**20/10**

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id you hear about the New Year's resolution made by a very smart dog who muttered, “I will not chase that stick unless I actually see it leave his hand!”

My goodness! How many false starts do we make in life? We all have stories to tell. False starts and resolutions are like piñatas --- made to be broken. We call them ***New*** Year’s Resolutions because we trash ‘em while the year’s still *new*.

**What kind of a year was ’09 for you, 1-to-10? We’ll take fifteen seconds now while you calculate that number and write it in this blank: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

To arrive at your grade for 2009, your brain zipped through your job situation, income, perks, promotion, respect/recognition, possessions, acquisitions, relationships – comparing these and other benchmarks with previous years.

Currently 20% of U.S. men 25-54 are jobless. Yet a new survey finds only 45% of employed Americans are satisfied with their job. How ironic, but, hey, here’s a whole new reality TV show opportunity for us. It’s where depressed employed people swap places with unemployed people. We’ll call it …. *American Idle*.

There were years during my career of handling our clients’ advertising when I wondered what possible contribution I was making to world peace by selling one more boat or house or ticket to the Auto or Boat Show? It seemed so meaningless.

King Solomon could relate: “… I took a good look at everything I’d done, looked at all the sweat and hard work. … I saw nothing but smoke” (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

 ***A Year That’s Off The Charts***

Normal vision is 20/20; when you stand 20 feet from an eye chart, you can read what most people can from there. 20/10 means you can read the chart from twice as far as most people. To be twice as wise in preparing for this year, would it help if you knew **who you *really* are**, **your purpose for living**, and **what to do this year to fulfill it**? Unknowns can become doubts that poison attitude and performance. Former Harlem gang leader Tom Skinner says, “I spent a long time trying to come to grips with my doubts, and suddenly I realized that I had better come to grips with what I believe. I have since moved from the agony of questions that I cannot answer, to the reality of answers that I cannot escape, and it’s a great relief.”

**List your three biggest unknowns about 2010. Beside each write what could give you hope re that unknown.**

**UNKNOWN #1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**UNKNOWN #2 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**UNKNOWN #3 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Veteran executive coach Bobb Biehl says that smarmy villain, Stress, is due in large part to **indecision** and a perceived **lack of control**. List three areas that you feel are out of your control. Then write the #1 decision you need to make about each one in the next six months. Making these decisions will relieve much of your stress.

**OUT OF CONTROL #1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**OUT OF CONTROL #2 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**OUT OF CONTROL #3 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

“Leaders know what to do **next**, why it’s **important** and **how** to get it done.” That’s how Biehl defines leadership. If you lose focus, **start asking profound questions.**  Before we look at your 2010 with 20/10 vision, let’s answer these:

**• What one measureable goal do you want to achieve by the end of 2010? How will you do it? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**• If you were given fifteen minutes on global TV to speak on any subject, what would you tell the world? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**• What are you really, really, REALLY passionate about? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**• What do you do best? (Do this most of the time.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Immediately following 9/11 Pres. Bush met with the U.S. Justice Department. His two-word challenge to them became their war cry: “NEVER AGAIN!!”

**• What is your “war cry?” This phrase or word will always motivate you to achieve your life’s purpose. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***FOCUS YOUR LIFE***

(Whiteboard Bobb Biehl’s leadership tool, *Focus Your Life*. www.BobbBiehl.com)

Attached is another excellent tool. *Life Is An 8-Room House* lets you apply your fresh focus to the major areas of your life. And the Bible will help you stay in focus, corrected to 20/20 (2 Timothy 3:16).

It’s midway through the 1st century A.D. That Pharisee and feared ex-Jesus hater, Saul of Tarsus, is an intellectual Jew now known as Paul who becomes God’s first ambassador to the Gentiles. Ephesus, capital of the Roman province of Asia in today’s Turkey, is the fourth largest city in Rome’s empire. After three years of training strong Jesus-followers, Paul writes a landmark letter to believers there, summarizing the message disclosed only to him by the resurrected Savior. **Let’s read Ephesians 1:1-19 and 2:1-10 (p. 422, The Message).**

**DISCUSS: What is relevant here for planning your new year?**

A major theme in Paul’s letter to the Ephesians is ‘**Everything happens according to God’s eternal purpose.’** Jesus is the central figure of the universe, of the past and the future -- reason enough to make Him the center of our priorities, relationships, desires and possessions (Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15-20).

**DISCUSS: How do we make and keep Jesus our primary focus?**

***The “E” On The Eye Chart***

***Is For “Eternity”***

Amid huge, granite shrines to lifeless gods venerated by the Greek culture, Paul strides to the Aereopagus in Athens and addresses the city elders lounging there. **Let’s tune in to his brilliant oratory in Acts 17:24-34 (p. 826, NIV).**

***“’… (God) gives all men life and breath and everything else.’*** Knowing that, Jesus’ half-brother writes, *“And now I have a word for you who brashly announce, ‘Today – at the latest, tomorrow – we’re off to such and such a city for the year. We’re going to start a business and make a lot of money. You don’t know the first thing about tomorrow. You’re nothing but a wisp of fog, catching a brief bit of sun before appearing. Instead make it a habit to say, ‘If the Master wills it, and we’re still alive, we’ll do this or that.’ As it is, you are full of your grandiose selves”* (James 4:13-17).

Jesus asks life’s most profound question: ***“What kind of deal is it to get everything you want but lose yourself? What could you ever trade your soul for*** (Matthew 16:26)?”When He recruited His twelve men, He just said, ***“Follow me.”*** They did.

His invitation is open to you now. **If following Him interests you, do you know what to do next, why it’s important, and how to get it done?** If not, we can talk.

*Life Is An 8-Room House*

Chances are, every aspect of your life will fit neatly into one of these eight folders. Write your goal(s) for 2010 -- in one sentence or less -- for the following:

**MY LIFE PURPOSE: Mark 12:28-31; 1 Corinthians 10:31; John 17:24**

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**1. FAMILY: Ephesians 5:25 (p. 429, MSG); Proverbs 22:6 (p. 489, NIV)**

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**2. FINANCIAL: John 3:22-30 (p. 791, NIV)**

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**3. PHYSICAL: 2 Corinthians 5:1-5 (p. 392, MSG)**

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**4. PROFESSIONAL: Colossians 3:15-17 and 4:1 (p. 447, MSG)**

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**5. PERSONAL: Psalm 139:1-10 and 23-24 (p. 467, NIV)**

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**6. MENTAL: Romans 12:12 (p. 343, MSG); Philippians 2:5-8 (p. 435, MSG)**

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**7. SOCIAL: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (p. 376, MSG)**

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**8. SPIRITUAL: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (p. 394, MSG)**

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www.HisDeal.org

george@HisDeal.org

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