



LAMP GLOBAL
COMMUNITY

BLAZE

INAUGURAL
EDITION

OF CHANGE YOUTH MAGAZINE

**ALEAH-
LYNN**

**Rising Strong
Exceptional Youth in a
Changing World
The Matchstick Girl
Buzzer Beater
The Power of Starting Small
Living With Intentionality
And Many More**

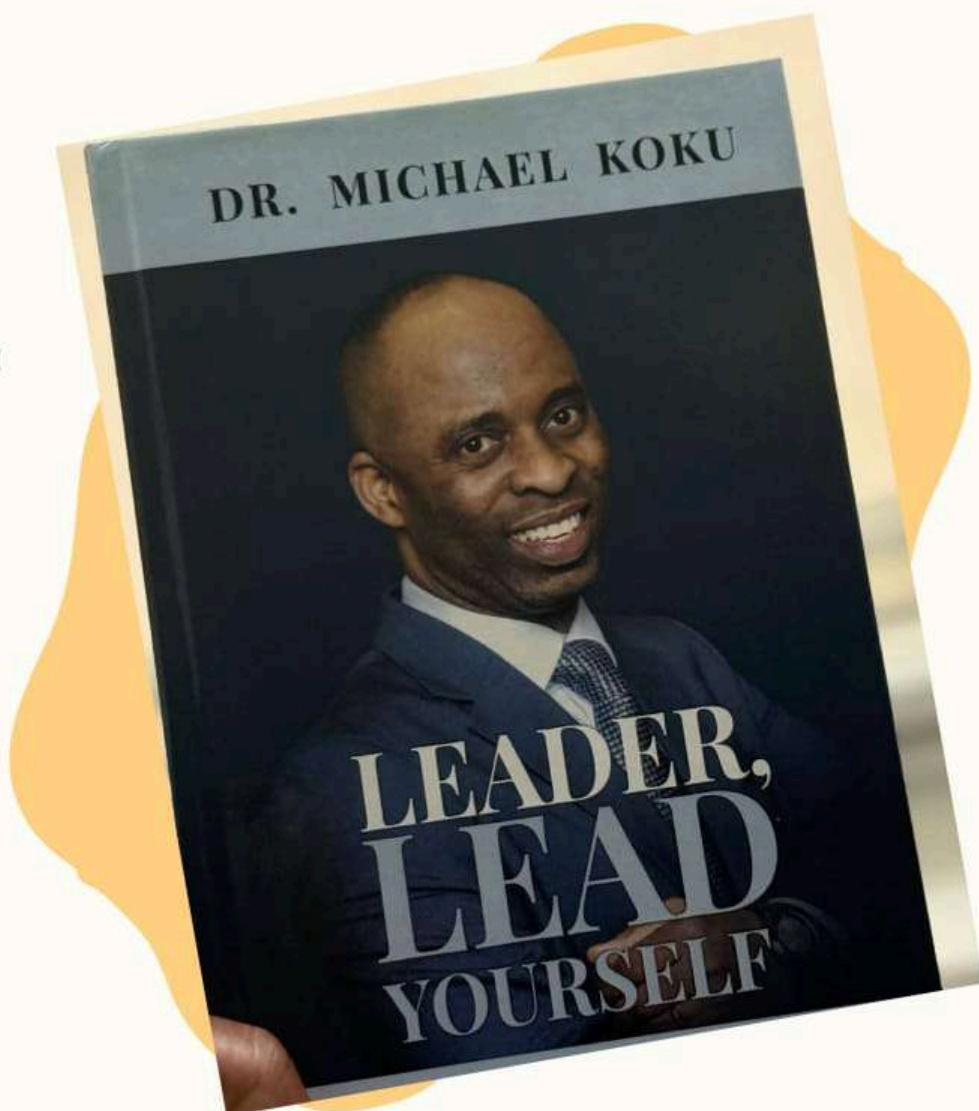
Table of Contents

4	20
WELCOME - DR. MICHAEL KOKU	CONNECT WITH THE VISIONER - DR. MICHAEL KOKU
5	23
COVER PERSONALITY - ALEAH-LYNN	THE MATCHSTICK GIRL- MUTE OLORI
9	25
RISING STRONG - DR. SHARON OLORI	OWN IT: WHY RESPONSIBILITY BUILDS STRENGTH - REMI AYODELE
11	27
EXCEPTIONAL YOUTH IN A CHANGING WORLD - DR. MICHAEL KOKU	LIVING WITH INTENTIONALITY - BOLA KOKU
14	29
BUZZER BEATER - JOSHUA AYODELE	NAVIGATING LIFE'S JOURNEY WITH PURPOSE AND WISDOM -BUNMI OLANIRAN
15	31
THE POWER OF STARTING SMALL - OMOLARA DENNIS	LAMP GLOBAL COMMUNITY
16	32
PREPARE YOUR PURPOSE - KARI-LYNN HASTMAN	BOOKS BY OUR LEADERS
18	33
PIECE TOGETHER YOUR PURPOSE - SHERRI MCLEROY	BOOKS BY DR. MICHAEL KOKU
19	34
THE LIT LEADER LOUNGE - BLAZE OF CHANGE TEAM	CONTACT US (FOLLOW US)
20	35
TIME AND CHOICES- ALEAH-LYNN	PAST EVENTS



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

New Release:
Leader, Lead
Yourself by
Dr. Michael Koku



a game-changer for anyone ready to unlock their power to lead and influence others with Personal Leadership using the acronym L.E.A.D.E.R.S.H.I.P

Now available on Amazon both hardcover and digital copy. Get your copy today.

Digital Link: <https://a.co/d/fx8rmnN>

Hardcover Link: <https://a.co/d/2jU8l9N>

Welcome to Blaze of Change Youth Magazine

WELCOME TO THE INAUGURAL EDITION OF BLAZE OF CHANGE YOUTH MAGAZINE!

Building Our Youth for the Future — Beginning Today!

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." — Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Dear Trailblazers,

Welcome to a movement. Welcome to a mindset. Welcome to a mission.

You are holding in your hands (or scrolling through) the very first edition of the BLAZE OF CHANGE YOUTH MAGAZINE — a bold, vibrant, and purpose-driven publication created by youth, for youth, and anyone who believes in the power of raising leaders for a better world.

At the LAMP Global Community, we don't just dream about leadership — we develop it. Over the past two years, we've hosted nine global virtual leadership conferences, impacting thousands across generations — youth, women, men, and parents. And now, as we are preparing for our 10th conference this September 6, 2025, we celebrate another powerful milestone: the launch of this dynamic magazine that gives voice to the future — your voice.

Out of this vision, YES — Youth Empowerment Society was born in 2023. YES lives to ignite the fire of purpose within the next generation. It is a platform where young people are not only seen and heard, but shaped and launched to become world-class, authentic, and impactful leaders.

This year, our second annual BLAZE OF CHANGE GLOBAL YOUTH CONFERENCE 2.0 saw hundreds of participants from across the globe, with life-changing testimonies pouring in. The hunger for mentorship and transformation is real. The fire is spreading. And this magazine is your fuel.

As Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Prize winner and youth advocate, reminds us: *"The power of youth is the commonwealth for the entire world."*

Inside this powerful issue, you'll find inspiring articles, bold ideas, and fresh voices from passionate youth and global youth advocates who are blazing trails and lighting up the future. From leadership insights to personal growth, from global perspectives to local action — this magazine is your toolkit for transformation.

Let this be more than a read — let it be a revolution within you.

With vision and conviction,

Dr. Michael Koku

Chief Visioner, LAMP Global Community

Parent Organization of YES – Youth Empowerment Society





Since a vision is supposed to be bigger than yourself, and leadership means leading others, it is time to raise up a generation of leaders to accomplish a vision bigger than yourself.

Aleah Lynn is a passionate young adult currently in her third year at a Bible university in Florida, where she is committed to growing in both faith and leadership.

As a Maxwell Leadership Certified Youth Speaker and Trainer, she has spoken at various events, encouraging and empowering young people.

Originally from Canada, Aleah previously led a girls' ministry and dance group.

She also has experience in modeling. In her free time, Aleah enjoys playing the piano, using music as a meaningful way to express herself.

Blaze of Change: What does leadership mean to you at this stage in your life, and how are you living it out daily?

Aleah: Leadership to me at this present moment means being a light to the world. Your actions, words, and character will shine brighter the more you focus on others and expand your vision to include others.

Leadership is linked to others. Being a full-time student in a Bible University has taught me that it is important to develop these areas daily. I interact with different personalities and handle different situations each day.

One thing I have learned is that kindness cancels negativity. How you react to things determines the outcome. What is on the inside of you is what will come out when you are under pressure.

Aleah Lynn

Aleah-Lynn

Blaze of Change:

What moment or experience first ignited your desire to lead or influence change?

Aleah: Growing up, I've had the privilege of leading and speaking directly to my generation. It all began when my mom enrolled me in a youth membership for the Maxwell Leadership Certified Team.

This experience ignited a vision that transcended my personal aspirations. I witnessed the potential of my generation, the way it could shape the future. Today, at 20 years old, I see my generation writing history.

Since a vision is meant to be greater than oneself, and leadership entails guiding others, it is imperative to nurture a generation of leaders capable of achieving a vision surpassing their own.

Blaze of Change: *If you could solve one global issue with your influence, what would it be and why?*

Aleah: I believe in analyzing an issue from its root cause, understanding what sparked it and how it progressed to its current state.

When I envision my vision, I also envision a group of individuals who extend their reach to nations in need or address the challenges presented.

By God's guidance and intervention, your vision should be set before you. For me, the primary focus is sharing the gospel. God saved my life and provided me with the tools to fulfill my purpose as He leads me.

My generation will be saved—every week, I have the privilege of speaking to young people about Jesus and guiding them to Christ. .

One thing I consistently observe is the profound hunger this generation has for a divine connection. Perhaps they simply lack awareness of its existence.

Blaze of Change: *How do you balance your personal goals with the responsibility of being a voice for your generation?*

Aleah: Currently, my personal goals in Bible School are directly aligned with being a voice for my generation. I am fortunate to attend a school that emphasizes putting the Word into action and witnessing the tangible results we read in the gospel.

Despite my busy schedule with classes and other commitments, I have the opportunity to actively engage in various areas. Additionally, I have the privilege of serving others who speak for my generation and empowering those who directly contribute to positive change globally.

To achieve balance, you must maintain focus. Imagine sailing a ship. Even a small difference, like an inch or a degree, might not seem significant initially. However, by the end of your journey, you could end up in a completely different destination, not the one you intended to reach.

When you set your sights on your goals and passions, the focus you put on staying on your own track will play the most crucial role in determining your final destination.

Blaze of Change: *What's one mindset shift that transformed how you see challenges or setbacks?*

Aleah: Two main things come to my mind when I get asked this question.

1. I am not a quitter.
2. Watch my heart.

I want to analyze the first one. Challenges and setbacks can significantly impact our momentum if we're not careful. In my life, I've cultivated a "no quitter" mentality for the things I pursue.



You must have an unwavering determination within your heart to reach your goal. When the going gets tough and you're stretched to your limits, will there be something to prevent you from giving up?

That something is tenacity, a self-evident quality that burns within you, fueling your determination to keep going.

