
SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP AND TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE ACROSS CULTURES: THE SLI LEADERSHIP INCUBATOR

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Abstract: The obstacle in many international contexts is too few leaders to equip and disciple the growing number of new disciples, which in turn breeds a lack of sustainability to movements. By contrast, a common obstacle domestically is overcoming a pastor-centered membership model of church for a lay mobilization model of disciple making. Using adaptive leadership, complexity, and missional DNA and with the assistance of international leaders and experience in a variety of contexts, SLI (Spiritual Leadership, Inc.) has developed three organizational principles that are proving to be transferrable across cultural boundaries with necessary contextualization. The contexts of West Virginia and Brazil have been selected to make specific cross-cultural application of this learning.

Introduction

What if you found yourself leading a dying church in a declining community? The people in the congregation are aging, they no longer live in the community around the church, and the cultural makeup of the community is different than those within the church. The church seems to have lost sight of its primary mission and lacks any sense of vision, which has resulted in mere maintenance and survival. What would you do?

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