

*Dr. John Stanko*

**The Monday Memo  
from the desk of  
Dr. John Stanko  
Issue 46**

I have a wonderful opportunity to have faith this week. No, I am not anticipating praying for a healing or other miraculous intervention. I am not getting ready to give a large amount of money to the poor. What am I getting ready to do, you may ask? I am getting ready to go to Africa next Saturday.

I sat down last night and wrote out what I need to accomplish before I depart. I will only be at home one day this week prior to when I leave and I have a lot to do. That means I must keep my priorities in correct order this week as I walk out my daily plan. But there still isn't enough time, so I must have faith that God will make a way for me to do what needs to get done.

Joshua was faced with a similar dilemma as told in the book of Joshua. He had so much to do in fighting God's enemies that he asked God for the sun to stand still. Now that's faith! The remarkable thing is that God heard his prayer and the sun didn't go down for a whole day (see Joshua 10:12-15). The lesson of that story is that you and I can and need to have faith for time.

In 2 Peter 3:8, Peter wrote: "Do not forget this one thing, dear friends. With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day." When I read that verse one day, I asked myself, "If a day is like a thousand years with the Lord, what would an hour be like?" So I divided it all out and discovered that an hour would be the equivalent of 46 years. Then I took it one step further. I divided everything again to see what the equivalent of a minute would be. I found that one minute would be like almost nine months!

So what does that mean? If the Lord ever says He will be there in a minute, it can take a lot longer than we thought. But the reverse is true as well. A thousand years can be like a day. What we thought could take nine months may take a much shorter amount of time to

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get done. I am counting on that dynamic this week. I need God's help to get a lot of work done in a little amount of time this week.

I have a complete list before me for the week and it starts with writing this **Monday Memo**. I recommend you develop a similar list. I take a yellow tablet and make my master list and then I take the activities off that master list and place them on whatever day this week I think I can get them done. Some of the daily lists are long and there is *no way* I can get them done without God's help. But I am entering this week with faith. When I get on the plane next Saturday night, I will have done my part. I have faith that God will have done His.

What about you? Have you been putting things off because you don't have the time? Instead of putting them off, why not put a plan together for this week that includes faith for time? Ask God to have your "sun stand still," and see if you can't get more done than you thought possible. Don't start this week with the mentality that there is no way you can get it done, but start the week with a commitment to do what you can and see if God doesn't help you do more with less. Don't be defeated before you even start. I invite you to join me in believing for a miracle this week, not only for my to do list, but also for yours.

**The Monday Memo  
from South Africa  
Dr. John Stanko  
Issue 47**

I am writing this **Monday Memo** on the plane heading to South Africa and will send it when I land. I have visited South Africa 20 times now and I am still excited to be here. In fact, I have traveled almost 3 million miles, and I'm still excited to get on a plane and go anywhere. I had a friend who said he enjoyed taking me to the airport because he could feel my energy level rising when we were on the way. Recently another friend asked me, "Do you still enjoy all the travel?" I replied that I did not enjoy it or like it. I love it!

My family never traveled while I was growing up, nor did we ever take a family vacation. One evening when I was about ten years old, my

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father put me in the car for a ride. We ended up at the Pittsburgh Airport where we spent the evening watching planes land and take off. The airport had stores, a game room, a movie theater, and an observation deck where you paid ten cents to go out on the deck to watch the planes. That was more than 40 years ago, but I can still remember the sense of excitement I had to hear the engines starting up and see the power of a plane during takeoff. That night, as young as I was, I vowed to be back to the airport many times when I grew up, and I have made good on my vow.

Travel is an important part of who I am and what I do. God used that childhood airport visit to put something in me that won't go away. Sometimes those childhood experiences are positive and some are negative, but they all play a role in shaping who we become. Very often there are clues to our life purpose that come early in life and recapturing those memories can play an important role in defining your life purpose.

