

Personal Missions

by Barry Koren, 10/5/13

A personal mission guides us on what we want to accomplish in life. It's a statement of your beliefs and values and what you hope to accomplish in life. <http://learningtogive.org/youthworkers/03glossary.asp>

- ▶ "There is no right or wrong way to write a personal mission statement. A personal mission statement 'provides clarity and gives you a sense of purpose.' It helps define 'who you are and how you will live.' It is a guide to help you down the road of life. If it's meaningful to you, then that's all that matters, after all, you're going to be living by it." <http://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Personal-Mission-Statement>

Proposal. We are here to support each other in our work, including our personal missions. Each of us make our missions specific enough so that we can hold each other accountable. Otherwise, what's the point of saying it in circle.

Sources of Inspiration

- ▶ Quotes
 - ▶ "Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself" –George Bernard Shaw
 - ▶ "Logic will take you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere." –Einstein
 - ▶ "I destroy my enemies when I make them my friends." –Abraham Lincoln
 - ▶ "In absence of clearly defined goals, we become strangely loyal to performing daily acts of trivia." www.quotes.cl
- ▶ What do you love about your life? Your work? Your family, friends, and other relationships?
- ▶ If you had unlimited resources and unlimited time, what would you choose to do?

Examples

- ▶ The most famous mission statement in 50 years. It combines a purpose, mission, and vision.
"I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth."
– JFK, Man on the Moon Speech to Joint Session of Congress May 25, 1961
All seven key components for a vision are there: who (the nation), what (land on the moon), how (land a man on the moon), the promise (return him safely), geographic focus (The USA in particular, but the message was to the world), the goal (land a man on the moon and return him safely), and when (by the end of the decade.)
http://www.clintburdett.com/process/11_documents/documents_01_3_jfk_vision.htm#.UIBPYYQ18E
- ▶ More examples: http://www.franklincovey.com/msb/inspired/mission_statement_examples
- ▶ Benjamin Franklin's list of values and definitions:
 - ▶ Temperance: Eat not to dullness; drink not to elevation.
 - ▶ Silence: Speak not but what may benefit others or yourself; avoid trifling conversation.
 - ▶ Order: Let all your things have their places; let each part of your business have its time.
 - ▶ Resolution: Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve.
 - ▶ Frugality: Make no expense but to do good to others or yourself; i.e., waste nothing.
 - ▶ Industry: Lose no time; be always employed in something useful; cut off all unnecessary actions.
 - ▶ Sincerity: Use no hurtful deceit; think innocently and justly, and, if you speak, speak accordingly.
 - ▶ Justice: Wrong none by doing injuries, or omitting the benefits that are your duty.
 - ▶ Moderation: Avoid extremes; forbear resenting injuries so much as you think they deserve.
 - ▶ Cleanliness: Tolerate no uncleanness in body, clothes, or habitation.
 - ▶ Tranquility: Be not disturbed at trifles, or at accidents common or unavoidable.
 - ▶ Chastity: Rarely use venery but for health or offspring, never to dullness, weakness, or the injury of your own or another's peace or reputation.
- ▶ Martin Luther King, Jr.'s I have a Dream:
...I say to you today, my friends. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood... I have a dream that my four little

children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today!

I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama... little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today!

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together."

This is our hope, and this is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day...

From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And when this happens, when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual:

Free at last! Free at last!

Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!

- ▶ Erma Bombeck. "If I had my life to live over," written by Erma Bombeck near the end of her life, details the values Bombeck wished had guided her daily decisions.

If I had my life to live over, I would have talked less and listened more. I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained and the sofa faded. I would have eaten the popcorn in the 'good' living room and worried much less about the dirt when someone wanted to light a fire in the fireplace. I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth. I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed. I would have burned the pink candle sculpted like a rose before it melted in storage. I would have sat on the lawn with my children and not worried about grass stains. I would have cried and laughed less while watching television - and more while watching life. I would have shared more of the responsibility carried by my husband. I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for the day. I would never have bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil or was guaranteed to last a lifetime. Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle. When my kids kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later. Now go get washed up for dinner." There would have been more "I love you's" .. More "I'm sorrys" ... But mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute... look at it and really see it ... live it...and never give it back.

- ▶ "The mission of our family is to create a nurturing place of order, love, happiness, and relaxation, and to provide opportunities for each person to become responsibly independent and effectively interdependent, in order to achieve worthwhile purposes."
- ▶ "I will build personal, business, and civic relationships by giving, in frequent little ways."
- ▶ Google's mission statement: "To make the world's information universally accessible and useful"
- ▶ "Facebook's mission is to give people the power to share and make the world more open and connected."
- ▶ "eBay's mission is to provide a global trading platform where practically anyone can trade practically anything."
- ▶ Vision statement: "We help the families of Main Town live happier and healthier lives by providing the freshest, tastiest and most nutritious local produce: From local farms to your table in under 24 hours."