




 **ON THE  
LEVEL**

# **PRESSING *FORWARD***





**P**lease welcome a new addition to the DVULI staff, Carlo Daniels. Carlo joined the team in December 2015 as a Curriculum Specialist, and will be working directly with our Training and Resources Department.

Carlo has a BS and MS in Instructional Design and Technology from Western Illinois University. His previous professional experience includes the design of corporate training and eLearning resources.

The DVULI team looks forward to his contributions to the curriculum and learning resources, as well as the overall DVULI program activities. “There’s a joy in empowering people with what they need to know,” Carlo said. “I look forward to helping this program have more of an appeal to upcoming generations as well as Millennials.”

Accountability, empowering others, and working interdependently are familiar core values to Carlo, who credits his background in high school wrestling and his current Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (BJJ) hobby for instilling such qualities in him. “It’s more than just a sport and about staying fit,” he says. “I learned character development and aspects of teamwork from competing and being coached and mentored in BJJ.”

Feel free to drop Carlo an email at [carlod@dvuli.org](mailto:carlod@dvuli.org)









# I Turned Down the Noise

Darryl Answer (Kansas City 2015)



My wife and I had felt for a long time that we were being called to plant a church in our neighborhood. But the timing to move forward was unclear.

While waiting for clarity we continued to build relationships and learn from our community. I read books, went to conferences, and spent time with various leaders that had started ministries. These were all good and necessary steps, but I found myself putting these voices above the one that truly mattered most, God's.

The time to move forward became clear when I turned down the noise of everyone else's opinion and disciplined myself to hear from God. I spent months in prayer and conversations with a few trusted mentors and peers. It was in that space where I knew the opportunity was upon us and we were to trust God with everything. I gave notice and resigned from my day job to take the first steps toward launching a church where we lived, based on Christian Community Development principles.

Why was I so confident in the timing of this decision? Because I knew I was listening to the right voice.

I am learning that moving forward in life and ministry all comes down to being a better listener to the one voice that truly matters.



*Darryl Answer (Kansas City 2015) is the Community Pastor of New Community Church in Kansas City. He is passionate about empowering disciples and leaders of all ages for holistic transformation. Darryl is a member of the 2016 DVULI Think Tank*










# KNOWING WHEN TO MOVE FORWARD



by Monisha Randolph (Dallas 2015)

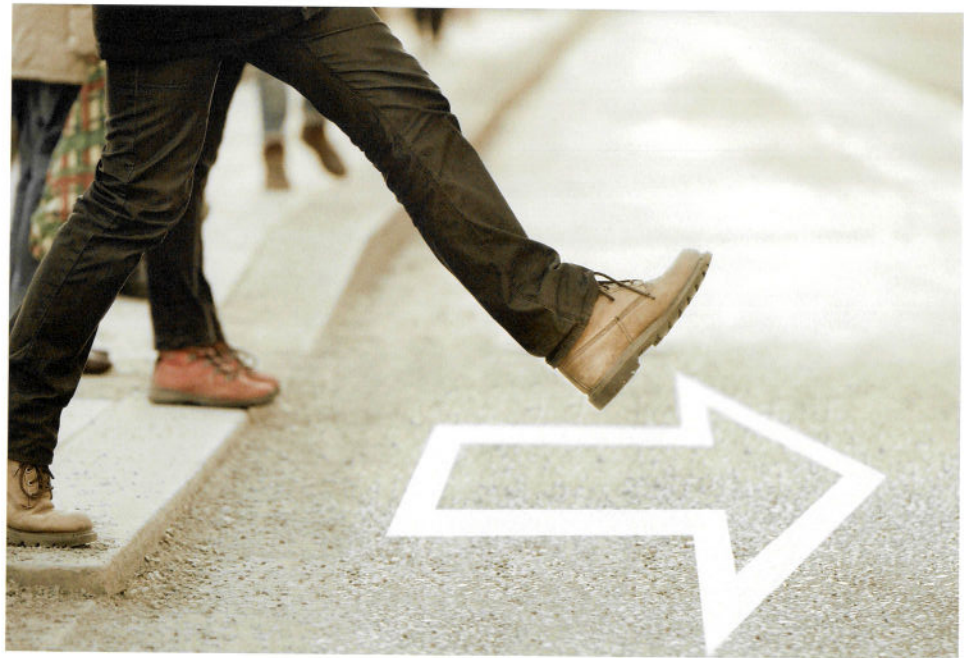


**T**he stakes tend to be very high when it's time to move forward. In ministry leadership, program strategies or personal life endeavors, forward moving decisions can have a deep and wide impact on those we serve and live with. This reality makes praying for discernment and clear direction from God imperative when approaching pivotal plights in ministry.

