

PASTORS WORKSHOPS



GUIDELINES MANUAL

SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR PASTORS WORKSHOPS

TO HELP ASSIST PASTORS AND LEADERS IN RUNNING WORKSHOPS

AND ATTACHED TEACHINGS MANUAL

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SUGGESTED PASTORS WORKSHOP FORMAT

(Suggested areas and topics to be covered in workshops for pastors)

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INTRODUCTION

This Pastors Workshop Guidelines Manual is to be used as a resource tool to help pastors to run workshops for other pastors using the Church of Hope Ministry Training Manuals or any other teaching materials. Each of the main areas and topics that should be covered in a Pastors Workshop are outlined in this manual. For each of these categories, an overview of the topic is first given which outlines the reason why this area of ministry is so important to cover.

Key points and areas of ministry teachings to cover and discuss in the pastors workshops are then outlined for every topic. Finally, suggested teachings from the ministry manuals which relate to each topic being discussed are then listed for each topic.

This guidelines manual has been put together with the aim of helping pastors to train up and empower other pastors to run future Pastors Workshops. In this way we will see a multiplication of the number of workshops being run for pastors, which will help to see all Christians becoming mature disciples. As more and more of the local pastors begin to run the evangelism training course for their church members, we will begin to see the entire Body of Christ being mobilised to help see the harvest of lost souls in the world coming to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. Having good sound bible based teachings will also help to ensure that believers do not drift off into false doctrine. **(Colossians 2:1-10)**

All training manuals required to run both the Pastors Workshops and the Six-Month Evangelism Training Courses (including a suggested six-month course outline for this course) can be downloaded from our Church of Hope Website www.coh.org.au

The resource materials required for both of these training courses are:

PASTORS WORKSHOPS

- Pastors Workshops Guidelines Manual
- Ministry Training Workshop Manual
- Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts

SIX-MONTH EVANGELISM TRAINING COURSE

- Evangelism Training School (Suggested Course Outline)
- Ministry Training Workshop Manual
- Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts

This combined Pastors Guidelines and Ministry Teachings Manual has been put together to be used for lower budget workshops to enable more pastors and leaders to receive training materials.

Note: The suggested teachings referred to in this Pastors Guidelines Manual, that are in this combined manual, have their page number in a box for quick reference. May God bless you as you invest your life in the work of the Kingdom, in whatever capacity that God has called you to.

1) THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A VISION

OVERVIEW OF TOPIC

The bible makes it clear that without a clear vision for their life people cast off restraint. **(Proverbs 29:18)** When we have a clear vision from God for our life and ministry, we will be more focussed in life and in what we do for God's kingdom. Having a clear vision for our life and ministry and church is vitally important. **(Habakkuk 2:2-3)** With a vision we can then prayerfully plan to see this vision becoming a reality. As we share this vision with others, God will also draw other people to the vision to help it to become a reality. Having a vision also helps us to redeem the time and to make the most of every God given opportunity to see His Kingdom advanced here on earth. **(Ephesians 5:15-17)**

Having a clear vision for our life will also help us to remain strong and focused when we are going through challenging times and trials. It will help us to not grow weary while doing good as we pursue God's plan for our life. **(Galatians 6:9)**

KEY AREAS TO COVER

- Being a leader of vision
- The importance of seeking the Lord for His vision and plan for our lives and churches
- The importance of making the vision plain and clearly understandable
- The importance of writing down the vision on paper
- The importance of clearly communicating our vision to others

SUGGESTED TEACHINGS FROM MANUALS

- | | |
|--|---------|
| • Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (<i>Teaching No. 1</i>)
Every great Christian Leader has a clear vision for their life and church | Page 17 |
| • Ministry Training Workshop Manual (<i>Teaching No. 15</i>)
Being a leader of vision (Part A) | Page 19 |
| Ministry Training Workshop Manual (<i>Teaching No. 16</i>)
Being a leader of vision (Part B) | Page 22 |
| • Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (<i>Teaching No. 26</i>)
<u>AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL CHURCH LEADERS</u> (Selected readings) | Page 23 |
| • Ministry Training Workshop Manual (<i>Appendix K</i>)
The importance of setting goals | Page 26 |
| • CHURCH OF HOPE VISION FOR BLACKTOWN CHURCH | Page 28 |

2) BUILDING OUR LIVES ON THE WORD OF GOD AND PRAYER

OVERVIEW OF TOPIC

All Christians need to build their life on the Word of God and prayer. As Christians our lives should be built on the promises of God and on the wisdom contained in God's Word. **(2 Timothy 3:16-17)** In doing this we will remain strong even when we go through the storms of life, which we will all at times experience. **(Matthew 7:24-27)**

Given that we are living in an ever more darkening and negative world, we must daily meditate on the Word of God **(Joshua 1:8)** so that our minds are being continually renewed, **(Romans 12:2)** so that we continue to walk in the ways of the Lord. As we meditate on the Word of God we receive direction for our lives on a daily basis which helps to prevent us from making wrong choices in life. **(Psalm 119:105)** As Christian leaders we also have the responsibility for feeding those who have been entrusted to us with the Word of God. When Jesus restored Peter, He emphasised the importance to him of tending to and feeding the sheep. **(John 21:15-17)** As Pastors we should always appreciate the importance of spending time in the Word, so that we can strengthen and build up those Christians that have been entrusted to our care. **(1 Timothy 4:12-16)**

Prayer is also a key to seeing God's plan and purpose unfolding in our lives and churches. Jesus often withdrew to spend time praying to His Father. **(Luke 5:16)** We need to continually pray **(1 Thess. 5:17)** and to seek God's direction for our lives, **(Proverbs 3:5-6)** and to make our needs known to Him. Prayer is simply communing with God. When we live a lifestyle of prayer we will not be overcome by anxiety **(Philippians 4:6-7)** when confronted by needs and challenging situations, but we will learn to cast our cares upon the Lord. God promises in His Word that He will answer all of our prayers which are in line with His will for our life. **(1 John 5:14-15)** **(Mark 11:22-24)** **(John 14:12-14)** **(John 16:23-24)**

At times God will lead Believers into times of fasting and prayer, often just prior to a new season in their life. Fasting helps us to humble ourselves before God **(Ezra 8:21)** and to get closer to God. This is why Jesus told His disciples that in the days when He was no longer physically with them, then they should fast. **(Luke 5:35)** During times of fasting God will often speak very clearly in terms of future direction and at the same time bring about an increased hunger for spiritual things. During times of fasting it is often far easier to discern the voice of God. During these times we also experience increased spiritual power as His strength is made perfect in our weakness. **(2 Corinthians 12:9)** Jesus Himself fasted for 40 days before commencing His ministry. **(Luke 4:1-2)** **(Mark 1:13-15)** Those in the early church often fasted and prayed. **(Acts 13:2-3)** Fasting and prayer also helps people to be set free of addictions and demonic strongholds. **(Matthew 17:18-21)**

KEY AREAS TO COVER

- The importance of meditating on the Word of God (From head to heart)
- The importance of applying the Word to our life (A doer of the Word)
- Committing all of our needs to the Lord
- Living a lifestyle of Prayer (Involving the Lord in all areas of our life)

SUGGESTED TEACHINGS FROM MANUALS

- Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (*Introduction*)
Building your life on the Word of God
- Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (*Teaching No. 30*)
Some keys to answerer prayer
- The Importance of unity and intimacy with the Lord

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3) MAKING MATURE DISCIPLES (*LEADERS OF CHARACTER*)

(The importance of small groups to help Christians grow in their faith)

OVERVIEW OF TOPIC

God has a unique plan and destiny for every Believer's life. (**Ephesians 2:10**) However for a Believer to fulfil this plan for their life, they must learn to grow strong in their faith and remain committed to following His plan for their life. The Bible says that "My people (Those who believe in God) are destroyed for lack of Knowledge..." (**Hosea 4:6**) The Bible makes it clear that in this world we have an adversary, the Devil, who is constantly looking for every opportunity to destroy every good thing that God has planned for our life as Christians. (**John 10:10**) (**1 Peter 5:8**)

Being a part of a loving small group helps Christians to become connected to the life of a church and to have accountability to others. When a person first becomes a believer, they must be nurtured and encouraged to grow in their walk with the Lord. All believers must be taught how to stand in their walk with the Lord, so that they will not be distracted and discouraged from pursuing the ministry that God has planned for their lives.

The role of the five-fold ministry is to help equip the saints for the work of the ministry. (**Ephesians 4:11-14**) When Jesus was preparing to return back to heaven He told His disciples to go into all the world and to make disciples of all the nations. (**Matthew 28:19-20**)

The Apostle Paul also emphasised the importance of training up others who in turn could teach others also. (**2 Timothy 2:2**) If a church is full of mature believer's, it will have a great impact on the community. All churches should have in place discipleship initiatives which will enable all believers to grow strong in their faith. In this way we will have churches that are full of disciples and not just converts. A church which has a vision to train up leaders of mature character and integrity, who are well grounded in the Word of God, will grow into a healthy church which has the potential to make a great impact on the community.

KEY AREAS TO COVER

- The discipleship making process
- Raising up mature leaders
- The importance of Christians being connected to a small group

SUGGESTED TEACHINGS FROM MANUALS

- | | |
|--|---------|
| • Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (<i>Teaching No. 9</i>)
A good leader mentors others | Page 49 |
| • Ministry Manual (<i>Teaching No. 4</i>) Building a church of mature believers | Page 57 |
| PART ONE – Doctrinal Beliefs (The expression of our faith) | Page 57 |
| PART TWO – The first three foundations of our faith | Page 62 |
| • Ministry Manual (<i>Teaching No. 23</i>) The last three foundations of our faith (<i>Appendix B</i>) | |
| • Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (<i>Teaching No. 18</i>)
A good church leader knows the importance of having small groups | |
| • Ministry Manual (<i>Teaching No. 33</i>) The principle of twelve (<i>Appendix L</i>) | Page 67 |
| • Ministry Manual (<i>Teaching No.17</i>) The Attributes of a good leader | Page 73 |

4) BUILDING STRONG LEADERSHIP TEAMS

OVERVIEW OF TOPIC

A church which is full of good leaders will grow strong and healthy. Training up and preparing leaders is an important part of the Senior Pastor's role in a church and is a key to seeing a church grow. When many new souls are being saved, it is important that they are added to the church. In the early church when many people were being saved, they were also added to the church. (**Acts 2:47**) Training up a strong team of pastors is the key to seeing all the new converts being nurtured and discipled after they have come to faith.

