

Vocatio - Welcome to DTS 3.0

Overview:

A full featured 6 month DTS that fully prepares students for the rest of their lives, outside of the mission.

Refining two weeks of the curriculum:

- focusing in on "Hearing God's Voice" and 'Mission' weeks to give a broader view of a missional life for those moving past YWAM

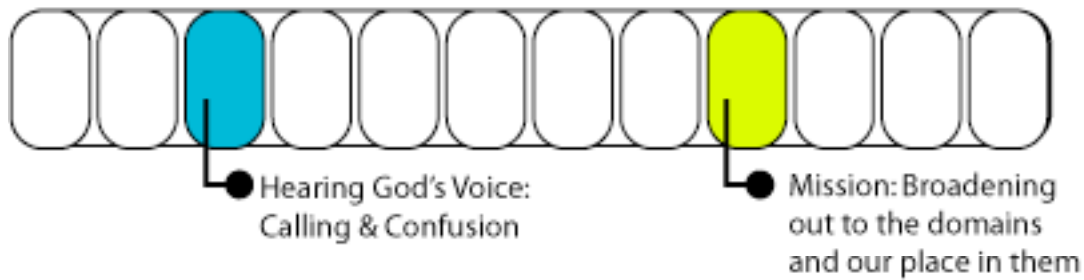
Adding two weeks to the outreach phase:

- focus in on teaching on the domains, issues and intercession

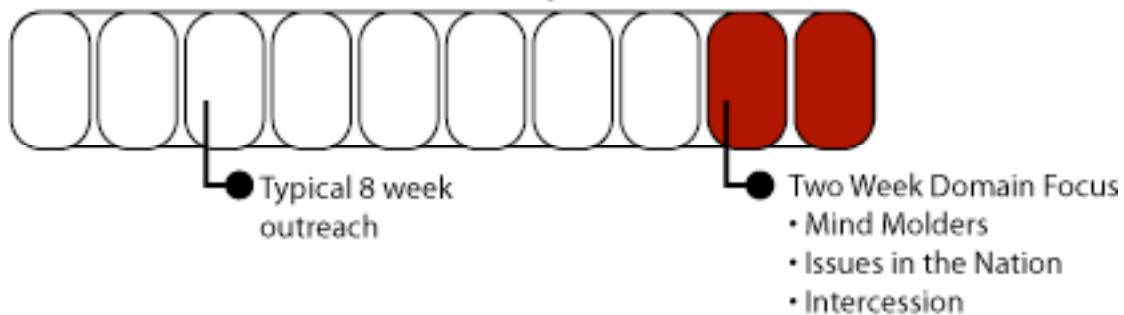
Adding two weeks to the end of the school

- adding to the debrief, a focus on kingdom oriented calling based training

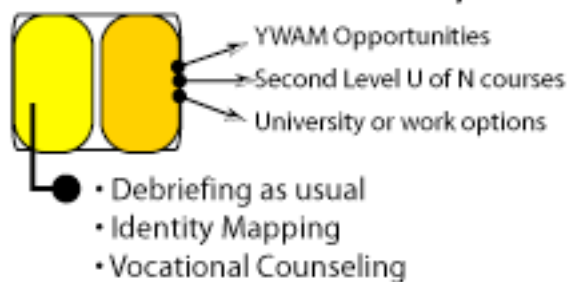
Vocatio Phase 1 - DTS 12 week curriculum refinement:



Vocatio Phase 2 - DTS Outreach Development:



Vocatio Phase 3 - Vocational Prep: 2 weeks



Vocational counseling in terms of the latin word Vocatio, or calling. A sacred sense that God has a calling for us and this will be applied relationally, educationally and vocationally.

YWAM does not do vocational training and counseling in the modern sense, but we are all over Vocatio in the sacred identity sense.

Results:

- As 80% of our students leave YWAM after the DTS, they will leave with a stronger sense of God's broader purposes from nations to neighborhood and a clarity as to their place in this mission.

