



# ILLINOIS Focus



Ron Aguilera, President

## JUSTICE MUST PREVAIL



Over the last couple of weeks, COVID-19 has been obscured by the events that have led to racial and social unrest, and a call to justice. Nationwide protests are forcing many Americans, including Christians, to think about race in new ways. As I have been reflecting on the issues of racial injustice, my mind landed on the story of Joseph. Joseph, son of Jacob, son of Isaac, son of Abraham. Do you remember the story?

I think back to Genesis, chapter 37. Joseph is treated unjustly and unfairly and is sold into slavery by his brothers. They should have protected him and should have been his safe harbor (despite his lack of judgment), and a place of support. Instead, you might recall that Genesis 37 tells us Joseph was sold into slavery to the Midianites, or Ishmaelites who are descendants of Ishmael (Genesis 37:26-28.)

Remember Ishmael? Also, the son of Abraham. In this part of the biblical story, we have Joseph and Ishmael. Both sons have the same Father, but they become two different races, people who are often at odds with each other throughout history. Both, at different times, are dealing with AND dispensing injustice. You might

remember the story of Ishmael: Abram and Sarai had in their heart a promise God had made them; a promised land, a promised people, a promised blessing...but they had no idea how it would happen. See, they had no children, and after some time, they got impatient. Sarai was getting older, so she thinks and says, "I have a slave..." A slave, by definition, exists to fulfill someone else's goals and dreams. In the ancient world, it was not

same intolerance, the same result, and Joseph becomes a slave. And, throughout his experience, he struggles with the idea of injustice.

But I love the end of the story. It gives me hope for today. Years later, as Joseph's brothers kneel before him, he is faced with a decision; justice or injustice, slavery, or freedom? And, it is his experience, what he has gone through, that enables justice to prevail. We, too, must be concerned

Volume 7 - Issue 4 - August 2020

## ISSUE FOCUS

# LEADERSHIP

uncommon for an infertile wife to arrange for a slave girl to sleep with her husband so that the family could have an heir. In fact, Ishmael, the son born to Abraham and Hagar the slave, would have been considered Sarai's legal offspring. Now, some would say, Hagar and Ishmael might have fared better had Hagar NOT forgotten her place the moment she learned of her pregnancy. By the way, it seems that often the attitude and thoughts of those who oppress is that OTHERS have forgotten their place. The same thing happens in Joseph's story. It is a different story, but the same injustice, the

with justice. As followers of Jesus, we are committed to the idea that everyone has equal value in the sight of God and is loved by God. Justice must prevail...and it will. One day, all wrongs will be set right. But, until then, we must lead the way, we must do all we can to show God's love, and mercy, and forgiveness...and justice to all.

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**& MORE**



People are usually remembered because of their accomplishments, but sometimes what they have not been able to accomplish is even more important for their legacy. King David is well remembered for killing the Goliath, and rightfully so. Because of his deep faith in God, he was able to assess the situation from a completely different perspective than King Saul and his whole army. For Saul, Goliath was huge – impossible to kill. For David, Goliath was huge – impossible to miss.

We know the rest of the story. There is, however, another story from the life of David, less , less known, but no less important for his legacy.

For years David had a dream. He wanted to build a temple for God. Although the Bible does not tell us all those details, we can imagine David dreaming about this magnificent structure, drawing its blueprint in his mind, consulting priests and craftsmen. One day he took the opportunity to share his dream with prophet Nathan. Impressed by the king's idea,

“ ... BY REMEMBERING **GOD** IN YOUR ESTATE  
PLANNING YOU LEAVE A **LEGACY** ... ”

Nathan replied: “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you” (2 Samuel 7:2-3 NIV). Nathan gave advice that he thought was appropriate. However, the same night God gave Nathan a completely different message. He was to return to David, assure him of God's love and favor, and inform him that according to God's plan, the temple will be built not by him, but by his son Solomon (2 Samuel 7:4-16). David accepted God's will in this matter and didn't become bitter. Instead, through the rest of David's life, he was securing relationships and material resources to support Solomon in fulfilling David's own unfulfilled dream. Although the future temple was called Solomon's Temple, David played an important part in creating the masterpiece, which his eyes would never behold.

David's story can teach us some valuable life and stewardship lessons:

1. We may never be able to fulfill our life dreams, but...
2. The positive results of our actions and influence today may well exceed our lifetime and be a blessing for generations to come.

By remembering God in your estate planning, you may leave a legacy that will support God's Work in a way that will go beyond your lifetime and be a blessing for the generations to come. Please, consider this possibility!