Raising up small group leaders with pastoral hearts to run mid-week bible study groups, will help to ensure that the pastoral needs of all church members are met. As a church grows in size, the small groups become more and more crucial. Mid-week fellowship groups help the members of a church to grow in their faith. The bible clearly emphasises the importance of all Christians having regular fellowship (**Hebrews 10:24-25**) and the importance of small groups. House group fellowships were a big part of the early church. (**Acts 2:46**) (**Acts 5:42**) In the Principle of Twelve Discipleship Model discussed in topic three, the Senior Pastor trains up a group of up to twelve leaders (pastor's assistants) to run small groups. Over a period of time these assistants will also disciple and train up new small group leaders from their own small groups. Once released, these new small group leaders will also eventually train up new small group leaders who in turn will train up other future small group leaders. In this way small group fellowships are continually being multiplied in number. (**2 Timothy 2:2**) **In this model every single leader is both a member of a small group themselves and a leader of a small group.**

Training up leaders is a longer term commitment and cannot be rushed. Jesus Himself spent approximately three years training up the twelve disciples. The Pastor needs to be a role model of what it is to be a good leader. (**1 Peter 5:1-4**) Key attributes which need to be imparted into all future leaders are the need to develop a servant heart (**Matthew 20:25-28**) and to learn the importance of doing all ministry out of a motive of love. (**1 Corinthians 13:1-8**)

Finally, it is important for all Church leaders to wait upon the Lord for His direction in appointing leaders. (**1 Timothy 3:8-10**) (**1 Timothy 3:6**) (**1 Timothy 5:22**) (**James 3:1**) A key attribute to look for in all leaders appointed is that they have a teachable spirit. (**Proverbs 9:9**)

KEY AREAS TO COVER

- The importance of training up and *mentoring* leaders in a church
- The importance of the Senior Pastor investing his life in key leaders
- The importance of raising up small group leaders

SUGGESTED TEACHINGS FROM MANUALS

- Ministry Manual (*Teaching No. 18*) Being a leader of influence
- Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (*Teaching No.10*)
A good leader needs wisdom in appointing other leaders
- Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (*Teaching No. 19*)
A good leader is a role model to others
- Ministry Manual (*Teaching 19*) Having effective ministry teams
- Ministry Manual (Appendix H) Conflict Resolution – A KEY TO UNITY

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5) EQUIPPING THE BODY OF CHRIST FOR THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY *(INCLUDING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT)*

OVERVIEW OF TOPIC

Every single believer has a unique God given plan and destiny for their lives. **(Ephesians 2:10)** It is God who places each and every believer in the Body of Christ as He chooses. The Apostle Paul compared the church to the human body **(1 Corinthians 12:12-26)** in that every part is necessary and that we all have a part to play in seeing growth in the body of Christ.

Within the Body of Christ there are diversities of gifts but the same Spirit and different types of ministries but the same Lord and different types of activities but it is the same God who works all in all. **(1 Corinthians 12:4-6)** The apostle Paul also made it clear that the manifestation of the Spirit, (the nine gifts of the Spirit) are given to believers for the common good of the church, for the profit of all, **(1 Corinthians 12:7)** and that these gifts of the Spirit **(1 Corinthians 12:8-10)** are distributed to each one individually as He wills. **(1 Corinthians 12:11)**

The bible makes it clear that it is God who gives each believer a measure of faith and that believers have gifts differing according to the grace given to them. **(Romans 12:4-8)** The Apostle Paul also emphasised the importance of all believers using their gifts. **(Romans 12:6)** As every believer uses their gifts the Body of Christ will both grow and be edified. **(Ephesians 4:16)** For this reason Jesus has Himself given some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ. **(Ephesians 4:11-12)**

The primary role of those in the five-fold ministry is to edify and to equip all believers to fulfil God's plan and purpose for their lives. Every Christian has both a ministry and mission field. One of the most important teachings for all believers is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit which empowers believers to effectively witness to others. **(Acts 1:8)**

KEY AREAS TO COVER

- The importance of all Christians being encouraged to serve the Lord
- Equipping all Christians to help them to fulfil their ministry call
- Creating opportunities for all believers to use their spiritual gifts
- The importance of being baptised in the Holy Spirit

SUGGESTED TEACHINGS FROM MANUALS

- Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts *(Teaching No.6)*
We are called to serve
- Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts *(Teaching No. 9)*
A good leader mentors others
- Ministry Manual *(Teaching 20)* 7 Keys to help find your fit in the Body of Christ
- Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts *(Teaching No. 8)*
Kingdom Power
- Ministry Manual *(Teaching 9)* Receiving the Holy Spirit

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Combined version of
these two teachings
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6) EQUIPPING ALL BELIEVERS TO SHARE THEIR FAITH

OVERVIEW OF TOPIC

There are multitudes in the valley of decision. Jesus Himself said the harvest is ripe (**John 4:35**) but the labourers are few. (**Luke 10:2**) In most nations there is a large majority of people who do not know the Lord and who are heading down the broad path leading to hell and destruction. For a church to effectively reach the community, it is important that all Christians are equipped and mobilised to become soul winners and are taught to depend on the Holy Spirit when witnessing to others. (**1 Corinthians 2:1-5**) (**Luke 21:14-15**)

The Apostle Paul wrote, “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” (**Romans 10:14**) Whilst not every believer has the gift of evangelism, every believer should be able to share their faith with others. The Apostle Peter wrote, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” (**1 Peter 3:15**) The Apostle Paul knew the importance of winning souls, (**1 Corinthians 9:19-23**) and in his Epistle to the young pastor Timothy wrote, “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season...” (**2 Timothy 4:2**)

Equipping every believer to share their faith is an important part of the five-fold ministry. Evangelism is more caught than taught. All church leaders need to have a heart for reaching the lost. If a leader is passionate about reaching the lost with the gospel message, his passion for lost souls will be imparted to those in his church. All believers need to be encouraged to pray for the sick (**Mark 16:17-18**) and to expect miracles to follow the preaching of the word. (**Mark 16:20**) Having evangelism training courses in a church helps to equip and mobilise all believers to become soul winners. If every church member led just one person to the Lord each month, a church could double in size each month.

KEY AREAS TO COVER

- The urgency of reaching out to the lost with the gospel message
- The importance of equipping and mobilising all Christians to evangelise
- The importance of preaching and witnessing in the power of the Holy Spirit
- The importance of praying for the sick and believing for miracles
- The importance of Christian Apologetics (Being able to answer questions)

SUGGESTED TEACHINGS FROM MANUALS

- Ministry Training Manual (*Teaching 11*) The Gospel of Grace
- Ministry Manual (*Teaching 8*) Signs and wonders as we preach the Gospel
- Ministry Manual (*Teaching 21*) Evangelism led by the Holy Spirit Manual (Extract)
- Ministry Manual (Teaching 26) Using the law to help people come to faith (APPENDIX E)

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7) THE ATTRIBUTES (OR KEY FEATURES) OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

OVERVIEW OF TOPIC

A church which has a love for the community and which is committed to serving and reaching out to the lost will make a great impact on the lives of many. In the early church people were daily added to the church and became actively involved in the life of the church. For a Christian to grow in their faith and to fulfil all of their potential in Christ, it is imperative that they are planted in a local church. Having fellowship with other Believers is vital for all Christians if they are to grow and remain strong in their faith. (**Hebrews 10:23-25**) Believers who are planted in a local church will continue to bear fruit even in old age. (**Psalm 92:13-14**)

No church will ever be perfect because it is made up of imperfect people. However every church leader should seek the Lord for His wisdom and direction in building their church fellowship, so that it will be healthy and well balanced and a place where people can grow in their relationship with the Lord and become better equipped to have good relationships with others. A good bible based and Spirit filled church will also encourage and empower all believers to use their spiritual gifts, to see God's Kingdom expanded and built up here on earth. The bible makes it clear that unless the Lord builds the house they labour in vain who build it. (**Psalm 127:1**)

Within a healthy church Believers will grow in their faith and be encouraged and equipped to fulfil their ministry callings. No two churches will ever be the same. Every church that is planted will have its own unique character which is suited to the area that it is located in and to the people that live in that community and who attend the church. Every church leader must continually seek the Lord to know His plan and strategies for reaching out into the community and for building the church. There are many important areas of church life and core values which need to be a part of every church. These are now listed in the "KEY AREAS TO COVER."

KEY AREAS TO COVER

- **A church needs to serve the community**
- **A church should seek ways of practically caring for the disadvantaged in the community**
- **A church must always emphasise the importance of preaching the gospel**
- **The absolute importance of maintaining unity in the church**
- **A church should have meetings which encourage people to worship in Spirit and truth**
- **A church needs to emphasise the importance of prayer and intercede for the community**
- **A church should actively encourage all people to have a generous and giving spirit**
- **A church needs to provide the opportunity for all Believers to be discipled**
- **A church should equip and empower all Believers to use their ministry gifts**
- **A church needs to create ministry opportunities for those attending the church, and**
- **A healthy church should be active in evangelism and church planting**

SUGGESTED TEACHINGS FROM MANUALS

- **Ministry Manual (*Teaching 2*) Core values for Church of Hope**
- **Ministry Manual (*Teaching 3*) How to be a church of influence in your community**
- **Ministry Manual (*Teaching 1*) Things to consider when church planting**

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8) USING THE MINISTRY MANUALS TO RUN SIX-MONTH EVANGELISM TRAINING SCHOOLS

OVERVIEW OF TOPIC

The Bible makes it clear that all Christians should be trained and equipped to share their faith with others and to use their ministry gifts. The Apostle Paul emphasised the importance of Christians being trained up for ministry and being diligent in preparing themselves to minister to others through studying the Word of God. The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

The Apostle Paul also emphasised the importance of those in the five-fold ministry encouraging all Christians to use their spiritual and ministry gifts and for them to be diligent in training up and equipping all believers for the work of the ministry.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the EQUIPPING of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God.” (Ephesians 4:11-13)

The Apostle Paul also wrote to the young pastor Timothy,

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:2)

The Apostle Paul clearly stressed the importance of all Christians using their ministry gifts.

“Having than gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: If prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.” (Romans 12:6-8)

All church leaders and pastors should therefore ensure that all who attend their churches are given the opportunity of being equipped to use their ministry gifts and empowered to share their faith. A suggested six month evangelism course (Appendix 1) is attached. This could be run in any of the following ways. May God bless all of your work for His Kingdom.

- **Each Saturday (10.00 am to 4.00 pm) IDEAL FOR TRAINING UP CHURCH LEADERS**
- **One night per week (7.00 pm to 9.30 pm) FOR MID-WEEK HOME GROUPS**
- **Each Sunday Afternoon (1.30 pm to 5.00 pm) FOR ALL CHURCH MEMBERS**
- **One full day per week (i.e. Wednesdays 9.30 am to 4.00 pm) FOR FULL-TIME PASTORS**
- **3-5 Days per week (4 sessions per day) IF RUN AS A FULL TIME BIBLE SCHOOL / COLLEGE**

APPENDIX 1

EVANGELISM TRAINING SCHOOL

(A suggested course outline for a six month evangelism training course)

DM (Discipleship Manual)

MM (Ministry Manual)

LM (Leadership Manual)

WEEK TOPIC/S

TEACHINGS TO USE

- 1)** The importance of prayer
Building your life on the Word of God

DM (Teaching No. 30)
DM (Introduction)

- 2)** The greatest is love
The importance of serving others

MM (Teaching No. 7)
DM (Teaching No. 6)
DM (Teaching No. 20)

- 3 & 4)** God's heart for evangelism
The simple gospel message
The importance of preaching the pure gospel
The gospel of Hope
The gospel of Grace

MM (Teaching No. 5)
MM (Teaching No. 13)
MM (Appendix D)
MM (Teaching No. 10)
MM (Teaching No. 11)

- 5 & 6)** Why 90% of Christians never win anyone to Christ
Overcoming objections (Responses to hard questions)
Keys to soul winning (There are many ways to evangelise)
Using the law to help people come to faith

MM (Teaching No. 21: Topic 10)
MM (Teaching No. 21: Topic 11)
MM (Teaching No. 21: Topic 8 & 9)
MM (Appendix E)

- 7)** The Nuts and Bolts of Evangelism
God's heart for the lost

MM (Appendix I)
DM (Teaching No. 3)

- 8)** Our Doctrinal Beliefs

MM (Teaching No. 4: Part 1)

- 9 & 10)** The six foundations of our Christian faith

MM (Teaching No. 4: Part 2)
MM (Appendix B)

- 11)** Receiving the Holy Spirit
The gifts of the Spirit

MM (Teaching No. 9)
MM (Appendix F)

WEEK	TOPIC/S	TEACHINGS TO USE
12)	Signs and Wonders as we preach Kingdom power	MM (Teaching No. 8) DM (Teaching No. 8)
13)	The core values of a healthy church How to have a church of influence	MM (Teaching No. 2) DM (Teaching No. 31) MM (Teaching No. 3)
14&15)	Mobilising all Christians into their ministry callings Every Christian knowing their spiritual gifts The process of making disciples The principle of twelve	MM (Teaching No. 20) MM (Appendix G) LM (Teaching No. 9) MM (Appendix L)
16 & 17	Being a leader of Vision The attributes of a good leader Three key areas of Christian character to develop The importance of setting goals	LM (Teaching No. 1) MM (Teaching No. 15 & 16) MM (Teaching No. 17) LM (Teaching No. 19) MM (Appendix J) MM (Appendix K)
18 & 19)	Building effective ministry teams The importance of small groups Having wisdom in appointing leaders Conflict Resolution (A key to maintaining unity) Things to consider when church planting	MM (Teaching No. 19) LM (Teaching No. 18) LM (Teaching No. 10) MM (Appendix H) MM (Teaching No. 1)
20)	Staying on the front line Having an overcoming faith Finishing our Christian walk strongly	MM (Appendix A) DM (Teaching No. 2) MM (Appendix C)
21)	An overview of what is important for church leaders	DM (Teaching No. 26)

ONE WEEK FIRE CONFERENCE (INDIA AND KENYA)

During the course of the 6 month training school, a fire conference could be scheduled in, to help encourage pastors and to ignite a passion for evangelism. This would ideally be towards the second half of the training school.

PASTORS WORKSHOPS

TEACHINGS MANUAL



The extracts in this teaching manual have been taken from our Church of Hope Training Manuals which can be downloaded from our church Web Site. These Teaching Notes are to be used in conjunction with the Pastors Workshops Guidelines Manual.

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TOPIC 1 SELECTED TEACHINGS

Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (*Teaching No. 1*)

EVERY GREAT CHRISTIAN LEADER HAS A CLEAR VISION FOR THEIR LIFE AND CHURCH

The LORD said to Habakkuk, "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it." (Habakkuk 2:2)

A CLEAR VISION FROM GOD HELPS TO KEEP A LEADER FOCUSED AND DISCIPLINED.

A God given vision will help a leader to live a life of fruitfulness.

The book of Proverbs says, "Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law." (Proverbs 29:18) NKJV

The King James Version says: "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." (Proverbs 29:18)

GOD HAS UNIQUELY CREATED EVERY PERSON (Psalm 139:13-16) AND HAS A UNIQUE PLAN AND DESTINY FOR EVERY BELIEVER'S LIFE. The Apostle Paul wrote, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

AS EVERY BELIEVER FINDS AND FOLLOWS GOD'S PLAN FOR THEIR LIFE, THE ENTIRE BODY OF CHRIST IS BENEFITTED AND BEGINS TO GROW. The Apostle Paul wrote, "from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself IN LOVE." (Ephesians 4:16)

FOR THIS REASON IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT EVERY BELIEVER KNOWS THE WILL OF THE LORD FOR THEIR LIFE AND OPERATES IN THEIR GIFTS AND CALLING (Romans 12:3-8) (1 Corinthians 12:4-7) (1 Corinthians 12:8-11) – Gifts of the Spirit. EVERY BELIEVER HAS A MINISTRY AND A CALLING

As we find and follow God's plan for our life and church, others will be impacted in two ways:

- 1) Unbelievers will come to Christ through our life and testimony and church meetings, and
- 2) We will help to encourage other believers to fulfil their God given destiny

It is important that we use our gifts both on a personal level (witnessing to others and encouraging others in our day to day life) and on a corporate level (being connected to the ministries flowing from our church)

Given the ungodly times that we now live in and the imminent return of the Lord, it is imperative that every believer knows the will of God for their life and that all Christian leaders and pastors (those in the five-fold ministry) know the will of God for both their own life and churches. The Apostle Paul wrote, "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is." (Ephesians 5:15-17)

EVERY CHURCH LEADER MUST ENSURE THAT THE CHURCH THEY ARE SHEPHERDING HAS A VISION FOR BOTH REACHING THE LOST AND MAKING DISCIPLES, AS WELL AS HAVING A CLEAR VISION AND FOCUS FOR THEIR OWN LIFE

Every leader is uniquely gifted by God. For this reason every leader needs to have a clear vision for both their own life and for their church or ministry. Having a clear vision for their own lives enables church leaders to continually operate in their gifts and calling. In this way they best serve and benefit the church as a whole in all that they do with their life. All great church leaders are good at delegating areas that they are not strong in to others who are more gifted in those areas. Having a clear vision for our church helps our meetings never just to become routine.

All healthy churches need to have a clear overall vision and PURPOSE for all of their meetings:

- 1) To bring the love of God into their communities,
- 2) To evangelise and win people to Christ, and
- 3) To make disciples who will disciple others (to help develop loving Christian communities)

A GOD GIVEN VISION ALSO HELPS LEADERS TO LIVE A DISCIPLINED AND GODLY LIFE. PEOPLE WITHOUT A VISION CAN EASILY MAKE WRONG CHOICES AND HAVE THEIR LIVES AND DREAMS DESTROYED.
(1 Peter 5:8) (John 10:10)

ALL CHURCH LEADERS SHOULD HAVE AN ONGOING FOCUS AND VISION FOR REACHING THE LOST WITH THE GOSPEL MESSAGE. GOD'S DESIRE IS THAT NONE WOULD PERISH (Luke 15:1-7)

Jesus Himself said, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

Having a clearly defined vision for our life is a key to preventing the devil from sidetracking us from God's best plan for our life.

HAVING A CLEAR VISION FOR OUR LIFE ALSO HELPS US TO GET THROUGH THOSE TIMES IN OUR LIFE WHEN WE ARE EXPERIENCING EITHER DISCOURAGEMENT OR GREAT TRIALS AND TRIBULATION.

EVERY GOD GIVEN VISION WILL INVOLVE HELPING OTHERS TO FULFILL THEIR OWN GOD GIVEN DESTINY
Jesus Himself said, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

Jesus also said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." (John 12:24)

GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIFE IS FAR GREATER THAN WE COULD EVER THINK OR IMAGINE. (Ephesians 3:20) WE MUST COMMIT OUR PLANS TO THE LORD (Proverbs 16:3) AND SEEK HIS VISION FOR OUR LIFE AND CHURCH.

A LEADER OF VISION IS COMMITTED TO FINDING AND FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN FOR THEIR LIFE AND CHURCH

WITH A VISION > LEADERS CAN PRAYERFULLY SEEK GOD FOR HIS PLANS AND STRATEGIES > AND THEN STEP OUT IN FAITH TO ACT UPON HIS GUIDANCE > RESULTING IN SOULS BEING SAVED AND MATURE DISCIPLES BEING RAISED UP WHO ARE EQUIPPED AND EMPOWERED FOR MINISTRY

Ministry Training Workshop Manual (*Teaching No. 15*)

BEING A LEADER OF VISION (Part A)

It is so important as pastors and leaders (and for all believers), that we are people of vision and purpose. We only have one lifetime in which to make our lives count for all eternity. We are also the generation, which is responsible for passing the gospel on to the next generation. All great Christian leaders will live for a cause to see others helped and set free to fulfil their own God given destinies. A leader of vision will inspire others to follow God's plan for their life.

Every God given vision is beyond our natural abilities to achieve and is totally dependent on God bringing it to pass as we simply step out by faith to follow His plan for our life and church. Moses when asked by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt knew His great need for God's help. (**Exodus 3:11-12**) As leaders of vision we must put our entire trust in God alone. We must consistently seek God for His wisdom and direction in all that we do. "Unless the LORD builds the house, they labour in vain who build it..." (**Psalms 127:1**)

Like King Solomon we need to ask God to give us His wisdom (**1 Kings 3:7-13**) and strategies for fulfilling our God given destiny. This wisdom will also bless and help many others to complete God's plan for their life. (**2 Chronicles 9:7, 22-23**) Great Leaders of vision trust and obey the Lord as they know that God is absolutely faithful and only has plans to prosper them and not to harm them. (**Jeremiah 29:11**) Walking in obedience is a key to seeing God's supernatural provision in our lives and churches.

Jesus said, "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much..." and "if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, how will you commit to your trust the true riches?" (**Luke 16:10-11**) As we faithfully follow God's best plan for our life He will begin to open up new and greater doors of opportunity and responsibility. (**Isaiah 55:8-9**) (**Ephesians 3:20**) A great leader loves God and has a desire to please the Lord as those who love the Lord will obey His commandments. EVERY GREAT LEADER WILL LIVE FOR OTHERS. Jesus Himself said that He did not come to earth to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many. (**Mark 10:45**)

Great leaders will inspire others to see the vision of the church come to pass. Leaders of vision have the ability to encourage people to work together as a team to see the vision for the church become a reality. (**Nehemiah 2:11-12 & 17-18**) As church leaders we need to have a vision to see our villages, cities, states and nation won to Jesus. To see God's Kingdom expanded here on earth. (**Luke 11:2**) As a church we need to have a love for the lost and a passion to see the love of Christ transforming our community.

