

# THE *Goldfield* Digest

For Teens, Youths, Undergraduates & Young Professionals

Volume 1

A Quarterly Circulated Digest

## SOLUTION-ORIENTED LEADERSHIP: Our Role as Teenagers

- Olorunfemi Folarin

## How I made the Honor Roll at my school

- Oluwademilade Joel Omidiji

### Other Features

- Tax Advantage Way
- Building Interviewing Skills
- Testimonials: **How WLF Has been Beneficial To Me**

Nurturing The Minds... Raising The World Changers.



**WORLD LEADERSHIP  
& INSPIRATIONAL  
FOUNDATION INC.**

*“They won’t become better leaders if we don’t invest in them,  
and a certificate will be of no value without good character to maximize it.”*

World Leadership & Inspirational Foundation Inc runs Lightning the mind programs for Kids, Teenagers, and Young adults to help bring the best out of people to better serve society creatively in truth, excellence and love.  
Visit our website below for more information

## OUR PROGRAMS

**KIDS CONNECT  
(Ages 6-12)**

A monthly leadership and mentoring program targeted at early self - discovery for kids irrespective of color or religion

**TEEN CONNECT  
(Ages 13-19)**

A quarterly leadership conference targeted at building leadership skills, creative writing, and community service experience

**LIGHTNING THE MIND FELLOWSHIP  
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A weekly Leadership & Inspirational Fellowship focusing on inspiring, teaching, training and empowering people toward living their best life in the fear of God.

**We have specialized training programs for youngsters in Schools, Communities, organizations and places of worship.**

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Call/text to 857-3333-3203**

**SHORT BRIEF ABOUT US:**



**WORLD LEADERSHIP  
& INSPIRATIONAL  
FOUNDATION INC.**

World Leadership & Inspirational Foundation Inc is a non-profit and tax-exempt organization founded and incorporated in 2018 poised to attain its founding objective by raising vanguards of fresh, productive, result-driven, entrepreneurial and humane future leaders in communities across the world, through mentoring and leadership training programs. Our training templates are designed to nurture and positively influence the minds of the young ones in order to help combat some of the negative consequences of poor leadership namely: violence, banditry, hatred, suicide, discrimination, insecurity, crime and poverty.

**Donate to Support our vision of raising responsible minds and help us help youngsters in society.**

**All donations are tax - deductible according to IRS standards.**

**visit: [www.wolifoundation.org/donate](http://www.wolifoundation.org/donate)**

**Nurturing The Minds... Raising The World Changers.**

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*We welcome you to a new year filled with uncommon possibilities, as you do your best.*


*It is a great joy having to connect with you through this medium. Just like yesterday, 2023, a year filled with uncommon possibilities is fast ticking away. We trust you will do your best to make the year a very rewarding one.*

This year, we will be bringing your way some leadership and creative writings of our youngsters and role models that would help showcase their potentials and brighten your day.

GOLDFIED DIGEST is a leadership and creative writing project of WLIF to help bring out the best in the kids and teenagers in society as you saw in our maiden edition, some testimonials and creative writing projects carried out by our mentees.

You will be opportune to read more in this volume and in the future. It is good to call the youth, the future leaders, but the real work begins when we start gathering them early enough to inject soft leadership skills and encourage them to apply these

Contd. on pg 4



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Randolph MA Phone: +1 857 333 3203 E-mail: [charles@wolifoundation.org](mailto:charles@wolifoundation.org)**

soft skills at home, school and through community service suitable enough for practice. Our mentees are our best gifts to the world as a role-modeling Organization.

Every participant in our mentoring program is a potential Author that will help enrich and contribute positively to the global body of knowledge.

Your write-ups are welcome to help our youngsters grow in knowledge, wisdom and understanding.

Visit our website and register your kids.

Thank you!

Charles Awodu (Certified Coach and Mentor)

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## Teen Leadership Program Assignment

*Start from page 15*

Also, we should align ourselves with God's definition of success. Our success might not be what God sees as a success, but staying with Him will help us build the skills and shape us to be successful.

8. What change or improvements would you like to see?

“I would like to see more people engaged in Soul winning. On-the-go disciples. Less of social media. Organization of health programs in the church to help people eat well.”

9. What may you have failed at? What gives you the strength to go on? or What motivates you?

“Personally, I have failed at achieving some set goals. As a leader, I don't want to fail in my purpose, the will of God for my life.”

### Questions For me:

What did I learn that I would begin to apply? Work hard. Even when I am scared, I must try. I must know God's purpose for my life and begin to improve and impact lives.

# THE FORCE OF TRANSFORMATION

**T**ransformation is a process, and never an overnight work. Its process starts from ME to WE, toward driving a CHANGE.

The idea that birthed every great thing you see in the world today begins with an inspired thought of a person who placed high demands on self-improvement and good relationships.

If you want to change the world, you must start with yourself, then build like minds around you to power the future you see.

Your ability to track a thought or an idea with which to drive a change must as well be prioritized.

Your prosperity and positive influence in life is wrapped in your contributions toward humanity and your time is the needed currency to drive your lasting influence.

Place value on your time and be wise to invest your attention on things that matter to your goal and never bad company.

Year 2023 is here at last, act on your intentions decisively, and don't watch what you don't like.

Do something great about them as you are privileged to see each new day!

Hope to connect with you in our next edition.

-Charles Awodu

# Solution-Oriented Leadership

## - Our Role as Teenagers

By Olorunfemi Folarin



Leadership should begin from teenage years. The saying by a great church leader, Dr. David Oyedepo that “as the morning shows the day, the child shows the man”, is indeed apt when talking about leading. Leadership may not be inborn, but the earlier we begin to receive the basic nuggets of leadership from home, school, religious centers, committee of friends, among other groups, the better equipped we are for the future.

Let it also be noted that we do not have to be old to provide leadership. Solution can be provided by anyone. Leadership can begin from any age. Jesus Christ was a kid when he led in the synagogues to teach the words of wisdom that would later change our world. Samuel Thomas Houghton is a British inventor. In April 2008, at the age of 5, he received a patent for his "Sweeping Device with Two Heads" invention. He is thought to be the youngest person to have been granted a patent for their invention.

