UNLEASHING YOUR IMAGINATION

Learning to Thrive in Uncertain Times

Dr. Alan Pue, President, The Barnabas Group, Inc, apuetbg@aol.com
“An event worn smooth by time.”
Remember Our Challenge Is To . . .

- Anticipation
- Innovation
- Excellence

. . . but in a new kind of environment
The Way It Was

Predictable but Complicated
The Way It Is

Complicated and...

Comple...
EXERCISE

WHAT HAS CHANGED OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS?

- Students
- Parents
- The Church
- Culture
- Community
- Technology
- Economy
- Legislation
So What’s a Leader to Do?

Imagine what could be
“The box takes a beating in the creative process. Nothing of value, it would seem, ever occurs there. In reality, nothing of value can occur without the box. If creativity represents the flexible mind at work, the box represents the structure needed to give that creativity purposeful form. We must engage in problem solving approaches that provides for the mental flexibility to consider nonstandard options without discarding the benefits of structure.”

Mark Eppler
“Around here we don’t look backwards for very long. We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things, because we are curious... and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.”

Walt Disney
“Creativity, as has been said, consists largely of rearranging what we know in order to find out what we do not know. Hence, to think creatively we must be able to look around at what we normally take for granted.”

George Kneller
Read

- Without ceasing
- Widely
- With a second set of eyes
- Journal
- Discuss
“Innovation is fostered by information gathered from new connections; from insights gained by journeys into other disciplines or places; from active, collegial networks and fluid open boundaries. Innovation arises from ongoing circles of exchange, where information is not just stored, but created. Knowledge is generated anew from connections that weren’t there before.”

Margaret J. Wheatley, Leadership and the New Science
Ingredient 5

Tackle the Tyrant

- Identify the “real” problem
- **Surrender** your memories
- Lead with **questions**
Ingredient 6

Divergent Thinking

- Reject the tyranny of the OR
- Embrace the genius of the AND
- Avoid weary consensus
- Look for the “second right answer”
Ingredient 7

Alternative Universes

Through excursion teams
“If a man is in too big a hurry to give up an error, he is liable to give up some truth with it, and in accepting the arguments of the other man he is sure to get some errors with it. Honest argument is merely a process of mutually picking the beams and motes out of each other’s eyes so both can see more clearly.”

Wilbur Wright
Ingredient 9
Stay Grounded

- Fire bullets before cannonballs
- Set trip wires
- Remember reality
“Bet big on the wrong innovations or fail to execute on the right innovations, and you leave yourself exposed. On the other hand, if you just sit still and never do anything bold or new, the world will pass you by, and you’ll die from that instead.”

Jim Collins
Bullets before Cannonballs

- A bullet is low cost
- A bullet is low risk
- A bullet is low distraction
Set a Trip Wire

- The goal of a trip wire is . . .

- This is important because . . .
Here’s Reality

It’s awfully hard to make good decisions
“greatness is not primarily a matter of circumstances; greatness is first and foremost a matter of conscious choice and discipline.”

Jim Collins, Great By Choice
A Final Thought

“\textit{I sat down and wept.}”