

Leadership in Crisis

Leading in this environment is a challenge. I am a member of several economic business journals and here are a couple headlines today:

“Old ways of leading will vanish due to this pandemic”

“Business disruption communication requires confidence, clarity”

A few days ago I gave asked this question to a group of about 28 leaders in a Zoom Session.

What are the most common prerequisites for a solid Leader?

Gifts

Skills

Intelligence and/or Knowledge and

Experience

But then a new problem arises. One for which no one has the Skills. One for which no one has the Intelligence. One for which no one has the experience.

A Global Pandemic.

Good leaders though they possess the attributes above in great measure, their leadership collapses for want of:

Character - 1Ti 3:1-16 1 It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires [to do.] 2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. 4 [He must be] one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity 5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), 6 [and] not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. 7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside [the church,] so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Confidence – 2 Cor 3:4-6 Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us competent as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Clarity Is 50:10 Who is among you that fears the LORD, That obeys the voice of His servant, That walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.

and **Courage**. Joshua 1.9 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

Moses tells Joshua “Be strong and courageous!” 3 times in his commissioning
God tells Joshua “Be strong and courageous!” 4 times in his commissioning

Character of the nature in 1 Tim. 3 and Confidence when it is not your own, and clarity in the dark by faith alone all take courage to possess.

Just days before everything was shut down, I had meetings in Chiang Mai and Bangkok with many of the staff and stakeholders here in Thailand. Upon returning I received:

1. Several emails from organizational leaders and the state department regarding evacuation.
2. Skype calls from India, Cambodia, Laos, and people in other organizations here in Thailand
3. Emails from people seeking prayer as they proceeded to evacuate

Thailand is my home. I have lived here 29 years. My wife is Thai, I have extended family here. I have a good support network of friends. I began to think am I not considering the needs of others of our staff here? What if they feel compelled to leave? So I specifically asked each one what their thoughts or plans were. No one is thinking of leaving and any who had previously planned to travel (in one case for their daughter’s wedding) have all decided to stay put here in Thailand. I labor among some very courageous people. Some responses were:

“Hey, as they say, don’t waste a good crisis! We’re having fun being among a few on fire in their new faith.”

“We are staying. We don’t presume on God’s grace and therefore we take common-sense steps to avoid infection. But we know he is with us.”

“actually had this conversation this morning when we got the US State Department email ... We think the best decision for our family is to stay here.”

“We may be quarantined, but nobody can quarantine JESUS CHRIST”

Jeremiah 29 has been our guiding passage to our lives in Bangkok especially verse 5 to 7.

“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. 7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will

We are staying in Thailand as this is our home. God has called us to seek the peace and prosperity of the city and people here in Bangkok. HE has protected and guided us from the flood, political unrest, pollution, and financial crisis these past ten years. Why would now be any different?

I want to be clear, is staying the best idea? I do not know. Am I being critical of people who did not stay? No. Each must listen to the Spirit of God and move accordingly. Each person's situation is different. I know one person retiring from the field in June, and they retired a couple months early. Others new to the field and do not have the support networks to remain.

But I am saying we each need to revel in the idea and opportunity to walk more intimately with him and to listen carefully to what the Spirit is saying to us.

Pray for one another. Character, Confidence, Clarity and Courage require intimacy with God the Father and an ear that hears the Spirit speaking. This new situation is not something we know how to Navigate.

Please stay informed and Labor with us in Thailand through your Prayers
<http://www.servethailand.com/SignUpPL.html>