

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 II: Historical and Current Practices

DSMN 852 – B01

by

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Assessment Questions

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

I found that research takes an enormous amount of time. Searching through the various online databases is a unique skill and one I hope to increase my proficiency in using in the future. The insights that can be gained are significant and I believe I will be able to utilize them for great impact as I continue working on this ministry problem. I really enjoyed the discoveries I found and had to reign myself in to keep from following the breadcrumbs of interesting topics that presented themselves in my searches.

I also discovered that reading articles is an acquired skill. The methodology, terminology, and etymology I found was challenging to make my way through; however, it became easier as I read more. Certainly, such an exercise will increase my vocabulary in several areas as I become familiar with the language used to describe other areas of study.

I know that I struggled in my masters studies when I was asked to critique author's work. I did not feel that I was enough of a subject expert in the areas the authors had written upon and was not sure how to approach the critique. This project gave me a great perspective on how to perform critiques more effectively. I learned it is best to view the article from the perspective of the topic I am trying to address and look for the pros and cons of the article in relation to my topic. This allowed me to have a plumbline to judge the articles and discern my thoughts upon their writing.

2. Looking back, how, if at all, did the Micro-Project help to solve your stated problem?

I chose the article review micro-project as I wanted to see what others had been thinking about the changes in perspectives that I believed I had witnessed in the people

attending churches and in the populace at large. This project was very helpful in helping me understand what I had been viewing and providing some additional perspective to the problem I had identified.

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

This project confirmed that ministers are facing a great challenge in convincing people that their pervasive worldview they have adopted is active in their lives. The individualistic worldview allows people to accept any information from other sources and then accept or reject ideas presented based upon their valuation of the idea to their lives. This creates a very subjective basis for truth and the behavior is being advanced by the American culture. People sense that things are changing relationally, and they are disturbed that moral character seems to be in decline, in general. Yet, they are not able to discern that they are contributing to the decline by not aligning themselves with God's Word and have become comfortable in this world's ways.

This project will bring focus on speaking against worldly wisdom and highlighting the need to align ourselves with the truth that God has given, along with raising the value of relationships between believers and spending time listening to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. These are simple topics to state but will require great effort to convince the modern believer to prioritize.

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

I think this project has provided a great definition of the problem and the underlying causes that have weakened the effectiveness of the church. I did not come across articles that provided clear guidance on successful case studies where others had approached this problem and saw drastic change. I would have liked to have found

several articles with those activities documented, so that I could look for things that might be apply in my situation.

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

I am frustrated that I did not have more time to research more and find other articles that spoke to the issues I was investigating. I am certain there is much more for me to learn, but the time limits of this project did not allow more in-depth research. I intend to reopen this investigation after the completion of the overall project and add to my knowledge on this subject.

I believe the research I have done so far has indicated to me that convincing a large group of people to fundamentally “renew” their minds is a massive undertaking. I believe this project has equipped me to describe the problem well and communicate it in a loving way to a congregation in a worship service. I am also certain that most will not be able to act on that information without a personal guide to aid them. The project has clarified that people will need to be disciplined “individually” and not in mass. Given what I have learned, addressing these issues will require a multi-pronged strategy to aid people is turning from the affects of an individualistic mindset.

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 believe I performed at a 96 on the 100 point scale. The research that I conducted and my analysis of that information has provided a strong basis to make my case for the need to change and the underlying causes for how we arrived in the condition we currently exhibit. I think I have more to learn about being a good researcher and

critiquing articles well. More practical experience will be helpful in advancing my skills in this area.