

# **MANIFESTO FOR THE UNCOMMON DREAMER**

**BY MIKE AND PAM BALOF**

## **THANK YOU**

Leona and Dan Burger

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Michelle Locke

Vickie and Steve Bean

Mimi Byrne

Hank and Kristi Pearson

Jeff Goins

The Epicentral Staff

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**IN MEMORIAL  
TO NANCY JEAN**

**AND**

**PHILIP NORRIS PEARSON**

**WHO'S CARING AND GUIDANCE  
HAVE TOUCHED MANY AND  
HELPED US IN REACHING HIGHER**

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**THE RUSH**

**THE NEED**

**THE DREAM**

**THE NEW REALITY**

**THE CALL TO ACTION**



**KNOW THAT**

**WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL,  
THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE  
RIGHTS, THAT AMONG THESE ARE**

**LIFE,**

**LIBERTY**

**AND**

**THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS**

**~ THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**



# THE RUSH

The alarm rings the morning rush is on.

Five minutes to shower kids to breakfast dog to walk kids to the bus and we are off to work.

The house and mortgage, the car on lease, the taxes the debt there is no relief.

How did we ever end up here?

Everyone is greeted at the front doors at work by the harbingers of fate  
meetings to the right and meetings to the left a pointer in the hallway determines your fate.

One room is laid off another stays.

Somebody gets to work another day.

The rumor is the district director staff will be here next week

This is not a good rumor to hear.

The announcements made the doors will shut there's nothing to do.

The work goes off to foreign lands where costs are cheap and new computers in demand.

**What are we going to do?**

## **THE NEED**

We need a way to live.

We need a way to eat and feed.

How will we pay for the things we own?  
the things we need and the things we don't.

**WHY DID WE NEED ALL THIS TO BEGIN?**

**IT MAKES NO SENSE FOR  
THE STATE WE ARE IN**

## **THE DREAM**

So for comfort, rest, and to get away  
I lay my head upon the pillow this day.  
In an attempt to escape the dreary and the worry  
I start to dream it starts out blurry.

And in my state, I start to dream a scary, horrible, wonderful dream.  
A dream of understanding, of shock, of wow,  
here is the dream, I will tell you now.





In my dream, everyone is in a rush,  
they run around, they huff and puff.

I start to run to chase one down  
and I ask what's wrong and why the big frown.

We're pursuing our right of happiness  
Is what a worker says to me  
To be someone and get something done.



Why the run and why the frown I asked someone who almost fell down  
“We have to do this to keep our job so many stand outside waiting to take it from me.”

The people outside have nothing now.  
our dreams will be Theirs if we slow down.

I said I thought this surely can't be, so I need to go outside, and see what I see.

I went through the gate that never opened in  
and found someone and I talked to them.

Yes, they said, this we know, the people inside will not let go.

They worked so hard for from dawn to dusk  
and run and do and succeed they must.

We feel for them so bad and such sorrow  
that we would not join them  
not even tomorrow.

Are you lost, I asked, I needed to know  
what are your plans and where will you go?

They smiled at me, the two or three, and said don't worry, we are very happy.

I scratched my head and I twiddle my thumb  
I asked them how this could be done?

We pursue our happiness with joy and glee  
and work to be the best that we can be.

I asked them true I asked them sincere  
what do you do to earn something here?

We build, and we bake  
we write, and we rake.  
We reach out to others and fulfil their needs  
doing our best at what we please.

How do you earn enough for a living?  
How do you sustain your method of living?

We love what we do.  
We do what you need.  
Our economy is strong which is what we need.

How can I tell others of this?  
How can I make them see?  
It's more than an abyss.  
My people need this.  
It is a true economy.

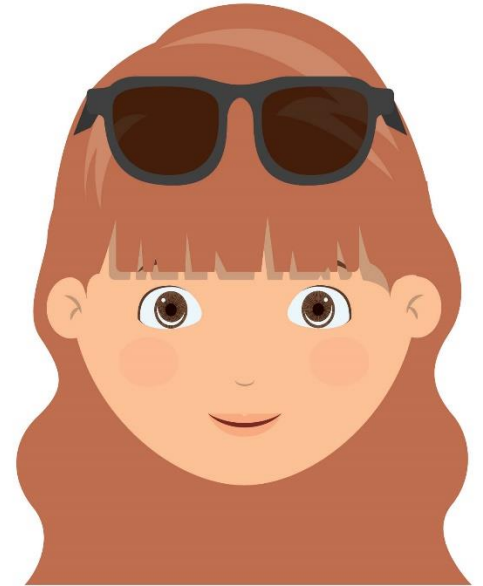
A wise one came out and talked to me  
And she gave me a method that made it easy.

Pursuit of happiness is no guarantee  
but it's the right we have, to try as we please.

We work hard to do what's right  
to share our skills and bring them to light.

We offer more than others expect  
and plan to do our best for what we can get.

So, go tell others there's no guarantee  
yet pursuing happiness is the best thing for me.



## **THE NEW REALITY**

I woke in the morning and talked to my wife  
and told her of the dream, of a wonderful new life.

To become successful, it seems to me,  
I don't have to work for the bosses, just for me.

I can help others meet their goals  
to pursue their happiness and stay on their toes.

In doing this I can help me.

I can save our family  
And get what we need.

## **THE CALL TO ACTION**

A call to action

A call to all

It's time to help others and get on the ball.

Find your passion and find your skills  
pursue your happiness from the dales to the hills.

Plan and grow and do and seek,  
be positive, you know it won't happen in a week.

But if you work and if you try  
success will be yours I will tell you why.

For others need that which you hold  
and you need your story to be told.

So, do not hesitate, and do not wait, your future is calling. Don't be late.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Mike used to lay in bed at night and worry about what would happen if he was laid off or found himself without a job. One day his plant closed. Rather than panic and hysteria (OK, maybe a little) Mike was carried away on the adventure of his life. Mike started with the best job he ever had working at Home Depot. He spent 8 years working with jobseekers at a local workforce center. He then started his own company, writing and teaching others.

Mike holds A Master of Arts in Adult Education and Training and a Bachelors of Business Management, both from the University of Phoenix, and an AAS degree in Electronics Systems Technology from the Community College of the Air Force. Mike is a member of the Delta Mu Delta Business Honour Society.

