HOW TO MAKE YOUR TEACHING MATTER

by:
Mariquita A. Banal
Teacher III, Biaan Aeta Integrated School

In the book Teaching To Change Lives (1987) by Dr. Howard Hendricks, he enumerated seven basic principles to make teaching come alive.

1. The Law of the Teacher: the principle of “You cannot give what you do not have” applies to have we perceive education. Self-improvement is the key to a lively and fruitful teaching.

2. The Law of Education: knowing what to teach is one thing, and knowing whom to teach is another thing. You do not want to just inspire your learners but to influence them. And eventually measure how well the learners do.

3. The Law of Activity: The principle of Maximum Involvement leads to Maximum Learning is seen. Planning your activity will provide quality learning to all learners. We guide our them to learn by doing.

4. The Law of Communication: The number one problem of teachers is communication. The most effective way of communication includes emotional ingredient where learners tend to get excited with your message as a teacher.

5. The Law of the Heart: Teaching that an impact is not head-to-head but heart-to-heart. Life-changing teaching comes from the heart and is more profitable than any other tool. We load our learners with knowledge yet without character, without compassion then there will be no quality of teaching.

6. The Law of Encouragement: One of the major problems today in education is failure to motivate learners. As teachers, we help our learners develop their self-
confidence in a self-directed learning. They are not forced to learn but rather they choose to learn.

7. The Law of Readiness: When teachers adequately prepared, learners anticipate the outcome of the session and therefore very effective. The learners will come to class ready and prepared for the outpour of knowledge. Study shows that the higher your predictability, the lower your impact. Contrary, the lower your predictability, the higher your impact.

To make our teaching matter, we must keep growing through the changing times. Effective teaching comes only through a changed person. The more you aim for change, the more you become an instrument of change in the lives of others. Learning and changing has nothing to do with our age. No matter how old or how young we are in teaching, we need to be open in absorbing new knowledge and passing it on to our learners. It will be of great help if we maintain a consistent reading habit of books that will help us grow in wisdom and knowledge. Enrolling in a continuing education courses will help us improve our content and skill as a teacher.

 We need to think and rethink of meaningful activities that will provide direction and purpose for our learners. Activities that stresses function and application that will guide them in their ultimate learning goal. And if it is properly communicated, the learners will grasp it and will heed to it for the rest of their lives.

 Learning is essentially a change of our behavior as a teacher. If the learners do not learn, then we have not taught. Teaching and learning from the heart requires character. You established first your relationship with your learners to communicate well to them. And it takes a “heart” to accomplish that. When we fail to motivate them, learning will never be effective. Learners see and feel it if the teacher is genuinely passionate towards them. That is where learning gets in.
References: