



Leadership Link

Happy Christmas



Dear friend

Time pressure is a constant battle for Leaders. The problem tends to be cyclical: sometimes it seems to be working out ok, but then after a while I find myself going round in circles! If we are not careful we can become reactive to circumstances rather than responsive to God's priorities.

Consequently, at strategic times, I review my time balance and plan ahead. For me this is around Christmas, June, and also in late September. I find the following questions and considerations helpful. They are not original but have been gleaned (sounds better than "stolen"!) from a variety of sources over the years, and are generally applied to my own diary rather than the Church calendar, although there is inevitably a degree of overlap. Of course, this often means saying "no " to good and commendable things, but also tends to lead to a higher sense of fulfilment over the longer period. Bill Hybels talks about Church leadership being a marathon not a sprint, and if I am to maintain my equilibrium and my momentum in the longer term I need to be constantly re-adjusting my time allocations.

Am I leading? Leaders are primarily involved in two things that those without a leadership gift will not do with any real effectiveness: casting vision and raising up other leaders. The first involves me thinking ahead and living in the future, and so planning time into my diary for reading, thinking, learning, and listening to the Spirit's voice. The second involves me spending time with specific individuals who are potential leaders or moving up a level in leadership. This is a major time commitment and I generally plan fortnightly meetings, which allows me to maintain regular contact even if some cancellations occur.

Am I listening? While we may like to hear the Holy Spirit's voice directly, sometimes he speaks to me through people who challenge me and keep me sharp. I need to ensure that I am accessible to such people through visiting, or by simply building spare time into my diary for interruptions! In addition, we need to remember that authority is given rather than taken. We gain our authority to lead from God, but also by recognition and consensus from those we lead, and "knowing the condition of our flocks" (Proverbs 27:23) is an important factor in this whole process.

Am I ministering? Ministry is about serving others and carries with it a sense of call and gifting. The danger is that I simply manage the organisation or the staff instead of allowing my call and gifts to determine my role. That is not to suggest that we live in an ideal world where everything else can be ignored, but rather that we do not allow the main things to become side-lined.

Am I modelling? Paul writes: "Follow my example even as I follow the example of Christ" (1 Cor 11:1). If the average Church member followed my example, would he or she become more Christ-like and a balanced disciple? For many of us as Church Leaders this means intentionally finding time to spend with non-Christian friends. (If you don't have any friends then enemies will do!)

The answers to these questions and others like them are essential if I am to be intentional in using my time wisely - my diary will not reflect these principles by accident or intuition! Your list of things to plan first will be different from mine, but the questions are worth asking on a regular basis.

Yours for His Kingdom Alan Myer

Dates for 2008



And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:2 NKJ

Saturday 2nd February 2008

The Oval, Harpenden 10.00am - 4.00pm

Sat 1st March

Cell Leaders & Supervisors Training
Southampton

Sat 19th April

Cell Leaders & Supervisors Training
York

6-8th May

Making Cell Groups Work
Church Leaders Residential Training
Hoddesdon

18th-19th June

Church Leaders Symposium
Harpenden

Sat 4th October

Cell Leaders & Supervisors Training
Harpenden

14th-16th October

Making Cell Church Leadership Work
Residential Training
Hoddesdon

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