

Starting All-Over After A LOCKDOWN

A person in silhouette stands on a stack of several books on a rooftop. In the background, a city skyline is visible under a blue sky with light clouds. The word 'LOCKDOWN' is written in large, glowing orange letters across the middle of the image.

Lockdowns aren't the best situations to find yourself in but you can take the leap into the better life beyond your lockdowns. There are possibilities waiting at the other end and you can find them with a diligent search.

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STARTING
ALL-OVER
AFTER A
LOCKDOWN

EKEKERE S.U.

Thank you for downloading this eBook. This eBook is produced as part of efforts of the Soaring Life Ministries to help prepare people for life after the lockdown necessitated by the Corona Virus pandemic. If you are reading this, this is shared for free.

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To all those who are going through economic as well as mental difficulties due to the Coronavirus rampaging the earth. May this book bring you joy and fewer struggles.

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Introduction

THROUGHOUT HISTORY MANY cities and even nations have experienced lockdowns, a situation in which the economic, cultural, academic and social life of citizens come to a pause. This situation has often been either caused by a rampaging communicable disease or a conflict like a war.

Lockdown isn't a new phenomenon, but it has managed to find its way to the vocabulary of several generations because there consistently seem to be situations that trigger a decision to put society on hold.

It isn't a great experience finding yourself in a lockdown. Everyone is indoor, children are at home, parents can't get to work, prices of commodities are sky rocketing, hunger is rampaging, the economy slides, crime rates increases, peoples' health depreciate and there is apprehension everywhere.

People who own businesses suffer. Businesses are shut, goods have to stay in ware houses and some become bad in the process because there are no buyers to buy. Those that manage to get buyers have to sell at far cheaper rates than they would have originally sold. They lose in the process.

Doctors and other health practitioners always have more cases in their hands. The reason is that there certainly will be an increase in the number of persons who will suffer from hypertension, high blood pressure or other heart related issues. If the lockdown is caused by a health challenge like the CORVID 19, you can expect doctors to be at the receiving end as emergency situations arrive every other minute.

No one likes a lockdown situation but when a case like the Corona Virus that has ravaged the entire world happens, government find themselves in a tight situation to choose between saving lives and saving the economy. The decision to undertake a lockdown often may not be popular and it may seem like the rights of the people are being tampered with but it often arrives as the only way to save the moment.

The economic realities during lockdowns aren't always convenient. Every facet of the economy could easily be affected. Even when essential items and services are still being offered for sale, the reality is that no matter how much you have and how prepared one is, everyone feels the bite.

Inflation is always at its highest during lockdowns. This means that even essential services will go to those who have more money to spend. In some cities and countries, inflation has been at a rate of 500%. Surviving with this price mechanics can be very difficult.

The reality of the lockdown isn't during the lockdown, it is after the lockdown has been eased and people begin to find their feet again. What had seemed a great business niche is no more because there are no immediate customers to buy. Many had lost their jobs so the unemployment rate increases and employers are afraid of taking workers back. People discover they have to start at ground zero, afresh.

Crime rate sky rockets due to high unemployment rate. In a bid to survive, people take to being dubious and playing pranks just to seize the moment. The competition becomes rife for opportunities that are not even available.

It often takes a while for economies to get back to full steam. But even when they do, the damage from the lockdown has been done so that it's difficult to do away with the impacts subsequently. Things often do not return to the way they were and this means the suffering continues.

This book is written to help you survive the challenges of the lockdown. While the economic realities are on the negative, you can come through it a survivor.

The key is to stay hopeful and positive. Hope is a major factor and it becomes scarce as the challenges of lockdowns bite. You'd often hear people complain during and after it and it could be depressing hearing the groans. Certainly the high rates of suicide after previous lockdowns are proof that the period after lockdowns is even more important than surviving the lockdown itself.

While everyone is thinking how they'd get around the lockdown, you can get ahead of the pack with this quantum of knowledge at your disposal because you are not just meant to survive this lockdown, you are meant to come through it unscathed.

You'd certainly be faced with the challenges of starting all over after this lockdown. This means surviving the lockdown itself shouldn't be the issue. But you will discover that the demographics of life before the lockdown, during the lockdown and after the lockdown are absolutely different.

If you are in a lockdown, while reading this piece, you are on solid footing. You have to plan on life after the lockdown. If you've just being out of a lockdown and already facing its numerous challenges, this book will certainly help you answer some of the numerous questions bugging your mind at this time.

Know this, you are meant to survive this.

1

STAY HOPEFUL

It's not the end of the World

LOCKDOWNS OFTEN GIVE people that feverish feeling that it seems likely the end of the world is near. I won't be surprised if you've heard diverse theories to support this assertion. People go all length to look for clues from the Bible, Koran, magazines, music, novels, ancient writings or the sermons of any renowned religious clergy.

It may seem true the things you hear and they always seem true. But your duty isn't to test their veracity. Yours is to stay hopeful through your own personal challenge because no matter what you know about this situation, nothing changes.

Everything that has a beginning certainly has an end. Life runs on cycles of ups and downs, so that when you find yourself on the down side, you ought to know there is up coming soon. This lockdown is only a challenge on the down side; soon it's going to take a new face up.

Why many persons fail to survive through the harrowing experiences that lockdowns provide is often because of their lack of hope. They conclude they are dead already and they soon die certainly. You should not expect to live when you are talking too much about dying. Those who end up in the suicide statistic got thinking about it first.

Guess what? Whatever drear situation this lockdown provides for you, people have faced worse situations and are alive to share their stories. Some person's lives are no different even when economic conditions are great for majority of the people, their experiences are often harrowing. They find themselves always on the hash end of even the best of economic realities so that when it's great for others, it's still bad with them. If such persons survive, a onetime lockdown won't kill you.

Hope is reassuring. It gives you a clean slate to envision the possibilities of a better life afterwards because there certainly will be a better life afterwards. But how that life turns out will depend on what positive picture you can paint despite your ordeal.

