

Daniel- MBA 600- Major Project 1

Dr. Renz

The Life Purpose Discovery of Jacinta M Daniel

# Introduction

As a child, my parents were unable to raise myself and my younger sister due to their careers and having to be away from home majority of the time.  At the age of 3, I was sent along with my sister to be raised by my paternal grandparents in Atlanta, Georgia.  My grandparents were both poorly educated, yet were very kind and extremely wise.  There were very few days where they did not work.  As a young person, I was provided with a very strict, but a rigorous Catholic education.  I attended the best private schools and were given the best opportunities that a young adult had to offer.  Even with these great gifts, I found myself not understanding a lot about my circumstances and where life was supposed to take me.  I believed in God and I accepted Jesus Christ, but I did not know where my place in the world was.  I did not know what I was meant to do.   Looking back on those times, I found that I was probably very unhappy.  I didn’t understand why my real parents weren’t as active in my life as that of my other relatives and friends.  It was very confusing for me.  My grandfather would tell me not to worry so much.  That as long as I was a good girl, finished school, and had the ability to work, I would do well in this world.  My grandmother would constantly quote the bible.  Her favorite was Psalm 121, “I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and Earth. He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber (*Psalm 121*).”

It wasn’t until both of my grandparents died, my grandmother when I was 16 and my grandfather when I was 25,that I started to understand what they were trying to teach me growing up.  As an adolescent, I thought that my life’s purpose was to make other’s happy by being a “Good Girl” , “Get Good Grades”, “Get a ‘Good’ Job”, and “Not Messing Up”.  I am now 38.  With all of life’s trials and tribulations, I have learned something about myself.  This is one of the best gifts that God can ever give you- self- discovery!   In John Mulford’s, *Don’t Waste Your Life*, I truly see where the four dimensions of my personality have changed over time by keeping the foundations of my personal values instilled in me by my grandparents.  I have gone from accommodating to directing, allowing my decisions and voice to be heard.  And even though I consider myself to be strategic and methodical, I love the idea of being spontaneous and renewed.

Having said all of the above (so deep from within myself), below is my Life’s Purpose Statement:

 ***To add value to myself and others through the help of God.***

***To provide true help to uplift others in their success in life via business and personal tracks.***

 This project will demonstrate the following:

* How my faith directs my thoughts and steps in life.
* What strategic and methodical steps I must take to execute my Life Purpose.
* How I plan to apply my faith in everyday situations to help myself and others to become successful via my career and personal endeavors.

# What on Earth am I Doing Here?

“In him we were also chosen , having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will (Ephesians 1:11).” In order to understand one’s life purpose, you have to understand God’s purpose. As a Christian, I do not believe that I was put on the Earth by mistake. I know that God has specifically given me a distinct and exclusive group of talents that he utilizes only through me. Even if I had the biggest aspirations that I could muster, such as starting a family, having a “dream job”, or driving that shiny sports car I really like, God would still have his infinite plan for what my life’s purpose would be. In order to fullfill my life’s purpose, I must explain how God plays such a significant role in my life. I have a very simplistic view on my prioties and in which order they fall. God is first in my life, next is myself, then my family, and then others and my work. My life’s purpose begins with God…

# Glory to God- Putting Him First

In Rick Warren’s, The Purpose Driven Life, he states that “when anything in creation fulfills its’ purpose, it brings glory to God. God gives us different passions so that everything he wants done in the world will get done (Warren).” Throughout my upbringing, I had to find a purpose and place for where God belonged. As a child, I was told that he came first. This did not necessarily mean that I thought he should have come first. When you are in a situation that allows you to question a lot of things regarding life, you find yourself prioritizing people or things around you that have prioritized you. Or even better, you listen to those you trust and prioritize as they would. My life’s priorities did not start off with God or myself as it does today. It started out with My Family and others, which is the total reverse to the diagram above. At that moment in time, I wanted to do whatever I could to be around my family and friends. See, they were physically present, something that I could actually see and speak with. I wanted what appeared to be what my family and friends had or possessed and that was love.

Because God was something that I could not physically see, along with my parents, I didn’t consider or understand where I was a priority to either. I would sit in mass 2-3 time a week, and it still never clicked into my brain that God was present in my life. The priest would explain that “just like you can’t see air, you have to see it to know that you are breathing it.” That explained a lot and made sense to me. So I never questioned whether or not God was real. I did however, questioned what could God do for me as my father. My biological father and mother were away, was he away too?

