well. On that day, I will unveil new **PurposeQuest** programs and resources that will help you do what I have been learning to do: Help people clarify what they are already doing and bring order to their world. If you would like more information on this seminar, please write me.

I hope you will spend some time this week seeing what is already present in your life. Don't look past a simple summary of who you are, whether it is to pray, encourage, pastor or help. Don't be afraid to spend some time defining yourself, but don't try to be too fancy in your definition. After all, sometimes simple is best, especially where purpose is concerned. Have a great week!