

# Your Empty Nest Quest

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FOR MEANING, MISSION & MINISTRY

A tool to help unveil your passions and purposes, and create your mission statement for your encore years.

*Written by*

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*Your mission matters  
and so do you!*

# Hello from Charlotte

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Dear Friend,

Let's unveil your passions and purposes and create your mission statement for your encore years! Part of knowing who you are in Christ is determining your unique callings in Him.

As a believer, you are bound for heaven. Yet, what is He asking of you here and now?

For many years, you've had countless roles and responsibilities. Are these obligations or commitments life-giving or do they make you tired or burned out? It's time to find out.

"...so whatever you do,  
do it all for  
the glory of God."  
I Corinthians 10:31

"Every fountain of delight  
springs up from Your life  
within me!"  
Psalm 87:7

"I will instruct you and  
teach in the way you  
should go; I will counsel  
you and watch over you."  
Psalm 32:8

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Defining your mission statement will fan the flames and fuel the fire that truly lights up your life. As Philippians 4:13 says, you "can do all things through Christ" who gives you strength. I'm praying for you as you take this time to create your mission statement.

I can't wait for you to discover what He knit together in you when He created you!

Charlotte

# What Is A Mission?

A mission is a specific task with which a person (or group) is charged. It's also a pre-established and often self-imposed objective or purpose, a calling or assignment. A mission can involve a clearly defined territory of responsibility. It answers the questions: "Why do I exist?" and "What is my purpose?" We all are meant for a mission.

"Write down the vision (mission) and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it."  
Habakkuk 2:2

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## Our Maker's Mission:

Jesus was a man on a mission. His mission was foretold in Isaiah:

"...the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor, He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair."  
Isaiah 61: 1-3

John the Baptist also shared about what Jesus was meant to do:

"I am not here on my own authority, but He who sent me is true...I know Him because I am from Him and He sent Me."  
John 7:29

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."  
John 10:10

"I have brought You glory on earth by finishing the work You gave Me to do...now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world began."  
John 17:4

Now, let's define your mission.

# How Do I Develop My Mission Statement?

The first step in determining your unique mission statement is to discover the three words that best describe your heart's desire. This takes time and thought. Of all the descriptive verbs from which to choose on the following page, some will stand out more than others.

It's important to not be influenced by how you want others to perceive you. This must be you, (and, with help from the Holy Spirit,) identifying what stirs your heart.

*Ask yourself these questions:*

- What excites or angers me?
- What do I love doing?
- If I could teach three things that I am passionate about, what would they be?
- How can I leave a legacy and contribute to the lives of others I love?
- How am I training others to know, serve and love Jesus?

A good mission statement will be:

- Clear
- Concise
- Exciting
- Engaging
- Inspiring
- Specific to your particular and unique enthusiasm, gifts and talents.

Now is a good time to pause and pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal your three words, the foundation of your mission statement. Ponder and pray before you move on.

The world is waiting for you...and your mission.

# My Mission Statement

Having a mission statement has helped me stay focused throughout many seasons of my life. I developed it in my 30's with the help of my dear friend, spiritual mentor, teacher and author, Shirley Staires.

My mission statement is based off of three simple words: abide, brighten & enlighten.

## My Mission Statement

"To abide in Him, brighten where dim, and enlighten, in love, others, family and friends."

Begin by studying the verbs in the list below. Circle a few that most excite you.