Every great leader has a clear vision for their life. **(Habakkuk 2:2)** A Pastor or leader should have, or develop the following attributes to become a leader of vision and destiny.

- 1) A person who spends time with God and abides in Christ. **(John 15:4-5)**
 - i) *A person of prayer (Jeremiah 33:3) (Nehemiah 1:4-6)*
 - ii) *A person of faith (God dependence) (Psalm 22:4-5) (Hebrews 11:6) (Mark 9:23)*
 - iii) *A person with Godly passion (Which comes from intimacy with God) (Psalm 37:4)*
 - iv) *A leader whose first love is Jesus (Galatians 2:20) (Philippians 3:7-8) (Exodus 33:14-15)*
 - v) *A leader who is led by the Holy Spirit (Whose steps are ordered by the Lord) (Exodus 33:13)*
- 2) A leader who follows God's plan for their church or ministry and for their own life
- 3) A leader who is committed to seeing their community / nation won to Jesus **(Neh. 2:2-5)**
- 4) A leader who is committed to helping others to be passionate about their faith
- 5) A person who stays within his own gifting and ministry call (FOCUSED) **(Neh. 6:1-4)**
- 6) A servant leader (Who lays down his life for others)
- 7) A leader who has a heart to empower others for ministry
- 8) A person who has a passion to see mature disciples raised up
- 9) A leader who is able to delegate responsibilities to others as God leads **(Exodus 18:18-23)**
- 10) A leader who has a passion to see the gospel proclaimed **(Ephesians 6:19-20)**
- 11) A person who can communicate a vision to those that he shepherds
- 12) A leader who is able to encourage others to operate in their gifts and callings
 - i) *A good leader encourages others to find out what God has planned for their life*
 - ii) *God gives all of us a God-given desire or passion to make a difference somewhere*
 - iii) *God has created each heart differently. God places in our hearts ministry desires and callings. Our heart draws us to the focus of our ministry. (Psalm 37:4)*
 - iv) *Leaders of vision help people to identify the areas of ministry God has placed on their heart to do*
- 13) A person who has initiative. (A DOER) **(Nehemiah 6:15-16)**
- 14) A Leader who seeks God for strategies and goal setting
- 15) A person who has a pioneer spirit and is not afraid to take on new challenges

- 16) A person who has the courage to stand up for the gospel and Godly values
- 17) A leader who raises up and mentors other leaders
- 18) A leader who is able to maintain unity
 - i) *Has wisdom and discernment*
 - ii) *Has a shepherd's heart (Father of the faith), and who pastors the leadership team*
- 19) A big picture person (Who mobilises others into their ministry callings)
- 20) A leader who acknowledges and appreciates the efforts of others (A key to team unity)
- 21) An Encourager (**Nehemiah 2:19-20**)
- 22) A person who is Kingdom minded (Networks with other leaders / churches), and
- 23) A leader who leads by example

As Christians we are all called to be examples to those in the world and should have leadership qualities as we have been called to reign with Christ here on earth. (**Revelation 5:9-10**) Husbands also have been given the leadership responsibility within the family. However, God also appoints and empowers specific leaders in the church to help equip and to give direction to the Body of Christ to see God's Kingdom advanced here on earth.

All ministry leadership appointments should be ordained of God. It is God who calls and raises up leaders and who puts people into the five-fold ministry.

(1 Timothy 1:12) (Ephesians 4:11-12) (1 Timothy 1:1) (Exodus 3:7-10) (Deuteronomy 31:1-3 31:7-8 & 34:9) (Joshua 1:1-3)

Ministry Training Workshop Manual (*Teaching No. 16*)

BEING A LEADER OF VISION (Part B)

It is so important as Pastors and leaders (and even for all believers), that we are people of vision and purpose. We only have one lifetime in which to make our lives count for all eternity. This teaching covers some of the more practical areas of being a Leader of vision. The following focuses are all critical for leaders of vision.

- 1) **Helping to Equip the next generation (Youth)** and all those attending the church to lead fruitful lives by encouraging them to fully use their spiritual gifts. (**Ephesians 4:11-12, 2 Timothy 2:2 and 1 Peter 5:1-4**)
- 2) **Having an emphasis on New Believers Training**, by ensuring that all new believers are given the opportunity to receive training to help them establish their Christian faith on a firm foundation.
- 3) **Helping all believers in the church to identify their spiritual gifts.** God gives the gifts “just as He determines” (**1 Corinthians 12:11**). A leader of vision helps to mobilise ministries by encouraging all believers to become involved in ministry. Holding regular Spiritual Gifts Surveys will help believers to identify their gifts and callings.
- 4) **LEADING BY EXAMPLE.** A leader of vision will always lead by example in the following areas:
 - i) Character / Walking in Love / Faith in God (**1 Timothy 4:12**)
 - ii) Having a heart for evangelism (**Daniel 12:3 and Proverbs 11:30**)
 - iii) Having a servant heart (**Matthew 20:26-28**)
 - iv) Being an encourager (**Hebrews 10:24-25**), AND
 - v) Esteeming others better than himself (Humility) (**Philippians 2:3**)
- 5) **Being committed to SEEING OTHERS fulfil their God given destinies by:**
 - i) Looking for the potential in every believer
 - ii) Understanding the personality types of each believer
 - iii) Speaking destiny over the lives of believers
 - iv) Being committed to seeing every member in the church leading a fruitful life for God’s Kingdom, AND
 - v) Releasing ministries to others as the Lord leads. (DELEGATION)
- 6) **Being a part of the TEAM.** A Leader of vision acknowledges that God has placed each member in the Body of Christ as He has pleased. (**1 Corinthians. 12:18**) As a good leader he is focused on maintaining team unity as each member of the team is allowed to use their spiritual gifts for the benefit of all. (**1 Corinthians 12:4-7**)
- 7) **A LEADER WHO FOLLOWS THE DIRECTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.** A Leader who simply trusts and obeys God and who is committed to following God’s plan for his life (**Ephesians 2:10**) and the church. (**Psalms 127:1**)

Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (*Teaching No. 26*)

AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL CHURCH LEADERS

(Selected readings from this teaching)

1) Having a vision to reach the lost

Jesus said, “Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for the harvest.

“And he who **reaps** receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that **both** he who **sows** and he who **reaps** may **rejoice together**. For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps’” (**John 4:35-37**)

WE ALL HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN THE HARVESTING OF LOST SOULS

Every soul is precious to God. Every church should have a clear vision and plan for reaching the lost

The LORD said to the prophet Habakkuk, “Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it.” (**Habakkuk 2:2**)

2) Having a vision for equipping leaders (Building the Kingdom of God focus)

Every leader must invest time in helping to develop the next group of leaders. Mentoring and discipling future leaders will ensure the ongoing expansion of God’s Kingdom

The apostle Paul said to the young pastor Timothy, “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (**2 Timothy 2:1-2**)

3) Mobilising all Christians in their ministry gifts

Every Believer has a ministry and mission field. (Ephesians 2:10)

“For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.” (Romans 12:4-8)

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit, There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS SAYS

“And he who wins souls is wise.” (Proverbs 11:30)

It is important that all Christians are equipped and **encouraged to use their ministry gifts and shown how to effectively share their faith with unbelievers**.

ALL CHURCH LEADERS NEED TO HAVE A VISION TO HELP MOBILISE ALL CHRISTIANS TO USE THEIR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

(Running regular Spiritual Gifts workshops is a great starting point)

The Apostle Paul wrote, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God.” (Ephesians 4:11-13)

4) The importance of making disciples (Feeding the sheep)

All Pastors have a responsibility for looking after those whom the Holy Spirit has entrusted to them. (**Acts 20:28**)

As part of this responsibility, pastors should be teaching and shepherding their flock to ensure that all the members in the church are given the opportunity to grow strong in their faith.

Every pastor should also be aware of the importance of their own lives being a role model to those who have been entrusted to their care.

The apostle Peter wrote, “Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.” (**1 Peter 5:2-5**)

Jesus Himself said, “Go there and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (**Matthew 28:19-20**)

Jesus gave the apostle Peter a threefold commission for him to be a shepherd to His sheep when He restored Peter.

“Feed My lambs”,

“Tend My sheep”, and

“Feed My sheep” (***John 21:15-17***)

Having small groups is a great way of connecting new Christians to the life of a church and to help all Christians to grow in their faith and to be encouraged to use their spiritual gifts.

APPENDIX K

THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING GOALS

EIGHT PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY

“The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.” **(Proverbs 21:5)**

People who set goals accomplish much more than people of equal education and ability who don't. With this in mind, it is important to build the following eight principles into our lives.

1) Seek God for His plan for your life

God has a unique plan for our life. **(Ephesians 2:10)** The book of Proverbs says, “There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the LORD's counsel – that will stand.” **(Proverbs 19:21)** As we seek God for His plan for our life we must firstly commit our ways to Him. “Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established.” **(Proverbs 16:3)**

2) Put His plan down on paper

We must learn to commit our plans to paper. We need to write down our God given goals. Writing down God's plan for our life on paper gives it a sense of permanency and helps to energise us to set goals to see this vision come to pass. The Lord said to the prophet Habakkuk, “Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.” **(Habakkuk 2:2)**

“Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity...” **(Proverbs 21:5 NLT)** Having wishy-washy objectives will never get us anywhere. Having a clearly defined vision and clear goals for our life helps us not to deviate off track. It is so important that we redeem the time for the days are evil and that we know the will of God for our life. **(Ephesians 5:17)** The book of Proverbs says, “Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.” **(Proverbs 29:18)**

Having our goals clearly written down helps us to stay focussed in life.

3) Establish a deadline

We must establish deadlines to see our goals come to pass. We need to establish a starting date when we are to begin what God has planned for us to do and a completion date for each goal to be achieved. Without a definite beginning and ending it is easy to procrastinate and get nowhere.

4) Make a list of what you have to do. Keep it before you all the time

To see the completion of our goals, we need to list what must be done in order to see those goals achieved. We must keep that list before us at all times to help us to stay focussed and on track. This list will help us to accomplish all that is required to see our Vision and goals being fulfilled.

5) Convert your list to a plan

It is then important to convert the “to do” list to an action plan. It is important to decide what needs to be done first and what can be done later. An organised plan is always better than trying to carry things around in our head. To help achieve our goals it is good to have a longer term plan, weekly plan and a daily plan to ensure that we stay focussed on our goal and make the most out of each day.

6) Act immediately (Do not procrastinate)

The hardest thing to do is to make a start on a new thing. A key to achieving our goals is that we act immediately. The apostle Paul wrote, “Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity...” **(Ephesians 5:15-16 NIV)** Do something! A mediocre plan that’s implemented beats a brilliant one that’s not. When we step out by faith to start something new, God is then able to guide our steps and even redirect our step as He begins to more fully unfold His plan for our lives. “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way.” **(Psalm 37:23)**

7) Do something every day to help move forward to achieving God’s plan for your life.

