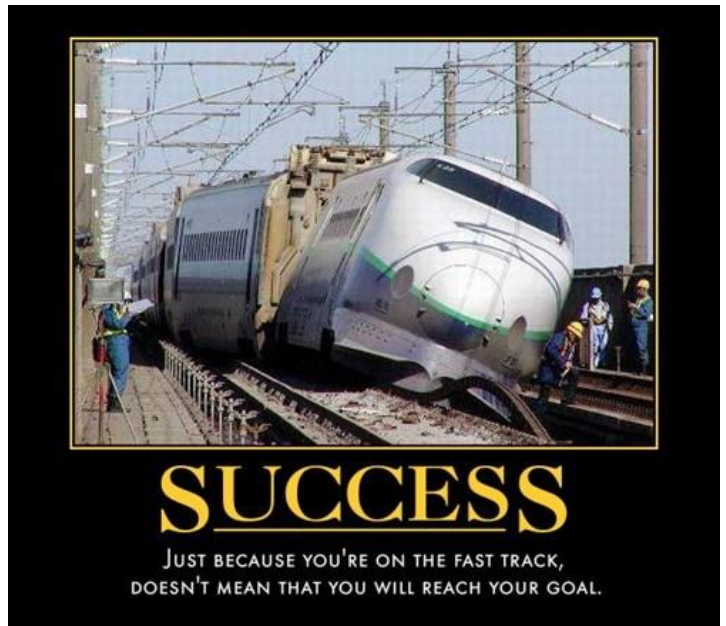


Back on Track

Num 23:19 "God *is* not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent (*change his mind-ESV*). Has He said, & will He not do? Or has He spoken, & will He not make it good?



Boasting About Tomorrow

Jas 4:13-16 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such & such a city, spend a year there, buy & sell, & make a profit";

Jas 4:14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

Jas 4:15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

Jas 4:16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

"evil" ... ie ...It is founded on a wrong view of ourselves & of what may occur. It shows a spirit forgetful of our dependence on God; forgetful of the uncertainty of life; forgetful of the many ways by which the best-laid plans may be defeated. We should never boast of any wisdom or skill in regard to the future. A day, an hour may defeat our best-concerted plans, & show us that we have not the slightest power to control coming events.

Pro 16:3(NIV) Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.

Pro 19:21 There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the LORD's counsel—that will stand.

Luk 14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—

Psa 20:4 (NIV) May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.



Rom 13:11 Besides this **you know the time**, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For **salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.** (... Your date of baptism?)

Rom 13:12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

In Jan 2020 (... a lifetime ago) The CgiCanada ministry showed us the strategic plan for the next 5 years for the church

- our adjusted Mission, Vision & Core Values ...
- our 2 key objectives,
- 3 categories of External Forces acting against the Church
- 3 categories of Internal Challenges that obstruct the Church
- the 6 or 7 Critical Success Factors for each congregation to assess & improve upon ... for us to have success in our strategic plan

For the past few months ... we were to be working on the CSF #1 ... *Are we doing better?*

CSF #1 - Personal Health -- Gap Score = 6

Objective: To ensure brethren prioritize their physical health

Thoughts influencing the Gap Score:

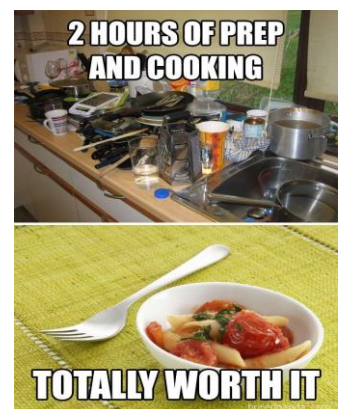
- Six of our members have Type 2 Diabetes
- Food quality (of after service food) has improved after it was mentioned
- Members need to balance food & exercise
- Some members promote health benefits of a "Gen 1:29 Vegan Diet"
- Others assert scriptural support for eating meat eg Clean & Unclean (Lev 11 & Deu 14)
- knowledgeable of Conventional & Alternative Medicine -value of both & appropriate uses

Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of **eating and drinking** but of **righteousness** and **peace** and **joy** in the Holy Spirit.

1Ti 4:8 for while **bodily training** is of some value, **godliness** is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life **and** also for the life to come.

3Jn 1:2 Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may **be in good health**, as it goes well with your soul.

How I picture my food looking after someone asks me to share.



CgiCanada – **Mission** - To ...

CgiCanada – **Vision** – By 2025, we will ...

CgiCanada – **Core Values** –

“I foresee” (I4C)

- I
- C
- C
- C
- C

CgiCanada – **5 yr Objective 1** – _____

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

Eph. 4.1-3

CgiCanada – **5 yr Objective 2** - _____

- a.
- b.