You may be tempted to question yourself, how you arrived at this point in the first place. You may swear and curse at those you think caused the reasons for the lockdown. This won't matter anyway, you are in already. What will matter is your willingness to look ahead of the present into the future to see the possibilities in it despite what seems in the present a herculean ordeal.

You might have come across this story of Samaria and Syria in the Bible. They were in a lockdown. The Syrians had placed a siege on Samaria so that conditions were terrible. People ate dove's dung and at some point, people killed their children to survive. Everyone inside Samaria were afraid of the Syrians, no one dared live the city. But four lepers were hopeful. Things were worse already but they decided that they'd take a chance. They got out of the city, not only survived but they opened the door for the whole city to survive too.

Everyone may be in a lockdown, but you should think differently, out of the lockdown. True, possibilities abound for those who will poke their hopeful heads and launch into what seems an unknown world after the lockdown.

It is true that the economic realities that result from lockdowns aren't always great. It won't be better after the lockdown if you aren't seeing

the better after it. Maybe it is just time for you to catch a new picture, a new reality, a new glimpse.

You might be stocked in your house, the streets are full with policemen telling people to get back in, and there's fear in your mind that things may get worse. In reality, you want to be free, but the rules are tying you down. You might be in lockdown but you don't have to be put down.

One of the many negatives of this lockdown is that it puts you at the middle of nowhere. You are filled with too many thoughts about the state of things. You are thinking about what to eat, the next meal, how to keep up with your health. But thinking too inward won't solve the problem.

Hope helps you think outward. You may have the challenges, but you aren't looking at how big they are but you are looking for solutions. You should be thinking about what you can do even in the face of a negative predicament to better your lot. You should get that feeling that there is something better on the line beyond now and that's refreshing.

The truth is, every lockdown comes with its positives. But because we are outweighed by the negative circumstances that poke their heads, we fail to benefit from the positives that also reveal themselves. Hope lets you factor the positives. You get the picture that you are about to enter another season of plenty by the opportunities that the lockdown offers because certainly opportunities abound around it.

Those who survive are those who think they should survive. You may think it's a mind game, but it isn't. It's however a function of the mind. Better arrives with expecting better.

No one loves the regimented life that lockdowns offer. I know because I've found myself in quite a good number. I do understand the dynamics of lockdowns, its either someone is looking out for your next step or you are scared of making the move.

Hope is your bridge between what seems a herculean life during the lockdown and the bliss of a future life. This bliss only reveals itself in the

eye of hope because in reality, things aren't looking like something's great is going to happen real soon.

You develop the willingness to keep pushing because you can see what others can't see and you are able to develop ideas others won't because of how far your hope has taken you to.

Hope can take us far beyond our present realities even when we are in the eye of the storm. No one may see how things are going to turn around but being hopeful gives you the edge, a narrow escape into the better possibilities of life beyond this lockdown.

Fear is certainly a major factor during lockdowns. People are scared about the things that may or may not befall them. Worry a twin of fear leads to anxiety. Nothing good happens in an atmosphere of anxiety or fear. You'd just keep circling around cycles of doubts and depression. Guess what? You don't need them.

Even if things aren't great, and lockdowns don't supply many great moments anyway, you have a place to hide in hope acknowledging that though situations may seem beyond your capacity presently, you'd soon be in charge certainly.

There is always a glimmer of hope for those who will choose to see it. Hope is a choice. I can't force you to see what you don't want to see. All I can do is guide you into what I can see by asking you to look. But looking depends on you. Don't be the kind of person who has concluded that nothing will work as it did before now.

In hope, there is always chance for better to happen. There is often that generic feeling amongst people that what they go through in their lockdown is only the beginning of the worse. When you think this way, you will end that way, while others who see the light of possibilities will head on with the opportunities that will certainly reveal themselves after this lockdown.

Life has always continued after every lockdown that has happened through history. This one won't be different. You will certainly hear

stories about people who knocked off or got down during the lock down. Some people have been shot by the police, people have lost fortunes, and people are committing suicide.

You don't allow what you hear define what you do with your life. While your ears are open to hear quite a lot, most of the information won't arrive as truth. You'd better check what you listen to before you believe false tales.

It's time to get your mind to function beyond the plain of your present predicament. Develop a survival, futuristic and a reassuring mentality. Stay woke.

This lockdown situation may seem hopeless now, but it's not about how hopeless it is, it's about the possibilities that I am certain will be arriving for those who will open their eyes to see.

While many person are crying foul about government policy to impose a lockdown, those hopeful heads are at work thinking about how to use the lockdown and make huge benefits. Hope lets you see that there is something out of nothing.

This lockdown does not shut your mind down. Refuse to stay down. It's time to get your mind to work. Be hopeful. Get hopeful, get light, hope puts you at the position to fight for the possibilities that staying alive offers. You are at a natural advantage when you are as hopeful as hopeful can be.

It's time to pick up your tools and fight. It's not the end, it never was. It's only a phase you have to go through. With hope you'd certainly come out better than you assumed.

2

PUT YOUR THINKING CAP ON

Ask yourself the right why questions

THE POSSIBILITIES DURING any lockdown are often slim for good percentage of any population whether in America, Europe, Asia, Australia or Africa. If you've found yourself in one, the first question you may be tempted to ask is "why is the lockdown necessary?"

Lockdowns across the world in recent times have been because of the life threatening coronavirus outbreak. If there is a lockdown in your locality, you've probably heard the reasons necessitating it.

The fact that people have heard why they have to go under the harsh conditions of a lockdown doesn't mean that they appreciate the reasons given for it. Some persons will certainly have doubts and will only believe there is an issue to avoid after they have become victims themselves.

The welfare of the general public however should not be risked by governments failure to take the right decisions because of the few who don't believe there is a need for the decision to be taken.

