# A Letter to Leaders about the Meaning of Life

Dear leader,

I was talking yesterday to a woman who has made some poor decisions and has begun to become a victim. She seemed not to have any purpose in her life.

There was little I could offer her just then, mainly because she was stuck in her troubles.

Many of us go through life seeking to answer questions about the meaning of our life. Some find answers. Some don't look. Some look and don't find anything satisfactory for themselves.

Some discover that there is no meaning to life and it doesn't mean anything that there is no meaning. Others equate meaning with purpose and discover a religious insight such as the Christian teaching that the chief end of man is to know God and enjoy him forever. Others draw on philosophers such as Immanuel Kant who points to our need to find someone or something to love, something to do that we are passionate about and something to look forward to.

How do you describe the purpose and meaning in your life? What words do you actually use? How do you use that foundation in your life each day? If you are struggling in life as a leader or a follower, I strongly suggest that you look to the foundations of who you are.

If you don't have a way to think this through you might consider an identity statement. At The Leadership Foundation we sometimes suggest members develop a Leadership Identity statement, to give their leadership a framework to be thought from as they exercise leadership each day.

The one we use allows access to the following areas:

- Where we are now
- Our sources and quality of information gathering and sharing
- Our relationships
- Our intentions
- The principles that underlie of thoughts and actions
- The tensions and issues we face
- The context in which we operate what we are actually going to do next and
- Our reflections and learning in this work

I particularly like Kant's philosophy in relation to my leadership journey. As a leader I seek to always act from my care and concern for the people I love and the leadership opportunities present for others. I can get passionate about many things, so it is easy to direct my leadership wherever it is required at the time. I look forward each day to something to do and someone to be as a leader. On this basis I am living a great life and am planning to live to be 110. (Who knows if I'll get there; the journey is the thing!)

If you desire to be a leader who lives with a central core of understanding about your life and what it stands for;

If you are on your leadership journey and you want to develop the quality of your leadership;

If you are seeking new leadership opportunities;

If you are an effective leader who wants to build on your existing leadership skills;

If you are looking for some partners in your leadership;

consider coming to an event at The Leadership Foundation.

The next event in Brisbane will be focussing on building our courage as leaders. It will be on 20th April, 2016.

See www.theleadershipfoundation.com.au or call Ben Baldwin on 0400 743 170.

You will meet other interesting and accomplished leaders and you will be warmly welcomed.

Regards,

Ian Sampson

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