

Learning from Experience
By Dr. B. Courtney McBath
Calvary Revival Church

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After 21 years leading the same ministry I have discovered a couple of principles about learning from experience.

First, it is totally untrue that a wise man learns from experience. Wise men and women learn from some one else's experience.

Second, you learn more from failures than successes.

The conclusion would be:

If you want to be a wise learner, watch someone else fail!!

1. Focus on the message not the packaging.

When we began we were in some of the worst facilities. They were neat and clean but they were not church buildings. We were often not even perceived as a "real church".

- People came because we had a compelling message
- Our message became the product
- I took personal responsibility to improve "my delivery"

2. Focus on people and not the crowd!

We grew from our initial 21 to 75 to 300 in ten months. But I kept pulling us back to meeting the needs of individuals.

- Find ways to make people feel special
- Find ways to meet the significant needs of people
- Find out what makes people love you

They loved special attention during times of bereavement and sickness. The feel of "small church"

3. Focus on fulfillment and not success.

When I use the word success here I'm referring to a superficial definition of success. A definition based on indices of money and influence.

- Do you have a compelling vision?

Clearly stated. Measurable. Reachable.

- Do you have a set of non-negotiable core values
- Do you see a place of fulfillment for yourself in what you do?