

ACHIEVING SPIRITUAL FERVOR AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Missionary Educators of Latin
America and the Caribbean

Rocky Grams and Jim Billings

INGREDIENTS OF TRAINING WHICH ACCOMPANY THE DEVELOPMENT OF FERVOR

- 1. Time in God's presence
- 2. Time in the Word
- 3. Unhurried worship
- 4. Finding opportunities to minister
- 5. Staying close to true believers
- 6. Facing dire circumstances
- 7. Being exposed to men and women of faith.

Seeking fervor (i.e. passion)...

- 8. Holy passion to receive what they see evidenced in those around them.
- 9. Responding to the Holy Spirit's correction.
- 10. Fleeing duplicity, sensuality, a spirit of competition.
- 11. Simple faith and obedience versus an analytical and critical spirit

Seeking academic excellence in leaders

- “The transformation paradigm... emphasizes co-creation, interpretation, discovery, experimentation and a critical perspective. Rather than learning ‘leadership’ as it is known by others, learners make sense of their own experiences, discover and nurture leadership in themselves and in each other, not in isolation but in community.”
- *Leadership in Organizations Current Issues and Key Trends (Antonacopoulou, Elena)*

Methods of 'Learning leadership'

- “Immersed as they are in what Vail calls an environment of permanent white water, constant change requires something beyond managing to stay on a predetermined course. It requires leading, i.e. learning whether changing conditions are altering the landscape of needs...”
- *Leadership in Organizations Current Issues and Key Trends (Antonacopoulou, E., Bento, R.)*

MISTAKEN AIMS

- FUZZY VISION
- DISTURBED VISION
- DECEIVING VISION

Causes:

Wrong values

Lack of definition

Seeking recognition

MISTAKEN AIMS

- MISTAKEN END RESULTS
 - * Armchair theologians
 - * Administrative gray flannel suit wearers
 - * Echoes
 - * Cardboard collectors
 - * Ecclesiastic mafia bosses
 - * Lead soldiers

What “product” do we seek?

- Servant leaders
- Missionaries
- Pastors
- Teachers
- Apostles
- Evangelists
- Teachers
- Music ministers

What “product” do we seek?

- Writers
- Graphic design artists
- Sculptors
- Film producers
- Artists
- Children’s ministers
- Youth ministers
- Company launchers/sensitive C.E.O.’s

CRUCIAL DETERMINATIONS

- Connectivity
- Flexibility
- Openness
- Firm attachment to Pentecostal legacy
- Anointing
- Practical application
- Clarity of emphasis:
 Leadership, Values, Ministry

CONNECTIVITY

- With God
- Self-leadership
(Vocation and divine gifting)
- With the local church
- With the National church
- With the global church
- With the need (The Lost)

OPENNESS

- TO SOCIETY
- TO OTHER TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

FLEXIBILITY

- Course packaging
- Scheduling
- Creative options

PRACTICALITY

- Application versus information storage
- Consistent evaluation of requirements
- Consistent oversight of class assignments
- Leadership demonstrated in lifestyle

ILLUSTRATIONS AND EXAMPLES

- Connectivity
- Openness
- Flexibility
- Practicality
- Clarity of focus

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: LEADING BY EXAMPLE

- Definition of excellence
- Application of the principle
 - To administrators
 - To instructors
 - To students
 - To the institution

WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS?

- Maintain the status quo
- Isolationism
- Intellectual elitism
- Connecting with living models of spiritual passion and academic excellence.