It wasn’t until my grandmother died, that I started to see God in a different light. I was 15 years old at the time, and my grandmother suffered a tough battle with Breast Cancer. Prior to this medical incident, I had prided myself with wanting to be a doctor. I wanted to be able to help and save others from being sick (My original thought as to what my Life’s Purpose was supposed to be). However, when my grandmother had gotten sick, God revealed so much to me that I was overwhelmed. I found myself praying to him for answers and asking him to heal her. I prayed to God and asked him to help the doctors and nurses that were caring for my grandmother. I wanted her well and not suffering anymore. Then the “worst thing in the world happened”….. She died. I was mad with God. I had prayed to him, because that was what my life had reflected. “Call on the Lord” the priests would say. “Give it to God and let him handle it” is what others would say.

At the repast, I was in a zone. My idea of becoming a doctor was out of the window. There was no way I could be the one to lose a patient in my care and face their family with saying “we did all we could for her and she fought as hard as she could”. Did God remove another parent from my life? Or did he actually answer my prayers? I remember my Great- Aunt sitting next to me and saying that “to be absent with the body is to be present with the Lord.” Did I just give my grandmother to God?! How selfish of me. My grandmother had indeed fought the good fight.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die,

A time to plant and a time to uproot,

A time to kill and a time to heal,

A time to tear down and a time to build.

A time to weep and a time to laugh,

A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them,

A time to embrace and a time to refrain,

A time to search and a time to give up,

A time to keep and a time to throw away,

A time to tear and a time to mend,

A time to be silent and a time to speak,

A time to love and a time to hate,

A time for war and a time for peace.

What does the worker gain from his toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on men. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do go while they live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil- this is the gift of God. I know that everything God does will endure forever, nothing can be added to it and nothing can be taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him (Holy Bible: New International Version).”

Indeed, God had answered my prayers and took away my grandmother’s suffering and pain. He took her to be with him. Now I understood, that allowing God to be at the center of my world, was indeed important and the “top” priority. It would be many years later before I would realize that the next priority should be myself.

# All About Jacinta….

I have never been a selfish person. I always had the notion that if you were nice and helped others, you were doing the work of the Lord, you were living the life of a kind spirited person. My real father would make comments about me. He would tell me not to be so kind. That others would take my kindness for a weakness and take advantage of me. This I found to be true! I was actually doing for others with the expectation that in return they would do something for me. Nothing of a material or monetary fashion, but that maybe I could receive their love, their friendship, their help during my time of need. That maybe if I did for someone else and helped them, then that person would never leave me. I am such the loyal, supportive, and giving friend. Why would you want to take advantage of such a person? Here I had God in my vision, trying to walk the walk and talk the talk of his word, and then there were people who were taking advantage of me as a person. The question of keeping God centered came back into play.

It was at this time, that I went to God again and asked him, why am I being used when I am trying to live in your likeness? Why am I not happy? Peter in the bible states, “Don’t be bewildered or surprised when you go through the fiery trials ahead, for this is no strange, unusual thing that is going to happen to you (1 Peter 4:12).” These trials and tribulations in effect, allowed me to become closer to God, not just to be more like him. This allowed me to think of myself first and then present my gifts and talents to others.

Even when you are a passenger on an airline, the stewardess always instructs you to place the oxygen mask on yourself first, before helping others around you.

# My Family, Friends, Work, & Others

I always find it interesting when one transitions from a child to an adult. I graduated college at 21 and watch out world, here I come. Doing what was initially set out for me, I started my career 2 weeks after graduation with a Major Food Corporation as a Sales Representative. The job came with benefits, a computer, and even a company car! I didn’t even have these things at home. Jackpot right?! Every day I went to work with so much joy in my heart. I felt fulfilled in nature and I was finally subduing as stated in *Genesis* (Holy Bible: New International Version). My job was to sell sales programs and introduce new grocery items to local retail grocery stores. I was smart, tenacious, and ready to take on becoming the greatest Sales Rep ever! My goal was to keep pushing until I had made my way to the top. And in hindsight, I think this was my 5 year goal! Silly me… I guess, I was going to work my way up the corporate ladder and become CEO of my company in 5 years. Up until this point, I didn’t have a plan. Not a real one that constituted my life or how my life would from then on affect others. My entire focus had shifted from GOD and Myself to Work, Family, Friends, and Others.

