

STRENGTHENING CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS • EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." -Romans 8:28

The past academic year was replete with both triumphs and challenges. But as one looks back, he would be awed by the strength and tenacity he manifested as he hurdled every facet of all concerns; realizing that he has survived! Only by God's grace! Because he has believed! Because he has stayed true to his calling!

This issue gives us a break from the school work but provides us with insights on how we could learn from our experiences and how we could prepare for the next year as Christian educators. This is a time to know Jesus more intimately and to look past our "selfie-centered" way of thinking and believe that God will lead us to the life He has always wanted for us.

Have a relaxing yet fruitful summer break!

GEARING UP FOR CHANGE



Summer months offer great opportunities to recuperate from the stress of one school year yet prepare for the next. Either summer will reenergize us or may induce further stress.

We must accept that this is an era of change and embrace the constancy of change, considering that high speed internet, mobile connectivity, educational policy shifts are among the key factors that bring about the need for change in school management and teaching and learning.

After spending precious moments with family, friends, and / or adding graduate units to your schooling, the remainder of the time can be devoted to collaboration, discussion, analysis of events leading to aligning priorities and setting goals.

THE REWARDS OF SERVING

(with excerpts from "Improving Your Serve", Charles Swindoll)

Our ministry of touching hearts and nurturing minds does not end with commencement exercises of the elementary or the high school. It just takes a temporary break to allow us time to reflect on how we have served the Lord in the ten months that have just passed. How did you do?

In 1 Corinthians 3: 13-14, ... "the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward."

We are impressed with size and volume and numbers and it is easy to forget that God's eye is always on motive, authenticity, the real truth beneath the surface, never the external splash. When He rewards servants, it will be based on quality - which means everybody has an equal opportunity to receive a reward.

Review the past academic year. Recall the young child who kept on crying in the classroom and you were there beside her; the father who was so irate and had to vent out his anger and frustration over his stubborn son and you were ready to listen; the teacher colleague who needed help in her lesson planning, the time you were in the auditorium and cheered for your class as they competed in the intramurals against a higher batch; many more vignettes of precious time you have shared

with the young and the old, during victorious times and disappointing times. Your faithful God will, someday, reward your every act of servanthood. Hebrews 6:10 says "For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to" His children.

Galatians 6:9 "And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary."

Charles Swindoll presents four thoughts that will help us realize that God rewards our service.

1. Every act of servanthood - no matter how small or large - will be remembered by God.
2. He takes special note of the heart - He knows the love behind our actions.
3. As servants reach out to others, Christ's life is modeled and a spirit of thankfulness is stimulated.
4. Special and specific rewards are reserved in heaven for those who practice the art of unselfish living.

To those who serve, God promises a reward. And we are sure God keeps His promises.



FEATURES

WHY REST, RETREAT, SABBATH, AND SOLITUDE ARE ESSENTIAL DISCIPLINES FOR THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR

June Hetzel and David P. Castillo
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Teachers can neglect the natural order of things which is the way that God designed them to live within limits and rhythms of rest. Seeking to achieve and serve students, teachers often spiral down into depletion of body, mind, and soul by neglecting their bodies' and minds' need for rest and their souls' need for rest and communion with their Heavenly Father.

Teachers can burn out because they might, with good intentions, wrap their lives around success in the classroom as their primary good rather than wrapping their hearts around Jesus and His Kingdom as their primary good, gaining sustenance from Him. While helping students is a good aim, it is a secondary one. The highest good is rooting themselves deeply in Jesus and the things He is about, giving glory to Him.

REST is obeying God's natural design through sleep. It is stopping the normal activities of the day to take a moment to listen for God, whether through pausing in the day to attend to Him or to enjoy God's beauty in nature.

RETREAT is defined by Calhoun (2005) in Hetzel and Castillo's article as specific and regular times apart for quietly listening to God and delighting in His company. It can be time of solitude or time of fellowship. The life of a professional is high demand, people intensive, and task intensive. If we continue to live a too fast-paced life, we find ourselves exhausted and less able to do the tasks that God has called us to do.

SABBATH is God's gift of repetitive and regular rest and is given for our delight and communion with God. Educators are tempted to accomplish more and fit more into the schedule, rather than focus on God and commune with Him on the Sabbath. The day can be set aside for

worship, restoration, family, a nap, and even play. The Sabbath can restore the soul that is overworked, rushed, and harried.

SOLITUDE is not intended for one to be completely alone but for one to be completely alone with God. As we spend time in solitude, we see that to which God is calling us, more clearly recognizing needed places of spiritual growth as He prepares and strengthens us for further ministry.

That is the reason why we need to be thankful to our loving and caring God for providing us a break from our school work and giving us precious time to be with God, with our family, and rest, retreat, and be alone with Him as we are filled and restored by our Lord before continuing on with the ministry of teaching.

"The Lord is my Shepherd. There is nothing I shall want." – Psalm 23:1

Our Schools Need Leaders, Not Managers

By Dave Powell on September 12, 2016

A former high school teacher, Dave Powell is an associate professor of education at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania.

"Leadership" is one of those terms, like "accountability" and "critical thinking" and "student-centered," that seems increasingly to have lost much of its meaning in education, mostly because everybody uses it and nobody really defines it in the same way. As we all know, "good leadership" is a lot like "good teaching": we say we know it when we see it but we sometimes have a hard time describing it to other people.

So what makes a person a good leader? Good leaders are purpose-driven and goal-oriented; they listen well; they understand that effective leaders are good collaborators; they're emotionally intelligent.

But there's another trait that I look for in good leaders: a willingness to take risks. Now, I know this is not what most people look for in a leader—and the last thing many leaders want to do is take unnecessary risks. I would agree that taking unnecessary risks is undesirable but I balk at the idea that careful, cautious leadership is what people in positions of authority should strive for, especially in schools. In fact I wouldn't call that leadership at all. I'd call it stewardship. Or maybe just manage-

ment. Who ever got inspired to follow a manager?

At some point, educators have to realize the difference between managing and leading. How much could be changed if people in leadership positions took a calculated risk once in awhile? How much could be improved if leaders had a better sense of history, and of the need for change? Good leaders can see where people need to go before they see it themselves.

A manager conserves and protects; a leader inspires.

DO 25, s. 2017 - School Calendar for School Year 2017-2018

The School Year 2017-2018 shall formally open on Monday, June 5, 2017 and shall end on Friday, April 6, 2018. It shall consist of 204 school days. Private schools may deviate from this School Calendar. However, they may not start classes earlier than the first Monday of June and not later than the last day of August, as provided in Republic Act No. 7797 entitled An Act to Lengthen the School Calendar from Two Hundred (200) Days to Not More Than Two Hundred Twenty (220) Class Days. Said schools should notify in advance their respective regional offices (ROs) regarding any deviation from the school calendar.



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