

My First Student Journal as a Religious Studies Intern

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Truthfully, I had no idea what was expected of me, but soon in the first meeting between the senior pastor, Francisco Araujo and presbyter Marcia Moura I knew that I was about to face an exciting challenge that would require discipline, focus, study, and wisdom. The meeting was long enough for me to be able to learn about the difficult moment the church worship team is going through, and how it was affecting the entire church and putting so much pressure on the church leaders. Although, everyone involved in the ministry of worship is very committed, a series of disagreements and exalted spirits, gossips, were taking place. As a worship team member, I know something weird was going on. However, the meeting clarified that what was behind some of the odd behaviors of some team members. I could quickly realize how my internship would be used to benefit the entire group, I would have to follow the leader, execute some of his work under his and the pastor supervision. As a considerable part of the internship, I must develop strategies to achieve the problem of the worship team as a change agent, implementing a training program for the team to help to develop them to become healthy and servant leaders, like Jesus through weekly lessons, practical assignments, readings etc.

#### **The Worship Leader**

Following the leader of the group, Mr. Ricardo Paiva was able to realize the dedication in preparing everything weekly so that at the end of the week everything would be perfect. He gave me the opportunity to put his hands on and soon I was along with him developing the whole rehearsal of the team. I was able to do the schedule, choose the repertoire, change notes and plan changes for the team. While it was pleasurable, but also sad to know how stressed Mr. Paiva was and how he thought that he cannot count on others, because no one seemed to care about the process he faces to have everything ready for Friday's rehearsal and consequently on Sunday

evening. Mr. Paiva was profoundly sensitive, deeply hurt by some members of the group and having many problems between the sound table and those team members. It was so serious that some threatened to leave the church totally if he fails to listen to their requests.

### **Strategies and Meeting**

Together, Pastor Francisco and Mr. Paiva developed some strategies, aiming to improve unity and decided to have a meeting with the worship team. The meeting was fruitful, I was designated to talk about some of the most important team's issues and offer some suggestions of how to improve and how to consecrate our lives to serve the Lord. The most difficult part of the speech was the mixed audience. There were young and mature adults as well as teenagers. Even trying hard to meet the need of a proper way to communicate, one parent called me and said very rude words to me. It was my first-time on my own dealing with a conflict directly, since the beginning of my internship. I was patience and let that angry lady say everything was in her heart, I just begged the Holy Spirit to convince her of good intentions, and how she was being unfair not giving me opportunity to explain why I did what I did. It seemed impossible, but the Holy Spirit intervened and everything ended well.

### **The Training.**

The first time of training I used some visual aid, like Power Point, quotes and examples from The Holy Bible and the book, *The Servant Leadership* (Greenleaf, 1991). Everyone responded great and was a self-reflexional time, followed by a questionnaire. It gave me so much insight that I knew that God will help me to accomplish what He called me to do through the internship and grow in faith and knowledge. I'm looking forward to next classes and to see how The Holy Spirit will moves in us.

References

Greenleaf, R. (1991). *The servant as leader* ([Rev. ed.]). Indianapolis, IN: Robert K. Greenleaf Center.