I hope you aren't asking why the need for the lockdown in the first place. You are already so finding answers to this question will be a waste of your mental resources. What you should rather channel your resources to is in how to make the best of the lockdown as well as how to come out strong after it.

Have you been badly hit by the lockdown? The first question you should ask yourself is: **Why did you feel the harsh impact of the lockdown?**

During the lockdown in my city, all forms of public gatherings were prohibited including religious, academic, social as well as cultural gatherings. This did not however stop some religious organizations and academic institutions from continuing sessions. They moved online, applying the internet, radio and television and they made the most of the moments.

You may be in a lockdown where only persons who are essential workers and have a pass are free to roam and you aren't an essential worker so no pass. It can be very challenging.

Perhaps you run your personal business that has been hit by the lockdown, or you've been sacked of your job because your boss is taking precautions to keep his business. Or you are one of those daily workers who work part-time and have no job security and perhaps no savings. I understand your plight.

Why are you susceptible? Acknowledge this reality. Not everyone is having a bad time. Some persons are enjoying their best profits ever, certain businesses are flourishing and new kinds of businesses just found an outlet.

Answering this question helps you look inwards to see why you came down falling like a pack of cards. If you are sincere with yourself, you'd

definitely find out that though the lockdown met you, you were actually unprepared.

I've had to talk to many persons about their lock down experiences. My friend Essine said she just realized her tailoring business wouldn't survive the worst scenarios. She realized that those engaging in food related business prospered. I developed similar convictions too after my business came to a pause.

Mr. Polycarp, the rector of a polytechnic where I lecture part-time told me he realized that he needed to venture into a business line providing services that people really needed to survive like air. And he decided he'd be venturing into the production of packaged water.

You'd have realized that certain services called "essential services" thrived. It just means, that it's time to tow your business towards "essential" status.

Maybe you didn't have a business of your own but you are now considering starting a business because you lost your job due to your company laying off workers as a result of the lockdown, that's actually a plus.

I think that the lockdown shows how vulnerable we are, how else we have to work and what technology at our disposal can be applied to put us at a vantage point.

The next question you should ask is **"why didn't I have a savings that would sufficiently take me during the period of the lockdown?"**

I noticed that the lockdown got everyone unawares and quite a lot of us had no sufficient savings. We had to wait on government palliatives that weren't even enough.

I've realized how important having a savings is. We don't have to eat up all our capital no matter what happens. We need to keep some for the rainy day. How rainy can the day be? This lockdown has shown the extent we can expect things to worsen.

We are often tempted to think that we have a secure job so that we spend all our income in anticipation of the next paycheck. Except you work in the public service where workers salary is protected by hash labour rules, and they aren't these days with the hash economic realities at the moment, you should know that your job is on a fifty-fifty line. You could be out any moment.

It's good that we don't live larger than life lifestyle on a salary. Rather, we should look at business opportunities to invest in which will improve our financial standing subsequently. This lockdown has exposed our frailties

Think about this question. **"Why are you susceptible to the things that affect others around you?"**

It's true that we are in a chained world in which everyone depends on every other person. Buyers depend on sellers and sellers won't have a great time without buyers. Imagine businesses shutting down because the customers were nowhere to be found.

One gold processor in China had to close shop because of the lockdown in his city and the effect on the Dubai business man who sold the gold was tremendous. He had no gold to sell so his business went down.

You don't want to find yourself in a situation where you are left helpless because of how bad things have become for others. You want to protect your business or your life from suffering harshly from the backend negative impacts. You should be thinking about alternative routes.

I've realized that more businesses are going online because more persons are online to hide from the silence of the lockdown. It is important to be on top of the game applying up-to-date technological inventions that will put you ahead of the pack.

Now ask, **"Why do you have to spend more even when you are getting less?"**

You'd probably have discovered that you spend more money on necessities than you'd probably have spent under normal conditions and

you are not getting more money. You probably are spending more on transportation, food and other necessities.

Because supply is less, sellers up their price so that they can keep ahead with the market dynamics. You'd want to be on top of this market dynamics so that you can get things to favour you.

Do you have a backup plan? You should ask yourself "**why did I not have a backup plan?**" and if you did have a plan "**why did my backup plan not work?**"

Do you have a backup plan? I'm sure you don't and you aren't odd. Almost everyone I've known does not have one. They just live their lives without thinking about other eventualities. They think things will always work out fine just the ways it's always been. This lockdown has got many people thinking that they should have had a backup plan.

You are probably thinking now that you need to not just have backup A but also B, C or even D so that you can have several options to fall back on just in case things fall apart. This means you are also willing to invest resources in these back up strategies so that they become veritable subsequently.

If you had a plan which did not work because it got affected by the lockdown, you've probably have seen how worse things can go with the economy or your job. You'd be tweaking your back up plans to the worst case scenario.

The end result in asking yourself these questions is so that you are able to develop the right ideas and new templates for your life and business. You won't want to continue life on the same platform like you did before the lockdown once this lockdown is over.

You won't see the need to make the most of the opportunities that this lockdown presents and you may not even see the opportunities if you don't put a thought process through the current situation.

You can key into the opportunities that finding their answers will give you, because indeed, they offer you an opportunity to see the things that you would not have ordinarily seen.

You must be optimistic as you think. You think that the opportunities in the future will be positive even if presently they don't look great. This way, while finding answers to your questions, you will be doing it in the light of the positives that will be arriving.

The goal is to avoid the downtime that characterized your life during the lockdown. You can't be finding a way out when you are stocked with why you were locked down.

I've observed personally that this lockdown has opened my eyes to a rush of new ideas that I didn't think about before it arrived. Now, I know the right businesses to tap into. This probably wouldn't have happened if I did not sit down to analyze my predicament and that of several people during this lockdown.

You will be able to develop new strategies, technics and ideas when you can think right. With all certainty, new ideas will be springing up from solutions people will be creating after this lockdown. I am certain no one wants to get into a well twice.