In Timothy Keller’s, *Every Good Endeavor,* Keller proves my above thought process in relations to my view on work. “One of the reasons work is both fruitless and pointless is the powerful inclination of the human heart to make work, and its attendant benefits, the main basis of one’s meaning and identity. When this happens, work is no longer a way to create and bring out wonders of the created order, as Calvin would say, or to be an instrument of God’s providence, serving the basic needs of our neighbor, as Luther would say. Instead, it becomes a way to distinguish myself from my neighbor, to show the world and prove to myself that I am special. It is a way to accumulate power and security, and to exercise control over my destiny (Keller).” Wow!

Have you ever been to a Christmas party? I always find it funny when you are in a circle of “friends”, and then someone speaks up and asks, do you know “John” over there? You reply that you don’t, and the first thing the person says is “Oh yeah, John is a Doctor at Sentara”. Now John could be a fabulous doctor and at the same time be a really neat, down to Earth kind of guy as well. I always wonder why the character of so said “John” is not mentioned first. He is now presented as a doctor. Isn’t this supposed to be a Christmas Party? Now automatically, I am going to treat and have a conversation with John as a doctor, not a friend, not a colleague, or someone who may even share the same interests as I do. I am going to automatically turn my professional face on and conduct myself accordingly. Why? Because I have already put a label to John and therefore, I am not going to put my super friendly face on. He is now viewed as a person of profession in my mind. The irony of the whole situation, is that “John” is not asking or requesting that anyone calls him Dr. John or that he has to reveal that he is a doctor at all. He also thought that he too was coming to a Christmas party, not a LinkedIn social hour.

My intention of the above example, was to show that your career can sometimes become the definition of who you are. People no longer treat you for the Jacinta that you truly are or meant to be. New people that enter into your life, who are unaware of your background, and in most cases, you would rather not share your background, begin to explore who you really are. You put on your professional face, not your spiritual face, or friendly face, or even your caring and loving face. This not only gives others and colleagues at work a different interpretation of who you are, but it also takes away from your focus on God and your life’s purpose.

Your family members may even start to view you different, “Jacinta has a good job”. Really? I also make a really great spaghetti sauce too, but that is not what we talk about anymore at the table. It is a constant rotation from person to person, as to how was your day at work? Joel Osteen in his book, *Your Best Life Now* states “It is crucial that we see ourselves as God sees us, since we will never rise above the image that we have of ourselves. If we see ourselves as barely making it, always having problems, never happy, we will subconsciously move toward that sort of life. To move forward in life, we must change our focus. We must believe. If you get into agreement with God, if you’ll focus on your possibilities, your faith can cause God to show up and work supernaturally in your life. Your faith will help you overcome your obstacles and allow you to reach new levels of victory. But it’s up to you. It depends on your outlook. Are you focused on your problems or are you focused on God (Osteen)?”

 (Moore)

# Moving On to my Life’s Purpose

As stated in my introduction, my Life’s Purpose consists of two parts:

##  ***To add value to myself and others through the help of God.***

Looking back on my childhood, I feel that it was quite prophetic in my foundations to serve this Life’s Purpose. The dictionary defines value as “the regard that something is held to deserve; the importance, the worth, or usefulness of something (Oxford Dictionaries).” I possess an infinite number of what people consider values or valuables. However, there is only a small list of values that I seek to return to the world and all that is in it every day: Honesty, Love, Kindness, Spirituality, and Wisdom.

**Honesty** is sometimes a very hard thing to hear or understand, even if you are saying it to yourself. No one wants to look in the mirror and see all of their truth. It may shame them or hinder them from understanding what is really inside of their true self. The right approach to honesty is in its’ deliverance. Truth and honesty can be a determining factor in wise decision making. My goal is to present my honesty or my truth in a fashion that actually helps myself to overcome obstacles and to help others with how they approach themselves.

**Love** is such a small, but super powerful word. God loves us though tough love and that is the way that we need to learn to love each other. Mary Jean Irion is quoted as saying, “Normal Day, Let me be aware of the treasure you are. Let me learn from you, Love you, bless you before you depart. Let me not pass you by in the quest of some rare and perfect tomorrow (Kobi Yamada).”