The second point, "Watch my heart," emphasizes how I approach situations and maintain an attitude.

I strive to cultivate a spirit of excellence daily, which is a core value that guides me in my endeavors.

While perfection is unattainable, I believe that we can intentionally strive for excellence in our actions.

Guarding your heart to prevent life's storms from disrupting that peace.

A spirit of excellence reveals the heart behind a task, whether it's a relationship, friendship, or job.

What message do you convey to exemplify your true self?

I mentioned above that what is inside of you is what will come out of you when you are under pressure.

Aleah-Lynn

Blaze of Change: *What book, mentor, or quote has deeply shaped your thinking as a young leader?*

Aleah: For me, it's the best-selling book in the world, the Holy Bible! It's simple! And here are quotes that resonate with me:

"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity." - 1 Timothy 4:12.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed." - Luke 4:18.

"For I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you," says the Lord, plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." - Jeremiah 29:11.

I realized this is for me! And it is for you too! You are never too young to start being a leader for your generation and to do it with the help of the Lord. You must die to what others think and move on with what the Lord says.

Blaze of Change: *How do you stay creatively inspired in a world that's constantly changing?*

Aleah: I've always been someone who draws inspiration from within, so I never found it challenging to keep up with constantly shifting trends. I stay true to myself. Often, I find myself going in the opposite direction of others, which has helped me walk confidently in my own skin.

Blaze of Change: *What's an unconventional idea or innovation you've embraced that others doubted at first?*

Aleah: I had unique opportunities at a very young age that would cause others to wonder. Not many people understood why I chose to embark on my leadership journey so early.

At a young age, I held the title of a co-founder. I participated in speaking engagements and took on challenges that seemed nonsensical to others. Did I have to? No. The vision doesn't have to be clear to others; it must be clear to you. This is why I say pursue your goals early in life and don't look back!

Blaze of Change: *What's the biggest lesson you've learned about yourself in the past year?*

Aleah: It's the determination I've set within myself that will keep me going. Staying within my comfort zone will prevent me from growing—you hear it all the time, but I had to experience this at new levels. The only times I grew were when I stepped out of my bubble. But it's not about how you start; it's about how you finish. You can overcome even the toughest challenges!

Looking back will keep you dormant; meanwhile, looking forward will accelerate you. John Maxwell says, "Change is inevitable, Growth is optional."

Blaze of Change: *If you could go back to when you were 13, what advice would you give your younger self?*

Aleah: 13-year-old me is an inspiration to myself today – probably not the answer you were expecting. 13-year-old me was carefree and expressive. She was unapologetically who she was. There was confidence that inspired me to this day. She was a fighter and one set in place with her eyes looking forward. I would tell her not to change a thing.



Aleah-Lynn

Blaze of Change: *Who are the key people in your life that keep you grounded and why?*

Aleah: My foundation comes from God— My stability comes from God. The friends who encourage you in the Word will be a key component to staying grounded. Dr. John Maxwell said, *"You are only as good as the people you have around you."*

Your circle will be highly influential to who you are as a person. Stick with that which accelerates you. You should always be moving upwards and never backwards.

Blaze of Change: *How do you handle peer pressure, especially when your values are tested?*

Aleah: Here's what I say – "No, I'm good". Let it be that simple! Why complicate things by feeling the need to explain yourself? Don't expect everyone to understand you. Your values are important! If you're rooted, you'll have the resilience to stay steadfast on the right path. Remember, not everything can be perfect, but if you don't face your giant today, tomorrow you'll have to deal with him and his children! It's a funny example, but it's true.

Blaze of Change: *What do you want your legacy to be—not when you're older, but right now in your twenties?*

Aleah: I want my legacy to be of resilience and determination – you've probably noticed those being some of my favorite words. The discipline to stay steadfast on what God has called me to do, which I hope can be seen in my focus

Don't stop until your dreams become a reality. Take the hard steps, read the books, engage in learning, exercise regularly, and do whatever it takes to propel yourself forward. God provides strength, and you bring the heart.

Blaze of Change: *How do you want to be remembered by those in your generation who look up to you?*

Aleah: As a young person I recognize that my impact for years ahead starts here and now. You are accountable for everything that you learn now, so use it to your benefit! Only doing what God tells me to do, nothing more, nothing less and nothing else. The greatest highlights that I want to be remembered for would be that I am on fire, focused and steadfast. Let that be what is seen. But most importantly, have fun!



Blaze of Change: What challenge would you like to give to every reader of Blaze of Change Magazine today?

Aleah: Your leadership will only be as effective as your growth. How can you implement a change in your life that will accelerate your growth and not hinder it? There is an adding and subtracting method I like to use.

If you take something out of your life that you recognize needs to go then you need to add a positive to balance it out, so it's not left in a deficit. A quote by John Maxwell affirms, *"Before you work on the outside of your leadership, work on the inside of your leadership."*

Secondly, comparison is a pitfall for leadership – you've got your eyes on the wrong target. Keep your eyes on the right target. Comparison will hold you back from your potential.

Potential is unexposed ability, reserved power, undiscovered strengths, undiscovered abilities, unused success, dormant gift or hidden talents.

A natural human desire for most people is to reach their potential in their lifetime. No one wants to live with "Should have." Say this out loud- "I am going to be the reached potential of (insert your name).

Remember it's not about doing it out of your own strength -

"I can do all things [which He has called me to do] through Him who strengthens and empowers me [to fulfill His purpose—I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency; I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses me with inner strength and confident peace.]" - Philippians 4:13.

Where is your focus today? Stay true to the vision set before you.

RISING STRONG

Becoming Exceptional in a World That Won't Slow Down

DR. SHARON OLORI - MEDICAL DOCTOR, YOUTH ADVOCATE



The world is shifting at a speed we can barely process. Technology is advancing faster than our textbooks. Global news travels in seconds. Expectations multiply. And amid it all, we, the youth, are told to stay focused, stay calm, stay excellent.

But how do you stay exceptional when you feel exhausted, anxious, or unseen?

I've asked myself that question many times, not just as a medical doctor facing long hours and critical decisions, but as a human being navigating identity, purpose, and pressure. I've met young people with fire in their eyes and doubt in their hearts.

I've looked into the faces of leaders who still feel like they're faking it. And I've realized: being exceptional isn't about having a perfect journey, it's about refusing to stop walking.

Blaze Your Own Path

"Don't trade your authenticity for approval." — Lalah Delia.

To be exceptional in today's world, we must break out of the boxes we were handed. Too many of us are told:

"Follow this path."

"Don't fail."

"Be better than the rest."

But real excellence isn't imitation. It's authenticity. It's asking, "What sets my soul on fire?" and then finding the courage to follow that flame.

3 Strategies for Becoming an Exceptional Youth in Today's World

1. Embrace Imperfection — It's Your Power

"You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great." — Zig Ziglar.

Your flaws don't disqualify you; they make you real. Stop waiting to "feel ready." Start where you are, with what you have.

2. Practice Purposeful Silence

"Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes... including you." — Anne Lamott.

In a world of noise and distraction, stillness is revolutionary. Make time for daily reflection, even 10 minutes to sit, breathe, and listen to your own thoughts. Clarity is born in quietness.

3. Build Your Inner Circle Like It's Sacred

"You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with." — Jim Rohn.

You don't need everyone. You need the right ones. People who challenge you, uplift you, and remind you of who you are when you forget.

You Are Not Too Young. You Are Right On Time.

"You are never too young to lead and never too old to learn." — Kofi Annan.

Every movement in history started with young people who were tired of waiting. They didn't ask for permission, they made a decision. Whether it was civil rights, innovation, or community transformation, it was youth who carried the flame.

So don't be fooled, your age is not a limitation. It's leverage. Your ideas, your questions, your boldness, they are your edge in a world desperate for fresh thinking.

ACTION POINT: Your 5-Day Personal Blaze Challenge

Because knowledge without action is just entertainment, here's your challenge, one small step each day to ignite the exceptional nature within you:

Day 1: Write down 3 things you love about yourself — and say them out loud in the mirror.

*Dr. Sharon
Olori*

Day 2: Reach out to someone who inspires you and ask them one bold question.

Day 3: Unfollow anything on social media that makes you feel "less than." Protect your mind.

Day 4: Start something you've been scared to do — even if it's a rough draft or voice note.

Day 5: Share your story with someone younger. Let them know it's okay not to have it all figured out.

Final Word: Burn Bright, Don't Burn Out!

You don't have to do everything at once. Focus on your lane. Fuel your spirit. Protect your peace. And when you rise, and you will rise, bring others with you.

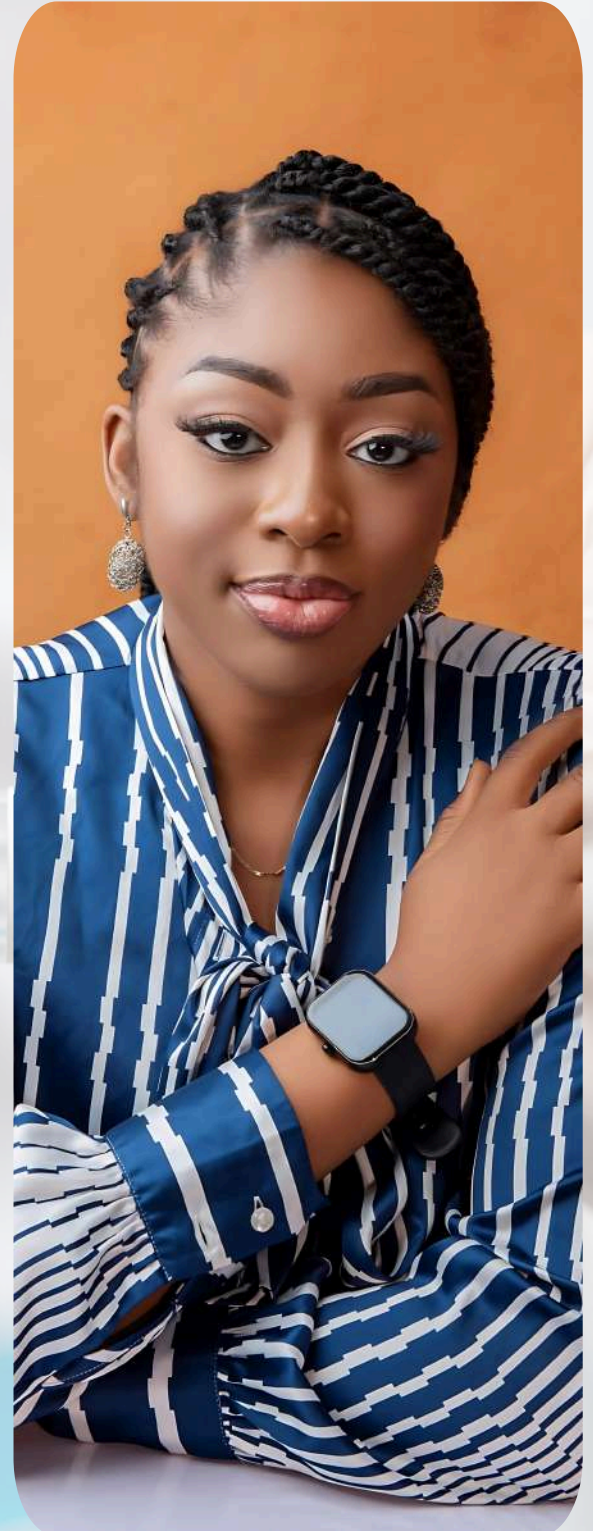
We are the blaze.

