From Death to Life
By Richard Crisco

Memory Verse:
Jn 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2Ki 4:8 One day Elisha went to Shunem. And a well-to-do woman was there, who urged him to stay for a meal. So whenever he came by, he stopped there to eat. 9 She said to her husband, "I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God. 10 Let's make a small room on the roof and put in it a bed and a table, a chair and a lamp for him. Then he can stay there whenever he comes to us."

11 One day when Elisha came, he went up to his room and lay down there. 12 He said to his servant Gehazi, "Call the Shunammite." So he called her, and she stood before him. 13 Elisha said to him, "Tell her, 'You have gone to all this trouble for us. Now what can be done for you? Can we speak on your behalf to the king or the commander of the army?"' She replied, "I have a home among my own people."

14 "What can be done for her?" Elisha asked. Gehazi said, "Well, she has no son and her husband is old." 15 Then Elisha said, "Call her." So he called her, and she stood in the doorway. 16 "About this time next year," Elisha said, "you will hold a son in your arms." "No, my lord," she objected. "Don't mislead your servant, O man of God!"

17 But the woman became pregnant, and the next year about that same time she gave birth to a son, just as Elisha had told her. 18 The child grew, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the reapers. 19 "My head! My head!" he said to his father. His father told a servant, "Carry him to his mother."

20 After the servant had lifted him up and carried him to his mother, the boy sat on her lap until noon, and then he died. 21 She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, then shut the door and went out. 22 She called her husband and said, "Please send me one of the servants and a donkey so I can go to the man of God quickly and return."

23 "Why go to him today?" he asked. "It's not the New Moon or the Sabbath. "It's all right," she said. 24 She saddled the donkey and said to her servant, "Lead on; don't slow down for me unless I tell you." 25 So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. When he saw her in the distance, the man of God said to his servant Gehazi, "Look! There's the Shunammite!

26 Run to meet her and ask her, 'Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?"' "Everything is all right," she said. 27 When she reached the man of God at the mountain, she took hold of his feet. Gehazi came over to push her away, but the man of God said, "Leave her alone! She is in bitter distress, but the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me why."

28 "Did I ask you for a son, my lord?" she said. "Didn't I tell you, 'Don't raise my hopes'?" 29 Elisha said to Gehazi, "Tuck your cloak into your belt, take my staff in your hand and run. If you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not answer. Lay my staff on the boy's face." 30 But the child's mother
said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So he got up and followed her.

31 Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the boy's face, but there was no sound or response. So Gehazi went back to meet Elisha and told him, "The boy has not awakened." 32 When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch. 33 He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the LORD.

34 Then he got on the bed and lay upon the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out upon him, the boy's body grew warm. 35 Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out upon him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

36 Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite." And he did. When she came, he said, "Take your son." 37 She came in, fell at his feet and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

Title: From Death to Life!

Elijah raised the first person from the dead,
A Widow’s Boy (Fatherless) (1 Kings 17:17ff)

Elisha raised the second person from the dead,
A boy with a dead beat dad. (2 Kings 4:16-37ff)

Elijah and Elisha touched these young men
in three very significant ways:

1. Mouth to Mouth:
   Breathe Life into them.

   It is useless to Revive someone unless we first know
the cause of their weakness or death.

   Reasons one might need to be revived!

   1. Sickness or Disease. (Lack of Health)
   2. Malnourished. (Lack of Food)
   3. Dehydrated. (Lack of Water)
   4. Drowned (Lack of Air)
   5. Overly Exhausted. (Lack of Energy)
   6. Accident (Lack of Safety)
   7. Old. (Lack of Youth)

   The common factor is “Lack”!

   The reason for Lack is a disconnection
from our source of Abundance!

   The permanent cure requires repentance –
A change of thinking and behavior.

   2Cor 7:10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads
to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow
brings death.

   I say, “We are in desperate need of Revival!”
   “We need Restoration!”

   Throughout Human history we can see how we ALL
are prone to wander away from the Lord!
Continuous Cycle:
Get Connected with God
Abundance
Disconnected
We experience Lack
Repent (Change our Mind and Behavior)
Reconnected with God

Each Time this Vicious Cycle becomes
Greater and more Intense!

2. Eye to Eye:

Impart vision and Purpose.

KJV Pro 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

Pro 29:18 Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law.

Personal Mission Statement Exercise:

3. Hand to Hand:

Train and equip for battle and service.

Psa. 144:1 Of David. Praise be to the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle.

RCC Mission Statement:
We are committed to making disciples of all Nations!
Developing a Personal Mission Statement!

By Richard Crisco

Jer 1:4 The word of the LORD came to me, saying, 5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Jer 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Hab 2:2 Then the LORD replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. 3 For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

Act 13:36 "For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed.

A sand castle needs no planning, but a magnificent skyscraper requires blueprints, skills, funding, and endurance!

Greatness does not just happen!

Most people live according to their clock instead of their compass.

The clock represents our commitments, schedules, goals, activities - how we manage our time.

The compass represents our vision, values, principles; what is important to us and how we lead our lives.