Hannah Herbst is a young inventor from Florida. At the age of 13, while attending an engineering summer camp, she envisioned a device that could capture the ocean waves and convert them into electricity. She was inspired by her pen-pal from Sub-Saharan Africa,

an area of the world where many people have little access to reliable electricity. This is how the BEACON project was born. BEACON stands for Bringing Electricity Access to Countries through Ocean Energy (Gonzalez, 2020: <https://medium.com/invention-notebook/5-young-inventors-aim-to-change-the-world-a8d3e70807d3>).

**“Our leadership responsibilities and lessons start from home. At this level, we are assigned roles according to our age or gender.”**

Our leadership responsibilities and lessons start from home. At this level, we are assigned roles according to our age or gender. As the first child, my parents sound it to my hearing always that I am the third in the chain of command at home. I really did not

understand or realize this as a fact until I became a teenager and began to find social and family roles that define the sayings of my parents. As the third in command, it means after my dad is my mom and after my mom is me, as the first child. This means I will oversee not only my two younger siblings, but also the affairs of the home in the absence of my parents.

Leadership continues in other social groups, particularly at school. Here, we take up social roles in order of seniority or according to aptitude. Our teachers sometimes use their discretion to assign roles to us. Such discretion is premised on their understanding of our individual potentials or level of activeness.

Sometimes, they appoint even those withdrawn in positions of responsibilities, to bring them out of their shells and make them discover their talents or leadership potentials.

Another social group is circle of friends. Peers with shared vision or goals engage in role sharing to accomplish tasks or objectives.

In addition to this level is a formal organizations like the World Leadership and Inspirational Foundation, which organizes leadership training kids and teenagers from age 6. At this level, there are academic and social curricular, which outline leadership-training modules. My immediate younger brother and I have been members of this organisation, where we benefitted immensely from the wisdom and insights of elders, leaders of thought, professionals and captains of industry.

The leadership skills and roles gained from home, school, organizations and circle of friends played out recently when I contested for the position of president/vice-president of the student council in my high school. The leadership nuggets and inspirational words found expression in my thoughts and poise. I was fired up to take up leadership roles by example and lead by serving people. I gave that elective position a shot, which gave me a sense of fulfillment. I realized that aside all those nuggets deposited in me, I also found my innate desire to want to serve. I am not surprised at my attempt to seek the student council position. I found out that my dad had risen to student council speaker and president of the university press union in his college days. He has served at so many levels between his school days and

now as a top academic, mentoring and producing hundreds of successful academics. This has resonated in the family as even my mom has led units in the organizations she has worked and had gone ahead to study leadership at the doctoral level.

Leadership should begin from a youthful age. Since I came to understand this, I have resolved that I will offer myself to serve humanity, beginning from my family, to the community, the nation and globally.

Every individual has a value he or she can give to the society. Inherent in humans is something they can contribute to change their society for the better. Giving such value should not be when we are old. It begins now.

**“  
Sacrifice  
makes the  
leader. Reason  
or rationality  
makes the  
”**

Leadership does not mean occupying a position of the boss or manager alone. Leadership actually means taking the lead in service, with the goal of solving problems. Leadership comes in different ways or models. Charismatic and servant leadership is my favorite. Charisma is required to win people over. Charisma will put you in a position of influence. Servant leadership is the modest position to offer your best for the greater good of the people. My daddy once pinned some wisdom tips on his board in the office, in obvious reference to Dr. Oyedepo's postulation on the qualities of a good leader. I love and will paraphrase them.

Responsibility makes the leader. Sacrifice makes the leader. Reason or rationality makes the leader. Sociability, teamwork and humility make the leader. Discipline makes the leader. Above all, the moral compass (integrity) makes a leader.

We should nurture all these from our youth in order to have the capacity to lead our world to a better place.

\*Olorunfemi Folarin is a 12<sup>th</sup> Grader at Haas Hall Academy, Bentonville, Arkansas.

# It's a TAX -Advantaged way to protect your loved ones - and supplement your retirement income

## While often overlooked, cash value life insurance can be an efficient, effective source of supplemental retirement income

When it comes to preparing for retirement, there are lots of ways to go about it: IRAs, 401(k)s, 403(b)s, SEPs, and Keoghs, just name a few. And while each of these products offers distinct advantage, few - if any - can match the versatility and tax benefit offered by cash value life

While the primary purpose of whole life and other cash value policies are to provide long-term death benefit protection for your loved ones, they can also be surprisingly efficient retirement planning tools. That's because they provide some valuable tax advantages.

Consider cash value life insurance if there is a protection need and you are running up against contribution limits in other retirement products.

### Let's take a closer look at the last point:

To begin with, some retirement vehicle- such as 401(k)s or 403(b)s – are only offered through an employer, so they are not available to contract workers, freelancers, and other self employed individuals.

Furthermore, most qualified retirement plans come with contribution limits that may prevent you from setting aside as much as you want. And finally, as is the case with a RothIRA, participation may be limited if your individual or household income is too high.

### Fortunately, there is a proven, effective way to overcome many of these obstacles.

When properly structured, a cash value life insurance policy can provide access to tax-free distributions. Keep in mind that cash value life insurance is funded with after-tax dollars, there are no federal income limits and minimal premium limits imposed.

Assuming a cash value life insurance policy is structured properly it allows for tax-deferral and tax-free distributions, there is no IRS penalty for using your life insurance cash value prior to age 59 1/2, or for leaving it untouched beyond the age of 70. This could make cash value life insurance an attractive consideration when funding limits in other retirement vehicle have been reached or as a supplemental retirement income source.