CgiCanada – **3 External Forces Against us** –

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

CgiCanada – **3 Internal Forces Against us** –

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

CgiCanada – **7 Critical Success Factors** –

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____

CgiCanada – Mission - *To preach the good news of the Kingdom to all peoples, primarily within Canada, as a witness and a warning; and to nurture and prepare disciples to reign with Jesus Christ.*

CgiCanada – Vision – *By 2025, we will have a reputation for being a healthy Church of God organization - with a ministry that is respected and easy to approach due to our servant leadership culture and our ability to effectively proclaim and teach the Word of God.*

CgiCanada – Core Values –

“Iforesee” (I4C)

- ❑ **Integrity** – Rom 12:9; Jos 24:14
- ❑ **Courage** – Prov 28:1
- ❑ **Care** – Eph 4:32
- ❑ **Courtesy** – Gal 5:13-14
- ❑ **Consideration** – Heb 10:24

Values to Light Your Way

Accuracy	Compassion	Friendship	Loyalty
Achievement	Courage	Happiness	Passion
Adventure	Creativity	Harmony	Power
Authenticity	Discipline	Health	Security
Balance	Excellence	Humor	Stability
Bravery	Ethics	Integrity	Time
Collaboration	Faith	Justice	Transformation
Connection	Freedom	Learning	Wealth

CgiCanada – 5 yr Objective 1 – To help God’s people:

- a. Walk worthy of our vocation;
- b. Maintain humility while forbearing one another in charity;
- c. Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace;
- d. Discover, develop & use their gifts towards being active members of the body of Christ

“**Eph. 4.1-3** I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

CgiCanada – 5 yr Objective 2 - To have an evangelism program

- a. That is robust and uncompromising in its Biblical content and ability to address current affairs; and
- b. That leverages technology and word of mouth.

CgiCanada – 3 External Forces Against us –

1. Political Winds
2. Moral Redefinition
3. Social Unrest

CgiCanada – 3 Internal Forces Against us –

1. Division
2. Disrespect
3. Growing weakness

CgiCanada – 7 Critical Success Factors –

1. Personal Health
2. Healthy Congregations
3. Staying Relevant
4. Biblical Fluency
5. Lead By Example
6. Communication
7. Spiritual Well-Being

Our next focus ...

CSF #6 - Communication -- Gap Score = 4

Objective: To improve in teaching effectiveness and interpersonal communication

Thoughts influencing the Gap Score:

- Ottawa may benefit from Burlington "family fellowship" spokesman's club training
- Ottawa members do well with "Listening" - a key part of communication
- French Translation & hard of hearing technology assists members and visitors
- Counselling skills might help communicate member problems

Task	Who	by When	Status



Scripture tips on Communication

Jas 1:19-20 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to **hear**, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Col 4:6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person (*not "people"* ... each person)

Pro 12:18 There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

7 Communication techniques Jesus used

1. **Jesus told stories.** (Think about the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15). Jesus could have proclaimed, “God loves you so much that He will welcome you back to Him no matter how far you have wandered away.”)
2. **Jesus shocked people.** (Using hyperbole - Jesus didn't really mean we have to rip out our “eyes” & amputate our “hands” for causing us to sin (Matthew 5:29-30), or else all Christians would be blind amputees...or have “logs” in their eyes (Matthew 7:3-5))
3. **Jesus crafted memorable sayings.** (Luk 6:31 And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.)
4. **Jesus asked questions (Socratic dialog)** (Mat 16:26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?)
5. **Jesus used object lessons.** (Washing feet - John 13, or discussing unselfish giving with the widow's 2 coins - Mark 12)
6. **Jesus used repetition.** (He foretells his death 3 times Mark 8:31, 9:31, 10:33-34 ... Also, “Kingdom is like” is said 11 times in Matt)
7. **Jesus covered one theme at a time.** (Luk 18:1 Then He spoke a parable (*Persistent widow*) to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart)

Barriers to Effective Communication

- **The use of jargon.** Over-complicated, unfamiliar and/or technical terms.
- **Emotional barriers and taboos.** Some people may find it difficult to express their emotions and some topics may be completely 'off-limits' or taboo. Taboo or difficult topics may include, but are not limited to, politics, religion, disabilities (mental and physical), sexuality and sex, racism and any opinion that may be seen as unpopular.
- **Lack of attention, interest, distractions, or irrelevance to the receiver.**
 - **Differences in perception and viewpoint.**
- **Physical disabilities such as hearing problems or speech difficulties.**
- **Physical barriers to non-verbal communication.** Not being able to see the non-verbal cues, gestures, posture and general body language can make communication less effective. Phone calls, text messages and other communication methods that rely on technology are often less effective than face-to-face communication.
- **Language differences and the difficulty in understanding unfamiliar accents.**
- **Expectations and prejudices which may lead to false assumptions or stereotyping.** People often hear what they expect to hear rather than what is actually said and jump to incorrect conclusions.
- **Cultural differences.** The norms of social interaction vary greatly in different cultures, as do the way in which emotions are expressed. For example, the concept of personal space varies between cultures and between different social settings.

Barriers and Breakdown-Effective Communication

1. Noise
2. Lack of Planning
3. Wrong/Unclarified Assumption
4. Cultural Barriers
5. Socio-psychological Barriers
6. Emotions
7. Filtering
8. Poor Listening
9. Information Overloaded
10. Time and Distince

Psa 56:5 All day they twist my words; All their thoughts are against me for evil.

Joh 21:23 Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?"