

???HOW CAN A MINISTRY TEAM DEVELOP A PLAN IN A CREATIVE COLLABORATION WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT???

This article provides principles and an example of a ministry team developing a plan in an active faith filled partnership with the Holy Spirit.

The Goals:

1. Clarity for every person on the team on what we are seeking to invest our time, money and energy to produce.
2. Each person is empowered as they see why they are on the team and what they can contribute.
3. There is intentional, prayerful dependence on the Holy Spirit.

The Process:

1. There are three basic steps: "What are we doing?", "Why are we doing it?" and "How will we move forward?"
2. Each step should begin with the affirmation that Christ is building his church via the ministry of the Spirit. The Spirit distributes the resources and gifts through people and invites us into humble trusting obedience to be a part of what Christ is doing. Begin with an unhurried time of praise, thanksgiving and prayer to see as He sees.
3. I suggest starting with clarifying WHAT the team is seeking to do because people are usually already thinking about it. They have shown up with some idea in their head of a task, project, or service. The goal is to get close to all of us seeing the same goal. This is an opportunity to let the Spirit remind us of the bigger picture of what He is doing in lives.
4. WHY may at first seem obvious or even unnecessary. But I often find the process of asking "WHY?" and writing it down is helpful. Usually we need to revisit why we are seeking to accomplish a specific ministry at least five times to get closer to a motive that will energize us and help us endure when we encounter resistance.
5. HOW is primarily focused on HOW we will proceed RIGHT NOW. The world changes too quickly to determine detailed action steps for most projects before we even start. We are better to adopt the mindset of re-planning our plan often.
The proverb, "No plan survives contact with the enemy" is helpful in reminding us to look around at what the Spirit has provided today and focus on obedience – faith filled actions – right now.

Once we take those steps we will be at a new place in the journey and we can look around and determine the next few steps. We have the destination clearly marked for us in WHAT and WHY. The HOW we will get there becomes a daily – looking to God for the “bread” we need for that day.

The example that follows was composed from guiding many teams and boards through the process over the past 17 years. The black hand written text would be the work done by the team – often over ½ day. The red comments are a few of my thoughts or questions that were used as I facilitated the process.

Feel free to contact me at rking@ciu.edu with questions or suggestions.

-1-

EXAMPLE OF
A GROUP OF
people teaching
children

RED II
some
of questions &
thoughts as
they created I
OFFERED

1. WHAT ARE WE DOING?

DESCRIBE
WHAT CHANGES

Describe
The BEST
children's
ministry
you could
be excited
to be in!

TEACHING CHILDREN
BIBLE TRUTH

GIVING THEM OPPORTUNITIES TO

→ EXPRESS FAITH IN CHRIST

→ MAKING A COMMITMENT
to be a life long follower
of Jesus

Picture
it!

→ GROW IN RELATING TO
Jesus BY PRAISING, THANKING,
LEARNING ABOUT, & TELLING OTHERS
THE GOOD NEWS IN LOVE & MERCY

Think of
WHO?

Think of
It Going
Beyond A
ONE HOUR
CLASS?

WE MUST GO
TO LEAST REACHED!



EVERY BOY & GIRL
3 years old - 10 years old
in our community

Not Just Come
to us

→ AND ENCOURAGING & ASSISTING PARENTS

- TO BE PRAYING FOR & WITH children
- TO BE REVIEWING the BIBLE LESSONS
- TO BE READY for TEACHABLE MOMENTS
CREATED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT in
choosing - & - OBEYING Jesus' WAY.

"RED"
are my questions
and thinking "
as
the
facilitator

- 2 -

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

ASK
WHY
5
Times!

→ WE NEED TO TEACH
CHILDREN OR FAMILIES
WON'T join the church

↓ why?

→ WE NEED TO provide a safe
place - so parents can be
in the "BIG Church"

→ WE WANT TO see CHILDREN
become CHRISTIANS -
IT IS OUR FUTURE

→ Jesus LOVES CHILDREN!

→ GOD DELIGHTS IN GROWING
HIS FAMILY AND Deserves
TO receive Honor & Glory
From Every person!

THE
REAL WHY?
SHOULD
ENERGIZE
me to

TRUST

ENDURE
Love

NO MATTER the cost
joyfully MAKING the sacrifice
TO Invest in a CAUSE
WORTH OUR EFFORT!

Is this
why all
there
is?

why?
↓

"RED =
my questions, comments
As facilitator

-3-
How ?

LEADERSHIP
is much more
of a process
of revisiting
good questions
than the
quest for

1
PERFECT
ANSWER

make
clear
covenant
commitments
to
each
other

AS A TEAM we will
revisit the following questions
Every 3 to 4 months - or -
AS NEEDED so we can invest
WHAT GOD provides in WHAT He
has invited us into w/ Him!

CHRIST IS
BUILDING
HIS church!

① Do we have prayer support BY &
FOR us that is specific AND
COVERS OUR "WHAT?" AND "WHY?"

② How will we invest our TIME?

- WHAT goes on our calendar?
- WHAT NEEDS OUR ATTENTION?

- Are we spending time AS A TEAM -
praying

playing - LAUGHING - CELEBRATING

& PRODUCING TOGETHER

Grows
FAITH
&!
JOY!

③ Are we PRACTISING - "NO ONE SERVES ALONE"
→ WHAT else CAN we DO to MULTIPLY
OUR TEAM MEMBERS?

④ Do we NEED MONEY OR OTHER RESOURCES?

⑤ Are we ANTICIPATING & PREPARING FOR?

- PROBLEMS
- CONFLICT
- ATTACK

→ RESISTANCE

→ FATIGUE, LOSS, DEPLETION

JESUS
SAID
WATCH OUT!
EXPECT
TROUBLE!
BE READY!