## LEGACY

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Stewardship and Trust  
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One day, when you are not here anymore, your gift may continue to support the mission that you have been supporting your whole life.

If you would like to discuss your estate planning options, you may contact our Planned Giving Department:

Phone #: 630.480.4765  
Email: [trust@ilcsda.org](mailto:trust@ilcsda.org)

How to Lead in a  
**CRISIS**David Ocegüera,  
Senior Pastor Bolingbrook Church

The world behind us is nothing like the world ahead. As the pandemic continues, we have come to realize that no one really knows what the “new normal” will look like. During times of crisis, people look to leaders to help navigate the uncertainty and guide them forward. However, for leaders, the rapid and unpredictable pace of change makes it difficult to lead and leaves leaders feeling helpless with so much out of our control.

The analogy I like to use is that crisis is like being in a boat in the middle of a storm. If you have ever been on a boat that feels like it is going to capsize, the fear that surges through you is real. As leaders, we cannot control the waves, the wind, the storm, or any of the external factors of a crisis, but we can control how we engage and adapt to those elements. During a storm, anchors keep boats from drifting off course. Likewise, a leader must remain anchored in practices and habits that cultivate their inner peace in order to thrive through a crisis.

Inner peace grows by being rooted and anchored in the presence of God. A leader’s spiritual life is what infuses life and hope during challenging times. Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NRSV) describes those who are

rooted in God as trees...“planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.” Just as roots give a tree strength, the same is true of the spiritual life of a leader. Ruth Haley Barton writes that the best thing a leader can bring to their organization is their “own transforming selves”. As the leader transforms by deepening their spiritual life, the organization will follow.

In times of crisis, people experience anxiety and look to leaders to calm their fears and worries. This manifests itself through the expectations placed on leaders to make the right decisions quickly in order to reduce the anxiety. The temptation for a leader is often to give in to the loudest voices who speak with the greatest urgency about what should be done. To make decisions by giving in to those voices because it’s easy or convenient is a failure of leadership. Edwin Friedman in his

## “ ...A LEADER MUST REMAIN ANCHORED... ”

book, *Failure of Nerve*, suggests that a leader must become self-differentiated, which is the practice of regulating a leader’s own anxiety in order to make the best decisions and lead the organization through a crisis well. When we as leaders are aware of our own insecurities and fears, it gives us the capability to slow down and assess the big picture in order to make better decisions rather than having knee jerk reactions to everything.

One great example of a self-differentiated leader is Jesus. He was constantly surrounded by people who looked to Him for answers to their life circumstances and to be healed. The Bible tells us that Jesus would go to the mountain to pray, often spending the entire night in prayer (Luke 6:12). Jesus knew the vital importance of rooting himself in the presence of God and thus getting the proper perspective for the work ahead of Him. As you lead, may you remain rooted and self-differentiated to lead through crisis well.



# MOMENTOS

## De Crisis



Juan Daniel Villegas  
Pastor,  
Lakeview, North,  
Humboldt Park, and  
Pilsen Hispanic  
Churches

Ha sido en estos tiempos cuando he podido leer y volver a leer el increíble libro del Éxodo, donde está una de los ejemplos más valiosos para los líderes actuales, donde se encuentran grandes lecciones para quienes buscamos día a día afirmarnos en el verdadero propósito de la misión y en una relación fuerte con el Todopoderoso. La vida de liderazgo del profeta Moisés, que veía momentos de victoria, pero también se chocaba con instantes de derrota.

Recordemos un poco:

Y sucedía que cuando alzaba Moisés su mano, Israel prevalecía; mas cuando él bajaba su mano, prevalecía Amalec. Y las manos de Moisés se cansaban; por lo que tomaron una piedra, y la pusieron debajo de él, y se sentó sobre ella; y Aarón y Hur sostenían sus manos, el uno de un lado y el otro de otro; así hubo en sus manos firmeza hasta que se puso el sol. Éxodo 17: 11, 12.

Moisés es uno de los líderes del Antiguo testamento más completos en todas sus acciones y propósitos, quien tuvo que aprender, desaprender y volver a aprender, para luego liderar un pueblo de

cerca de dos millones de personas durante 40 años por el desierto.

Una lucha titánica, que incluso confrontó a Dios con el adversario de las almas para darle a Moisés -al final de su vida- la sorprendente y anhelada oportunidad de llegar a la Tierra Prometida, junto a nuestro amado Padre Eterno.

### CLAVES DEL LIDERAZGO ASERTIVO

En primer lugar, lo más importante al liderar en momentos de crisis es asegurarnos de estar primero enfocados en Dios: buscar su consejo, su guía, su protección. Así, en las emergencias, imperará en nosotros su voluntad, que al final es lo mejor que podemos esperar.

