

## Mission, Vision, Values, And Goals

In the closing lines of *Narnia*, CS Lewis writes, “Now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before.” This paper will explore the topics of my mission, vision, values, and goals that will continue to drive me daily in this “Great Story.”

My mission in life: **Use the gifts God has given me to serve others.** I believe that God gifts each and every one of us with a unique set of skills that we can choose to use to impact others. Although these abilities are a gift from God meant for good, he freely allows us to choose how we want to cultivate them in our lives. For instance, we can use our natural leadership abilities to rise to the top of a company and become cruel and iron-fisted, or we can use them to lead others and inspire greatness in those we have been given authority over. As you will undoubtedly see in the next section of the paper, my career choice isn’t exactly the first thing that comes to mind when the topic of serving others is elicited. Nonetheless, I believe that God has gifted me with the ability to understand computer science, and I am continuing forward down this path with faith that He will use me and my gifts in this industry, that is often very opposed to the idea of God.

Ten years from now, I live in Monterey Bay, California. I have a wife and two kids, ages five and three at this point. We live in a small house in the hills above town. We have a large grass backyard that backs up to wilderness. We live on a street with five other houses and have potlucks every year for the Fourth of July and other holidays. We are currently in the process of saving up to upgrade to a larger house within the next five years. We hope to purchase land that overlooks the ocean from above and build our own house on it. The house will be 2,500 square feet, and features four bedrooms and three full bathrooms. The living room and kitchen will have

grand windows that face west to capture the afternoon light. After years of convincing, my parents finally moved back to California and now live just five minutes away from us. Both of my sisters and their husbands also live nearby, and we all have lunch once a week after Church on Sundays. At this point, I have been blessed in my career. I have been able to continue to work in the defense space since graduating from college, and now hold a position as a Senior Software Engineer at Northrop Grumman. On the side, a college friend and I are beginning our dreams of starting our own defense contract startup, creating software for current fighter jets being utilized by the military. We hope to land a monumental contract with the Navy's F18 jet to get the business off the ground. Although this choice in career doesn't fully align with my servant-focused mission statement, God has used me in incredible ways in this industry to reach a group of co-workers who stereotypically are very secular.

Fueling my vision and acting as a foundation for my mission in life are three values: integrity, family, faith. During a short bout of poor choices in my early college years, I stumbled upon the importance of integrity as a lifestyle. During this time, I became heavily convicted about the decisions I had been making. During this conviction, I came across a quote from Alan K. Simpson: "If you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don't have integrity, nothing else matters". The damage had already been done by some of my actions, but I now had the choice to continue forward in my wrongdoing, or to choose a path of Integrity and face the consequences for my actions. In this scenario and countless others, the value of integrity has driven me to choose to do the right thing. My second value is family. Family is one of the values in my life that has the greatest potential to impact my major life decisions. For instance, two summers ago, I had the opportunity to stay in San Diego to work, or head home to be with my family. I ultimately turned down the job offer in order to head home to spend the summer with my

parents. The truth that I have a limited amount of time left on this Earth with my parents leads to a deep desire to maximize time I can spend with them. Lastly, and most importantly is my value of Faith. My faith is the most important aspect of who I am as a person. Unlike everything else aforementioned in this paper, my faith is the one thing that I could not live without. Yes, having a family, great job, living in Monterey (etc.) are all amazing things that I hope to be blessed with one day, but I know truly at the end of the day, if I do not have Jesus in my life, I have nothing. One way I live this out daily is by ministering to my coworkers who are Muslim, Jewish, and agnostic. Although it is often easier to avoid the topic of religion around them, I daily choose to engage with them in hopes that I will have the opportunity to share Jesus with them so that they too can understand the all-surpassing worth of knowing Jim.

Goals:

1. I hope to graduate from PLNU in May 2025 with a GPA of 3.9
2. I hope to travel to three different countries by age 25
3. I hope to own a house by age 30

In this paper, we explored my mission, vision, values, and Goals. Although I know that the future is out of my control and some of these visions and goals may never come to fruition, I know that God is working and has already planned a future for me that is far better than anything I could dream to write in this paper. Until the chapter of my life ends and I can look back on the faithfulness of God, I strive to live out my value-driven mission to serve others in a manner that glorifies God. If I can “live a life worthy of the calling you have received” (Ephesians 4:1), even to the smallest degree, then this will have been a life well lived. Although we may have reached the conclusion of this paper, each and everyone of us truly embarks on the next Chapter of the Great Story that is Life.