- Second level YWAM courses promoted through a direct link with our students identity and calling.

Vocatio: An Evolution in the DTS Curriculum

Background:

DTS 1.0:

The SOE (School of Evangelism) was our first training course, we taught apologetics and evangelism and some broad Kingdom foundations (via Schaeffer et al), but when our teams went out, we saw there was a huge need for basic discipleship, thus;

DTS 2.0:

There needed to be training in personal purity, fear of God, lives and choices are the testimony... A focus on mission, Jesus coming back and getting everyone into the kingdom ASAP. Training people for YWAM and other ecclesiastical organizations... We also started to champion the Kingdom mission concept but it's been slow on the uptake. A good start, but I believe God is moving us into;

DTS 3.0

Preparing for a broader missional lifestyle, all domains, all nations, all neighborhoods, all gifting. Especially for those leaving YWAM right after the DTS.

Note: The DTS Center has a fantastic range of helpful documents including a lot of the principles and priorities I am listing here. My focus is on recapturing a six month course with a focus on preparing students for life after YWAM. The DTS Center has worked hard to promote these goals. Check out the site!

Demographics:

25 years ago when I did my DTS, over 70% of us went on to do second level YWAM schools. I kept seeing my DTS peers in the mission over the next five years from San Francisco to Belo Horizonte. We had time to develop people's sense of calling and how they could apply their gifting to the great mission. Today, more than 80% to 90% of our DTS students are leaving YWAM immediately after the DTS. They are moving into work or university

programs armed with our five months of input. I think we can improve this crucial opportunity in their lives.

What is the mission?

On top of this demographic shift, we have expanded our priorities as a mission. During the last 30 years, our sense of mission has broadened from evangelism and church planting to seeing God's kingdom transform all areas of society. This was not only our institutional calling, but the word of the Lord to the Church internationally. This present generation is keenly aware of their place in the "reconciliation of all things" as they are prepared to enter roles in the film industry, banking, social services and politics etc. The question is, are we still prepared to prepare them.

What are our students looking for:

Most of our students are coming during a gap year in their lives. In this OE phase, they are looking for a deeper knowledge of God, the ability to hear His voice and a solid preparation for their calling/future. A few come thinking about the classic role of mission but most are not seeing YWAM or other ecclesiastical institutions as a viable opportunity for them. They are moving towards the domains in society and we have five months to facilitate this calling. Most however, never connect our curriculum or our second level offerings to their potential future. They may glance through the U of N catalogue but the dominant theme of the DTS curriculum and vibe seems to flow in another direction. They move on and into work largely supporting a sacred/secular mentality. Even a weeks teaching on the Kingdom cannot counter the dominant influence of the overall curriculum.

Tape on loop.

My experience in the last 20 DTS's that I have taught in (over the last 3 years) is that our students are heading in one direction, and the DTS is talking about another direction, we have a disconnect between us and them. They are looking for preparation in the areas of influence and we keep talking about the mission as it was 30 years ago. While we have evolved as a mission, our DTS leadership

is stuck on loop. The DTS leader stays on average of 2 to 5 schools and has only been in the mission for 2 to 5 years. During this time, they pass on the sense of classical mission to their staff and students and then move on. Thus, the same message gets told to the students over and over again while the mission around it evolves.

Most of our DTS leaders have not done five or six U of N courses, worked in the marketplace applying kingdom principles and they are not widely read in areas of the domains. Their concept of mission is largely stuck in the past and yet they promote this at the very entry point of YWAM.

I have been amazed at how many of our DTS students still do not have much of a clue as to their calling or what the next five years looks like by the end of the course.

I think it's great that we have young leaders in the DTS. But I think the base leadership needs to ensure that the DTS Center guidelines are championed and cover for the inexperience of their new leadership. They also need to develop a helpful platform for their students to move out of YWAM with a clear sense about their future.

