
DISCOVERING YOUR **PURPOSE** IN TODAY'S WORLD

Finding Hope While
Navigating Career Disruption



COMPILED BY
Bob Kolf and Lexie Dendrinelis

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Dedication

I dedicate this book to my mom, Agnes Kolf (nee Birkholz), and to my dad, Thomas Kolf. Without them, I would not be who I am today. I am grateful to them for bringing me into the world, blessing me with two brothers and six sisters, and providing me with a proper upbringing and a happy childhood full of wonderful memories.

Looking back, I'm grateful to my grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, as well as prior generations on both sides of the family who immigrated here from Germany. Looking forward, I am grateful to my wife, Vicki, and for the many blessings that God has bestowed on us, including three daughters, three sons-in-law, eight granddaughters, and one grandson.

I hope this book inspires them to find their God-given purpose in the world, to treat others in a way that they want to be treated, and to continue to make this community and world a better place.

BOB KOLF

“If not now, when?”

—Rabbi Hillel the Elder

This book is dedicated to those answering the question above—executing their calling, seizing opportunity, searching for purpose, and making life happen. A life goal of mine has been to publish a work that would have a positive impact on others' lives. I never dreamed it would be as special as achieving it with forty authors at the same time! Can you say, “The magic of a team?” Wow! Each of you inspires me, and this book is dedicated to you and your life stories.

To my dear friend, the late Kelly Mixer, a professional writer and journalist. I understand now why you loved the authorship process and final product. My first opportunity to publish is dedicated to you.

LEXIE DENDRINELIS

Acknowledgments

Since 2020, I have been on an inspirational journey. The global pandemic, which started in 2020, and the aftereffects, which are still with us today in 2025, awakened the world and my inner spirit. I have met so many incredible people through many amazing organizations in the past five years.

Here are a few of the places where I found inspiration:

- The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference and the Men's Bible Study Group at Ascension Catholic Church in Chesterfield, MO, keeping me grounded in my faith while serving the poor and supporting each other in our spiritual journey towards heaven.
- The St. Louis Mosaic Project and the International Institute of St. Louis, making our community amazing and diverse by supporting immigrants in our community.
- RISE Services, "Creating Opportunities for and with People," and other similar organizations serving and developing purposeful opportunities for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- The "Networking with Purpose" luncheons, a collaboration of TIN, Job Seekers' Garden Club, and many other networking groups in Greater St. Louis, providing faith-based business connection opportunities.
- Military veterans, single moms, refugees (those who have served, those who have been through so much, and those who need our continual prayers and support).

–Bob Kolf

How did this goal happen? Ideation, discussion, long runs, reading, and patience, patience, patience. Timing is everything, and the timing was perfect in 2025! Thank you to my family, my friend Bob Kolf, and the Job Seekers' Garden Club community for the support to complete this book and get it out in the world.

–Lexie Dendrinelis

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Introduction

The Time is Now

The time is now. We each have one precious life, and many of the hours that make our years are spent working. We believe this makes working with purpose crucial. Many generations have experienced defining shifts: the invention of the wheel, the building of the Pyramids, the Crusades, the discovery of electricity, the Industrial Revolution, World Wars, the Great Depression, and space exploration are all periods of time that changed the way of thinking and living for the next generation. The time from 2020 to 2025 was a tumultuous and consequential time in our history. It changed how we view life and our decisions going forward.

Born out of this period is the Job Seekers' Garden Club and a community effort to guide, nurture, and support individuals through the process of finding purpose in their career—true career wellbeing. We, Bob Kolf and Lexie Dendrinelis, have come together to tell the story of the human spirit as we know it and as it exists in our community. The goal of this anthology book is to leave a legacy, share reflections, and provide career and life inspiration to the reader. It is truly amazing the commonality of our experiences in life.

