Leaders have the power in their hands to make a difference in the world. However, the challenge is: will they use this power or allow fear to serve as a stumbling block? I chose love over fear. Love creates hope and embraces future possibilities, while fear limits one’s options and closes the window of opportunity. Love lifts others to their highest potential. Fear stifles growth and diminishes one’s capacity to become the best self.

Love is manifested through service to others. Former President Bill Clinton explained this concept when he shared with me: “In order to be a true leader, you need to have a deep passion for helping the people you’re lead-
ing. If you don’t really see yourself as a servant leader, you won’t make decisions that benefit those who put you there. The servant leader’s scorecard is simple—are people better off when you quit than when you started? Were the poor and powerless a part of the progress, and is there a stronger sense that our common humanity is more important than our interesting differences?”

In my book *Love Leadership: The New Way to Lead in a Fear-Based World*, I share my personal journey of discovering the leader within. This journey of discovery laid the foundation for creation of Operation HOPE. In 1992, I founded Operation HOPE in response to challenges arising after the Los Angeles riots. My goal was to provide everyday people with a “hand up, not a handout” by helping low-wealth communities attain financial literacy empowerment. This is the type of empowerment needed not only for good capitalism but to also build strong, safe communities.

Twenty-seven years later, the challenges associated with hopelessness, poverty, and marginalization still persist. However, Operation HOPE has interrupted this cycle by promoting financial literacy and advancing social innovation/entrepreneurship. This exemplifies servant leadership in action. A focus on services begs the question “what do you have to give others?” Leaders give to others by creating practical solutions
to pressing social issues. Dr. Artika Tyner’s work both inside and outside the classroom serves as a catalyst for social change and innovation. Dr. Tyner is a passionate educator and leadership scholar who is dedicated to training the next generation of leaders and difference-makers. She is re-imagining education by transforming her classroom into a learning laboratory where students grapple with some of the most pressing social justice issues of our time, ranging from promoting community development to ending mass incarceration.

Outside the classroom, Dr. Tyner is shaping the discourse on leadership by focusing on the power of leveraging leadership for social justice. Her leadership model of “Planting People, Growing Justice” serves as the framework for creating change by focusing on combining three pillars: (1) social justice advocacy, (2) leadership, and (3) public policy to promote creative problem solving and advance strategic action.

In The Leader’s Journey, Dr. Tyner provides those who are passionate about leading social change with the tools to develop their leadership skills, create a vision, empower people, add value, and build a long-term agenda. She offers an in-depth look into her personal leadership journey, which is influenced by a desire to use the law as a vehicle for advancing justice and equity and her commitment to advance leadership education.