

Persuing a life with Vision and Passion:
Applying your Leadership Abilities to life

This was the challenge given to the students at the ETA Sigma Alpha Induction Ceremony on 4/13/2008 by *Rosie Watson, Executive Director of Creative Arts In Action.*

I want to applaud each of you for taking your education seriously.
Being diligent, giving your best, making the necessary sacrifices,
You are quality students.

Quote: Quality is never an accident, it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution, and it represents the wise choice of many alternatives.

For this we applaud you.
Today I want to talk about applying all this to persuing a life with vision and passion.

Is a good education enough?
What is a good education?

Definition of the word "Education" Webster's dictionary 1828
The bringing up of a child, instruction; formation of manners. Education comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline, which is intended to, enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their future stations. To give children a good education in manners, arts and sciences is important, to give them a religious education is indispensable, and an immense responsibility rests on parents and guardians who neglect these duties.

I believe this is the education that you have received.

I applaud the sacrifices of your parents.

Young people, this is just the beginning.

I know you have been told God has a special plan for each of your lives.

Your responsibility is to find your “call” or “mission” in life.

There are 2 aspects of a personal mission or calling:

- i) Your spiritual mission: “To know God, and enjoy Him forever.”
(from the Westminster Catechism), and
- ii) Your personal mission – “seek out his call on your life. You must exercise the talents God has given you to use while on this earth – your greatest gift, which you most delight to use; for the purposes which God most needs to have done in the world.”
(From: “What Color is Your Parachute,” by Richard Bolles)

According to Frederick Buechner

“The place God calls you to, is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” (Frederick Buechner)

Does this mean ‘Ministry’ I don’t know, the world is God’s mission field.

Find your call:

1. **Pray** – Earnestly seek the Lord and ask Him where He wants you to be.
2. **Passion** -- find your passion and pursue it –What comes easy for you harder for others. (Give examples)
You have to love to do it. Not just now, but 30-40 years from now.
“Find the thing you love to do, and you will never have to work a day in your life.”
3. **Listen: God is always at work around you. (Experiencing God)**
He will speak through His word, prayer, people, and the church.
Listen carefully to the advice and affirmation of others.
God uses what others are saying about you to confirm areas of calling on your life.

Ability –The gifts God has given you are not just for you – they are for the betterment of the whole world.

Consider how you could use your gift as a service – Eg.

4. **Consider how your gifts can be used to earn a living –**
I hate being practical. Some things are very interesting, attractive, etc., but the field is so competitive or the income possibilities so few, it's just not a practical career to pursue. I know ultimately God will provide, but he doesn't want us to suspend sound judgment or common sense when we live our lives.

5. **Finally commit yourself to excellence in everything you do.**

Parents you are passing on the baton. Students you must grab hold of it. You must run your race and seek the prize.

Life is like a garden:

Some people walk through a garden and see flowers and trees,
delight in the beauty of flowers enjoy the sweet aromas,
Others walk through the same garden and see only the dying flowers,
rampant weeds.
Still others walk through same garden seeing little or nothing.

I pray you will walk through the Garden of this life seeing all ...
Enjoying all that God has given, and living life to the fullest, a life filled
with vision and passion.

Proverbs: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path.