



Deciding to Move Forward



Introducing Marvin Jacobo and Orlando Rivera

The DeVos Urban Leadership staff welcomed two new liaisons to the DVULI team. Marvin Jacobo (Youth for Christ 2009) and Orlando Rivera (Orlando 1998) were brought on board to serve DeVos alumni literally from the East to West coasts. Marvin will represent Fresno and the San Francisco Bay Area, and Orlando will serve New York City, Newark, NJ and Paterson, NJ respectively.

Marvin, who was the City Coordinator for the Youth for Christ group in 2009, feels that his experience of coordinating a cohort from across the country has prepared him well to connect alumni not only to each other, but to the Initiative as well.

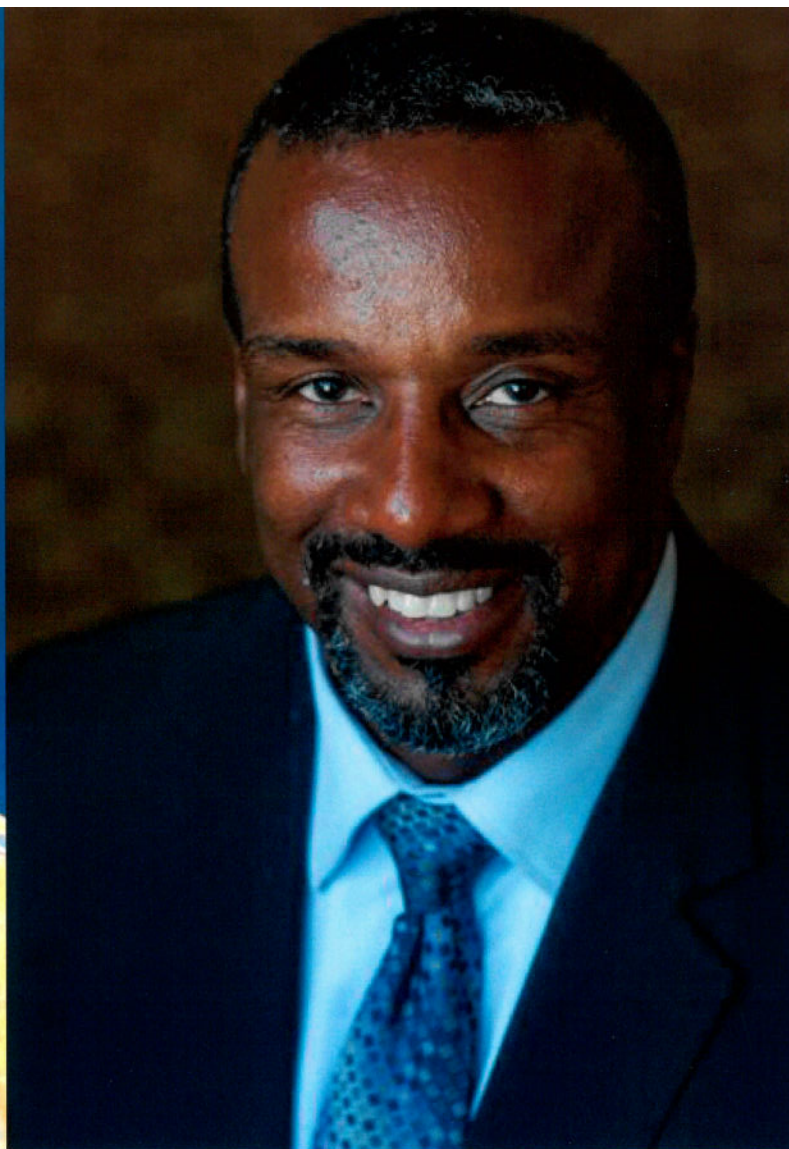
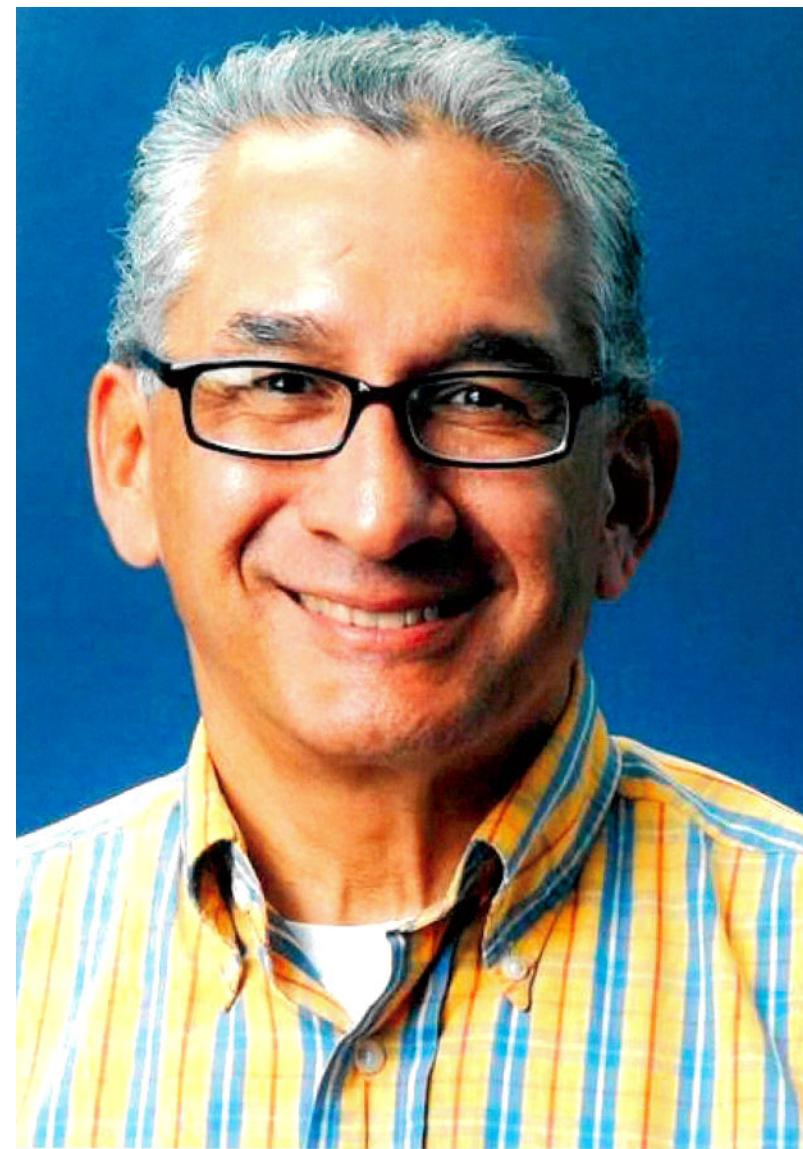
His vision for Fresno and the San Francisco Bay Area is to foster the creation and continuation of healthy youth workers. "If they're healthy, they create a healthy culture, and the youth who are called by the Lord to connect with youth workers will also have a healthy relationship with the Lord," he said.