**Kindness** is commonly spoken of in the bible regarding the life and mission of Jesus. Matthew 25:37-40 states “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go visit you?’ The King will reply ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’ (Holy Bible: New International Version).” There used to be a time where people did not question a person’s motive, they saw a need and met it with a kind heart. As time progressed and things became more scandalous, people looked to the church to help them with their needs. Now, church can be viewed online or on television. Not many people take time out of their busy schedule anymore to just VOLUNTEER themselves for the sheer meaning of kindness. My strong and desirable hope is that God has provided my gift of being KIND as something that I can show towards myself and others. I want to be able to provide kindness without expectation. Whether it is by giving someone a second chance in their career as a manager of people or literally sparing what little or big change I have to the person that is looking for his or her next meal, I want my acts of kindness to be like that of Jesus Christ.

**Spirituality and Wisdom**- Yes! There is such a thing as being smart and spiritual. Most of the leaders of our country and world are both. For instance, our great Leader Pat Robertson, is a pioneer in evangelism, a profound businessman, a founder of an institution of higher learning, and the list goes on. An unwise or unfaithful man could not have made as many accomplishments without God’s purpose and grace. Pat Robertson is quoted by saying a prayer everyday: “Oh Lord in this life, grant me the knowledge of thy truth and in the world to come life everlasting (Robertson).” What a way to inspire others in your everyday life! I pray that my wisdom and spirituality allows me to make smart and spiritual decisions that will have a positive impact for myself and all other things around me.

## ***To provide true help to uplift others in their success in life via business and personal tracks.***

There is much to say about the Beatitudes in regard to my additional Life’s Purpose. In Bruce Winston’s lecture*: Beatitudes- Blessed Are Those That Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness for They Will Be Filled* Winston gives us insight “to seek what is holy, just, righteous and equitable (Winston, http://www.regent.edu/admin/media/fms/vod/bcovePlayerURL.cfm?address=5000650).” We should create environments that are good for people at work, home, school, our communities, and/ or church. I believe that it is of the essence that my life’s purpose is to utilize my talents to uplift and help people to achieve personal and spiritual growth throughout their daily lives. I myself, would like to engage my natural abilities to help people with their personal and professional transitions. I love helping people. I love to see others do well. If I am a manager of people, then my success shouldn’t be measured by how well trained my team is or how many great results that we are able to return to the company. It should be measured by the fulfillment that my team has when they come in and leave our work environment. In dealing with people on a personal level, I want to be able to give in order for someone else to become successful. What does this look like? If you are in a position to help someone who doesn’t know how to read or use a computer, you should be able to help that person improve on those skills. If you are an expert at personal finance and you have a friend or family member that is financially struggling, you should be more than glad to show them a better strategy to help themselves. It is not just about passing by the beggar and placing change in his cup. It is about praying for that beggar, asking God to help uplift his/ her spirit and see what it is you may be able to do for that person.



We learn in Bruce Winston’s lecture: Beatitudes- *Blessed Are the Pure at Heart Because They Will See God*, that there should be no hidden agenda when it comes to our life’s purpose. This idea thinks in the long term, not the short term (Winston).”

# my Career & Life Purpose, How will they blend?

In the earlier portion of this paper, I mentioned that I started my career as a Sales Representative for a major consumer foods company. Throughout my tenure there, which was a total of 15 years, I have managed money, customers, national accounts, and most importantly people. This has had to be the best experience of my life. It has given me the hardest times and yet the best of times. A career can have so many obstacles, yet so many rewards. I absolutely loved my job, but yet I was very unhappy as an employee there. I had received many rewards and promotions throughout my years. I continued with the original creed that my grandparents had taught me early on about working hard and getting (keeping) a “good job”. The other thing that kept me working there was my own personal endeavor to maintain my loyalty. I did not want to give up just because I was having a bad day or because I didn’t get what I thought should have been the recognition that I deserved. I wanted to stick with the program through thick and thin, because this is what I would want someone else to do for me….. This is not how corporate America works. I learned many lessons with my career and this lesson was the hardest to overcome. After 15 years of dedicated service and having spent more than 50 to 60 hours a week at work, I was given a severance package in April of 2015. At first, I have to admit that I was devastated, all that time, all that work. What was I going to do to next?

I constantly remind myself that the book of Job has 42 chapters. It wasn’t until chapter 42 that Job actually begin to see where his faithfulness and patience paid off. I now consider myself in Job’s chapter 35 or 36. I truly believe that it is a blessing that God gave me the experiences and allowed me to meet so many people that will life-long colleagues and friends. Keller states that “God does not simply create; he also loves, cares for, and nurtures his creation. He feeds and protects all he has made (Keller).” I know that God continues to show me different aspects of all of his creation, both good and bad. I also know that he is not done with me yet. I am thankful to God for showing me that I am more than just a career title like “Dr. John”.