We are the change.

We are not the next generation.

We are the now generation.

Rising Strong



DR. MICHAEL KOKU EXCEPTIONAL *Youth*

IN A CHANGING WORLD!

"Youth comes but once in a lifetime." — Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

In a fast-changing world, mediocrity is a choice—but so is EXCEPTIONALISM. And YOU have what it takes to rise and become EXCEPTIONAL.

FROM BEDROOM BUSINESS TO BILLIONAIRE: The Michael Dell Story

Michael was born to a Jewish family. His parents were Lorraine (Mother) a stockbroker, and Alexander (Father), an orthodontist. Michael attended Herod Elementary School in Houston. In a bid to enter business early, he applied to take a high school equivalency exam at age eight. In his early teens, he invested his earnings from part-time jobs in stocks and precious metals.

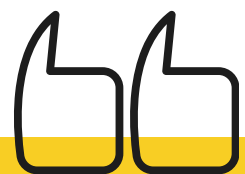
He attended Memorial High School in Houston, selling subscriptions to the Houston Post in the summer. His parents wanted him to be a doctor and to please them, he started pre-med at the University of Texas. He dropped out of the University of Texas at age 19.

While a first-year pre-med student at the University of Texas, he started an informal business putting together and selling upgrade kits for personal computers in his room at college. He then applied for a vendor license to bid on contracts for the State of Texas, winning bids by not having the overhead of a computer store.

He later recognized that selling PCs directly to consumers could cut costs compared to traditional retail. He registered his company as "PC's Limited" and began operating from a condominium, selling between \$50,000 and \$80,000 worth of PC upgrades, kits, and add-on components.

His strategy was to manufacture computers after receiving orders. He later incorporated the company as "Dell Computer Corporation" and relocated to a business center in North Austin.

The company employed a few people as order takers, a few more to fill the orders, and, as Dell recalled, a manufacturing staff consisting of "three guys with screwdrivers sitting at six-foot tables". The venture's capitalization cost was \$1,000.



Don't associate with ZERO and ONE. Associate with MULTIPLIERS. Surround yourself with people who will challenge, stretch, and elevate you.

EXCEPTIONAL YOUTH IN A CHANGING WORLD!

DR. MICHAEL KOKU

In 1992, aged twenty-seven, Michael Dell became the youngest CEO of a company ranked in Fortune magazine's list of the top 500 corporations and today, he is the chairman, and CEO of Dell Technologies, one of the world's largest technology infrastructure companies. As of May 2025, according to Bloomberg Billionaires Index, he is the 14th-richest person in the world with a net worth of \$125 billion.

What changed his life? Personal leadership. He mastered it early—and multiplied value across the world.

BECOMING EXCEPTIONAL STARTS WITH YOU: Are you a ZERO, a ONE, or a MULTIPLIER?

ZERO – Erases value. Anything multiplied by zero equals zero.

ONE – Maintains status quo. Anything multiplies by one remain the same.

MULTIPLIER – Adds and multiplies value. Multipliers make you better.

Multipliers lead themselves first, then uplift others. You can be one—and here's how!

YOU CAN BECOME A MULTIPLIER BY LEARNING HOW TO UNLOCK YOUR POWER (FOR INFLUENCING PEOPLE POSITIVELY) WITH PERSONAL LEADERSHIP.

From my new book *LEADER, LEAD YOURSELF: Unlocking Your Power with Personal Leadership*, I revealed the 10 life-changing pillars to help youths all around the world and any adult grow, lead, and multiply their influence in today's ever-changing world.

Here are the 10 transformative Pillars of Personal Leadership using the simple and memorable acronym, L.E.A.D.E.R.S.H.I.P.:

*Learn Continuously

Never stop growing. Stay hungry. Stay curious.

*Exercise Self-Discipline

Choose what you want most over what you want now.

Act with Accountability

Own your decisions.

Demonstrate Emotional Intelligence

Lead with heart and wisdom.

Embrace Purpose and Passion

Let your 'why' set you on fire.

Reflect and Realign Regularly

Pause, assess, adjust.

Set Clear and Stretching Goals

Aim high, reach higher.

Harness Your Inner Motivation

Fuel yourself from within.

Inspire Yourself First

Lead yourself before leading others.

Persevere Through Challenges

Press on when it's hard.

Each pillar adds power; each trait expands your leadership. The more you lead yourself well, the more you can unlock your power to influence people positively and multiply your impact on your world. Let us dive into each pillars for more clarity:

1. LEARN CONTINUOUSLY:

Stay curious, commit to lifelong learning, and keep growing through every experience. President John F. Kennedy said, *"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other."*

2. EXERCISE SELF-DISCIPLINE:

Take consistent actions aligned with your values and priorities, even when it's hard. Author and Entrepreneur, Jim Rohn said, *"Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment."*

3. ACT WITH ACCOUNTABILITY:

Own your responsibilities, decisions, and outcomes. Be a leader others can trust. American clergyman, social reformer, and speaker, known for his support of the abolition of slavery, Henry Ward Beecher said, *"Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than anybody else expects of you. Never excuse yourself."*

4. DEMONSTRATE EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE:

Be aware of your emotions, manage them well, and navigate relationships wisely. Chinese philosopher, Confucius said, *"He who conquers himself is the mightiest warrior."*

5. EMBRACE PURPOSE AND PASSION:

Connect deeply with your 'why' to stay energized, focused, and impactful.

American poet and philosopher, Ralph Waldo Emerson said, *"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."*

6. REFLECT AND REALIGN REGULARLY:

Take time to evaluate progress, celebrate growth, and adjust your course as needed. The father of modern management and author, Peter Drucker said, *"Follow effective action with quiet reflection. From the quiet reflection will come even more effective action."*

7. SET CLEAR AND STRETCHING GOALS:

Establish bold, clear, and achievable goals that stretch your capacity and potential. Author of inspirational quotes and prose, Catherine Pulsifier said, *"Goals are like a map. They help us determine where we want to end up and give us personal direction on which to focus our energy."*

8. HARNESS YOUR INNER MOTIVATION:

Discover and nurture your inner drive—it fuels consistent action and sustained success. Inventor and co-founder of Apple, Steve Jobs said, *"The only way to do great work is to love what you do."*

9. INSPIRE YOURSELF FIRST:

Be your own greatest motivator. Lead by example and stay lit from within. American businessman and investor, Scooter Braun said, *"If you want to inspire the world, first inspire yourself."*

EXCEPTIONAL YOUTH IN A CHANGING WORLD!

10. PERSEVERE THROUGH CHALLENGES:

Push through obstacles with resilience, learning from setbacks and never giving up. English poet, playwright, and lexicographer, Samuel Johnson said, "Great works are performed not by strength but by perseverance."

CHANGE YOUR CIRCLE, CHANGE YOUR LIFE!

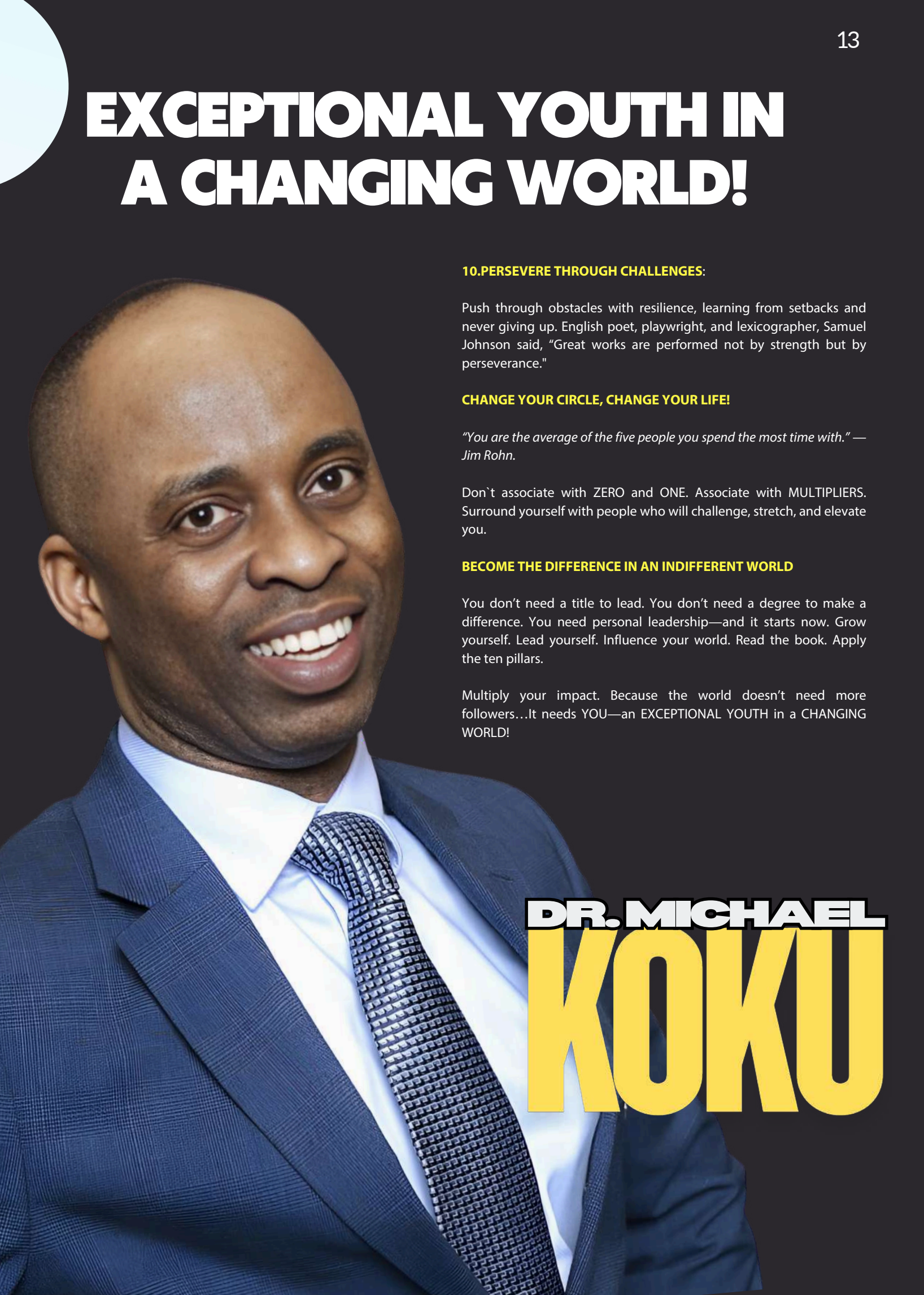
"You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with." — Jim Rohn.

Don't associate with ZERO and ONE. Associate with MULTIPLIERS. Surround yourself with people who will challenge, stretch, and elevate you.

BECOME THE DIFFERENCE IN AN INDIFFERENT WORLD

You don't need a title to lead. You don't need a degree to make a difference. You need personal leadership—and it starts now. Grow yourself. Lead yourself. Influence your world. Read the book. Apply the ten pillars.