### Benefits of cash value life insurance

**Tax-deferred growth of cash value**

**Tax-free loans and withdrawals\***

**Tax-free death benefit for your heirs**

**Ability to access cash value prior to age 59 1/2\***

**No requirement to take withdrawals at age 70**

**No impact on required minimum distributions (RMDs)**

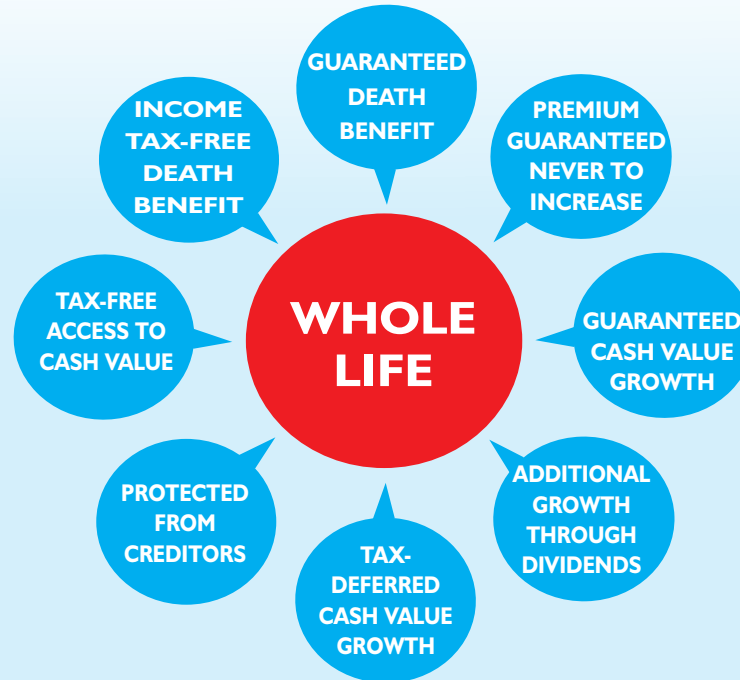
**No income limits**

Given all the advantages cash value life insurance has to offer, it's easy to see why it can be such an invaluable part of your retirement plan. In addition to the death benefit and a host of tax benefits, this powerful resource can provide the freedom and flexibility needed to create multiple income streams and help you set aside even more money for retirement.\*

**For more information** about protection, wealth preservation, or integrated retirement strategies, please feel free to reach out to your New York Life financial professional. As always, we're here to help.

Contact: Oluwatoni Omidiji  
[www.newyorklife.com/agent/omidiji](http://www.newyorklife.com/agent/omidiji)  
Call: 7814179554

# Whole life provides A lifetime of protection and value



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**You can reinvest your dividends back into your policy, referred to as purchasing "paid-up additions," which grow your coverage and cash value even more.**

## There are also several tax advantages to whole life

The death benefit generally passes **income tax free** to your beneficiaries, and most states it is protected from creditors.

The cash value will grow **tax deferred**. Which means while the cash value grows you do not pay income taxes on it, allowing it to grow even faster.

The cash value is yours to use during your lifetime and you can access it usually **income tax free**.



# How I made the Honor roll at my school

- Oluwademilade Joel Omidiji

**M**y ability to make the Honor roll dates to the good educational foundation received at Redeemers International School (RIS) in Lagos, Nigeria. I attended RIS for my Primary 1 and Primary 2 Classes.

The curriculum of this school was very thorough and advanced, pupils have taught topics a grade level above them. For example, I was taught Grade 1 Mathematics, using a Grade 2 Mathematics textbook.

It was very challenging with daily homework and reading assignments in the workbook. My parents got me a lesson teacher, to assist with the lots of homework because we were taught many subjects including music, arts, native language, and French.

I was also challenged with fun and engaging extra-curriculars such as swimming and running, and I represented my class during inter-house sports competitions.

When my family moved to the United States of America (USA) four years ago, I continued my educational journey, hoping to get into primary 3 (Grade 3), but because my birth date is December, I was required to repeat grade 2 that I had just finished in RIS.

At first, I did not understand this system, but my mom explained to me that you are required to be a certain age when you enter a new school in September, and that's why it's important whether your birthday falls before or after September.

The grade 2 topics in Mathematics, English, and Science were very familiar to me, and I would finish my work on time before all my classmates. My grade 2 teacher in John F Kennedy Elementary school noticed this and

started looking for ways to further challenge me. She would give me story books to read and engage me with extra work, word puzzles,

and subject games. She informed my mom and next-grade teacher to continue challenging me with extra work. I easily made the honor roll in grade 4 and grade 5 when I moved to Brockton and was transferred to the Talented and Gifted (TAG) Program in Louis Angelo Elementary School, Brockton.

I, therefore, attribute my achievement to hard work, taking on more challenges, and dedication to work. I have also learned that the result of hard work is more work. I thank and appreciate my parents for their guidance and support. For example, they set a rule that we must not watch TV during the week. This has helped me focus on doing my homework and house chores. Then I watch TV during the weekends.

I look forward to grade 6 (middle school) in September with a stronger determination to continue in the TAG program because it will expand my knowledge, add value and make me a better person by associating with students of like minds.

**Oluwademilade Joel Omidiji** is a 6th Grader at O'Donnell Middle School, Stoughton MA.





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# Optimizing Time, Prioritizing Tasks, ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS

– John B. AJEWOLE

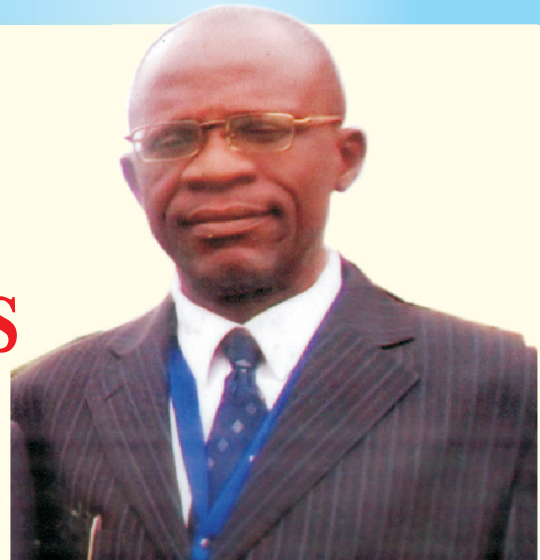
**H**igher achievers and performers are those who can manage/men/t effectively. They are those who can manage men and time, tools, talents, technology and techniques maximally.

Also, the highest goals getter are those who can optimize their time, prioritize their tasks and put everything in perspective.

Let us learn from the best manager in history in the persons of our Lord Jesus Christ. How could He had spent thirty years to prepare for three and half years ministry and still left such indelible marks till date? It is because He was a good resources manager. He managed His time, He recruited capable hands and equipped them, He made the best use of available tools, He put His ministry's goals first, He made effective plans and He was a man of prayers.

