

The GPS System

7 Universal Principles for Growing Personal Success

For young aspiring creatives & entrepreneurs, parents, teachers, mentors and students

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Growing Personal Success

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Table of Contents

Introduction	
My 1 st Confession	6
Chapter 1	
This story Begins	9
Chapter 2	
Universal Principles-	27
Chapter 3	
Principle 1 The Law of Cause & Effect	39
Chapter 4	
Principle 2 The Power of Love	50
Chapter 5	
Principle 3 The Law of The Mind	60
Chapter 6	
Principle 4 The Law of Gratitude	78
Chapter 7	
Principle 5 The Law of Persistence	87
Chapter 8	
Principle 6 The Law of High Quality Service	92
Chapter 9	
Principle 7 The Law of Honouring Thyself	103
Chapter 10	
You Can Do It	115

Foreword

The most difficult task in life is answering why am I here, what meaning can I give to my life purpose, How can I carve a successful life for myself. Believe it or not most of us ponder this question at a very early age, many of us before we reach 10.

By asking this question early on in life many of us have gone onto commit a critical error without ever realising that this error if not redressed will impact the rest of our life. What is this error?

Instead of exploring, often latent gifts, talents and abilities, many of us allow others to dictate the direction our lives take. In essence we exchange our personal road map for success, whilst still in the process of defining and exchange it for one given to us by mum, dad, grandparents, uncle or auntie, other family members, friends, our primary or secondary school teacher(s). What's surprising is that this new road map is often based purely on nothing more than a mere opinion.

We then start living our life according to this new road map – which more often than not leads us to a dead end.

In this book Anthony shares through his own search for success 7 universal principles for success, which were first introduced to him by his mentor 30 years ago. These principles are illustrated through real stories from 7 of his mentees over a 20-year period, some of who have come from disadvantaged backgrounds. Through his work and research he has discovered that young people just want to be successful, just like the rest of us and it is simply this powerful desire that drives many down the wrong road, or even worse along the path to self destruction.

He has worked as head of a centres of excellence College within Further Education, as part of a 200 million pound project to establish 400 excellent, training centres across the UK, as well as been fortunate enough to engage in meetings with employers such as the head of Apple UK, Loreal, Yamaha and a host of others. As a result Anthony has concluded that the education system is forcibly going through a radical, rapid evolutionary change. This change however at the same time offers a wonderful opportunity to young people, an opportunity where for the first time they can explore their natural gifts, talents and abilities as well as learn skills that support their uniqueness, once discovered. The world today no longer wants workers doing a good job, the world is crying out for people who want to make a unique, meaningful contribution, people who want to make a positive difference.

This book introduces universal principles that support this global new-education. Learn them, apply them and you become unstoppable as well as sought after globally for your value, as he illustrates through some of his mentees stories, which include his own children.

Raymond Aaron
NY Times Bestselling Author

Introduction – My first confession

In the 20 plus years I've spent working with, nurturing and investing in young people and their talents one thing I have learnt from them which I cherish most is the importance of "Keeping it Real", why? Because I have learnt they almost have a sixth sense that is able to detect B.S (cow dung). Once they get a whiff of that from you, you have lost them and it is one of the hardest jobs to win their trust back again. So whenever I engage with a young person and there is an opportunity to engage and relate over a period of time through a course or project I always ask them the question very early in the relationship "Can we keep it real between us?" If the answer is yes which it usually is, we have just done our very first "deal", "agreement", call it what you will, but make no mistake both parties know a deal has been made and is now watching the other to see if they'll keep or break the deal. This forms a solid foundation upon which our relationship can grow. At the end of the day it is all about the "Relationship"

So my mantra is "Keep it real" first with yourself and then with others.

Having said that, may I state for the record that as part of this relationship between the two of us, as you read through the pages of this book, I will be "Keeping it real" so if you have a problem with that please read no further.