So to summarize, our students are coming to:

- Deepen their understanding of God
- learn to hear His voice
- find out what their gifts and callings are

However, at present, while we have a decent curriculum in the nature and character of God

- we are not properly promoting the broader missional calling of the Church
- and are not really preparing them to understand their place in this calling
- our outreach does not prepare them to transforming their neighborhoods back home

I know every DTS is different and approaches this issue in a different way. I would like to offer a curriculum shift based on the 25 courses I have staffed and led in YWAM and the additional 30 plus courses I have taught in over the last 25 years in YWAM. I am calling this curriculum project 'Vocatio'.

Vocatio is the latin word for calling. It's the root of our modern term vocation, but it has a sacred aspect to it, namely, that God has given us callings that will work out into our sacred expression in the world. This lines up with our missional sense of reconciling all things back to God in every area of life.

The main objectives of Vocatio are:

- Improve the teaching in hearing God's Voice
- Broaden the students understanding of the mission God is calling them to
- Develop a solid understanding of gifts and callings through identity mapping

Vocatio Phase one:

- refining two weeks in the DTS curriculum: Hearing God's voice and Missions (or the Kingdom of God)

Phase two:

- two weeks of training at the end of the outreach on the domains, issues, intercession and action

Phase three:

- two weeks at the end of the DTS covering identity based callings, life planning and transforming the neighborhood to city to nation

Vocatio Phase 1. Improving our teaching on 'Hearing God's Voice' and 'Missions'

Over the years, I think we have taken the original idea of hearing God's voice and turned it into a focus on guidance. Our students come into the school wanting to know what God has for them, we give them "Is That Really You God" and then ask them to pray

about which outreach they should go on. The net result is a directive focus on God's voice that is not sustainable in our students future. One possible refinement of this area can be found in MP3 format on my site:

Most DTS's have a pretty good week on missions but I have found this to largely focus on a classical sense of mission. I think the DTS center could promote a broader sense of mission that lines up with the domains. Frontier missions and what happens after that...

Vocatio Phase 2. The Domains on outreach

At the end of an 8 week outreach phase and while still on the field, we can introduce a final two weeks that teaches on the domains of influence. Landa Copes excellent OT Template teaching could be shown on DVD or VHS for 45 minutes in the day rounded out biblical study in these domains, with research on issues in the outreach location and intercession on these issues for both the outreach location and the same issues back at home.

This deeper focus on the domains starts to tie the DTS curriculum into a broader missional preparation that the students can appreciate on two key levels. One is how God's heart for the nations includes a viable solution (outside of simply planting church's like in Africa) to long term issues. And the other is how these same principles can be applied to their communities and vocations back at home. A win win situation.

Another benefit to this deeper focus while on outreach is the contextualization of second level courses in YWAM or other places to facilitate the needed training to equip our students for this kind of application.

Vocatio Phase 3. A solid understanding of gifts and callings through identity mapping

The basic debriefing phase of the DTS is an essential element in bringing closure to the DTS experience. However, it is often a poor preparation for the students next step. We give them a little training