It is our belief that as humans, we have more in common than we have differences. We want to know the meaning of life and seek to discover our purpose, whether guided by religious beliefs or not. We strive to make

our imprint and have an impact, large or small. We want to be loved and appreciated. We are curious about what happens when we die. Regardless of gender, ethnicity, economic status, or religious beliefs, we are way more alike than we are different.

The global pandemic, which began in March 2020, brought the idea of similarities and differences front stage. It still affects us five years later. Many people lost loved ones and jobs or knew someone close who did. Many people became solopreneurs or entrepreneurs. For some people, the pandemic deepened their religious faith, and others questioned even more. Other people became more fully committed to family life and personal self-care. Many people flourished, finding more time in their day and financial success. The added time at home led to more time spent together, sprucing up living spaces, and creativity to get the work done without being in the same room. No matter the individual experience, we were all profoundly affected.

We all have stories to tell. The authors in this anthology are a cross-section of our great community and are excited to share their stories with you. We represent men and women. We represent different cultures, different religions, different belief sets. We represent the most vulnerable. We represent single moms, veterans, disabled, corporate employees, and small business owners. We represent different levels of financial success but are equally rich in spirit and values. We represent immigrants and refugees. We represent those who have served time and are looking for second chances in life. We represent those who have recovered from addictions and have found new meaning and purpose in life. Mistakes aplenty, we are resilient and strong, and together, we are amazing! We are human. And we hope the stories and this book inspire you to live your BEST life!

—Bob Kolf and Lexie Dendrinelis



About Job Seekers' Garden Club

Job Seekers' Garden Club was founded in 2020 in the Greater St. Louis area, a thriving community located on the banks of the Mississippi River in the state of Missouri, U.S.A. Bob Kolf is the Founder and current Executive Director of the 501(c)(3) nonprofit incorporated in the State of Missouri on October 30, 2020, as Job Seekers' Garden Club of St. Louis. Lexie Dendrinelis is the current President of the Board of Directors. We exist to assist individuals who have lost a job, want to change jobs, or want to find greater meaning in their current job. We provide a community to support them during a time that can be very lonely. Job Seekers' Garden Club was started as an organization to help job seekers discover their purpose in today's world and to find hope and community while navigating career disruption. For more about our nonprofit, please see the resource listing at the end of the book to learn more.



Nicholas Epps

The Calling to Dominate

Let's cut the fluff. There comes a moment in every person's life when they wake up, stare into the mirror, and realize they've been playing small. That moment—the one that grabs you by the throat and demands answers—smacked me straight in the face in 2019.

I was seventeen years deep in corporate America, grinding, hustling, chasing those titles, bonuses, and vacation contests companies hand out to keep employees content. I was “successful” by every metric society throws at you. A six-figure income, great benefits, and a very manageable travel schedule; but none of that meant a thing the moment my phone rang, and I got the call: My dad had a heart attack, died, and had his heart restarted on the way to the hospital.

A massive heart attack, followed by a medically induced coma. Doctors gave him less than a 10 percent shot of waking up. They told my mom to prepare for the worst. “She should have his last rites performed.” Right there. That was the freight train moment. The slap I needed. The reminder that *tomorrow is not promised*.

Eventually, my dad didn't just wake up from the coma—he came back from the brink like a fighter. They called him the *miracle man*. But the fight wasn't over. He needed a sextuple bypass surgery. That's six arteries, for those keeping count. The doctors were only willing to operate on four

arteries originally, because six was just too dangerous. Furthermore, they wouldn't even perform the quadruple bypass surgery unless he showed an improvement in both his physical strength and mental acuity.

That's when I dropped everything. As soon as my father was released from the hospital, I filed for the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). I moved my parents into my house. I became a full-time caretaker for my dad. I walked with him every day. We played chess to rebuild his mind. I was all-in on his road to recovery.

Guess what happened to my career? *Nothing*.

The company supported me. My team stepped up. The world didn't collapse because I put family first. And that changed me forever.