The above questions are only a few of the questions you may have to answer. You might have your personal questions too. Finding answers to those questions will certainly help you create solutions not just for you but for others too who will tap into the opportunities you will be able to create subsequently.

It's all about self-examining yourself. If you can think, it's a plus gift to get you into safe-landing for surviving life after the lockdown because certainly, there is life beyond it and you must survive it.

3

CREAT IDEAS

Ideas rule the world.

WISE PEOPLE ARE at work using the time they have during this lockdown to create ideas. Probably you did not realize how important your ideas are to helping you evolve from the duress of the challenges during this lockdown.

The challenges during this lockdown give you the depth of thought and the opportunity to think. That's why you had to answer the right why questions in the previous chapter. It probably will give you the leverage to develop the correct idea to put you at a better pedestal to challenge the odds that's arriving after the lockdown is over.

Across the world, schools have been on shut down for months and no one knows when they are reopening. This has led to the development of veritable online learning platforms and solutions. Many schools have had to think this way and I think that this lockdown will lead to the fast-tracking of the application of digital technology in our academic institutions subsequently.

It's time for people to get out their creative side. This lockdown has shown the extent to which things can go bad and you can leverage what you now know to develop a unique business idea. You can develop new strategies to expand your business as you leverage on the loopholes this lockdown has allowed you discover.

You might have lost a lot during this lockdown, but you don't have to cry foul. You've probably gained a lot too. If you check what you've gained, you could be making more profits than you've lost after this lockdown. There are loops of opportunities that this lockdown is offering and you can create new ideas from them.

To effectively create an idea, you must be willing to think through, factoring in and out, the numerous factors that come to play in the real world. These will require an intense exposure to the mind arena.

Creativity is important because it allows you play around your thoughts as you roam from thought to thought allowing you tweak them as you deem fit to create a working idea. You can leverage on this capacity not just as a one way process but a multifaceted one.

The good news with this lockdown is the depth it offers our creative minds. We can run our ideas around the many issues that reveal themselves. Your goal should be to make the best of the moment whether good or bad and to develop a system that will work in both the best and worst conditions.

Whatever challenges you are facing during this lockdown offers your mind the parameters to figure out what you have to do to not get down there again. but it's up to you to pick those parameters and get to work with them.

You probably will want to improve your strategy. Perhaps, you are considering having an online presence or you want to start a call-in service or else improve your online servicing platform if you had one before the lockdown.

Maybe as an employee, you probably want to start your own business so that you don't become susceptible to all the brouhaha of company owners. You have decided to head in a direction of business that gets the pass mark during the lockdown experience. I think that business curriculum developers will certainly add this into subsequent business curriculum.

You owe yourself the willingness to figure out what new direction you should be heading subsequently when things get back to normal.

It's time to think out of the box. Here's the difficult part of life and most persons don't find it comfortable threading this path. They want to have the ease of a salary at the end of the month but they fail to realize that they can be earning more if they do their thing.

Why do you have to think out of the box? Because, inside the box is filled already. Inside the box, you got worn and lost and the lockdown kicked your ass. Out of the box is where opportunities lie. Except you love the life inside the box, you could as well stay in there with your thought process but I am certain what you want is more. You get the opportunity to go for more outside the box.

Leverage your mind to key into the possibilities that are far beyond your current state at the moment. If you can see yourself beyond this lockdown having a good time and an improved life, it probably gives you the shot to make the creative move.

Ideas rule the world. It's easy to say. You may think, even if I have an idea, how about the resources to run the idea. People's fear when developing ideas is often the finance to push the idea especially those who are starting from the scratch so they let the idea lie and go looking for resources which in reality they do not get.

Instead of looking for the resources first, get the idea right. Correct ideas whose time is rife certainly have a way of getting resources by themselves, especially if you believe in the idea. So kill the fear.

Resources aren't just financial, there are several types of resources that are vital to the development of your idea. Creating ideas require the use of your analytical resources. You are able to analyze the current situation, the past and the future opportunities you are hoping to jump on.

This analytical process may take some time. This means that the idea creation act isn't something you rush in and out. You have to put in so much time resources to get the best results, a workable idea.

The finest businesses today started out as ideas. Who knows, your idea may just be the next big thing on the business stage. A word of advice, don't allow the present temporary predicament that this lockdown offer stop you from enjoying the benefits of the future by defining how you think. You can never tell how far you'd go if you throw away your ability to think out great stuffs.

What can you see? Your idea creative capacity requires your ability to use your sight. You certainly will need an eye opening experience because though opportunities abound for people to see, only those whose eyes are open mentally see it. What are you seeing? You will be able to create a great idea out of the opportunities you are able to see.

You can get the vibes around town by listening to what the needs of people are during this lockdown. These needs are essential. Everyone is stocking money to buy things related to what to eat and how to survive. People are complaining to government about hash conditions. What they complain about is a direction pointing to where the needs are. Instead of joining the complaint crew, pick your biro write their complaints down and begin the process of developing a solution for them.

Have this understanding. Some of the finest ideas are born out of the most unfriendly situations and environments. Those visionary we celebrate today saw opportunities from a prevailing negative circumstance and keyed on it. What is a lockdown for many turns out a blessing for one person who can see.

You may have noticed that some of the greatest inventors in the 19th and 20 century weren't wealthy persons. Most of them were poor peasants and mechanics that saw needs and offered to solve them. The Wright brothers who invented the airplane were bicycle mechanics. Carl Benz who invented the motor car was a carriage designer. The founder of

Toyota was a mechanic, Hyundai was even a bicycle repairer. I can get you a good list. The summary is their ideas didn't arrive because they lived comfortable lives. No, they were having a hell of a time but they got their ideas right. They leveraged on the prevailing need cushioned by the circumstances around them. This lock down is a key of direction showing you there is an opportunity to grab if only you will look well and listen well.

