

# Learning for Service in the Light of God's Word

"Enfold, Engage, Empower"



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## What I did:

My project has been to spearhead the recalibration of Toronto District Christian High School's focus statement, communicate it, connect it to how we operate, and create seamless ways to ensure that it flows through the entire school and community.

Here is what has been done (so far):

- A new focus statement
- A two-page synopsis of the school's mission, vision, focus, direction, and identity
- Creating buy-in and ownership of the above with all staff – individually and collectively
- The initial communication of the focus statement to the broader community

Here is what is ongoing:

- The creation of a "visual" playbook (see Lencioni's book, *The Advantage*) that is clear, concise and memorable
- Engaging and empowering staff members so that they can identify ways to carry out the recalibrated vision in all aspects of their work

## What I learned:

- The project was and is much larger than first anticipated. It has become part of a journey.
- The journey requires steps of faith because the outcome does not belong to me.
- "If you want to go far, go together." (part of an African Proverb)
- Mission, vision, focus, direction, and identity need to be more than words, they need to translate into action. My task as principal is to provide positive ways to make that happen.
- Clarity is essential – keep things focused
- Finding ways to connect the school's focus to each person's experience and expertise allows for ownership and delivery of that focus.
- Bring my own passion to the project because it can inspire others.

## The difference that it has made:

I came into the position of principal somewhat reluctantly (reference: *Moses in Exodus 3*). I believed, in my heart, that I was a teacher and not a principal. This journey, has taught me that in reality, I am neither. Instead, I am a servant of God called to do His work, not mine. When I struggle with whether or not my work is effective or keep working because that is how it becomes a success, I should stop. God is faithful! I need to seek and trust the mighty God who promises to give me, as His child, the ability and power to lead from the inside out.