

CHAPTER 11: MISSION CONSCIOUS

The (Big) Picture is Coming in Loud and Clear

The story of Mary Hays, who was known in history books as “Molly Pitcher” serves as the example in the story line of knowing the mission and doing what ever it takes to accomplish the mission. Mary Hays was following her husband from battle to battle during the American Revolutionary War taking care of the sick, wounded and hurt. During the Battle at Monmouth her husband was killed during a time when it looked like the American revolutionaries were about to loose the battle. As she saw her husband fall she moved into battle and took over firing the cannon which saved the day for the American Troops. In a time when very few women were recognized in battle, she became a symbolic for the determination and mission of the American people to win their independence. Even after watching her husband get killed in battle she stepped up to help hold back the British troops. Her courage was the results and determination to achieve the mission – win their freedom. Many died for the purpose and mission of the war and many have died in other wars for the mission of freedom.

“He who has a ‘why’ to live for can bear almost any ‘how’”. (Friedrich Nietzsche)

Educators, service providers and other working in service areas have chosen the profession that is built on the need to serve and help others. If the drive and mission is significantly strong in a teacher, service provider then the problems, distractions, and even sometimes the dangers can be accomplished. Accomplishing the mission is much easier and much more likely to be achieved if a system of leadership has been developed in the organization that builds on the heart felt beliefs of the employees or staff hired to fight the battles.

As part of the leadership issue there is the requirement that mission-conscious team players are committed to following the leaders of the team who are to do the leading. If team members hinder the leader for the purpose of individual mission often the team goal is missed. Top quality organizations are filled with persons who recognize the goal and mission of the team or organization and proceed to do what ever it takes for the team success. In many of those situations there are members who are sacrificing, taking less important roles or roles, or even dangerous roles for the sake of others on the team or to accomplish the mission.

The qualities that it takes to be a mission-conscious player:

1. They know where the team is going
2. They let the leader of the team lead
3. They place the team accomplishment ahead of their own
4. they do whatever is necessary to achieve the mission

Reflection:

It is always important to be looking at how do my goals and missions fit in with the team goals and organization for which I work, at home, at church or with any other team or organizations I participate.

Reading the chapter and reflecting on why would a person risk their life after their husband was killed? Why do educators and service providers do what they do? Most educators do what they do and work on school teams because they have a mission in life to help others or to provide children with opportunities that they may not have had in life or as a way to show thanks to a significant person that helped them in life. Our nation was founded, has grown, to become the richest nation (money, freedom, social justice and etc) in the world because of others that came before us. I am reminded daily of the many things I have in life because others saw a mission and for over 200 years have continuously worked for the goals and missions established by the constitution. The mission was written and preserved, thank goodness. Many have chosen to follow a path to achieve a better society and country through lots of debates, lawsuits and challenges the doctrine of purpose of the country has stood the test of time. I will work to make the mission of our school a more integral part of the lives of administrators, teachers, students and parents.

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