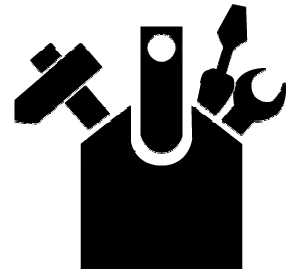


Equipping the Equipper

Looking Ahead – Planning for Effective Ministry



Questions to Think About:

1. What is strategic planning for ministry?
2. Is planning for ministry Biblical, or is it an offshoot of the corporate business model?

The Biblical Basis for Planning:

Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. –Luke 14:25-33, ESV

Old Testament Planning Examples:

1. Moses and Jethro (Ex. 16-18)
2. Joshua and the Conquest of Canaan (Joshua)
3. Nehemiah and the Wall (Nehemiah)

New Testament Planning Examples:

1. Jesus and the training of the 12 Disciples, Paul's preparation and conversion
2. Disciples and the Implementation of Deacons- (Acts 6)
3. Paul's Plan for Planting and Leading Churches (Acts, Epistles)

Ministry Planning Defined: Ministry planning begins with a leadership vision that sets ministry goals and maps out the requirements for the team to reach them. It looks ahead so you can allocate people and resources, prepare for significant milestones and activities, and anticipate problems and opportunities. Ministries need plans to optimize growth and development according to biblical priorities.

If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail. – Benjamin Franklin

Key Requirements for an Effective Ministry Plan:

- Clear Biblical _____ and _____ for the ministry – derived from the Biblical goals and objectives of the church.
- Clearly defined team member _____ and _____ – who do you need on the team, and what are they responsible to do?
- A list of _____ needed
- A detailed _____ of ministry events, themes, responsibilities etc...
- A _____ plan for the team and for those who are participating in the ministry
- Regular Ministry _____ and _____ – Are you meeting your goals and objectives?

Setting Goals:

- Goals should be _____ and achievable
- Goals should be _____ and measurable
- Goals must be clearly _____ to all team members

Recruiting Team Members:

- It is always better to identify potential team members and ask them to join, than to put out a general notice of need.
- Look for _____ and _____ people
- Match team needs with people who have skill and experience when possible

Obtaining Resources:

- _____ what resources you need for your ministry, ask others opinions
- Find out _____ requirements – what will you need to buy?
- Go through the proper _____ to request needed resources

Creating a Calendar:

- In general, calendars should include:
 - Start and end _____ of the ministry if applicable
 - Theme Nights/Topics for each date if applicable
 - Major _____
 - Staff _____
 - Key staff _____ if known ahead of time
 - Dates when there is no ministry (ie. Holidays etc...)
 - Anything out of the ordinary for the ministry
- You might need two calendars, one for participants and one for team members.
- Everyone involved in the ministry should have the opportunity to receive a calendar

Communicating Effectively:

- The ministry should have _____ staff meetings and training
- Ministry leaders need to be able to _____ each other by phone, email and/or text message
- Ministry leaders need to be able to reach ministry _____

Evaluating a Ministry:

- _____ Evaluation – How am I doing as a member/leader in the ministry?
- _____ Evaluation – Communicating with the team about how we are doing together – Staff Meetings
- _____ Evaluation – Asking people in the ministry if they think the ministry is achieving its' goals.

In Class Assignment:

With those sitting at your table, come up with a quick ministry plan and calendar for a college age singles ministry meeting at 7pm on Fridays at your home for the month of November 2014.

1. What would be your goals?
2. What resources would you need?
3. Who would you need to help you?
4. What would your calendar look like?
5. How would you communicate?
6. How would you evaluate?