Multiply your impact. Because the world doesn't need more followers...It needs YOU—an EXCEPTIONAL YOUTH in a CHANGING WORLD!

A portrait of Dr. Michael Koku, a Black man with a shaved head, smiling and wearing a blue suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. The background is dark with a light blue circle in the top left corner.

DR. MICHAEL
KOKU

BUZZER BEATER

Joshua Ayodele



I will never forget the day that I made a buzzer-beating game-winner. My dad took me to the game.

He was coaching me on what to do on defense and how to use my body for finishing at the rim. *"Make sure to use your body to bump the offense while playing defense. Don't forget to think about shooting, not only passing,"* he said.

I was lacing up my shoes and warming up with my team before the game. The coach told us, "Start off with stretching, then do the warmups."

For the past 3 years, I have played for several teams and leagues: Encore Basketball League, California Youth Basketball League, AAU, and my elementary school team.

This time, I was playing for the Chinese Community Church team because my friend's dad was the coach. My team played against the girls' team, and the girls had a big height advantage.

My team did well in the first half, but the girls made a comeback in the third quarter.

I scored 6 points before the very tense fourth quarter. The fourth quarter was very close.

We had the lead with 2 minutes left, but they made a comeback. With 11 seconds left, they were leading 29-27.

Our coach told us to run a play. He knew that I was a good shooter—I had practiced shooting 30 shots a day before the season—so the point guard's goal in the play was to pass to me on the wing. He passed.

I looked up at the clock. 5 seconds left.

I decided to take the shot from deep in the three-point range. SWISH!

The ball swished through the net as time expired. The crowd let out a shout. We won! It took me a couple of seconds to realize that I had just won the game for my team.

All I could do was walk back to half-court casually and smile while my teammates swarmed around me, saying, "Let's go!" and "Oh yeah!"

On my way home, I got a cheeseburger, fries, and a Sprite for dinner.

While I ate, I was watching a Golden State Warriors game. At the end, Steph Curry, one of my favorite players, hit a buzzer-beater three-pointer too!

I was so happy, I could hardly contain my excitement. I was full of energy.

"Success is not an accident; success is actually a choice." - Stephen Curry.

His drive and determination resulted in him being the all-time leader in three-point field goals and the only National Basketball Association player to be named Most Valuable Player unanimously.

My choice to diligently practice shooting drills and ball handling before the season led to my stepping up for my basketball team.

So, what choice will you make today to become an exceptional youth in your world?



Omolara Dennis

The Power of Starting Small

"You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great." — Zig Ziglar.

At just 14, Amina lived in a quiet corner of Shomolu, Lagos. Her school wasn't the best, as classrooms were overcrowded, and the windows were broken, but what she hated most was the garbage piled outside the school gate.

Every day, students walked past it like it wasn't there. One afternoon, she stayed back after school. With her bare hands and a borrowed broom, she swept the trash into a sack. It wasn't perfect, but it looked better.

Former United States Postmaster General and Merchant, John Wanamaker said, "One may walk over the highest mountain one step at a time." This is exactly what Amina did by daring to make a difference in her school one step at a time. The following morning, a teacher noticed.

"Who cleaned this?"
"I did, Ma'am," Amina replied.

The teacher smiled and asked the class, "Who's joining her tomorrow?" By the end of the week, six students had volunteered to sweep every morning. By the end of the term, the school principal had even provided them with bins, gloves, and waste bags.

Small steps every day can create the biggest transformations. Chinese philosopher Confucius said, "The man who moves a mountain begins by carrying away small stones."

The school compound became the cleanest in the area, and Amina was nominated as the Environmental Prefect. The local council took notice and asked her to become their Youth Ambassador to inspire other youths in the community towards great initiatives that will contribute to the well-being of the community.

What difference are you willing to make in your community? How can you become more involved in becoming a difference maker as an exceptional youth in a changing world?

PREPARE YOUR PURPOSE

PROTECTING IT IN THE WAITING

Kari-Lynn Hastman

Kingdom Wealth Builder and Certified Empowerment and Confidence Coach, Speaker, Trainer with Maxwell Leadership.

You may not know it yet. You may not believe it even if you've been told. You may be listening to the voices of doubt, of fear, of bad experiences, and they are first, and they are loudest.

Let me tell you what's hiding underneath. Let me speak a little louder so you can hear what's truly there.

You were born with something powerful inside you—a spark, a wonder, a discovery waiting to rise. There's a calling on your life. You may not see it yet. You may not know what it looks like. You may not recognize the sound of the calling even if it shouts your name.

You think it's for someone else. Someone else, who is more qualified than you, more purposeful than you, more talented than you. But the purpose is there—personal, unique, and full of potential. And it's for you.

The Power in the Unknown

Something is igniting in the stillness. A quiet knowing in the waiting. After the noise of the day, the distractions are all put away, and you are left with your thoughts.

So many thoughts. So much wonder. When it's finally silent, there is so much space. Space for possibility. And space for fear.

There is strength in wondering if we choose to silence the fear and put away the doubt.

But into that wonder, doubt creeps. It whispers, "You're not ready." "You're not enough." "You can't." Doubt tries to steal your purpose before you ever take your first step.

You must guard your heart and guard your purpose. Even if you don't know what it is yet, you must guard its future. Protect it. Prepare for it by listening to voices that encourage you. Prepare for it by surrounding yourself with others who have gone before you.

Prepare for it by listening to your heart. And speaking only words of life and words of purpose. Anything else is an attack on your purpose. And an arrow at your heart.

Don't Listen to the Lie

You don't have to have it all figured out. You just have to start.

When you focus on your purpose, and you keep your eyes on what matters, distractions lose their grip. Fear fades. The voice of purpose grows louder, clearer, stronger. Still, the unknown waits nearby, lingering in the wings, trying to convince you to shrink back. Even when the future feels fuzzy, there's a sureness hiding in the unknown.

There was a young man boldly moving towards his future. He took big steps into the unknown. But one day, comparison landed in front of him, and the thoughts of "I'm not good enough" replaced the bold steps he'd previously taken.

Discouraged by the talent he saw ahead of him in someone else, he shrank back and hung his head. "I'll never measure up," he lied to himself. Defeated and ready to quit, he embraced the lie.

More than ever, he needed encouragement to keep going, rise up, and sharpen his skills. He needed a voice of purpose to remind him of his calling.

He prayed. Before the doors were closed, an opportunity came that ignited his entire future, and he took it. As a final effort of hope, he pursued it and was met with the message he longed to hear. He was valued. He had a purpose. There was a calling on his life. And he listened.

A still small voice whispered his name. And he said yes. An entire life turned around with a word of encouragement and a decision to step forward into purpose.



PREPARE YOUR PURPOSE **Kari-Lynn Hastman**

PROTECTING IT IN THE WAITING

Kingdom Wealth Builder and Certified Empowerment and Confidence Coach, Speaker, Trainer with Maxwell Leadership.



"What men want is not talent, it is purpose; in other words, not the power to achieve, but will to labor." Edward Bulwer-Lytton.

Your Story is Yours to Write

The future may not be clear.
Your story hasn't been written yet.
But the pen? It's in your hand. And the ink is ready.

The real question is:
What will you write?

Don't be afraid if the answer doesn't come right away.
That doesn't mean there isn't an answer.

It just means you haven't found it yet.
Yet....

Protect Your Purpose

Your dream is precious. Guard it.
Protect it from doubt, from fear, from comparison, even from well-meaning voices that sound wise but chip away at your confidence.

You were created on purpose—for a purpose.

Your role isn't to have all the answers.
It's to raise your hand.

Say yes to your story, to your purpose and to create a better tomorrow.
Step into the story that's waiting to be written. Step into your story.

You'll discover the answers, you'll find the purpose.

One yes at a time. One decision at a time.

One opportunity to rise up at a time. It's there within you.

Protect it. And prepare. It's waiting for you.

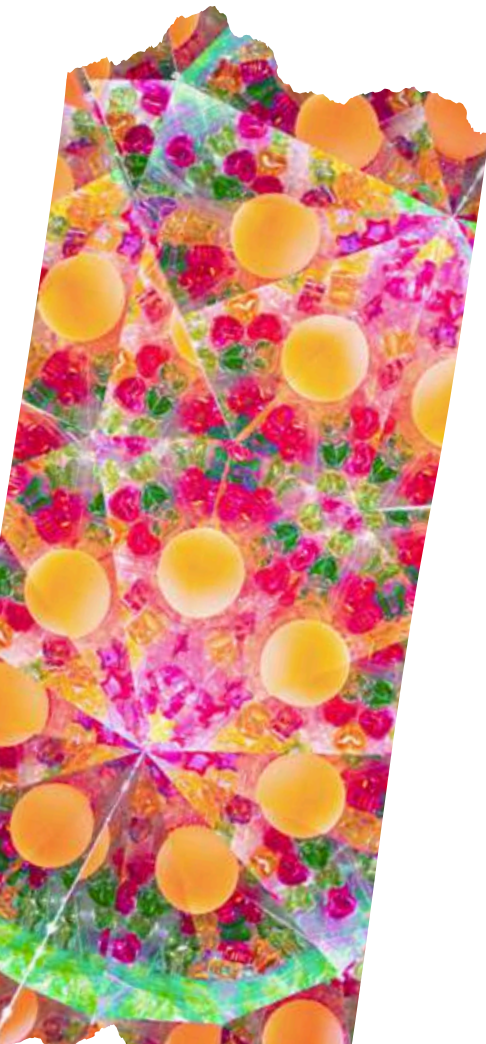
Piece Together Your Purpose

Sherri McLeroy

Turning Life's Moments into a Brilliant Kaleidoscope

Have you ever looked through a kaleidoscope and watched the remarkable masterpieces of tiny, broken bits of glass transforming into something breathtaking?

With just one turn, the colors shift and a brand-new pattern appears. That's the wonder of a kaleidoscope, and it's also the masterpiece of you. Your life is made up of many pieces: your experiences, your struggles, your special gifts and abilities, your dreams. On their own, they may seem small, disjointed, or even broken. But when you start piecing them together with purpose, something extraordinary begins to take shape.



I first learned this as a child, watching my mother work with stained glass. She would take sharp fragments of colorful glass—leftovers most people would throw away—and carefully design them into windows that catch the light in the most beautiful ways.

She also collected kaleidoscopes, and I would spend hours turning them in my hands, completely mesmerized by how the same little pieces could keep forming new, vibrant designs. Those moments taught me something I've never forgotten. Beauty doesn't come from perfection; it comes from the way we bring all our pieces together.

You're not expected to have it all figured out right now. Life isn't about finding one fixed path: it's about learning, turning, and growing. Like a kaleidoscope, you are constantly becoming the best version of you. Every single piece of who you are matters.

So, how do you begin piecing together your kaleidoscope of purpose?

Here are a few powerful ways to start discovering the unique design for your life that only you can create:

Embrace the Broken Pieces

Don't hide your struggles—honor them. Every mistake, struggle, setback, or challenge adds color and depth to your story. Even the broken parts can become something beautiful when you choose to grow from them.

Spin the Lens: Keep Growing

Try new things. Say yes to challenges. With every new experience, your perspective shifts, just like the view inside a kaleidoscope. Growth isn't about having all the right answers, it's about staying open to learning.



