

Te Cuento...

...The Story Inside

Temporarily In Service

News Flash: You're not permanent. Not on earth, at least. In fact, you and I are aging fast (hopefully you're aging faster than I). This should help us focus; to draw clearer pictures of the future, to draw a picture of church for our kids, to design it for our offspring.

I didn't, in fact, make up this idea: God did. When he made His bilateral agreement with Abram He made promises for Abram's offspring. The promise was for Abram's seed. The promise looked waaaay down the path.

Isn't it true that most Bible stories are stories about one generation's effects on the next? Think of Adam & Sons, Noah & Sons, the patriarchs (all children of a trans-generational vision), Hannah & Samuel, Saul & Jonathan, Naomi & Ruth, David & Solomon, etc.



Design it for Them

I suspect church would be better if we were all trying to celebrate church for the next generation rather than for ourselves. Not only is it altruistic, but it's forward-thinking. It's generous to not design church for ourselves. We're only here temporarily. Let's design ministry keeping that in mind.

But we've sometimes worked at cross-purposes to what we really want. We've retained secondary church characteristics that are meaningful to us (I always tear up when we sing, "He Touched Me"), but sometimes we've forgotten to emphasize the core of the covenant with Jesus, fanatical followers living lives of radical obedience.

Design church for your kids and you'll be surprised that it meets your deepest desires. Give up "He Touched Me," so He can touch them.

From:
Bishop David Roller

How to STOP stuff:

- > Anything at church not taking us to the "cherished missing?"
- > Anything at church an obstacle to contacting those desperate for Jesus?
- > Anything at church not designed to bless the next generation?
- > Anything at church that takes up our time but doesn't take us to our future?

STOP IT

Te Cuento/Story is a bimestrial letter from Bishop David Roller to those who minister.

La IML, ¡Ahora en Honduras!

Lo de Honduras fue rico. Casi pudiéramos decir que fue increíble. Una iglesia fundada por un pastor de la IML en New England. Otra iglesia fundada por un pastor de la IML en la Florida. Tres mas fundadas por un hno bautista que tiene relación con una IML en New York. En total me tocó recibir a 5 iglesias y establecer la IML en el país de Honduras el día 26 de marzo. Les damos una gran bienvenida a la familia metodista libre.

Pero el acontecimiento me hizo preguntar ¿cuántas mas contactos e iglesias nacientes no habrán en América Latina? Seguramente usted y su ministerio tengan relaciones con ministerios y grupos en su país natal. ¿Cómo podemos maximizar esas relaciones?

Juntamente con la nueva Directora del Área, Dra, Delia Nüesch-Oliver, estamos imaginando el mundo latino metodista libre como un solo mundo...no como un mundo "norte" y un mundo "sur." ¿cómo podemos mejor hacer los nexos para ministerio? Hago 2 sugerencias:

1. haznos saber si tienes ministerios fuera de tu propia conferencia
2. haznos saber si conoces buenos contactos en Latinoamérica, despues tos a empezar ministerios.

A Culture of Rapid Kingdom Expansion

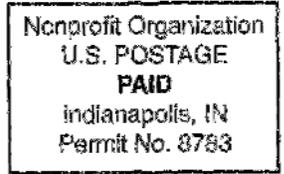
"Culture" doesn't mean we drink tea with our pinkies pointing out. By "culture" we mean our values, beliefs and assumptions.

What do we value, in our local churches? Here's how we can tell—what do we dream about, talk about, and celebrate? Where does our mind go when it goes to a "happy place?"

Is "starting stuff" valued? Do we find ourselves daydreaming about new ministries? How can I better show that I value "starts?"



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Bad Plans

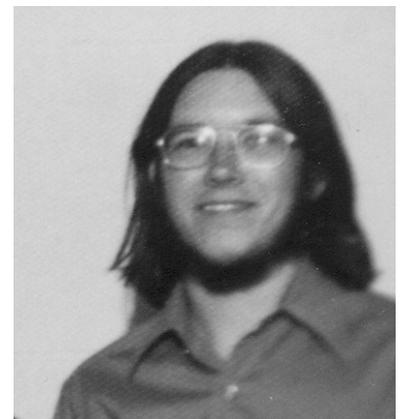
I've got some really bad plans. Not bad, like morally wrong, just goofy-bad. Like they don't make sense if you scrutinize them. Like somebody needs to throw some cold water on me and say, "Snap out of it!"

So I'm really enjoying reading Joshua. Talk about your goofy plans!—**Plan number 1:** "OK fellows, we're going to cross the river by just kinda starting walking into it and then the water's gonna stop."

I suspect there may have been an awkward silence and a bit of sandal scuffing when Joshua shared this plan with the priests. "That's it? That's the plan?"

Plan number 2: "OK fellows, we're going to break through the city walls of Jericho by, get this, walking around the city in silence. Then we're going to shout really loud."

More scuffing of sandals. Some brave priest lifts his hand, "So the plan is to shout really loud?" All kinds of sarcasm opportunities presented themselves when they returned to their tents. Of course, the scuffing scoffers forgot the man with a drawn sword who met Joshua.



The Bishop with a bad-hair Plan,
 circa 1970

I know what the church should do and I know how to do it, but my plan is really goofy, so I'm enjoying Joshua a lot. The plan involves starting stuff, stopping stuff, and loving people.

Beware, ye scuffers of sandals! Beware of really simple plans! There is a man with a drawn sword on the road ahead of us.

Schedule June to September 2008

JUNE

1-3 New York Annual Conference
 6-7 New England Annual Conference
 8-9 Keystone Annual Conference
 13-14 Pittsburgh Annual Conference
 27-28 Hispanic Network meeting

JULY

8-10 Mexican Annual Conference
 14-16 Superintendents Resourcing-NY
 19-25 "Getaway" camp in NY

AUGUST

2-9 Wellspring camp in England
 13-18 Pastors' training in Chile
 23 Meeting with Central Africans in USA

SEPTEMBER

8-10 Starting Strong
 11-13 Consultation of Overseers
 26-27 Hispanic Network meeting

From:
Bishop David Roller

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