SHEPHERDING THE MILLENNIAL TEACHERS

by:
Pheobe Hazzlee I. Valeroso

OIC-School Principal, Baseco National High School

It was a very simple request that my brother act as a police man in front of a child—usurpation of authority...My brother, as manly as he is, was approached by a mother when her daughter was being frantic and hyperactive again in a public place putting her in a bad image. But my brother declined and said that he does not punish a child if they did not talk about the punishment after misbehaving, so much more than act as police in front of any child just to make them follow rules. The child upon hearing that my brother will not spank her because they did not talk about the punishment after the misbehaving calmed down then behaved herself while eavesdropping on the adults' conversation. Her mom and my brother talked about disciplining her or just scare her to be quiet. The child was not really listening but she was eavesdropping in their conversation intently. She being hyper-attentive while being hyperactive was more obedient through the respect she saw and to the love she felt a true millennial through and through. It transpired twenty long years ago that girl is now a registered nurse and my brother is still a homeschool dad of 4 kids.

Millennial Teachers have too many concerns to juggle in their lives. Their HANDS apparently hold a busy schedule with programs they want to achieve while sitting down or with gadgets that takes their presence from the current moment to the field of their success online. They have a big HEART not just for the environment, the LGBTQA community but also on other social issues that affects the animal and the people they love. Millennial Teachers are digital native thus their HEADS are equipped with tools they need to improve our lives...we have seen how fast technology and knowledge have moved us in greater heights we could never imagined. The teachers in the past generations have cared but these Millennial Teachers brings caring to a new level of HOLINESS. That is why we should encourage them to take responsibility, let us not criticize them, we should let them know of our mistakes that they become more efficient
educational sheep herders of our future. We should not protect them from failures that they may expedite their learning in the real world for they are trapped in their digital space. We should be honest to them for they prefer that we should be that way—they don’t want anyone wearing an avatar in all their conversation they have had enough of that when they are young that is why vlogging ang FB Live has become a norm to their expressions of their challenges, heartaches and joys. We should give them deadlines and follow-up on these expectations we have set with them.

We the Millennial kids are misunderstood by our Gen X parents and our Baby Boomers grandparents. Before we judge each generation let us classify them that we may understand each other. In the book Understanding the Millennial Generation by Travis J. Smith and Tommy Nichols of the Texas Wesleyan University they wrote while reviewing different researches done across generation that:

“The Baby Boomer generation is anyone born between 1943 and 1960. They are called Baby Boomers because when the men returned from fighting in World War II, a large increase in birth rates followed, thus creating a baby boom. Baby Boomers were raised in a prosperous economic time. This generation did not grow up dependent on technology as our younger generations have (Kaifi et al., 2012; Smola & Sutton, 2002). Generation X (also called Gen X, or Xers) were born between 1961 and 1979. Generation X marks the period of birth decline after the baby boom and is significantly smaller than previous and succeeding generations (Kaifi et al., 2012). Generation X was the first generation to return home from school without a parent to greet them because their parents were out working. This generation grew up around divorce, a poor economy, and high crime (Cahill & Sedrak, 2012). The most recent generation to enter the workforce are the Millennials, who are individuals born between 1980 and 2000. They are called Millennials because of their closeness to the new millennium and being raised in a more digital age (Kaifi et al., 2012). This generation was influenced by computers and a greater acceptance of non-traditional families and values (Andert, 2011).”

These understanding will help us lead our flocks of Millennial Teachers in a way that is proactive in nature. We become a better shepherd for these teachers who are also shepherds to their students. Leading the majority of our millennial teachers, like any other generation should be holistic. Holistic Approach for Leading Millennial Teachers is composed of the 4H Relevance
that we as leaders need to embrace. Leaders in general and Educational Leaders specifically are enjoined to these relevant 4H. We should approach their planned and multiple efforts through their HANDS for they are hyperactive and hyper-attentive. Having a multiple-intelligence inclined instructional material we should approach their motivation through their HEART. Having depth in our instruction and research programs we should approach their intelligence through their HEAD. Lastly as we show them that school is there as a benefactor to our community and as modern as they are, we should approach their future through their HOLINESS.

Shepherding these Millennial Teachers will call for our greater effort nonetheless results will far outweigh the good that will come because of it. I see a brighter future for our children because we steady the staff that tends these sheep of in our school. I may not know how to tell them these but hey this is already online so I guess they already know.

Happy shepherding the shepherd teachers.

References:


