

# INTRODUCTION

## *THE INVITATION*

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***"The most powerful weapon on earth is the human soul on fire." ~ Ferdinand Foch***

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I had already started into a book project when I received the inspiration to write *Leadership by Invitation*. I had it planned out, already had some of the content written when a series of events took place that changed my life forever. Some may refer to it as their calling, others might say I discovered my purpose. For me, I viewed it as an invitation. This invitation is one that needs to be answered. It is really where we all start. Every day we have opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others and I know, from my own experiences, that far too many of these invitations never get answered. I believe that *Leadership by Invitation* will change that.

I will be fully transparent right up front. I am a person of faith and I believe that God, sometimes referred to as the Grand Overall Designer, has designed us all with a specific purpose to live out here on earth. I will not push my faith on you in this book but I will not avoid sharing how God has blessed me and worked in my life to help me become a better leader – the leader he created me to be.

***Leadership by Invitation – How to RSVP and Embrace***

***Your Role as a Leader*** will take you on a journey of understanding that you can't live the life you were designed to live without accepting the invitation to lead. The short version – if you are not a leader, you're a follower. Followers allow others to make decisions for them, control the things they do, how they do them, where they do them, with whom they do them. A follower will never reach his or her potential and experience the gifts that life has to offer unless they are willing to step outside their comfort zone and embrace their role as a leader.

This book presents the long version. Part 1 of this book will give you a quick look at the journey that transformed my identity from being found in what I did to a product of who I am. If this book had a theme, this would be it – I had become so consumed by what I did that I became totally disconnected from who I was. In chapters 2-4 I will share with you three stories that culminated in what I would consider the fourth greatest defining moment of my life.

In Part 2 I will define four POSITIONS of leadership: leading thy self, leading at home, leading at work and leading at large. I will also explore the focus points that have helped me embrace those positions.

In Part 3 I will take you through the developmental progression of an influential leader. This is about the PERSON. I believe that all success begins within the individual. Any success related to a product or service is a direct result of the person or people providing or producing it. The progression is through Awareness, Environment, Growth, Communication, all leading up to Influence. Although these can be independent and certainly overlap, I believe that the stronger you become in one will provide greater success in the next.

In Part 4 I will share the RSVP process with you, the PLAN. The RSVP process, when followed, will provide clarity in the areas of

Results, Strategy, Vision and Purpose. Clarity in these four areas will provide knowledge and skills needed to become an influential leader in both your personal and professional life.

At some point in your life, you will be a parent, a spouse, or a co-worker. You will always be part of a family and a community. Whether or not you recognized them, every day you receive invitations to be a leader. My desire and intent in sharing this book with you is that it will equip and empower you to answer that invitation and become the leader you are meant to be.

Well, there you go. You have been officially invited. Now let's take a look on what it takes to answer that invite and actually show up!

\*\*\*AUTHOR'S NOTE\*\*\*

One more thing before we start. I want this book to become part of your resource library. I encourage you to underline, highlight and even write notes as you read through the pages. This will become valuable for completing some of the exercises contained in the Leadership by Invitation Companion Guide. There is a link in the back of the book in the Resources section. The PDF guide includes additional exercises and information that will add even more value to you or your team.