

“Getting On The Right Track”

My OPUS

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My Big Dream The Train Ride

As I ponder quietly about the future, I see a train whistling down the tracks heading toward the sunset—I am looking West. :) The ground is absolutely level. Yet I see tracks coming together to a virtual endpoint. I know in my mind that there is no real end point to those tracks, they are just coming together at a vanishing point on the horizon. There is a fairly sharp bend in the ride, but the tracks quickly straighten out again. Those tracks will continue even though I cannot see them and even though I may or may not be a part of them. I get a sense of excitement about this train. So... what is it about that train that is so exciting?

Oh, wait... that's me on that train! And there I am, speeding down those tracks at the breathtaking speed of twenty-four hours a day.

Various depots have come and gone in the course the ride, but a newer station now comes into view and the train begins to slow down. I look around to see who is getting off the train, and there is no one getting off. I now realize that there is no one on this train but Pat and me, so why is it slowing down?

In the time the train takes to reach this particular station, I wonder about that very thought, and I also reflect about the tracks on which this train was riding.

Those two tracks are the rails that kept me moving throughout almost my entire ride. One of the tracks is the more than fifty years of marriage to this wonderful woman, and the other track is my 'career track' that for almost fifty years supported us and provided great balance to my ride.

The train has an abrupt jostling—it must be the brakes for the stop! That jostling brought to mind the fact that under those rails were the ties that without which the tracks were useless and the ride could never have taken place. I see these many railroad ties as the many people with whom I had contact throughout my ride. These are the many students, the members of the several churches we have attended, the hundreds, if not more people with whom I have crossed paths over the years who are a part of my life, past and present.

There is one more very important thing about my ride—the train, the tracks, and the ties. The solid roadbed for all this is the Lord, my Creator. If there is no solid roadbed there can be no real ride because, as I see it, the road is so rough that it is almost impossible, but this train ride is smooth.

Now, ahead I see a new group of people at the station waiting to see *me*! I am wondering why? I am struck by the size of the crowd. I see several signs being held up in the crowd. One says 'Education' and other says 'Marriage.'

They must want something from me, but I am a bit unclear as to what they want. As the train gets closer to the station, what they see is gradually becoming clearer to me: I have had a great career as a teacher and musician of which I have loved every minute. That by the way lasted more than fifty years. Then there is my other and even more important career... that is being a husband to a wonderful woman with whom we have a great family, which I have loved even more. And that career has lasted more than fifty years as well. That boils down or adds up to more than a hundred man-years of practice and experience. So what does one do with a total of over one hundred man-years of experience in higher education and in marriage.

A-hah! From what I can see, they are looking to me for a bit of help. And I can give them help in a variety of ways. Some of the people are young and with their parents and others are grey heads, like me.

I began to think about my ride, what I have learned along the way, and how all that can make someone else's ride much smoother in many ways. Well, the only way I can do that is by helping.

How can I help? By sharing in written or spoken words!
Who can I help? Those people who know that I can help them!
Where can I help? Anywhere is possible because of my writings!
When can I help? Anytime
Through the internet or when given the opportunity to be with them.

However, I am led to do so. It is the direction of the roadbed that takes the train, not the other way around.

I also know there will be time for me to travel with Pat to places we've not seen, there will be time for me to read some of those items for which there was not time in the course of the train ride---at least up to this point, and there will be time to return to my hobby of building model ships. There will also be time to study God's word and maybe even be able to help in that arena as well.

I just need to keep remembering that the train in which I am riding is going in His direction and that I am really going to finish well!

1. Describe Tribe

Observe that my tribe at the station stands out because of their excitement and willingness to step over that line and be that couple or that family (or even that student) to swim against the modern and rather strong current in order to develop those strong and necessary personal skills on the way to terrific lasting relationships, excellent education, and great success in a world where mediocrity and ‘fitting in’ is the norm.

2. Describe Cause

Observe that marriages are failing at an alarming rate and that students are failing at an even greater rate. Both sides of this equation are not served well by those responsible in today’s world. To develop an intervention strategy for those families and students who are willing to take the next, and possibly more difficult, step—helping them *Get On The Right Track*.

