

Build the Future We Want to Live In Idea Book



by Michael G. Neece
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Could the world use more kindness? Could things be going better across the globe? Instead of getting bogged down in feelings of “There’s just too much to do!” or “How could a single person ever make a difference?”, the antidote is simple: choose something to work on and show up.

If an ordinary person can build a business empire, appear on the cover of a magazine, host a television show, or create a set of products that change the world, why not you? Why not us? What one person can do, another can do.

The best part is that you don’t *have to* make monumental changes—just do what you can! All it takes is persistence, mutual encouragement, and belief in a single value:

The future is arriving every moment, whether you do anything about it or not, so **isn’t it our duty to build the future we want to live in?**

This idea book is designed to let you brainstorm what you hope the future can be, then focus on some aspect of that future that you have skills and passion for building.



Whether you are giving your time, your talent, or your treasure (the three T’s of making a difference in the world), using those parts of who you are to change the world will make all the difference.

If you have not yet purchased a journal in which to do these exercises, consider getting one soon. In the meantime, don’t let it hold you back; this idea book has plenty of pages for note-taking.

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Envision an ideal future. How are people treated? What support systems have we put in place so that everyone is heard and nobody endures unfair and unkind treatment? What does “typical society” value? If you have a specific vision of the future, such as what is portrayed in the Star Trek franchise of television shows and movies, write down what aspects of that future really tell you that it is close to the ideal for you. What are the things that make you proudest and happiest within that storytelling? Write it down, and use bullet points so you can clearly picture what factors are important to you.

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Now that you have it in mind what the future should look like, what are the skills you bring that could help create it? If you are a dancer and perhaps your ideal future includes love of the arts, then list your dancing skills and any others that help you in that hobby or career. Those other skills could be that you are great at organizing dance performances, auditioning dancers, or finding appropriate dance venues. Combining these skills, you could do something audacious like creating an event that raises funds for a charity feeding those who have food insecurity, or creating a series of dance performances at middle schools across your county or state that really get youth excited about the performing arts. It could even be something much simpler, but still impactful, such as working with your dance company to take proceeds from the next dance performance to help buy dancing equipment and clothing for elementary students.

When building the future, your imagination, your passion, and your skills matter far more than the exact foreseen impacts you think you will garner. After all, a small act that is picked up by a news service, noticed by an influencer, and broadcast nation-wide or even globally could have much more profound impact than you could ever have guessed. And if you only help three people through your effort, it still really matters to those three people.

On the next page, list your skills and your passions related to the future you are building. On the page after that, list colleagues, friends, and family who might want to work with you. Perhaps you have friends who want to make an impact on the world but don't have a clear idea how to start. You can recruit them!

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List your skills and your passions related to the future you are building.

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List the people who are likely to want to help you in your efforts.

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As you consider grand plans for making a difference in the world, consider two easy and straightforward ways to help: volunteering and donating. There are plenty of organizations where you can donate your time and skills. Consider making regular donations to organizations that are doing the work you hope gets done. To really accelerate the arrival of that amazing new future, do both!

What organizations fit your view of what the future should look like? That's up to you! Below are some of the organizations I have found in the United States that build the kind of future I want to live in, so maybe there is some good overlap for you.

What I want in the future	Organization	Summary	Online Contact
Food for all	Feeding America	Help wipe out food insecurity by ensuring those in need get healthy meals.	https://www.feedingac.org/
Shelter for all	Habitat for Humanity	Everyone everywhere should have a healthy, affordable place to call home.	https://www.habitat.org/
Clothing for all	Note in the Pocket	Help with donated clothing for children in need.	https://noteinthepocket.org/
Scientific curiosity, enthusiasm, and literacy	Your local science museum, aquarium, or planetarium. (My favorite is Morehead Planetarium & Science Center in Chapel Hill, NC.)	Promote science literacy and excitement about science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM) by volunteering at and donating to your local science museum!	https://www.astc.org/find-a-science-center/ This link will help you find your local science center.
Eradicate health problems	Barth Syndrome Foundation	Help support research that can defeat a little-known disease that affects boys and young men.	https://www.barthsyndrome.org/

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There are hundreds of organizations that need your help, whether it's your talent, your time, or your treasure. Whether I listed one of your favorite organizations or not, you can always add to the list on your own and then pursue the activities with greatest meaning to you. The more meaningful it feels, the more likely you will stick with it, repeatedly adding your efforts over and over again.

We have all kinds of expressions for describing how tiny efforts add together to have profound, lasting effects, like “an apple a day keeps the doctor away.” By selecting regular charitable donations, regular volunteering, or other efforts, you are adding meaningful efforts aligned with your values and your vision of a better world.



Congratulations on taking this significant step into the future of your choosing by completing this workbook! Now, put reminders on your calendar to keep up with these new practices and keep up the good work!

Want more ideas? Want to make real changes in the world?

Schedule a free call with me:



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