Liberty University Rawlings School of Divinity

Micro-project Assessment

A Paper Submitted to

Submitted to Dr. James Zabloski,

in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the completion of

Micro-Project I: Biblical Precedence

DSMN 851 – D01

by

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Assessment Questions

1. What did you learn about the chosen micro-project overall?

I found that it was very important to spend a good amount of time considering the areas that I was interested in investigating. As I gained clarity about what I wished to discover, it made it easier to write questions and consider if they would be received correctly and provide accurate information.

I learned that using technology such as video conferencing and transcription software make this type of project more manageable and will facilitate conducting larger numbers of interviews.

I discovered that the comments of fellow students were helpful to consider and gave me the opportunity to look at the problem from another perspective. I will certainly solicit more outside comment as I work on my projects. I did not do a good job asking questions in the peer review activities and will seek clarity when I pose questions in future projects. I defined concerns rather than asking if anyone had ideas of how to resolve those concerns.

I was pleased that my initial hypothesis appears to be supported by the interviews I conducted and will give me a good base to build upon as I work to define potential solutions. I also enjoyed the interview process and saw that asking those questions began to create movement in people as they started discussing what I had asked in our time together.

2. How, if at all, did the micro-project apply to your chosen cognate?

I am working to define how best to aid the people of The Crossing Church to become healthy disciples of Christ. My cognate was discipleship and I feel that I have clarity about the attributes a disciple needs to develop. My observation is that our church

is very effective in attracting people to hear God's Word, but we are not effective in helping people to become disciple making disciples. In view of that, we lose as many as we attract each year. The challenge is to gain acceptance of those ideas and to implement a practical training method that people will adopt.

We have developed several training methodologies to aid believers in the process of sanctification. This research has pointed out one of the areas where we have not successfully strategized to build a solution. Helping mature believers move forward to discipling at least one person will prove to be a successful solution, in my opinion. It will take patience to allow time to pass while the disciplers do their work, but I believe the results will be stunning.

3. What effect might the micro-project have on your ministry moving forward?

If we can successfully develop healthy disciple-making disciples and create an atmosphere that develops relationships that exhibit the family of God bond, our church will become explosive in growth and impact to our community. Once a strong prototype becomes functional, it could prove to be very useful to other Kingdom outposts throughout the country. The current conversation about missional churches as this concept underlying their strategies, but I wish to implement such ideas in the context of existing mega-churches. It seems silly to take a church that is attractional to the lost and completely re-tool it to become small and intense. A transitional plan seems wise and the hybrid church models seem to be the correct manner to move toward a better discipling environment in the future.

4. What did you not learn by completing this micro-project that you hoped to learn?

I would still like to do more interviews with our staff. I am not satisfied that I have heard from enough people, but time simply did not allow for more interviews. I

have some concerns that the language I used in the interviews did not communicate to this culture as the "family of God" phrase seemed to confuse some.

I had hoped to identify some who had experienced strong discipleship and had a strong on-going mentoring relationship. I did not find that in my sample of interviewees. The group seemed aware that it was missing, but thought that was a normal state for most individuals.

5. What changes would you make to your project or to your ministry as a result of this micro-project?

I would certainly use a checklist on future interviews to enhance accuracy. I would also wish to utilize a neutral party to conduct the interviews to eliminate any concerns the interviewees had about being forthcoming with their answers. I felt that I was developing my responses to the project week by week rather than having a well thought out strategy that I had worked to prepare over a period of time.

I am convinced that we need to develop mature leaders who can mentor one person each. The interviews showed that everyone wants a mentor that loves and cares for them, so why not work to make that happen as best we can.

6. On a scale of 0 -100, with 100 being the most beneficial and 0 being the least, what score would you give yourself as it relates to learning about, creating, and implementing your micro-project and explain why?

I would give myself a score of 95 on this project. I worked hard and fast to pull this together. I certainly did not try to skim over the issue. I think I missed some opportunities to craft my questions better due to time constraints. I also am still doubtful of the target that I am shooting for when I compile the reports. I am attempting to resolve that by asking questions and reviewing all of the reports my classmates prepared as well as interpreting the comments from our professor about what is good and what should be better.

I felt that my elaboration and implementation phases went well, but I would like to have more research to support my hypothesis from other sources. It might have been wiser to do the discussion panel or article review first to build that academic foundation before doing practical research with interviews. I realize my sense of urgency to bring constructive change to the Church is impacting my micro-project development and I will attempt to be more cognizant of that internal pressure to make some that I can use now. It will be good to develop useful tools and processes but having a well reasoned argument for change is vital to convince the many that will fight to retain the status quo.