The currency for getting better after this lockdown is the quantum amount of ideas that can be worked on and developed. While it's great to have money, money loses value due to the mechanics of economics. As exchange rates go up, so does the prices of several commodities. You'd realize that you are spending so much on fewer goods. But an idea that's right is ever valuable opening the door for more money.

A lack of creativity is the bane of any society. Opportunities are lost when citizens lack the creative eye. Because opportunities don't appear as opportunities at initially gaze, we may be tempted to look away. If we dig deep however, we'll find that resource of hope.

Don't accept defeat because of what seems a gloomy atmosphere pervading this economic terrain. Present circumstances may not look promising but nothing ever is promising until we find the promise around it.

Many of the opportunities we celebrate today had never existed before now. People, by working and scratching their brains were able to create these opportunities.

Imagine. There would have been no need for drivers if Karl Benz did not build cars. there would have been no pilots, waiters and all the services that come with aeronautics if the Wright brothers did not get their airplane idea right. There would have been no need for bankers, economists, accountants, and all the work force that work in our banks if the banking system wasn't developed. New opportunities are created out of nothing but they eventually create new opportunities for others.

Be on the lookout for new ideas that you may be pioneering. You may be leading the charge of new opportunities for millions of people. This is the ability this lockdown gives you to leverage on.

4

GET RESOURCES

Look around.

ONE CHALLENGE PEOPLE face is that of acquiring resources for their ideas. The difficulty factor increases during lockdowns because banks close doors, they are trying to play safe and everyone's trying to survive. No one is willing to give a hand when they are struggling themselves. It thus becomes a huge burden to push even the finest of ideas.

You may have a beautifully well thought idea but you realize that getting resources is an uphill task. It's no news the complaints around town of how mean economic realities are. You perhaps are going through a bad situation. Look at the challenge like a high mountain, if you have to get on top, you have to face it and climb.

What resources do you want? Every idea doesn't need similar resources. It is your place to effectively mark out and define what resources you need so that you define how to channel your energy.

Resources come in variants. You may need human resources, financial, spiritual, land, mental or educational resources. To be able to define what you want, you should have analyzed your idea.

In sincerity, despite how scarce some resources may seem during this lockdown, not all resources become scarce. Some kind of resources become surplus to requirements. You may not be able to seize on the

opportunities and the resources the lockdown provides adequately if you don't see the need for them.

The truth is, the average person complains about his lack of financial resources and puts that as the major challenge but he is blind to see that there are other very important resources available which he can apply for his idea.

You might have creatively thought out your idea, but you also have to creatively think out your resources. The lockdown tightens some bits but it also loosens others. While you may find it difficult borrowing money from a friend or getting a loan from a bank, you may get human resources at a cheaper cost and discover opportunities to acquire mental and educational resource development too at a cheaper rate.

No correct idea only needs finance. When we focus on only money, we'd waste all other valuable resources so that we'd end up doing nothing when money does not arrive. Here's why some persons may have money but don't get to use the money rightly.

Now you have a beautiful idea, write out all the resources you need. Be sincere to yourself. Of the resources you have written, tick those you can easily get by considering in all sincerity all the resources within your disposal, around your family or friend sphere, because in reality, there are resources at your disposal that you may not recognize until you do a search.

Every idea that arrives from you is trusting on some available personal resource. It's either you have an experience, you have a facility, or you have a talent or skill.

When I started a school in 2014, I had faced tough times. I had been out of job since I finished school in 2012 and only barely survived as I jumped from one interview room to another. When I got the idea for the school, I had no money, no food, nothing. If I had looked at my financial handicap, I wouldn't have started.

I realized the same concept I am sharing with you, that resources aren't just about the money. I looked around for what resources I could gather. I had an uncompleted house which needed some finishing and I had talent and started with a lesson that barely brought anything substantial. The good news is on school resumption, the building was finished, the house was taking a new shape ready for resumption and I had people ready to start the idea. Today the school is blooming.

You did a great job thinking through your creative idea, how about finishing it off with a creative resource gathering approach. This lockdown provides you with ample opportunity to see what you can bring to the table when the bits are down.

I always advise people to look around when trying to figure out their ideas because ideas created from around gets resources from around too.

While brainstorming for a business idea with a friend who was lost and looking for direction, we got talking and decided it was time to look inwards. Naturally, like any average person, his first thought was money but I did well to change his thought pattern.

I asked my friend to check around for what he could do with available resources. At first he said he had nothing but as we thought further and I quizzed him, he realized that his father had a piece of land. The next question I asked him was "what can you do with the land so that you can earn daily or weekly income?" my friend had no idea. The idea that poked into my head was "we need to plant vegetables on that piece of land"

My friend bought into the idea, but the challenge was getting water for the farm so that it would run round the year. He got thinking this time. His uncle had a borehole close to the land so we planned how to get water to the farm connecting pipes. Seeds wouldn't be a problem and he'd invest in fertilizers when its time. My friend left me and got to work with that idea.

A few weeks down the line, the idea had blossomed into a big farm with market women rushing in to buy vegetables for the weekly market around town. He soon paid workers to run the farm and had more to pay his way to school.

I think we can have our ideas sorted out when we are willing to look inwards and proactively engage our creative side beyond just creating the idea but also creating the resources.

I heard a story about how one father who saw opportunity in his son's paint production idea offered to sell his landed resources to help buy equipment for his son to take off his paint production business.

While it's easier for us to blame the lack of financial flow in the economy due to the lockdown, and that is what most persons will do, now may be the right time to find a way around your idea if you truly believe in it.

What skill do you have? What physical property is within your disposal? How can you turn what you have into a veritable tool for pushing your idea? It starts from here.

While it's great to think about some external support from a relative or friend, depending on them may turn out not the best idea especially if they don't catch your idea. Some persons will want to know what they'd gain before supporting your venture and you don't want to eat your cakes before you have it. Its best to stick with what you have first, exhaust all available personal options before going out.

