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Imagine this… you are in the sunset of life and are reflecting upon each of your life seasons. How would you answer these questions?

- What did my life add up to?
- Did I really matter?
- What did I live for?
- Who will remember me?
- What will they say about me?
- Why was it important that I existed?

These types of questions cause you to focus on the issues of life that really matter and help you to use your life to build a lasting legacy. Your legacy will be that which is left when you are gone and how others will remember you.

In November 2006, the congregation of New Birth Missionary committed to writing individual Strategic Life Plans (SLP) to purposefully leave a legacy to the next generation. The purpose of the SLP is not to predict the future. Instead, your SLP is to help you prepare for the future that God has already ordained for your life. The term “strategic” comes from Greek verb *stratego*, which means, “to plan the destruction of one’s enemies through the effective use of resources”. Your life represents the greatest resource God has made available to you. Within your life span you are given other resources – time, gifts, talents, skills and abilities. Your success in every life area is contingent upon your ability to consistently evaluate if you are making the best use of all of the resources God has given to you. When you make your daily decisions under the direction of the Holy Spirit, you are led in discovering those future directions that you should either avoid or pursue. As you make better decisions today, you are greatly empowered to live an abundant life and leave an enduring legacy and inheritance to succeeding generations.

At minimum, you should make sure that your SLP targets these specific areas: Spiritual, Family, Finances, Health & Wellness, and Community & Civic Engagement. The Spiritual area will challenge you to quiet yourself before the Lord to identify the destiny and purpose He has already ordained for your life. The Family area will challenge you to critically examine patterns of behavior and paradigms of thinking that have significantly impacted your bloodline and will require you to commit to making decisions that would shape better futures for succeeding generations. The Finances area will challenge you to examine your effectiveness as a steward, as well as to identify the talents, skills and abilities God has given you to create and sustain wealth generationally. The Health & Wellness area will challenge you to become a better steward over your body, as well as prompt you to seek wholeness in your emotions and mind. Finally, the Community & Civic Engagement area will challenge you to examine the degree of influence you have as Christ’s witness in your local community, the state, nation and the world.

Throughout the SLP Starter Kit, you will note frequent references to “children” and “children’s children”. While you may not be a birth parent, you still have a responsibility to create a better future for succeeding generations. If you do not have children of your own, you may consider how your SLP can positively impact the futures of your nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, and other children within your sphere of influence. Also, if you are married and/or are a parent, you may consider creating both an individual and family SLP.
Using the SLP Starter Kit

Within you, and within your reach, God has equipped you with everything you need to be successful in life. The SLP Starter Kit is provided as a user-friendly resource to stimulate and challenge your thinking regarding the identified SLP areas. Before you begin referencing the kit, there are some things you need to make sure are in place first. You should:

- Make a commitment to write AND work your plan
- Have already purchased the A Minute for the Next Generation Series ministered by Bishop Eddie L. Long (11/26/06 through 12/20/06)
- Listen to each part of the A Minute for the Next Generation Series in its entirety
- Meditate on the Scriptures referenced in the messages and meditate on the preached word
- Consecrate (set apart) time (daily, weekly, etc.) to work on your SLP
- Have a note pad/journal readily available and accessible to record the things God will speak to you
- Identify an accountability partner to keep you on track

You will find that the SLP Starter Kit is divided into sections that address each of the five areas we are targeting - **Spiritual, Family, Finances, Health & Wellness, and Community & Civic Engagement**. The icon legend that follows provides additional information to help you make the best use of this kit.

- **The Bible** icons reference specific highlights from the A Minute for the Next Generation Series ministered by Bishop Eddie L. Long.

- **The key** icon provides considerations related to each target area. The considerations are provided in question form. Please note, you may choose to/not to answer each of the questions individually. The questions are provided to stimulate thought as you create your SLP, and may also serve as areas of focus during your prayer and reflection time.

- **The mirror** icon provides a practical example of how to reflect upon your life from three perspectives – your history, present, and future. The example is intended to serve as an illustration of how to glean important insights from your history and present to determine what decisions are needed to create a better future for succeeding generations. A blank template is provided for you to record your insights as you reflect and dream.

- **The scroll** icon provides a practical example of a draft SLP. The sample draft SLP includes a vision, mission, God’s promise/standard, strategy, goals and budget.

  - **Vision** - When you create your vision, you are considering the big picture. *What type of life do you envision for your children’s children?* *What mental picture do you have that will inspire, encourage, energize, motivate and stimulate you into making what you see a reality?*
Mission - Your mission speaks to your life purpose. What problem have you been called to solve? Consider your life as a seed. In what ways has God called you to plant your gifts, talents, skills, and abilities that will extend beyond your lifetime?

God’s Promise/Standard – God has already determined the plans He has for your life (Psalm 139:16). What has He already written? What has God promised you? What Scripture(s) can you stand upon to affirm this promise? What is required of you?

Strategy – Remember, your strategy is your plan to effectively use what God has given you to make His promise and the vision He has shown you a reality. What’s in your hand and within your reach? What do you really do well? What do you need to consider doing differently? What opportunities are available to you that you have not even considered?

Goals – Your goal is the intended end of your strategy. It is specific and helps to direct your attention on what you desire in the future. What goals can you begin to work on now that can positively impact succeeding generations? What goals can you consider setting for your children and children’s children that are to be achieved beyond your lifetime? Specific timeframes referenced in the kit include:

- Immediate (within 12 months)
- Short-Term (1-2 years)
- Intermediate (2-10 years)
- Long-term (over 10 years)
- Next Generation-1 (your children)
- Next Generation-2 (your grandchildren)

Budget – Your budget is your resource plan. Some of your resources include your time, gifts, talents, skills and your money. Your vision needs provision. What will it cost to bring the vision God has given you to pass?

A blank SLP template is provided for you to draft your vision, mission, God’s promise/standard, your strategy, your goals and your budget.

It is not likely that you will be able to complete all sections of the SLP Starter Kit in one setting. In fact, you should set the expectation that completing your SLP will require much prayer, study, and meditation on the Word of God (written and spoken) to record those things that God speaks to you concerning each of the target areas. As you work through each of the sections of the SLP Kit, you should also expect to make drastic and dynamic changes to your lifestyle. You should consider addressing the changes you identify in the strategy and goal sections of your draft SLP. Once you have completed each of SLP templates provided in each section, you could combine them to create your SLP.