Get to know some facts and details about His philosophy in ministry that made Him to succeed, in the following scriptures: I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night comes when no man can work. John 9:4; Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils and to cure diseases. Luke 9:1; Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.

**It is because He was a good resources manager. He managed His time, He recruited capable hands and equipped them, He made the best use of available tools**



At a time He engaged the use of Peter's ship for His preaching engagement. Matthew 4:19-22; 13:1-2; Luke 5:3; My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. John 4:34; For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. John 6:38; For which of you, intending to build a tower, sit not down first, and counts the cost, whether he has sufficient to finish it. Luke 14:28; And in the morning rising up a great while before the day, he went out and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed. Mark 1:35.

Just like Jesus Christ, everything you want to do and accomplish in life can be possibly done through effective use of resources such as time, tools, talents, technology and techniques.

First, effective time management is critical to achieving your set goals. The highest achievers are those who can manage their time exceptionally well.

The scripture says, to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1. Effective time management will help you to improve performance, produce better results, deliver work on time, reduce the stress and accomplish the tasks effectively. Ephesians 5:15-16; Colossians 4:5.

Second, is the need to plan and prioritize your tasks. The scripture says, prepare your work without, and make it fit for yourself in the field; and afterwards build your house. Proverbs 24:27.

*cont'd. on page 13*



# Grace Chapel Brockton

*A Church without boundary;  
meeting people where they are,  
and journeying together to become like Jesus!*

### SUNDAY WORSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT

**Time:** 10 am - 12 Noon ( Every Sunday)  
**Location:** 900 Main St Brockton, MA 02301  
**Zoom ID:** 864 7689 9783  
**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86476899783>  
**Website:** <https://gracechapelbrockton.org/>

### YOUTH PROGRAM

**Saturday Youth Empowerment**  
**Time:** 12 noon - 2 pm (Every Saturday)  
**Location:** 891 Montello St, Brockton, MA 02301  
**Zoom ID:** 888 421 008  
**Zoom Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/888421008>  
**Sign Up:** <https://form.jotform.com/220543312682045>  
**Website:** <https://bgbrigadebrockton.org/>

### PRAYER CONFERENCE CALL

**Time:** 9 pm - 10 pm (Every Tuesday)  
**Zoom ID:** 893 788 518  
**Zoom Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/893788518>

### THE MIRROR: Pathway To Wholeness: Mentoring & Discipleship Program

Embracing Identity, Maximizing Potentials, Deepening Spirituality and Healing Relationships. The PTW program awakens and enhances inner potentials in youth and adults toward maximum productivity. The curriculum challenges participants to take a deep look inward and take ownership of their identity, maximize their potential, deepen their spirituality and reconcile with their social relationships.

*The program will run through a period of 12 weeks during the Winter;*

January to March, Spring: May - July, Fall ; September - November.

**Children K-12 Sign up** - <https://form.jotform.com/220544911073550>

**Adults Sign Up** - <https://form.jotform.com/220686557370159>

### THE ABIGAILS' WOMEN'S PROGRAM

Reaching out to all girls, ladies, and women of all cultures, faith, and status. We are committed to affirming women's wisdom by loving unconditionally, listening without a judgmental spirit, strategically working towards a goal and praying without ceasing. Every First Saturday of the month

**Time:** 2 pm - 3 pm

Location

Zoom ID : 874 0392 4997

Zoom Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/874\\_0392\\_4997](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/874_0392_4997)

Website: [voiceofabigail.org](http://voiceofabigail.org)

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Better known by his stage name Mak G, is a Nigerian Saxophonist, music educator and renowned performer. He is situated in Colorado and currently pursuing a degree in Project Management at the University of Denver. He is one of the fastest growing Africa Saxophonist in the United States.



Mak G has a bachelor's degree in psychology, master in music (with honors), and has spoken at two famous African Universities before relocating to the United States to advance his profession.

High- life, Gospel, RnB, Smooth Jazz, Hip Hop, and other genres/stylwls of music are some of his favorites. Mak G is the appropriate person to contact if you are seeking for the right artist to serenda your event, such as weddings, graduation, House warming, Birthday, Dinner Nights, live band music performances or Corporate/Social gatherings.

## 21 THINGS

### YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO DO AS A YOUNG LEADER



1. You have the ability to clean your room
2. You have the ability to wash the plates
3. You have the ability to stand up for what is right
4. You have the ability to work hard and get honor roll in school.
5. You have the ability to focus on your studies
6. You have the ability to make a great history
7. You have the ability to become a great leader
8. You have the ability to change the world
9. You have the ability to speak up for yourself and others
10. You have the ability to practice what your teacher taught you and do your homework
11. You have the ability to listen attentively to your teacher and parents
12. You have the ability to turn off the light to save energy and money
13. You have the ability to save money to start your own business
14. You have the ability to love and care for yourself and others
15. You have the ability to learn how to code and build websites
16. You have the ability to stay away from bad friends and obey rules and regulations
17. You have the ability to do something great every day.
18. You have the ability to respect elders or the seniors
19. You have the ability to think and do good works
20. You have the ability to be a responsible student
21. You have the ability to become a creative writer.

**Peculiar O. Awodu** , Brooke Scholar - 5th Grader

# Optimizing Time, Prioritizing Tasks,

## ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS

*cont'd. from page 12*

Third, is a positive mindset and critical thinking. Proverbs 23:7. No one can perform best who is not having a positive mindset which will help him or her in setting clear vision, prioritizing tasks and pursuing goals within a set time frame.

Fourth, no one can achieve the goals that he fails to set and pursue with all diligence. Proverbs 22:29. Zig Ziglar says how can a man hit the target he does not have.

**No one can achieve the goals that he fails to set and pursue with all diligence.**

Fifth, no goals can be realized without effective plans and setting of priorities. Luke 14:28-30.

Above all, wisdom demands that you should place everything you desire to do in life in the hands of God, who can divinely instruct you, teach you and guide your steps. Psalms 32:8; 37:5, 23. The scripture says, thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord your God who teaches you to profit, who leads you by the way that thou should go. Isaiah 48:17.