Moving forward, I plan to continue on my path to where God is currently leading me. Even though I have had a “bump in the road” from a career standpoint, doesn’t mean that I stop learning. I will continue to add value to myself and others with the help of God, utilizing all of my key values every day. I find myself relating to Pat Robertson when he also faced adversity during his time of deciding on when to go into ministry. I read his autobiography over 12 years ago. I never thought that during that time, I would ever be good enough to get into a graduate program at Regent University. I was a career woman. I wanted to be the CEO in less than 5 years, remember? It amazes me still that God had and still has his plan for me in place, even when I don’t understand it or see it.

Since my time of severance, I have had much time to think about what the next steps for me will be. I am still undecided. What I do know is that I want to be the best ME that I can muster. I want to continue to do the things that I love to do most and that is certainly surrounding myself with helping others. Jackie Johnson writes in her book *Power Prayers for Women*, that “When we pray, we should ask God to center us on Him and His good purposes. He will help us find the balance we need in our work and life. We can pray for the ability and desire to serve with excellence, whether we have a paying job or a job from home (Johnson).”

# Time is money…

In Economics, we are taught that there is a cost benefit to just about everything we do in our daily lives. Both time and money are considered very valuable resources. I could very easily get any kind of job anywhere. I am currently in the position in which I have the time. Or, I could hear my calling and decide what would be the very best investment of my time right now. I have been in a position where having a steady pay check allowed me to afford a variety of wonderful things. All things considered, those material items were just that… material and true blessings from God. My faith leads me to believe that God will continue to provide me with time and all of the other major necessities in life. When my parents could no longer care for me, he gave me two wonderful grandparents. When my grandmother was fighting for her life with Cancer, God took away her pain and suffering. It is truly through my faith, that I know God is real!

During my time in Catholic School, I was given the task of performing an Easter speech. I could not have been older than maybe 7 or 8 years old. I went to my grandfather to ask him for his help. He and I practiced an Easter Speech that he himself said every Easter as a child.

“Easter is a happy time,

Flowers make it so.

I like to plant the little seeds,

And watch the flowers grow”

Such a small speech continues to give me so much meaning till this day. My grandparents were raised very poor. Majority of their lives was built around farming. Farming to them was their way of prosperity. When you surround yourself with people that are just like yourself, you find that there is very little competition. Poor people tend to support other poor people. They are unable to provide any money, but they often have a way of making sure that the basic needs are met throughout the community. If one farmer planted fruits and another farmer planted vegetables, it was a fair trade among the community. John Mulford explains that “the very first pillar of a life purpose discovery model is the view from our past (Mulford).” I am so thankful that two 6th grade educated people were my grandparents who laid such a wonderful foundation of faith and wisdom for me to think about long after they went to live with the Lord.

The above also helps me to understand that I am gifted and talented enough to continue to give even when I do not have. My life’s purpose is more than just time and money. It is a blessing that I will be able to affect and uplift the lives of so many. I know in return God is giving me a full set of blessings that will show me many things that will help with his plan and his purpose.

## Corporate & Personal Ethics

Never in a million years, would I have thought that I, would be in a position to work towards a MBA. The Corporate and Personal Ethics course was my very first stepping stone to a goal that I have always wanted to achieve. Call me moody, but this course could not have come at a better time in my life. I was newly married, had lost my job, and the first week of this course, my father in-law passed away. I cried a lot. I was still trying to decide whether or not God was really pushing me into starting school at all. However, once I started reading the course materials, I found that this was not just a class. The course materials actually spoke to my current circumstances and allowed me to think about my past, present, and my future. My strength to continue came from the Beatitude lectures presented by Bruce Winston. These lectures allowed me to stop questioning why I was in such a slump over my career. I learned through Rae & Wong that there is a such thing as Corporate Social Responsibility. These aspects are things that I will continually use both personally and professionally. I have even been able to apply my decision making to a more methodical approach in everyday life. I am truly glad and appreciative that I was able to learn so much about respect and responsibility. In speaking with family and friends, I have also challenged them to write out their Life’s Purpose. This is something that I believe truly valuable to any and every one, whether they are Christian or not.



Stages of the Life of the Butterfly… We all start from the beginning….

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