The SLP Starter Kit is designed to serve as a tool and guide, as it provides numerous examples to assist you in creating your plan. Additional resources are also included for your ready reference. The kit is not intended to be all-inclusive. It is likely that there are a host of other things you may need to consider that are unique and specific to you. So, it is probable that you may need to make significant modifications to the examples provided within the kit before your individual and/or family SLP is complete. The SLP Starter Kit is just that, a resource to get you started!
Psalm 90:12 records, “Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” Here, the psalmist is actually saying - to number your days is to keep an account of the days already lived so as to be aware of how much time you have left. In essence, he’s saying, you need to understand that your days are numbered. You need to have the mindset that you don’t have a lot of time to waste.

God knows what he has charged you with in your set time to get done. Did you know that your life script has already been written? Destiny and purpose are already in you. Your challenge is seeing your life from God’s point of view. Seeing yourself from God’s perspective requires that you quiet yourself, pray, and enter the spirit realm to discover what God has already provided. Once this is discovered, you are able to redeem the time and make the most of every moment (Ephesians 5:16).

You redeem the time by:

- Having an authentic encounter with God
- Knowing your destiny
- Knowing your assignment
- Knowing the urgency
- Knowing your address
- Valuing your legacy

In your authentic encounter, God will impart the vision He has for your life. You will also discover your destiny, what you have been assigned to do, the urgency of your assignment, where you need to be, and your legacy that will remain after your assignment in time has been completed. Proverbs, 29:18 records, “Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law.” Vision in this text is translated chazown, which means a mental sight (ex. dream, revelation, or vision). The vision God gives you empowers you to transcend all of the things that are happening around you.

There are five things Habakkuk (Habakkuk 2:1-4) teaches you about the vision:

- It is for an appointed time.
- It will speak.
- It will not lie.
- It will surely come.
- It will not tarry (wait).

Get excited! Stand on your tiptoes, look into the future and see what God has for you!

You have purpose. You have destiny. What do you know about your purpose and destiny?
Don’t waste your minutes. Every moment that is ticking is important. It is important for you. The ticking moments are even important for the next generation.
“I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected.”
Habakkuk 2:1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>History</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Future</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>History</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Future</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>What strengths, weaknesses, missed opportunities, and threats are revealed from your history?</td>
<td>What strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats are evident in your present?</td>
<td>What do you expect your bloodline to look like one to two generations from now?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What stands out most in your mind about your salvation experience?</td>
<td>Have you discovered who and whose you are and your destiny?</td>
<td>What things are you doing to create a desire and atmosphere for your children to develop a personal relationship with the Lord?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What stands out most about your authentic conversion?</td>
<td>Have you discovered the reason you were born?</td>
<td>What things has the Lord revealed to you about your children’s destiny and purpose?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are your earliest recollections about God?</td>
<td>Have you discovered your motivation for living?</td>
<td>What lessons are your children learning about the Lord from watching you (conversation, behavior, attitudes, etc.)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who is or has been the greatest spiritual influence on your life? Why?</td>
<td>Have you decided what you are willing to die for?</td>
<td>What lessons would you like your children to teach their children about the Lord?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What has been the greatest facilitator to developing your relationship with Christ? Why?</td>
<td>When you get to where you are going, where will it be?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What has been the greatest hindrance to developing your relationship with Christ? Why?</td>
<td>When you get to where you are going, would you want to be there?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Have you discovered who and whose you are and your destiny?
- Have you discovered the reason you were born?
- Have you discovered your motivation for living?
- Have you decided what you are willing to die for?
- When you get to where you are going, where will it be?
- When you get to where you are going, would you want to be there?
## Example

### Spiritual Reflection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>History</th>
<th>Present</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What strengths, weaknesses, missed opportunities, and threats are revealed from your history?</strong></td>
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<td><strong>What do you expect your bloodline to look like one to two generations from now?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remember Big Mama making us go to Sunday School and Baptist Training Union. Every night she also prayed for each of us by name. When parents divorced, Mom's new job moved us away from Big Mama. We stopped going to church. My authentic conversion was when I rededicated my life to Christ in 2000.</td>
<td>Know God has a plan and purpose for my life. Not really sure what it is. Attend 2nd service regularly, but am not involved or active in any ministry. Strong prayer life, I enjoy talking with the Lord, but am not so strong in studying the Word like I should.</td>
<td>Don't know that I know the plan God has for my daughter. Clearly see that Ciara is called and gifted to help people. Observe that she has such the heart of a servant. She wants to help everyone with everything. Should look for opportunities for her to serve at the church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children</strong></td>
<td><strong>Children’s Children</strong></td>
<td>It's important to me that my children's children will hear and be reminded about God's word and His promises for their lives from the time they are conceived until they are walking in full purpose and destiny.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## My Spiritual Reflection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>History</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Future</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What strengths, weaknesses, missed opportunities, and threats are revealed from your history?</strong></td>
<td><strong>What strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats are evident in your present?</strong></td>
<td><strong>What do you expect your bloodline to look like one to two generations from now?</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Example

### Spiritual Strategic Life Plan Draft

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vision</th>
<th>My children’s children will hear and be reminded about God’s word and His promises for their lives from the time they are conceived until they are walking in full purpose and destiny.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission</td>
<td>To create and maintain a spiritual heritage from generation to generation that is based upon the strong foundation of prayer and knowledge God’s word.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God’s Promise/Standard</td>
<td>“You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. (Deuteronomy 6:7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Strategy | **What are your strengths?** What’s in your hand? How will you build upon and leverage these strengths?  
- Strong prayer life (Me)  
- Willingness to serve (Ciara)  
**What are your weaknesses?**  
- Failing to study  
- Failing to model godly habits of studying the word of God before my daughter  
**What opportunities are available?** What’s within your reach? How will you exploit available opportunities?  
- Attending Bible classes offered through the church  
- Finding service opportunities for Ciara  
**What threats exist?** What could potentially inflict harm upon you, your children and/or your children’s children? How will you eliminate existing threats?  
- Laziness, not making study a priority  
- Poor time management, failing to plan |
| Goals | **Within the next 0-12 months (immediate)**  
- By December 31, 2007, I will have taken at least one class offered by LIFE Bible Institute.  
- By March 31, 2007 Ciara will have joined a church youth group.  
- Beginning immediately, Ciara and I will spend one hour weekly in prayer and Bible Study at home.  
**Within the next 1-3 years (short-term)**  
- By December 31, 2008, I will have taken a minimum of four classes offered through Christian Education.  
**Within the next 4-10 years (long term)**  
- By fall 2013 Ciara and I will canvas the local communities of her college to identify a local congregation with whom she will fellowship while away in school.  
**Within your children’s lifetime**  
- By 2030, Ciara (is/is prepared to consistently praying with and sharing the word of God with her children (from the womb throughout their development).  
**Within your children’s children’s lifetime**  
- By 2060, my grandchildren are/are prepared to consistently praying with and sharing the word of God with their children (from the womb throughout their development). |
| Budget | **Give specific thought concerning the provision needed for the vision**  
- Time - setting aside time for additional activities  
- Money - enrollment and books for classes, youth group participation for Ciara |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vision</th>
<th>What will your bloodline look like spiritually two generations from now?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission</td>
<td>What spiritual seeds has God called you to plant that will extend beyond your lifetime?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>God’s Promise/Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy</td>
<td>What are your strengths? What’s in your hand? How will you build upon and leverage these strengths?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What opportunities are available? What’s within your reach? How will you exploit available opportunities?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goals</td>
<td>How will you leverage resources within your hand and within your reach to fulfill your mission and bring the vision God has given you concerning your spiritual heritage to pass?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>What will it cost to bring the vision God has given you to pass?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Resources