The Mission Shift

When FMLA ended and I went back to work, I wasn't the same man. I had a new lens, a new fire, a new mission. I had tasted what really matters. And I made a decision: I was going to retire at 40. Not talk about it. Not hope for it. *Do it*. I had the savings. I had the 401(k)s. I had the plan. So, in January 2020, I pulled the plug. I retired.

And for a moment, it felt incredible. I traveled. I spent time with my family. I laughed more. I slept in. There were no Zoom calls, no meetings, no chasing promotions. But comfort is a sneaky little devil. At first, it feels like freedom. But eventually? Comfort starts to feel like a cage. I had time—but I didn't have direction. I had space—but no mission.

And then, it started. That voice. That whisper in the back of my head... **"There's more."**

I had started a supplement line—something clean, no junk, built for people like me. But I knew it wasn't the bullseye. I didn't want to chase *income*. I wanted *impact*. So, I prayed.

"God, what's next? Where do You want me?"

And then it happened. People started showing up—random conversations, divine appointments—and they all said the same thing: “You should be a consultant.”

Consultant? I brushed it off. I didn't want to be another suit giving vague advice. But the more I listened, the more I saw the gap. There's a massive canyon between small business and big business. Small businesses are drowning in noise, hacks, hype, and hollow promises. They're hiring “experts” who couldn't lead a lemonade stand to profitability. I knew I could do better. I knew I could bring real results, real knowledge, and real integrity.

So, I made the call: I'm all in.

The First Wake-Up Call

Let me rewind.

In 2018, before any of this happened—before retirement, before consulting, before the “miracle man” moment—I was standing at another crossroads. My health was a wreck. I was overweight and fatigued. I was sitting in a doctor's office with a death sentence. “If you don't lose weight now, you won't be around next year.” The doctor pushed lap band surgery.

But I knew—and I mean *knew*—that wasn't the path for me. Something deep in my gut screamed, “**Don't do it!**” So, I went home, dropped to my knees, and begged God for direction.

The next morning? A text. It was a gym. My sister had gifted me three trial sessions. I didn't go.

The next day? Another text. This went on until I finally surrendered and walked into that gym. Nine months later—I was down 100 pounds. I had my energy back. My mind was clearer. My spirit was locked in. But I also hit plateaus throughout those nine months. I needed supplements, and every product had filler ingredients. Some products were proprietary blends that had just a pixie dusting of the important ingredients. The gym

owner said, “Man, I wish there was a supplement line with only the ingredients you need, dosed properly! No filler or pixie dusting.” Boom. That stuck with me.

So, we built it. A clean, no-filler supplement line built from integrity, not profit margins. I launched the product line out of gratitude to God—He had given me a second shot, and I owed Him everything. But when I prayed again — “Should I quit my job and do this full time?”—the answer came back clear: **No**.

So, I stayed with my job. And I realized I was making a real impact. I wasn’t pushing paper; I was helping people—real people—rebuild their lives. Folks with credit issues, rejected by the system, got a second chance at obtaining a loan because of our programs. They now would have reliable transportation to get to work, feed their families, and turn their lives around. That gave me fuel.

God’s Blueprint

From the outside, my journey probably looked like a zigzag. Corporate warrior turned caretaker turned retiree turned entrepreneur. But the truth? God had a blueprint the whole time. And I was just getting started. I said yes to faith when fear wanted control. I said yes to discipline when laziness whispered sweet lies. And, I said yes to purpose when comfort tried to seduce me back into sleep.

That’s when consulting found me. Not because I wanted it. Because I was called to it. Seraphim Consulting wasn’t about marketing platforms or ad strategies. Seraphim Consulting was about a mission. I wasn’t selling growth—I was delivering *domination*. But not every business was ready for that. So, I created three non-negotiables. If a business didn’t meet the criteria? We passed. We don’t beg. We don’t convince. We don’t discount our value. We work with businesses that are ready for exponential growth—mentally, spiritually, operationally.