Cuando Moisés levantaba sus manos, buscaba con su corazón al Señor. Esa sincera oración, le daba la victoria, más no por sus virtudes, sino por una verdadera dependencia y sumisión a la voluntad del Creador.

Hoy, puede surgir la inquietud, ¿cómo entender el idioma divino para adaptarnos a las nuevas circunstancias? Un destacado comentarista afirma, lo siguiente: "Levantar la mano era un hecho simbólico y profético que indicaba a las tropas que el Señor había entregado al enemigo en sus manos. Mientras podían ver a Moisés, seguían el ataque con vigor y confianza. Al no verlo, se desanimaban y se retiraban. No está mal sentir cansancio, es natural, pero hay que buscar al lado personas que ayuden a sostener los brazos en alto".

Las crisis presentan al líder la

¿Cómo fortalecer el liderazgo en momentos de crisis?

La etapa histórica que vive el planeta debido a la pandemia por COVID-19 ha suscitado incertidumbre en múltiples áreas, y los líderes ahora tienen grandes desafíos. Es hoy, cuando se requiere toda la capacidad emocional y espiritual para mantener encendida la llama de la misión.

Ser líder en una organización que crece, donde todo marcha bien, donde el trabajo es mantener el engranaje de una acción sincronizada y motivar a un equipo para que siga cumpliendo su misión, definitivamente es un buen trabajo.

Pero, ¿qué pasa cuando llegan las crisis, cuando todo decrece, cuando los recursos financieros se reducen, donde todo cambia en poco tiempo y la incertidumbre cubre el ambiente como antesala de un "fuerte aguacero"?

Incluso, en momentos donde algunos líderes de los departamentos de iglesia se van y su puesto de liderazgo queda desierto. Aquí hay que tomar decisiones para adaptarse a nuevas formas de desarrollar el trabajo, porque la idea es que nada se detenga y que se puedan superar las dificultades. Y sobre todo, que se siga atendiendo a quienes realmente son la iglesia, a cada discípulo de Cristo.

En medio de las crisis, dice el adagio popular, es cuando sabemos realmente de que está hecho el líder. Cuando soplan fuertes vientos, es cuando sabemos si el árbol, tiene raíces profundas o no.

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**“MOMENTOS DE CRISIS”**  
**CONTINUATION DE LA PAG. 4**

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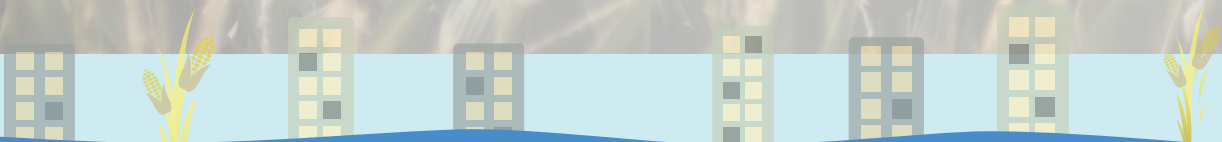
mejor, y si se logra el éxito al liderar durante una crisis, redundará en hacernos mejores personas y desde luego, líderes. A tal punto que cuando pasen los momentos difíciles, podremos decir con toda seguridad, las palabras que acuñara Elena White: “No tenemos nada que temer al futuro, a menos que olvidemos la manera como Dios nos ha conducido, y lo que nos ha enseñado en nuestra historia pasada”.

De esta forma, y afirmando en nuestra vida a Cristo, el líder con propósito debe cultivar conductas que le permitan seguir adelante y superar los desafíos que se presenten:

1. Dependencia divina, porque la victoria viene de Dios.
2. Adaptación rápida y efectiva al cambio, buscando soluciones diferentes.
3. No perder el enfoque en la misión, mantener la expresión de amor por las personas.
4. Tomar decisiones sin afanes, con la plena seguridad de estar siendo guiados por quien todo lo sabe.

Finalmente, el buen líder en medio de la crisis presenta su mejor faceta; donde el amor influye para bien en los demás, donde debe convertirse en un ejemplo vivo de dependencia y rectitud para cumplir la misión, donde debe afirmarse en una relación espiritual completa con Dios, que le permita inspirar a su equipo de trabajo, estableciendo nuevas redes de acción y manteniendo sus brazos en alto para ayudar a otros, a encontrar el camino de la Salvación ¡Maranatha!

- Juan Daniel Villegas



**PSALM 57**

For the director of music. To the tune of "Do Not Destroy." Of David. A miktam. When he had fled from Saul into the cave.

Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me,  
for in you I take refuge.  
I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings  
until the disaster has passed.

I cry out to God Most High,  
to God, who vindicates me.  
He sends from heaven and saves me,  
rebuking those who hotly pursue me—[c]  
God sends forth his love and his faithfulness.

I am in the midst of lions;  
I am forced to dwell among ravenous beasts—  
men whose teeth are spears and arrows,  
whose tongues are sharp swords.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;  
let your glory be over all the earth.

They spread a net for my feet—  
I was bowed down in distress.  
They dug a pit in my path—  
but they have fallen into it themselves.

My heart, O God, is steadfast,  
my heart is steadfast;  
I will sing and make music.  
Awake, my soul!  
Awake, harp and lyre!  
I will awaken the dawn.

I will praise you, Lord, among the nations;  
I will sing of you among the peoples.  
For great is your love, reaching to the heavens;  
your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;  
let your glory be over all the earth



John Gryns  
Executive Secretary

## RE-BE THE CHURCH

The growing diversity of the church generated golden moments of unexpected adversity. These hardships engendered opportunities for clarity and action. The challenge of resource distribution produced clarity. What occurred between chapters two and five in Acts required a divergent movement into an unplanned future. Conversations were had. They understood that what was could not be moving forward. What had worked in the events of those chapters were insufficient for what the future portended. It would be the first of many crises revolving around the growing diversity of this fledgling emergent spiritual community.

Acts 6 records this early crisis. Here we discover significant understanding for leading in challenging moments: Crisis brings clarity. In this particular crisis, the clarity came regarding roles and function. The prior work carried out by the twelve for the benefit of the body couldn't continue into the unfolding future. Something had to give.

The other crisis found in Acts comes to a head in chapter 15. Again, the contextual elements concerned diversity. The particular issue, however, was not about role or function but about message and mission.

For any group to move forward into an unfolding future while experiencing significant Spirit accomplishment, crisis becomes an opportunity for a duality of clarity—on role and function and message and mission. The emerging church within the Acts narrative brings hope amidst our particular crisis today. Leading in crisis requires both the re-examination of organizational role and function as well as message and mission. A sign of health, not a sign of digression, appeared through the complaints of Acts 6 and the challenges of Acts 15.

Diversity, Spirit accomplishment, resource increase—and many other variables (including societal influence)—all brought forth a renewed pursuit. And leading through these various crisis-inducing variables meant the past would be insufficient for the unknown future. And this is the nature of a clarity-producing crisis. The twelve leaders knew this. And they brought people together, not just for fellowship and chatter, but for clarity, decisions, and action.

And here we find for our current moment insight for leaning forward into a post-Covid world. We are quickly discovering that the ways of the past are not sustainable for that world. A conversation I recently had with a local congregational leader revealed that someone so rooted in past practices now appeared willing to examine alternative ways. Technology has found a greater place in our everyday life. Yet, while doing so has revealed that at the core of who we are as Image-Bearers, nothing replaces in-person communities. Nothing.

The questions generated by all this cannot be ignored, any more than the questions brought forth by the widows of Acts 6 could be ignored. Our questions may include: What is the value of brick-and-mortar when we no longer are able to meet in those spaces? What is essential for body life? What are those things we believed we needed but have lived without for five months? What about communication has been vital for strengthening the community? What have we discovered as "cultural" artifacts in our congregations that in absence have revealed their value? What uncertainties have revealed themselves and now provide hope into the unveiling future?

These and so many other questions, that only arise during times of this level of crisis, provide denominational and local congregational and educational leaders opportunities to not only re-think body life but re-be the church. Guided by the same Spirit that led the emerging church of Acts through their own uncertain times, we can know that same Spirit abides in our midst today. And this same Spirit longs to see a leading through crisis as an opportunity to move closer to His intention for His people—both in roles and functions, as well as message and mission. Are we ready?



## VIRTUAL CAMPMEETING AND CHICAGOLAND CONVOCATION 2020

Sabbath August 15, 2020  
"The Time Has Come!"

For thousands of years, Old and New Testament writers have been




forecasting events that would occur shortly before the return of Jesus. If those prophets and apostles were alive today, they would be filled with exciting anticipation of seeing Jesus return. If these are not the last days, what else can we call them? The apostle Paul labels these days, "Perilous Times." Daniel calls it, "The Time of the End." Even the most non-religious recognize that the world is crumbling around us. What must the people of God do to be prepared and help others also to be ready?

The keynote speaker will be our very own Pastor John Lomacang.

Sabbath September 26, 2020

Our speaker will be Elder Bill Knott, Editor of the Review. Plan now to join us on this high day of worship!



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