For the past five years I have coached a running program in partnership with a church in Dallas, TX. After my second training program, one of my clients expressed interest in becoming a personal trainer. I began to take notice of her leadership potential after learning she had received her personal trainer's certification. One year later I asked her how would she feel about serving as an assistant coach in this running program. She agreed to it, and for the following two summers I intentionally empowered her to take on various leadership tasks while she served as my assistant. This gave the young lady an opportunity to exercise her skills but also gave me space to begin planning for the next summer class. It was then that I felt the need to ask God if it was His will for me to serve another year as head coach of the running program at that particular church. As I spent some quiet time with the Lord I began to sense it was time for me to step down from this coaching role and make myself available for other opportunities. I knew my assistant coach was fully capable of taking the lead of this program at her church.

The moment I accepted the fact that my time as head coach was

winding down, God began to reveal other things to me, like the importance of a succession plan. Is there someone within your organization or church that has **VISIBLE POTENTIAL** and a **WILLINGNESS** to learn and grow? An important indicator that God may be directing you forward is the existence of a succession plan designed to make a healthy transition in leadership from one person to another. A succession plan is not something that should catch the people around you off guard. Top leadership or key constituents should be aware that after much thought and prayer you have to do what is best for the organization, and the growth and development of others. That may mean you transition somewhere else.



**As I investigated moving forward, two situations came to mind:**

One of the most heartbreaking experiences I had in the past year was witnessing a friend of mine react to God's call to move him in a new direction, but he reacted in a way that did not align with

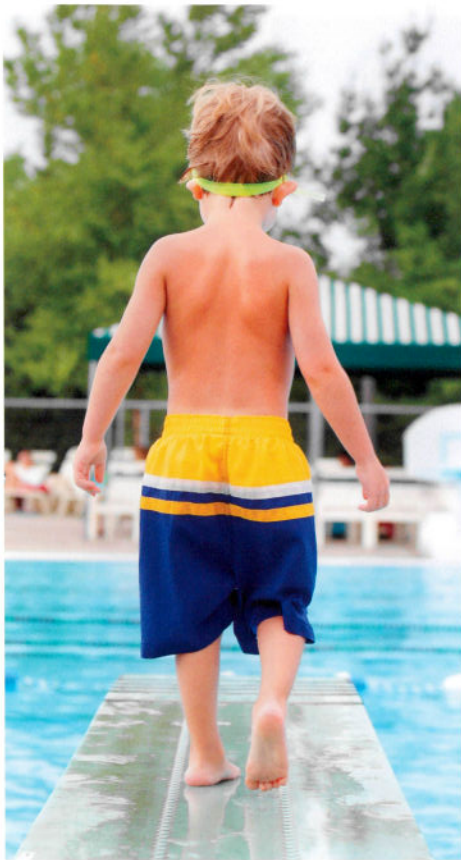
God's word. His particular calling required a level of trust and patience in the Lord that he wasn't willing to give. My friend chose to take matters into his own hands leaving several relationships damaged. I realized, after seeing the devastation that followed, that when it's time to move forward strong consideration should be given to whether or not your strategy reflects what God's word says. Can you identify the "Fruit of The Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-23)? Is there wisdom from Heaven (James 3:17-18) guiding your transition?

The other scenario that came to mind is the counterpart of being out of tune with God's word while moving forward, and that is being in tune with God's will.

