



Center for United States Missions

Mission Moments



July 21, 2011

MISSIONAL INTELLIGENCE

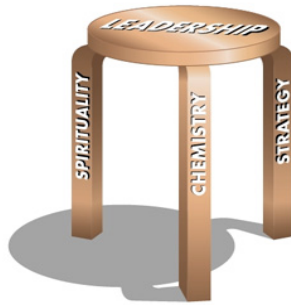
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For several years now, there has been considerable dialog and learning about something called *emotional intelligence*. Emotional Intelligence is a concept focused on how effectively people work with others. **Emotional Intelligence** skills are unique from a person's technical skills and cognitive abilities. Multiple studies have shown that Emotional Intelligence competencies often account for the difference between star performers and average performers, particularly in positions of leadership. The Emotional Intelligence model developed by Daniel Goleman and others identifies four components: (1) Self Awareness (2) Self Management (3) Social Awareness and (4) Relationship Management.

It is no great secret or mystery that God Himself initiates, plants and grows the church through His appointed "means of grace" (the Word, the Sacraments and the Holy Spirit). And yet missionary leaders and congregations can limit, block or slow the God-intended growth (Kingdom Impact) of the local church through failure to apply appropriate *emotional intelligence*.

Can we take some liberty and speak of *missional intelligence* as a synonym for *emotional intelligence* in the church of Jesus Christ? The word *missional* comes from the New Testament Greek verb *apostello* ... to send someone on an important mission. It is often summarized by the word "sent" which is mindful of how God has sent the saints of the church to *go and make disciples of all the nations* (Matthew 28:18-20). And the word *intelligence* reminds us of how Jesus advised the 72 disciples when he sent them into the mission field: *Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves* (KJV-Matthew 10:16). In other words, always be biblical and pure (innocent and harmless) in theology and motivation ... but also be *wise and informed* in the posturing decisions you make so as to build effective communication bridges with people who are far away from God.

One very fine tool for helping us to understand and augment our missional intelligence is called *Leadership Stool* by David Olson. The instrument is based on the premise that effective missionary leadership includes (1) SPIRITUALITY (everything that it means to love God) (2) CHEMISTRY (everything that it means to love people) and (3) STRATEGY (everything that it means to love the world by fulfilling the mission of God for the world).



The *Leadership Stool* is a no-cost, online feedback survey which takes only 5 - 10 minutes to complete, and is based on the example of Jesus. The inventory can shed light on missional intelligence and is designed for both Senior Pastors/Planters www.leadershipstool.com/seniorpastor.php and Christian Leaders <http://www.leadershipstool.com/christianleader.php>. A computer-generated report is returned to you immediately after completing the survey. While one cannot place total or blind trust in the results of surveys, this instrument can provide fertile self-assessment for measuring our capacity for missional intelligence.

Moment Extras

Questions and Comments for Reflection

1. Which leg(s) of the Leadership Stool are exceptionally short (deficient)?
2. Which leg(s) of the Leadership Stool are especially long (sufficient?)
3. How can this instrument be used to strengthen leadership development in your congregation?
4. What strategies are appropriate for strengthening your missional intelligence, especially in those areas which appear to be somewhat deficient?
5. Where has your ministry demonstrated exceptional missional intelligence? Poor missional intelligence?
6. How is it possible to achieve both biblical fidelity and missional intelligence?

Please remember: Missional intelligence cannot save anyone. People are saved by grace and through faith in Jesus Christ alone! But effective leadership in the church typically displays a well-balanced deployment of spirituality, chemistry and strategy, all of which are characterized by strong missional intelligence.

News From The Center

- ***Online Planting the Missional Church* begins on October 3, 2011**
- ***Missional Leader Coach Certification Training* in Belleville, Michigan on October 17-18, 2011**
- ***Church Planter Assessment Center* in the Southeastern District-LCMS on October 21-23, 2011**
- ***Churches Planting Churches* at Trinity Lutheran Church, Crown Point, Indiana on October 27-28, 2011**

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