



ILLINOIS Focus

Editorial



Leadership

John Grys,
President

Much is written, presented and discussed related to the question of “Leadership Development.” I continue to discover through a variety of sources that while this discussion occurs across sectors (including the ecclesiastical sector), the attempts are quite abysmal in the local context. Examine pretty much any poll that seeks to discover levels of trust or other types of employee satisfaction indicators and it would appear that a \$50 million industry has failed miserably. My own continuous journey would suggest the same. Having attended numerous seminars, presentations, and conferences on leading, leadership and leadership development, all this would seem to suggest that our focus is on “leadership” and not on “development.”

And then the Word of God, through the Apostle Saul turned to Paul, had described the core “developmental journey” of this developing follower of Jesus: “When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I

put the ways of childhood behind me,” (1 Cor 13.11). Such clarity! This is a clear biblical statement of the developmental journey. Any concept or practice of developing leadership will consistently fall short unless there is a deeper level pursuit of the deeper elements of moving from a “child to an adult.” I also found this same concept when I read *Education*: “It [true education] has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the

what it means to develop into the likeness of Jesus. If I do not pursue this, I can easily fall into the syndrome of waterline entrapment: focusing on all that goes on above the waterline of life and ignoring what goes on below the waterline—where ships are sunk.

Thus, with all this evidence suggesting a deployment into the deeper regions of development, I discovered in that journey the rise of fear. I am reminded of Joshua following arguably the greatest leader in

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physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers,” (p. 13). And then there is this gem: “All his faculties [Adam] were capable of development,” (p. 15).

What I found in these words shifted the foundation of how I understood life and leading. I came to recognize that the developmental journey is one where Saul on the blinding road becomes the enduring Paul ever seeking to put away his childish tendencies. Leadership development includes “training” the next generation but even more; it is about developing people to move away from our childish tendencies and be open to

Jewish history—Moses. How often do we read, “Fear not!” There is a reason, I’ve discovered.

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The Blueprint to Thrive as a Leader

“Relationships are essential to the soul of a leader.”



Pastor David Ocegüera

Every leader has a blueprint for their leadership. Whether it is written down and time-tested, or unwritten, every leader has one. A leader's blueprint are the practices and rhythms a leader uses to lead strategically, navigate conflict, have difficult conversations, and envision the future. A blueprint is essential for success. Can you imagine trying to build a house without a blueprint? Of course not, it would be a massive failure, because a blueprint is essential for building.

I would like to suggest that the best blueprint for leaders to follow, is modeled on the life of Jesus. When we take a look at His life, there are three main categories that shaped His life and leadership. Jesus ordered His Inner life, He was clear on the purpose of His outer life (His mission) and He had relationships that sustained Him. If you would like to remain connected to Jesus, committed to your purpose and connected to your most important relationships then following the way of Jesus will give you those things.

Inner Life

One of the snapshots we see of Jesus, ordering His inner life was that He made prayer a priority. The Bible tells us that while it was still dark, Jesus would spend time in prayer alone (Mark 1:35). It was essential for Jesus to make time to connect with His Heavenly Father in prayer away from the demands of His daily life. As leaders, it is important to have rhythms and practices that help you remain connected to the presence of God. It is in those moments, that you fill your cup, and fill your soul with the Spirit of God. As leaders, there are many things you cannot

control, but what you can control is making time for God in your life.

Outer Life

As a leader, your position of authority is about more than the title before your name, but rather about the positive ways in which you can enhance the lives of those you lead. In other words, leadership is a vocation. A vocation is a job with a purpose. It is a calling that God places on your life, that requires you to give your best, in order to be faithful to the thing God has called you to do. Jesus made it clear that He came to earth, for a reason, with a purpose, to fulfill His mission (John 18:37). He was so clear on His mission that He did not allow Himself to be derailed by anything. As a leader, it is imperative for you to be clear on your purpose and your mission because your role is more than a job, and your decisions affect people either positively or negatively.