You probably gathered by now that this book is aimed primarily but not exclusively at young people who are starting out in life seeking that path that leads to success, however I believe that anyone who has taken the decision to want to grow and discover more of the latent possibilities which lie within each of us will find this book useful. So there is no age bracket this book is intended for the person who is still young at heart, open to discovering the wonderment of living a fulfilled life with all that it has to offer. This book is for the person who is at the early stages of their journey on the road to self-discovery. This book is for the person who still has more questions than answers in relationship to themselves and how they want to show up in the world. This book is for the person who intuitively feels deep within themselves that they are a star. That they are here to shine, to be somebody, to do something to make a contribution to this thing called life. This book is not for the person who wants to spend and I repeat SPEND as opposed to invest the majority of their life in the pursuit of money usually at the expense of meaningful rich relationships. I pause here to point out that though there is nothing wrong with having lots of money the question is how much of YOU are you willing to trade, to give up, just to "get that bread". This book has been written for the person who is seeking success in a richer, deeper sense, seeking fulfillment, seeking to live an abundantly rich life. You see the truth is setting and pursuing financial goals alone is the most dangerous thing a person could ever do and will surely lead to ruin. In this book I will illustrate why and how to ensure that rather than tread the path to ruin you find your own unique path that leads to your success. The book has also been written for the person who seeks on a daily basis to do what brings them the greatest sense of joy, because they are 1. Doing what they love. 2. Doing what they are passionate about. And 3. Doing what they are good at. You could therefore be in your late 30's 40's or 50's having lived life in the rat race and come to that point of awakening when you realise that this can't be all that there is to life. In

summary this book has been written to reintroduce you to the real you, that was born to be successful – It's time to “wake up everybody, no more sleeping in bed, no more backward thinking time for looking ahead” (the lyrics in one of my favourite songs) This is the first of a series of gifts from me to you. Register if you would like a copy of my forthcoming single wake-up, which I will be recording as part of my album in 2014.

Now it's your time to be a star.

So how come I am writing this book. The truth is I am really not qualified to tell you or any one else how to find and grow personal success, however from a very young age I was very curious about this thing called life and so over 30 years ago I began a journey which would lead me to many personal great discoveries. These personal insights, discoveries and theories led me to begin the conducting of “experiments” as a means of testing and proving these discoveries for myself. It is the most poignant of these discoveries which I have chosen to share with you in this book with the sole purpose of illustrating 7 Universal principles based on timeless ancient wisdom which can be implemented to personally grow success in your life. These principles if considered, studied and applied will yield amazing fruits in your life very (and I mean very) quickly as I have written this book as a practical tool, distilling my 30 years experience into a concentrated version for you. I have also illustrated each principle in a practical way through real events revealing the impact they had on the young student or mentee concerned. A wise man learns from other peoples mistakes and successes – so my intention behind the use of these case studies is that they may cement your understand of the principle.

The concept behind the GPS System (Grow Personal Success) is that it starts with you. Accepting and recognising that you already have the success gene inside of you and you simply need to discover it through exploring your own natural talent, gifts and abilities and then giving attention to the most dominant of these use them to cultivate your own unique sense of what success means to you based on your values. This process is simply that a process which must be cultivated over time. However before I launch into what the GPS System is all about, I would like to share a short story that will put the contents of this book into context.

Chapter 1 – The Story begins

The seed contains within it the oak tree

This story is of a young boy nicknamed “Smiler” (as he always wore an infectious smile) living in London over forty years ago. Born to African parents who had travelled to the UK in the 1960’s. Smilers’ father had come to study law with the intention of returning home to Nigeria to practice Law. They were a close knit family, kept themselves to themselves due to the racism and prejudice that existed in those days, not just the obvious racism between whites and blacks, but within the black community itself mainly between Africans and West Indians. These were hard times and Smilers’ parents definitely felt the pressure. He considered his father as quite a hard man, who had been brought up in a little village in Nigeria where he had experienced hard-ship working on a farm as a child. However through strict discipline, focus and sacrifice he had found a way to leave Nigeria as a young man and made it to the UK, the only member of his family at the time to ever have achieved such a feat. In those days, that was a feat that really took some doing.

Life for Smiler, however was very different, he knew nothing of that African life as he was born in the UK and so like many other children born to British immigrants he was living a life that his parents viewed as very privileged compared to where they were coming from.