I pray that the Lord Himself will further enlighten you on how best you can achieve great performance in all that you set your hands to do, in Jesus Name.

**John B. Ajewole** (Chief Editor,)

The Word of Life Ministries and Publications,  
Ota, Ogun State. Nigeria.

# TESTIMONIALS



## HOW WLIF HAS BEEN BENEFICIAL TO ME

I am a proud mentee of World Leadership Foundation's leadership summit and teen program. Since I joined World Leadership and Inspirational Foundation in 2019, I have seen changes in how I see myself and the world around me. I've begun to see myself as a leader rather than an onlooker. Through our leadership series, I built courage to apply for a leadership position in my High School Band program, rose up to challenges and leadership roles in my church and family. (At WOLI) we learn a lot of values and leadership skills, that build a person all around and promote excellent character. This is not taught in our schools, so we are excited to learn something new every month that will help us build an excellent character. Another thing I love and I am grateful for is that WOLI not only teaches us skills, but desires we practice what we are taught. In that light, I was given an opportunity by our Coaches to be a speaker in one of our programs. It was not nerve racking at all because our coaches have been training me till that point. I am eager to keep growing with the group (by the grace of God).

**OLUWASEUNFUNMI OMIIDIJI**



Young Leadership Summit mentoring program is helping me to prepare for life and how to resolve the struggles of adulthood.

There is no better time to learn about these basic skills to live an exceptional life, but now. I see myself as a role model and I will make my Nation proud someday.

**DAVID OYEMAKINDE**



The World Leadership and Inspiration Foundation is known for nurturing the mind, especially with the younger generation. Charles Awodu has led several workshops at my Church and on The Voice global platform and each workshop has been life-transforming. Charles is not just another motivational speaker but a down-to-earth, thought-provoking, and realistic inspirational teacher. His lectures are well articulated and easy to comprehend. You will leave any of his presentations wondering what you have been doing with your goals. I recommend Charles for any of your workshops without any

**THE REVEREND DR. MOSES SOWALE**  
(Grace Chapel Brockton & The Voice Inc.)



World Leadership and Inspirational Foundation helped me when I was battling depression. This group helped me with mental and spiritual support when I first moved to America. Meeting Mr. Charles Awodu has changed my life. He has been a great mentor through his words, books and prayers. I pray that God blesses him and his family. Part of my passion is using music to heal the depressed and therapeutically revive the lost soul by performing for the senior citizens at their various residences in Colorado, churches, and social and corporate events anywhere in the United States. This gives me a sense of a fulfilled purpose and self-actualization of adding values to society.

**MICHEAL MAKANJUOLA**

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# BUILDING INTERVIEWING SKILLS BUILDING LEADERSHIP VALUES

-Gold Wetana Ogini

**E**xperience might be example remains the best teaching technique. Learning by examples which of course might be experiences of others could save you from having an experience you might not outlive to tell the story. An Alsatian polymath and Nobel Peace laureate, Albert Schweitzer said “Not only is Example the best way to teach, it is the only way.”

*As part of my Project during my Leadership Class at Leadership Foundation Academy, I have the privilege of engaging in one on one chats with some exceptional leaders whom I admire so much in my community.*

*Below are the excerpts from my chat with one of them:*

**Gold:** Good day ma. Thank you for honoring this interview which is part of my project for the Leadership course I'm currently attending. My name is Gold Wetana Oginni. Can I meet you?

**Leader:** Good morning my dear. I am Mrs. Dorcas Omotola Adeyemi. I am a retired School Principal and one-time ANCOS Chairman. I served as Secretary to the Local Government immediately after retirement. Currently, I am the CEO, Omotola Dorcas Care Organization. I am a widow and I am a mother.

**Gold:** Thank you. Ma, apart from being a retired School Principal, I also understand that you were a President of the Lions Club and you are a politician. Am I correct ma?

**Leader:** Yes, you are. I was once the president of Lions International (Ondo Queen's Lions Club.) Also, I do practice politics. That is why I was appointed as Secretary to the Local Government – Ondo East Local Government in Ondo State, Nigeria.

**Gold:** That means you have served in various leadership capacities over the years.



**Leader:** Yes.

**Gold:** As a leader, what are your core values?

**Leader:** Well, as a leader, my major core value starts from honesty and I display it at every level of my leadership. Also, I so much believe in service above self which is selfless service. As a leader, as you serve others, you're serving yourself; as you serve others, you're creating a sort of empowerment and development for others and this as well will in turn guide you in your leadership. As a leader, I so much value transparency. When you are honest and transparent, it will attract good leadership and it will encourage your followers in every aspect. They would trust you; they would be able to rely on you. At the same time as a leader, I love taking responsibility because if a leader fails to take responsibility, the leadership trait will not be good enough. You cannot lead without having some challenges or critics but if you are ready at any given time to take responsibility, you would be able to learn even as a leader and be able to mend your ways.

**Gold:** Thank you. Ma, how did you build in yourself, those leadership values and when did they begin to find expression in you?

**Leader:** Thank you. I would say that I started building leadership traits right from my very youthful age. I remember that while I was a young girl, I lived with my paternal grandmother who used to encourage me in playing some roles because we used to live in a large family. We have children of my age, a little bit younger, a little bit older but I used to play a leading role in whatever we do in the family back then and while in school as well, I remember starting from the time I was in Primary 5, I started leading morning devotion in the school. That gave me the courage to lead others. At that time I didn't see it as a leadership trait but by the time I started growing up and started working when I got to the

position of Head of Department, there and then I realized that I was becoming a leader. I started having people following me. I started having people that I was mentoring. I started having accolades from people. From then onward and from when I started joining Societies. I happen to be the Chairman of the National Council, Ondo Local Government and this is a very big office. National Council is a body of Societies (Women's societies). It is a worldwide society but I had to be the President of the Local Government Chapter. That was many years back. As a School Principal too, it was the highest ladder of my carrier where I had to lead my vice, I had to lead the Bursar, I had to lead parents, I had to lead students. All these things started manifesting along that line. My political career as well, that was the time I was appointed Adviser to the Chairman for Educational Community Development. At that time, I was leading so many groups of people and to the glory of God, all these traits were manifesting in my leadership.