Every day we should do something to help us move closer to achieving God’s plan for our life. Scheduling in times of rest is also important to help us to stay sharp and focussed. Daily schedules help us to achieve our goals and to fulfil our God given destiny.

8) Know your calling in life. Be willing to devote your life to fulfilling God’s plan for your life.

God has a unique plan for every Christian’s life. It is important that we seek God to find His plan for our life. We need to have a goal which we are willing to devote our life to. We must be prepared to give our life totally to seeing God’s plan and destiny for our life coming to pass. Once we find out what God’s plan for our life is, we need to keep our eyes on that plan at all times. “So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” **(Psalm 90:12)**

BLACKTOWN MISSIONS CHURCH

VISION STATEMENT

OVERALL VISION

“To be an evangelism outreach, disciple making, training and sending focused church which has a heart to see the community transformed by the love of Jesus Christ.”

CORE OBJECTIVES

- 1) To bring hope to those who live in the Blacktown community
- 2) To help bring Kingdom values into the community
- 3) To impact the community with the good news of the gospel
- 4) To provide a place of fellowship and belonging in which people can grow in their Christian faith
- 5) To make mature disciples who will help to transform the community with the love of God
- 6) To be a missions focused church, both locally and abroad, and
- 7) To be a training and sending church

TOPIC 2 SELECTED TEACHINGS

Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (*Introduction*)

Building your life on the Word of God

As Christians we live in a world which is full of ungodly influences and at times even hostility to the things of God. The Bible has much to say on the importance of all believers being overcomers in this life. (**Revelation 21:7**) (**Revelation 2:11, 17, 26**) (**Revelation 3:5, 10-12, 21**)

Jesus in His life here on earth said many things to His disciples to encourage them. Jesus said to His disciples, “*These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*” (**John 16:33**)

Jesus said as He began talking about the end of this age,

“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold, But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” (**Matthew 24:12-13**)

The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy,

“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” (**2 Timothy 3:12**)

In this world there are both people who are under the sway of the Kingdom of Darkness (the sons of this world) (**Ephesians 2:1-3**) and people who belong to the Kingdom of God (those born again believers who belong to God’s family). (**1 Peter 2:9**) (**Ephesians 2:4-6**) As Christians we need to live in this world but not be of this world. (**1 John 2:15-17**) We need to let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven (**Matthew 5:16**) and not allow the spirit of this world to draw us away from our love for the things of God.

Jesus shared in his parable of the Wheat and the Tares that in this life here on earth we will be living both with those who love God (believers) and those who reject the things of God. (**Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43**) God has given us His Word to help us in this life to remain strong in our faith.

Building our life on the Word of God is the key to remaining strong in our Christian walk and in fulfilling our God given destiny. God has a unique plan and purpose for every Believer’s life (**Ephesians 2:10**) (**John 15:16**)

Meditating on the Word of God helps Believers to fulfill their God given destiny.

Before leading the Israelites into the Promised Land, the Lord said to Joshua, “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” (*Joshua 1:8*)

Psalm one also emphasises the importance of meditating on God’s Word.

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.” (**Psalm 1:1-3**)

Building our lives on the Word of God will also help us to remain strong during those times when we experience great trials or challenges in life.

Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of building our life on the rock.

“Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the **rock**; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” (**Matthew 7:24-27**)

The words “whoever” and “everyone” emphasise the absolute importance of building our life on the Word of God. The entire Bible is inspired of God (2 Timothy 3:16) and contains all that we need to live a life of fruitfulness here on earth. Jesus made it clear that all those who build their life on His teachings and wisdom will not fall when they go through times of trials and challenges.

What can also be seen in this passage of Scripture is that we will all at some time experience challenges and trials in our life. Both the wise man and the foolish man experienced storms (challenges) in their life.

This passage of Scripture also makes it clear that for those who disregard the teachings of Jesus and who do not build their life on the Word of God, when the trials and disappointments of life come upon them, they will be inadequately prepared and equipped to handle them.

The Word of God also helps us to be prepared and thoroughly equipped for all that God has planned for our life.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

When we become Christians we need to replace our wrong mindsets with the truth that is contained in God’s Word.

Jesus Himself said, “If you abide in My word you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (**John 8:31-32**)

THE APOSTLE PAUL EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING OUR MINDS RENEWED WHEN WE BECOME A BELIEVER.

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (**Romans 12:2**)

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” (**2 Corinthians 10:4-5**)

WHEN WE BECOME A CHRISTIAN WE BECOME A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST (2 Corinthians 5:17), **A CHILD OF GOD** (John 1:12) **AND WE ARE ADOPTED INTO GOD’S FAMILY.** (Romans 8:15-17)

AFTER BECOMING A CHRISTIAN WE NEED TO GAIN A FULLER UNDERSTANDING OF THE INHERITANCE THAT WE HAVE IN CHRIST AND HOW WE CAN FULFIL OUR DESTINY IN CHRIST AS WE LEARN HOW TO WALK AS A CHILD OF GOD. (Romans 12:9-21) THE APOSTLE PAUL PRAYED FOR THE CHRISTIANS IN EPHESIS, THAT THEY WOULD GAIN GREATER REVELATION IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST. (Ephesians 1:15-23)

When we begin to meditate on the Word of God we start to embrace God’s Kingdom values and attitudes in our life. For those who have come from abusive backgrounds or who have been raised up in other religious traditions, meditating on the Word of God will greatly empower them to have a vibrant personal relationship with Jesus Christ and healthier relationships with others.

MANY BENEFITS ARE EXPERIENCED BY A BELIEVER WHEN THEY MEDITATE ON THE WORD OF GOD. SOME OF THESE BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- **Receiving clear direction for our lives**

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (**Psalm 119:105**)

- **Gaining Revelation from God’s Word**

“Your testimonies are wonderful; Therefore my soul keeps them. The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.” (**Psalm 119:129-130**)

- **Maintaining peace during the storms of life**

“Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.” (**Psalm 119:165**)

“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.” (**Isaiah 26:3**)

- **We are assured of God's great love for us**

The Bible says much about God's great love for us. The Apostle Paul wrote, "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

- **Gaining wisdom for everyday life**

"Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me." (Psalm 119:97-98)

- **Being purified and cleansed from our old habits**

"How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You." (Psalm 119:9-11)

- **Having our faith encouraged and uplifted**

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." (Romans 10:17)

"This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life." (Psalm 119:50)

THE WORD OF GOD IS FULL OF MANY PROMISES WHICH NEED TO BE APPROPRIATED BY FAITH (Hebrews 11:1)

- **Receiving encouragement as God speaks through His Word a word in season (Rhema Word)**

"A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!" (Proverbs 15:23)

God can speak a Rhema word to us as we read the Word of God. When we are praying for help or His direction in life, the Holy Spirit will often make a Scripture or passage of Scripture stand out (*a word in season*) to encourage us or to give us direction in life.

- **Being equipped and prepared for ministry**

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- **Receiving correction to help us avoid unwanted pitfalls**

"Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law." (Proverbs 29:18)

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..." (Hosea 4:6)

- **Being blessed and prosperous in life,**
 “Blessed are the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the LORD!
 Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart.” (Psalm 119:1)
- **Gaining Prophetic insight into what is to come as we draw near to the end of this age.** *The gospels, some of the epistles and the books of the minor and major prophets such as Daniel and Ezekiel and the book of Revelation contain much content in relation to what is still to come as we approach the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Millennial reign here on earth.*
- **Preventing us from drifting off into wrong doctrine**
 “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15) **and**
- **Bringing revival into our lives as the Word fills our heart**
 “Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way. Establish your word to Your servant, who is devoted to fearing You...Revive me in Your righteousness.” (Psalm 119:33-38, 40)

SOME KEYS TO ANSWERED PRAYER

(The “ASK formula” based on a message by John Hagee)

Jesus Himself said much about the importance of prayer and for the need to ask for those things that are needed in life. Asking God for His direction in our life and His help in meeting our needs demonstrates our dependence on and trust in Him. The Prophet Jeremiah wrote: “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD.” **(Jeremiah 17:7)**

Jesus said to His disciples, “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.” **(John 16:23-24)**

Jesus also said, “And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.” **(John 14:13-14)**

The book of James also says, “You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.” **(James 4:2)**

As Christians we need to have a childlike dependency on God, with prayer being an integral part of our everyday life. I will now look at nine keys which are mentioned in the bible in relation to prayer.

NINE BIBLICAL KEYS THAT RELATE TO PRAYER AND WHICH HELP TO SEE OUR PRAYERS BEING ANSWERED:

- 1) Pray to the Father in the Name of Jesus**
(John 16:23-24) (John 15:16)

As Believers we have power and authority when using the Name of Jesus. **(Mark 16:17-18) (Mark 14:14)**

- 2) Pray with praise and thanksgiving**
(Psalm 100:4) (Matthew 21:15-16) (Philippians 4:6) (Psalm 34:1)

- 3) Pray without any known sin in your life (1 Timothy 2:8)**

- 4) We must pray **BELIEVING** that God will answer our prayers (**Mark 11:23-24**) (**Matthew 21:21-22**)
- **Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God** (Romans 10:17)
 - **The importance of meditating on and speaking out God's promises in His Word** (Joshua 1:8)
 - **Not allowing the negative things of this world to undermine our faith** (Psalm 1:1-3) (Philippians 4:8) (Colossians 3:16)
- 5) Pray with the right motive (For God's glory) That the Father may be glorified in the Son (**John 14:13**) (**2 Corinthians 1:20**)
- 6) Right relationships (walking in forgiveness towards others (**Mark 11:25**) (**1 Peter 3:7**) and seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (**Matthew 6:33**)) Jesus emphasised the importance of continually walking in love. (**John 13:34**)
- 7) Our prayers should be directed by the Holy Spirit (**Romans 8:26-27**)
- 8) Praying according to God's Word and will for our life (**Isaiah 55:11**) (**Luke 1:38**) (**1 John 1:14**)
- “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” (**1 John 5:14-15**)
- 9) The Prayer of agreement (**Matthew 18:19**)

THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY AND **HAVING INTIMACY WITH THE LORD**

INTRODUCTION:

The church (which is made up of many believers) needs to be the salt and the light in this world. Christ the hope of glory in us should *draw people to Jesus Christ*. **The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” **(Colossians 1:26-27)**

“Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” **(Colossians 1:28)**

As Christians we need to be living epistles so that wherever we are positioned people can see in our lives a difference and can see God’s Kingdom values in our life. **Jesus Himself said,**

“You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt loses its flavour, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.” **(Matthew 5:13)**

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see you good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **(Matthew 5:14-16)**

AS CHRISTIANS WE MUST ALSO BE PREPARED TO PREACH THE GOSPEL IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON. THE APOSTLE PAUL WROTE:

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.” **(Romans 1:16-17)**

IN THIS TEACHING I WANT TO SHARE ON TWO VERY IMPORTANT KEYS TO SEEING OUR LIVES AND THE CHURCH MAKING A GREAT IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITIES. THESE TWO KEYS ARE:

i) HAVING UNITY IN THE CHURCH AND

ii) HAVING INTIMACY IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD

I WILL FIRSTLY START BY LOOKING AT THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST.