As a young child he soon found he had a passion for music and loved listening to music on the radio and on the TV. He craved for it anywhere he could tune in, especially as at that time the family did not own a record player. One of his most loved artists was a relatively new young singer at the time called Michael. Michael sang as part of a group called “The Jackson 5” and was really, really good. He would later become one of the world’s greatest artists known as “Michael Jackson”

By the age of 7 or 8 Smiler realised he also loved to sing and use to go around the house often singing in his usual carefree adolescent way as young kids often do.

By the time he was 10 he found that this interest in music had developed to an interest in song writing as well and soon he found himself inspired with floods of melodies for new songs. These ideas would often come to him at the most weirdest of times right when he was in the middle of doing something else. What he often discovered was that if he didn’t capture the melody by way of a recording it would often be lost forever, as the idea, melody and inspired lyrics he found would desert him as quickly as they came.

So often he found himself making a mad dash to the living room to press record on the “Ghetto blaster” (That really was what they were called back then) which was the name used to describe the portable tape recorder which his uncle had recently bought for the family because of his love for music. There were no mobile phones to record on in those days.

Smiler loved music with a passion the more he sung the more new melodies and lyrics would just flow into his mind, the more he would find himself dashing down stairs from his bedroom to the living room to press “record” so as to capture these melodies and chorus lines.

However, unbeknown to Smiler there was a real big problem looming. You see his parents were from Africa and more importantly being of Nigerian parentage to them preparing for a good successful life revolved around “facing your books” which was a term often used by his father, which loosely translated basically meant focus on your studies to the exclusion of everything else and he meant just that, everything. No playing, no friends, no kicking back watching TV for hours, and certainly none of this music stuff. It was a strict regime.

His dad approached life of westernised aspirations; he had left the luxury of a warm climate, where he had a relatively good job, lots of friends and family members around him. He had educated himself to a high standard and so as a result was a sought after teacher who got paid well. As a result he had good disposable income and so was able to enjoy his life being seen as successful amongst his peers and within his community.

However he had sacrificed all this to pursue becoming a lawyer. He had saved hard to amass the money needed to purchase a plane ticket to London. On arrival he went through further hardships and challenges and soon realised that the impression he had formed of the UK was not how it really was, but he was determined because he wanted to be a lawyer. He went through still further hardship as he tried to settle in this strange new environment. Getting accommodation was hard in those days. Landlords would openly display signs saying “No blacks, No Irish and No Dogs” Getting a job was hard, with him ending up having to take a job for which he was over qualified. In his eyes he had paid a big price to be in the UK and continued to pay that price on a daily basis. So from his perspective his children ought to be eternally grateful for the new life he had created for them through his sacrifice, the price he was paying.

So here Smiler was, totally oblivious to the challenges of being born and living in Africa, without a care in the world living a happy go lucky life, as most primary school kids born and raised in England do. One morning, which seemed like any other, Smiler got up and went to the bathroom to freshen up so that he could go and start his house chores before school. As he made his way to the bathroom he was humming to himself as he was in good spirits this morning. All of a sudden he got a flash of inspiration as the humming turned into quite an attractive melody. Making a mad dash to the living room with this new melody in his head Smiler was about to push the door open, as he was in a hurry, he didn't want to forget this melody. Suddenly he saw that the door was closed so he clasped the door handle, turned the handle to open the door and to his surprise, the door was locked. He couldn't believe it. He then realised in an instant what had happened, this was his dad's doing. During the night whilst he was in bed his father had put a lock on the living room door to stop him and his sister from watching TV and listening to music. His dad didn't like the fact that he liked music and this act would contribute towards their ever-estranged relationship. “How could someone be so cruel” he thought to himself. In that moment Smiler realised how important music was to his life, he was determined that he would find a way to continue his music, he would raise some money so he could buy his own tape recorder, he would find a way, anyway to get that happiness and joy he obtained through his music and singing. Unbeknown to both Smiler and his father, Smiler would later look back at this incident and realise that this was one

of the most important moments of his young life, why, because it was the moment he found his first passion.