Marvin is currently the Executive Director at City Ministry Network, a non-profit organization in Modesto, CA that strives to bridge that gap between the Pastors in the community and to strengthen faith-based non-profit leaders and organizations. "My life's mission is to be a Godly man, husband, and father and to strengthen others to be that also," said Marvin. Marvin and his wife Cheryl have been married 37 years and have two daughters. They live in Modesto, CA.

Similarly, Orlando views his liaison role as being a connector; connecting alumni to each other and to what's happening at DVULI. "What I want to do is help people connect their faith and their work and see how they can live one life before God," he says.

Orlando brings a unique perspective to his role as liaison. He was a participant in the initial focus groups during the development of DVULI, he served as the City Coordinator for the first cohort in Orlando, FL in 1998, and has also been a workshop instructor, and a national conference presenter. Orlando has seen the program grow, but says it still feels like one big family that continues to stay connected over time.

Currently, Orlando is a Pastor at Mount Vernon Alliance Church, and also a visiting professor at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, FL. The DVULI liaison opportunity rightly aligns with many of his passions, experience and his ongoing involvement in this program. "I think this position will be kind of unique to who I am; almost like a coach. I would like to call some people up and just talk to them about life and what's going on." Orlando and his wife Nancy have 10 children and three grandchildren, and live in the New York City area.