**Gold:** Thank you. Ma, where is the place of followership in building those values?

**Leader:** Thank you. You know that followership takes different shapes. You have followers that would be critics. You have followers that are loyalist. The loyal ones, whether you're right or you're wrong, they keep following you and keep encouraging you. But the critics would at one point or the other try to pull you down but as a leader that is confident in what he or she is doing, as a leader that is upright, as a leader that is focused, one would not allow such to pull her down. You still keep going and keep learning even from their criticism.

**Gold:** Thank you. It is one thing to build leadership values; it is another thing to exhibit them without compromise. Ma, have you found yourself at a point where you contemplated compromising your leadership values for whatever reason?

**Leader:** (Laugh) well, when I was in active politics, holding political office, I had lots of challenges that I almost derailed but I thank God that I was able to maneuver myself to maintain my stand. You know, in politics, you meet different types of people with various challenges. You discover at times that the honesty you're talking about may not be paying enough; you may not see the good result expected.

At times, taking responsibility may even land you into trouble in a political circle – at times, not always. I think I remember there was a period when there was a conflict between my mentor in the political circle and the Chairman of the Council. During that period, I had to choose between telling lies and maintaining my integrity but I thank God that at the end, I was able to maintain my integrity, though I lost my appointment and I preferred that. I lost my appointment but I maintained my integrity. It was a bit challenging.

**Gold:** Ma, who are your mentors?

**Leader:** My mentors? Hmm, many people. I will start with my paternal grandmother who brought me up because as a child, I grew up with my paternal grandmother. She taught me to be truthful in all I do, to be honest at all times, at a very tender age. Then my father who happens to be a one-time teacher, the King's interpreter, and who had worked with the white men. He was able to give me a kind of mentorship that guided my life. He was a transparent person. You have to be honest, very frank, and very humble at the same time. All these things I learned from them and by the time I got married, I was lucky enough to marry a man who was a great leader himself. My husband was Hon. Feyi Adeyemi is of blessed memory who happened to be a one-time Counselor, and one-time Supervisor and even served as Vice Chairman of the Old Ondo Local Government eventually, he passed on as Area Education Officer of Ondo Local Government. He too was a great leader whom I lived with for the short time that our marriage lasted before I lost him. May his soul rest in peace. I learned a lot from him. So, those were the major mentors I could say I had.

**Gold:** Thank you. Ma, what are the benefits you have got in exhibiting those leadership qualities?

**Leader:** You're talking of my achievements using those leadership qualities. One, I have peace of mind. I don't entertain any fear because my honesty, my transparency, and my perseverance have made it easy for me to lead. I do receive accolades from people in different capacities. I receive awards from National Council for Women Society and Lions Club International. In fact, just last December during the Youth Summit in Ondo East, I was appointed and decorated as an Adviser for the Youths for the whole Local Government. This gives me a sort of fulfillment.



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awards would be coming in. so, I feel fulfilled.

**Gold:** Thank you. Ma, what are the challenges you face as a leader and how do you deal with them?

**Leader:** As a leader, there are bound to be challenges from various angles. You have challenges financially because when you're leading, you have to back it up with empowerment in some cases and when you want to empower people, it usually involves money. So there are times I have a financial challenge. My NGO is to take care of vulnerable and young widows. I do empower them financially and morally because I organize counseling programs and skill acquisition for them. I give them even cash to start petty trade. These are big challenges for me. At the time when I started, I had few bodies that collaborated with me and made it easy but as time went by maybe because of the economic situation of the country, we don't have collaborators anymore. Apart from that, even those you're leading, at times they derail. You put in a lot of effort on some of them and you don't see results. But one thing is to be steadfast as a leader; thank God I have learned to be focused. I don't allow those ones to discourage me. I keep moving. I still persevere, I still endure and I have been able to change some of the situations. Like my NGO that I made as an example, for those that I have settled, all I do now is monitor them and see how they are doing and encourage them. For those that are still under financial stress, I try my best, the little I can, I still give to them to see that I don't leave them the way I met them.

**Gold:** Criticism is one of the challenges that leaders face. How do you handle criticism as a leader?

**Leader:** Well personally, I am somebody that has learned to endure a lot in life. When people criticize, I normally take it in good faith because out of their criticism most of the time, when you patiently analyze their criticism, you will still find one correct thing or the other. I patiently take criticism in good faith, analyze it, take responsibility where the need is, make corrections where the need is, and explain where need be but I usually remain focused whether that criticism comes in good faith or not. I still make sure that I remain focused. To the glory of God, the confidence is in me that what I'm doing is right. If peradventure as human beings, there are little hitches here and there, I make amends.

**Gold:** Thank you. Ma, there's a debate about whether Leaders are born or made. What is your take on that?

**Leader:** I would say that some leaders are born while some are made. It's both sides. For instance, there are people that are born into royal families. When you're born into a royal family, from the day you're able to talk, you start playing a leadership role as a royal child because you have people around you that you will order. Then you see people around you giving orders, and when you grow along that line, you definitely become a leader. You may turn out to be a good leader; you may turn out to be a bad leader depending on the royal environment in which you're being brought up. On the other hand, people could be made leaders. It's a thing you can learn. You can learn to be a leader. Particularly, you see that many people before they join Societies, they're more or fewer novices. They may not know anything but as they move along, they have mentors; they surrender themselves as mentees for better people to mentor them. From there, they gather experiences, from there, they gather courage, from there; they learn to respect people, humble themselves, lead people, and do whatever a leader can do. So leadership could be made and could be born.

**Gold:** Thank you. Ma, as a retired Principal of a school and a politician, what is the importance of education in building leadership values, and how has it affected Nigeria as a country?