Jesus emphasised the importance of having unity when He prayed for all believers. Jesus in His prayer said,

“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; “that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that you sent Me.”

“And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” (John 17:20-23)

“And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.” (John 17:26)

AS CHRISTIANS GOD’S LOVE HAS BEEN POURED OUT IN OUR HEARTS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Romans 5:5)

GENUINE LOVE FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE LORD IS A KEY TO SEEING UNITY WITHIN THE BODY OF CHRIST.

GOD’S KINGDOM IS CHARACTERISED BY GIVING AND LOVING OTHERS. WE CAN SEE THIS HEART OF GOD IN JOHN 3:16

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

AS CHRISTIANS WE NEED TO ALLOW GOD’S LOVE WHICH IS POURED OUT IN OUR HEARTS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, TO FLOW **THROUGH US** TO TOUCH THE LIVES OF THE LOST AND HURTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

True love is also accompanied by practical acts of kindness. The Apostle John wrote,

“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.”
(1 John 3:16-18)

CHRISTIANS IN THE EARLY CHURCH ALSO PRACTICALLY LOVED AND SUPPORTED ONE ANOTHER (LOVE IN ACTION)

“Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.” (Acts 4:32-33)

“Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles’ feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.” (Acts 4:34-35)

THE EARLY CHURCH HAD GREAT UNITY AND MOVED IN POWER

I WILL NOW SHARE ABOUT A NUMBER OF REASONS WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO HAVE UNITY WITHIN THE BODY OF CHRIST AND OUR OWN CHURCHES

1) It is a key to seeing God’s power in our churches

In the Book of Acts we read about the unity amongst the disciples, “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.” (Acts 1:14)

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4)

“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:46-47)

After experiencing much persecution the early church began to pray for boldness: “So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them.” (Acts 4:24)

As they prayed together in unity God moved mightily in their midst

“Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ‘by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the Name of Your Holy Servant Jesus.” (Acts 4:29-30)

“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:31)

“Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.” (Acts 4:32-33)

2) It is a key to having effective ministry teams (We all need one another within the Body of Christ. We need to work as a team)

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the **EQUIPPING** of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the **knowledge of the Son of God**.” (Ephesians 4:11-13)

“from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself IN LOVE.” (Ephesians 4:16)

3) It helps in seeing the unsaved coming to Christ

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

“that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.” (John 17:21)

I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” (John 17:23)

4) It is a key to experiencing God's blessings and favour

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing –Life forevermore." (**Psalm 133:1-3**)

5) It is a key to seeing our churches growing in number

"So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved." (**Acts 2:46-47**)

6) It helps to see our churches having a great impact on our communities

WORKING TOGETHER IN UNITY, OUR CHURCHES CAN SEE OUR COMMUNITIES TRANSFORMED BY THE LOVE OF CHRIST. WORKING AS A TEAM WE CAN ACHIEVE MUCH.

"There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all." (**1 Corinthians 12:4-7**)

"For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another." (**Romans 12:4-5**) *AND*

7) God Himself strongly disapproves of anyone sowing discord amongst the brethren

"These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren." (**Proverbs 6:16-19**)

INTIMACY WITH THE LORD

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” **(Philippians 3:7-8)**

And to the Christians in Ephesus he wrote,

“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” **(Ephesians 3:17-19)**

THE APOSTLE PAUL BOTH KNEW THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN A VERY INTIMATE WAY AND SHARED WITH OTHERS THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD

HAVING AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD IS A KEY

- i) TO BEING EFFECTIVE IN MINISTRY**
- ii) IN KNOWING THE HEART OF GOD FOR PEOPLE**
- iii) TO STAYING IN THE CENTRE OF GOD’S WILL FOR OUR LIFE**
- iv) TO MAINTAINING OUR JOY DURING THE TOUGH TIMES THAT WE WILL ALL GO THROUGH IN MINISTRY AND IN LIFE IN GENERAL,**
- v) TO GROWING AND REMAINING STRONG IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD, AND**
- vi) IN RENEWING OUR STRENGTH WHEN WE ARE BECOMING WEARY**

The Bible makes it clear that in His presence is fullness of joy and that those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength.

I WILL NOW SHARE ON A NUMBER OF AREAS IN RELATION TO HAVING INTIMACY WITH THE LORD

i) **Having a lifestyle of prayer**

- Involving the Lord in every area of our life

The Apostle Paul wrote, “pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” **(1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)**

- We must learn to commit all of our cares and needs to the Lord

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” **(Philippians 4:6-7)**

- We can be assured that God answers our prayers (we must not continually speak about the mountains in our life)

“Jesus said, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” **(Mark 9:23)**

JESUS MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE CAN PUT OUR TRUST IN HIM WHO ANSWERS OUR PRAYERS

Jesus said, “Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.”

“Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.” **(Mark 11:22-24)**

THE APOSTLE JOHN ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT GOD ANSWERS OUR PRAYERS WHICH ARE IN LINE WITH HIS WILL FOR OUR LIFE

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. **(1 John 5:14-15)**

JESUS HIMSELF SAID

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.” **(John 15:16)**

WE MUST NOT ALLOW OUR CIRCUMSTANCES TO PREVENT US FROM STEPPING INTO ALL THAT GOD HAS PLANNED FOR OUR LIFE. AS WE PRAY AND SEEK HIS FACE WE WILL SEE THE MIRACLES IN OUR LIFE

Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **If you ask anything in My name, I WILL DO IT.**” (John 14:12-14)

ii) **Continually keeping our first love for Jesus alive**

- **Jesus rebuked the loveless Church in Ephesus which was full of good works**

“To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: “I know your works, your labour, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have laboured for My name’s sake and have not become weary.

Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand for its place—unless you repent.” **(Revelation 2:1-5)**

- **Jesus said that because of lawlessness abounding in the last days, the love of many would grow cold**

“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold, But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” **(Matthew 24:12-13)**

- **As Christians we need to have Christ’s compassion**

“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.” **(Matthew 9:35-36)**

“Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.” **(Matthew 9:37-38)**

- **With His compassion we preach with passion and have a great desire to see the lost come to Christ**

Jesus came "... to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10)

- **Whatever we do for the LORD must always be motivated by love.**

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing." (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

- **It is only as we learn to continually abide in Him that our lives begin to bear much fruit**

Jesus Himself said, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." (John 15:4-5)

King David wrote, "Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart." (Psalm 37:4)

TRUE WORSHIP HELPS US TO GAIN THE HEART OF THE FATHER AND HIS LOVE FOR THE LOST

Jesus said, "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:23-24)

iii) Knowing and hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit

- **It helps us to follow God's unique plan for our life**

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

- **Trusting the Lord and obeying the still small voice of the Holy Spirit is the key to fulfilling God's plan for our life**

The Apostle Paul wrote, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." (Romans 8:14)

Jesus Himself said, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (**John 14:26**) “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” (**John 16:13**)

- **Unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain who build it**

“Unless the LORD builds the house, They labour in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.” (**Psalms 127:1**)

- **God’s ways are often so different to our ways but they are far higher than our ways**

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” (**Isaiah 55:8-9**)

- **His plan for our life is far greater than we could imagine**

The Apostle Paul wrote, Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.” (**Ephesians 3:20**)

- **We must continually stay close to the Lord so that His plan for our life progressively unfolds as we allow the Holy Spirit to guide and direct our steps. In the book of Proverbs we read:**

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” (**Proverbs 3:5-6**)

iv) **Building our lives on the Word of God**

- **A key to having stability in our lives**

“Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the **rock**; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” (**Matthew 7:24-27**)

IN THE BOOK OF PSALMS WE READ

“Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies, For they are ever with me.”
(Psalm 119:97-98)

- **God speaks to us through His word to give us direction in our life**

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

“Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.”
(Psalm 119:133)

- **Meditating on the Word of God builds up our faith**

“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” (2 Corinthians 1:20)

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”
(Romans 10:17)

BEFORE JOSHUA LED THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL INTO THE PROMISED LAND THE LORD SAID TO HIM

“Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. (Joshua 1:7)

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” (Joshua 1:8)

- **We need to have our minds continually renewed by meditating on the Word of God so that we build our lives on Godly principles and His promises for our life.**
- **We must not allow the ungodly things in this world and the negativity in the world to undermine our faith in the LORD**

The Apostle Paul wrote, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:2)

Jesus Himself said, “If you abide in My word you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:31-32)

- **Meditating on the Word of God is a key to seeing revival in our lives**

The Book of Proverbs says, “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.” (**Proverbs 4:23**)

The Psalmist wrote, “Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.

Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way. Establish your word to Your servant, who is devoted to fearing You...Revive me in Your righteousness.” (**Psalm 119:33-38, 40**)

THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT WHAT IS IN OUR HEART WILL COME OUT OF OUR MOUTH

Jesus Himself said, “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” (**Luke 6:45**)

For this reason it is imperative that we also guard our eyes and ears in terms of what we look at and listen to. The Apostle Paul said,

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy-meditate on these things.” (**Philippians 4:8**)

The book of James also gives clear warning of guarding our hearts from ungodly influences:

“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.” (**James 1:12-16**)

v) **Having a repentant heart helps us to maintain intimate fellowship with the LORD**

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

vi) **The importance of setting aside time to spend alone with the LORD. While here on earth Jesus frequently withdrew to spend time in prayer with His Father in Heaven**

“So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.” (Luke 5:16) **After spending all night ministering to the sick and demon possessed, (Mark 1:32-34)**
“... in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.” (Mark 1:35)

vii) **When we spend time with the LORD we grow in boldness**

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13)

viii) **The importance of keeping ourselves continually in the presence of God and building ourselves up by praying in the Spirit**

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” (Jude 20 and 21)

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” (Galatians 5:16-18)

TOPIC 3 SELECTED TEACHINGS

Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (*Teaching No. 9*)

A GOOD LEADER MENTORS OTHERS

(A good leader invests in the lives of other believers and leaders)

A GOOD LEADER IS A MULTIPLIER

(Who will help to raise up many spiritual sons and daughters)

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy: “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” **(2 Timothy 2:1-2)**

THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS A FATHER IN THE FAITH AND ENCOURAGED MANY OTHERS TO FULFIL THEIR GOD GIVEN DESTINY

A great leader will mentor and encourage many others to fulfill God’s destiny for their life. (Acts 14:21-22) (Acts 11:21-26)

All church leaders and Pastors need to invest in the lives of the next generation of leaders. (Psalm 145:4)

The Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the church in Corinth,

“For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, to imitate me. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.” **(1 Corinthians 4:15-17)**

JESUS EMPHASISED THE NEED TO MAKE DISCIPLES

Jesus said to His disciples, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” **(Matthew 28:19-20)**

EVERY GOOD LEADER MUST HAVE A COMMITMENT TO SEEING ALL BELIEVERS IN HIS CHURCH BEING GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME MATURE DISCIPLES (and acknowledges the importance of small groups in preparing mature disciples)

Pastor John Luliano from the Chatswood Assemblies of God in Sydney NSW, did a study on what Jesus taught His disciples as He prepared them for ministry. He found that of all the 350 things that Jesus commanded His disciples to do, he could summarise them into just seven major Core Values.

