

Living Life With a Hundred Year Perspective

A Dialogue for AGRM Leaders

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The Quiz

Which of the following do you think—you might be likely to say at the end of your life, you might say, or you would never say.

Likely Might Never

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. I wish I had spent more time at the office |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. I wish I had documented my story for future generations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. I wish I had spent more time with my family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. I wish I had paid more attention to relationships |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. I wish I had not taken that particular risk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. I wish I had taken better care of myself |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. I wish I had done something different for my life's work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. I wish I had focused on my gift for _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. I wish I had more money to leave to my heirs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. I wish I had done more for my Lord |

The Quiz continued

Likely Might Never

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11. I wish I had told that boss off |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 12. I wish I had I taken more risks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 13. I wish I had spent more of my children's inheritance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 14. I wish I had humbled myself in front of _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 15. I wish I had stated my wishes to my family more directly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 16. I wish I had taken more vacations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 17. I wish I had accumulated more "toys" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 18. I wish I had sent more treasure on ahead |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 19. I wish I had I seen more of the world |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 20. _____(other) |

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- It is said everyone "gets it" at the end of life, But we all want to "get it now" and have fewer regrets. What are the reasons that's so hard?

- Side question: Could the hundred year perspective be the wrong focus?
 - Aren't we told in Scripture to live one day at a time? (Matt 6:34) "To play to an audience of one?" To focus on Christ, not results?

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If we had a true hundred year perspective, what would we be trying to do?

- Leave a legacy here on earth that will have eternal results for generations to come.
 - "I somehow know the earth isn't my real home" (Eccles 3:11)(Muggeridge)
 - "But I want to be remembered here" (OT curses)
 - "I want to be part of Hebrews 12:1" (the great cloud of witnesses)
 - How?
- Enhance my position in my permanent home, heaven.
 - "I know I have to leave it all" (Wesley)(Rockefeller)
 - "I know I'm going to heaven but can I send treasure ahead and get rewards?"
 - How?

"The best use of life is for that which outlasts life" Henry James

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So how do I get started to minimize regrets, no matter how much time I have left?

- Remind yourself of limited time left (Ps 90:12)(Lee Strobel)
 - Number your days—apply your heart to wisdom
- Create the 'margin' to plan for fewer regrets!
 - "God never intended for time to oppress us" (Richard Swenson, Margin)
 - Retreat!
 - Write down what you want to accomplish in both areas.
 - Leaving a legacy
 - Sending treasure ahead
- For discussion – my own list

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Getting Practical About Legacy In Your Ministry

Have a focused mission

- It is possible to be well managed and “do lots of good” without being focused on permanent and significant results.
 - “The desktop novelty machine”
 - CHA when I walked in
- Being focused means having a mission statement by which everything is measured
 - Pleases the King (eternal)(Matt 22, 25, 28)
 - Inspirational
 - Fits on a T-shirt (Drucker). (Well, at least the slogan should)
- Importance of translating the mission into a goal and vision
 - Money follows vision

Bowery Mission example

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

We are called to minister in New York City to men, women and children caught in cycles of poverty, hopelessness and dependencies of many kinds, and to see their lives transformed to hope, joy, lasting productivity and eternal life through the power of Jesus Christ.

OUR GOAL

To be the most effective provider of compassionate care and life transformation for hurting people in New York City.

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Getting Practical About Legacy In Your Ministry (continued)

“You’re not a success until you have a successor.” (Lamar Vest)

- It’s an important component of “no regrets”
- Timing is key: leave too early and you are a quitter and your work incomplete. Hang on too long and your good work unravels.
- So much loss in ministry today, so much backtracking, so much unproductive change.
- Two models
 - a. American corporate
Wait til the incumbent leaves—hire an executive recruiter—consider inside candidates if appropriate—and start over
 - b. II Tim. 2:2
Paul: Mentor a faithful man or woman who can build on what you’re doing.
Moses, Samuel, David and Elijah laid the framework for successors.
- Importance of a plan and time to implement a plan

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Legacy in Our Personal Life: Some Thoughts

- A view of investing in people

There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal...It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature...you would strongly, be tempted to worship...or else a horror and a corruption. All day long, we are, in some degree helping each other to one or other of these destinations. ~CS Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

- Legacy with family

- Making sure they know what your heart is
- In our family:
 - Be there
 - Be a war hero
 - Pass it on

- Communicating and documenting

- From elaborate to simple—but leave something as a clue
- Peter Kreeft's "Before I Go"
- My father's journals
- Assembling my collection

- The question of money

- Money can be used to reinforce passing the faith or to retard it.
- What's the difference?
- In general—"Do your givin' while you're living; then you're knowin' where it's going"

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Some special considerations with personal legacy

Risk Taking

- 80% of people at the end of life say they wish they'd taken more risks
- The Bob Biehl question:


"If you could do anything you wanted, and you had all the time, money, staff, education and every resource you needed, and you knew for certain that you couldn't fail, what would you do?"

Making Sure I Used My Talents

- The tragedy of "dying with the music still in you" (Oliver Wendell Holmes quote)
- But you can hear "well done" anyway (Spurgeon story)
- And obedience more important than self-expression
- Finding the special gift at any age also pleases the Lord
- Took test at 62!

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Preparing for My Real Home

- Treasure: you can't take it with you but you can send it on ahead (Alcorn, The Treasure Principle) (Wilkinson, A Life God Rewards)
 - Scripture seems to say that a variety of things we do here on earth result in treasure and rewards in heaven (Matt. 6:19-21)
 - Alcorn's dot and line 
 - Earthly treasures aren't bad, but they're "confederate money"
 - Things that qualify for "sending on ahead"
 - Persevering under persecution (Luke 6:22-23)
 - Treating enemies kindly (Luke 6:35)
 - Kindness to children (Matt 10:45)
 - Helping the poor (Matt 19:21, Luke 14:13-14)
 - Generous giving (multiple refs)

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose"
~Jim Elliot