Earlier this year I participated in a didactic study of the book of John. There was something intriguing that had never caught my attention before. In chapter 21, Jesus gives Peter an assignment to feed his sheep (verse 17). In verse 19, Jesus tells Peter "Follow Me." Using my imagination while reading verse



20, I saw Peter comparing himself to John and a type of “Mr. Tell It Like It Is,” Peter spills out what he was thinking as he sizes up John and says, “Lord, what about him?”. The intriguing part here is we have the resurrected Jesus Christ giving Peter an assignment to move forward (verse 17) and he is also giving instructions on what to do in regards to their relationship (verse 19). Still Peter had other suggestions rather than just obeying the will of God.



### Moving Forward

When I processed Peter’s heart, I realized that there are instances where I too have pulled a “Peter.” I may not have flat out asked God, “What about Jane

Doe?” but in my mind I have played the comparison game after receiving directives from God and began to ponder who else could do this. The heart check comes in verse 22 when Jesus replies to Peter, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me!” In recognizing it’s time to move forward remember, God’s will for your life may look different than those around you. As for you and me, follow Jesus.

As leaders we can sometimes mistake our frustration with a situation as a sign that God is telling us to go a different direction. Or if resources are drying up, that perhaps is God’s way of communicating a move. Spend a few hours (for some, a few days) to seek God’s direction specifically on how to move forward, or if you should move forward. I believe it’s important that we distinguish whether God is saying pack up or stay and take a different approach.

Who are the people in your life that you trust and know your vision? In many cases these people pray for you and desire God’s will for your life. Sharing your desires to move forward with your circle of accountability is highly recommended as well; but only after you have spent some quiet time with the Lord. One-on-one time with the Lord should precede fellowship and consultation with those who hold you accountable. However, you should always ask them to join you in seeking God for

clarity on how to move forward. Invite them to ask challenging questions that cause you to think. Ask for their honest feedback and position your heart for that feedback. Resist the comfort of receiving feedback from people who always agree with you.

There’s no questioning that moving forward is a delicate process which should be handled with care through prayer, and with high regard for God’s word and His will. As I intentionally listened for His call to move forward, I was able to step away from a key church partnership in Dallas with personal peace of mind, collective agreement by all involved and prepared to face new challenges with excitement all because I sought Divine direction.

*Monisha Randolph (Dallas 2015) is a Program Coordinator at Cornerstone Crossroads Academy in Dallas. She has a passion to disciple teen girls and women through fellowship and Bible study. Monisha is a member of the 2016 DVULI Think Tank.*



“There’s no questioning that moving forward is a delicate process...”



Register NOW for  
Reunion 2016 at  
[dvuli.org/reunion](http://dvuli.org/reunion)

# Reunion 2016 FORWARD

Don't miss these featured speakers, artists and attractions



Mr. Gabriel Salguero



Efrem Smith



Don Talley



Peter Ahn



Sandra Valentine



Jason Washington



K&K Mime



Marty Simpson  
Comedian



DJ BN Praya

Amazing workshops, Fun filled activities, Contests, Outings and more...





September 14-17, 2016  
Wyndham Grand  
Downtown Pittsburgh

**Please note these Reunion facts:**

- Reunion registration deadline is August 1, 2016 visit: [dvuli.org/reunion](http://dvuli.org/reunion)
- Reunion start time is 5:00pm on 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 sponsor 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 offered limited reimbursements towards travel
- 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

**For additional information call the DVULI office at 616-643-4848.**





# Happy Grads

**S**pring is one of the favorite seasons in the life of DeVos Urban Leadership. Our team gets to celebrate with five city cohorts the achievement of completing the 15-month training and witness their steps toward breakthrough. It's a privilege to recognize the class of 2015 graduates in:

- Albuquerque
- Columbus
- Dallas
- Kansas City
- San Francisco

**Hip Hip Hooray!**







# Nozbe

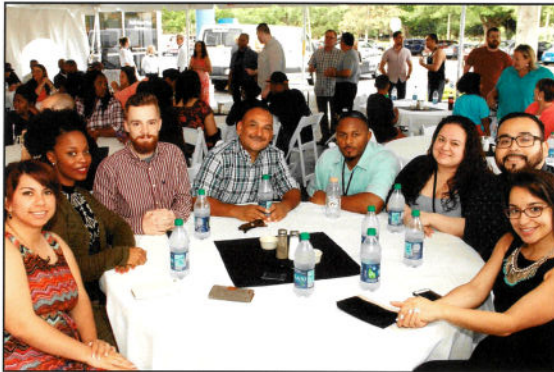
Reviewed by Marshall Snider (Portland 2014)