Communal Life

Jesus placed a high value on relationships. He had 12 disciples He did life with. He had close friendships He could turn to when the need arose. He had relationships where he didn't have to perform signs and wonders and was accepted just as he was. As a leader, it is important for you to have relationships that sustain you. Relationships where you don't have to be in charge and can sit back and relax.

El “Líder Dinosaurio” ¿En Vía de Extinción?



Pastor Juan Daniel Villegas

Cuando se habla de liderazgo es claro que hay diferentes estilos en los que es ejercido y que podemos ver cómo el líder dinosaurio se ha ido extinguiendo. En vista de esto, hay que tener presente las nuevas generaciones que traen una cultura del “cambio”, que por supuesto, aplica en el área eclesial.

Durante los últimos años se habla de cambios, algunos han sido tan rápidos que han hecho discontinuar lo que se hacía en el pasado. Actualmente en el liderazgo hay un estilo llamado “El líder dinosaurio” que presentaremos a continuación con algunas de sus características:

- Se aferra a viejas formas de hacer las cosas y no está dispuesto a adaptarse a los cambios teológicos, tecnológicos y generacionales. Esencialmente, este estilo de “líder dinosaurio” se queda atrás y se resiste al cambio.

- Se obsesiona con el control y la autoridad, quiere controlar hasta el mínimo detalle de todo, piden

informes de todo y anhela que se les consulte en cada decisión, nada escapa a su mirada.

- En este estilo de liderazgo, el líder puede ser visto como rígido y no dispuesto a escuchar nuevas ideas para el bienestar de la Iglesia o a aceptar perspectivas no tradicionales.

- Algunos “líderes dinosaurios” pueden tener dificultades para mantenerse relevantes y atractivos para las nuevas generaciones.

Muchas iglesias están experimentando una disminución en la participación y el compromiso de los miembros, y los líderes están buscando formas de involucrar y motivar a su congregación. Por lo tanto, si los líderes dinosaurios no pueden adaptarse, pueden perder la capacidad de liderar y de influir en la comunidad.

Necesitamos un estilo de liderazgo que esté más acorde con el tiempo en que vivimos, en el que el líder busque construir relaciones de confianza y colaboración con su equipo, en lugar de simplemente dar órdenes y esperar que se sigan. Podemos ver que los líderes actuales entienden que, para lograr un cambio generacional, necesitan trabajar con su equipo para lograr un objetivo común.

La Biblia ofrece varias claves para un liderazgo con un enfoque colaborativo que pueden ser útiles en las iglesias. Aquí hay algunas de esas claves:

1. Es servicial: La Biblia enseña que el liderazgo es servir a los demás y no buscar el poder o la autoridad. En Juan 13:14-15, Jesús dice: “Si yo, el Señor y el Maestro, les he lavado los pies, también ustedes deben lavarse los pies los unos a los otros. Les he dado un ejemplo para que ustedes hagan lo mismo que he hecho con ustedes”.

2. Es Humilde: La humildad es esencial para el liderazgo colaborativo. En Filipenses 2:3-4, se nos insta a “no hacer nada por egoísmo o vanidad; más bien, con humildad, considerando cada uno a los demás como

superiores a sí mismo, no buscando cada uno sus propios intereses, sino también los intereses de los demás”.

3. Escucha: Escuchar y considerar las ideas y opiniones de los demás es fundamental para un liderazgo colaborativo. En Santiago 1:19, se nos insta a ser “prontos para oír, tardos para hablar, tardos para enojarnos”.

Leading From Where You Are

Have you ever found yourself frustrated with the status quo, disillusioned with leadership and wishing that you were in a position of authority to do something about it? Perhaps, like me, you feel your motives are noble; but could it be that we are being driven by the same desire that drove Absalom towards a higher place in leadership?

