

## **What Will I Do with My One Wild and Precious Life?**

*by Terry Williams, October 21 2018*

The plans for my future are a mix of things that will benefit not just me but others. It is a challenge to plan for a future that, as for now, is only a dream that can only be realized with freedom. It is still a conscious process that makes my vision feel attainable. I am guided by my strong inclination to want to help others. I believe in positive encouragement centered around motivating people. Motivational speaking is what I want to do in the future. I want to build relationships with people and offer my experiences as an example to compare against their own for others to see that while their struggles are unique to them personally there are others who came through similar circumstances and they can as well. I like to connect with people emotionally. I have found that when we really listen to others with an open mind you can identify with what that person is feeling and dealing with. Being relatable, compassionate and understanding are key components that allows for that emotional connection to take place. It is a great feeling when someone approaches you and thanks you for addressing their problem and touching on ideas that can help them with their needs. I have not decided all of the topics I would like to go over in speaking to others but I do know I want to encourage others to realize that they have the strength to get through the most difficult and trying circumstances. Coaching others to understand that while their present condition or situation is not what or where they want it to be the future is clear for them to change those conditions. It is very empowering when someone realizes that they have the power to make things different from themselves and that they are in control of the direction their life proceeds from there. Perseverance has been an important part of my ability to survive in prison isolation for 32 years even with the spectre of death hung at my doorway all of those years on death row and ultimately became very real when I came a couple hours of being executed. There is a quote that I always try to utilize when the turbulent waters of life become choppy and hard to navigate, "the measure of a person is the ability to navigate the storm when the storm is at its very worst". Motivating others to dig deep and find that inner strength to wade through the waters until they find that one protruding rock that breaks the surface of the water in that vast ocean and cling to it until you can find the right coordinates (direction) that will take you to safety and lead you to a path that will help make you successful. You have to weather these storms with perseverance. I also want to speak about domestic violence. Growing up in a home that was dysfunctional in this way not only harms the victim of the violence but also the child or others who witness such unfortunate events. I want to establish a safe harbor community for women that are victims of domestic violence who will be able to reestablish themselves while being protected from the fear of being harmed. While I have been interested in helping others for years the ways in which I want to be productive in this space has no limits or boundaries. I am committed to being involved in the many social needs of the community and beyond. To be productive and hands on in my commitment to participate and be very active in those activities and events that my church deems important and assistance is needed I will stand side by side with my church community to help. I like to stay active and on the go, traveling to different places and helping to meet the needs of others anyway that I can. Learning from and helping each other how we best can do our part to assist in the very real needs of those who need our help in multiple ways can be attained through our teamwork and supporting each other. I am naturally a social person and I do best when I am able to socialize and meet people, when I am gathered around those who want their experiences to be enjoyable. I want to invite you to share with me the ways I can be helpful and assist the church. I certainly will actively participate and do all I can to be helpful.