Build with Intention

Each choice you make shapes your future. Be intentional about who you spend time with, what you feed your mind, and how you invest your energy. These are the pieces that create the design of your life.

Find Strength in Diversity

Surround yourself with people who see the world differently. When you listen to voices that challenge and inspire you, your picture becomes more complete, colorful, and rich with insight. Value the opinions of others.

Reflect Your Light

Once you discover your strengths, share them with the world. Whether you're helping a friend, speaking up for something you believe in, or creating something new, let your light shine.

The world needs the brilliance only you can offer.

Remember, you are not a finished product, you are a masterpiece in progress. Every experience you have, every choice you make, every lesson you learn is another piece in the beautiful design of your life.

Don't be afraid to explore, to take risks, and be curious. Your purpose isn't something you find all at once, it's something you build, piece by piece, and moment by moment. Just like a kaleidoscope, your life will continue to shift and shine in new ways as you grow.

So, keep learning, keep discovering, and above all—keep believing in the beauty that's being created within you. The world needs the light only you can reflect.

THE LIT LEADER LOUNGE

Where Growth Meets Giggles & Leadership Learns to Laugh!

Welcome to The Lit Leader Lounge — your dose of leadership humor, glow-up giggles, and boss-level banter. If you've ever tried leading a group project, setting goals on Monday only to bust them by Wednesday, or explaining to your mom that TikTok is "market research," this column is for YOU.

We believe leadership should come with purpose, power... and punchlines.



REAL TALK LEADERSHIP EDITION

Why did I cancel my Netflix subscription?
Because I needed less "Next Episode" and more Next Level.

YOUTH ON FIRE

They told me to stay in my lane.
So, I paved my own highway and invited others to ride.

ON PERSONAL GROWTH

Why did teenagers break up with their comfort zone?
Because it just wasn't helping them grow anymore!

QUICK "EXCEPTIONAL" COMEBACKS (FOR CAPTIONS OR SIDEBARS)

Ordinary is full. Be exceptional.

Leading yourself first—because followers are overrated.

Glow different when your mindset's in a growth mode.

I'm not bossy. I'm just on purpose.

If excellence had a fan club... I'd be president."

EXCEPTIONAL YOUTHS RISING

Why did the exceptional teen get kicked out of the comfort zone?
Because they were too loud, too bold, and too purpose-driven!

They told me to "act my age."
So I became a CEO of my purpose at 17.

Being exceptional means climbing mountains...
Even if your friends are still looking for the elevator.

Not everyone will understand your fire—
That's okay. You're not a candle. You're the whole lighthouse.

MIC-DROP MOMENT

"Leadership isn't about being perfect. It's about being present, on purpose, and preferably... with snacks."

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Why did the aspiring leader stop arguing on Instagram?
Because they realized real influence isn't measured in likes—it's in lives changed!

PERSONAL LEADERSHIP LAUGHS

Why did the youth bring a mirror to the leadership workshop?
Because the first person they had to lead was staring right back!

Personal leadership is like GPS...
You can ignore it, but don't blame it when you're lost.

MENTORSHIP MOMENTS

Why did the mentee follow their mentor everywhere?
Because they heard success leaves clues—and possibly snacks!

A mentor told me to "trust the process."
So I followed them on LinkedIn, Instagram, and accidentally... to the grocery store.



Aleah-Lynn **Time & Choices** *and Hitting the Zero-Gravity Zone*

Time

Time is the one thing we can never get back. You can lose money and recover it again. You can fail and try again.

Time is the great equalizer. It doesn't matter who you are, where you come from, or what your background is—every person gets 24 hours in a day.

Time doesn't ask for your permission to move forward. It doesn't wait for you to feel ready.

It moves. Constantly. Relentlessly.

And you have two choices: watch it go by or move with it.

The clock is ticking, but that's not a reason to fear. That's a reason to live.

Make time your ally. Not your excuse.

Choices

Life is full of choices. Every day, we wake up and face a world filled with possibilities—and the most powerful tool we have in shaping our destiny is the ability to choose.



Time & Choices

and Hitting the Zero-Gravity Zone

Aleah Lynn

Think about it, our lives are not defined by the circumstances we face, but by the choices we make. Whether you succeed or fail, whether you rise or stay stuck, it all starts with the decisions you choose to make.

Choices are powerful, and they shape everything. They shape our character. They shape our future. They shape who we become.

It's easier to say "no" than to say "yes" to the unknown.

But growth—the growth you are searching for—is on the other side of those tough choices. The decision to face your fears. The decision to take the first step, even when you don't know where it leads. The decision to get back up after you've been knocked down.

You are not a product of your circumstances. You are the sum of your choices. The choices you've made in the past have brought you here, and the choices you make today will determine where you go from here.

ZERO GRAVITY ZONE

The Zero Gravity Zone is a place where we stop letting our fears dictate our actions. It's where we stop holding ourselves back because of what we "think" we can't do, and instead, we focus on what we can do. It's where we stop letting the past define us, and we take control of the future we want to create.

The truth is, the only limits that exist are the ones we accept. The only gravity that holds us down is the gravity we create by staying in our comfort zones, by refusing to take risks, by being afraid to fall.

But here's the thing about the Zero Gravity Zone: When you let go of fear, failure isn't a fall, it's just a part of the process. In this zone, falling is not a failure. It's simply another chance to rise, to adjust, and to keep going.

When you step into the Zero Gravity Zone, you stop living within the confines of your fears, your doubts, your past mistakes. You start living with the knowledge that you can achieve more than you've ever imagined.

To tie it all together:

"The greatest day in your life and mine is when we take total responsibility for our attitudes. That's the day we truly grow up."—John C. Maxwell.

When you're in that zone, the choices you make are no longer about safety or comfort; they're about growth, adventure, and possibility. And the beauty of it is this: that zone is always available to you. You don't need permission. You just need the courage to step into it.

Are you going to choose to stay in your comfort zone, where gravity holds you in place, keeping you from the life you're capable of living?



Or are you going to take the leap into the Zero Gravity Zone, where anything is possible, and the only limit is the one you impose on yourself?

Time is slipping by. Don't let it pass while you hesitate. Don't let the fear of failure or doubt about your abilities hold you back. In the Zero Gravity Zone, failure isn't falling—it's learning. And learning is always a step forward.

3 power steps to movement:

- 1 – Recognize where you want to be.
- 2 – Make smart decisions about your time and recognize the urgency to grow is up to your decision.
- 3- Run after it relentlessly.

Connect!



- **Professional Background:**

Dr. Michael Koku is a Maxwell Leadership Independent Executive Director and Certified Speaker, Coach, and Trainer specializing in Leadership development, communication skills, team building and personal growth.

- **Expertise and Services:**

Dr. Koku offers facilitation, speaking, training, and coaching services in leadership, professional skills, and personal growth, with a focus on improving productivity, performance, and profitability.

- **Speaking Style:**

Dr. Koku is known for simplifying complex ideas and presenting them in a clear and engaging manner, making them easy to understand and apply.

- **Training Expertise:**

Dr. Michael has trained professionals from various countries in diverse fields, including Education, Business, Healthcare, and Non - Profit.

- **Publications:**

With eleven influential books, including 4 Keys for Effective Leadership, The AREA Code: Unveiling the Essence of Servant Leadership, LIVE LIFE BIG: Don't LEAVE Your Dream, LIVE Your Dream, and THE MENTORSHIP ADVANTAGE: WHY MENTORSHIP MATTERS he offers practical strategies for today's challenges."

Dr. Michael Koku's services include Keynote Speaking, Executive Coaching, Leadership development Workshops and Leadership Retreat for organizations helping them to increase their organizational goals and increase their productivity.

- **Leadership Initiatives:**

Leading the LAMP Global Community, Dr. Koku drives initiatives like WILL (Women In Leadership League), PEARL (Parents Empowered Academy for Right Leadership), YES (Youth Empowerment Society), and TBN (The Berean Network).

- **Professional Goal:**

Dr. Koku aims to enrich lives and make meaningful contributions to humanity.

- **Approach to Work:**

Driven by a deep sense of purpose and integrity, Dr. Koku strives to leave a lasting impact through transformative leadership training, insightful coaching, and inspiring speaking engagements.

- **Impact and Recognition:**

Dr. Koku's commitment to uplifting others has led to measurable outcomes and tangible successes, earning him the prestigious Salvation Army Ray Welsh's Employee of the Year award in 2018.

Contact Information:

- **Phone:** 4844661036
- **Contact:** <https://bit.ly/DrKoku>
- **Website:** <https://lgcleadership.com>

Dr.
Michael
Koku



THE MATCHSTICK GIRL

Okiemute Olori

14-year-old Zara lived in a town where people believed only those with connections and money could ever succeed. She didn't have either.

Her father had passed away, and her mother worked long hours as a cleaner.

Zara, with her sharp mind and wild imagination, often felt invisible, just another girl with patched shoes, sitting in the back of the classroom.

She had a secret, though.

Every night, when the neighborhood was quiet and the moon hung low, Zara wrote stories in a battered brown notebook.

Stories of heroes, of bold girls who rescued villages, and of boys who built bridges from fallen trees. It was the only place she felt powerful.

But one day, everything changed. At school, a "National Teen Changemakers" competition was announced.

Students were to submit a story or idea that could inspire young people to create change in their community. The top ten would be published and awarded.

Zara's heartbeat wildly. She had stories. She had ideas. But then the voices in her head returned: "You? Compete with city kids who speak better English?"

"You'll embarrass yourself."



Just forget it.

She almost did.

That night, while walking home from helping her mother scrub classrooms at a private school, she saw a boy trying to light a match to see in the dark.

The wind kept blowing it out. He tried again and again—until it finally sparked, lighting up his face with hope.

Zara froze.

That tiny match... it was her.

Small, ignored, almost invisible, but with fire inside.

She ran home, pulled out her notebook, and poured her heart into a story called "The Matchstick Girl"—a tale of a girl who believed she had no light, only to find her spark could ignite stars.

Zara submitted it, hands trembling. Weeks have passed.

Then, one Monday morning, her name was called at assembly.

"Zara Benjamin wins first place in the National Teen Changemakers Competition!"

Her story was chosen out of over 2,000 entries.

She was awarded a scholarship, and her story was printed in a nationwide teen magazine.

More importantly, she became a voice for girls who thought they were too small to matter.

THE MATCHSTICK GIRL

Okiemute Olori



Moral of the Story

Every young person has a spark. Your background doesn't dim your brilliance. Your location doesn't determine your future. Your voice matters. Your ideas count. Your dreams are valid. You don't have to come from the top to rise to the top. Like Zara, you just need to believe that your fire is real and be brave enough to strike that matchstick.

Words to Remember

"You're not too young to start. Start now"

"Great flames start with tiny sparks."

"If you feel invisible, maybe it's because you were born to light up the dark."

Now It's Your Turn!

Are you holding a story, a solution, or a spark inside you just like Zara?

Don't wait for permission to shine. The world is waiting for your light.

Write your story.
Start that idea.
Join a cause.
Speak up.
Take the first step.

You don't have to be the loudest. You just have to light the match.

Because someone, somewhere, needs your light.

