

Developing Your Personal Mission Statement

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Guidelines and Worksheet

Introduction

This Worksheet will guide you in developing a Personal Mission Statement, to help you live intentionally and fruitfully in your Personal Mission Field.

This Worksheet is a companion to the Personal Mission Field Worksheet available at the Fellowship of Ailbe.*

A Personal Mission Statement functions like the North Star to guide you in seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33) in your daily walk with Christ. We live in a time of rapid change, and the world is coming at us at an ever-increasing pace. This rate of change is increasing because the world system is built on a foundation of shifting sand, and the follower of Christ must navigate through a world that does not recognize or submit to the Kingdom of Jesus.

However, what is true yesterday, today, and forevermore is that Jesus Christ is on the throne; and as His ambassadors, we owe it to our King to seize the day and live to His glory.

How are we to go about accomplishing this task?

First, we must recognize that during all of our life, we are living in a Mission Field, and every day is an opportunity to know more of God and His glory.

The Christian must fix his gaze on glorifying God. We glorify God by intentionally living up to the Personal Mission that God has prepared for us since the foundation of time (Ephesians 2:10).

Prayerfully developing a Personal Mission Statement is a step in that direction.

Developing a Personal Mission Statement involves a process of asking yourself, your closest Christian friends, and the Holy Spirit a series of questions that can hone your vision for serving the people in your Personal Mission Field. Your Personal Mission *Field* indicates the people and places that God is sending you to on a daily basis. A Personal Mission *Statement* helps you focus your energies on your particular calling to love and serve those to whom God sends you as His Kingdom ambassador.

Developing a Personal Mission Statement must be covered in and surrounded continuously with prayer. Ask your close Christian friends to be praying for you throughout the formation of your Personal Mission Statement. Prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to guide you throughout the entire process. Leave plenty of room for His prompting and be willing to be obedient to His leading. The guidelines that follow will lead you to develop a Personal Mission Statement that can make working your Personal Mission Field a daily adventure of following Jesus and seeking His Kingdom.

* If you have not yet mapped out your Personal Mission Field, go to the website of The Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org. Click the Resources tab, then scroll down to Ailbe Videos. Once there, scroll down to the video entitled Personal Mission Field. Watch the video, download the PDF Worksheet below the video, and map out your Personal Mission Field.

Step One: Waiting on the Lord

To begin this process, spend some time in solitude with your Bible and a way to record your thoughts. Begin your session praying through Psalm 46. Then reflect in writing on the following questions:

1. What needs am I most aware of in the people in my Personal Mission Field? What keeps coming up in conversations? What do I hear about from them? What do I observe?
2. What spiritual gifts and talents have I been given for serving the body of Christ and the people in my Personal Mission Field? What do I consider to be my strengths? How can I improve these? Which gifts do I lack? How can I develop these gifts more fully, so that I use them more consistently?
3. Reflect on your walk with the Lord. Where have you felt God's pleasure as you served others? In what situations and settings has this most frequently occurred? Describe this as vividly as you can. Who was present? What were you doing that brought you into the pleasure of the Lord? In what environment did this experience occur? What reaction from others did you receive during this time? Did you tell people about this experience? What smells and colors were present during this time in your life? Be specific and paint a picture of these times when you knew the pleasure of the Lord most fully.
4. What burdens you in your soul? That is, what keeps coming up in your prayers, studies, thinking, daily life, and dreams that you feel strongly drawn to address, or make some effort to change or affect?

5. After you have completed the above questions, search the Scriptures for examples and exhortations that correlate with your answers. Record these Scriptures with a short a summary of the key points.

Summary to Step One

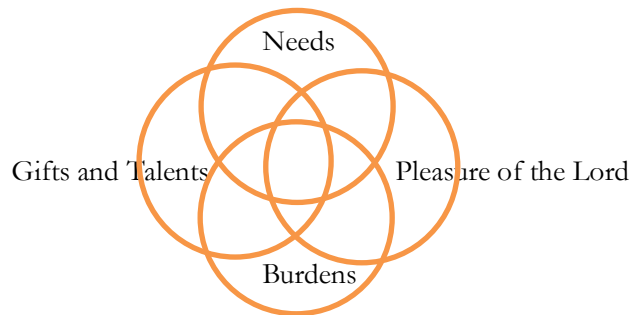
Summarize in writing the most important insights that have emerged during this first step in the process of developing your Personal Mission Statement:

Step Three: Review and Clarify

Review all the work you have done in Steps 1 and 2 above. Then reflect on the following questions.

