



PastorCare
West Michigan
Helping Pastors Soar

April 2020

Learning From Coaching Zovaman!

I love coaching pastors and ministry leaders! God knew exactly what He was doing when He called me in 2002 to leave pastoral ministry in a local church and become a pastor to pastors and their families. I love what I do! Every day, while I am coaching pastors and ministry leaders, I am drawing on what I learned while serving as a pastor in one church for twenty-three years. I also draw on what I am currently learning and what the Holy Spirit is teaching me. One of the key reasons why the coaching model is the perfect fit for me, rather than the counseling model is because I love the freedom to become friends with every pastor and ministry leader I coach. I prefer the coaching model to the mentoring model, because I love to learn from every person I coach.

On Monday, April 13, while I was coaching Zovaman, I received a spark in my heart. On Tuesday morning, April 14, the Holy Spirit ignited that spark in my heart into a burning flame in my spirit. I immediately got up and started writing this version of the April Newsletter.



Zovaman lives in Kyrgyzstan. We enjoy a two hour coaching session every week by a video conference call. Monday April 13 was our 8th Coaching Session.

Zovaman is a young Christian leader with a passion for developing businesses as a platform for Kingdom ministry. He wants to use business as a tool that generates great trust among his people. Businessmen are pioneers of development and change. He plans to use the free market as a tool for the gospel.

Zovaman is totally committed to changing his country and the world by discipling young men one at a time for maximum influence and impact.

The primary focus of our coaching sessions is addressing and working through his three major unresolved heart wounds from his childhood. They have a way of manifesting themselves and disrupting our lives and relationships until we deal with them and go through a process of healing and transformation.

We have been developing a deep friendship in the process and we laugh together during every session. We have established a level of trust and mutual respect where we can challenge and encourage each other and hold each other accountable.

It is an honor for me to share a few things I have been learning from Zovaman.

Near the end of our first coaching session, we began talking about some of the books we have enjoyed reading. Zovaman shared his love for reading novels. I shared that I never read novels. I have tried a couple of times, but I prefer reading about real life issues. Then Zovaman explained why he prefers reading novels to reading biographies. "With a novel the reader can feel part of the story. We put ourselves in their shoes. We become participants in the story. A novel provides an interesting connection for us. It relates to us personally. Novels have maximum impact for other people."

Zovaman encouraged me to read his favorite novel — *An American Tragedy* by Theodore Dreiser. He said, "You will feel compassion and hatred at what happens. There are so many stories in one person's life. Clyde was raised in an ultra-religious family, but he was embarrassed by how poor they were and he didn't embrace the faith for himself. He pursued success and the American Dream." He continued, "It will give you further compassion for the younger generation and why they are getting so secular."

Immediately after our first coaching session I ordered the book. When it arrived I was a little surprised to see it is 866 pages and rather small print. As I began reading a few chapters each day I discovered how much I could learn about Zovaman, by reading his favorite novel and learning how closely he identified with Clyde Griffiths, the main character. Reading *An American Tragedy* is part of my ongoing preparation for our coaching sessions. Today (4/20/2020) I am on page 605 and I will read more tonight.

On April 13, near the end of our eighth coaching session, Zovaman wanted to ask me several questions about my personal life. One of the questions he asked was if I served in the Army during the Viet Nam War? I told him I served in the Army Reserves for six years. Most of the young men I went through Basic Training with went to Viet Nam. I didn't receive orders to go to Viet Nam because I was in the Reserves. His immediate response was, "You didn't want to risk too much. You chose the most moderate, less likely to die option. You chose the safest option for yourself."

Wow! What deep and profound insight so quickly from a young man on the other side of the world. I immediately thought about my personal identity statement that I have been writing, developing, and tweaking for the past decade. Is what I wrote who I truly am, or who I like to imagine myself to be?

I am a Natural-Born Risk Taker.

I Crave the Rush that comes from Living on the Edge and Doing Something New.

Zovaman challenged me to take another look at myself. Am I really a risk taker, or do I settle for the safest option for myself?

I am continuing to ponder that question. . .



We are doing everything we can to coach and encourage pastors and ministry leaders through these unique and unusual days.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support!

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