On-Line

Strong’s Concordance (Hebrew)

Strong’s Concordance (Greek)

Blue Letter Bible
http://www.blueletterbible.org

Crosswalk Bible Study Tools
http://bible.crosswalk.com/

Bible Gateway
http://www.biblegateway.com/

Audio, Video, and Books


Classes

Lay Institute For Equipping (L.I.F.E) consists of Bible classes, layman training and development, language courses, computer training, money management and parenting.

The International College of Excellence (I.C.E.) is a global association of ministerial training institutions dedicated to helping students to discover their purpose, maximize their potential, and to become tomorrow’s great leaders.
Family

What do you think about the possibility of having to take your grandchildren to a museum to show them what a family looks like? There is a Ghanaian proverb that states, “The ruins of a nation begins in the homes of its people.” The Bible says it this way – “After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel.” (Judges 2:10). We are at a crossroad of the very existence of the people of God and a moral society. At this crossroad, we can see that we are one generation away from a people who do not know the God of their fathers. The decline of morality in society is directly related to the decay of the family as God intended.

You have been made in the image and likeness of God and have been called to have dominion. Dominion is achieved in the covenant of marriage, where the love between husband and wife reflect in the earth the love Christ has for the church. Dominion is also passed through generations, as God identifies himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He is a generational God (Daniel 4:3). You are connected to your forefathers and to your children.

Do you remember Jacob, one of the twin sons of Isaac and Rebekah? Like many believers, you probably have found encouragement in the written testimony of his struggle with a Man until the breaking of day, which resulted in both a character and a name change (Genesis 32:24-32). This wrestling represents an authentic conversion. However, with more careful examination of Jacob’s life, you can discern his hurt as he watched his children make the same mistakes as he made during his younger years before conversion. His children witnessed his character as a supplanter, as well as the strife between he and his brother Esau. In old age, Jacob’s family gathered around him and desired to bless him. Yet, he was so overcome in his mourning for his children that he could not receive the blessing (Genesis 37:35). Jacob mourned because his children picked up the same behaviors and habits he had before his authentic conversion.

Children are very impressionable. Their personality and traits are usually developed between the ages of 4 to 6 years, and sometimes even younger. Proverbs 22:6 offers wise counsel – “Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.” The developmental years of succeeding generations represent precious and valuable minutes. What lessons are your children learning from you? What behaviors and habits are members of the next generation picking up from you? Are you redeeming the time before God that He would reveal the identities of your birth children and/or other children within your sphere of influence? If you fail to redeem the time then the next generation will not only forsake the God of their fathers, they will also be lost in a sea of interchangeable identity.

Are your current patterns of behavior and paradigms of thinking the result of an authentic conversion? Even as God continues to perfect you, you have both an opportunity and responsibility to be a divine interruption in your bloodline. You really do have the power to change a generation.
**Reflecting on My Past, Present, and Future**

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</table>

### Children

- How would you describe the dynamics of your family (immediate and extended)?
- What was your family make-up (both parents, single parent, siblings, other)?
- What are some habitual patterns of behavior (+/-) you recall exhibited among your family members?
- What gifts, talents and skills are dominant within your bloodline?
- What stands out most about your family heritage?
- What do you recall most about your upbringing?

### Children’s Children

- How would your children describe the dynamics of your family (immediate and extended)?
- What is your current family make-up?
- Describe your family’s communication.
- Are there any hurts among family members that need healing (immediate and extended)?
- What patterns of behavior (+/-) do you have that are habitual from your bloodline?
- Do you possess any of the gifts, talents and skills that are dominant within your bloodline?
- In what ways are you called to be an interruption to your bloodline?
- How would your children describe the dynamics of your family (immediate and extended)?
- Can your children identify hurts among family members that need healing (immediate and extended)?
- Who has the ear of your children?
- What patterns of behavior (+/-) have you observed in your children that are habitual from your bloodline?
- Do your children possess any of the gifts, talents and skills that are dominant within your bloodline?
- In what ways are you developing the gifts, talents and skills God has given to your children?
- How would you want your grandchildren to define family?
- What traditions, values, and habits would you like to have passed down generationally?
- What are you called to start in your family that may be completed by your children’s children?
- What changes must you make today for the vision you have for your grandchildren to come to pass?

---

*Psalm 127:1* 
*Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.*
# Family Reflection

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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father was an alcoholic, parents divorced when I was 7</td>
<td>Currently a recovering addict, separated 10 months from family (wife and 2 kids)</td>
<td>Son loves to play with building blocks, and daughter loves to sing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We were latch-key kids, mom and grandma were workaholics</td>
<td>Moved from home for substance abuse and domestic violence, seeking restoration</td>
<td>Concerned about daughter fighting excessively (w/ brother, at school)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal grandparents married until death, paternal grandparents never married</td>
<td>Oldest brother and I are estranged</td>
<td>Would like to see future generations not struggle with issues of self control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal grandfather was a carpenter and sang with a local quartet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our family is known for holding grudges</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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# My Family Reflection

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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Children</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Example

### Family Strategic Life Plan Draft

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vision</th>
<th>The marriages of my children's children will end only in death. Their homes will be free of violence, controlled substances, and unforgiveness, because they will know who they are in Christ.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission</td>
<td>Interruption in the bloodline for healthy marriages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God's Promise/Standard</td>
<td>Ephesians 5-6, Proverbs 22:6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy</td>
<td>What are your strengths? What's in your hand? How will you build upon and leverage these strengths?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What are your weaknesses? What barriers are hindering your progress? How will you address/resolve these areas of weakness?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What opportunities are available? What's within your reach? How will you exploit available opportunities?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What threats exist? What could potentially inflict harm upon you, your children and/or your children's children? How will you eliminate existing threats?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goals</td>
<td>Within the next 0-12 months (immediate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Within the next 4-10 years (long term)</td>
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<td>Within your children’s lifetime</td>
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<td>Within your children’s children’s lifetime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>Give specific thought concerning the provision needed for the vision</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Strategic Life Plan Starter Kit

**A Minute for the Next Generation**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Vision</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>What will your family look like two generations from now?</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What will it cost to bring the vision God has given you to pass?</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Resources

Audio, Books


Chapman, Gary (October 1992). **The Five Love Languages: How to Express Heartfelt Commitment to Your Mate**. Northfield Publisher.