Consider these childhood stories of the following people:

- As a child in England, he spent hours creating cardboard sets for his puppet shows to entertain his family.-Andrew Lloyd Webber, producer of the theater rendition of *Phantom of the Opera*.
- Cut from his basketball team as a youngster, he still dreamed of playing basketball one day.-Michael Jordan, the world's greatest player.
- Swimming to gain strength in his two broken arms, this teenager changed dreams from becoming an astronaut to aquanaut.-Jacques Cousteau, famous underwater explorer.
- This young boy was fascinated with anatomical diagrams in the World Book Encyclopedia.-Jonas Salk, who developed the polio vaccine.

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- At twenty-one, she lived in a one-room flat over her father's grocery store and dreamed of public service.-Margaret Thatcher, former prime minister of Great Britain.
- This college dropout had ideas about information access.-Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft and the world's richest man.

What was your favorite game as a child? What did you spend your time daydreaming about? What did you do as a child that made you the happiest? What positive or negative experiences led you to make a life-shaping decision that is still with you today? Have you lost contact with some part of your youth that could once again provide you with purpose and excitement?

As you search your past, you may find keys to the present that will unlock your future. Why not spend some time this week thinking about your childhood with a writing tablet in front of you? Write down what you remember and see if anything emerges that can help you define your purpose. You may have an experience similar to my airport visit that can reshape your adult life if you let it. Have a great week!

The Monday Memo  
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Issue 48

Yesterday was another great day! Since 1991, I have delivered my message on purpose at least 500 times and it is still as fresh and relevant as when I first delivered it. Yesterday morning was no exception.

This week I was reading a collection of essays on servant leadership, a topic we will look at in future Monday Memos. This particular book contained a moving story of someone searching for and finding their life purpose, and I can't resist passing the story along to you.

The essay was written by Michael Jones, a gifted pianist, author, speaker and educator, according to his introduction. In the article, Mr. Jones shares the turning point that led him to go beyond his career as a consultant to become a famous pianist. One day someone heard Mr. Jones playing the piano in a Toronto hotel lobby, something he did as a hobby while he traveled. The man approached him and asked Mr. Jones an important question:

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The man asked, "Do you work at the hotel?" I said, "Oh, no, no, no. I'm a consultant. I'm busy trying to change the world." To my disappointment, he didn't seem at all impressed by that. Then he asked, "How many other people do this kind of consulting work that you do?" I said, "Well, probably 20 or 30, I would guess, in the Toronto area." And then he looked at me, and at that moment what I most recall about the meeting was how clear and sober his eyes appeared, from how he seemed a few minutes before. He said, "Who's going to play that music if you don't play it yourself?"

I felt that question drop in a way that I had not heard a question drop inside of me before. I realized it was a question for which I had no answer. . . Then he stood up, a little uneasy, and steadied himself by putting his hand on my shoulder, and said, "This is your gift -- don't waste it." Meanwhile I sat on the piano bench, stunned by the question and the sense that it had just changed my life. Who will play my music? I asked myself.

Since I can't talk to you face to face this week, I want to pose the same question to you in this Monday Memo? Who will play your "music" if you don't? Who will write the book, build the business empire, take the missions trip, sing the song or fulfill your destiny if you don't? Are there others who can do what you are doing now, while something only you can do remains undone?

Michael Jones answered that question by concluding that no one would play his music if he didn't. He overcame his fear, as he tells it, of going broke, being ignored or failing and went on to sell two million copies of his piano recordings. I am not guaranteeing this measure of success, for that is in God's hands. But I can promise you the same sense of adventure and fulfillment if you let go of the familiar to embrace the unknown as you follow your dream.

I have come to the conclusion that if I don't deliver the purpose message the way I do, no one else can or will. So I have determined to spread the purpose gospel and trust that God will lead me where I need to go and provide for me along the way. This week my music has brought me to southern Africa, and for that I am grateful. Now isn't it time to find out where your music will take you?

**The Monday Memo  
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Issue 49**

As you read this, I am on my way home to the United States. I had a wonderful stay in southern Africa where I met many new friends and

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renewed acquaintances with older ones. I also added quite a number of names to [The Monday Memo](#) mailing list, so if this is your first issue, welcome to [The Monday Memo](#) family.