OKIEMUTE OLORI (MRS)

Founder, Transformational Parenteen Coaching Network

Member, Maxwell Leadership Team

Managing Director, QUBE TV KIDDIES CHANNEL ON DAARSAT

DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC, AIT COMPLEX, KPADUMA HILL

OFF T. Y. DANJUMA STREET, ASOKORO, ABUJA, NIGERIA

+234 8026115059, +234 8170444470

transformationalparenteen@gmail.com

mute.olori@gmail.com

kiddiesheritage@gmail.com

facebook/mute orori

facebook/transformational
parenteen network



OWN IT:

Why Responsibility Builds Real Strength

REMI AYODELE

"Responsibility is the first step toward freedom." ~ John C. Maxwell.

What do respected leaders, successful students, and trustworthy friends all have in common?

They take responsibility.

Responsibility isn't just about doing chores or meeting deadlines. It's about owning your actions, your choices, and your impact, especially when things don't go as planned.

What Is Responsibility, Really?

According to Webster's Dictionary, responsibility is a duty or task you are expected to do; it also means being dependable. It's more than just obligation—it's ownership. And as a youth, taking responsibility is a choice that can change your life.

Whether it's:

- Cleaning your space,
- Completing homework on time,
- Bringing snacks to your team meeting,
- Or being there when your family or community needs you...

Your actions—or inactions—affect others.

Responsibility isn't something you're born with. It's something you **learn by doing**.

A Lesson I'll Never Forget

When I was in school in Nigeria, we followed a split school schedule—some students attended in the morning, others in the afternoon. That year, I had afternoons, which meant my mornings were for getting things done such as homework, chores, and preparing for the day.



OWN IT:

Why Responsibility Builds Real Strength

REMI AYODELE

One morning, my only chore was to wash the dishes before school. But I procrastinated and played away my time. When I finally noticed the clock, I had just enough time to walk briskly to school and not be late. And trust me, being late meant punishment—kneeling on gravel, frog jumps, or a strike on the knuckles.

As I rushed out, I stopped to say goodbye to my grandpa, who was visiting.

Grandpa: "Did you finish your homework and chores?"

Me (heart sinking): "No..."

Grandpa: "Then go back and do the dishes."

Me: "Please, I'll do it after school—I'll be late!"

Grandpa: "No excuses. Go do what you were supposed to do."

Tears streamed down my face as I washed the dishes, then ran almost the entire way to school. I still arrived late. And yes, I got punished. It didn't feel fair, but I never forgot that lesson.

Why? Because it wasn't about dishes. It was about **character**.

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."
~Chinese Proverb.

I was involved in the learning—and that's why the lesson stuck.

Why Does This Still Matters Today?

My grandpa wasn't being harsh; he was helping shape who I was becoming.

Responsibility isn't about convenience. It's about **character, growth, and trust**.

"There is a choice you have to make in everything you do. So keep in mind that in the end, the choice you make makes you." ~ John Wooden.

The Hidden Power of Chores

The long-running Harvard Grant Study—one of the most respected studies on adult success—discovered that children who did chores early in life grew up to be more successful and satisfied adults.

Why? Because chores teach you to

- **Build Work Ethic** – Do what needs to be done, even when it's not fun.
- **Practice Self-Control** – Stay focused and finish what you started.
- **Grow in Confidence** – Learn that you can handle what life throws your way.

Even small tasks today are shaping your strength for tomorrow.

3 Reasons to Choose Responsibility

1. It Builds Confidence

When you follow through—even on small things—you prove to yourself that you're dependable. That builds your self-worth and belief in your own ability.

2. It Earns Respect

Responsible people become go-to leaders. At home, in school, or on a team—others look up to those who do what they say.

3. It Shapes Your Future

Responsibility develops lifelong skills like time management, discipline, and resilience. These are the tools that help you rise.

How to Be Responsible as a Youth

You don't need to change everything overnight. Start small. Choose one responsible action each day:

- Set your alarm and wake up without being told.
- Clean your room before you're reminded.
- Turn in your homework on time.
- Offer help—without being asked.

Each time you choose responsibility, you're becoming someone others can trust. And more importantly, someone **you** can be proud of.

Responsibility Is Your Superpower

Taking responsibility won't always feel easy. But it will always be worth it.

You don't have to be perfect. You just must be willing to own it.

Own your actions.

Own your impact.

Own your future.

Because responsibility isn't a burden—it's your breakthrough.

Let's set the world ablaze, one empowered youth at a time!

Be Inspired to Maximize Your Potential!

Remi Ayodele

Founder/CEO Next Generation
Empowerment
Certified Maxwell Leadership Coach,
International Trainer & DISC Consultant.

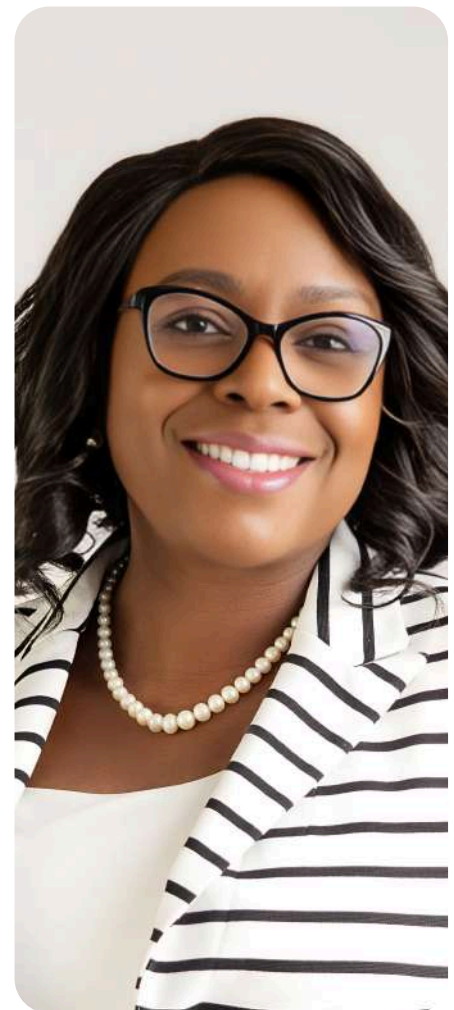
Website:

www.nextgenerationempowerment.com

Email: remi.nextgenempowered@gmail.com

Facebook: [remi.ayodele](https://www.facebook.com/remi.ayodele)

Instagram: [remi_ayodele](https://www.instagram.com/remi_ayodele)





LIVING WITH INTENTIONALITY: CHARACTER OF A YOUTH READY TO FULFILL DESTINY

Bola Koku

As the 26th President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt once said, *"To educate a person in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society."*

This quote effectively conveys the importance of character in society. In another dimension, an Australian activist, author, and speaker, Christine Caine, said, "Talent will open the door, but only your character can keep you there". This emphasizes that while talent and skill can initially secure a place or provide an opportunity, it is your character, integrity, and values that enable you to sustain success and maintain your position over the long term. Character is the foundation for sustained success.

This recalls the story of a woman named Nancy. She was working in the outpatient department of a company when a golden opportunity arose, an opening in the inpatient unit that offered better pay and significantly improved working conditions.

As part of the recruitment process, the Human Resources department paused to ensure Nancy was the right fit. They reached out to her current manager for a reference. The manager spoke very highly of Nancy, giving an outstanding recommendation that quickly settled any doubts and moved the process forward.

This story illustrates a powerful truth in life: it's not just talent or opportunity that opens doors, it's character. No matter how skilled someone may be, a lack of integrity or reliability can shut the door on even the most promising opportunities. But when a person is known for their noble character, it often speaks louder than any resume ever could.

What then is character?

Character refers to the set of moral and ethical qualities that define how a person thinks, feels, and behaves. It is who you are when no one is watching, your values, principles, and habits expressed through your actions.

A youth who is ready to fulfill his or her destiny must cultivate a character rooted in integrity, purpose, and resilience. Character is the foundation upon which destiny is built, and without the right values and habits, even the most promising destiny can remain unrealized.

Cultivating a good character requires more than mere intention; it requires intentionality. Intention is "meaning well," but intentionality is "doing well." There is a huge difference between intention and intentionality, and the difference is taking action!

The Key Character Traits of a Youth Living with Intentionality

1. Purpose-Driven

- A youth ready to fulfill destiny must have a strong sense of purpose, clarity about one's goals and values, as well as the determination to live a meaningful life.
- Purpose acts as a compass, guiding decisions and providing motivation even during difficult times.

2. Discipline

- Discipline is essential to stay focused, work hard, and resist distractions.
- It means being consistent in effort, managing time wisely, and developing routines that support personal growth.

3. Resilience

- Challenges and failures are inevitable. Resilient youth don't give up easily but see setbacks as opportunities to learn and grow.

LIVING WITH INTENTIONALITY:

CHARACTER OF A YOUTH READY TO FULFILL DESTINY

Bola Koku



- Resilience includes emotional strength, mental toughness, and the ability to bounce back with renewed determination.

4. Integrity

- Integrity involves honesty, reliability, and doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.
- A youth with integrity builds trust, which is critical for leadership and long-term success.

5. Humility

- Humility keeps a person teachable and open to feedback.
- A humble youth recognizes that there is always more to learn and that others can contribute valuable insight.

6. Courage

- It takes courage to pursue your destiny, especially when it goes against the norm or involves risk.
- Courage includes standing up for what's right and taking responsibility.

7. Respect for Others

- Fulfilling one's destiny often involves working with and for others.
- Give respect to all individuals and understand different perspectives.

8. Vision

- A visionary youth sees beyond current limitations and imagines what could be.
- Vision inspires ambition and gives direction to effort, helping to align short-term actions with long-term goals.

9. Faith and Hope

- Belief in oneself, in a higher purpose, or the goodness of the future fuels perseverance.
- Hope gives strength in adversity, and faith provides the inner assurance needed to keep moving forward.

10. Accountability

- Taking ownership of actions and decisions is key to maturity.
- A youth ready to fulfill their destiny doesn't blame others but learns from mistakes and strives to improve.

I would like to leave this with you: that world begins with you. Choose a worthy character, because your destiny depends on it.

The character of a youth prepared to fulfill their destiny is one of strength, virtue, and intentionality. It's not just about talent or intelligence; it's about the inner qualities that enable someone to stay true to their purpose and make a lasting impact.

Bunmi Olaniran



NAVIGATING LIFE'S JOURNEY WITH PURPOSE AND WISDOM

"The only impossible journey is the one you never begin." — Tony Robbins.

Are you faced with uncertainty and self-doubt? You are not alone. I have walked that road also. The road of trial and error when it comes to career or relationships. It could be frightening to think you have to make huge decisions all by yourself, and the thought of the outcome of the decision could bring anxiety, which I understand. You're transitioning from adolescence to adulthood, exploring your passions, building your careers, and forming meaningful relationships.

This phase of your life is filled with excitement, hope, inquisitiveness, uncertainty, challenges, and growth opportunities. Wisdom is daring to start, even when the road is uncertain.

"American poet and philosopher, Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Life is a journey, not a destination." A reminder to savor each step, not just the finish line.

Even though there was little guidance on how to manage situations. I went through a period of trial and error until I got something right.

The only plus I had was that I never gave up. So do not give up on yourself and your dreams.