1. What trends seem to be emerging? List your answers below and assign a number to each answer. Don't worry about getting your answers in some kind of order; just record them as you think of them, giving a number to each one.

2. Think of a Venn diagram with the categories you have been examining represented in four circles, one for each of the first four questions in Step One. Assign to each circle below the answers you gave to question 1 above, using only the numbers for each answer:



The “sweet spot” of this diagram is where all four of these matters come together. Can you think of a situation that occurred in your Personal Mission Field that might represent this “sweet spot,” this coming together of needs, gifts, burdens, and the Lord’s pleasure? In this situation, how can you see all four of these matters coming together? How does this situation “feel” as you reflect on it?

Spend some time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to show you how that “sweet spot” experience could be more consistently present in your work in your Personal Mission Field. At this point, you should be starting to develop a compelling vision of how these various answers can work together to SERVE/DISCIPLE/LOVE those in your Personal Mission Field. Remember that the Holy Spirit can accomplish immeasurably more than we have ever experienced or could ever imagine, so dream big! (Ephesians 3:20). Make some notes below in response to your time of prayer:

3. Now pull those notes together into a single statement, which defines what your life would be if you could know that “sweet spot” experience in everything, you do. What would you be doing? When? With whom? **This will provide the content for a first draft of your Personal Mission Statement:**

Summary to Step Three

As clearly and succinctly as you can, write a first draft of your Personal Mission Statement. Complete the following statement: “In calling me to His Kingdom and glory (1 Thess. 2:12), God has given me the mission of...

Step Four: Sharpen Your Focus

Take out your Personal Mission Field and use the questions that follow to review the people and places where God is sending you each week. Write your Personal Mission Statement on a 3x5 card, and review it as you work through each of the questions in this Step.

1. Prayerfully meditate on Psalm 90.12, 16, 17. How do you see yourself serving the people in your Personal Mission Field, based on your first draft of your Personal Mission Statement? Imagine yourself interacting with each person and place of your Personal Mission Field in the light of your newly declared Personal Mission Statement. Would your conversations and attitudes look different if, before engaging these, you meditated on your Personal Mission Statement? Explain:

2. Review the Venn diagram from Step 3. Which of those circles needs some “beefing-up” for you to become more consistent and effective in working your Personal Mission Field? What can you do to bring more focus to each of those circles?

3. Begin to imagine how different your Personal Mission Field will look as you wholeheartedly obey the vision of service that the Holy Spirit has led you to define. Below, describe one or two scenarios that you might actually encounter in the coming week. Explain how your Personal Mission Statement will guide you to prepare for and engage those opportunities:

Summary of Step Four

Where do you expect to see immediate improvement in applying your Personal Mission Statement to your Personal Mission Field?

Step Five: Share and Consult

Gather again with your Christian friends and review the initial draft of your Personal Mission Statement. Seek their counsel and insight on your efforts.

1. Share your Summaries to Steps 3 and 4, together with some of the examples or scenarios you recorded in those steps. Record your friends' responses and suggestions below:

2. After a time of prayer, revise and adapt your Personal Mission Statement, incorporating their feedback. Share with your friends your revised Statement and invite their responses.

3. Repeat this exercise with your wife.

Step Five Summary

Record your revised Personal Mission Statement below:

Step Six: Plan of Action

Set a plan to begin living out your Personal Mission, paying special attention to the long-term vision of what that mission will involve, and the next steps you need to take to implement the plan. Watch the brief video provided to guide you through this process.

The key to establishing this new walk is to articulate as clearly as possible your vision of what you will look like in your Personal Mission Field as you pursue your Personal Mission Statement. Then you can set plans that will help you flesh out that vision through specific actions over a set period.

Develop a four-year plan, broken down into one-year plans (reviewed and revised annually), and work at your annual plan month by month and week by week. Pray daily about your plan and continue to work your plan until it becomes second nature and you begin realizing more of your personal vision.

Planning Template

Psalm 90.12, 16, 17

Project:

Today

Objectives

G O A L S	A C T I V I T I E S	1	2	3	4	5					

James 4.13-15