Accomplish	Dream	Keep	Refine	Conceive	Foster	Perform	Sustain
Acquire	Drive	Know	Reflect	Confirm	Franchise	Persuade	Team
Adopt	Educate	Labor	Reform	Connect	Further	Play	Touch
Advance	Elect	Launch	Regard	Consider	Gather	Possess	Trade
Affect	Embrace	Lead	Relax	Construct	Generate	Practice	Translate
Affirm	Encourage	Light	Release	Contact	Give	Praise	Travel
Alleviate	Endow	Live	Rely	Continue	Grant	Prepare	Understand
Amplify	Engage	Love	Remember	Counsel	Heal	Present	Use
Appreciate	Engineer	Make	Renew	Create	Hold	Produce	Utilize
Ascend	Enhance	Master	Resonate	Decide	Host	Progress	Validate
Associate	Enlighten	Mature	Respect	Defend	Identify	Promise	Value
Believe	Enlist	Measure	Restore				
Bestow	Enliven	Mediate	Return	Deliver	Implement	Provide	Verbalize
Brighten	Entertain	Mentor	Revise	Demonstrate	Improve	Pursue	Volunteer
Build	Equip	Model	Revive	Devise	Improvise	Realize	Work
Call	Enthuse	Mold	Sacrifice	Direct	Inspire	Receive	Worship
Choose	Excite	Move	Save	Discover	Integrate	Reclaim	Write
Claim	Exhort	Multiply	Sell	Distribute	Involve	Reduce	Yield
Combine	Explore	Negotiate	Serve				
Command	Express	Nurture	Share				
Communicate	Extend	Open	Speak				
Compete	Facilitate	Organize	Stand				
Compliment	Finance	Participate	Support				
Compose	Foraive	Pass	Surrender				

# My Mission Statement

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Are there some words you'd like to add? If so, write them down.

Next, think about and look up some scriptures you love. Do you see any similarities between your words and the scriptures?

Look at your circled words again.

Choose the three that most bring you passion and excitement.

Think about these three words. Ask the Holy Spirit to affirm them or to give you alternative ones.

Sometimes it takes a few days to feel settled on your core words.

Now, fill in the blanks below with your three words.

*My mission is to: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.*

# My Mission & Ministry

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Your mission stays the same whether you are at home, serving in your vocation or volunteering. Your three core words are what motivates you in whatever you do and wherever you go.

Are there people or places you'd like to serve? The answer to this question may take longer to discover.

If you are a new empty nester, perhaps you need a season of rest. Or, is it time to begin to serve and volunteer in ways you never have before? Ask the Lord to reveal His answers to you. There is no need to strive to make this happen quickly. When the answers become clearer, you'll find yourself desiring to serve in these areas with delight.

# My Mission & Ministry

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## Whom Do I Want To Serve?

Circle a few words from this list to help get you started:

<b>Abused</b>	<b>Education</b>		
<b>Aging</b>	<b>Elderly</b>	<b>Law</b>	<b>Print Media</b>
<b>Animals</b>	<b>Energy</b>	<b>Literacy</b>	<b>Real Estate</b>
<b>Art</b>	<b>Environment</b>	<b>Marriage</b>	<b>Reproductive Medicine</b>
<b>Business</b>	<b>Faith</b>	<b>Media</b>	<b>Singles</b>
<b>Children</b>	<b>Family</b>	<b>Mental Health</b>	<b>Social Media</b>
<b>Child Care</b>	<b>Fashion</b>	<b>Neighbors</b>	<b>Space</b>
<b>Church</b>	<b>Finance</b>	<b>Nutrition</b>	<b>Sports</b>
<b>Civil Rights</b>	<b>Food</b>	<b>Operations</b>	<b>Substance Abuse</b>
<b>Community</b>	<b>Gardening</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Tourism</b>
<b>Computer Technology</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>Transportation</b>
<b>Design</b>	<b>Infants</b>	<b>Podcasting</b>	<b>Underserved</b>
<b>Digital Media</b>	<b>Immigration</b>	<b>Politics</b>	<b>Veterans</b>
<b>Disabled</b>	<b>Justice</b>	<b>Poverty</b>	<b>Youth</b>

Now, ask the Holy Spirit, "Whom would You like for me to serve?"

When?

How Often?

List your answers below:

Hold these answers loosely because the Holy Spirit will forever be showing you new and creative ways to serve. Where and when you serve may change, even daily, but your mission stays the same. Remember, it's about you. It's about the ministry of Jesus through you. Go with the flow and have fun as you serve.

"Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing us what is to come."

