

Lead Forward



WHY A PRESENT-FUTURE
MINDSET REGARDING YOUR
TEAM IS **MISSION CRITICAL**

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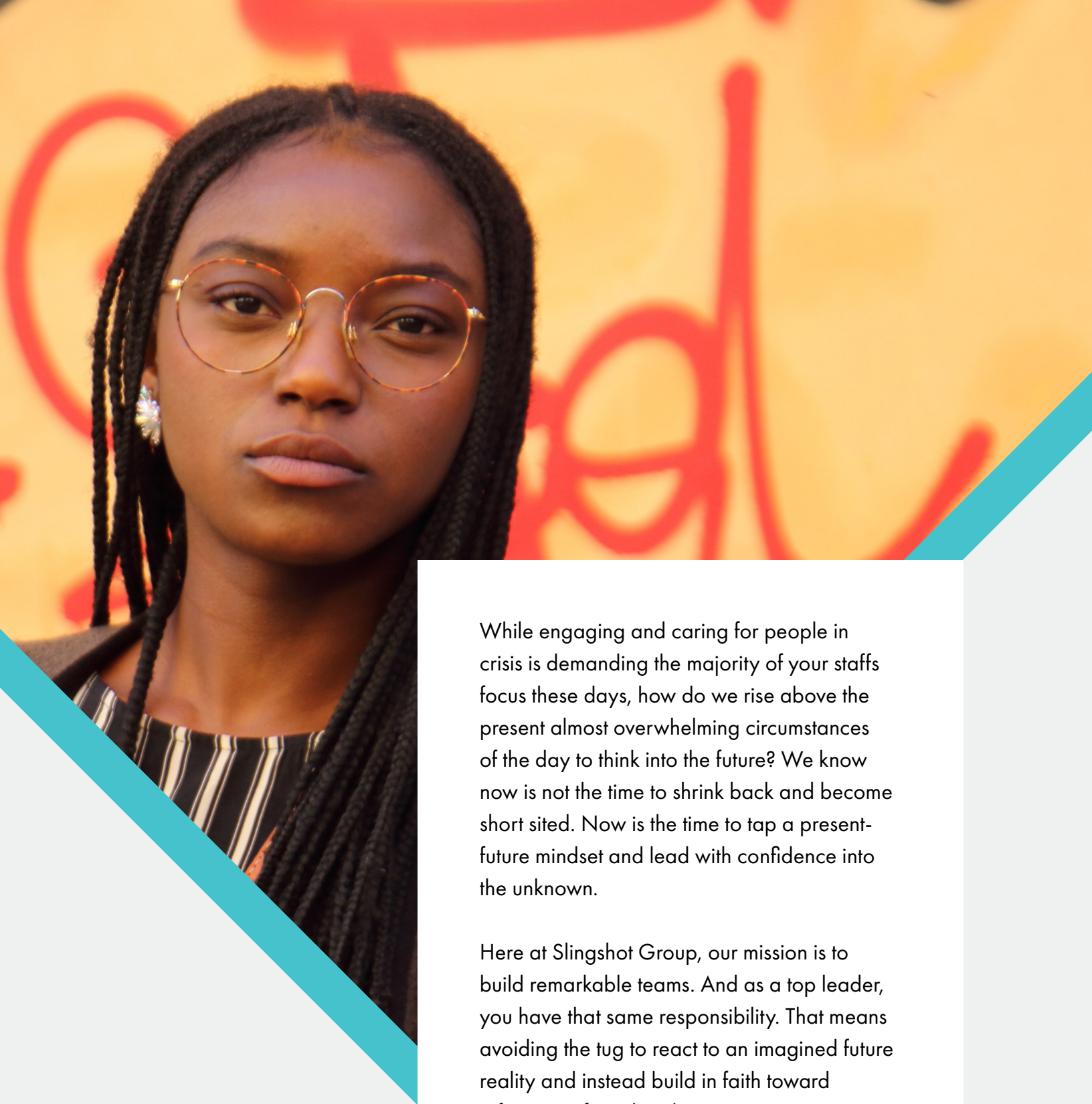


A natural reaction in crisis is to screech to a halt and pause everything that seems non-essential and focus only on what is urgent. That is the right thing to do. But for how long?

