



“Leadership is....”

Leadership is.... The way we finish that sentence does not only reveal our understanding of leadership but it also reveals a significant understanding of how we see ourselves as followers of Jesus. There are numerous models of leadership that we are exposed to and encouraged to follow, but it is essential that we hear from the one who we are to follow, and Jesus said: “Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.” (Matthew 20:26 NLT)

So how do you finish that sentence? “Leadership is....” The old sage, Lyle Schaller, offered a quick and yet noteworthy response to leadership: “Leaders lead!” John Maxwell would concur but adds: “A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.”

A brief examination of the literature on leadership shows that there is a consensus; leadership is influence. It can, therefore, be argued that if we do not have some type of influence on others, we are not leaders.

In addition, it can be argued that most people, to a degree anyway, are involved in leadership because they have some type of influence on others.

So, questions arise, if leadership is fundamentally influence, then who influences us? What is the impact of the influence upon us? Who are we influencing? What influence are we having on others?

These are indeed questions to ponder!

Hearing God's Voice, Discerning His Activity

For the sake of this article, let us limit our focus on ourselves as leaders. Who has influenced us? And who is presently influencing us? Only the naïve, unaware, or extremely arrogant would not acknowledge that we are daily bombarded by voices calling out to influence us. The real issue for us is: Are we hearing God's voice amongst the cacophony of sounds? If so, and may it be so, do we hear God calling us forward to share in His

mission and ministry, and subsequently lead others into His Kingdom work?

When we share in His mission, we need His Spirit to lead us and help us to discern our spiritual gifts, our personal styles, and our passion as we seek to lead others.

Clearly, an immeasurably high calling has been placed upon our lives and comes with immense leadership responsibilities.

So where do we begin? Ruth Haley Barton prophetically offers us guidance: “But at the heart of spiritual leadership is the capacity to notice the activity of God so we can join Him in it.”

As we reflect on leadership, and yes, as we consider the one who is influencing us and how we are influencing others, we must discern the activity of God in our lives, in the lives of others, and in the world. And let us not stop there, but let us, as we are being led, lead others in being attentive to the activity of God, and by God's grace, we will “know the way, go the way, and show the way”.

Bob served as a pastor in different ministry contexts. He then served as a professor at Tyndale University, Toronto Canada, and now continues to teach internationally.



Lessons From Missions Trips to Malaysia and Japan

DTC students join a cross-cultural missions trip each year as part of their field education. The first-year students went to Klang, Malaysia, from Nov 18 to 28, 2024. The group of 16 comprised six students, three spouses, four children and three faculty members. They were hosted by EIShaddai Centre, a Christian NGO involved in diaspora ministry.

HANNAH ATACADOR (PHILIPPINES)

At a local school, we taught Bible stories, played games, and shared meals. Despite their difficult circumstances, the children could show happiness on their faces. It reminded me that, even in the hardest of times, faith and love can be powerful forces for healing and change. The children's resilience and optimism deeply inspired me to approach my own challenges with a similar sense of faith and strength.

PERES LEPCHA (INDIA)

We talked with a father and came to know how he had to escape his country and come to Malaysia. His story was filled with hardship, struggles and betrayals. After one of our team shared his testimony and prayed for him, a beacon of hopeful words was announced to him, "Your hardship days are over. Now God will take care of your problems, and you and your family will have a new beginning." I'm sure those words lit up the father's heart. The spark was also lit in my heart.

The people we met were living in despair, but God was giving them hope and introducing Himself to them through EIShaddai. Every time I hear someone's story, it is really sad for me, but when I think about the faithfulness of our God and how He was with them, looking after them, that is the best and safest place for them to be.

RATHANA ROUS (CAMBODIA)

Adjusting to the cultural differences and language barrier at times felt frustrating, but I remembered Philippians 4:13 and learned the value of being adaptable and open, especially when facing unfamiliar situations. The trip was not only about serving others but also about personal transformation. It is not about changing others to fit my expectations but adjusting my attitude and behaviour to better serve God and others.

TUSHIG ERKHEMBAYAR (MONGOLIA)

Going on a missions trip with my family was amazing. When I first believed in God, I saw families who believed, and I thought that this was how I would start a family. Now I am so grateful to serve God together as a family. I am so glad that my daughter could come on this mission trip at a young age.