Unfortunately for Smiler things did not improve. By the time he was approaching his teens the relationship between father and son was deteriorating fast. With the harsh restrictions imposed at home Smiler used his time at school as playtime mainly with his friend Christopher, but his was a playtime that lasted all day long, 5 days a week. Naturally this resulted in poor school grades. Life was starting to feel like cow dung, with increased tension at home and in school as now Smilers' academic achievements were in direct oppositions with his father's demands. There was another problem, as he was getting older the tensions between Africans and Jamaicans living in the UK were increasing within many local communities where these 2 groups co-existed in large numbers. Naturally this was also reflected in Smilers' school and on the council estate where he lived. He often found himself out numbered in on-going feuds where other youngsters of West Indian origin would "move" to him (meaning set to attack) for no reason other than the fact that he was of African heritage. On one occasion a group of about 5 guys got into a fight with his father, which ended up with his mother getting involved and as a result being assaulted. Smiler witnessed this and this was another defining moment in his early life. In that moment he made a decision, a clear and conscious one. He decided that someone was going pay for this assault on his family, however long it would take, and in that moment he "marked" the guy who had attacked his mother - "That guy was gonna pay!"

These on-going feuds on the council estate, coupled with his dad eventually forbidding him to sing around the house eventually created two dominant thoughts in Smilers' mind. The first, he had to figure a way to get out of this "hell hole of a house", the second was he was going to teach that guy who attacked his mother a lesson he would never forget. He set about making a plan and one day with only a couple of hundred pounds to his name he left home seeking refuge in a hostel.

By now in his teens he had made a few friends who were from a crew outside the area of Battersea where he lived with his family. They were different, a mixture of west Indians and Africans from South East London. The only difference here was the dominant culture was Nigerian and some of these guys were the type you really did not want to mess with. This crew had a reputation across London. Smilers' situation regarding his feud with the local gang came to the attention of one of the leaders as things were getting worse, he was now having to "equip" himself every time he travelled to visit his mum and siblings back at home. The gang leaders summoned Smiler and interviewed him as to how this situation had come about. A few days later Smiler heard that a plan had been made and one Saturday afternoon 4 car loads of guys drove onto the estate armed with knives, metal bars, machetes and all sorts of weapons and set upon the local resident gang - The time for revenge had come and people were gonna pay for the hell they had put Smiler through. That Saturday afternoon the scenes that took place on that council estate in Battersea were not pretty, you can imagine. Through the running battles Smiler spotted the guy who had assaulted his mother and gave chase followed by 2 others from his crew. The guy was running for his life and hate filled Smilers' mind, as he gave chase, he was not going to let him get away. As the chase continued the guy took a right turn and ran straight into 2 other

members from Smilers' crew. They had him trapped. He was now surrounded. They slowly closed in on him. The enemy, who was called "P" on road, was now squealing like a baby had terror all up in his eyes, he knew he was done for. Just as one of Smilers' crew was about to thrust a knife into his chest, in a split second something happened, Smiler suddenly pushed the knife away. Smiler hated this guy, yes he did, with a passion, but he didn't want him dead; the crew almost turned against smiler in disgust barking,

"What you bring us done here for then?" Smiler pushed P against the wall, partly to save him from what was potentially a fatal encounter. Seeing this the crew members then turned walking off in fury with one of them saying "Come man let's leave him to it he wants his revenge". Smiler then set about P with his fists and gave him a battering. It was another one of those defining moments. His crew members were still mad "Why you bring us all the way down here bruv and not let us take care of him" one shouted back as they walked off, but Smiler hadn't planned this far ahead, yes he wanted revenge but he didn't want anyone to lose their life. That was not how he intended it.

I share that story with you because that story of Smiler growing up in South London was the story of my adolescence - Smiler was me!

The Journey begins

Soon after those events, I found myself homeless and trying to make sense of my life, questioning how I had got here and where I was going with my life. I had a random conversation with my mother one Sunday afternoon when I popped in to see her, knowing that my dad was out working. Little did I realise that this conversation was about to change my life's path forever.