Cloud, Henry, Townsend, John (Mary 2002). **Boundaries**. Zondervan.

Ferguson, Dr. David & Teresa; Warren, Dr. Paul; Warren, Vicki; Ferguson, Terri (October 1995). **Parenting with Intimacy (Intimate Life Series)**. Chariot Victor Books.


Rainey, Dennis & Barbara. **Building Your Mate’s Self-Esteem**. Thomas Nelson.

Wilson, P.B. (September 1990). **Liberated through Submission**. Harvest House Publishing.


Classes

**Intimate Partners** is an intimate an eleven-week class for couples who want to increase communication and intimacy and the necessary tools for stronger marital relationships within the church body.
**Parenting with Intimacy** is a practical journey to help close the intimacy gap between parents and children and puts the future of children back into the hands of parents versus peers and other cultural norms that destroy the family.

**Women on the Path (WOTP)** is a discipleship ministry that equips, empowers and restores women to their ordained position in Christ.

**Christ-Centered Support Groups** allow members minister to one another and experience healing in a community of believers as expressed in 2 Corinthians 1:4 and 1 Thessalonians 5:11. Group topics include divorce recovery, domestic violence, grief, sexual assault and alcohol and substance abuse.

**More Than a Conqueror** is a personal enrichment program and comprehensive approach to helping individuals increase spiritually by overcoming misdirected and damaged emotions.

**Pre-Marital Program** provides intensive self-scrutiny and soul-searching for single couples that are considering marriage.

### Community Resources

#### Domestic Violence
- Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-334-2836
- Domestic Violence Teen Crisis Line: 404-377-9113
- Metro Crisis Link: 404-873-1766
- SafeHaven: 404-241-8740
- Women’s Resource Center: 404-688-9436

#### Drug and Alcohol Abuse
- GA Drug/Alcohol Abuse: 1-800-338-6745
  - (24-hours/7 days a week live counselors)
- National Hotline: 1-800-662-4357

#### Suicide
- National Suicide Hotline: 1-800-784-2433
- Atlanta 24-Hour Crisis Line: 404-221-0252
- Decatur Suicide Hotline: 404-892-4646
- T.L. Hoskins Foundation 24 Hours Message Hotline: 770-323-3123
Did you know that you were created for much more than working and paying bills? Did you know that God loves and trusts you? His love and trust is reflected in His sovereign choice to put you in America. America is the most prosperous developed country in the world, and God chose to put you here! He chose to put you here because He trusts you, and He trusts what He has placed in you. God trusts that you will take everything He has given you to create wealth so that you will multiply it and use it to bless others less fortunate than you to bring them into a place of promise. Here’s the catch – you’ve got to be like Nehemiah and have a mind to work.

You may not be where you want to be, and you may not have all that you want to have, but guess what? You have a responsibility to exploit where you are. You have a responsibility to make productive use of everything God has given you, no matter how much or little. Exploiting where you are will require you studying and broadening your horizons through educating and investing in the development of your gifts. Exploiting where you are means that you are going after what God put in your heart. You’re focused. You’re hungry. You’re passionate.

Proverbs 22:29 records, “Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men.” When a person works well, he is brought into the presence of those with power. Joseph serves as an example of this spiritual principle. No matter where he was, whether in Potiphar’s house or prison, Joseph operated in wisdom. Ultimately, he was brought into the presence of Pharaoh who made him prime minister. If you haven’t been placed in the presence of power, it is because you have not developed the skills to make it worthwhile to be put in that area. God says, “Don’t waste your minutes!” When you are skilled, God gives favor. Work on your trade and make yourself marketable so that others seek you out. As you become skilled in your trade, you demonstrate to succeeding generations that you don’t have to just rap or play sports to be successful. Your life then becomes a testimony that you can be successful when you discover who you are, plan strategically, and work the plan that God gives to you.

As you are diligent in seeking God concerning His plan for you to create wealth and accumulate assets, you have a responsibility to ensure that you have planned appropriately for the estate God has entrusted to you. In other words, you need to plan to die. You need to plan financially for your funeral and burial, as well as have an inheritance for the generations that will succeed you. The inheritance ensures that your children are advanced beyond where you got started. As you prepare the inheritance for your children’s children, be sure that you pass along the knowledge and understanding God gave you to create the wealth, as well as the values that are needed to keep them focused and grounded. It is important that you teach your children the value of their inheritance so they will not lose it.

Learn the value of your minute. There is great power in the minute that is refined, focused and directed on what God has placed in you. As God reveals who you are and what He has placed in you to create wealth, nobody will be able to deter you or stand in your way because you know for what reason you’ve been called and you know who called you. After all, you are fearfully and wonderfully made - nobody else can do what you do, like you do what you do. Work now to create a plan for your seed.
"And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.”
- Deuteronomy 8:18

## Reflecting on My Past, Present, and Future

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>History</th>
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<th>Future</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What strengths, weaknesses, missed opportunities, and threats are revealed from your history?</td>
<td>What strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats are evident in your present?</td>
<td>What do you expect your bloodline to look like one to two generations from now?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§ What are your earliest recollections about how money was managed within your family?</td>
<td>§ Do you tithe? Do you sow in offerings, love offerings, first fruit?</td>
<td>§ Have you taught your children to tithe, give in offerings, love offerings, and first fruit?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§ How did your family plan financially to save and invest for the future (i.e. retirement, college, trust funds)?</td>
<td>§ How well do you manage money?</td>
<td>§ What observations do your children have about how you manage money?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§ Is there a specific vocation that is dominant within your family?</td>
<td>§ What is your net worth?</td>
<td>§ Do your children have/manage bank accounts?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§ Are there any entrepreneurs in your bloodline? If so, how far back can you trace them?</td>
<td>§ In what ways are you protecting your current assets?</td>
<td>§ What are you doing to ensure that your children are financially literate?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§ What do you remember about preparations your family made concerning death?</td>
<td>§ What would you do to financially support yourself/your family if you were displaced?</td>
<td>§ What values are you teaching your children about money?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§ Are you the recipient of a financial inheritance? If so, were you prepared to receive it?</td>
<td>§ How much do you presently have invested for the future (i.e. retirement, college, trust funds)?</td>
<td>§ Have your children expressed interest in being an entrepreneur? How are/would you cultivating this interest?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>§ What multiple streams of income do you currently have to create wealth?</td>
<td>§ Are you preparing your children to receive a financial inheritance?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>§ In what ways have you prepared financially for your death?</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# Example

