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DML801

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Cohort 124

## **Personal And Ministry Development - LE1**

### **Section 1**

As I approached this assignment, I understood it as where I am in my personal and ministry development and understanding that ministry and personal life run parallel. It was my understanding that if I were doing ministry everything else in my life would follow according to his will. As I matured and life started to happen, I realized that life is more than ministry obligation, it is about growth and authority that I can be a better Husband, Father, and Pastor all at the same time without any of my responsibilities being slighted or mis-managed. Both Dreaming Big by Biehl and D's. Welborn and Sanders videos have helped me tremendously with developing a practical world view. Below are a few points that I identified with from both readings.

- **Dreaming Big: Clear Vision.** This is something that I must adapt to in my personal life as I have been given significant authority in leading people. I must work on the vision being clear. People follow when the vision is clear and achievable. It also takes consistency and realistic achievable goals. In my experience the hardest thing to do is to communicate the vision to the people that follow you.

- **Dreaming Big: Break Down.** This will be my next step into achieving a big dream. Breaking it down goes along with the phrase “Rome was not built in a day.” This is truly a process for me. I had become overwhelmed with the end goal and wanted it finished with no realistic time frame, which then sets me up for major disappointment. I must learn how to break it down into steps and achieve small goals so that I can keep track of the progress and help my team in ministry or personally to be able to come alongside of me.
- **Dreaming Big: Surround Yourself with the Right People.** This is key for me as well as I have assumed that everyone who is around me will understand the vision I have. Unfortunately, that is not the case. In Jim Colling book “Good to Great” he highlights the fact that we must have the right people on the bus. I have had to learn this to help achieve the vision I have set out - the right people help achieve the vision.
- **Dreaming Big: Taking Risk.** I have noticed in my leadership I have taken risks, but they were not calculated risks. I understand the risk aspect that being calculated is key to risk. I also found myself taking risks and cushioned them with faith, thinking that the way I could get people to follow me is if I told them the risks were a faith walk.
- **Dreaming Big: Perseverance:** it may be hard, and it may be long, but to persevere has been one of the things that I feel is one of my strongest aspects. I have learned how to persevere when all things have been stacked against me. However, I am learning that if I plan better and articulate my expectations it would not be as hard to achieve certain goals in my life. I do feel that one of my strongest aspects is perseverance.
- **Dr. Walborn “Season of Grief”:** I tend to go into “fix it” mode not only in my marriage but also in my leadership. I know that this has hindered my growth and has caused me to

burn out as every time there is a problem I try to find ways to fix it. My wife, my coworkers, and ministry leaders all want me to listen to their heart and not just try and fix the problem. This is an indicator that I hear you, but I am not listening. You can tell that I am preparing a response before understanding the true situation. My people can feel that.

- **Dr. Walborn “Season of Grief”:** Regarding grieving well, I have not grieved well concerning the circumstances of my past church experiences. This has caused me not to be fully in at my new church where I am Sr. Pastor. The next few months I have been working on this so that I can fully engage what God has for me in this season of my life.
- **Dr. Walborn “Season of Grief”** A takeaway that I have known since my undergraduate years is that grieving is not just a one-time thing. Grieving should be part of our life practice; we will continue to lose things and if we do not grieve it will come out in how we lead others and our families.
- **Dr. Sanders “Assessment Lecture”** One of the things I pulled away from this is how important it is in our journey to understand human development. Human development is based on where you grew up and the type of family structure you are in as well. I think for me understanding that makes me a better leader.
- **Dr. Sanders: “Assessment Lecture – Mentorship”** This is hard for me. I have so many wounds in this area, not because I have had bad mentors but because I feel like no one will understand me. Vulnerability is hard because I struggle with doing it my way without help. I know people like me, but I struggle with if they will understand me.

Highlighting the three texts, I understand that the above takeaway has helped me look at my personal and ministry life as one, not something that is separate. It has also helped me look ahead

on the things I have to be aware of. I can not look at my life as a two-way street in God's plan but a one-way street to God and his purpose for my life.

## **Section 2**

Reflection on Assessment 16PF, MBTI, 360, MSDI

I realize that the hard wiring of my brain is different. Work does not come easy to me because my brain is more concrete, thinking things through is my strong suit. I am vigilant and not trusting of others. This is connected to the abandonment by my father. I do take offense to criticism thinking that it is personal to me because I am such a concrete thinker on how to make things better. Whenever someone questions my deductions it seems like they are against me instead of for me.

The feedback I received from my peers is accurate. I do have big vision and understanding however the busyness of my schedule does not allow me to see things through fully. I hold off in pouring into my leaders because of fear- if I did all this work for them they will end up leaving in the end, so I push leaders away because I do not want to get close to anyone or invest. The feedback I received from Dr. Sanders and Dr. Rehmer is an accurate assessment of my development.

The MSDI highlights my strengths as a minister and missionary. I would like to further understand what that actually means for me and how does that fit in with my personal and ministry development so that I can be aware of it and have best next steps practices.

As I figure out how I am wired, these assessments give me a good understanding of where I am currently. I do agree with Dr. Sanders who argued that we can grow out of some of these assessments, especially with real transformation and healing. It is my hope that as I

continue to understand myself as a leader and develop skills, I too can achieve who God has created me to be.