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SF505

Personal Assessment & Goal Setting Paper

Spiritually,

During the semester, I learned that the calling in my life is a constantly evolving truth. That the call of God is a constant. I've learned that I have a centered set. I'm not a typical Christian leader, I am dynamic, and as I focus on Christ, I see the fruit of my obedience vs. a bounded set that would hinder me and constrain me into a box. I'm not that kind of a leader. I'm centered on Christ.

Socially

I learned from our discussions (triads) that my peers (especially the men) have so much that they are bringing to the table. One student shared about his victory in substance abuse. He often shared about his growth through NA. His love for his mother and the years it took for his mother to trust him again. That was incredibly powerful to me.

One student who is a good friend now shared the struggles with class work, work life, and the tension in his home. He has been experiencing a separation from his wife. As a triad, we would pray together and challenge each other with the lessons from the class setting. The readings as well. Learning how to navigate those troubled waters with books, handouts, videos, etc. We learned a lot from the conflict resolution video from Pastor Warren as well.

Physically

I saw the importance of rest or full nights of sleep. As I learned more about that, it helped me put things in their proper place. If I'm well rested, well fed, and not thirsty then my

performance and care of people around me will be that much better. I learned that from reading Wanda Walborn's, "*Can I Really Get Close to God?*". By setting time aside, we do enter into a more intimate setting. Moreover, we allow the Lord to work in us by cutting out things and adding others. To work in me. I definitely will continue to grow in this.

Cognitively

My mind has truly grown a lot during the course. I learned about the intricacies of theology and what theology looks like in practical application. I felt the importance of prioritizing my study and practicing intimacy with the Lord. One class discussion that helped was "The Leaders Personality and Calling & Developing Intercession for the Leader". In this class, I learned about CATs, ORGs, OPs, and REVs. A CAT is a catalyzer. These leaders are the change agents. They can take chaos and add something of value. These are usually church planters. Those who follow after CATs are Orgs. Orgs (organizers) thrive with chaos; they are gifted to take chaos, bring order, and add structure. They learn how to keep things running smoothly. Most dead churches would be known as having an operator headship. I saw myself in Catalyzer. A revivor brings life to a ruined church. Catalyzers usually bring new life with fresh vision. They essentially revive the church to a functioning place again, similar to a newly planted church.

God wants to breathe new life into old wineskins. I believe that God has called me to be a catalyzer to chaotic situations. I walk the streets of Bedford Stuyvesant, and I see revival. I can only do that with a wife or partner with great organizational skills. Finally, as the church grows, I see a reviver in me. I have a passion for reigniting love and the pursuit of God. Moreover, I believe that within five years, I will have a house church or be a pastor within an associated church of my pastor. I will be commissioned to bring new fire to that place.

Emotionally

“Emotional or inner healing is the application of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His healing power in the root memories and/or wounding of our past. It allows us to experience God’s grace and mercy at the core of our being, rather than dealing only with surface and /or symptomatic issues.”¹

This semester was hard on me emotionally. My stepfather passed away in March. He was 89 and had struggled with Parkinson’s disease since 2018 when he was diagnosed. The class helped me to understand that loss is a part of life. That loss is a part of ministry. I was equipped and able to support my mom and my family. I take time to mourn when I can. Grieving is still hard, but I manage to take time for it as I feel it.

SMART

(Specific, Measurable, Action-Oriented, Realistic, and Time-Oriented)

My goal is to graduate from Alliance. Once I graduate, I hope to grow in my leadership at church and be responsible for a faith community. I have a heart for the city and global missions.

I’m 44 and have had a passion for ministry for over ten years. I’ve often felt derailed. I divorced, moved to another state, changed churches, and have had rough relationships. It has not been easy, but I believe with certainty that the plans God has for me are good and are for a future.

My action-oriented plan: finish my degree, pray about God's plans, and share them with my pastors. I will surround myself with catalyzers and organizers to create something out of chaos and provide organization. I must locate operators who can manage an organization into a working model.

¹ Quote from Dr. Walborn during class discussion on Emotional Healing.

I will ask for leaders and intercessors to partner with me. I believe I believe the Lord will provide a wife and partner for me to do this. I will do this while attending Alliance for my M. Div after I finish my MPS.

Is this realistic? In 2019 I shared with some customers at work that I was thinking of starting a worship night in my apartment. To my surprise, I had at least ten people interested immediately, and almost all of them were not believers. They all simply believed in me. They believed in what was in my life. Their faith in me had grown through the years of serving coffee to them. I had volunteers signing up for cleaning, cooking, etc., and to lead worship.

How Will I Reach These Goals?

I will maintain my therapy sessions. I have maintained therapy (counseling) sessions since 2020 during the pandemic. This is incredibly helpful. I will pursue others who have strengths in my weaknesses. I will network and put myself in uncomfortable places. I will maintain my grief journal. I've learned that there are many opportunities to grieve and rejoice in the journey. Making space for your heart to experience that is hugely beneficial.