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## What is My Mission?

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So, he said to Samuel, “Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.” So, Samuel went back to bed. And the Lord came and called as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel replied, “Speak your Servant is listening”.

(1 Samuel 3:9-10)

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In 1 Samuel 3:9-10, we find Samuel being instructed to lay down and listen for God’s call. He is told that if someone calls his name again, he should respond with, “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.” This passage resonates deeply with me as I strive to discern my own mission in life and to discern what is God calling me **to be and to do**. Exploring how to tune into God’s guidance amidst the world’s noise and discerning His purpose for me—both in actions and identity—is a journey I sense requires deeper attention. I trust that each of us will discover our unique paths to cultivate this connection.

Before delving into my mission here, let me recount the journey that led me to this point. In 2021, amidst the global turmoil caused by Covid-19, I returned to Vietnam from the Philippines where I was continuing my formation. The pandemic had disrupted lives worldwide, affording me the opportunity to reconnect with my family. It was a time of solace and reflection. However, soon after, I found myself called to embark on a new journey - a mission in Cambodia.

My first year in Cambodia began in November, a month filled with uncertainties but also brimming with possibilities. I was stationed in Pailin, a province bordering Thailand, known for its natural beauty and rich culture. Here, amidst the lush greenery and warm hospitality of the locals, I began my work.

Over the past two years, Pailin has become more than just a mission site; it has become a home filled with both challenges and blessings. The landscape, the people, and the culture have all left an indelible mark on my heart.

In the ministry setting of our hostel, the Marists completed construction of the residence a

few years back. Currently, we accommodate 30 students—both boys and girls—who rely on our care and support. It's evident they greatly benefit from our attention and guidance.

However, as with any journey, there have been obstacles to overcome. Reflecting on my experiences, I realize that three areas require my attention: community life, spirituality, and mission.

Community life has been a source of both joy and frustration. While there is a shared sense of purpose among us, there is also a palpable lack of unity at times...not so much about the community we are part of but more about how community life can be realized with our individual gifts and limitations. Building meaningful relationships and fostering a sense of belonging within the community has become one of the priorities for me.

I also acknowledge the abundance of positive experiences I encounter daily, such as working with students, participating in community activities, and engaging in youth gatherings. Inspired by Samuel, I aspire to listen attentively to discern God's voice amidst the bustle of daily life, eagerly responding to His call with, "Here I am, Lord, reveal Your will and mission for me in this place." To facilitate this connection, I recognize the importance of reclaiming personal time with God, where His guidance is clearer, and my limitations are revealed. Otherwise, the demands of work and other commitments may obstruct my ability to faithfully live and serve alongside my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Spirituality, too, plays a crucial role in my mission. In the midst of my daily tasks and responsibilities, I strive to maintain a deep connection with God through prayer and reflection. It is through this spiritual lens that I seek guidance and clarity in my mission.

Mission work, of course, is at the core of my journey. From serving the poor boys and girls to nurturing new Marist vocations, there is no shortage of opportunities to make a difference. Yet,





with these opportunities come challenges – challenges that test my resolve and push me to grow.

Despite the hurdles, I remain committed to my mission. Through moments of reflection and self-discovery, I am learning to embrace both the joys and the struggles that come with it. And as I navigate this path, I am reminded of the importance of listening – listening for God’s voice amidst the chaos and noise of life.

In this journey, I’ve realized that what truly matters is not how much I accomplish or how well I perform my tasks, but rather how faithfully I carry them out in alignment with my calling. I feel God’s presence when I experience love, compassion, and mercy. Working together and helping one another is more fulfilling than solitary success. Rather than dwelling on mistakes, I strive to understand and fulfill God’s will by emulating His love for others, even those different from me. Finding and fulfilling God’s purpose for my life is paramount, leading to a more meaningful path forward.

In closing, I once again recall the words of Samuel: “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.” It is with this humble attitude that I approach my mission each day, ready to heed the call and fulfill God’s purpose for me in this place.



The opinions expressed in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Marist Institute.

If you would like to share your ideas, reflections, or experiences about servant and prophetic leadership with the Commission as a result of these reflections, write to [fms.cimm@fms.it](mailto:fms.cimm@fms.it)

