

Built

For Living a life
of Purpose in
a Crazy World

More

Abimbola
Olumuyiwa

BUILT FOR MORE
(Living a life of Purpose in a Crazy World)

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Website: <https://harmoniypublishing.com.ng>
E-mail: publish@harmoniypublishing.com.ng
Mobile: +234-703-2212-481

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Dedication

Dear reader, I am dedicating this book to you; because there is so much more on the inside of you and the world desperately needs what you have to offer. You are worth every letter of every word of every sentence of every page in this book. You are worth all the effort that went into writing this book. Don't you ever minimize your worth.

Do me a favor and personalize all of the above to yourself. You are reason enough; more than enough.

Acknowledgement

I need to acknowledge some very special people in my life. You all are amazing and without you one way or the other, this book would have never become a reality.

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My niece and nephews – Oluwakanyinsola Dara, Jirola, Obaloluwa, Iremide, Omodesire, Ayotomiwa, Fikore, Noah,

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I

My Why

I recall one particular afternoon in late 2015 when I was sitting on a bed in an hotel where I'd been lodged by one of my office clients. I had a great job that took me all around the country. Being in my early twenties, I was a young, single, energetic female professional with no too many cares in the world. My life was not perfect but it wasn't spiralling beyond control either. I was focused and diligent at work, the darling of many. I knew God and I loved Him. I definitely wanted to serve Him more. Except I was always busy. The bulk of my time was spent reviewing clients' processes, preparing reports or traveling to a new city where my client was. By the end of the day, I was typically exhausted wanting only to relax and be taken care of – I deserved that.

I felt a need for me to be much more than just my consulting life, I just didn't know how to do that with such a demanding job. And it was a dream job in its own right; few years prior, I'd gone through the rigors of becoming a Chartered Accountant so I could land that kind of job and honestly, I'm

ever thankful for that job. Yes, it was the kind of job that easily swallowed you up but I wouldn't dare complain. I considered myself very lucky to even have that job given the labor statistics in Nigeria at the time. There was just this one thing: I had a yearning to be much more than I already was, to do more. I was busy but unfulfilled. I had no spare time yet I was bored within me. Life was good but it felt like something was missing. There had to be more. I had one or two ideas that I thought God had placed in my heart or something, but where was the time to pursue them?

Then, it started. I picked up my laptop and began to type. I poured out the things that made my heart heavy and those that I sensed were laid on my heart. It was a Saturday and windows open, I glanced at the grey sky outside – it looked as burdened as I was. My heart seemed to hold a lot of content in it that day, and I didn't hold back. Poured it all out. After a couple of hours, it was in front of me. Not clearly but it was. Three typed pages filled with a ton of questions and convictions, something about finding my life's purpose. Why was I on earth? What was I created to do? What was my mission in this world?

This was it, the heavy burden that had been on my mind for God knows how long. How would I actively live my life in a way that would make a difference; a way that would make my heavenly father proud of me when I finally see Him face to face? It would take me a while to fully grasp the concept, and definitely a lifetime to live out my purpose. But alas I felt like I was onto something! And the first thing that was revealed to me in that moment was that if I was going to live a life of purpose, my life could NOT be about me. Huh?

That hunger that was impressed on my heart that weekend

remained there every day after that (some days, more prominent than others), it still is. It's like once that realization comes, you can never get rid of it no matter how much you try to suppress it. So, I decided to share what I had written to see if anyone else was thinking what I was thinking. I first shared it with my then fiancé, now husband. Then, I shared it with a few of my close work colleagues and friends. I remember thinking *Surely, I must not be the only one who is bothered (better still, confused) about this whole purpose thing, can we all just be confused together?* Most of them could relate. This stirred up some really interesting conversations among us as we attempted to unravel the mystery of life and its purpose.