It was a sunny Sunday after-noon, Things were cool now, and there no longer was any "beef" between the local gang and me. As I rang the buzzer and pulled the metal door I thought how things were so very different now. I now had to be 100% responsible for myself, and it felt a little scary but to my mind, I had no choice. It was either stay in my fathers' house where in my opinion things would only get worse not better or alternatively take my chances out there. As I knocked the door I found it was already ajar so I walked in and made my way to the kitchen where mum was cooking Sunday dinner. I gave her a kiss as I sat down chatting away about what I'd been up to that week.

I knew she was very worried about me, you see I was the oldest and I knew it was hard for her seeing her first child that she had raised for 18 years now out there in that big bad world on his own. We spoke for a while and then some how I started chatting about the fact that I was really not happy that I did not have a church to regularly attend, as now I was of no fixed address. My spiritual life had

always been important to me. Mum often used to chuckle as she reminded me of the time when I was 6 years old and during another one of those random conversations with her I started asking some deep questions (apparently for one so young) about God and the meaning of life. When the questions began to become too complicated to answer mum had simply replied, "Son you can't question God, something bad will happen to you!" (an old African get out clause when adults have no answers available) The reply brought a shock response when she narrates how the story continued. I suddenly burst out in to tears. Mum quickly put down the saucepan she was washing in the kitchen sink and rushed over to me to stop the flow of tears and find out what was wrong. Through the tears I had reportedly blurted out "How can I get to know God if I am not allowed to ask questions" It was a profound statement and display of a questioning, probing natural disposition, one that unbeknown to me at the time would be a recurring theme throughout my life.

As our conversation continued mum mentioned that one of her friends knew a gentleman who had just flow in from Ghana and was holding weekly meetings talking about life, and how to improve the quality of ones life. He was also holding 1-2-1 consultancy sessions to help people with their personal issues and problems. She asked me if I would be interested in coming along with her when he had the next gathering, I said "yeah sure" as I knew I needed some kind of help and direction because I had no clue on where my current life journey was heading.

A couple of weeks later and there I was sat in this small room which had about 30 chairs all huddled together. Mum and I excused and squeezed our way past those already seated, we were late, as we made our way towards the nearest vacant two seats. We sat down, quickly made ourselves comfortable peeling off our coats and as I settled in my seat I then began to listen to this tall looking slender gentleman speak. You could say he was like a motivational speaker come life coach; the only thing was hardly anyone knew those terms back in those days. He introduced himself as Bro Ishmael.

As he spoke he had a calm soothing disposition about him yet spoke with authority. He was a charming guy and so within a few minutes he was cracking jokes and making us all laugh. You could tell he was very intelligent, I quickly found him to be a very interesting guy. As he spoke he used simple words but his sentences were very thought provoking, he seemed to make so much sense as he spoke. As he spoke to us about living life and the skill involved in living life successfully, one of the first things he said which pricked my ears was that he was a student of life and that nature was his teacher. I remember this because I remember not understanding what he meant by this statement. Many years later I would come to understand fully. He spoke with a heavy African accent, so I had to pay attention so as to grasp every word he was saying. When he was done speaking, some ninety minutes later, he sat down and then asked "Are there any questions" I was like "wow yes please" you see for most of the years that I had been attending my local Catholic church, one thing that had always bothered me was the fact that you couldn't ask questions, so I was not about to miss this opportunity to get some clarity on a few things concerning my relationship with my creator. I needed some answers to help me figure out where my life was

going and how I was going to sort my life out, because at that moment it was set on a collision course to nowhere.

Before I knew it my arm was raised and as my butt left the seat I tried to make myself visible from the back of the room.

I must have asked at least half a dozen questions over the next hour, I almost forgot that other people were there too. Towards the end of the questions session he spoke, directing his comment towards me. "if you would like you can see me afterwards and I can answer any further questions you may have". That was it I was hooked. We did speak briefly afterwards and I asked a few more questions and then he said, "Perhaps you should attend one of my 1-2-1 consultations" as he observed there seemed to be no end to my questions. I was intrigued, many of the answers I received seemed to lead me to other questions, it was as if someone had turned on a tap inside of me. I somehow seemed to recognise the element of truth in what he was saying from deep within my soul, yet somehow my head, my left-brain in particular, (where logic resides) was having difficulty processing and absorbing all this new info.

