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EG 102-Public Speaking

November 13, 2022

Achieving My Goals

Hi, my name is Elizabeth Pylant. Like many of you, I have goals that I have set for myself throughout my life, along with goals others have set for me. I believe the achievement of these goals that we set for ourselves is relative. To me, achievement means reaching a goal even if the journey there does not go exactly as planned. I also believe not achieving something exactly as you saw it, does not mean you have failed. At this stage in my life, I have a few large goals that I have set for myself. One of those goals is to obtain my associate degree in Business Management. This goal is not just centered around the degree itself, but also to gain the knowledge that is taught in the degree courses. Getting my degree is a goal I need to achieve to move forward to an even larger goal. Each large goal usually starts with smaller goals. My degree will help me to get a position in the drug and alcohol rehabilitation administration field. My heart's desire is to one day open a Christ-centered drug and alcohol rehab facility with my husband. I know my degree and experience in the field will help me achieve this. Even though this is a personal goal, I am determined to achieve it for more than myself. I want to reach this goal so that I can help those who struggle with addiction to be better for themselves, their family, their communities, and most of all for their life in Christ.

I have a professor that says, "on paper, on purpose". I think this is so true when it comes to our goals. When we have them written down, especially where we can see them often, we become more mindful of them. However, before we can ever write a goal down, we must identify that goal and what it will take to achieve it. This leads us to smaller or short-term goals.

These short-term goals should be things that propel us toward achieving our overall goal. When it comes to short-term or long-term goals it can be easier to let yourself down than to let others down. Therefore, it is important to have some accountability. My husband is my accountability partner in every aspect of my life, even with school. He helps me stay motivated and on track by asking how my classes are going and giving me the option to not work full-time while in school. Most of all, I am motivated by knowing each small goal is going to eventually lead to me having the business knowledge I need to run a successful rehab ministry and help others.

Each semester I have four short-term goals. These goals come in the form of my classes. My goals for these classes are to first grasp the information being taught, learn how to apply it, and fully apply myself and make an A in these classes. Thus far, I have obtained these goals in each of my classes. However, I am currently making a B average in one of this semester's classes. Although I am not very happy with myself about this grade, I will not give up, but instead will continue to do my best in all my classes. I have not always been great at my follow-through and something like this B average would have made me feel defeated and made me want to accept that defeat. This time is different. My overall goal is so very important to me that I refuse to let this detour cause me to fully get off the path to earning my degree and putting it to good use. Every year or semester I re-evaluate my goals, celebrate my achievements, and make new goals. Even if I keep a B average in that one class, I will still celebrate my completion and that I tried my best. I have thought a lot about my goals for the coming year. When I write them down, they will include graduating in December of 2023 with my degree, finding a mentor in the rehabilitation facility management field, and shadowing them. I hope to start making a difference in the life of those who struggle with an addiction sooner rather than later. When I get

discouraged along this journey, I am reminded of Philippians 4:13 and that I truly can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.