
Subject: What DID Jesus do?

Dear Saints

Below please find a tongue-in-the-cheek article by myself, taking a look at our management of what had been entrusted to us. Enjoy!

Eben Swart

Jesus arrived as a baby in a manger on planet earth, burdened with a mammoth assignment from his Father:
Save the World!

I've asked myself many times:
What would I do if God would give ME that assignment?
(OK, OK, I know He wouldn't - the job's been finished 2000 years ago already. But still - what would I set about to do? Just if?)

Well, well, to reach the whole world, you would need a HUGE organisation in order to act as a vehicle to reach every person. You see, we are about 6 billion souls teeming all over the face of our planet. That's a 6 with 9 zeros! A whopping 6 000 000 000!

So what would I need to start with?

1. Finance - and lots of it!
2. An operational headquarters - housing at least one office per department.
3. Human resources - a huge recruiting campaign, with skills development afterwards.
4. Proper structures and leaders with vision and skills.
5. Infrastructure: Computers, telephones, cellphones, databases, evangelism materials, vehicles, bla, bla, bla.
6. More bla, bla, bla.
7. A lot more bla, bla, bla - I mean A LOT!

The whole thing just seems to overwhelm me!
It's too BIG!
And I'm too SMALL!

So how did JESUS go about it?

Well, He never really got going with his assignment until he was 30 years of age. Only then did He start to DO something about it.

He started at the Human Resources Department. He got hold of 12 mostly blue-collar guys to help him. One, Matthew, had a white-collar job.

After a day or two, He dismantled the newly established Department, stopped recruiting, and moved on to establish the Training Department. This kept Him busy for the best part of the next three years. And phew!, did He have a hard time training those 12 middle class Jews!

After three years He closed down the Training Department, and immediately set up the Mobilisation Department. He empowered his students, and sent them out 4 times, with specific instructions, and varying success. The first 3 times He didn't even allow them to spread the gospel!

Because He had neglected to confirm his ministry with the local church authorities, and broke all their rules, He really got into trouble with them. By that time He had such breakdowns in relationships with them that their officials wanted to KILL Him. Really badly. So they had Him taken into custody, and started to beat Him up. Really badly.

Which resulted in Him never ever getting to establish a proper Finance Department (His treasurer was a cheat), a Building Department, a Sunday School or Chatechism Department, a Church Service Department, a Resources Department, a Music and Worship Department, an Administrative Department, a Missions Department, or ANY OTHER Department!

He never built a building (he was only skilled in carpentry), never led the worship, never played a musical instrument, never opened a cheque account, never registered his ministry with the Romans, never applied for tax rebates, never held fund-raising events, never had a Board Meeting, never attended seminary or conferences, never sat in boring meetings with other ministry leaders, never established structures and procedures, never wore a tie, a suit or its Jewish equivalents (whatever they might be), never had a secretary, never baptised anybody, never organised puppet shows for the kids or directed Bible studies.

Because, after they beat Him up, they KILLED Him.

And to their amazement and embarrassment, escaped from his tomb where they buried Him.
And to their relief, ascended to heaven. At last they were rid of Him!

Really?

As the Temple was already there, He didn't have to build another building. He established it in the bodies of believers.
He didn't need a Finance Department, cheque accounts, tax rebates or fund-raising events. He paid his taxes from a fish's mouth.
He didn't need a pulpit. He never preached - only taught. He used a mountain or a fishing boat.
He didn't need church growth strategies or "sheep hoarding." So many followed Him, sometimes He had to get away from them!
He didn't have to hype people up before He healed them - He just healed them - permanently!
He trained his disciples, then left them and sent them his Spirit. He didn't preach to them every Sabbath until they died of age and then buried them.
He never asked money or tithes from his followers - He warned them against it.
He lived by faith - not by structure, rule and procedure.
He established a Body, not an organisation.
He established his Father's Kingdom, not his own Empire.

He learned obedience in his suffering, loved to the bitter end, paid the ultimate price - and SAVED THE WORLD!

Paul says: Be followers of me, as I am a follower of Christ.

THAT is OUR assignment.