2 Samuel 15 details the story of Absalom's rebellion and betrayal of his father, King David. Here is what the first few verses say, "In the course of time, Absalom provided himself with a chariot and horses and with fifty men to run ahead of him. He would get up early and stand by the side of the road leading to the city gate. Whenever anyone came with a complaint to be placed before the king for a decision, Absalom would call out to him, "What town are you from?" He would answer, "Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel." Then Absalom would say to him, "Look, your claims are valid and proper, but there is no representative of the king to hear you."

Betrayal, treason, rebellion, and attempted patricide doesn't happen over night. You don't just wake up one morning and say, "today I am going to declare myself King, steal the throne from underneath my father's behind, and force him into exile." If one did get up one morning and decided to do this you certainly

wouldn't have the backing of the whole kingdom as Absalom did. It took Absalom years to get to the place where he decided to make a move for the throne. I wonder when Absalom realised what he was doing; realised that what he was seeking for was not just greater equality for the people but power for himself. In the course of time he got a chariot, the vehicle of choice for Kings at war, he uses his chariot for the daily commute! In the course of time he gets horses, there was an old law about kings not multiplying horses (Duet 17:16) and it seems clear that David often rode a donkey. In the course of time he employs 50 men to run in front of his horses and chariot. This must have taken some time for the prince to acquire. Did he realise that his excess was laying the foundation for him to rebel against his father?

Our rebellion against our Father God never happens over night. Our attempts to unseat Him from His throne are never spontaneous. Whether we are aware of it or not, they happen over the course of time. It usually starts with our desire for ease, comfort or prestige. You start by telling yourself its just an old beat up chariot, they would have thrown it away if I didn't buy it but before you know it, you've got a whole stable of horses and a small army running before you. Sin has a way of creeping up on you in the course of time.



Pastor Jonathan Burnett

The root cause of Absalom's rebellion and ours is a lack of satisfaction with the assignment you have received from the King and the feeling that you could be better or more useful in another position or assignment. The Messiah complex afflicts many of us in 'helping 'professions. If we were only in the right position we could solve all the problems of the department, school, or church. So we wake up early, ride our hobby horse issues, make promises about what we would do if we were in that leadership position, perhaps even impress some people with our idea. However we fail to realise that the most beneficial thing we can do for the Kingdom is to be faithful in the post the King has put us in. If the King has not made us a judge in Israel, then to seek to become one, however noble our reasons, is an act of rebellion.

Family Camp Meeting

HOW SHALL WE GO?

July 26 - 29, 2023 | Camp Akita, 1684 Knox Rd 1200 N, Gilson, IL 61436

Jesus authorizes those who would come after Him to, "Therefore, Go." We will reflect on that theme of the Great Commission within the context of these turbulent days. Our Family Camp Meeting provides an opportunity to get away, to reset our spiritual batteries, and to enjoy the beautiful outdoors.

Activities

Camp Akita provides a variety of fun activities for every age, including the zip line, archery, pony rides, and more!

Musical Guest

Hugo Yin is a Christian singer, author and inspirational speaker born in Los Angeles, California. In 2002 he formed part of a vocal worship group called Forgiven and in 2008 he decided to follow his calling to be a full time music minister. Hugo has traveled throughout Latin America, Europe and the US and Canada singing about how the Lord has saved and changed his life.



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Visit our website at www.ilcsda.org/campmeeting for more information.

WELCOME TO OUR TEAM



Josant Barrientos Jr.

Youth Director

“ Affectionately known as “Pastor B.” or “Josant,” I was born into a pastoral family in San Benito, Texas, and grew up in Central America as a missionary kid in El Salvador. I was ordained to the ministry, having the opportunity to serve God as Associate and Assistant Pastor, Chaplain, Teacher, Sales Manager, and in the communication field as a broadcaster and production manager in two Adventist Radio Stations. I graduated with a bachelors in theology and an MBA from Washington Adventist University and at the moment am working on completing my MDiv degree from Andrews University.

God blessed me in marrying my sweetheart Claudya Barrientos, my wife of 10 years now, and we have two gorgeous little girls named Emma Giulianna & Abby Alessandra. They are our happiness and joy from above!