## Financial Reflection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>History</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Future</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>History</strong>&lt;br&gt;What strengths, weaknesses, missed opportunities, and threats are revealed from your history?&lt;br&gt;Parents disagreed about how money should be handled&lt;br&gt;Received the assets but not the values – not financially literate at all&lt;br&gt;Grandfather and his siblings were entrepreneurs. A few aunts have tried but have not been successful</td>
<td><strong>Present</strong>&lt;br&gt;What strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats are evident in your present?&lt;br&gt;Tithe and sow as I should&lt;br&gt;Do not budget&lt;br&gt;Impulsive spender, significant amount of debt&lt;br&gt;Have completed estate planning for final arrangements</td>
<td><strong>Future</strong>&lt;br&gt;What do you expect your bloodline to look like one to two generations from now?&lt;br&gt;Children&lt;br&gt;Do not have any children, but now realize I should consider the financial future of my godchildren (single parent mom)&lt;br&gt;Definitely wouldn’t want them to handle money like I do&lt;br&gt;Could look at taking advantage of exposing them to opportunities to increase financial literacy</td>
</tr>
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### My Financial Reflection

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<td><strong>Present</strong>&lt;br&gt;What strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats are evident in your present?</td>
<td><strong>Future</strong>&lt;br&gt;What do you expect your bloodline to look like one to two generations from now?</td>
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</table>
## Financial Strategic Life Plan Draft

### Vision

| What will your children’s children’s finances look like two generations from now? | My godchildren’s children operate four active streams of income with no debt and are empowered to be utilized as tools to lend to nations |

### Mission

| What financial seeds has God called you to plant in your family that will extend beyond your lifetime? | As I am blessed financially, to be a financial blessing to others |

### God’s Promise/Standard

| What Scripture(s) can you stand upon to affirm God’s promise to you concerning wealth creation for your family? What does God require of you? | “The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. (Deuteronomy 28:12) |

### Strategy

| How will you leverage resources within your hand and within your reach to fulfill your mission and bring the vision God has given you concerning your finances to pass? | Resourceful - know how to get information and identify available resources |

| What are your strengths? What’s in your hand? How will you build upon and leverage these strengths? | Resourceful - know how to get information and identify available resources |

| What are your weaknesses? What barriers are hindering your progress? How will you address/resolve these areas of weakness? | Lack fundamental understanding of finances |

| What opportunities are available? What’s within your reach? How will you exploit available opportunities? | Impulsive spending |

| What threats exist? What could potentially inflict harm upon you, your children and/or your children’s children? How will you eliminate existing threats? | No budget |

### Goals

| What goals can you begin to work on now that can positively impact succeeding generations? What goals can you consider setting for your children and children’s children that are to be achieved beyond your lifetime? | Complete exercises in Black Enterprises Wealth Building Kit by January 31, 2007. Effective immediately, track daily expenses from now through March 31, 2007 to assess spending patterns. |

| Within the next 0-12 months (immediate) | Use additional income earned from overtime and bonuses to pay off current credit card debt of $7500 by no later than June 2008. |

| Within the next 1-3 years (short-term) | By 2012, I will have saved $10,000 towards my godchildren’s undergraduate/graduate education. |

| Within the next 4-10 years (long term) | I will set the expectation that within 5 years of gainful employment, my godchildren will purchase a home and I will assist with down payment. |

| Within your children’s lifetime | Within your children’s children’s lifetime | Portion of inheritance I leave to my godchildren is to serve as a financial seed in the future of their children |

### Budget

| What will it cost to bring the vision God has given you to pass? | Give specific thought concerning the provision needed for the vision |

| | Discipline in saying no. |
# Financial Strategic Life Plan Draft

## Vision

What will your children’s children’s finances look like two generations from now?

## Mission

What financial seeds has God called you to plant that will extend beyond your lifetime?

## God’s Promise/Standard

What Scripture(s) can you stand upon to affirm God’s promise to you concerning wealth creation? What does God require of you?

## Strategy

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Resources

Books


On-Line Tools

Crown Financial Ministries
http://www.crown.org/

Lee Jenkins Financial Ministries
http://www.leejenkinsministries.org/

Financial Planning Guides from Wachovia Bank
http://www.wachovia.com/personal/page/0,,505,00.html

Tools and Planning from Suntrust Bank

Washington Mutual Financial Planning Tools
http://www.wamu.com/personal/planningkits/default.asp

Bank of America Financial Education and Tools
http://www.bankofamerica.com/financialtools/index.cfm

Consumer Credit

Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CSSC)
http://www.cccsatl.org/

Wells Fargo
https://www.wellsfargo.com/per/more/loans_credit

Equifax
https://www.econsumer.equifax.com/consumer/sitepage.ehtml?forward=contact_us
TransUnion
http://www.transunion.com/corporate/personal/personal.page

Experian
http://www.experian.com/

**Wealth Building**
Black Enterprise
http://www.blackenterprise.com/wealth/wbk.asp

Federal Reserve of Dallas
http://www.dallasfed.org/ca/wealth/pdfs/wealth.pdf

**Home Ownership**
HUD in Georgia

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/ins/singlefamily.cfm

Fannie Mae, Resources for Home Buyers & Homeowners
http://www.fanniemae.com/homebuyers/homepath/index.jhtml

Wells Fargo
https://www.wellsfargo.com/mortgage/

**Employment Resources**
Georgia Department of Labor
http://www.dol.state.ga.us/

Salary.com
http://www.salary.com/home/layoutscripts/home_default.asp

AJC Jobs
http://jobsearch.ajcjobs.com/

Monster
http://www.monster.com/

Career Builder

Quintessential Careers
http://www.quintcareers.com/
Entrepreneurial Resources

Georgia Secretary of State, First Stop Business Information Center
http://www.sos.state.ga.us/firststop/

Georgia Entrepreneur and Small Business Coordinating Network

Kauffman Foundation
http://www.kauffman.org/foundation.cfm

SCORE
http://www.score.org/explore_score.html

Women’s Economic Development Agency (WEDA)
http://www.weda-atlanta.org/

U.S. Small Business Administration
http://www.sba.gov/

Small Business Development Center

Estate Planning

Estate Planning.com
http://www.estateplanning.com/con/index.html

Smart Money
http://www.smartmoney.com/estate/

National Association Financial Estate Planning
http://www.nafep.com/

Estate Planning in Georgia
http://research.lawyers.com/Georgia/Estate-Planning-in-Georgia.html
Health & Wellness

According to the Center of Disease Control, heart disease, cancer, and stroke were the top three leading causes of death in 2004 in the United States. It is also estimated 6,700 Georgians now die every year because of obesity, a representation of approximately 10% of all deaths. Just think, there was a time (not too long ago) when it was rare that you would hear of someone dying of cancer. However, today, fatal diseases are so prevalent among our families and loved ones. In fact, children are now fighting battles with cancer and other degenerating diseases.

Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. When was the last time you examined your personal diet and fitness plan, as well as those of your family members and friends. For just a moment, stop and ask yourself:

- Is your family chemically addicted to PRESERVATIVES?
- Are you feeding your family TRASH?
- Is your family digesting STEROIDS every time they eat?
- Are you KILLING your family?

Picture this- you enter the sanctuary one Sunday morning and find pork chops, potato chips, snack food, junk food boxes, and soda cans laid on the altar. You are likely to be upset and think, “How dare they do this to the house of God.” However, if you were to x-ray your intestines, you will find the same type of “junk” in your temple.

Today is the day you must commit to making a drastic lifestyle change by taking greater control of your health and wellness. Not only are drastic changes needed for your own benefit, but also for the benefit of the next generation. If you fail to make the necessary changes, your chances of dying prematurely are increased. In addition, you also increase the probability of you burying your children. Sure, in their youth, your children may appear to be healthy now. However, what will manifest in their bodies as they mature and age?

Your mental and emotional health is just as important as your physical health. Whether you believe it or not, mental and emotional disorders are just as disabling as physical degenerating diseases. These diseases result in the loss of productivity and sometimes even premature death. It is critical that you seek the Lord’s wisdom and guidance in finding balance. Even with your busy schedule and hurried pace, you need to know how much rest you need – spirit, mind and body.

In what ways have you felt the Lord chastising you concerning your health and wellness? In what ways does your life need balance so that each life moment is valued and used to glorify God to the fullest? Take some time to reflect and commit to become “fit” so that you make every minute count today and in succeeding generations.
Reflecting on My Past, Present, and Future

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**Children**
- What is your family’s health history (parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles)?
- What types of meals do you recall eating on a regular basis?
- In what ways was physical fitness practiced as part of your upbringing?
- What types of things do you recall your family doing to rest and relax?
- What stands out most in your mind about how your family dealt with stress?
- What emotional behaviors are dominant in your family (i.e. anger, depression, fear)?
- How well has your family managed their emotions?

**Children’s Children**
- What is the current status of your children’s health?
- How often do your children eat away from home?
- How often do your children participate in some form of physical activity?
- Do your children have a set bed and/or quiet times?
- How comfortable are your children in expressing their feelings?
- In what ways have you observed your children cope with stress (i.e. peer pressure)?
- How well do your children manage their emotions?
- What drastic lifestyle changes must you make today to ensure that you won’t bury your children?
- How would you want your grandchildren to steward their health and wellness?
- What changes must you make today for the vision you have for your grandchildren’s health and wellness to come to pass?

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

1 Corinthians 6:19
### Example

#### Health & Wellness Reflection

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>High blood pressure (mother); diabetes, liver disease (father); kidney disease, fibroid tumors (maternal grandmother); died of colon cancer (maternal grandfather); died of stroke (paternal grandmother) Grew up with home-cooked meals every day, ate out every day in college Rest was/is valued by previous generation</td>
<td>Diagnosed with hypertension, refuse to take meds Seldom cook Hate exercising Internalize stress Average night sleep 6 hours Hate silence</td>
<td>Son diagnosed with hypertension, also refuses to take meds and is also diabetic He nor his wife cook, eats on the go Plays recreational basketball for exercise Degenerating diseases will not exist in my bloodline.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### My Health & Wellness Reflection

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</table>
### Health & Wellness Strategic Life Plan Draft

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vision</th>
<th>Degenerating disease will not exist in my bloodline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What will your children’s children’s health look like two generations from now?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission</td>
<td>To make a drastic lifestyle change that will impact generations to come that they may live in good health and complete their destiny.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What seeds of health and wellness has God called you to plant in your family that will extend beyond your lifetime?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God’s Promise/Standard</td>
<td>“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers” (3 John 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What Scripture(s) can you stand upon to affirm God’s promise to you concerning health and wellness for your bloodline? What does God require of you?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How will you leverage resources within your hand and within your reach to fulfill your mission and bring the vision God has given you concerning your health and wellness to pass?</td>
<td>Good cook, great influence on grandchildren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are your strengths? What’s in your hand? How will you build upon and leverage these strengths?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are your weaknesses? What barriers are hindering your progress? How will you address/resolve these areas of weakness?</td>
<td>Seldom cook, hate to exercise, always on the move doing something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What opportunities are available? What’s within your reach? How will you exploit available opportunities?</td>
<td>Mentor grandchildren, teach grandchildren how to cook healthy food items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use internet to get nutritional information,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What threats exist? What could potentially inflict harm upon you, your children and/or your children’s children? How will you eliminate existing threats?</td>
<td>Time management - planning to grocery shop and cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What goals can you begin to work on now that can positively impact succeeding generations? What goals can you consider setting for your children and children’s children that are to be achieved beyond your lifetime?</td>
<td>Read Ted Broer’s book on health by March 31, 2007. Beginning today, I commit to a stress relieving activity at least once per month (long bubble bath, massage, movie, pedicure) Prepare healthy Sunday dinner for son’s family twice per month beginning February 2007.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within the next 0-12 months (immediate)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within the next 1-3 years (short-term)</td>
<td>07-08 School year, look to get involved with local PTSA to become more aware of health and wellness issues concerning my grandchildren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within the next 4-10 years (long term)</td>
<td>Work with the children and grandchildren to begin creating a healthy recipe cookbook and fitness plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within your children’s lifetime</td>
<td>Pass along the family’s healthy recipe cookbook and fitness plan from generation to generation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within your children’s children’s lifetime</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What will it cost to bring the vision God has given you to pass?</td>
<td>Give specific thought concerning the provision needed for the vision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time - must learn to manage my time to educate myself on healthy alternatives, shop and prepare meals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discipline - sticking to what I say I will do</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Health & Wellness Strategic Life Plan Draft

### Vision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How healthy and well will your bloodline be two generations from now?</th>
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### Mission

<table>
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<th>What seeds of health and wellness has God called you to plant that will extend beyond your lifetime?</th>
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### God’s Promise/Standard

