

Professors: Dr. Rob Reimer & Dr. Martin Sanders

Student: Nixon Cesar

Course: DLM811

Learning Experience 3: Spiritual Coach/Mentor Assignment

Firstly, I realized that I tend to rush into commitments and make significant life-altering decisions without careful consideration. This includes decisions related to marriage and ministry. The trigger for this behavior is the fear of missing out on opportunities. I perceive a risk of losing a person or an opportunity, which prompts me to act hastily. My desired outcome is to approach these situations prayerfully, seek feedback and advice from trusted friends, family, and individuals whose judgment I value and respect. It is crucial for me to remember that I am ultimately responsible for the direction of my own life.

Secondly, through my family voyage project, I have identified recurring patterns of dysfunction and sin across generations. These patterns include anger, violence, alcohol and gambling addiction, infidelity, and involvement in witchcraft. I strongly condemn the sin of witchcraft. While I lost money through gambling once over 30 years ago and have since refrained from gambling, the trigger for my anger stems from continuous public embarrassment. In response, rather than resorting to violence, I tend to suppress my anger and tolerate situations to avoid outbursts and aggression. My desired outcome is to establish clear boundaries and assertively address issues, respectfully drawing a line and not allowing abuse to go unaddressed by setting and communicating clear expectations.

Finally, the family voyage project has also brought to light a great deal of trauma and the need for healing. The ultimate desired outcome is complete healing. However, I acknowledge that the healing process cannot be rushed. It involves engaging in one-on-one conversations before considering family meetings and group discussions. Repentance, acknowledging wrongs committed against one another, envisioning a better future, and making a commitment to break the cycle and develop new healthy habits are important steps in this process.

I understand that spiritual growth is an ongoing and boundless journey. I will persist in immersing myself in the river of the Holy Spirit. It is within the river that I can clearly hear God's voice, and it is there that I am most impactful in my ministry. I will refrain from spreading myself too thin, as that diminishes my effectiveness. I will vigilantly watch for and be cautious of anything that activates generational patterns of dysfunction and sin within my family, as I acknowledge that these factors directly influence my leadership abilities. I will also resist evil spirits that cyclically look for footholds in my family through these familiar doors, the generational patterns.

Coach Summary: Note from Pastor James (House of bread community church, Taunton, MA)

During my mentoring session with Mr. Cesar, I find him to be a highly intelligent individual who loves God with all his heart, mind and soul. Mr. Cesar has extensive experience in church leadership with many success stories to celebrate. However, as we continued our mentoring session, I also realize that there are areas of Mr. Cesar's life that he must address that cannot be ignored or delayed. They can serve as roadblocks in his personal, spiritual and ministerial commitments. Mr. Cesar and I talked at length, and we identified areas that require immediate attention; from precipitation to make decisions,

to unaddressed generational behavior and family trauma. We discussed each of the areas, we talked about triggers, and outcomes. I believe addressing these issues will help Mr. Cesar tremendously in his ministerial and personal endeavors going forward.