

*For the first 24 years of my life I tried many things to find some purpose in life, all of them left me wanting.*

I grew up in a very loving family but church was not very important to me. I remember graduating from high school with a desire to have a large impact on the world. I had decided to do it by becoming a research chemist and making some noteworthy discovery. I went to the University of Minnesota but left after a year. I remember deciding that I either needed to change my objective in life or admit failure.

The first was much easier than the second so I decided that I would become friends with as many people as possible. That way, at the end of my life, I would be able to look back and see that I influenced many during my life. Over time I realized that I was being selfish in my choice of friends, not near as noble as I thought. Again, I had to admit failure or change my objective in life. And again I decided that it was easier to change my objective than admit failure.

I went through a couple more life objectives before meeting a friend who shared Jeremiah 29:11 with me "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." This was the first time I realized that God had a plan for me! My friend explained to me that God created everything; seen and unseen, including me and that He loves us unconditionally. However, we all have chosen to violate God's rules and do evil and this sin separates us from God. He went on to say that Jesus paid the penalty for our sin and offers forgiveness of sin to us free; however, we must accept it by praying to Jesus, turning from our sins and accepting Jesus as Savior and Lord of our life. Soon after that I prayed - admitting to Jesus that I had sinned, believing that He died for me and asking Him to come into my life.

Life since that time has been very different. I still struggle with different areas but have the peace of knowing that I'll spend eternity with Jesus when I die. God also is fulfilling my desire to have an impact on the world through sharing with others how they can have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

My life verse is Colossians 1:10 - "And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God." This verse talks about the desires of my heart: that my actions would be worthy of God, that my attitudes would please Him, that I would produce godly fruit in my life and that I'd become a master of the Bible.

Please read through the following pages with an open heart and ask God to speak to you. You will not regret it.

Caryl