Today I was reflecting on a man in the Bible named Bezalel. It is said about this man that he was “filled with the Spirit of God.” Now I don’t know about you, but when I see or hear that phrase, I assume that the person who is “filled” is probably a holy man, preacher or saint. Surely he was “filled with the Spirit” to perform miracles, have faith or fulfill some other religious activity.

But with Bezalel, this was not the case. Let’s look at the passage that tells us about this man:

**Then the LORD said to Moses, "See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts--to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship (Exodus 31:1-5).**

Bezalel wasn’t full of the Spirit to do religious things; he was full of the Spirit to work with his hands and create artistic masterpieces. He was an exceptional craftsman, and that was the will of God for Bezalel’s life. God gave him special ability, gave him His “Spirit,” to excel in the area of creativity.

When searching for our God-given purpose, too often we limit the search to activities that are normally associated with church work. We may not think that the “Spirit” may be on us to write, paint, sing opera, run a business or lead a government agency. But the passage above let’s me know that your life purpose isn’t restricted to church work. Your purpose may take you to places you may not have previously considered to be God’s will.

Do you like to work with your hands? Can you fix or create things? Do you have an eye for beauty, color, or symmetry? Then why can’t some expression of those things be your life purpose? You don’t have to preach or counsel to do God’s will. You can create beautiful

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things that bring pleasure to God and others and be in the center of God's will for your life.

What are you "filled with the Spirit" to do? Don't see that as a hobby , and don't wait until you can do something more "spiritual" before you feel you're doing the will of God. It's time for the painters to paint, the poets to rhyme, the singers to sing, the writers to write, the conductors to conduct and the dancers to dance. If we can find people who are "filled with the Spirit" to do those things, the world will be a better place and God's will shall be done. Have a great week.

**The Monday Memo  
from the desk of  
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Issue 50**

Every once in a while, I run into a quote and desperately wish I had said it myself because it's so powerful. I heard one of those quotes this morning in church, looked at my wife, and said, "I've got to share that with **The Monday Memo** family." Before I do, let's review why I send **The Monday Memo** to you every week.

My goal is to "be in your face" every Monday morning and ask: Are you clear about your life purpose? What are you doing about the ideas you have, that you said you would accomplish "one day?" What steps can you take this week that will bring you closer to fulfilling your purpose and goals? Are you having faith for time that will enable you to do more and be productive?

Purpose and goals require that live you live in hope and faith. Hope because your search for purpose may last longer than you anticipated and faith because your goals take longer and involve some failure and confusion along the way. All this leads me back to the quote I mentioned earlier. To the best of my research, it was said by "Captain" Bob Smith, a motivational speaker and goes like this: **"Hope is hearing the music of the future. Faith is dancing to it today!"**

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Finding your purpose or setting your goals both involve hearing the music of the future. You look beyond where you are and what you're doing to see yourself from God's perspective. You see yourself doing what you were born to do and achieving what you are here to achieve, even though you're not there now. You are reading this Memo in hope that this is the week of breakthrough for you. You read, but you are really listening for a certain sound, a sound of clarity and direction. When you hear it (and you will), you then begin to tap your foot and before you know it, you are dancing to a tune that no one else can hear.

Once you see that purpose or visualize that goal, you then must have faith to walk it out in everyday life. In other words, you begin to dance to the music of the future today. You prepare yourself, in faith, to be the greatest expression of your purpose that you can be. You take intermediate steps today that will help you reach your goal tomorrow.

As you read this [Memo](#), please open your ears and heart to hear the sound of your life music. It may be a faint sound or only one musical phrase, but it's playing. Have hope that God will let you hear some of that music during the coming week. When you hear the music, have faith! Take some step this week that will prepare you to achieve your destiny and fulfill your life purpose.

"Hope is hearing the music of the future. Faith is dancing to it today!" I pray that this week will be a week of hope and faith for you. I trust you will hear the music of the future and not just the monotonous sounds of the past and present. I hope you will catch a glimpse of what you can be and not just see what you've been. If you've been dancing with the partner of your present, I encourage you to change partners this week and dance with the "you" of the future. You need to get acquainted, this present and future you, and as a team I know that you will both do great things for God. Have an excellent week!