Its best to have a solid foundation with your resources before stepping out so that in case you meet any wall, you can keep pushing. The only guarantee for your idea is you.

Acquiring resources is an important variable in getting your idea to work. It's actually the bridge between your idea and reality. The type of bridge you choose to build matters. You may decide that you want to build a solid bridge that will ease your work greatly or you just want to do a fast ramshackle bridge which will arrive with its corresponding difficulties when trying to run your ideas.

What you need is the best resources. Everyone will do well when everything needed is available but the reality of life is we don't get everything to start with. If we have to wait, it will take forever.

All the resources for an idea arrive in the process of working the idea. Don't allow not getting all that you need stop you from the possibilities of your idea.

This lockdown is helping you look down at least so that you can see what resources are available that you never thought were available. These resources may just be the seed you need to begin your life on a fresh note.

You may choose to consider collecting loans. But pro-life-after-a-lockdown, you don't want to start life under the burden of a debt profile. You want to ease your life off debts until the economy is stronger when leveraging on loans won't be a challenge. Loans should actually be an option when you are trying to expand. You can however leverage on grants

It is important to define your resource gathering mechanism right so that you know what's available from the onset of your idea. This way, you will be able to make correct plans based on the quality of the available ideas and resources.

5

IT'S TIME TO PLAN

Everything has to have its place.

GREAT IDEAS PLUS RESOURCES do not guarantee a great life after the lockdown. An idea is like a seed, available resources is like water. But having just seed and water does not guarantee a great farm. You'd have to do the work of tilling the ground, putting the seed in, watering the seeded ground and fertilizing if necessary.

You have the well thought idea and you've made provisions for your resources to give the idea the push, what you do need now is a plan of action to guide you on how to get the idea rolling.

Every idea needs a strategic planning work to sufficiently leverage resources provided to meet the needs of the idea. Fact is, you may likely not get enough resources to start with but you have to start anyway. You have to plot your graphs to know where you have to put in more resources and less resources.

Even when you have an overdose of resources, not efficiently planning could lead to wasteful spending, taking you back to where you originally started from. Whether you have too much resources or too little resources, that is not stopping you from doing the correct planning work.

Quality planning is a gift in this lockdown's disguise . You have all the time to get it right till the lockdown is called off. You don't want to rush your idea out because you are in a hurry. As much as everyone is in a hurry to achieve something, this lockdown has shown how ideas and businesses without a well thought out plan have fared. Extremely terrible.

This lock down has offered us a worst case scenario so that you are looking at equipping yourself with the correct plan so that taking off after the lockdown is easier.

It's like a person who has the type of house he wants to build in his head, has the money to at least start the building but has no building plan. He calls a builder and tells him verbally what he wants and expects the builder to start building. The builder will have problems interpreting the building idea if there is no plan to show the size of the rooms, the facilities to be made available, the building style etc.

You will have problems interpreting your idea if you don't plan every stage of the idea correctly fixing the right resources at the right places.

What should characterize your plan as you work towards life beyond the lockdown?

- ✓ The well thought out idea. You can't build what you can't picture in your mind. While you have the picture in your mind, you should also have the prototype on a paper well grafted out.
- ✓ Available resources. How much is available? You tell yourself this is what I have and this is the goal I am pursuing. Can I achieve this with what I have or do I need more. How much do I even need to reach the goal?
- ✓ A scale of preference. Think about the actions that should come first and what should get resources first. resources are slim so you want to put resources into the important parts first.
- ✓ A fixed starting time. It is important to define when you want to start your idea and also when you hope to conclude it. This will

help you to put some force into what you are doing to achieve your goal

- ✓ An order of work. Every idea starts from somewhere. It's a process. You want to define the process so that while working you know what stage or level you are or how far you have gone with the idea.
- ✓ A fixed time for the completion of a work set. At every stage of work you want to have the time frame so that you know when you've spent too much on a work set.
- ✓ A fixed completion time. Don't just define what you want to achieve, fix a date for completion

While you may be in a lockdown, it's a fantastic time to get to your drawing board. Everyone has a drawing board somewhere in their minds but only few persons use it because often they get too busy with the issues of life.

This lockdown provides us the ample opportunity to take a look at our life drawing boards to see where we've missed it before the lockdown and where you'd want to get it right after the lockdown. You can subsequently rejig your life.

We have fantastic ideas and resources but we sometimes have complained of time to put the two together. You can leverage on this time to put them together knowing that life after the lockdown would be on the faster lane when you should be hoping to release your new product.

People fail to plan and they get nothing done though they have great ideas and sufficient resources at their disposal. You perhaps have heard people say "with all that he had, he could not invest or build a future for himself"

To enjoy a fantastic life beyond this lockdown, you must be willing to strategically plan your way out of it. It has to be a deliberate effort.

You know what you want. In your hearts of hearts, you have your idea right there waiting for the opportunity to poke out. It has to have a soft-

landing on this side of life by your willingness to commit to the right plans.

Imagine all the possibilities that can arrive if your idea finally sees light. It may have a rippling effect on several other people who may catch their ideas too. In reality, every fantastic idea spurs other fantastic ideas producing an idea chain.

So what's your plan? Or what's the plan? I have heard people been asked any of these questions. I remember my dad asked me the same questions after I finished university. With this lockdown, everyone should be answering this question. This lockdown is a university of new knowledge. How far you will go after it will depend on what you want.

Your plan has to be workable. It should have a high degree of humanity, something that one can easily put hands on.

Some person make grandiose plans, the kind of plan where we envisage resources that are almost impossible to get to start it. Your plan should have the possibilities of been easily funded by the resources around you.

A plan of action saves you the stress of turning round and round when you could be definite about what you are doing. Why would you want to roam in a circus when you can get straight to the point?

The best you want for yourself is to set out how you want to go about your beautiful idea walking. No matter how beautiful an idea is, it remains a beautiful idea until it is converted to an actual piece and it is able to breath.

Note this characteristics, your plan has to have them.