I visited a refugee family from Myanmar. Seeing the father struggling alone to provide for his family reminded me of my father. I really hope that this family, with their humble hearts and hospitality, will come to know God and trust Him.

VAREIYO RUNGSUNG (INDIA)

At a girls' shelter, one sister's story of overcoming difficulties was inspiring. I also learned about their self-reliance project, which includes a bakery, which could inspire similar initiatives in our ministry.

Rohingya families welcomed us warmly despite their poverty. Many families face serious challenges like financial strain and relationship issues. Some children attend EIShaddai school, where they can pursue education and even become teachers. When we shared God's love with them, many expressed openness to discussing about Jesus.

LINDA

We mainly interacted with two Diaspora groups: refugees (mostly from Myanmar) and international students (more than half from China). I had heard about many Chinese people going abroad to study and pursue advanced degrees, but seeing it firsthand, I realised this group is even larger than I had imagined.

Whether refugees or international students, they face significant challenges in adapting to a new environment. As Christians, we have a responsibility to care for their well-being, mental health, and spiritual needs, and guide them to find hope and support in their struggles.



(Far left) Klang Team teaching children handicraft for the biblical story of Jonah, and (left) having English conversation with international students.

Six second-year students organized a team to Tokyo, Japan, from 21 Nov to 3 Dec, 2024. They served with DTC alumni Hideki and Yumi Ui (2011–12) and the local church, as well as ministries such as Youth With A Mission and OMF Japan.

ASAPH LEE ZONG GENG (SINGAPORE)

From difficulties with visas to liaising with the many partners in Japan to fund-raising, every step was overcome with God's help. My suffering from shingles, my son's eye infection and wind-burnt skin, and my daughter's skin flare-up in Japan were more hurdles we had to overcome with God's help..

CHAND MASIH (PAKISTAN)

In contrast to Pakistan, where evangelism can be restricted, Japan offered an open space for faith conversations. I was amazed at how approachable people were—willing to listen and ask questions about faith. God had already prepared the hearts of the people in Japan to receive the message of the Gospel, and we were called to share it.

DON TAN (SINGAPORE)

Louis from the OMF Homeless Ministry showed me what it means to care for people in a deep way. I saw him meet not only their physical needs but also their spiritual ones. He took the time to build real relationships with them, showing genuine care for their struggles. Watching him reminded me of what true ministry looks like, meeting people where they are, with both love and truth.

ELISA OMEGA MAGGANG (EGA) (INDONESIA)

Tokyo is a strategic place to reach many people groups. Creativity and hardworking workers are essential. KGK (Fellowship of Evangelical Students in Japan) divides their ministry departments into Japanese ministry and English ministry for foreign students. Ps. Kosei, a pastor of a Chinese congregation, chose a place for church gatherings where the Chinese are likely to gather. He kept his congregation small so that they did not need to rent a big meeting hall, which required a lot of money.

HUYNH THI QUYNH GIAO (VIETNAM)

God showed me two powerful pictures of lost sheep and a faithful shepherd. The first picture was when I was standing in the middle of Ikebukuro MRT station during the peak hour. Countless people from all directions rushed to their destination, but their eyes were empty and their faces emotionless, and most of them didn't know about Jesus. The second picture was of a Japanese preacher standing in a public square to preach to his people, but those who crossed that place ignored him and covered their ears. The Gospel being rejected is common, but will I, as God's servant, persevere to preach his word under others' mocking eyes?

JIM LEONG (SINGAPORE)

Sharing the gospel and performing a skit on the busy streets of Tokyo required much self-denial. The consciousness of how others may look at me, our own inadequacy and the fear of rejection needed to be placed at the cross of Jesus. Though many of them did not stop to listen to the good news, God answered our prayer. I was about to give up after walking the street for some time looking for someone willing to listen. Then, I passed by a fruit stall and struck up a conversation with the stall owner and his daughter. Taking that as God's providence, I went ahead to share the good news of Jesus with them. God provided a German student who was able to speak Japanese to interpret.



