

Four Principles that have Driven the Mission of Latin America Leadership Development

By Bob Young

As 2018 draws to a close, I look back over the past nine years and am amazed at the growth of this mission work. As I reflect on where this work began and where we are today, I rejoice to see God's good hand in all that has occurred and is occurring. As I have reflected on the progress of this work, I see four principles that will help you accomplish whatever it is that God wants you to accomplish.

Be willing to start small

Do not despise small beginnings. Too many are looking for applause more than for opportunities to serve. If you are too big, important, or busy to serve others, you are too small for spiritual leadership. Jesus set the standard for servant leadership (Matt. 20:28). Do not overlook or diminish what God wants to teach you; do not overlook or diminish what God wants you to teach others. Commit to **SERVING** others and **SHARING** the Good News. Do what God places before you—whether small or great. Service and ministry that imitates Jesus are given without expectation of reward or notice.

Be consistent

Like most things new, the 'honeymoon phase' was exciting! After the newness wears off, then one discovers the genuine motivation. One learns what is inside self. Will you stay the course when you are alone? Will you stay the course when no one notices, when appreciation is lacking, when others criticize and reject? Chart the course and stick with it. My mother called it **STICK-TO-IT-TIVENESS**. Only those who are consistent and faithful will be rewarded.

Be passionate

Passion is contagious. From the beginning, I passionately believed in what I was trying to do. I believed that it was needed, that it would work, and that it would multiply. Maintaining passion during times of uncertainty and in the midst of challenges is crucial. What do you do to fan your gift and passion into flame? (2 Tim. 1:6) What feeds **SPIRITUAL** passion! For me, the answer is time in cultivating my spirit and the things of God's Spirit—time in the Word, time with God, remembering what God has done. These keep the passion alive for me.

Have a clearly defined vision

Do you own the vision or does the vision own you? If you own the vision, you can also disown it. But if the vision owns you, it's impossible to lose sight of the goal. Without vision from the Lord, you will be swayed by the newest trends or latest 'this is how to do it' methods. Ask the Lord for vision. Never stop asking the Lord for vision!

SERVING and SHARING Good News – STAY the course – SPIRITUAL passion – SEE the goal.

I challenge you to embrace the start, no matter how small it may be! Stay the course and be faithful with whatever it is you are called to do. Fan your passion for the Lord into flame daily! Pray for vision. If you ask, God will give. It is a process.