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### Strategy

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<th>How will you leverage resources within your hand and within your reach to fulfill your mission and bring the vision God has given you concerning your health and wellness to pass?</th>
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<tr>
<th>What are your <strong>strengths</strong>? What’s in your hand? How will you build upon and leverage these strengths?</th>
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<th>What are your <strong>weaknesses</strong>? What barriers are hindering your progress? How will you address/resolve these areas of weakness?</th>
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<th>What <strong>opportunities</strong> are available? What’s within your reach? How will you exploit available opportunities?</th>
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<th>What <strong>threats</strong> exist? What could potentially inflict harm upon you, your children and/or your children’s children? How will you eliminate existing threats?</th>
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### Goals

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Resources

Books


Colbert, D. *Toxic Relief: Restore Health and Energy Through Fasting and Detoxification* by (July, 2003) Siloam Press


Education (On-Line)

Health, United States, 2006
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm

Fast Stats, Individual State Data
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/map_page.htm

National Center for Health Statistics
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/black_health.htm

National Center for Health Statistics
http://www.cdc.gov/omh/Populations/BAA/BAA.htm

Minority Health Resources
http://www.cdc.gov/omh/Partnerships/mhresources.htm

Building a Healthy Body and Soul
http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/cdic/cpns/aa/research.htm

Mind, Body and Soul
www.mindbodysoul.gov.uk

Mind (On-Line)

National Mental Health Information Center
http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/

Mental Health America
http://www.nmha.org/

Mental Health, Self Help & Psychology Information and Resources
http://www.mental-health-matters.com/

GA Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health
http://www.mental-health-matters.com/
**Body (On-Line and Books)**

Georgia’s Nutrition and Physical Nutrition Plan to Prevent Obesity and Chronic Diseases in Georgia

http://health.state.ga.us/pdfs/familyhealth/nutrition/NutritionandPhysicalActivityPlanFINAL.pdf

Live Healthy Georgia campaign

http://livehealthygeorgia.org

Georgia’s Nutrition and Physical Activity Initiative

http://health.state.ga.us/nutandpa/

American Dietetic Association

www.eatright.org

United States Department of Health and Human Services

www.dhhs.gov

The Food Guide Pyramid


Food and Nutrition Information Center


*Russell, Rex (July 1997).* *What the Bible says About Healthy Living. Three Biblical Principles that will Change your Diet and Improve your Health*. Regal Books.


**Emotions (On-Line Resources)**

American Dietetic Association

www.eatright.org

American Academy of Family Physicians

www.familydoctor.org

Helpguide – Mental Health Issues

http://www.helpguide.org/mental_emotional_health.htm

10-minute Emotional Health Check-Up

http://health.ivillage.com/mentalhealth/0,,ph9m,00.html

Promoting Emotional Health and Well-Being through the National Healthy School Standard

Classes

**Christ-Centered Support Groups** allow members minister to one another and experience healing in a community of believers as expressed in 2 Corinthians 1:4 and 1 Thessalonians 5:11. Group topics include divorce recovery, domestic violence, grief, sexual assault and alcohol and substance abuse.

**More Than a Conqueror** is a personal enrichment program and comprehensive approach to helping individuals increase spiritually by overcoming misdirected and damaged emotions.
Community & Civic Engagement

Creating a better future for succeeding generations will require your involvement beyond the four walls of your home and even the church. Better futures for your children and grandchildren are shaped by your involvement in public services and institutions. It also requires your working to make a difference and improving the quality of life in your community, whether at the local, state, national, or international level.

There is an African proverb that says, “It takes a village to raise a child.” If you didn’t experience this personally, you probably can recall stories you have heard of the Big Mamas, Nanas, and Madeas that were readily available to impart wisdom, share a word of encouragement or even a stern rebuke when deemed necessary. Then there were the uncles, big brothers, and cousins on the corner who also kept a watchful eye. Grant it, it’s likely that these “gatekeepers” were of no blood relation, yet there was a genuine concern for the quality of life of their community, and they wanted to see the next generation do well and succeed. What ever happened to the Big Mamas and Uncle Buds? In what ways are you actively involved in the development and rearing of the next generation?

Your involvement does not stop at your local community. Do you realize that you have the opportunity to be a social architect? Yes, you have an opportunity to construct the society in which you live. Remember, you demonstrate the Kingdom when you impact the culture by being a light and a witness of Christ. Whether you are working in the global marketplace, serving on a local advisory board, exercising your right to vote, or writing your representative about proposed legislation that does not align with the word of God and your values – you have the responsibility to move from being a passive observer to becoming an active participant in the life of your community and society.

Have you ever heard of the Social Gospel Movement? This was a period at the beginning of the 20th century when Christians decided to get involved and apply their beliefs as solutions to the problems of the day. Their conscious decision to get involved served as a catalyst in combating issues of injustice, inequality and poverty. One of the most memorable examples of the Social Gospel in action is the Civil Rights Movement under the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It’s more than a century later since the Social Gospel Movement gained momentum in America and more than 40 years since the Civil Rights era. Still, your local community, state, nation and world are still impacted by the same and/or similar issues.

Sure, you volunteer with Re|Present once a year, and you can be counted on to write the check and give to noble causes like Project Destiny, Hosea Feed the Hungry and building the hospitals in Nairobi, Kenya. God still requires more. God has created you to solve a problem. You are the answer to one or many of the social ills facing our community, nation, and world. Your civic engagement makes you an agent of positive social change. Your active involvement in serving your community and will help to improve the quality of life and to create a better future for succeeding generations. You really are a living epistle, and God has ordained that you impact the culture of this age by living Kingdom principles- everywhere you are, in every area of your life.
"Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 1:28

### Reflecting on My Past, Present, and Future

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>History</th>
<th>Present</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What strengths, weaknesses, missed opportunities, and threats are revealed from your history?</td>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>History</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>What did community mean to you as you were growing up?</td>
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<td>How involved were your parents/family members in your community?</td>
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<td>When you were coming up, what were the key social, economic, and political issues that stand out most in your mind?</td>
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<tr>
<td>When were you first exposed to your right and responsibility to vote?</td>
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<td>Were you encouraged to make a difference in society? How?</td>
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<tr>
<td>In what ways did you see others serve as social change agents in your community?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Present</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>How involved are you in your community?</td>
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<td>Do you know your neighbors?</td>
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<td>How often do you volunteer in your community?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are you registered to vote?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you know who serves as your elected officials?</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you identified the political, social, and economic issues that are most important to you?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Have you identified the course of action needed to stand up for those issues that are important to you?</td>
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<tr>
<td>In what ways are you being a social change agent in your community?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Future</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>What does community mean to your children?</td>
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<tr>
<td>How involved are your children in your community?</td>
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<tr>
<td>How often do you observe your children watching the news or taken interest in current affairs?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do your children know who serves as elected officials for your community?</td>
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<td>In what ways have your children been exposed to social, economic, and political processes?</td>
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<td>What social, political, and economic issues are important to your children?</td>
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<td>In what ways are your children being social change agents in the community?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What type of community and society do you desire/envision for your grandchildren?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What changes must you make today for the vision you have for your grandchildren to come to pass?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Example

