The Effect of Mentoring on Interns in a Cross-Cultural Setting to Produce Increased Missional Engagement

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The findings of this study demonstrated that mentoring had a significant impact on African American males who attended the spiritual mentoring program at Eastern Kentucky University. These findings demonstrated mentoring can play a significant role in the life of a person and encourage growth and balance. Mentoring can bring about positive change and empower those being mentored to discover their identity and spiritual direction.


In the past few years, social entrepreneurship and the development of faith-based non-profits has grown both in practice and in interest as a missiological activity within Christianity. Studies of the leadership of nonprofit founders typically focus on the traits, skills, and strategies in order to understand the growth of these organizations. The relationship between the character strengths of Christian social entrepreneurs and the growth of their organizations has not been explored in previous studies. This dissertation attempts to bridge that gap by asking the question: What are character strengths that have been influential and beneficial in the leadership needed by Christian social entrepreneurs in starting organizations that lead to stability and growth in mission? The findings of this dissertation are that there are particular and identifiable virtues and character strengths that are possessed by Christian social entrepreneurs which enable them to lead in the growth of the organizations that they have started. This study is accomplished through in-depth interviews that focus on critical incidents and areas that illuminate the virtues and character strengths of Christian social entrepreneurs who have positively affected the growth of their organizations, utilizing the theoretical concepts of Positive Organizational Scholarship and Martin Seligman and Christopher Peterson’s Classification of Virtues and Character Strengths framework.


The purpose of writing The Effect of Mentoring on Interns in a Cross-Cultural Setting to Produce Increased Missional Engagement is to examine the relationship between mentoring and mission. This is accomplished through interviewing interns who have served with C&MA/Envision in a cross-cultural setting for a minimum of two months. For a minimum of 45 minutes, 17 interns were interviewed, and the results show a strong correlation between high mentoring and high missional engagement.


The problem addressed examined whether two merged academic institutions were successful in implementing a transformational leadership style within the united organization. Successful leadership cannot be limited to the perception of only the leader, but must include the perceptions of the follower as well. The focus of