



5 Ministry Momentum Killers

Whether you're leading a small group, a ministry, a church, or even a denomination, every leader has struggled with momentum killers.

It seems like life is never better than when momentum is strong. Likewise, it seems like life is awful when momentum halts.

The great thing about momentum is that it's easier to maintain than to generate. The downside about momentum is that if you don't intentionally maintain it, it will stop.

So what kills momentum?

1. Repeating Mistakes

Mistakes are a part of life. We all make them, and everyone on our teams make them.

While mistakes are normal, repeating them doesn't have to be. Once you've learned how to maintain a good flow in your worship service, don't get lazy and slip back into the old habits that used to make your services mediocre. Once you have thorough hiring practices in place, don't neglect them just to hire your buddy or a family member. Once you make your facility look great, don't let it get run down again. Once you've got an emergency reserve fund in place, don't forget to replenish it after your next emergency.

Make a practice of learning from every mistake and then *never* repeating them. The school of hard knocks is a great teacher, but you don't want to pay for the same education twice!

2. Square pegs

This is a hard thing to talk about in ministry because people should always be a priority. The tendency, therefore, is to neglect making the tough calls related to volunteer and staff positions.

The hardest conversation I've ever had was with a volunteer I had to "fire" in a small parish. It wasn't an easy conversation, but it was necessary. I knew it would have implications not just for the person but also for the wider family. But the ministry this person led was floundering and in fact had become counter-productive. The only way to regain momentum was to make the tough call and move on. In the end, it was the right decision.

If you've got someone in your parish who is a square peg in a round hole, don't wait to act. Don't let your desire to show mercy damage the entire organization you're leading. This might sound cold, but sometimes, we must risk hurting the one for the sake of the many.

3. Lingering (or Just Slow) Decision Making

This is closely related to my previous point, but a little broader. Sometimes, we're afraid to make the tough call. Sometimes, we're bogged down in too much red tape. Sometimes, we're consumed with "what others think."

Regardless of the reason, decisions that linger are momentum killers! I'm not saying that we shouldn't prayerfully consider every decision; I'm saying don't drag it out! If your gut instinct is telling you to act, you should act. Often we wait too long to make a choice, and then the window of opportunity has passed.

Learn to make wise decisions as quickly as you can.

4. Lack of Excellence

There is a saying, "Excellence is invisible." In other words, people *really* notice when something is wrong, but they don't always notice when things go right.

If your leadership, programmes and facilities are not excellent, *people will notice*, and they will be less likely to participate. Keeping excellence in front of the people you lead will always contribute to momentum. Neglecting excellence will always stop it.

5. Unfulfilled Promises

Never create an expectation that you aren't confident you can meet or exceed.

Never claim on your web site or bulletin that you have an "outstanding children's ministry" if you really don't. Avoid talking up the ability of your choir or music group in a way that creates unrealistic expectations.

As soon as you start leading your parish to deliver less-than-promised-results, you've started to kill momentum.

These are just a few momentum killers. What others have you experienced or seen? 🇨🇵