

Capital Campaign Leadership

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**Immanuel
Christian School**

Campaign Leadership

Over the course of my Van Lunen year, I have been blessed to run a capital campaign with the guidance of the Van Lunen faculty and with the year-long coaching program run by Zach Clark, founder of Development and Leadership. We started by revisiting and renewing our sense of purpose as defined by our vision for children. We refined our development message, implemented a strategy of face-to-face meetings as the best way of strengthening commitment, learned effective follow-up, and discussed at length the particular strategies of our own campaign. I am very much indebted for this training and am excited to implement it better and better in coming years.

The Soul of Leadership

Even with excellent direction, the course of the campaign did not lead where I expected. My thinking was grounded, I now know, in naïve self-confidence and pride. The Lord withheld success and drove me to a place of discouragement and anxiety, a place where there was no choice but to look to Him.

Over many hard months, I learned that prayer must be the foundation of work; that it is not the actual accomplishment of the goal that matters to the Lord; what matters is the way in which we serve Him. I have learned to put my confidence and my hope in the one who sent water from the rock, who parted the sea, who raised the dead, and who deliberately reduced Gideon's army to prove that He has no need of human strength to accomplish His purposes. I have learned that spiritual leadership is far more important than organizational leadership. I have learned that – even when not feeling like it – the call is just to obey, to do the job that I know I am called to do, setting my own ego aside.

Clearly the Lord was wanting to do something in my heart, using this immense project to stress me and to break me, that he might refashion me more in His likeness.

Future Prospects

Now, by the grace of God, an unexpected funding source has materialized, our campaign is progressing, and we will move in to our new facility in August. The Lord is proving Himself to be the owner of this school and the giver of every good thing. Funding is still a real concern, and the campaign path continues to be hard work, but we know that we are doing what the Lord has called us to.