

Personal Timeline Assignment

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SF703

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Personal Timeline of Joseph Browne

Childhood-

- I was the 2nd son out of 3 sons born to the Browne's family.
- Started school at the age of 3. I wanted to go to school like my older brother.
- Grew up in a stable home environment with father, mother and siblings.
- Participated in early morning family Bible devotions time before going to school.
- Enjoyed great family times on various weekends with my cousins at their homes.
- Spent a lot of quiet time reading a variety of books.
- Enjoyed one week family summer get-togethers with uncles, aunts, and our cousins.

Teens

- Stopped attending Christian private school with a small school population after 8th grade.
- I attended a larger public school in a city area between 9th – 12th grade. Had to make new friends in high school.
- This was a physically awkward phase of life for me as I quickly grew tall and had long body limbs.
- Repeatedly told that I was handsome and received various encouraging words from parents, other family members, and Sunday School teachers.
- My self-confidence grew as my teenage years continued.
- My summer family trips to various places expanded my worldview beyond my island.
- Started to enjoy listening to various music types in different settings.
- Began attending "social get-together" events with high school friends.
- Started dating and was able to identify a young lady as my girlfriend to my parents.
- In my later teen years, my involvement in sports steadily increased.
- My comfort level and willingness to work in teams steadily expanded.

- Learned to understand and appreciate the concept of teamwork towards achieving results.

College

- Accepted Christ as my personal Savior in the first week of college and was water baptized.
- Accepted my Pastor's request to be the youth leader of my church's youth group.
- Became more comfortable speaking in group settings even to church leadership.
- In my junior year of college, I relocated from the university in St. Thomas, VI to Pace University in NY.
- Once again, I had to make a new set of friends.
- I had no immediate family presence around me when I moved to NY. I often felt lonely.
- Was not being spiritually fed in the neighborhood church in Queens which I attended.
- My Aunt in Chicago arranged for someone to take me to Apostolic Faith Church (AFC) in Brooklyn, NY.
- Started attending AFC in Brooklyn. Instantly felt at home.
- Increasingly became more active in different roles at college and at church.
- College life provided opportunities to meet individuals from varying backgrounds.
- Temporarily relocated back to St. Thomas, VI after fulfilling college requirements.

Career

- Worked in St. Thomas for a couple of months before college graduation occurred.
- Relocated back to NY to start working as a management intern in a full-time position.
- The two-year internship assignment with the company went well.
- A sister in the church, who was in college, asked me to tutor her in Economics.
- Tutoring sessions went well, she passed her economics class.
- We started to date and got married two years later.

- My wife and I became parents. First was our daughter and then 18 months later our son.
- Graduated with my first master degree in organizational leadership.
- Worked hard in different capacities at my job and moved into different positions.

Ministry

- After college graduation, new ministering opportunities at church quickly escalated.
- I was repeatedly requested to give exhortations at mid-week prayer meetings at church.
- Was also requested by my Pastor to lead the men's fellowship group. I stayed in that capacity for 10 years.
- Taught different Sunday school classes as a floater teacher for several years.
- Accepted and fulfilled the Assistant Pastor role for 16 years at Apostolic Faith Church.
- Regularly traveled to different associated churches for preaching opportunities.
- Started attending AME church and resigned from Assistant Pastor position in AFC.
- Took a year off from being active in ministry to seek God's guidance as to the next step.
- Felt led by God to pursue an MDIV degree. Decision was supported by family.
- Started attending NYACK with a focus in urban ministries.
- Decided to work with various groups at church including men's and discipleship teams.
- Ordained a deacon in the AME Church.

Reflections

Encouraged by support

As I reflect back over the different areas or categories of my life, I am grateful for the encouraging support which I have received time and time again. I can recall receiving encouragement from my parents and family members throughout the varying stages of my life. I remember being given the book – *I Think I Can* when I was about 8 years old, and then calls or cards with encouraging words as I grew older. This has helped in fortifying my confidence that family and friends are willing to pray and provide supporting encouragement as I go forward.