- It must be **proactive**. This means it has to be practical and hands-on.
- Something you can **leverage** on. Your life should be able to take the shift when you get it to work.
- It should be **all-inclusive**. Your present, past and future should be considered in the plan.

- It should **negate** laziness. You can have a plan to do nothing. While doing nothing may be seen as an action, it should not be the action as you work towards the better life post the lockdown.

Priming your life to enjoy the best after the lockdown should be because you have a plan to work it out. Don't just want to wait for all things to work together. You have to define what you want.

While things may naturally turn out well after the lock down, there is no guarantee it will fit in for you except you have your plans sorted out that will enable you key into the possibilities of the realities that will result.

Don't just watch how things play out. Be a factor for things to play around. If the economy is going to become better, let it happen with you keying in.

Your plan is the bridge between you great idea, resources and the accomplishment of the idea. If its tardy, you'd be left frustrated. Its best to get it right.

Why must you have a plan? It's the real deal. You don't want to commit yourself to nothing. The plan is a contract you are making between your fantastic idea and your beautiful future.

I've stated earlier in this book that every lockdown offers opportunities for those who will open their eyes to see it. The possibilities you see are possibilities you must plan your way to enjoy.

What you have is a closed door. But you must key in. Your plan is your key. No plan, no key. If you must enjoy the possibilities of your fantastic opportunities that are showing up right around this time, you must connect those opportunities with the right plan of action. Have a plan, it matters.

6

NOW TAKE ACTION

What you do matters.

GREAT IDEA, REOURCES AND A GOOD PLAN may be what you need to define the picture of your life after this lockdown, but the equation isn't complete without taking the action that your plan has outlined.

Many great ideas and fantastic plans are still waiting to happen because the creators have left the action part undone. No matter the possibilities in an idea or plan, it won't matter much if you choose to do nothing.

Doubt is a major limiting factor for many persons. They doubt if their great plan will turn out great in reality. But note, if your idea is fantastic on paper, you can as well give it a chance.

Those who will turn out top gainers after this lockdown era are those who will dare to take out their resources and risk everything working at their well thought out their plans.

There is no gainsaying the fact that the moment we are able to kick-start our big ideas, that's when we will be able to tell if our idea is going to work or not.

If you do nothing, you get nothing. Even if your doubts are huge about your idea working at all, your expectation level becomes 50-50 when you've actually decided to try it. You can't expect something when you are doing nothing.

Fantastic ideas don't just turn out fantastic products by people watching. They result from a decisive action to move beyond the realm of ideas into tangibles.

Who gets celebrated for just ideas? No one. People who create ideas are celebrated because the ideas found application and real life value. If you are not willing to do the part, you can as well give up the mental work of creating the idea in the first place.

Life post this lockdown will require you putting your hands to soil, to work your creative instincts into the creation of real value. At the end, what people are looking to see is the physical part of what had been a mental and paper work.

No matter how fantastic the drawing plan of a house is, this does not translate to a beautiful house on the ground except the builder and his laborers get to work to translate what's on paper into reality.

I like the fact that those who will be succeeding in this new era are those who won't allow their mental allusions stop them from seeing the reality of their ideas.

Nothing goes for anything. The fantastic life beyond this lockdown will come at the expense of your willingness to jump in the fray and do what you have to do.

Your action will require some sacrifice. You must be willing to give up what you have, some comfort, some excitement, so that you can subsequently enjoy the benefits. This is vital because it shows the extent to which we want to enjoy the better life.

Let's use this analysis. Imagine that you have a place you want to get to, you also have a fueled car and a key and you can drive. You keep telling yourself that you should be somewhere but you are still where you are even with the resources within your reach. You will remain where you are until you decide to drive.

There is no guarantee of a better life after this lockdown for those who will choose to do nothing with opportunities that this lockdown reveals. You have to get on the driver seat and drive.

Don't just be a talkative. We are tempted to talk too much about what we want to do and most persons talk forever. But talks don't change anything, what does is action. Those who do are those who enter into the reality of their talk.

You can talk about how you want to change everything about your life. That's a great speech you'd be making. If you don't decide to work and then do the work, speeches will make no sense.

It's important that we realize that what's limiting us often isn't our inability to create fantastic ideas. No! it's our failure to work on even the smallest ideas. Don't be caught in the web that has often held you over and over in the past. Get to work.

You may think you don't have the strength to go all the way. You may be weak but no one knows about that. Fight your weakness by taking the first steps first. those who have made great marks in life will tell you that the first step mattered.

While the lockdown last make preparations now so that once the lockdown is eased you can launch in an attack with fury your past failures. There's no good in procrastinating.

The popular Nike cliché states "just do it". It epitomizes the need for you to take action even when you don't see the reality of your action giving you the result you want. Spite your fears, do same to your doubts. Nothing can be as beautiful as an idea that working.

I shared this story earlier in this book but here's an enlarged version. A few years back, I was locked down in hunger. I had concluded my bachelor degree at Mechanical engineering and had hoped that a job would follow. It didn't come so I had to go through the struggles of a jobless young man. The conditions were harsh.

I was however optimistic with an idea that jumped into my mind. I decided I was going to start a school after careful evaluation of needs of my immediate environment. I had no resources, all I had was an idea and a talent plus an uncompleted house.

I knew my house would be a great start so I took action. I started lessons for children with their parents paying only a few stipends with the goal that I was going to start a school. I had no chairs, I had no tables, no boards. The children sat on the floor while I converted everything I could convert to tables.

Subsequently, resources started pouring from everywhere. Every little money that came in went into buying chairs, tables and fixing the uncompleted building. I did not get the financial resources that would have been necessary or a smooth start before I started work towards the idea. But the moment I believed my idea sufficiently to get to work with it, doors of financial favors opened. Today, that school stands as a testimony to what having an idea and working on it can do.