SEVEN CORE VALUES OF A MATURE DISCIPLE

A DISCIPLE

i) Loves God

“And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.”
(Mark 12:30)

- They know that fullness of joy comes from being in the presence of God **(Psalm 16:11)**
- They have a great hunger for God and love meditating on His Word **(Psalm 1:1-3)**
(Psalm 37:4)
- They love worshipping God in Spirit and truth **(John 4:23-24)** **(Ephesians 5:19-20)**
(Colossians 3:16)
- They have a great desire to walk in Obedience to God’s plan for their life. Jesus said, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make Our home with him.” **(John 14:23)**

ii) Loves People

“And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:31)

- They have a genuine love for others **(Ephesians 4:32-5:2)**
- They have a desire to serve and encourage others **(Matthew 20:26-28)**
- They have a desire to live for others **(Philippians 2:3-4)**
- They extend grace towards others and aim to look for the best in others. **(James 3:18)**
(Romans 13:8) **(Colossians 4:6)** Love covers a multitude of sins **(James 5:20)**
- They have learned to practically help those who are in need **(1 John 3:16-17)**
(Acts 2:44-45)

iii) Loves a Godly Lifestyle

“Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”
(Matthew 5:48)

- They have a genuine desire to glorify God with their lives (**Matthew 5:13-16**)
- They have a desire to walk in obedience and to follow God’s ways and plans for their life (**Romans 8:14**)
- They no longer have a desire to live for the things of this world (**1 John 2:15-17**)
- They have a great desire to serve the Lord and to have fellowship with other believers (**Galatians 2:20**)
- They have a great hunger for the things of God (**Colossians 3:2**)

iv) Loves Telling Others

“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.’” (Mark 16:15)

- They have a great love and compassion for the lost
- They have been equipped to share their faith effectively with others and can clearly communicate the gospel message to others (**2 Timothy 2:15**)
- They have a great desire to reach out to the lost with the gospel message. The Apostle Paul tried all means to win people to Christ. (**1 Corinthians 9:19-22**)
- They pray for all their family and friends to be saved and for God to open up opportunities to lead people to Christ
- They look for every opportunity to share the hope that they have in Christ with others. They are always prepared to share the gospel in season and out of season (**2 Timothy 4:2**)
- They have great joy when seeing people come to Christ

v) Loves God’s Family

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
(John 13:35)

- They have a genuine love for their brothers and sisters in the Lord (**1 Peter 1:22**) (**1 John 3:14**)
- They have a great desire to encourage and to build up those Christians who are struggling in their faith
- They look for opportunities to bless and encourage other believers

vi) Loves God's Kingdom

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matthew 6:33)

- They have a great love for the things of God (**Philippians 3:7-8**)
- They love the things of God more than the things of this world and desire to store up treasures for eternity (**Matthew 6:19-21**) They are more concerned about the eternal things rather than the temporal things of this world
- They know that all the promises of God in Him (Christ) are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us." (**2 Corinthians 1:20**)
- They have a great love for the church and for seeing God's Kingdom expanded here on earth.
- They have a great desire to see God's Kingdom values transforming their communities. (**Matthew 6:7-10**)

AND

vii) Loves to Give

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." (Luke 6:38)

- God's Kingdom is all about giving. God gave His best, His only Son Jesus. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." (**John 3:16**)
- They have a real joy in giving to the work of the Kingdom and to giving to those who are in need
- They have an understanding in their heart that it is more blessed to give than to receive (**Acts 20:35**)
- They generously give as the Lord purposes on their heart to give
- They know that you can never out give God
- How much we love God is truly reflected in our approach to giving.

A GOOD LEADER HAS THE ABILITY TO **TRAIN UP** AND **MENTOR** OTHER CHRISTIAN LEADERS TO BECOME **MATURE DISCIPLES** WHO WILL IN TURN BE ABLE TO **HELP OTHER CHRISTIANS** TO BECOME MATURE DISCIPLES WITH FRUITFUL MINISTRIES (**2 Timothy 2:2**)

A good Leader will help and encourage many other Christians to have a passionate love for God and a genuine love for people of all backgrounds. A good leader will also help to foster in others a commitment to becoming more Christlike.

They will also help to train up and equip disciples who know the importance of sharing the gospel with the unsaved, who have a heart to encourage all other believers, who have a passion for the things of God and who give generously to the work of God.

GREAT LEADERS WILL TRAIN UP MANY OTHER LEADERS WHO WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE FRUITFUL MINISTRIES LONG AFTER THEY THEMSELVES HAVE GONE TO BE WITH THE LORD.

A GOOD LEADER HAS THE POTENTIAL TO **TRAIN UP MANY OTHERS** WHO WILL CONTINUE TO TRAIN UP OTHERS ALSO, THEREBY LEAVING AN ONGOING LEGACY OF THEIR MINISTRY HERE ON EARTH.

THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST IS THE GREAT EXAMPLE OF THIS. IN HIS SHORT TIME IN MINISTRY HE TRAINED UP A SMALL GROUP OF DISCIPLES WHO HELPED TO ESTABLISH THE EARLY CHURCH. THE CHURCH IS STILL GROWING TODAY.

JESUS IN HIS MINISTRY HERE ON EARTH DEMONSTRATED A FOUR STEP PROCESS FOR RAISING UP MATURE DISCIPLES.

DURING HIS MINISTRY HERE ON EARTH JESUS RAISED UP A TEAM OF DISCIPLES AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) Jesus first GATHERED a group of people whom He believed would become disciples (Mark 1:16-18) (Mark 1:19-20) (Mark 2:14)**

2) After Jesus had gathered His disciples, He then took them on preaching tours and MODELLED the following for them:

- i) The importance of finding and fulfilling God's purpose for their life **(Mark 1:38)**
- ii) How to preach the gospel of the Kingdom **(Mark 1:39)**
- iii) How to serve people by casting out demons and healing the sick **(Mark 1:39-41)** and
- iv) How to live a genuine God-glorifying life **(Mark 1:38-42)**

AS HE MODELLED WHAT TRUE KINGDOM LIFE WAS LIKE, HE ALSO CONSTANTLY ENCOURAGED THE DISCIPLES THAT GOD WAS DOING A WORK IN THEIR LIFE, AND THAT ONE DAY THEY WOULD PREACH, HEAL AND CAST DEMONS OUT THEMSELVES. JESUS APPOINTED THE TWELVE DISCIPLES AND TOLD THEM WHAT THEY WOULD BE DOING IN THE FUTURE. (Mark 3:13-15)

As disciple makers, we must give people a vision of what they can become. We must then teach them what it is like to be a real disciple by both showing and explaining to them what it is to be a true disciple

3) Jesus then began to MENTOR the twelve disciples

Although appointed in Mark 3:13, the disciples were not officially sent out by Jesus until Mark 6:7

"And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits." (Mark 6:7)

When they had finished their mission trips, they returned and reported back to their mentor

"Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught." (Mark 6:30)

THE REPORT IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE MENTORING PROCESS. JESUS WAS INTERESTED BOTH IN: i) What they had done, and ii) What they had taught

No person will ever do things perfect the first time. A person must be allowed to make mistakes and create room for correction. A DISCIPLE MAKER MUST LEARN TO BECOME AN EQUIPPER. When giving an assessment for a completed task, mentors must address three issues:

- i) **What was done well**
- ii) **What could be done better, and**
- iii) **What needs to be done next time which was not done this time**

MENTORING IS A PROCESS DESIGNED TO “ENRICH” PEOPLE. The Apostle Paul emphasised the need for more Fathers of the faith to help encourage believers to become mature disciples. (1 Corinthians 4:15-17)

THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD PASTORS INTENSIVE HANDBOOK OUTLINES SIX KEYS TO BEING AN EFFECTIVE MENTOR WHO IS ABLE TO “ENRICH” THOSE WHO THEY ARE MENTORING.

A GOOD MENTOR WILL:

- i) **Encourage those whom they are mentoring**

(The meaning of the word encourage, is to give courage. Encouragement helps people to overcome their failures, fears and insecurities)

- ii) **Nurture those whom they are mentoring**

(Nurtured people are strong people, whereas neglected people can become weak, picking up wrong mindsets)

- iii) **Resource people with their knowledge, gifts, talents and abilities as well as providing resource materials**

- iv) **Invest their life in the lives of other people**

(We need to have a genuine commitment to and love for others)

- v) **Coach those whom they are mentoring, (Advising but not Manipulating, Leading but not controlling) and**

- vi) **Hang in with those who they are mentoring** (We must never give up on people, no matter what is happening to them)

4) Finally, before ascending to heaven, Jesus MOBILISED the disciples to do what He had trained them to do.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

A disciple of Christ is not complete until he has been mobilised and released to become a disciple maker.

Mobilisation produces the “DNA” of multiplication. However many churches fail at this point because they try to get mobilisation happening without first spending enough time on the MODELLING and MENTORING phase of training up new leaders (disciples).