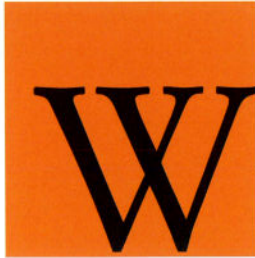
Fresno
San Francisco
Bay Area
New York City
Newark
Paterson





We Continued to Work

Marshall Snider (Portland 2014)

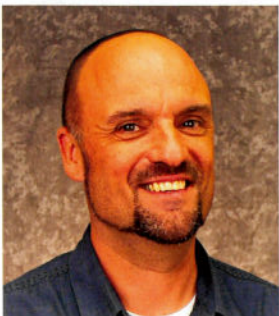


When our ministry lost its existing space due to new owners purchasing the property, we were faced with a tight timeline to relocate. As anyone can imagine there was some tension and anxiousness for where we were going to go.

We continued to work as a team but kept our eyes and ears open around us. We met and developed some scenarios as to what might happen if we did not find a building to suit our needs. Going completely mobile or communicating online were some of the options we entertained.

We needed office space to accommodate a small team in addition to housing for short term missionaries. Meetings were set up with a current ministry partner, and we shared with them our desire to move into an available space they owned. They were more than willing to accommodate us. This new location has all that we need and more. It has provided a sense of permanence for our organization and given us a place to effectively accomplish the mission of “Loving People Because People Matter.”

It was our scenario planning that helped us think through our current ministry relationships. That exercise was the key to getting the space we needed and help us move forward. As it turns out, what we were searching for was found in the hands of a ministry partner we had been working with for years.



Marshall Snider (Portland 2014) is the Founder/Executive Director of Bridgetown Inc. in Portland, OR. He is passionate about seeing people encouraged and equipped to do great things. Marshall is a member of the DVULI 2016 Think Tank.