I love outdoor activities, technology, languages, traveling and taking pictures, but I am excited for the opportunity to serve God as the Youth Ministries Department Director and help children & youth understand how awesome it is to have an active, constant, and relevant relationship with God.

We praise God for His amazing way of directing our lives and guiding us to be part of the wonderful family of the Illinois Conference. As a family, we are delighted to minister together sharing our love and dedication to the service of God.

”

WELCOME TO OUR TEAM



Vitalii Ganulich

Ukrainian SDA Mission Group of Chicago

I was born in Ukraine in the family of a pastor. At the age of 20, I was called to pastoral ministry. When I got married and our first child was born, my wife and I decided to initiate the creation of an Adventist Kindergarten in order to provide our child with Christian education. Also, together we created a Christian church-cafe, a youth project in which refreshments were combined with discussions about God and the meaning of life. I was also engaged in ministry for people addicted to drugs, alcohol, and gambling. Additionally, I carried ministry in prisons.

In recent years, from 2019 to 2022, I was the vice president of Hope Media Group. In Ukraine, we have a powerful TV channel, "Nadia," broadcasting 24/7, radio "Voice of Hope," a telephone Contact Center and an online school of the Bible, united in one Media Group. When the war started, and Russia attacked my country, Ukraine, I became a project manager of the charity project of ADRA and the World Food Program. We distributed up to 4,000 tons of food to the affected population monthly. I continue to work on this project even now, remotely. I moved to the USA because of the war. Due to the loss of homes, work, and shelling, 7 million people left Ukraine during the war, and another 10 million were displaced within the country. Please, pray for peace in Ukraine.

In Chicago, we created a Ukrainian-speaking community, where I am now pastoring.

CONTINUACIÓN DE LA PÁGINA 3

4. Se comunica claramente: La comunicación clara y abierta es esencial para el liderazgo colaborativo. En Proverbios 15:1, se nos dice que “la respuesta suave calma el enojo, la palabra áspera lo enciende”.

5. Trabaja en equipo: El trabajo en equipo es esencial para el liderazgo colaborativo. En 1 Corintios 12:12-14, se nos enseña que aunque hay muchos miembros en el cuerpo de Cristo, todos son necesarios y trabajan juntos para lograr un objetivo común.

En conclusión: no podemos permitir que seamos líderes dinosaurios, debemos trascender y dejar atrás las viejas usanzas y tradiciones que impiden que ejerzamos un liderazgo colaborativo. La Biblia nos enseña que con el liderazgo colaborativo seremos líderes servidores, humildes, que escuchan, saben comunicarse claramente y trabajan en equipo. Al adoptar estos principios, los líderes pueden lograr un cambio generacional positivo y ayudar a su congregación a crecer y prosperar.

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Relationships remind you that life is about more than what you can accomplish, more than what you can produce, and even more than the bottom line of your organization. Relationships are essential to the soul of a leader, and it is crucial for you to have relationships that sustain you.

As you begin to think more about the blueprint for your leadership, I would like to encourage you to consider modeling it after the life of Jesus. The way of Jesus will help you remain more connected to Jesus, committed to your mission, and will help you be at your best for your most important relationships.

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It is far easier in leading to talk about targets, KPI's (Key Performance Indicators), goals, vision, and other metrics than to delve into the world of what swirls beneath the surface. I would like to suggest one possibility why we find many who appear to be good leaders falling—we have applauded and worshipped what is above the waterline while the riptides below seized the moment and dragged them down. We worship “leadership” and ignore “development.” And I know there exists below the surface even a darker whirlpool—the art of my own self-deception. Is there any wonder Paul exclaimed, “What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?” (Romans 7.24) The developmental side of leading places us in vulnerable places. And yet, I continue to find, that in that vulnerable space, the Greatest Leader shows up in unimaginable ways. If Saul can go on in life to become Paul, then perhaps each of us can grow into that new name that awaits in eternity.

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