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FAM 311

13 February 2010

Direction or Disorganization?

Jim Leyland of the Detroit Tigers works during baseball season as well as the off season to conduct game plans, control the roster, and direct and guide the team's finances, talents, and structure. The Detroit Tigers have a lot of talent throughout their team, with players such as Brandon Inge playing infield, Guillen playing outfield, and various talented men on the pitching roster. Each player on this team receives a different pay check, and each player has his own talents. Where these talents are used and how the team's time and finances are used, however, is determined by the main manager of the team, Jimmy Leyland himself. He works to distribute talent throughout the diamond during a game and has strategies as to who steps in and where for an even match against a specific opponent player. He manages the team's time during practices and games as well as their finances throughout the season. These actions are crucial, or else the Detroit Tigers may not have funding for sharp looking uniforms, or for a new player brought up from the minors. They would not have distinguished field positions, or an idea of which players evenly match their opponent's talents. Their talents would not be distributed on the baseball diamond as they should be, and their time and funding would be frantic and disorganized. The Detroit Tigers are a family. Jim Leyland is their resource manager. All families, this being an example, succeed and increase their level of living by planning the use of their available materials through taking direction and using successful resource management. So what will it be, direction or disorganization?

Resource management, as defined by Mary Winter, Iowa State University, and Earl W. Morris, University of Minnesota, is the process of “planning the use of the human and material resources available to the family to achieve its goals”. They also state that other “key subprocesses are decision-making and communication, which permeate goal setting, resource assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation” (Winter and Morris). Resource management is more than simply putting money aside at the end of the month for savings, or getting a little bit of work done so as to not feel guilty about going to see a movie. It “includes both thought and action”, and it’s underlying factor is “how individuals and families decide, plan, and act in order to fulfill needs and accomplish goals in an increasingly complex society” (Goldsmith 4, 5). It is a process used to provide a supportive framework that maximizes the betterment of families and their resources.

According to the text Resource Management for Individuals and Families, the steps to better living through resource management include identifying a problem, need, want, or goal; clarifying values; identifying resources; decide, plan, and implement a plan; accomplish goals and evaluate the situation (Goldsmith 6). These simple steps are created to help families plan and put their thoughts into action. When asked “Why manage?”, Goldsmith simply states “people have no other choice” (9). Jobs, family life, and relationships require management skills. Management reduces chaos and disorganization and gives direction to one’s life. For personal or family life, it can allow for a more wise use of time, money, values, etc. so that any given family can determine what they want in life.

Money management, for example, can help a family budget for a more wise use of their finances. While doing this, the particular family understands the importance of only spending their allotted monthly amount on expenses such as entertainment, groceries, or trips to the movie

theater. With a budget, a family can determine the brand of diapers they can afford, or how often their income will allow them to splurge on something fun that month. A budget makes it easier to make house payments according to their income, the financial ability to have another child, or even to determine with water, electric, house, etc. payments aside, how much money they are allotted to spend on leisure in a particular month. Management of finances is very helpful in any situation, and especially in families, helping them to figure out exactly what types of resources they possess based on their income, and what they can budget for month by month.

Another example of resource management is time management. Something simple as time management could allow a parent with a career (and an implemented time management plan) to get all necessary work done in a timely manner at his or her job, and still have time to attend their son's baseball game at 6:00 PM that evening. Without time management, Gerard Blair states "The absence of Personal Time Management is characterized by last minute rushes to meet dead-lines, meetings which are either double booked or achieve nothing, days which seem somehow to slip unproductively by, crises which loom unexpected from nowhere. This sort of environment leads to inordinate stress and degradation of performance: it must be stopped" (Blair). This is simply not a productive way of going about the day, and successful time management is something that could be implemented to eliminate unnecessary stress.

Management in general allows for families to be efficient with their resources, budgeting and using them wisely— as to not waste each gift that God has given them. It increases the level of living for a family and allows them to have a positive structure set for the way they live.

Family resource management allows for a better life for the individual as well as for the family. Quoted in the article "The Impact Of Financial Attitudes And Knowledge On Financial Management And Satisfaction Of Recently Married Individuals", various researchers were

quoted saying "Satisfaction with one's financial status can enhance marital satisfaction, and more broadly, life satisfaction" (Berry & Williams, 1987; Mugenda, Hira, & Fanslow, 1990, qtd. in Parrotta and Johnson). Resource management is the act of implementing a plan to budget God's gifts effectively and plan for a higher level of living. Just like Jim Leyland manages the resources available to the Detroit Tigers to allow for a better organized and planned out playing strategy, families everywhere are required to manage resources in order to get the most out of life and live the way they choose. Management creates direction in one's life, clears up disorganization, and creates room for growth and forward motion. Each family has to decide for themselves between the following: direction or disorganization.

Works Cited:

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