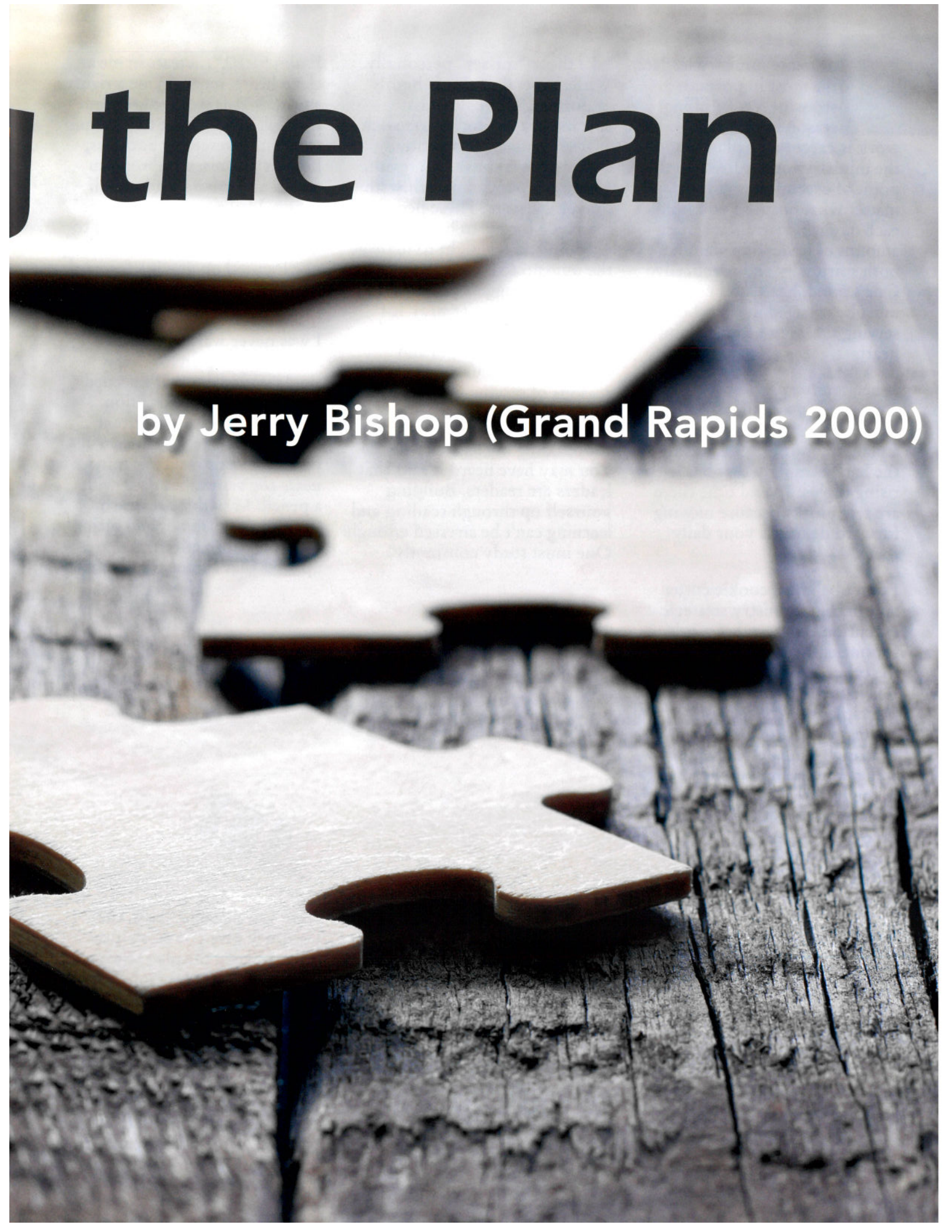


Executing



of the Plan

by Jerry Bishop (Grand Rapids 2000)



For many ministry leaders, the most important, stressful, yet fulfilling season in ministerial work is executing a plan to move the ministry forward. When the point of execution is at hand, no matter what position you hold, each day will warrant a certain amount of leadership stamina both spiritually and practically. One's mind, heart, and emotions must be engaged in a level of serving that is not for the faint of heart.

When ignited passion is connected to a calling from the Lord, and that call evolves into a plan, the Lord begins raising the bar. Seemingly that bar keeps rising higher. In real time there are few breaks because moving forward demands your daily focus.

I don't believe a cookie cutter approach to ministry strategic execution exists - what works for one entity may not work for the other. From my experience, I have found several core principles to keep me and the team at Lifequest Urban Outreach Ministry executing well and pressing forward even in tough times. However, for this brief observation I'll consider four valuable lessons learned that I consider my *must dos* when actively moving the ministry forward

Build Yourself Up

Hopefully, you have already spent countless hours praying, planning, and seeking God's direction for where He's called you to. However, for all the miscues, misfires, miscarriages of justice, and mistakes all leaders face, maintaining a healthy prayer life will help to not

take those "misses" personally. While general prayer is highly important, so are the most specific prayers for things such as perseverance, protection, and proven results. As a result, I have surrounded myself with prayer warriors. These people intercede for me to have the wisdom and foresight to manage the unexpected. I ask them, and would suggest you too, to make it a priority to pray for the capacity to press forward through the challenges and changes that occur during intense seasons of serving God's people.

There is also another tool I use for building my capacity up. You may have heard it said that leaders are readers. Building yourself up through reading and learning can't be stressed enough. One must study constantly!



Of course study Scripture but always read up on one's area of service. I am grateful that God has entrusted me to lead Lifequest for over 20 years and I am convinced our achievements are attributed to the significant hours invested in study. But I confess that with all I have learned I have still made my share of mistakes and bad decisions. That's why I have relied on

Psalms 51:10, "...create in me a clean heart, renew in me a right spirit..." This passage keeps me trusting I don't have to succumb to the unforeseeable potholes, broken promises, impromptu needs, and crisis I find myself facing. Having a strong prayer and study regimen also helps to manage discouragement and keep one focused on moving forward.

