

Collaborations

The Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.

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Leadership *by Scott Beard*

Webster's Dictionary describes a "leader" as "a person who has commanding authority or influence. A first or principal performer of a group." To "lead" is "to guide in a way especially by going in advance. To direct on a course or in a direction. To direct the operations, activity, or performance of. To have charge. To go to the head of. To be first in or among. To bring to some conclusion or condition. To guide something or someone along a way.

Leadership is often in the eye of the beholder. Some may disagree as to the effectiveness of one leader vs. another. Leaders exhibit different leadership styles. For instance, Mahatma Gandhi led by the example of peaceful resistance. While Ghengis Khan led by bloodthirsty conquest. Yet, both are considered great leaders.

Leadership does not necessarily go hand in hand with a title or position. Elizabeth Cady Stanton was not an elected official, but she led the women's (continued, p. 2)



Highlighted Program: The Clergy Committee: Inner city pastors around the country are meeting in accountability groups to join forces, encourage each other, and consult with one another as they reach out to their faith communities. The Clergy Committee is currently operating in Denver, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia. Participants are required to make a commitment to the group to help problem solve through a moderator and peer support. This accountability setting is modeled after a successful CEO accountability model. (Contact: David Delaplane at (303) 227-6700 or dadelaplane@prodigy.net)

"One person can make a difference—and every person should try." Stephanie Roper

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suffragette movement in the United States resulting in Women's Right to Vote.

Similarly, there are people in our local communities who are leaders and yet hold no elected or titled position. We all know them. They are the "go to" person when its time to advance a cause. They are the ones whom we turn to when there is a problem. Following are traits of "leaders" that I believe are crucial in the context of our project:

- (1) Motivator—*The tendency to move others to action*. Very few people are trued motivators. These may not be the people who come to regularly scheduled meetings, but they could open doors to a community just by blessing the project;
- (2) Respect—*The quality or state of being esteemed*. Certain members of each community are seen as a "rock" in an otherwise out of control world. The community looks to them as a steadying force. These individuals could be strong members of an advisory council;
- (3) Integrity—*Firm adherence to a code of moral values*. This is an important quality for this project. The way the community views the project will be reflected by the proven integrity of the leadership team;
- (4) Focused—*Able to concentrate attention or effort on a goal or set of goals*. Focus should be a quality of each of the individuals involved in the project to ensure that the mission is not lost by involving ourselves too broadly;
- (5) Instigator—*Goads or urges forward*. The term "instigator" can have a negative connotation, but taken positively, it is one who challenges the norm for the betterment of the whole. Groups need a conscientious person who can see potential problems and articulates them in a positive light;
- (6) Inspirational—*The action or power of moving the intellect or emotions*. This type of leader is one we commonly see among the faith communities. Their job is to inspire their parishioners. But "everyday people" can be inspirational through their words or the way they live their lives;
- (7) Encouraging—*To inspire with courage, spirit or hope*. Every group needs encouragers. These people make others feel valued. They may be the glue that holds a group together.
- (8) Innovator—*To effect a change, to do something in a new way*. Different from an instigator, an innovator not only recognizes the need for something new, but also finds ways to make it happen.
- (9) Committed—*The state of being obligated or emotionally pledged*. Probably the most important quality for the project. Commitment can either come from individual experience, or it can be instilled through the ability to sell our message and the need for this project.

Bibliography—Websites of interest

- **Interfaith**: A Cooperative Association of Interfaith Clergy, Persons, Organizations and Spiritual Institutions. www.interfaith.org.
- **International Fellowship of Chaplains, Inc.**: A non profit agency providing training, recognition, certification and information in the varied areas of Chaplaincy. www.ifoc.org.
- **Association of Gospel Rescue Missions**: 294 Rescue missions comprise the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions, which was founded in 1913. <http://agrm.org/miss-www.shtml>
- **National Association for Lay Ministry: Networking**: NALM recognizes and values building connections among ministers, chapters, organizations, small Christian communities, and any interested persons or groups. www.nalm.org/networking.html
- **North American Federation of Temple Brotherhoods**: NFTB is a coalition of over 250 affiliated brotherhoods with 25,000 members across North America, dedicated to *tikkun olam*, 'repairing the world', through the practice of Brotherhood. www.nftb.org
- **Jewish Women International**: JWI is a community of women joining hands, hearts and minds to break the cycle of family violence in the US, in Israel and around the world. www.jewishwomen.org
- **Royal Family Kids Camps**: One of the nation's leading network of camps for abused, neglected and abandoned children. Churches sponsor camps nationwide. www.rfkc.org.
- **SCUPE: Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education**: Develops leaders and provides consultation and educational resources for individuals, educational institutions, churches, and agencies that seek to enhance the spiritual, social, and physical quality of life for those who live in the city. www.SCUPE.com.

(Views expressed by the authors in the articles and websites above do not necessarily reflect the opinions of OVC or MCVRC)

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