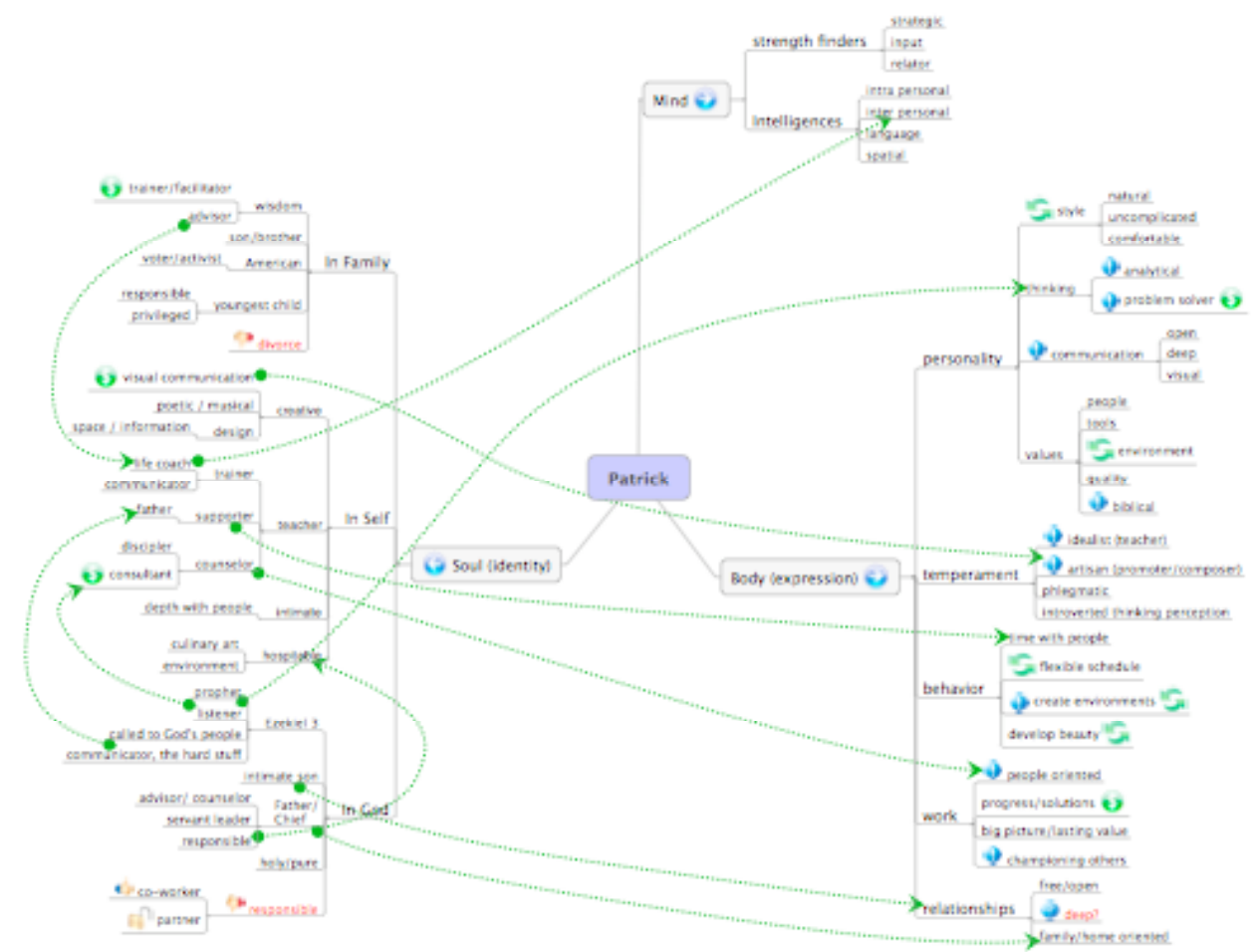
for the shock they are about to face, but not the real tools they need to move forward confidently in their gifting.

My concept is to add two weeks at the end of the school with these curriculum additions:

A. Debriefing to bring closure, understanding etc. to the last five months

B. Identity mapping to develop a 5 to 10 year plan including relational growth, education, work related issues

C. Calling counseling and seeking God to get a sense of confidence and direction in the next steps.



For part B, I have a couple of links so you can hear an in depth approach to this issue. My 'Processing your Future' and 'Identity Mapping' teachings are a couple of ideas that can be expanded on with a number of other topics from 'Purpose Driven Life, to DISC, to SIMA, to Strength Finders etc.

Timing. Most people have 6 months in this gap year phase. Adding an additional 2 weeks during outreach and two weeks at the end of the course will work within their timing (almost all DTS's 20 years ago were six months) and within visa permit guidelines.

Finally

Our calling to this generation is to facilitate their calling. I believe the DTS is losing its place in the crucial development of young people around the world. If we do not seriously update our offering, we will be marginalized in the end as we lose relevance in their eyes. If however, we jump on this opportunity to prepare them for the broader mission that God has for them, we will continue to be a significant player in God's work in the world.