Write in Pencil

I was never warned that it's *impossible* to plan for every single ingredient that's needed for the ministry's execution. I couldn't plan to this extent and unfortunately, neither will you. With this reality in mind, *write the vision*, but do it with a pencil. I say this because of the numerous minor and major revisions, corrections, and updates that a ministry plan will



need. On a regular basis, the Lord will give you fresh ideas in order to keep the plan relevant for the appointed season. The Lord will also send new people and partners to assist with the vision. Be aware that some of your best help will not look like you, worship like you, or live near you but they will possess unique gifts and mindsets that are essential to the fulfillment of the

mission. Keep the pencil handy so you can erase what and who is no longer needed in the plan, and document what's fresh. In addition, if you're one who keeps a journal, consider the reflective loop approach to journaling so the lessons you learn can benefit your ministry's future strategies and its' successors.

Expect the Unexpected

Earlier this year a thief broke into our ministry facility and stole money that we were raising for a new baptismal pool. I conveyed to local media that, "It really shook me to my core, it really did. It took me about 24 hours to come back around, but now I'm as encouraged as I have ever been in serving people...this act will not hinder our forward progress." The fact you are in ministry leadership means you are engaged in a war for the Kingdom. Like me, you may be forced to make unplanned changes after some misfortune or attack. Planned or not, unexpected change is coming. There was no planning for the break in, and, as hurtful as it was, we continued to execute the ministry forward in the right spirit.

I see our vision at Lifequest like an actual living-breathing organism, which you have to take its' health into account every day. There is a specific diet and exercise plan the ministry must maintain in order to stay healthy and grow. One form of nourishment to the execution of a ministry plan is maintaining an openness to listening. Listen to those who serve around

you. Hear their woes as well as their "woo hoos!" It's highly likely that some of them don't possess the skills and passion for pressing forward that you have. In the face of changes, you may have to juggle hats from that of a visionary to a teacher to a nurturer to a disciplinarian and more. I should note that not everyone serving with you has been wired for the conflict and combat of Kingdom war like you have. Regardless of what comes, remain open to change when the unexpected arises – "be wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove."

Own Your Mistakes

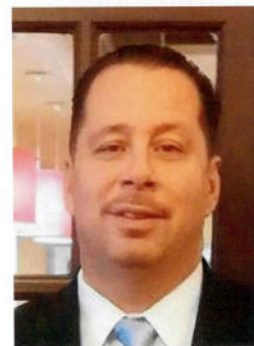
Executing the plan will require much patience and humility in order to overcome mistakes that you and others will certainly make. Remember that the Lord is in charge and He will help you to not emotionally or spiritually beat up on yourself, your family, or staff. I have not been as successful at this as I would like, yet the obvious lesson I always take away from my mistakes is that they ultimately make me a better leader. It may require licking wounds, asking for forgiveness, and dusting myself off but the obligation we all have in ministry is to **KEEP MOVING FORWARD!**

If you're willing to learn from your mistakes, own them. There really are no shortcuts in ministry, so embrace whatever process God is requiring you to go through and look forward to personal and ministry growth as a reward. You will need to discern when to proceed, rest, modify, multiply, or simply

stop. But there is still plenty of ministry to do on the other side of your mistakes.

Executing the plan is a daily endeavor mandating spiritual dependence more than any aspect of your mission. You will have to fight without enough ammunition; serve with a lack of water; implement with absent staff, low energy, and very little encouragement. Press forward and execute the plan where you are called to serve until the Lord (not funders) says it's time to move on.

Jerry Bishop (Grand Rapids 2000) is the Pastor of Lifequest Urban Outreach Center in Grand Rapids, MI. He has a passion to help people find hope in a relationship with a Savior that saves souls and removes all barriers. Jerry is a member of the DVULI 2016 Think Tank.



"... it's impossible to plan for every single ingredient that's needed for the ministry's execution."