Sometimes the wrong choices bring us to the right places. Even detours can lead to meaningful destinations.

To navigate life's journey with purpose and wisdom, you need to:

Identify who you are, learn how to make the right decisions, understand the benefits of learning from others, know how to leverage other people's experiences, and learn how to nurture long-lasting relationships.

Who Are You?

"If you don't know who you truly are, you'll never know what you really want." — Roy T. Bennett.

Knowing yourself is the compass for your desires and direction. You're dynamic with unique experiences, perspectives, values, visions, and aspirations.

You're likely to be curious, ambitious, and eager to make your mark on the world.

NAVIGATING LIFE'S JOURNEY WITH PURPOSE AND WISDOM

Bunmi Olaniran

You're also likely to face challenges such as self-doubt, peer pressure, and uncertainty about your future. But with the right mindset and support, you can overcome these obstacles and achieve your goals.

Making the Right Decisions

"Your life changes the moment you make a new, congruent, and committed decision." — Tony Robbins.

As a young adult, you'll face numerous decision opportunities that can impact your life's trajectory. Renowned TV host of the Dr. Phil's Show, Dr. Phil McGraw said, *"Sometimes you make the right decision, sometimes you make the decision right."*

To make the right decisions, consider the following principles:

1. Seek guidance:

Consult with trusted mentors, family members, or friends who can offer wise counsel. Do some research on the pros and cons.

2. Reflect on your values:

Align your decisions with your core values and principles.

3. Consider the consequences:

Think critically about the potential outcomes of your decisions.

4. Trust your instincts:

Listen to your inner voice and intuition. Make the decision and consider every bump a learning curve, not necessarily a failure.

The Benefits of Learning from Others

"Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself." — Eleanor Roosevelt.

Wisdom doesn't always require personal trial and error.

Learning from others is a powerful way to gain wisdom, insights, and new perspectives.

H. Jackson Brown Jr. said, *"Every person you meet knows something you don't; learn from them."*

Everyone is a potential teacher if we're open to listening.

By learning from others, you can:

1. Avoid mistakes:

Learn from other people's successes and failures to avoid making similar mistakes.

2. Gain new perspectives:

Expand your understanding of the world and its complexities.

3. Build meaningful relationships:

Form connections with people who can offer guidance, support, and encouragement.

4. Develop new skills:

Acquire knowledge and skills that can enhance your personal and professional growth.

Leveraging Other People's Experiences

"Successful people don't use the obstacles of time, education, and money as excuses. They use them as leverage to get help." — Richie Norton.

Turning limitations into opportunities becomes a possibility by tapping into others' insights. To leverage others' experiences, consider the following strategies

1. Seek mentorship:

Find people who can offer guidance, support, and valuable insights.

2. Read widely:

Learn from books, articles, and online resources that share others' experiences and expertise.

3. Network:

Attend events, join communities, and connect with people who share your interests and passions.

4. Ask questions:

Be curious and ask questions to gain a deeper understanding of others' experiences.

Nurture Long-Lasting Relationships

"The quality of your life is the quality of your relationships." — Tony Robbins.

Deep, meaningful connections are the true measure of fulfillment. Building and maintaining meaningful relationships is crucial for your emotional and mental well-being. A great relationship is about two things: first, appreciating the similarities; second, respecting the differences. Harmony grows when we embrace both unity and individuality.

To nurture long-lasting relationships:

1. Communicate effectively:

Listen actively, express yourself clearly, and resolve conflicts constructively.

2. Show empathy and compassion:

Be understanding, supportive, and caring towards others.

3. Set boundaries:

Establish healthy limits and prioritize your own needs.

4. Practice forgiveness:

Let go of grudges and resentments to maintain healthy relationships.

5. Remember your network is your net worth:

Build your network both on social media and in physical

6. Your image is important:

To get the right kind of attention and network you desire. Always dress for success and let your social media portray you decently and genuinely.

In conclusion, as a young adult, you're at a critical juncture in life. By making good decisions, learning from others, leveraging their experiences, and nurturing meaningful relationships, you can set yourself up for success and happiness. With the right mindset and support, you can achieve your goals and live a fulfilling life.

:



LAMP GLOBAL COMMUNITY

At LAMP Global Community, Leadership is not a solitary journey but a shared path of growth, empowerment, and transformation. Together, we are shaping a future where Leadership is intentional, impactful, and inclusive.

Our vision is to attract, develop, and multiply leaders in all the eight streams of influence: Government, Sport, Business, Family, Religion, Arts & Entertainment, Media, and Education.

We are passionate about unlocking infinite growth, empowering leaders in different streams of influence all over the world and transforming futures globally, personally and professionally.

LAMP simply means Leadership Advancement Mentorship Platform and TLC personalities are the nucleus and leaders of the LAMP Global Community. In less than two years, what began as a Dream has flourished into a thriving global network of twenty-two dedicated leaders united by shared values and a positive attitude.

A clear purpose drives our community: to collaborate, empower, and transform lives through Leadership, education, and service. We bring this to life through quarterly global projects, initiatives, and conferences, creating lasting change across continents.

Our Key Pillars:

• **Collaboration:**

We build leaders together, working as one to lift each other higher.

• **Empowerment:**

We equip emerging leaders with tools, mindset, and the support they need to thrive.

• **Global Transformation:**

Through our leadership programs and initiatives, we are committed to creating a ripple effect of positive change worldwide.

As the parent organization for WILL (Women In Leadership League), PEARL (Parents Empowered Academy for Right Leadership), YES (Youth Empowerment Society), and TBN (The Berean Network),

LAMP Global Community is at the forefront of shaping leaders in every sphere of influence.

Our reach is broad, but our focus is clear: to create a unified, empowered global leadership movement.

Upcoming 2025 Events

We have five upcoming global virtual conferences this year 2025 starting with MADE FOR MORE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 4.0 [For Men and Women] on March 1, 2025, with the theme, Unveiling The Essence of Servant Leadership. .

Other upcoming global virtual conferences are Women In Leadership League Global Conference [For Women Only] on June 7, 2025, Blaze of Change Annual Global Youth Conference 2.0 on June 28, 2025, Made For More Global Leadership Conference 5.0 [For Men and Women] on September 6, 2025, and Parents Empowered Annual Global Conference 3.0 on December 20, 2025. The Power of TEAM:

"Together Everyone Achieves More" is more than just an acronym—it's the heartbeat of our community. TEAM also mean to us; Team Efforts Achieve Miracles!

We believe in the constructive collaboration of collective effort and the undeniable truth that teamwork makes the dream work.

With every step forward, we prove that when individuals unite around a shared vision, we can achieve far more than we can alone.

Join Us:

You can become a member of this global leadership community committed to attracting, developing, and multiplying leaders by unlocking leadership potential, empowering lives, and transforming futures.

Together, we will realize and amplify our dreams into something extraordinary.

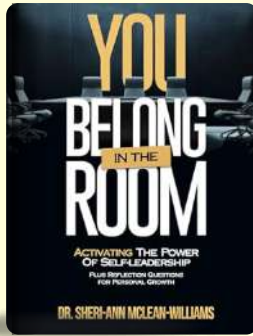
The LAMP Global Community invites you to be a beacon of Leadership, sparking change and guiding others toward greatness.

Michael Jordan said, **"Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships."**

Let's build the future of Leadership—together!

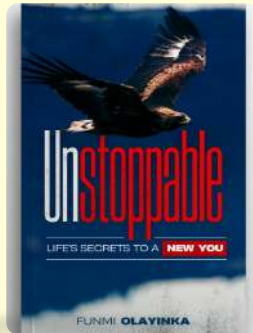
Our Website: lgcleadership.com

BOOKS BY SOME OF OUR LEADERS



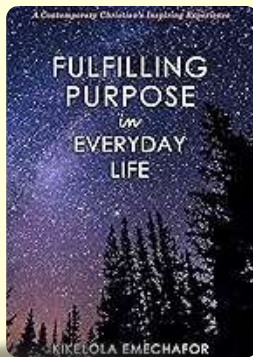
You Belong In The Room is a powerful invitation to step into your full potential through the lens of **Dr. McLean-Williams'** inspiring journey—from teaching peers at just eight years old to becoming a bold voice in self-leadership. This book unpacks the mindset shifts and habits that transform ordinary lives into purposeful ones. With relatable stories and practical insights, it guides you through the often messy but rewarding path of self-discovery, helping you silence self-doubt and tap into your inner strength.

If you've ever felt like there's more to your story than your current chapter, this book is your next step. Leadership starts with you—your growth, your courage, and your willingness to claim the space you were always meant to occupy.



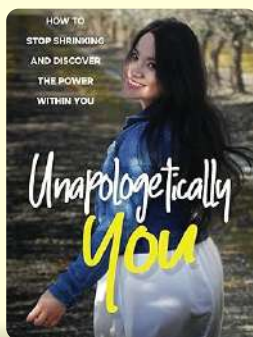
UNSTOPPABLE BY FUNMI OLAYINKA - We all desire, at various points in life, to shift direction or rise to new levels in pursuit of better results or richer experiences. However, this journey can often feel daunting due to the many obstacles that seek to hinder or halt our progress. In this book, the author guides you on a transformative journey to gain the clarity and focus needed to move beyond the limitations that have held you back and into the abundant life God intends for you. It reveals the forces that can unlock your true potential and propel you forward.

Drawing from her personal experiences, the author illustrates how these forces have shaped her own journey. More importantly, you will discover not only what these forces are but also the powerful influence they carry—and how they can strategically position you for lasting impact.



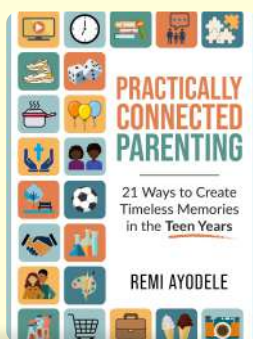
Fulfilling Purpose in Everyday Life, by **Kikelola Emechafor**, is a collection of inspiring and life-changing encounters with God that guided the author along the path of divine purpose. Her first memorable encounter was when, at the age of 12, she received the baptism of the Holy Spirit in a unique way.

From that point forward, she leads the reader on a journey of discovering God's purpose in different seasons of her life and experiencing the miraculous power of God in the face of seemingly insurmountable circumstances. For anyone searching out God's purpose for their life or needing encouragement in their faith walk, this book will pleasantly open your eyes to see God's purpose in your daily life and affirm - or reaffirm, how GREAT and LOVING our Maker is!



Are You Ready to Stop Shrinking and Step Into Your Power With Confidence? Too often, we shrink ourselves to fit the expectations of others-doubting our worth, silencing our voices, and hesitating to take up space. But true confidence isn't about seeking approval- it's about owning who you are, without apology. In **Unapologetically You**, **Ernelita Dacumos** shares powerful personal stories and proven strategies to help you develop unshakable self-confidence, trust yourself fully, and stop bending to external pressures at your own expense. Through deep self-awareness and intentional action, you'll discover how to stand firm in your identity and embrace the strength that's been within you all along.

This book isn't just about inspiration-it's about transformation. If you're ready to break free from self-doubt, reclaim your voice, and step into the confident, powerful person you were always meant to be, your journey starts here. No more shrinking. No more second-guessing. It's time to trust yourself, believe in your worth, and live unapologetically you.