**Leader:** Thank you very much. You see, in whatever we want to do in this life, Education is the key. There's practically nothing we can do without education and when we talk of education, it goes beyond literacy which is reading and writing. It is unfortunate that many people think that education is limited to reading and writing. It's beyond that. Education is when you can read, you can write, can interpret, can visualize, can look into the future, and predict. You have a wide knowledge of happenings around you and even beyond. So as a leader, if you don't have this, even if you have a University degree or even Ph.D., if those other educational qualities are not in view, you're not educated. And the way it affects leadership in Nigeria as a country is that in most cases, we don't have our best hands in Authority. What I mean is that people that are well educated, people that have what it takes to lead are

not given the opportunity to lead us. In most cases, many educated people believe that politics is dirty, so they don't want to 'soil' their names, they don't want people to ridicule them so they don't go into politics. The few educated ones go in there, because they're few; their voices are not heard because the majority would always carry the day. That is the major problem we have in Nigeria and until our system changes, until we have our learned people, those that are really educated and have international exposure; until we have them in the majority in government, Nigeria would still be facing a lot of challenges as par leadership.

**Gold:** Thank you. Ma, how did you come about your Foundation – Dorcas Foundation?

**Leader:** Okay, my Foundation – Omotola Dorcas Care Organization. You see, I said while I was introducing myself that I am a widow and a mother. I lost my husband for close to twenty-four years now. Around that time, I was invited to a program and the program was organized by the National Council of Women's Development and Catholic Women Organization. The two organizations collaborated to organize a seminar-workshop for young widows. So I was invited, really I felt bad, I was down, I was devastated but getting to the seminar and coming back, I was a new creature. Coming back because of all I learned there, I decided that by God's grace, whenever, I am able to sail through because it was a hard time, as a widow with four kids. First, it was very hard and tough, I promised myself and God that if I am well able to sail through and train my children, I will by all means try my best to organize young widows and use my experience to guide them, to empower them, to counsel them, to feel for them because I have passed through a lot and to God be the glory, by the time I clocked sixty years, I decided that instead of throwing a big party, I decided to invite young widows and I was able to empower them with the little I had. I gave them money, I gave that foodstuff and registered it as a body and I still meet with them every month to counsel, to pray together, to give them whatever I have. That is how I come about Omotola Dorcas Care Organization.

**Gold:** Thank you. Ma, what is your candid advice to the youth on leadership values?

**Leader:** Thank you very much. My advice to the youth on leadership values is that our youth should be

patient. They should be very patient in whatever they want to do in life. There is no need to worry about anything. At God's appointed time, what they would achieve would come to them. Then they have to be honest because honesty is the best policy. If they are truthful to one another, there would be trust and when there is trust, to lead would be easy, and to follow would be easy. The challenges we have today is because we don't trust one another and honesty is at zero level; tolerance, patience, trustworthiness, perseverance, and self-confidence. They should build confidence in themselves. They should strive; not to make attempt once or twice and forget about it. No! You keep trying. Be confident that you will make it and one day, you will make it. These are my advice to the youth. They should not shy away from taking challenges. Challenges do build people. If you are challenged and you are able to face it squarely and overcome it, you have achieved. So our youths should learn to face challenges and like I said earlier, to be fruitful in whatever they do, and to be selfless. It is service above self. If you fail or refuse to serve others, you may not be able to even serve yourself.

**Gold:** Thank you for your time Ma. I sincerely appreciate your wealth of wisdom and specifically your advice to the youth on leadership values.

**Leader:** You're welcome my dear. God bless you and I pray that by God's special grace, you will fulfill your destiny in life in Jesus Name.

**Gold:** Amen Ma!

### **My Personal Take-Homes from the interviews I conducted are:**

1. I don't have to be born into leadership to be a leader. I can become a leader by allowing myself to be trained and mentored by leaders and mentors.
2. To be a good leader, I must be honest, transparent, focused, and selfless in service.
3. I would maintain my integrity no matter how challenging it seems because a good name is better than riches.
4. A challenge that one goes through could be a motivation for one to ensure that others don't go through the same challenge.
5. I must be serious with my education, build self-confidence; be industrious, patient, tolerant, and trustworthy because:
  - (i) There is no shortcut to success.
  - (ii) No level of education can be too much for me.

# Photo Speaks

I was there when  
GOLDFIELD DIGEST was launched



# Photo Speaks

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# What is Self- Empowerment?

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**S**elf-empowerment means making a conscious decision to take charge of your destiny. It involves making positive choices, taking action to advance, and being confident in your ability to make and execute decisions. Self-empowered people understand their strengths and weaknesses and are motivated to learn and achieve.

For example, if someone is laid off, they can be passive in their job search and wait for a recruiter to find them on LinkedIn — or they can take proactive steps toward finding a new and better job: contacting former colleagues, researching opportunities, updating their marketable skills, and revamping their resume.

Self-empowerment allows individuals to recognize that they have the power to make choices that can help them achieve their goals.

Sincerely,  
**Nkechi Chikezie**  
Author: Dirt&Grace  
Kklucille2002@yahoo.com



## Honor Roll

**S**o do you want to hear the story of how I got on the honor roll in my school?

It was my first time in a new school. I was in 7th grade. A new school with anyone I didn't know. My parents would always tell me not to focus on making new friends but to focus on my studies and I always listened to them.

My favorite subjects are Mathematics and History. I always get my work done even if the class ends. I love Math so much. If someone doesn't understand the work, I always like to lend a helping hand.

I always pay attention to the teacher and ask for help with any topic I don't understand. I could ask my Teacher for help like 10 times in class but that did not bother me, what mattered to me was to be able to understand the work and be able to complete it.

At the end of every term, we always celebrate students' achievements. The teachers would now call kids that made Honor Roll.

I was amazed when the teacher called my name. Yeah, I made it to the Honor Roll. I was so excited and proud of myself.

My friends, teachers, and parents were also happy for me.

This really meant a lot to me as I always like to celebrate my small wins and encourage myself to do better again and again.

Thank you.

**Ayokunmi Ajayi**



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# Teen Leadership Program Assignment

- Oluwaseunfunmi J Omidiji

Interviewing Leadership in my community who have shown self-control, integrity, confidence, and sacrifice.

**Mrs. Oluwakemi Omidiji** is a wife and mother of three. A child of God and a leader in the church. She has served in the church since a young college student till now in different areas of teaching, accountancy, and prayer. She's among the leaders of the Women's group, Welfare, and Sunday school group at RCCG Overcomers Assembly.

1. What challenges have you faced on your path to become a leader (in the church)/ who you are today? (Internal, external, man-vs man, man-vs- environment).