**J**ust about every urban leader is constantly trying to balance a ton of information and then doing their best to decide whether it is actionable or just something to keep for reference. I have tried several different task and project management systems to help me address the issue. Many are too simple, too complicated, or just do not do all that I need it to do. While I have come across some amazing tools to help keep all the juggling pins in the air, I've yet to find one that does it better than Nozbe. This is a great task and project management system. It is simple, but not too simple. It helps you to set up projects, tasks within the projects, and set due dates. You can invite others to your projects, and delegate tasks to team members. In addition, they offer great training videos and helpful information.





# Pumped Up In Orlando



See more photos on Facebook: <https://goo.gl/KhSSlZ>





n April 11, the Class of 2016 (Birmingham, Boston, Fresno, Newark, and Orlando) arrived at the Sheraton Orlando North

Hotel primed and ready for an infusion of training on Core Values and Healthy Change. From the opening night keynote by Frank Reynoso (Orlando 2010) to the closing live concert featuring Gospel artist Keith Staten, the First National Conference was an unforgettable week of inspiration, development and challenges for urban leaders. "Trust the process," "drinking from a fire hydrant," "walk slow" and other mantras were all abuzz as participants gleaned from trainers about how to achieve a breakthrough in their life and ministry. Mr. and Mrs. DeVos invited each city group to meet with them to share stories, engage in Q&A, receive encouragement, and enjoy photo ops! Participants from all five cities applauded the DeVos family, the DVULI team and coaches for an uplifting training week.





# Alumni Updates

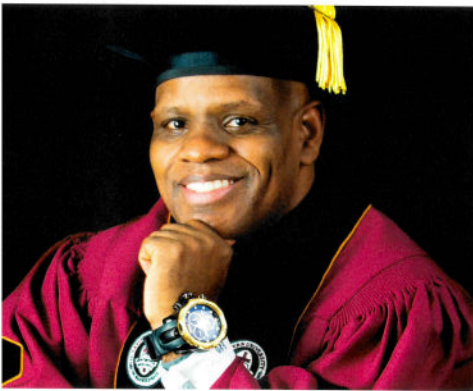
For more visit: [facebook.com/dvuli](https://facebook.com/dvuli)



Wesley Reyes (Cleveland 2013) accepted the Youth Pastor position at Lee Road Baptist Church



Antoine Richardson (Kansas City 2008) received the Healthcare Provider Diversity Award



James Quincy (New York 2009) graduated with a Doctor of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy from Eastern University, St. Davids, PA



Peter Bishop (Detroit 2012) and Chanel welcomed Isaiah Lucas Bishop on January 16, 2016



Chanel Ramsay (New York 2011) has published a book, "Leading Differently; Exploring the Principles of Supernatural Leadership"



Daniel Minera (Cincinnati 2014) and Anna welcomed daughter Liliana Margaret Minera on January 11, 2016



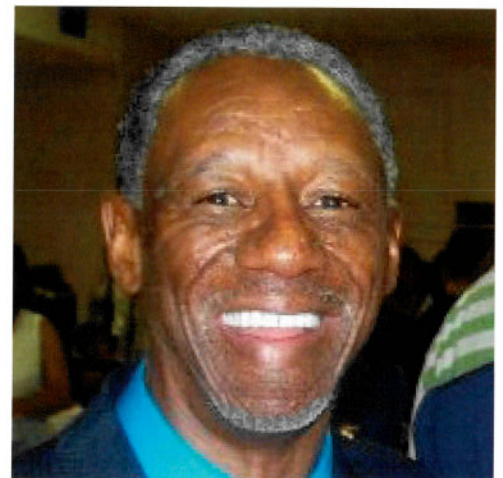
Johonna Turner (Washington DC 2010) accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Restorative Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, VA



Kawana McInnis (New York 2009) published her first book, "A Different Place; A Poetic Memoir"



Tolton Pace (Atlanta 2014) was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Ivy Preparatory Academies in Atlanta



Frank Stone (Birmingham 2001) transitioned to his eternal home on, January 18, 2016.