You don’t want to go faster if you are going in the wrong direction!

More important than prioritizing your schedule is to schedule your priorities.

What does it matter how much we do if what we are doing is not what matters most?

More important than doing things right is doing the right things!

Before I understood the value of a Personal Mission Statement I was at the mercy of everybody else’s agenda. I felt obligated as a Christian Leader to say yes to everybody’s request. I felt guilty for saying no.

Every time you say “yes” to something, you automatically say “no” to something else!

I could not say “no” until I had a bigger “yes”!

I did not know what to commit to because I did not know who I was or where I was going!

If you do not know where you are going any road will get you there!

Your Personal Mission Statement will help you set the right goals and will give you strength to accomplish those goals!
Personal Mission Statement
Exercise 1:

Get away from everyone for a period of time and ask the Lord to help you to honestly evaluate yourself by answering the following questions: (I personally took 3 days to get away from every distraction to do some deep soul searching before the Lord.)

What do I feel are my greatest strengths?
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
What strengths have others noticed in me?
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
What do I deeply enjoy doing?
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
What events/issues really get me angry?
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

What events/issues do I get extremely excited about?
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

What qualities of character do I most admire in others?
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
Who is the one person that has made the greatest positive impact on my life?

Why was that person able to have such significant impact?
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
If I had unlimited time and resources, what would I do? Don’t be afraid to dream. Unlock possibilities. Write down everything that comes to mind.

Write down your values. Below is a partial list that might help stimulate your thinking:

- Peace
- Good health
- Free time
- Spiritually Strong
- Family
- Fulfillment
- Sincerity
- Security
- Happiness
- Friendships
- Legacy
- Honesty
- Love
- Wealth
- Fame
- Truth
- Integrity
- Travel
- Respect
- Thoughtfulness

From your list of values, identifying the top five.

1) ____________________
2) ____________________
3) ____________________
4) ____________________
5) ____________________

Exercise 2:

(This portion was gleaned from Stephen Covey)

Again, block out a space of time where you can get away from everyone and do some deep soul searching in the presence of God. The more honest you are and
the greater energy you put into these exercises, the more likely you will become what God wants you to be. Always remember, “God is more interested in who you are than what you do. ‘Being’ is far more important than ‘doing’!

Visualize yourself at your own funeral filled with friends, loved ones, and associates from all walks of life who have gathered to honor you. Imagine it in as much detail as you can: the place, the people, etc. See these people in your mind’s eye as they stand, one by one, to pay tribute to you. I want you to focus in on four specific types of persons: a family member, a co-worker, a close friend, and a church member.

What would you want these four people to say? What qualities of character would you want to be remembered for? What outstanding contributions would they mention? Look around at the people there. What important difference have you made in their lives?

Take some time and write out this scene. Include the speech of the four types of people mentioned. Be honest, search deep into your soul. This is your opportunity to put words into other people’s mouths. Write out what you’d like them to say.

This quick exercise will begin to give you an insight into who you really are and what God has in store for your life. You will already begin to experience the potential power and passion of a vision given by God.

When you receive a vision from God- you’ll live purer and more meaningful lives! Let’s seek God for a personal vision!
Final Exercise:
You should have an accurate sense of direction for your life by the time you have finished the first two exercises in this section. You need to once again find a place of solitude and wait for the Lord, for His Holy Spirit to come and help you search the recesses of your heart and soul. With the exercises in which you have already completed I want you to begin to write out your own personal mission statement.

Stephen Covey states: “People attempting to write a missions statement for the first time often write to please or impress somebody else. They don’t go the distance or pay the price to create a deep inner connection. Their mission statements become a potpourri of platitudes, a ‘to-do’ check off list and filed somewhere for your occasional inspiration.”

I don’t want you to make that mistake. Put your heart into this project. Don’t try to get fancy or impressive. Your statement will most likely not mean much to anyone else except yourself; and that’s how it should be. Express yourself to yourself to remind yourself what yourself is all about. I personally review my statement regularly to remind myself of who I am. This helps me to live each day true to my mission in life. All of my decisions and actions of each day are based upon my mission not unimportant demands upon my life. I can now say “No” because I have a more intense “Yes” which controls my life. I have included my mission statement as an example:

My Mission
I desire to know my heavenly Father and bring only Glory to His name.
To abide in His anointing and to personify His heart to His people, as well as to the lost sheep of His pasture.
To love Him whole heartily and cause Him to dance with joy.
I will embrace my wife and children and pour my BEST into them. I will empower them to reach their full potential and will do anything necessary to see them enjoy life to the max.
I want to be a positive force and inspire others to excel in greatness.
I commit myself to people. To see them equipped to fulfill God’s call upon their lives.
I want to be true to the principals of life, which I believe, (Truth, Honesty, Love, Integrity, Purity, Trust, Proactivity, etc.)
I don’t want to take myself too seriously.
I want to keep everything in proper perspective.
I want to alter the lives of men and create within them a passion for Christ.
I will always be faithful and press forward, no matter how rough the way!
Lord, only with your help! Amen!