Answer: Being a good follower. Maintaining a good character that can inspire people and is worthy of emulation. Working in prayer and fasting. Submitting to the Holy Spirit continually. Obedience to God's instructions and accepting God's promises. Worry/fear. Timidity. Feeling helpless.

External: University/ course of study- Had to wait about 1 year at home after high school to study accounting.

External: Not growing up in a rich home

2. Did you know where you wanted to serve while growing up/ where you wanted to be a leader? ii) Why here?

"Yes. I have always wanted to serve in church when I gave my life to Christ. I looked at myself as being a servant, teaching people. I looked at it as being in hospitality. Helping people to be their best."

"I began in high school and college. Sometimes I write people letters, pray with them, give them food. My ministry is in hospitality, and caring. When did you build the leadership qualities that you have?"

*cont'd. on page 4*



3. Where did you build leadership skills/who helped you?

"It was not the college, not the people. The challenges I went through helped me to manage myself. My parents taught me... My knowledge of who God has helped me to be hopeful...To look unto Him for a better tomorrow and rise above what I did not have growing up.

4. Why did you build them/ why were they important to you?

I realized that some many lives would depend on me. I realized that we are not here to exist alone. I understood I had a purpose. I got that understanding from God's word.

5. What can you say about any of these 4 qualities self-control, integrity, confidence, and sacrifice). "I built these values because I knew it was needed for me to succeed and influence other people. I know it would also make God stay with me."

6. You faced some challenges but what benefits did you gain when you began to exercise those values?

"I have gotten a good job. A successful marriage. A relationship with God and a good relationship with my family. I have been looked up to as a responsible and trustworthy leader. People can ask for my help. Financial freedom. I am not a liability to anybody or dependent on anybody. I can work with my hands and with what I have. I have been able to cater for my family."

7. What advice do you have for youth on how to build the values you have cultivated in life?

"My advice is for them to believe in God. To study the word of God. Do not be lazy. A lazy man can't know God as you must study and act on the Word you study.



# Self - Determination



**R**emember when you were a baby or toddler you wanted to learn how to climb the stairs many times and you fell? That was a challenge you want to overcome in that season of life.

Next, you tried again but you fell and cried. You wanted to give up at this time but encouraged yourself to keep up the good spirit. That was true perseverance and nevertheless mentality.

Then you used all your strength and climbed up until you reached the top. You said, "Hurray, I did it!" You felt so happy about achieving your desired goal. This is a kind of good emotion that self-determination can give you.

Success is sweet if you refuse to give up on your set goal, vision, or dream in life, no matter the challenges that may come your way. Just keep thinking about possible solutions.

Your parents, Grandparents, uncle, cousins, and siblings celebrated you the day you successfully climbed the stair. This is how great and attractive success can be Success .

No one may notice how much you really tried when you failed but trust me people will always come around to celebrate your success when you do something fantastic or hit your goal.

Abraham Lincoln tried so many times to become the President of the United States of America and failed but he never stop trying until his dream come true. This is self-determination. This lesson I love so much when my teacher taught us and my Dad repeated it while teaching us at the Young Leadership Summit. You can achieve anything if you put your mind to it.

**Excel Awodu, Brooke Scholar - 3rd Grader.**

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- \* Read at least two books written by any of the past or present presidents of any nation and write a brief essay about what you learned, how it has changed your perspective on life, and how you will apply the knowledge gained to improve your leadership skills.
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# My Intro to CODING



I introduced myself to coding. It all started about a year ago when I bumped into it on You Tube. I watched a couple of videos on coding. I equally saw a platform that offered a free online program, I seized the opportunity and registered for it – it was a one day Coding class in which we made a Game on Scratch. I continued to research on it as I was encouraged and supported by my parents.

A day came when I was told about a Holiday Program (a two day boot camp Website Development), put together by World Leadership & Inspirational Foundation in partnership with Oasis Investment LLC. The program was not free but affordable, so I registered for it. At the end, I realized that the Deal worth more than the Fee. Our coach, Engr. Dare Oladosu taught us how to create a village with houses, cars etc.

Apart from the Village I am currently making, I have made two games. I made a Game on Scratch which was my very first Game I created. It was Anti-stress Game (not a competitive one.) This means the Game could relieve you of stress. I consider this as very beneficial especially for this day and age when almost everyone is stressed up because of one reason or the other. As for my second Game which is called Flappy Bird, I developed it. Flappy Bird is a very competitive and addictive game.

Perhaps, you are wondering why I used the verbs “created” and “developed” for my first and second Games respectively, it is simple. Though, the two words are interchangeably used, in the true sense of it, to create a game and to develop a game are definitely not the same.

To create a Game, you would conceive the idea about the Game in its original form and communicate the idea to the computer in its language which of course is coding.

To develop a Game, you simply work on an existing Game and improve on it by making adjustments and adding more features to it. However, this should not be mistaken for 'updating a Game.' An updated Game would still remain the same Game App while a developed Game would become a different

Game App entirely. More so, it takes a longer time to develop a Game than to update one.

For instance, My Talking Tom was created by Outfit7 on November 11, 2013. Five years later, it was developed into My Talking Tom 2 by the same Company on November 8, 2018.

Anyone can try their hands on coding. You don't have to be a science student. Giacomo Sorbi studied Marketing and Finance in school and later went more into marketing as an occupation. He later picked interest in Coding which he referred to as his turning point in life and with determination; he ended up as a contractor. He worked for companies like Facebook, Deutsche Bank and other great establishments as a Software Engineer.

Code is the language a computer understands and coding is an act of instructing a computer on what to do. The importance of coding cannot be overemphasized.

It helps to make life easier. Coding as an integral component of software enables Robots and AI to carry out different tasks such as doing dishes, laundry and even much more complex jobs.

It also makes life enjoyable. Coding has made possible, different online games and diverse communication platforms for our leisure and enjoyment.

It equally provides employment. Coding is a very viable business because digital technology is where the world is headed right now and that direction is likely not going to change anytime soon.

If you want to make a headway on Coding, then like Giacomo Sorbi would suggest, 'give it a shot and give it more shots.'

Below is the link to one of my games

<https://studio.code.org/c/1822534093?qr=true>

Rhema A. Oginni



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