How many times have you heard the word 'purpose'? Perhaps at a conference or from a friend or mentor. Or maybe you stumbled on it while reading a really good book. But how do we fully grasp this almost ambiguous concept? The truth is that it will take us a lifetime to do so. But I also think this makes sense, since purpose is the whole point of our lives. Purpose is about our lives bearing good fruits and doing what we're supposed to do on this earth. How do we know what we're supposed to do on this earth? By going back to the author of our lives. This means that ultimately, we can and will find guidance for our lives from the one who gave them to us. I'll try as much as possible to simplify things in this book with practical examples, some of which might sound a little cheesy like this one.

Automobiles and Grandma

One of the fastest cars in the world is the Hennessey Venom F5 and it can drive as fast as 301 miles per hour. The manufacturers of this car may have had a couple of things in mind when they created this automobile. But for all the possible reasons why this vehicle was made, it definitely could not have been made for the purpose of being stowed away in a garage its entire life. We can take a couple of guesses about what it was made for but the best way to know would be to just ask the vehicle's manufacturer; should save us a lot more time. That's step one and the most important step.

The second step would probably be to assess the vehicle's innate abilities. What do we know about this car? We know that it's been designed with high-speed functionalities. We also know what it's not - it definitely doesn't look like it was made to serve as a fertilizer spreader on a little country farm? Step two tells us that there are things we were created for and there are things we were not created for. But for us humans, we shouldn't skip step one before we get to step two.

Before today, some of us have been like the Hennessey Venom that never left the garage (fulfilling zero purpose) while some of us are at best being used as a fertilizer spreader (fulfilling the wrong purpose). Made for one thing, used for another. Let's take one more kindergarten example. Imagine you gifted your grandmother an iPad but she ended up using it to chop vegetables in her kitchen instead. She wasn't sure what to use it for and she didn't ask. It had a smooth surface so she figured it'd be a great substitute for her chopping board. No matter how much you tried to hide it, you'd be disappointed at how

this gift you gave her was being used. The fact that it can be used for chopping vegetables doesn't mean that it should be used that way.

This is how it is when you and I do not live in the purpose for which we were created; when we don't realize that we were made for much more than just participating in life's rat race – be born, go to school, get a good job, get married, have kids, raise those kids and at 65, have a rethink about your entire existence (whatever that race looks like for you). And while all of these beautiful life events could be among God's plan for us, we should ensure that God is coming first in all our life steps, that if we're doing anything, it's because our will has aligned with His will for us, and we're not just following societal expectations. That per time, we're not just living for the next 'life milestone'. Fulfilling purpose may sound complicated, but it really wasn't designed to be. If we've never taken time out to discover what our purpose is, we'll never be able to live it. Purpose is a combination of who you are (read as: who God says you are and His calling on your life) and what you do with you are. And we'll discuss this in detail later.

This book is not a book of rules. It's a reminder that no matter how long we live, we have little time on our hands in this earth and we will give account of how we lived. A reminder that we are the light of the world, the salt of the earth, and that the world is waiting on us to manifest. That there are lives on the other side of our obedience. A reminder that we need to be good stewards of the gift that God has placed in our hands (think the iPad gift story from earlier) and that we need to bear good fruits.

My favourite part about writing this book is that as I

thought and typed out these words, I learnt a multitude of lessons myself – I can't begin to explain how much I have learnt and still am learning. I knew what I was going to write about from the start; what I didn't know was to what extent or level of detail I was going to go. I thought I knew what I was talking about until I began writing, listening, researching, and placing my understanding side by side with scriptures. Writing this book has opened me up to a whole new world of knowledge and understanding that I will never now take for granted. I can't believe I'd been sleeping on all that understanding and now I wish I had a loudspeaker to wake other people up. In the meantime, I'll just make do with this book as a proxy for my loudspeaker.

My prayer is that as you read on, you'll be fired up to live a life of purpose and intention, a life more than ordinary. I hope that this book spurs you to ask yourself those tough questions that'll help you find true meaning and clarity. I hope that it speaks to your soul and challenges you to stretch yourself beyond your limitations to ultimately be who God has called you to be. I hope that it causes you to want more of Him so you can know more of what He's deposited inside you. Enough of living in the fear of not knowing whether the Father will say to us 'Well done' when our time on earth is done.