



← Graduate Spotlight March 2013

Graduate Spotlight April 2013

Jory Fisher

Jory holds coaching certifications from the International Coach Federation, the Institute for Life Coach Training, the Christian Coaches Network, [Career Coach Academy](#), the True Purpose Institute, and the Daily Marketing Coach.

She is passionate about helping Christian Women Entrepreneurs integrate calling, confidence, clarity, and savvy marketing strategies into their life and business.

Our Interview with Jory follows:



What was your first job?

Assuming you don't mean part-time jobs in high school, college, and grad school... for my first full-time position, I was a bilingual secretary for the World Bank.

What lesson did you learn on that job that you keep with you today?

That if you're not in a position or career that's a good fit, move on! I stayed with the World Bank for one year then transitioned to a 5-year career in the federal government. I experienced several more transitions after that...

When did you decide to become a coach? Why?

In 2007 I sought training as a coach to help law students at Liberty University School of Law where I was employed. So many students struggle with how to use their law degrees – and how to manage law school. I believed a foundation in coaching would help me help them determine their best course.

What is the most rewarding part of being a coach?

Transformation. With the kind of coaching I do (spiritual, personal, and professional development), I get to be a part of my clients' journeys and help them make significant strides in their life and career. I love that!

What keeps you enthused about your career?

An "inner knowing" that this is the path God has called me to take at this stage of my life. Having had the pleasure of working in a wide variety of roles (e.g., as a writer/editor for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as a United Nations representative for Prison Fellowship International, as an Executive Director of the Child Abuse Prevention Center, as an assistant public defender, law professor and associate dean), I'm joyfully content to be working as a professional coach and mentor helping others become all they're designed to be so they can make their most meaningful contribution to the world.

How do you evaluate success?

Easy. Yet oh so difficult. Success is discerning who we are and what we're designed to do and *being faithful to that revelation*. Once we know the answers to such universal questions as "Who am I? Why am I here on earth? What is the unique contribution I'm meant to make? What is my responsibility to God, myself, and others?" – we have a choice. Do we live according to that revelation or do we pursue our daily routines irrespective of our divine purpose? For me, "to glorify God through success" means to carry out our sacred assignments with love, humility, enthusiasm, and joy.

What's the number one skill or practice that has contributed to your success?

My God-given ability to see the good in people. That is not to say I don't get frustrated and angry if people don't treat me and/or others the way I would expect them to—I'm far from *that* level of spiritual development! However, I think my innate inclination to love others and help them feel accepted and appreciated has been my number one asset in developing my personal and professional relationships (thereby equipping me to "succeed" in my various careers).

Who or what inspires you?

Softly falling morning snow (which I'm observing out my bay window right now), brilliant sunsets over a blue-green ocean, a homeless sojourner gratefully receiving a simple meal, Mozart, Enya, Fredrick Buechner, the movie *Gandhi*, my daughter's poetry, my clients' progress, the luscious sounds we sing in our choir, the bravery of Esther, the sacrificial love of Jesus, the devotion of my toy poodle, William Wilberforce, Joni Eareckson Tada... In short, I am inspired by glimpses of the Divine.

Besides work, what are your passions?

- Inspiring others through singing, speaking, and writing
- Helping shape the growth and development of my daughters
- Sharing the Good News of God's love and compassion for His creation
- Musical theatre and dance
- Fitness and nutrition

What's the best advice you didn't take?

"Become an expert in one subject area and stick to it." This just doesn't fly with somebody like me who has myriad interests and passions—and perhaps just a touch of A.D.D.

What's one piece of advice you would offer to new/aspiring coaches?

Stop fretting, hire a mentor/coach with whom you can relate and whose work you admire, and take action now!

"Thank you for this interview. I'm honored and humbled that you would shine a spotlight on my work. Susan Whitcomb and The Academies continue to have a considerable influence on how I help others."

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Certified by The Academies:



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