The thing that dazzled me the most though was that a few of the things he had shared were like nothing I had ever heard before at school or college, but yet as I listened I kept getting what I call the "Eureka moment experience", time after time after time.

I had to come back next week because I was sure that I would have at least a dozen more questions ready for this guy.

That was the beginning of what was to become a relationship that was to extend beyond 30 years; Bro Ishmael was soon to become my personal mentor and almost like another father. Over time he would totally transform the way I thought about myself, the way I viewed the world around me as well as my role within it.

For the next couple of years I was challenged greatly, as Bro Ishmaels' approach to life was very different to the approach I had been exposed to from my father. One father was externally focused on the physical, with a strong desire on creating an image, projecting an important persona, chasing a career that was identified and pursued primarily because of the status it would provide him within his community. The other fathers' focus was on spiritual things (which I use here as another word for invisible) He took a more introspective approach to his life, determining first what he wanted to be, do and have (in that particular order) concerning his life and most importantly knowing clearly the reasons why those things were to be embodied, acquired or pursued. I was to later come to learn that making career and financial goals without setting goals in all the other dominant areas of one's life was probably the most dangerous thing a person could ever do because it sets you up for an imbalanced life, which is not sustainable - you eventually tip over.

One father lived with "nature being his teacher", the other fathers' life was consumed by reading books, piles and piles of them.

One lived paying attention to their spiritual, mental, physical, social & emotional state. The other was only interested in books on the subject of LAW and becoming a lawyer, to the exclusion of almost everything and everyone else.

As I observed, compared, contrasted and pondered both these very different approaches to life the burning question within me arose, which life style approach did I think would lead ultimately to a happy and fulfilled life? I needed to decide which path I would take as each path was so very different from the other and would take me on completely different life paths. Eventually I made my choice.

Bro Ishmael and I soon embarked on an amazing journey, which would aid my journey of self-discovery. It became a journey of personal growth of heart, mind, body and spirit. I came to discover that “you don’t know what you don’t know until someone shows you.” As simple and obvious as that may seem it quickly taught me the need for incorporating at least a degree of humility into my life as I came to learn that the worst thing that can happen to a person is that another person knows stuff that once shared with you could better your life but they simply chose to leave you in your world of darkness because you do not appear to be teachable. Now how sad is that. One is simply left quite literally in the dark. I also came to learn that the opposite is also true, that when the student is ready and I mean not just intellectually but also heart-based, the teacher appears and so I soon came to realise that somehow by some strange happening the universe had seen me fit to become a student of Bro Ishmael. I had just left school but my greatest schooling was just about to begin. I was soon absorbed with what I call this “Nu school” of thought, one that was based on the idea and belief that the purpose of ones life was not simply to attend school, leave school, get a (good) job, then stay at that job for 40 years, retire, draw a pension for a few years then lay down and die. No, not at all, this Nu school taught that life itself was a school, college and University from which all of our life experiences were simply opportunities provided through life itself to aid our growth in truth knowledge and understanding about our own lives and the world around us. This Nu school also taught that as we as individuals come to grasp and understand this different concept of learning and growing then we continue the learning graduating from Nu school in to the University of life. Life was a continuing process of learning, growing and then learning anew as we discover even more about our selves and the world around us and then grow again, all part of the great continuum.

I also came to learn that once the student is shown a new truth, and then gains knowledge and understanding of it, this often results in the student experiencing a paradigm shift. From that moment on it is impossible for the student to act like they don’t know, or live from the old paradigm, “you gotta Keep it real!” remember! It makes no sense to lie to oneself, because if you do you eventually realise the only person who ultimately loses out repeatedly is you.