The Power Move: Risk-Free Trial

Now let's talk strategy. I knew I had the goods, the team, and the right system, but small businesses didn't know me and my company yet. I prayed: "God, what now? How do you want me to proceed?"

The answer: Offer a 30-day, risk-free trial. No fees, and no contracts. Let us run the ads, prove our worth, and if it works, let's roll.

I'll be real, I was scared. What if they just took the free trial and ghosted? What if current clients got mad? But then I remembered—God doesn't call you to play scared. So, we launched it. And it exploded. We stood behind our work. We put our money where our mouth was. And the market *loved it*. Clients came in waves, referrals doubled, and testimonials poured in. "You guys were the answer to our prayers." That's what they said, and they meant it. Because we weren't selling services, we were executing a mission.

Legacy Over Luxury

Today, I don't run a company. I drive a movement.

Every client's win has a ripple effect. When we help one business grow, we create jobs. We stabilize families. We inject life into local communities. That's legacy. And legacy doesn't come from playing small. Legacy is earned in the fire. That's why I tell every client, every team member, every person I coach:

"Stop playing small. Stop numbing your calling with comfort. Stop waiting for perfect conditions. Stop looking for permission. You're not here to survive. You're here to **dominate**."

Rise up. Get clear. Get aligned with your calling. Say no to the noise and yes to the mission. Because when you operate from faith, lead with purpose, and back it up with execution...

You don't just win. You dominate.



After a highly decorated career spanning automotive finance, pharmaceutical sales, and executive leadership, Nicholas Epps came out of retirement to pursue what he believes is his true spiritual calling from God—empowering small business owners through consulting. With a proven track record of record-breaking performance, he’s led markets, shattered sales goals, and inspired teams at leading companies in the automotive, pharmaceutical, and rental car industries. From doubling territory revenue to launching products that redefined market share, his passion for excellence is undeniable. But success alone wasn’t enough. A deeper purpose called him back to help others unlock theirs. Now, as founder of his own consulting firm, he combines corporate mastery with divine purpose to guide entrepreneurs toward fulfillment, profit, and lasting impact. This book is more than insight—it’s a calling to action for anyone seeking direction, clarity, and purpose in their professional and personal life.

Please scan the QR code to connect with this author.



DISCOVERING YOUR PURPOSE IN TODAY'S WORLD

In this ever-changing world, you must be ready and willing to adapt. Meet more than forty men and women who've done just that.

Discovering Your Purpose in Today's World: Finding Hope While Navigating Career Disruption shines a light on ways everyday people showed heroic resolve when their careers took unexpected turns. Layoffs, work-life balance, a global pandemic—the reasons for their career shake-ups vary, but one common characteristic prevails: they refused to give up.

Their stories will inspire job seekers everywhere to:

- Network...and never stop networking
- Think creatively...don't keep your skills in a box
- Defy the odds...remember, age is only a number
- Find fulfillment...when work doesn't feel like work

And much more.

If you want greater meaning in your professional and personal lives—greater purpose—then *Discovering Your Purpose in Today's World* is a must-read. It will fill your cup and keep you going!



"Job Seekers' Garden Club (JSGC) of St. Louis has been a reliable and timely resource in helping people find worthwhile employment."

– Gary Volk, President,
Ascension Conference of the
Society of St. Vincent de Paul

"...one kind deed can have a profound impact and save thousands of lives. Bob and Lexie encompass this and so much more.."

– Kara M. Casagrande, CSC,
Professional Employment
Consultant, Snelling
Personnel Services in
Brentwood

"...the Job Seekers' Garden Club has fostered a supportive and educational environment—one that cultivates a culture of respect for individuals, employers, and the meaningful work that drives our community forward."

– Tom Lancia,
Executive Director,
Creve Coeur-Olivette
Chamber of Commerce

"...they're stepping into a supportive group that truly cares about helping people grow and succeed."

– Jennifer Bardot, MA, MS,
Chief Executive Officer,
G.R.I.T. Community

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