2 Corinthians 5:5

Lastly, ask yourself the question on the following page.

# My Areas of Influence

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In 1975, Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade and Loren Cunningham, founder of You With A Mission, developed a God-given, world-changing strategy.

## Their mandate:

Bring Godly change to a nation by reaching its seven spheres, or mountains, of societal influence.

They concluded that in order to truly transform any nation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, these seven facets of society must be reached:

- Arts/ Entertainment
- Business
- Community
- Education
- Family
- Government
- Religion

Do you feel called into one or more of these areas? Ask God to show you where He'd like to use you. Then ask Him how?

Evangelist Myles Munroe has several teachings on this subject and there is much to learn on the internet. Enjoy finding out where God is and has been using you. You are meaningful and your mission will impact many.

# What Do I Stand For?

## What Would I Defend Until Death?

As shared earlier, Jesus was a man on a mission. We should be on one too – to live to tell others about him. We do this through our words and our actions. Most likely, you are at (or are close to) a halfway point in your life on earth. Your second half, your encore years, can be full of passion and purpose, mission and ministry.

When you know “Whose you are, and who you are” you can better know what you stand for.

In this last exercise, circle some words that stand out. Perhaps, these are the very things you stand for.

<b>America</b>	<b>Freedom</b>	<b>Marriage</b>	<b>Singles</b>
<b>Anti-Abortion</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Military</b>	<b>Special Needs</b>
<b>Anti-_____</b>	<b>Heritage</b>	<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Spiritual Warfare</b>
<b>Beautification</b>	<b>Honesty</b>	<b>Music</b>	<b>Training</b>
<b>Change</b>	<b>Honor</b>	<b>Nations</b>	<b>Truth</b>
<b>Children</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>Teaching</b>
<b>Children's Ministry</b>	<b>Homelessness</b>	<b>Order</b>	<b>Underserved</b>
<b>Christ</b>	<b>Hope</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Veterans</b>
<b>Creativity</b>	<b>Integrity</b>	<b>Orphans</b>	<b>_____ Victims</b>
<b>Education</b>	<b>Intercession</b>	<b>Overcoming ____</b>	<b>Widows</b>
<b>Equality</b>	<b>Joy</b>	<b>Peace</b>	<b>Worship</b>
<b>Excellence</b>	<b>Justice</b>	<b>Purity</b>	<b>Youth</b>
<b>Evangelism</b>	<b>Kindness</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Young Fathers</b>
<b>Faith</b>	<b>Leadership</b>	<b>Relationships</b>	<b>Young Mothers</b>
<b>Family</b>	<b>Legacy</b>	<b>Restoration</b>	
<b>Friends</b>	<b>Love</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>*Other</b>

I hope, through this exercise, you have found passion and purpose, your mission and, possibly, some ministries. Enjoy knowing what you are about!

# More Missions?

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If you have a family unit, a workplace or organization that would benefit from a mission statement, you can expand what you've learned in this process into those areas.

Our family developed this mission statement together when our children were young:

## *Guest Family Mission Statement*

To abide in and reflect Christ, drawing others to Him.  
To trust in the Lord with all our hearts, in all we say and do.  
To do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.  
To let love be our greatest aim in all circumstances.  
May we live to be a blessing to others and light our world. (est. 2008)

We still have this in a frame in the center of our home. Often, it reminds me what we were about as a family. Feel free to use any examples I have shared and have fun creating additional mission statements.

## *What's Next?*

You will continue to learn about your passions, purpose, missions and ministries. Remember, even as you explore new opportunities, your mission, your three core words will not change. May your mission statement keep you grounded, focused and remind you why you are here.

*You got this! Be mission-minded and make a difference!*

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### *Notes:*

- All scriptures referenced are the NIV version.
- This information was originally shared with me by my mentor, author, teacher and speaker, Shirley Staires. She went to heaven in 2021 but, through you seeking your mission, her legacy lives on.
- Shirley received inspiration from author Laurie Beth Jones and her book, *The Path*.