

## Priorities Can Change a Life?

This weekend my wife passed the gavel to the incoming President of the North Carolina Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. Kathy completed a rewarding five-year commitment on the organization's state board, the final year as its President. Being a retired teacher the P.E.O. mission aligns with a passion of Kathy's -- the enhancement of women through education. She was a middle school science teacher for many years and the teaching profession is represented in every branch of our family tree for generations.

Being the state President has to be a priority as it is a major commitment. The role of being the state chapter President takes so much time that many people retire from their day job in order to devote the time necessary to be successful.

Service to others has always been important to Kathy. The past five years she has chosen a priority service to be through P.E.O. As important as it is, however, it fits behind Faith and Family in her hierarchy of priorities. She has never let anything come before God, first, and then her family.



We all have to make choices of where we devote our time, energy and resources. What is important to you? The list doesn't have to be long, but it is important for God to be #1 on the list. Priority comes down to what you plan to act on. Gandhi said, "Actions expresses priorities." How do you spend your time, energy and resources? The allocation of time, energy and resources really is your "God." The Bible states in the 10 Commandments: *You shall have no other gods before me (Exodus 20:3)*. It also cautions us that what we value the most will win our attention: *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Luke 12:34)*.

When it comes to helping others Jesus had several priorities, including service to others and equipping them for success. Jesus said *"just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"* (Matthew 20:28). Secondly, Jesus also trained his disciples to carry on His ministry. *Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness (Matthew 10:1-4)*.

The priorities of service and equipping leaders are keys to the P.E.O. organization. It is a 149-year old service organization with the goal of helping women achieve through education. It raises millions of dollars to enable women to have that opportunity. It is a "life-changer" to achieve higher goals because of the benevolence of the organization. It also multiplies the effort by developing new leaders, training and equipping them to help others "reach for the stars." This includes recipients of their support and those who are members of the organization who make it happen. The results become life changing for all.

Priorities change during different seasons of life. You can't do everything at the same time. You need to make choices during each season of your life. Now that the P.E.O. gavel has been passed, other ways of serving will be possible for Kathy. Faith and family will remain 1 and 2 on the priority list. While she will continue to serve through P.E.O. she can now devote more time to additional ways to serve God by serving others.

During this season of your life what are your top priorities? How might they change in the years to come? How can your priorities change a life?

**Prayer:** Dear Lord. We thank you for the opportunities to serve you by serving others. Let us always keep you as #1 in our hearts and actions, so that you can point the way you wish for us to go. Amen.