

Christian Leadership Alliance National Conference  
"Courageous Leadership in Challenging Times"  
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## Opportunity and the Creative Leader

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Why is it that some leaders work day and night to build an organization, with incremental results, and others make a very significant mark for the Kingdom?

- Simple question with complex answers
- One dimension almost always surfaces in the answer—the unleashing of creativity
  - Creativity as a “God process”
  - Secular examples (common grace) are similar
    - Steve Jobs, Bob Iger
- After 15 years, 4x growth, new ministries, etc. I’ll probably be remembered for three creative breakthroughs.
- Goal today: understand this process
  - Do it with some perspective I’ll share
  - Do it with stories from others
  - DIY!

## OUR OUTLINE

### Some Quick Perspective from My Experience

- The creative leader has the framework in place for Kingdom achievement
- The creative leader knows himself
- The creative leader tries to see things through God's eyes

### Some Stories From Ministry

- John Boyd – President and CEO, Mission Aviation Fellowship (Q&A)
- Peggy Hartshorn – President, Heartbeat International (Q&A)
- Craig Warner – Executive Director, Gideons International (Q&A)
- While they're talking, jot down on an index card: *"What is the single biggest breakthrough you would like your organization to achieve?"*

### Some Interaction

- Four groups, moderated by our panelists and me, take your cards and discuss them, open for divine insight

### Summary

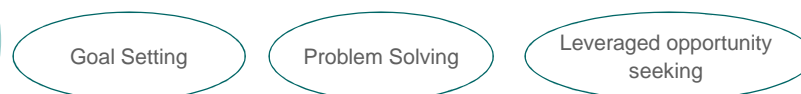
- We get together for final Q&A and suggested follow-up

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## The Creative Leader Knows Himself

### Two must pieces of knowledge for the creative leader

#### "Leadership Preferences"\*



Diagnostics: Which words above energize you? Drain you?  
 Leaders will have one predominant gifting  
 Passion for at least one is important  
 Creative leaders should pay attention to the third

#### Role Preferences



Likes to be  
thought of as:

Brilliant

Wise

Courageous

Faithful

Loyal

\*Credit: Bobb Biehl

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## The Creative Leader Has the Framework In Place For Kingdom Achievement

- A focused mission or purpose statement\*
  - Possible to be well managed and do lots of good without being focused
  - Outcomes based, not process based
  - Single sentence, inspirational, fits on a T-shirt (Drucker)
  - Pleases the King (Biblical)
  - Everything focused on it, everything measured by it
  - Drucker's five questions were right!
- The right people resources around him
  - Biehl: the successful organizations all have three talents on board...
    - Visionary energizer
    - Team builder
    - Financial architect

### Bowery Mission Example

#### \*OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

We are called to minister in New York City to men, women and children caught in cycles of poverty, hopelessness and dependencies of many kinds, and to see their lives transformed to hope, joy, lasting productivity and eternal life through the power of Jesus Christ.

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## The Creative Leader Tries to See Things Through God's Eyes

- It's a learned skill
  - Joshua Bell DC Metro Station story
  - Same thing happened all over the Gospels
  - Something extraordinary is going on but we don't see it—we're looking horizontally not vertically
  - Heart often connects before the brain
- Hints
  - God's ROIs are orders of magnitude, not just double-digit percentages
  - God is in the business of creating stories that glorify Himself. Find a storyboard which needs a miraculous ending.

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## Leadership Hints

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- **Let everyone see your heart**
  - Otherwise you'll be a manager, not a leader
  - It's the best way to solve the unsolvable
- **Be a simplifier and focuser**
  - All the great themes are simple – (complex plans are fine)
  - Dissembling is fatal
  - Consistently win over (or weed out) cynics or people who make simple things complex
  - Over communicate – vision is like “signal strength”
- **Recognize when it has to be perfect**
  - Everything public “speaks” (Vickers)
  - Everything “on the platform” is 10x in importance (Hybels)
  - When delegation is abdication
- **Never do anything you don't want published in the New York Post**
  - Squeaky clean and transparent—or else the clock is ticking

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## Simple Goals for Today

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- Leave here knowing whether you're a goal setter, problem solver or opportunity seeker.
- Leave here knowing where you fit into role preferences.
- Resolve to look for “God's finger prints” leading to big opportunities
- Use our panelist stories to expand your contexts.
- Jot down a big opportunity
- Discuss it with your group and (perhaps) get an insight!

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