Building Cathedrals: Urban Discipleship that Works

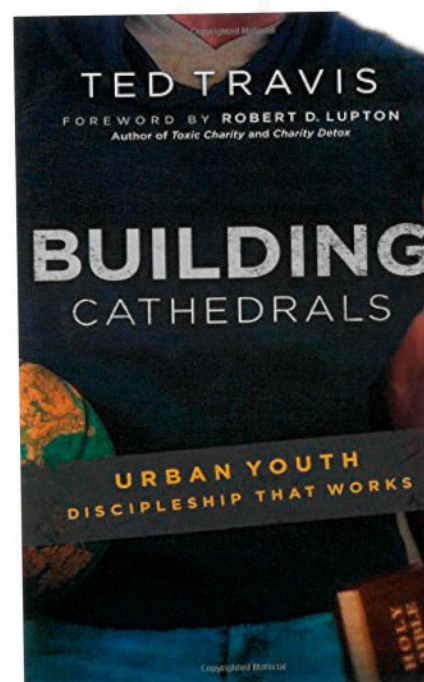
Reviewed by Eileen Kooreman

If you firmly believe leadership and discipleship go hand-in-hand. In *Building Cathedrals*, Ted Travis shares a strategy for discipleship with urban youth that links youth leadership development to discipleship. Ted and his wife Shelly served urban youth for nearly 30 years with Neighborhood Ministries in Denver. He now writes, in a very practical way, about some of the lessons learned in an effort to educate and edify the next generation of leaders.

Using personal experiences and real-life stories, the book begins with an honest look at how difficult it is for the traditional church youth program to make a difference in light of the daily realities of youth in the at-risk communities of cities like Denver, Baltimore, St. Louis, or Chicago. It goes on to show the importance of looking beyond the damaging influence of “the hood” and focus on a young person’s divine imprint – God’s unique design. Travis believes the way to accomplish this is through an apprenticeship that leads to youth development. The paradigm shift is from seeing a young person as saved versus unsaved to; are they a disciple, not yet a disciple, or open to becoming a disciple.

Building Cathedrals is organized into three sections; the need based on the context, the foundation of youth development, and the praxis or practical application. Each chapter ends with questions for the reader which could also be used in a group discussion with other youth leaders. Finally, Ted outlines the step by step model he uses, “transformational discipleship”, that is rooted in the development of young people as leaders.

If you are looking for a tool to help you rethink your philosophy of ministry with youth and how that plays out in practical ways, I highly recommend *Building Cathedrals* by Ted Travis.



Introducing City C

Obed Escobar



Terry & Ruben Trevino

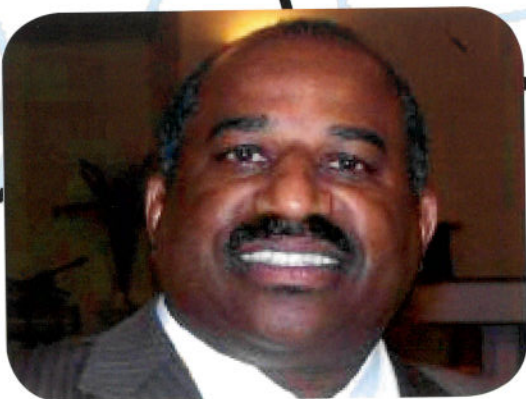


Bernard Emerson

Coordinators for 2017



Art Gray



Rod Walker

Meet the new team of leaders that will select, lead and learn alongside the class of 2017.

Art Gray – Columbus, OH
Obed Escobar – Phoenix
Terry & Ruben Trevino – San Antonio
Bernard Emerson – San Francisco Bay Area
Rod Walker – St. Louis

They are excited and ready to receive nominations for qualified applicants for the coming training year.

If you know urban youth leaders in their cities that are good candidates for the DVULI investment, please contact our office: 616-643-4848.

Featured Speakers



Dr. Gabriel Salguero



Efrem Smith



Don Talley



Sandra Valentine



Peter Ahn

Workshop Presenters



Craig Detweiler



Sarah Shin



Jason Soucinek



Ted Travis

Craig Detweiler
Challenging the iGods: Developing a
Theology of Technology

Sarah Shin
Cultural Competency

Jason Soucinek
Working with Teens in a Sexually
Charged World

Ted Travis
Building Cathedrals: Rethinking
Urban Youth Discipleship

Reunion 20 FOR

September
Wyndham Grand D



Activities

Just Ducky Tours
SmartHunts
Contests
Morning Jog
and more...

WARD

4-17, 2016
wntown Pittsburgh



Just Ducky Tours



SmartHunts

Questions?

