

"What happened, and what learnings therefrom?"

Usually the people/paper divide frustrates this question. Action folk disparage recording/reflecting, so there's little hard data and less recorded hard thinking after the action; and of course paper-oriented folk tend not to get much into action! Double bind!....So here're some suggestions for "logging" a project so that (1) reflection during the project can be systematic and functional and (2) reflection, by self and others, after the project can be productive of (a) data on what happened, (b) data on what was being thought during the action, before, and immediately after, (c) ideas for future action relative to the same human need, and (d) a profile of the actor for evaluating ministry competencies.



["Log," nautically, is from ON "lie," a tree on the ground to be "gathered," the meaning of the I-E root that appears in "logos" and is the chief Gk term for "thinking"--a log being dragged behind ship for charting, "the ship's log" then expanded to include all the events of the journey and interpretations thereof.]

A the human need the project addresses (or addressed)	B my role(s) in the action 1 2 3 4	C reflections on the action 1 2 3 4	D learnings from the action/reflection, and projections 1 2 3 4
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To illustrate the four levels of B-D, here's the development of B: B1, preparation; B2, what I did that worked; B3, what I tried that didn't work but (a) failed or (b) stopped; B4, what I'd like to do next (a) in the same direction or, vis-a-vis the same human need, (b) in another direction.

LOGGING can be done in several styles:

- A. Commonplace book in which you jot down, categorylessly, whatever (a) happens, (b) comes to mind about what happened, or (c) you plan or at least muse to do. Later, run through the week's entries and mark in the margin "D3," "B4," "C1," for transcribing into category sections in another notebook or on 3x5s.
- B. Four-section and notebook, and make the entries under "A," "B," "C," or "D"--to distribute the subcategories (the arabic numbers) later--or subdivide the letter categories at the beginning.
- C. Memorize the designation system, and use 3x5s throughout. A card with "A" in the upper left will record a better fix on the need the project seeks [sought] to meet.