3. Describe Space

Generally speaking, encouraging, guiding, or recommending can be done even while walking for coffee. However, the preferred space for the start of those activities of *Getting On The Right Track* to take place would be in written material. Then, with the reference material as a basis, office space, or in a large group situation, or even on-line would work well. The important element in that Space is that a couple or a family (or a student) who is willing to begin taking whatever steps are necessary for them to *Get On The Right Track* to success.

My Purpose Statement
Getting People On The Right Track for Their Future Success

Unifying Strategies: What Do I Have To Do To Achieve This? I have to be different. Be transformed by the renewing of my mind.

Prepare— I cannot give to anyone that which I do not have myself. I have to continue to grow:

Position — Before the train stops at the station, I need to put myself in that place where I can observe and then model successful business tactics and behaviors.

People — These are those who are waiting at the station and who are expecting great things for themselves. From this crowd of people, my tribe will be drawn as not everyone at the station is described by my tribe.

Present — As the Train arrives at the station, I need to have my strategy ready to go either for Individuals or for Businesses

Produce — In order to be ‘ready to go,’ my materials need to be in excellent order, and fully prepared.

Scorecard for Significance:
 How do I know I am hitting my target?

I. Prepare—This is where the rubber meets the road. I must be fully ready in every area of my life in order that I “Show Up, Filled Up” and ready to “Get Everyone On the Right Track.

A. Spiritually: God is the roadbed for this train.

B. Quiet Time:

1. Spend time each day alone with the Lord, meditating on Him and His Word.
 Developing good daily Worship habits

C. Scripture reading/study: Get filled by studying God’s Word more closely, and applying it to my life & my work.

D. Prayer: Spend quality time with God in Prayer.

E. Physically:

1. Eat Right: Retrain myself to take in better food choices, whether those foods are regular meals or snacks.
2. Sleep Right: Creating a daily schedule that includes six to eight hours of sleep
3. Workout Right: Develop an exercise routine, as allowed by physicians

F. Schedule time for family, chores, hobbies.

G. Mentally:

1. Develop an increased Digital awareness and expertise that will create easier flow within extended OPUS activities.

2. Read to keep current in OPUS arena and to grow for extended OPUS activities.
3. Write for practice and write for blogging, book publishing, & teaching materials
4. Listen to (and watch) Podcasts and attend numerous activities that will expand my awareness of developments in my OPUS arena and will develop an increasing network of colleagues.
5. Time for family, chores, hobbies creates balance in OPUS Plan, thus allowing for increased success.

II. Position—Earn the credibility of My Tribe (and others) by putting myself in places where I can gain the experience necessary to be “The One” to help “Get Them On The Right Track.”

- A. Observe (and learn) and apply a successful plan
- B. Observe how others develop their (OPUS) before I teach
- C. Observe how others are just drifting through their days, seemingly rudderless and without any plan around they are doing.
- D. Develop the required skills to help them see that they are either off the track or are on the wrong track

III. People—These are the reasons for my OPUS

- A. (Who) My Tribe stands out from the rest because they are really willing to work for strong relationships, excellent education, and great success in a mediocre world.
- B. (Why) Bring those together with a plan for them to go out to serve by helping marriages and students truly succeed.
- C. (Where) Any gathering place (virtual or physical) will work for coaching, teaching, discussing, or recommending.

IV. Present—My classroom experiences need to be brought to the forefront for My Tribe, so that they get the best possible from me. Materials prepared based on my OPUS

- A. Keep myself in a professional posture
- B. Having Practiced
- C. Being in Professional ‘Uniform’
- D. Have everything ready for my Tribe
- E. Implements prepared to support processes
- F. Exercises to produce consistent actions
- G. Experiences that begin to transform

V. Produce—My Tribe grows in their desire to “Get On The Right Track,” and by doing so, they will duplicate what they have gotten from their OPUS to

help others. Even after they begin their new journey, they will continue to grow by applying those principles learned through developing their own OPUS.

