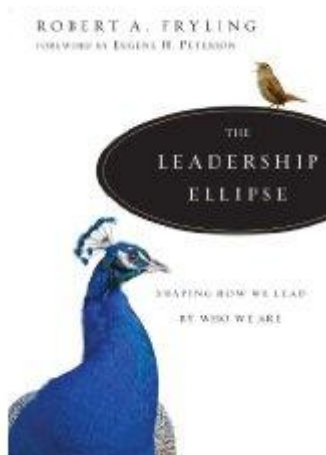


Mission Possible Ezine

January, 2010

A slightly shorter version of the Ezine this month,
due to January being mostly taken up with holidays...

Books



The Leadership Ellipse: Shaping How We Lead by Who We Are, by Robert A Fryling, with a foreword by Eugene Peterson.

Fryling is one of the InverVarsity Press's publishers, and in this book offers suggestions for pastors, politicians, princesses or any other person who has a commitment to Jesus Christ and, at the same time, is called to leadership in any of its forms. He hits the bull's-eye with his reminder and challenge that Christian leaders are ultimately called to have their outer worlds in harmony with their inner worlds--and vice versa!

Not content to simply offer us this deepest meaning of integrity, he also suggests spiritual practices to attain it and strengthen it. In doing so, Bob Fryling proves to be a reliable mentor for leadership in the Christian tradition.

"A stumble may prevent a fall." -
Thomas Fuller

Due for publication in March 2010, from InterVarsity Press

leadership

Murray McPhail, the director of Computer Future and The Computer Broker, has a number of things to say about how he runs a business. All could equally apply to how a minister runs his church. 'The linchpins of a good business are trust, honesty and integrity.' He offers seven keys to good management that could easily be re-thought in terms of ministry leadership:

If you don't have enemies, you
don't have character. ~ Paul
Newman

1. Work smart, and still work hard.
2. Hire the right people and leverage off the skills of others.
3. Teach others how to plan, set goals and delegate.
4. Look for leaders and give them the opportunity to grow.
5. Never ask someone to do something you wouldn't do yourself.
6. Never compromise on the company's integrity and honesty.
7. Never forget where you came from, and be prepared to get your hands dirty occasionally.

From Management Matters, August 2009. Article by Christine Toner.

Management by Imagination



The perception that good management is closely linked to good measurement runs deep. How often do you hear these old saws repeated: "If you can't measure it, it doesn't count"; "If you can't measure it, you can't manage it"; "If you can't measure it, it won't happen"? We like these sayings because they're comforting. The act of measurement provides security; if we know enough about something to measure it we almost certainly have some control over it.

But however comforting it can be to stick with what we can measure, we run the risk of expunging something really important. What's more, we won't see what we're missing because we don't know what it is that we don't know. By sticking simply to what we can measure, we come to imagine a small and constrained world in which we are prisoners of a "reality" that is in fact an edifice we've unknowingly constructed around ourselves.

From a piece in Harvard Business by Roger Martin.

ministry

If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted or Beethoven composed music or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.' – Martin Luther King, Jr.

Peter Bregman has written a piece called [How to Handle Silence, the Worst Kind of Feedback](#).

It's a follow-up to an article he wrote called, [When Your Voicemails and Emails Go Unanswered, What Should You Do?](#) In both pieces he discusses the problems – and insecurities - that arise when you're trying to get a response from someone who doesn't regard



responding as an essential to a business relationship. While one person feels that it's merely good manners to respond, the other thinks 'just' responding for the sake of letting someone know you're still out there and working on the issue is a waste of time.

Both these pieces make good reading, in terms of relationships in general.

resources

A life spent making mistakes is not only more honourable but more useful than a life spent doing nothing. -G.B. Shaw

Is there a fear shortage? - Seth Godin

If so, I'm not seeing it.

When something is scarce, it's valuable and smart people try to make more of it. So, should we be trying to make more fear?



Looking around, it appears as though the government, various media players and lots of well-meaning people have come to a conclusion that there's a shortage of fear. So they're busy making more of it. Making more when we already have a surplus...

We're inundated about ways to avoid this pitfall or that risk.

If you see something, say something. Hmmm. Has that actually worked? Or x-raying shoes? When was the last time a bad guy was foiled because he couldn't use a good camera to take a [picture](#) of a tourist attraction? Why do the authorities at Grand Central Station in New York wear desert camouflage?

Not just fear of terror (which is another word for fear). Fear of failure. Reminding people that an idea will never work, that the market is in failure, that all hope is lost--does that work very often?

Fear mongering is a lousy profession, one that ought to be regulated, if not banned. I'm more in favour of **hope mongering**. 2010 is the year that the world will change. In fact, every year is that year, but this is the only time we'll get to change the world this time.

From [Seth Godin's blog](#).

Whenver there's a change in communication, whether it be as far back as the British postal system or the telephone, or as recent as Web 2.0 and social media, there's a resistance, not just on the part of businesses, [which this article refers to primarily](#), but on the part of those involved in any sort of organization or institution.

In the article referred to, **Tammy Erickson** notes several predictable results that occur whenever there is a reduction in the cost of communications, as there have been in each instance of improvement. These were proposed by Harold Adams Innis, as far back as 1951.



- Redistributing knowledge and, in doing so, shifting power
- Making it easier for "amateurs" to compete with "professionals," because access to knowledge substitutes for mastery of complexity
- Allowing individuals and minorities to voice ideas
- Reducing the advantages of speed that formerly accrued because some had knowledge before others
- Reducing the advantages of size that are based on the ability to afford high costs.

How do these 'predictions' line up with the way the institutional church works?

wellness

The Impact of Behaviours upon Burnout Among Parish-Based Clergy by Benjamin Doolittle. Published in the Journal of Religion and Health, Oct 2008



Abstract: Burnout has an important impact upon the professional satisfaction of clergy. Identifying protective behaviours that may prevent against burnout is important for the long-term emotional health of individual clergy as well as the wider church. This research reports findings among 358 parish-based clergy that identifies the prevalence of burnout and correlates this data with demographic risk factors and protective behaviours. Clergy who met criteria for burnout were younger, identified themselves as being depressed and unsatisfied with their spiritual life, and have endured a traumatic church placement. This research also suggests that having a variety of interests and activities outside of one's vocation may protect against burnout. In particular, behaviours that enhance relationships—such as seeking mentors and attending retreats—as well as pursuing outside activities—such as regular exercise and scholarly reading—protect against burnout. Further implications for the wider church are discussed.

The individual activity of one man with backbone will do more than a thousand men with a mere wishbone. -William Boetcker

endured a traumatic church placement. This research also suggests that having a variety of interests and activities outside of one's vocation may protect against burnout. In particular, behaviours that enhance relationships—such as seeking mentors and attending retreats—as well as pursuing outside activities—such as regular exercise and scholarly reading—protect against burnout. Further implications for the wider church are discussed.

This is available in hardcopy, but also as an electronic media in various libraries around the country: Hewitson, John Kinder, Massey, Auckland, AUT, Canterbury and Victoria.

Items published in this ezine, as well as many others that don't appear here, often turn up on the:

Mission Resource Site

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