#### Community & Civic Engagement Reflection

<table>
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#### Grandfather
- High school principal
- Worked with many men in the community to read and write to increase employment opportunities

#### Parents
- Very active in the Civil Rights movement
  - Participated in the March on Washington
  - Active members of SCLC
  - Helped with voter registration

#### Children
- Son involved in the community athletic league (football and basketball)
- Son has gone with me to vote and to one school board meeting

#### Future
- My Community & Civic Engagement Reflection
  - Children
  - Children’s Children

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*My Community & Civic Engagement Reflection*

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#### Grandfather
- Worked with many men in the community to read and write to increase employment opportunities

#### Parents
- Very active in the Civil Rights movement
  - Participated in the March on Washington
  - Active members of SCLC
  - Helped with voter registration

#### Children
- Vote in all major elections
- Volunteer annually with Hosea Feed the Hungry
- Give clothes annually to local shelter
- Previously asked to work with the neighborhood Homeowners Association but declined because of time

#### Future
- Son involved in the community athletic league (football and basketball)
- Son has gone with me to vote and to one school board meeting

#### Children
- Don’t want them to be followers and go with the flow.
- Would like to see them serve in leadership positions throughout the community using their influence to make recommendations that design policies that positively impact society and reflect Christ in the earth

---
# Community & Civic Engagement Strategic Life Plan Draft

## Vision

What will your children’s children’s society look like two generations from now?  

**My children’s children will be trendsetters in all areas of society, using their influence to make recommendations that design policies that positively impact society and reflect Christ in the earth.**

## Mission

What seeds of community and civic engagement has God called you to plant in your family that will extend beyond your lifetime?  

To be a leader and a trendsetter that reflects Christ in society.

## God’s Promise/Standard

What Scripture(s) can you stand upon to affirm God’s promise to you concerning community and civic engagement for your bloodline? What does God require of you?  

“Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Genesis 1:28)

## Strategy

How will you leverage resources within your hand and within your reach to fulfill your vision and bring the vision God has given you concerning your community and civic engagement to pass?  

- **Organization and administrative skills**
- **Very strong dislike for bureaucracy and red tape**
- **Homeowner’s association, PTA, local boards, legislative hearings, town hall meetings**
- **Representation that isn’t reflective of my beliefs and values. Similar to no vote, no voice - I can’t expect change if I’m not willing to participate in the process.**

## Goals

Within the next 0-12 months (immediate)  

By the end of February, I will seek out opportunities to serve as part of my community board or the local school where my son attends.

Within the next 1-3 years (short-term)  

Learn more about the issues by reading the paper, watching debates, attending events with candidates. Expose my son to the same knowledge.

Within the next 4-10 years (long term)  

Make sure my son is registered to vote on his 18th birthday.

Within your children’s lifetime  

Create a scrapbook of (paper clippings and photos) of my grandfather’s, parents’ and my active involvement in the community.

Within your children’s children’s lifetime  

To have my grandchildren’s contributions to society added to the family’s scrapbook of community involvement.

## Budget

What will it cost to bring the vision God has given you to pass?  

Give specific thought concerning the provision needed for the vision  

Taking the time to learn more about the issues. Willingness and patience to sharing my knowledge, skills, and abilities as a contribution to positive change.
# Community & Civic Engagement Strategic Life Plan Draft

## Vision

What will your children’s children’s society look like two generations from now?

## Mission

What seeds of community and civic engagement has God called you to plant in your family that will extend beyond your lifetime?

## God’s Promise/Standard

What Scripture(s) can you stand upon to affirm God’s promise to you concerning community and civic engagement for your bloodline? What does God require of you?

## Strategy

How will you leverage resources within your hand and within your reach to fulfill your mission and bring the vision God has given you concerning your community and civic engagement to pass?

| What are your strengths? What’s in your hand? How will you build upon and leverage these strengths? |
| What are your weaknesses? What barriers are hindering your progress? How will you address/resolve these areas of weakness? |
| What opportunities are available? What’s within your reach? How will you exploit available opportunities? |
| What threats exist? What could potentially inflict harm upon you, your children and/or your children’s children? How will you eliminate existing threats? |

## Goals

What goals can you begin to work on now that can positively impact succeeding generations? What goals can you consider setting for your children and children’s children that are to be achieved beyond your lifetime?

- Within the next 0-12 months (immediate)
- Within the next 1-3 years (short-term)
- Within the next 4-10 years (long term)
- Within your children’s lifetime
- Within your children’s children’s lifetime

## Budget

What will it cost to bring the vision God has given you to pass? Give specific thought concerning the provision needed for the vision
Resources

Education
Individual Community Profiles
http://www.dca.state.ga.us/commind/Sel2.asp

Service Opportunities
Hands on Atlanta Volunteer Opportunities
www.handsonatlanta.org

Big Brothers Big Sisters
www.bbbs.org

United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta
http://www.unitedwayatlanta.org/d0-donate_get_involved.asp

American Red Cross – Atlanta Metropolitan Chapter
http://www.atlantaredcross.org/site/c.csJLKZPLJvH/b.992145/k.7356/Get_Emergency_Help_Now.htm

Atlanta Habitat for Humanity – Building Houses, Building Hope
http://www.atlantahabitat.org/

Volunteer Match – Where Volunteering Begins
http://www.volunteermatch.org/bymsa/m520/c/opp1.html

SERVEnet
http://www.servenet.org/

Volunteers of America
http://www.voa.org/

Awareness
Department of Community Affairs
http://www.dca.state.ga.us/communities/Volunteerism/index.asp

Dekalb Public Engagement
http://www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/public/

Georgia Project for Active Civic Engagement (PACE)
http://georgiapace.org/

Georgia Department of Community Affairs
http://www.dca.state.ga.us/
County Government

DeKalb County, Georgia
http://www.co.dekalb.ga.us/

Fulton County, Georgia
http://www.co.fulton.ga.us/

Newton County Board of Commissioners
http://www.co.newton.ga.us/

Rockdale County, Georgia
http://www.rockdalecounty.org