- A. Instruction in knowledge for their use.
- B. Mentoring to develop presentation skill sets for their use.
- C. Develop Consulting and Coaching Strengths
- D. Personally create and continuously provide materials to help My Tribe “Stay On The Right Track.”

My Six Pack: My Core Values

What I Believe

God - I believe in the Triune God, Who has purpose for each life, and He continues to help me throughout my life.

Faith - I believe faith is believing in things not seen, and it is faith that controls my life.

Family - I believe my wife, our children, their families, and our grandchildren are favored blessings from God to be cherished as the gift that they are.

Truth - I believe in truth and that it is essential personally and communally.

Work - I believe work is a privilege and develops the necessary discipline ‘to get it done.’

Time - I believe time is a most critical element in our lives. It can be used efficiently; it can be spent wisely (or not!); but it cannot be saved for later.

Experience - I believe that experience can be the greatest teacher because one does not have to rely totally on one’s own experiences to learn and grow.

Identity—‘Who I Am’

Follower of Christ - My identity is Christ is critical to my character, my actions, my interactions, and my reactions.

Husband—I am totally committed to my wife in our lifelong loving and caring relationship.

Father—I am a father of two wonderful God-given gift children whom I love and to whom I am totally committed.

Grandfather—I am committed to leave my six grandchildren a Godly inheritance of love, identity, purpose, service, integrity and joy!

Leader - I am a leader called to lead others to a higher place in God.

Author - I write books that reveal, through transparency, an invitation to my readers to embrace acute pain to find eternal joy.

Coach - I unite people in a process that frees their Souls to Soar!

Friend - I am a loyal friend who is available when my friends are in need.

Listener - I am a listener who hears your heart between the words you speak. prejudice through story telling.

Passion—‘What I Love’

God - I love God so much, I want to do the hard work to let Jesus be formed in me.

Wife - I love the thought of a life-long relationship with Pat.

Children - I love to watch my children, their spouses, and their children each develop their OPUS.

Transformation - I love giving to other the opportunity to “Get On The Right Track.”

Relationships - I love learning, growing and aligning myself with people who value transformation.

Humility - I love giving God and others the credit !

Preparation - I love the preparation process, getting ready for My Tribe.

Adventure - I love to live each year as a greater adventure than the year before.

Fellowship - I love to communicate new ideas, personal growth, learning with like-minded people.

The Arts - Understanding the ability to put things together to create a greater result.

Principles ‘What I Value’

God - I value God above everyone and everything. .

Bible - I value the Word of God.

Marriage - I value the life-long commitment to Pat.

Family - I value developing and focusing on the strengths of each member of my family.

Learning - I value life-long learning by investing time, money and effort needed to grow.

Wisdom - I value wisdom that expands and is humble as age progresses.

Creativity - I value, thoughts, art and music.

Time - I prize the time available to me to finish His plan for my life.

Practice - I cherish the work it takes to create a worthwhile result.

Honesty - I value honesty, truth and integrity in all things.

Service - I value giving more than I receive.

Purpose ‘Why I live And Work’

God - I live to glorify God and fulfill my purpose and destiny given to me by God.

Marriage - I live to honor my wife and her dreams, and to show those members of My Tribe that they, too, can “Get Their Relationships Back On Track.”

Family - I live to love my family, to provide for them, and to leave for them a lasting gift

of love and inner peace.

Service - I help others create their OPUS, leading them to ‘Victory.’

Coach - I work to develop in the hearts and minds of My Tribe the desire to move forward successfully as they themselves have designed in their OPUS

Accountability - I work to hold myself accountable to God, to myself, and to those who surround me to uphold the highest levels of integrity and honesty.

My Playbook Of Productive Action

‘How I Will Do It?’

“Inch by Inch, it’s a cinch!” I need to develop the discipline of a regular schedule (daily/weekly) by the month

Through personal coaching relationships and accountability to my OPUS, I am committed to my POP each month. As this system matures through discipline and clarity, I will adjust my POP to create a life where work and play are one.