Japan Team being hosted by DTC alumni Hideki and his wife Yumi (picture on the left, back row extreme right), and having fellowship with the Chinese Congregation of Tokyo New Life Church.



Learning to Preach

DTC hosted a preaching workshop by Langham Preaching from March 10 to 13 this year. The Level A (Basic) workshop was attended by 14 staff workers and mentors from the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES) movement, two members of Bartley Christian Church's Filipino congregation, and eight DTC students.

Funds Needed for Renovations and Scholarships

DTC will renovate its premises to accommodate more full-time residential faculty members. We will convert two storerooms in the kitchen block into faculty offices and renovate the former cook's quarters and toilet into a faculty living space with a separate public toilet. We will also furnish one apartment in the Annexe Block and set up a kitchenette for a faculty living space in the main building. The estimated cost for these works is S\$50,000. Excess funds collected will be used for future renovation or maintenance works.

DTC would also like to call on churches and individuals to sponsor a partial or full scholarship for DTC students. We have accepted nine new students in addition to five continuing

students in the new academic year. They come from Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, and Timor Leste. Their fees, which cover course fees, board and lodging, are between S\$8,000 and S\$12,000 a year.

We look forward to your support and partnership in the ministry that God has given DTC: "To glorify God by equipping graduates to serve the churches in Asia and the rest of the world through the formation and disciplining of the whole person within a residential cross-cultural community under the lordship of Jesus Christ."

Giving to DTC

Donors may issue a cheque made out to Discipleship Training Centre Ltd. and mail it to **33A Chancery Lane, Singapore 309554**; or transfer the funds to DTC's account number **024-901049-4** with DBS Singapore by ATM, Internet banking or telegraphic transfer. Donors may also scan the PayNow QR code. **UEN Number:** 197100578E

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As postage costs in Singapore have increased, we plan to reduce the frequency of hard copies of the DTC newsletter being mailed out. Please let us have your e-mail address if you have not already received the digital version of the newsletter. Please also let us know if you still wish to receive a hard copy of the newsletter. You may contact us at disciple@dtc.org.sg or **(+65) 6256-3208**.

DTC Welcomes New Faculty



Ms Rebecca Lee Pui Wan, from Singapore, joined DTC as a full-time residential faculty in January 2025, having served in Cambodia for some 25 years as a missionary.

The Lord's call to full-time service came in Rebecca's late teens. Following pastoral advice, she got a degree at the National University of Singapore in 1986 and a diploma in teaching in 1987. After 5 years of teaching in a Secondary School, her call crystallised. She began serving in her church, Zion Serangoon Bible-Presbyterian Church, while also doing theological studies. She obtained a Diploma in Christian Studies from the Biblical Graduate School of Theology, Singapore, in 1994 and a Master of Christian Studies from Regent College, Canada, in 1998.

In 1999, God opened the door to teach at Phnom Penh Bible School, Cambodia, for about 3 years. Then, she returned to Cambodia in 2005 with Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF). Her ministry included being part of two church-planting teams in two rural provinces at two different times; advisor to a local Christian Publishing House; Bible teacher to women; coordinator of training for new missionaries in culture and language learning, as well as ministry skills and personal development for the field. Lastly, she was a

member and then Chairperson on the Board of Governors for the OMF-Fellowship of Evangelical Students (FES) student movement called SONOKO.

In April 2023, she returned to Singapore for a home assignment and took a leave of absence from OMF to wait on God for the next steps. At that time, she worked on a Guided Research Program at the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies and sensed that the door to Cambodia was closed for a season.

In March 2023, Alvin was in Phnom Penh in his capacity as an adjunct lecturer at Phnom Penh Bible School and met up with Rebecca, inviting her to consider joining the faculty. This invitation made her heart beat a little faster, but she knew it was only prudent to wait as there would be many changes ahead, and there must be confirmation from the Lord, which He did give in late 2024. Her hope is to see DTC firm up its role as a solid training ground for cross-cultural workers who will enter situations where shifts local and global are to be expected, standing strong in the Lord and His call for them.

Rebecca enjoys good fiction and is always touched by missionary biographies. K-dramas and C-dramas are current likes. Things of beauty, as well as nature parks, stir her imagination.