Call the DVULI
office at
616-643-4848

Featured Artists



DJ BN Praya



Lorenze Jefferson



K&K Mime



Jason Washington



Marty Simpson
Comedian

Reunion Details

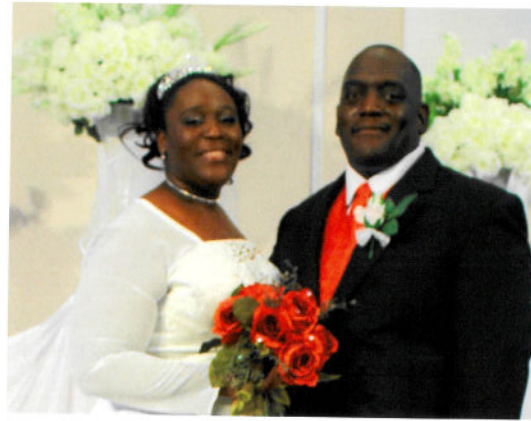
- Reunion start time is 6:00pm Wednesday, September 14, 2016
- Reunion ending time is 1:00pm Saturday, September 17, 2016
- Please book and fund your own travel, ground transportation and parking arrangements
- Spouses of DVULI alumni are welcome to attend all Reunion events
- DVULI will cover the cost of alumni hotel reservations for the reunion dates (3 nights only: 09/14, 15 and 16). Additional lodging and room incidentals will not be covered by DVULI
- Alumni who agree to lodge with another DVULI alumni are eligible for limited travel reimbursement
- As part of the program DVULI will provide all meals except for one (1) lunch on your own
- The Reunion is an adult only event. No children are permitted in sessions, meals, or activities

Alumni Updates

For more, visit: facebook.com/dvuli



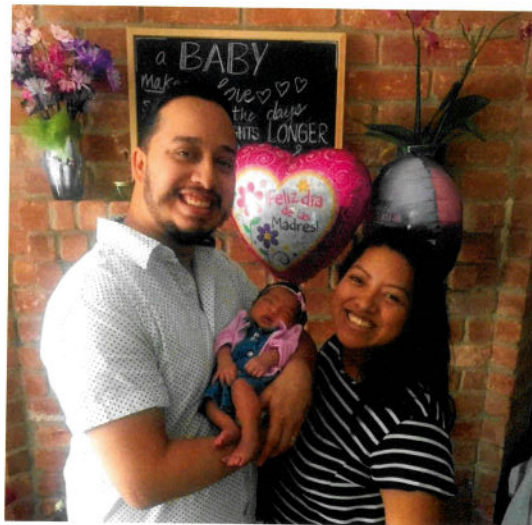
Kacey Alston (Cleveland 2013) recently received her Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Ashland Theological Seminary



Patricia Woods-Grey (Atlanta 2008) married Orville Grey on July 2, 2016



Daniel Cody (Newark 2014) has been hired as the Music Director for New City Kids in Paterson, NJ



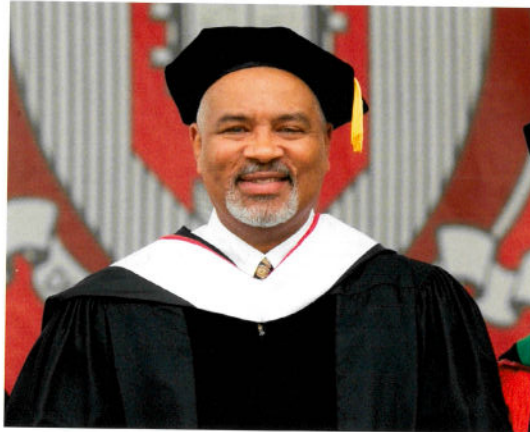
Jesse Carballo (Houston 2010) and Lucy welcomed Lindsey Juliette Carballo on April 27, 2016



Julia (LoVan) Goddard (Los Angeles 2010) married Matthew Goddard on October 31, 2015



Johnny Gomez (Houston 2005) received his Bachelor's in Finance from Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston-Town



Robert Caldwell (Columbus 2015) was presented with a Distinguished Service Award from The Ohio State University (OSU) on May 8, 2016



Jeremy Jerschina (Newark 2014) and Grace welcomed Cora Jane Jerschina on June 27, 2016