Over the years of study I would come to learn that there is a universal desire shared by us all, from the small child to the adult. Every single person on this planet wants to become successful, that’s it! And I have come to realise that it is fundamentally this lesson “How to make a success of our life” that each of us is here to discover and learn – To learn how to BE-come Successful. It’s really that simple, but here’s the big problem. Depending upon our place of reference, we all have differing interpretations of what “SUCCESS” means to each of us. What the definition of success means to a young black teenager living on a council estate in South London is very different to the definition of success for an English girl whose father is a wealthy land owner and multi-millionaire. The same is true for

every other type of young person from any other social or economic background. The problem of lack of clarity of what success means creates an illusion, or a misconception of what success really is. This misconception must first be treated by creating a common working definition of what success is. One we can all feel comfortable with. In this book I attempt to address this anomaly by creating a simple practical definition for success which any young person can visualize and then use to Grow their own Personal Success, refining, adjusting as they go.

You see the problem for many of us is that most of the people who know what the rest of us need to know in order to improve the quality of our lives, are either too busy having a great time enjoying the fruits born out of what they know, or just too busy trying to take care of their own business because they have so much of it. They simply haven't got the time to show you or I how to improve our lives. In a few cases I have witnessed that even during such a rare occasion where the sharing of a success message with a listening audience is given in relation to how to be successful and what needs to be done to take action. Most people still appear to not get it and as a result discard both the teacher and the lesson. I have discovered that it is only those few who are willing to pay a price, make a sacrifice, toil seemingly in vain, at least initially and suffer a little pain, that ultimately discover the seed that grows into personal success.

Bro Ishmael once told me he was a global citizen from Africa and a true African cares and shares. So as a true African who cares and shares he adopted me and became my mentor introducing me to a whole new world of possibilities as I was willing to pay the price, for self discovery.

He introduced me to Timeless Universal Principles and natural laws, which govern all things in life, some of which I share in this book like **Principle 1. The Law of Cause and Effect & Principle 2 - As a Man Thinketh so is he.** He invited me to seek these ancient Truths for myself. "Let mother nature be your teacher" He would often say. "Like a mother loves her child so to does mother nature want only the very best for you." as illustrated in **Principle 3. The Power of Love & Turning Passion -In2- Profits.**

I was to later realise being a student in this way would create a humility and respect for mother nature which in turn would help me to understand that to do something successfully or better still to become successful meant working collaboratively in cooperation, with these universal principles and natural laws. I came to realise that you do not, in fact cannot do it by yourself, you do things in partnership hence the "co" before the words collaborate and cooperate meaning joint effort. This is illustrated through **Principle 4 - The Law of Gratitude and 5 - The Law of persistence.**

Non-cooperation whether conscious or not, or stubbornly going against these fundamental universal and natural laws could never and will never bring about sustained success. I mean seriously can pigs fly? Of course not, but, when you know where the airport is located and co-operate with the airport authorities, including the pilots who understand the laws of aviation, you can get your pigs on board a plane and your pigs can be flown through the sky to your desired destination.

“So it is, with mother-nature as your teacher, when you also co-operate she will reveal to you how your life can be abundantly rich, happy and fulfilled as illustrated through **Principle 6 –The Law of High Quality Service**.

But, you must respect and honour her always! **Principle 7. Honour Thyself** shows you how.

Through the pages of this book you will read the stories of some of my young students and mentees. Through these stories I share these 7 basic universal principles that I have learnt over many years of seeking how to improve the quality of my life so as to live a more fulfilled, happy and purposeful life. It is my firm belief that these universal principles and natural laws once understood, respected and applied will put you also on the path, that leads to the road, that leads to the motorway, that drives you to defining what success means uniquely to and for you. Through identifying, planting and growing the unique success seed that lies within you, whilst at the same time using it as your Personal GPS System, which plots your position in the world as you travel, you can navigate your own magical journey, cultivating and growing your own personal success whilst making a unique contribution to the world.

Strange as it may seem, working in this way instead of going after what I thought I wanted, I began to notice and experience that rather, I began to attract things, experiences as well as people into my life.

Soon I was to find myself in the company of many people, some of whom I would play a part in shaping, nurturing, developing and investing in them as they discovered and grew their personal success, such as Leona Lewis, Alexandra Burke, JLS and Tinie Tempah.