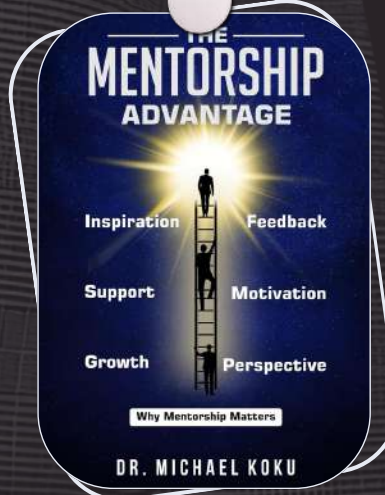
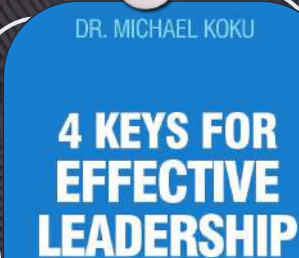
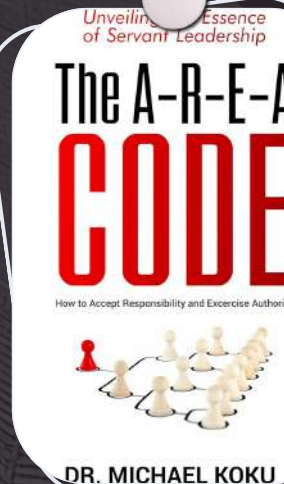
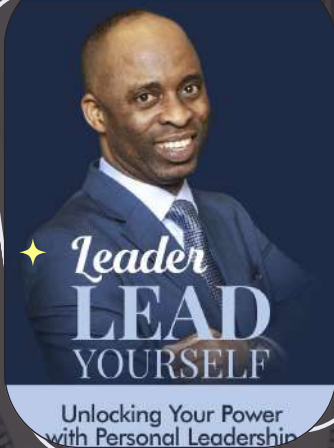
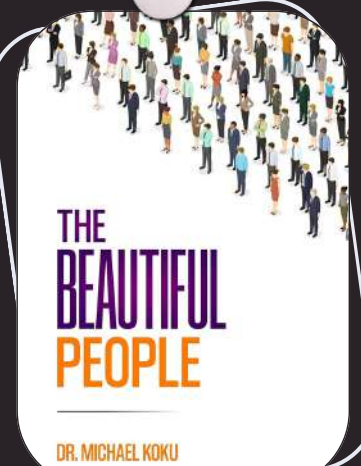
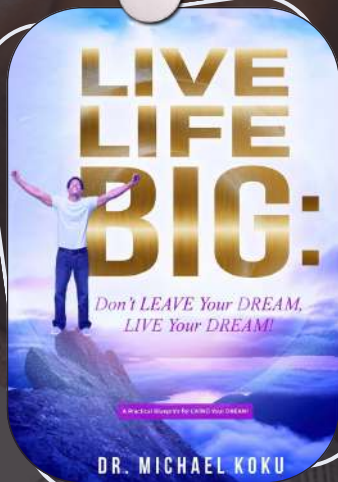
Practically Connected Parenting: 21 Ways to Create Timeless Memories in the Teen Years A guide to building a lasting family legacy through intentional connection, timeless values, and real-life parenting strategies for today's digital world.

Parenting teenagers today is more challenging than ever. Between constant digital distractions, packed schedules, and shifting family dynamics, it's easy to feel disconnected from your teen. **Practically Connected Parenting** is an invitation. A hands-on guide designed to help you build lasting connection with your teen in the moments that matter most.

Through 21 practical, easy-to-do family bonding ideas, this book helps you strengthen parent-teen relationships, improve family communication, and nurture confident, grounded teenagers—all while building a legacy of love, trust, and intentional presence.

BOOKS BY DR. MICHAEL KOKU

**BEST
SELLER**



**AVAILABLE
NOW**



<https://amzn.to/3WqCzn7>

RECOMMENDED

MADE FOR MORE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES

PAST EVENTS

1.0

**YOU ARE
MADE FOR
MORE**



DR. MICHAEL KOKU
CHIEF VISIONARY OFFICER



SHEBA WILSON
SPEAKER



SHERYL HART
SPEAKER



MAY IJISESAN
SPEAKER



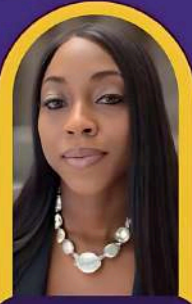
**DR. KENISHA L.
WILLIAMS**
SPEAKER

2.0

**AWAKE THE
LEADER WITHIN
YOU**



Dr. Michael Koku



**Jaresha Moore
Smith**



Michelle Teague



Teju Oduwole



Tasha McDonald

3.0

**FROM
SUCCESS TO
SIGNIFICANCE**



Dr. Michael Koku
Keynote Speaker &
Chief Visionary Officer.



Dr. Kandy Windom
Keynote Speaker



Dr. Ayo Adenuga
Keynote Speaker



Dr. Shanti Persaud
Keynote Speaker

4.0

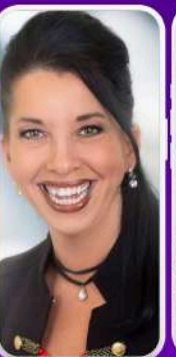
**UNVEILING THE
ESSENCE OF
SERVANT
LEADERSHIP**



DR. MICHAEL KOKU
Chief Visionary Officer



ELIZABETH MCCORMICK
Speaker



MARISSA NEHLEN
Speaker



KRISTAN GETSY
Speaker

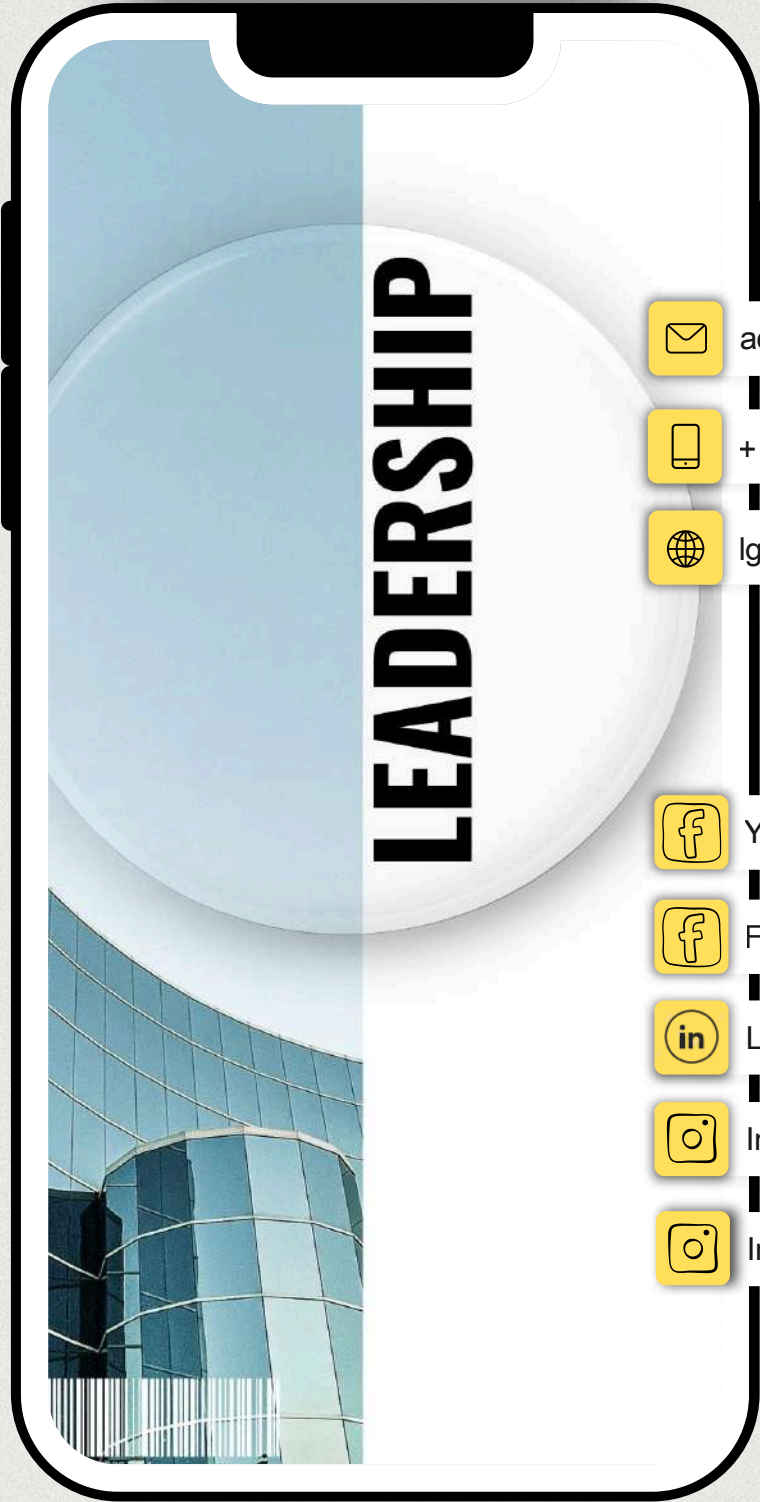


LA-KITA GILMORE
Speaker









KINGSLEY OKONK
Speaker











CONTACT US | FOLLOW US



Contact us

-  admin@lgcleadership.com 
-  [+14844661036](tel:+14844661036) 
-  lgcleadership.com 

Follow Us

-  Youtube - [@drmichaelkoku](#) 
-  Facebook - [@michaelkoku](#) 
-  LinkedIn - [@michaelkoku](#) 
-  Instagram - [@michaelkoku](#) 
-  Instagram - [@royalenvoys](#) 



LAMP [LEADERSHIP ADVANCEMENT MENTORSHIP PLATFORM] GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Presents

MADE FOR MORE

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 5.0



**DR. MICHAEL
KOKU**
Chief Visionary Officer



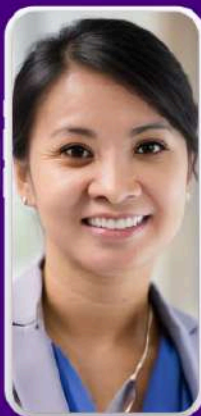
**DR. FUNKE FELIX-
ADEJUMO**
Speaker



**MILDRED
KINGSLEY-OKONKWO**
Speaker



**DR. BRYNN
DOMBROSKI**
Speaker



**ERNELITA
DACUMOS**
Speaker



**STEVE
STEELE**
Speaker

Theme: **EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP IN A CHANGING WORLD**

**REGISTER
NOW**



<https://lgcleadership.com/will>

TAKEAWAYS

Learn how to Embrace Change and Innovate.
Learn How To Empower Your Team
Discover how to Lead More Effectively
and adapt to change.
Discover how to Lead with Vision and Resilience.



Sept
6th,
2025



12:00 - 4:00 PM EST US & CANADA
5:00 - 9:00 PM UK & NIGERIA (WAT)

General Admission: Free. **VIP Admission:** \$47.

This Conference is VIRTUAL and open to all.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND THIS LIFE-CHANGING CONFERENCE.