I've started several businesses down the years and sincerely, they've been around taking action despite limited or no resources. I decide that there has to be a way, I make the first moves and let the rest follow subsequently but I don't worry over the future before I get there.

I've started a writing services company and this lockdown has helped me with the opportunity to create web based services for companies and organizations that hitherto didn't see the need to have an internet based service structure. As a result I have started a web services company that creates cheap web solutions for clients.

It is important while engaging your plan that you stop:

- Analyzing if your plan will work or not. The strength of your plan should be tested only at the place where you are working it out. Don't conclude that the plan won't work until you've worked it.
- Chronicling the failures of others. You may be tempted to think that since others failed, that you will fail. They failed because they faced a whole different mechanics of challenges, yours is different too.
- Trading your time with laziness. No one survives been lazy. You'd be wasting so much time if you choose to do nothing. By the time you realize where you are, you would have wasted a good chunk of time.
- Idealization. The world we live in has people consistently conceptualizing ideal situations. In reality however, there are no ideal situations. The best you can do for yourself is to see how to make do with your present reality.
- Outrageous Conclusions. You can't conclude on the future by considering the present state of things. You'd be wrong and limiting your will power to fight for more. Situations change, nothing ever is permanent.
- Negative Comparisons. People compare themselves with the Joneses. The Joneses are the Joneses, you are you. Don't let the achievements of others scare or threaten you. Let others be themselves, find you.

Now take action

- Apply wisdom in doing what you have decided to do. Count the cost, don't be wasteful, think, don't be rash in taking decisions. They all count for wisdom.
- Channel your mind towards getting the best from what you are doing. Your state of mind will determine your energy input and subsequently, your output.
- Try, try and try again. You may not always get it right the first time, second time or even the third but If you persevere, you will certainly get it right.

- Initiate moves. Always want to find a way around your challenges. Even if you find yourself stuck, be on the move.
- Overcome your fears. Fear kills result oriented plans. Dare the things you fear, and you'd never have fear on your back.
- Now matters. Don't leave what you should do today for tomorrow. Force today's actions now, tomorrow should be left for what should be done tomorrow.

It is important that you get on top of this present situation. Act now on your ideas and plans. It matters.

7

REVIEW YOUR ACTIONS

Maximize your efforts by dealing
with your weaknesses.

EVERY TEACHER OFFERS tests to their students to see how well the students have understood what has been taught. What the teachers are actually doing is, they are reviewing their work so that they know where they have to put in more effort and on which student more work has to be done.

You have your plans on top gear and you've been working on it. It is important to check how much success you have made. Whatever you observe may enable you tweak your plan so that you can get optimal results.

People spend many years working at one business or job and the business has been the way they started it or even worse, and they love it that way.

You should be looking for growth in anything you are doing. Check for the indices that shows you are growing. If you aren't, pack your baggage

and start something else. Post lockdown, you have to be more business minded. You should be looking to grow and expand.

It's important to note when you are having a buzz and when things have relaxed. No matter how great an idea and the results that it gives, there are times when business won't be great. It's understood. But when business isn't great every other time, it's not worth your pursuit.

A review helps you anticipate growth, or a dip so that you aren't caught unawares whatever the situation.

Strategic restructuring can only happen when you've noticed the need for it. You can't do what you don't see a need for. This is why many businesses stay small through their lifetime. They run without a review mechanism put in place to check what's not working well or what's doing great or what needs to be reinforced.

When you review often, you discover without much ado how not to run your business. This is why businesses upgrade their services. They get feedbacks customers and they use the feedbacks to create a better service for their customers.

To improve your lot after this lockdown, you must be willing to consistently do your checks. Don't leave your life to chance.

Ask yourself questions like:

- Are you living the type of life you've always wanted to live?
- Are you benefitting from the well of possibilities that your talent or gift provides for you?
- Are your present results in line with your expectations?
- Are the results you get equating with you present input?
- Are you doing too much for too little?
- Have your goals been achieved?
- Are you more positive than you were before the lockdown?
- Are you more experienced to challenge life today than you were before the lockdown?

- At what state of your life will you consider yourself to have achieved your goal?

You can check your state of affairs after you have been able to answer these questions and you'd have a clear picture of your current standing. What to do subsequently will depend on your discoveries.

You might realize through your reviews that you need to put in more efforts in which case more effort will lead to more value. You might realize however also that you have to stop and reconsider your inputs and perhaps take a different path from where you have initially taken.

Or you might as well decide that going further with your plan will add no profit in which case you have decide to stop,

A consistent review will certainly expose your weaknesses so that post lockdown, you are soaring on the wings of what you know.

YOU NEED A HELPER

When everything fails, here's the
Backup Plan that will NEVER FAIL.

OUR LABOURS ON earth will be a waste of resources if whatever we do isn't tailored in line with God's purpose. People struggle all their lives trying too hard to succeed without avail because they are trying out of purpose.

It is a fact. Before your came into this world, God had you assigned for an assignment. There is something you are meant to do and to do satisfactorily to outshine the competition. If you do a diligent search, you will find it. But we often are not ready to make that search. Hence we keep running in circles.

Nothing can be as fulfilling as working in an area of life that rewards you most. That's God's kind of deal. Why struggle when you can get help from the one who created the way and knows the way?

Jesus says "I am the way...." Don't think too much about a life beyond this lockdown when Jesus is guaranteeing you the way, just follow Him.

The future has possibilities in it for you but that is if you will discover why you arrived earth in the first place. When you find your divine purpose, no lockdown can stop you.

This is the life Jesus offers. You only have to accept His invitation to walk the road of life with you. With certainty, you'd enjoy a stress-free ride through it. You can do more and faster with God's help. Don't ignore this invitation.

Accept Jesus today.



Ekekere Samuel is the vision driver for Soaring Life Ministries, an organization committed to helping people more fully utilize their physical, mental and spiritual resources.

An extremely talented author and teacher, Ekekere has an appeal that transcends barriers of age, culture and occupation.

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