Others have made an impact in and outside of the UK, like Acie Lumumba who was originally introduced to me as a young man wanting to do music who enrolled on to one of our Music courses at Urban Voice UK the not for profit organisation I set up in 1993. I soon saw his real talent when he approached me asking me if I would be his mentor. Together we mapped out his blueprint that he has followed almost to the letter. He went on to become the Head of the Youth Parliament here in the UK, was invited onto a scholarship program at Harvard University in the United States before returning to his native country of Zimbabwe where he is now a Hon Member of the Parliament there. Like these there are many other stories. However, testing these principles on my two children (they have since forgiven me for this) has produced the most amazing results and has had the most impact on me by far. They are the main motivating factor behind the writing of this book as I have watched them grow raising them as a single father.

Motivated by my mentor to not merely raise kids but to grow empowered children, one of my first experiments was to see if I could teach my son how to play chess. To my amazement within 6 months he was playing chess quite well. However the most shocking part of this experiment was Joshua was actually playing chess quite well at the age of three. After basic lessons in financial literacy he created and sold his first product at age 6, ran the London mini marathon at age 9, was in business selling products at age 11 turning over £500 per month with a sales team consisting of other school kids, trained as a 400 meters runner for 7 years often competing for his borough. Whilst revising for

his final school exams and training at the track 6 days a week twice a day, as if all this was not enough he then decided to follow his fathers footsteps by becoming a promoter and staged his first major event which was Wandsworth boroughs first ever schools prom. Of course it was a great success.

His sister Jaie at the age of eight was not a very good singer but loved singing and more importantly wanted to become a singer. Working with me as we travelled the country annually conducting 1000's of singing auditions for our Urban Voice UK Talent competitions, she soon demonstrated that she was committed to her vision and soon became a very good singer as well as a songwriter and artist development specialist assisting me in putting together the course program that was used by JLS taking them on to stardom in the UK. She was offered a major recording deal, which saw her relocate to Nigeria here native home and the home of the label. In less than 2 years of arriving in Nigeria she had performed in concert with the likes of Chris Brown, international recording artist Mary J Blige, as well as performed for the Nigerian President. All this whilst setting up a on-line women's lingerie business Dime-Pink (www.dime-pink.com) which she developed in London and transferred to Nigeria where it was established. This was the beauty of having an on-line business and why she together with her brother set it up. You literally can take your business with you to any country. This was done after supposedly taking time out, during which she wrote a fictional novel (Soul Ties by Jaie Dada available on Amazon). After producing the manuscript she then sourced & commissioned her book cover found a publisher and got her book published whilst she was still only 21.

The interesting thing for me is during subsequent conversations both have told me that they put their achievements down to the cultivating of a success-oriented mind-set, which was the backdrop to every thing that was done within our home.

You too have talents, skills and abilities, which if you put to good use could find you being called to various parts of the globe to share your gifts and talents.

You have the computer software to design a program in your mind, the likes of which people and the world have never seen before. What are you waiting for, learn the software called Success and write the program – your “successful life program” and let it be your operating system upon which you live your life. You then simply grow this personal success by embodying and living out your “successful life program”

As you now prepare to embark upon a journey with me looking at each of the 7 principles, I will support each principle through the illustration of real life stories of some of my young mentees and some of my own.

If you wish to study the principles further so that you can cement them more deeply so that they become part of your lifestyle please visit the web site <http://www.growpersonalsuccess.com> to obtain a test paper of short questions after finishing each chapter. Upon visiting the web site you will also come across further Grow Personal Success courses for those who want to experience a personal transformational experience within a set period of time. These take the form of an 8 week and 12 week course both of which carry a money back guarantee. The 1day introductory workshop introduces you to these transformational courses.

For a complete and total transformation across all the 5 main areas of your life (Physiological, psychological, spiritual, social & emotional, and financial) I have also put together a reading list of 12 books which I recommend you read (minimum 1 per month) once you have completed reading this book. You will discover that the books will support much of what has been introduced to you hear whilst giving you the ability to reinforce and build on your learning at “Nu School”

With all that said, let us now begin our journey together.