Most senior leaders I'm talking with these past two weeks have been rightly preoccupied with the immediate. Many are looking through a lens of worst-case scenarios. No doubt that it shows responsibility on many levels. We must all work hard to mitigate the ripple effect of this unexpected pandemic. From figuring out streaming issues to online giving, dozens of issues vie for our leadership energies.

**As leaders, this
IS mission-critical
work right now.**

**But there is also
another component
of mission-critical....
to **lead forward.****



While engaging and caring for people in crisis is demanding the majority of your staffs focus these days, how do we rise above the present almost overwhelming circumstances of the day to think into the future? We know now is not the time to shrink back and become short sighted. Now is the time to tap a present-future mindset and lead with confidence into the unknown.

Here at Slingshot Group, our mission is to build remarkable teams. And as a top leader, you have that same responsibility. That means avoiding the tug to react to an imagined future reality and instead build in faith toward a future preferred reality.



Here are **eight ways**
you can express
a present-future
leadership mindset:

Present Leadership Mindset



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You know this but let me reaffirm it—it's your job to paint a picture that is hopeful and reassuring to those you lead. It's the ability to see your ever-evolving reality through a lens of faith. Faith-filled vision is the ability to look forward into the unknown trusting that God is faithful to fulfill his promises and provide for his people along the way. Once you see it, lead people toward it. That is the mark of a visionary leader.



Preservation of your current staff depends on respecting their capacity. As leaders, we must value our staff enough to respect their capacity to serve from a healthy place. Stretching our staff too thin by demanding too much of them is sure to undermine their well-being as well as the best outcomes. Discernment will help you with this: model and encourage your staff to know when to “cease striving”.



Strength of the staff = the sustainability of your organization. In times of crisis, you get a sense of who is “all in” and showing up big time. And it is in these times that you realize the missing pieces. Who is missing on your remarkable team? How could filling that need improve the dynamic of your collective outcomes?



Beware of getting too caught up in sustaining ministry momentum. Determine what pace is right for your team and ministry to remain effective.

Future Leadership Mindset

A thick yellow line graph is positioned diagonally across the image, starting from the bottom left and extending towards the top right. It features several peaks and valleys, representing a fluctuating trend. The line is solid and vibrant yellow, set against a light gray rectangular background that itself is on a teal blue gradient.

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Recalibrating your staff to function in a new normal is vital to progress. Some of the team that got you to where you are today may not be able to lead you forward. Shifts will quite possibly be needed in your team as a result of this pandemic. Ministry life will be different post-pandemic—make sure part of that difference is the ‘right people on your bus’. This unique time in our history is also a unique time to get busy building your team. Make space in your thinking to think about who will make up your team after the storm subsides.



6

Top talent is waiting in the wings and ready to engage. Slingshot has never seen a greater supply of candidates eager to find their “best next”. Connecting you to them is our work—we will do the heavy lifting on the search process. You get to make the choice.

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Virtual resources allow for human engagement on a meaningful level when we can't connect otherwise. Slingshot has coaching resources that can keep your current team sharp. Keep them in mind as you think about keeping your current team sharp and preparing them to be remarkable in the future.



If you are in a search process right now or feel ready to start one, Slingshot can help you make great progress in narrowing down the right candidate virtually even in this phase of the pandemic.



Hopefully we are in a once in a lifetime crisis. When we are beyond it, how do we want our leadership to be remembered? Present-focused or present-future focused? Prayerfully and confidently start looking at the bigger picture. Pull the frame back on your perspective. By doing so, you will be able to see beyond the present circumstances and anticipate bigger and more important decisions that will forge the way toward your ultimate, God given mission.



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