Driven to achieve

Being driven to achieve has been continuously evident in my life. From a very young age, I wanted to be successful as I engaged in activities. Whether it was in school, in friendly neighborhood sport settings, in family and church-related events, I wanted to produce the best results. I am not sure if this is part of my “middle child syndrome” and my need to stand out. This at times caused me to “nudge” others to strive to do their best, so we can all celebrate what was accomplished. This has helped to enhance my engagement in teamwork opportunities.

Do not like disappointing others

I work hard to make sure that others are happy by what I do. This at times has involved or required me to respond to initial and subsequent requests of others. On multiple occasions, this required additional time than I originally thought it would take to accomplish things. At times, I have had to revamp schedules and make personal sacrifices to ensure that things were completed by the agreed to deadlines. This is not a need to be in the spotlight or get attention, but to achieve the sentiment of a job, task, or request being done well or pleasing to the requestor or recipient. This at times has caused internal struggles within me to ensure all requests are responded to accordingly.

Patterns in my life – God working in my life**Willing to adjust to new beginnings**

My willingness to adjust has been the case as I transitioned from one phase of life to another. I eagerly looked forward to new things, new adventures, and new areas of growth as well as development for me. I enjoy trying new things, meeting new people and interacting in new settings. I am not looking to discard what has already transpired, but build upon it. I am excited about starting new efforts and working with a vision and outlook for new and greater things to be accomplished. I gravitate to what is shared in Isaiah 43:19- “Behold, I will do a new

thing” to be my mode of operation. This has contributed to fostering within me a mindset of expectancy regarding things around me.

Motivated by challenging situations

I am not a lover of math and science as subjects, but I love figuring out how things work or how to make them work. A few of the greatest tasks I fulfill in different capacities of my life are that of being an organizer, planner, and achievement facilitator. Some might be vehemently opposed to challenging scenarios. My mindset, on the other hand, has consistently been that with God, all things are possible. This has been evident in my history as I have had to navigate through challenging occurrences during both past and present events. The different experiences have strengthened my faith in God and serve as milestones to remind me of what God has done.

Thrive in group or individual role scenarios

I am fine working by myself, in small groups, or in larger settings, However, a lot of my current work responsibilities are definitely solo tasks. It is just the nature of the business and tasks to be performed. I am comfortable with having to perform some things which require my individual attention, and to work towards accomplishing what is required. I am equally comfortable to work with others whether this has been at church, in my community, with friends and family, as well as in other settings. These diverse settings have proven to provide numerous opportunities for me to directly hear from God or glean from others towards addressing and resolving matters.

How God has used me to minister to others?

Promote a culture of “we are strong together”

As much as I have been instrumental in accomplishing certain things by myself with the guidance and help of God, I have been blessed by God to be effective in promoting a culture

with others that emphasizes “we are strong together.” This has required me to transparently share my strengths and weaknesses and that I need their assistance and cooperation. As stated in Ecclesiastes 4: 9 & 10 – “Two are better than one... for if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow.’ I have been able to communicate the benefit of their engagement in order for us to move forward as a team to victory. These varying settings have increased my willingness to interact with others and to strive to build friendships as well as working relationships.

Taking the time to listen and show empathy

God has often used me in settings to spend more time listening to what is being said by the other person(s) than to offer my responses. This has often involved being attuned to hearing what God has to say about what they are not saying or willing to say. I have found that oftentimes people are not always expecting for you to provide a solution to their circumstance. As the famous quote goes, “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.” I believe in this and thank God for allowing this to be part of my spiritual DNA as I serve Him and minister to others.

Encourage others to grow in different areas of life

As others have been an encouragement to me to grow and develop in various areas of my life, so I have been used by God to do the same to others. As stated in Proverbs 27:17, “Iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.” God has used me via sermons, teachings, and/or prayers to minister encouragement to others. This has at times occurred in large groups, small groups, or in one-to-one settings. My encouragement has not been limited to only spiritual development and growth. It has also encompassed educational, financial, career, relational, personal and professional pursuits as well. This has contributed to a holistic approach for me when I am interacting with others.