Before Jesus had got to the mobilisation stage, He had already spent approximately three years in correctly training up His disciples for the work of the ministry

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ALL CHRISTIAN LEADERS INVEST IN THIS GENERATION OF YOUTH, WHO WILL BE THE NEXT GENERATION OF CHRISTIAN LEADERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Ministry Manual (*Teaching No. 4*) Building a church of mature believers

PART 1: DOCTRINAL BELIEFS (The expression of our faith)

- i) **THE BIBLE:** We believe that the Holy Bible, and only the Bible, is 100% the Word of God. It, alone, is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths.
“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
(Proverbs 30:5), (Psalm 1), (Psalm 119:105)
- ii) **(THE TRINITY (The Eternal Godhead):** WE BELIEVE in the unity of the true and living God who is the ETERNAL, self-existent one, who has revealed himself as ONE BEING in THREE PERSONS – *THE FATHER, THE SON (Jesus) AND THE HOLY SPIRIT*, and Who is the Creator and preserver of things visible and invisible. (**Deuteronomy 6:4**), (**Mark 12:29**), (**Matthew 28:19**), (**Genesis 1:1**), (**Psalm 86:9-10**), (**Isaiah 43:10-11**), (**John 1:1-3**)
- iii) **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST:** WE BELIEVE in the Lord Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity (Triune Godhead), who was and is the eternal Son of God; that he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary. (Jesus Christ was conceived by God the Holy Spirit in the Virgin Mary’s womb) On earth He was 100% God and 100% man. (**Isaiah 7:14**), (**Matthew 1:23**)

WE BELIEVE in His sinless life (He was the only man to ever live a sinless life) (**Hebrews 7:26**, **1 Peter 2:22**, **2 Corinthians 5:21**), *miraculous ministry (Acts 2:22, Acts 10:38)*, substitutionary *atonement* (**Hebrews 9:12**), *bodily resurrection (Luke 24:39, 1 Corinthians 15:4)*, glorious ascension (**Acts 1:9**) and *abiding intercession (Hebrews 7:25)*.
- iv) **THE HOLY SPIRIT:** WE BELIEVE in the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity (Triune Godhead), who proceeds from the Father and the Son, and is ever present and active in the work of *convicting (John 16:7-11)* and *regenerating the sinner*, and *sanctifying and guiding (Romans 8:14)* the believer into *all truth (John 14:26, John 16:13)*. (**Sanctification** is the ongoing process of yielding to God in order to become more and more like Christ) (**Romans 12:1-2**, **2 Corinthians 3:18**, **1 Thessalonians 4:3**, **Romans 8:29**, **1 Thessalonians 5:23**)
- v) **THE ATONEMENT:** WE BELIEVE that God’s answer to man’s sinful state is in the death of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ upon the cross, whose sufferings and shed blood have made *full atonement* for the sins of the whole world, both original and actual, and that *there is no other ground for salvation*. (**2 Cor. 5:18-21**, **Galatians 1:4**, **Colossians 1:20**, **Romans 5:9**, **Ephesians 1:7**, **Colossians 1:14**, **Heb. 9:25-28**, **1 Peter 1:18-20**, **1 John 1:7**)

The blood that Jesus Christ shed on the cross of Calvary was sinless and is 100% sufficient to forgive man of all sins. Jesus allowed Himself to be punished for the sins we had committed, giving all mankind the opportunity of being free from the penalty of sin, (which is death). Each person after reaching an age of reasoning must however make a response of repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ to receive God’s forgiveness and gift of eternal life. (**John 1:29**, **Rev. 1:5 & 5:9**)

- vi) **SALVATION OF MAN:** WE BELIEVE salvation is received through **repentance** toward God and **faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ. This experience is also known as the new birth {Being Born Again} (**Jn 3:3**) and is an *instantaneous* and complete operation of the Holy Spirit, whereupon the *believing* sinner is regenerated, justified, and *adopted* into the family of God, and becomes a *new creation* in Christ Jesus (**2 Corinthians 5:17**) and *an heir of eternal life*. (**Titus 2:11, Titus 3:5-7, 1 Peter 1:23**)

REPENTANCE is a commitment to turn from sin in every area of our lives and to follow Christ. (Acts 2:38, Acts 3:19)

*SALVATION is a gift from God and cannot be earned. It is not based on our good works or human efforts. "For by grace you have been saved through faith (in **Jesus Christ and His death burial and resurrection**), and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

- vii) **THE DEVIL:** WE BELIEVE in the personality of the devil, who, by his influence, brought about the downfall of man, and now seeks to destroy the faith of every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. (**Gen 3:1-15, Matt. 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13, James 4:7, John 13:2, 1 Peter 5:8, John 13:2**)

- viii) **THE FALL OF MAN:** WE BELIEVE that man was created by God by a specific immediate act and in His image and likeness, morally upright and perfect, *but fell by voluntary transgression*. Consequently, all men are separated from original righteousness, being depraved and without spiritual life. (**Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-21**)

- ix) **THE CHURCH:** The church is the *body of Christ*, the habitation of God, through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. *Each believer*, born of the Spirit, is an *integral part* of the *general assembly and church* of the first-born, which are written in heaven. (**Ephesians 1:22-23, Ephesians 2:19-22, Hebrews 12:23**)

- x) **WATER BAPTISM:** WE BELIEVE that baptism, by single *immersion*, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is required of all who have repented and believed in Christ as *Saviour* and *Lord*, and that it is symbolic of our identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. Following believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, the new convert is commanded by the Word of God to be water baptized by full immersion.

The Christian Water Baptism is an outward act of obedience by which a *believer* confesses and confirms, the *inward righteousness* he already enjoys in his heart through faith in Christ's atoning death and resurrection, by openly acknowledging their allegiance to Christ. (**Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 10:47-48, Acts 2:38-39, Romans 6:4-5, Colossians 2:12, Mark 16:16**)

- xi) **THE LORD'S SUPPER:** WE BELIEVE the Lord's supper, consisting of the elements of bread and the fruit of the vine, is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (**2 Peter 1:4**), and a memorial of His sufferings and death (**1 Corinthians 11:26**), and is enjoined upon all believers "until He comes". (**Luke 22:14-20, Acts 20:7, Matthew 26:26-28**) The Lord's Supper is a unique time of communion in the presence of God when the elements of bread and wine (representing the broken body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ), are taken in remembrance of His sacrifice on the cross for us. (**1 Corinthians 11:23-25**)

- xii) **SANCTIFICATION:** Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God. WE BELIEVE it is the glorious provision for every believer in Christ to be made pure in heart and wholly sanctified, through the operation of the Holy Spirit, by the Blood of Jesus and the Word of God. **(1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)**
(John 17:15-19, Acts 15:8-9, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, Hebrews 2:11, Hebrews 10:16-19, Romans 12:1-2)
- xiii) **THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT:** WE BELIEVE that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is the bestowing of the believer with power to be an effective witness for Christ. This experience is **distinct** from, and **subsequent** to, the new birth; is received by faith, and is accompanied by the manifestation of speaking in tongues as the spirit gives utterance, as the initial evidence. **(Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-5, Acts 1:8, Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:1-4, Acts 2:17-18, Mark 16:17, Acts 8:15-19, Acts 11:14-17, Acts 19:1-7, Matthew 3:11)**
Given at Pentecost, it was the promise of the Father, sent by Jesus after His ascension, to empower the Church to preach the gospel throughout the whole earth, to edify believers **(1 Corinthians 14:4)**, to enhance the prayer life of believers and as a sign to unbelievers. **(1 Corinthians 14:22)**
- xiv) **GIFTS:** WE BELIEVE in the **present day** operation of the nine supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit, as recorded in 1 Corinthians 12. (*The word of wisdom, The word of knowledge, The gift of faith, Gifts of healing, The working of miracles, Prophecy, Discerning of spirits, Different kinds of tongues and Interpretation of tongues*). We also believe in the five ministry gifts of Christ, as recorded in Ephesians 4:11-13. (*Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers*)

OTHER GIFTS FROM THE FATHER INCLUDE: Prophecy, Exhortation, Giving, Leadership, Mercy, Ministry and the gift of Teaching (Regardless of Public Office) **(Romans 12:3-8)** Helps and Administrations are two other gifts. **(1 Corinthians 12:28)** **WE MUST HOWEVER NEVER FORGET THAT WHATEVER WE DO IN LIFE MUST BE DONE IN LOVE.** **(The Apostle Paul emphasised this in chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians)** (See also Romans 12:9-21)
- xv) **DIVINE HEALING:** In accordance with the teachings of the Scriptures, we trust our heavenly Father to protect and heal our bodies from sickness and disease. **(Isaiah 53:5)** WE BELIEVE that divine healing for the body, as with all redemptive blessings of God, has been provided for us by the atoning death and victorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ; it is the privilege of all believers and it is appropriated by faith in our heavenly Father's unfailing promises. **(Exodus 15:26, Matt. 8:16-17, Ps. 103:3, 1 Peter 2:24, James 5:14-15, Mark 16:17-18, John 14:12-14)**
- xvi) **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST:** WE BELIEVE in the premillennial, imminent and personal return of our Lord Jesus Christ to gather his people unto Himself. Having this glorious hope and earnest expectation, we purify ourselves, even as He is pure, so that we may be ready to meet Him when He comes. **(1 Thessalonians 4:15-18)**

Jesus Christ will physically and visibly return to earth a second time to establish His Kingdom. This will occur at a date undisclosed by the Scriptures. **(Matthew 24:36)**

THE RAPTURE (PROPHECY): There are several different theological views on the timing of the rapture of true believers.

The Premillennial mid-tribulation view: sees all believers being “raptured” after 42 months (1,260 days) of the 7-year Great Tribulation, with the Rapture and Second Coming being separate events.

The Premillennial Prewrath Rapture View: sees all believers being “raptured” during the Great Tribulation, but prior to the “day of God’s wrath” (Rev. 6:17), with the Rapture and Second Coming being separate events. This view states that true believers will be raptured prior to the “day of God’s wrath”, as believers have not been appointed to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, (1 Thessalonians 5:9)

If Chapter 24 of Matthew is to be interpreted in light of Chapter six of Revelations, the rapture could take place Mid-Tribulation (Matthew 24:31) after the cosmic disturbances mentioned both in Rev. 6:12 and Matt. 24:29, just prior to the great day of His wrath. (Revelation 6:17)

The Dispensational Interpretation, (Pre-Tribulation), sees the rapture of all true believers (Rev. 4:1) taking place prior to the Anti-Christ rising to power. *This interpretation* sees him as the Conqueror in the First Seal, and the Great Tribulation commencing with the first seal. (Rev. 6:1)

The Premillennial Pre-tribulation Partial Rapture View: sees only some believers being “Raptured” before the Great Tribulation. Those who are “unready” must be martyred to verify their faith, with the Rapture and the Second Coming being separate events.

The Premillennial Post-tribulation View: sees all believers being “Raptured” at the end of the Great Tribulation and that the Rapture and the Second coming are the same event. Given that Believers have not been appointed to wrath, but to obtain salvation, this particular view does not appear plausible.

There are also other theological views on the timing of the rapture and which deal with the “last things” (Eschatology)

HOWEVER, for those who are faithful in their Christian walk, the Bible promises that they will be kept from the hour of trial, which shall come upon the whole world to test those who dwell on the earth. (Revelation 3:10)

WE MUST SIMPLY BE READY TO MEET THE LORD AT ANY TIME.

xvii) **THE MILLENNIUM:** WE BELIEVE in the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to set up His millennial reign on this earth. (Zechariah 14:5, Daniel 7:22, Revelation 5:9-10, Ps. 96:10-13, Revelation 20:1-10)

xviii) **THE PUNISHMENT OF THE WICKED:** WE BELIEVE in the everlasting punishment of the wicked (in the sense of eternal torment) who willfully reject and despise the love of God, manifested in the great sacrifice of his only Son upon the cross for their salvation. (**Romans 6:23, Matthew 25:46, Matthew 13:49-50, Luke 12:47-48, 2 Thess. 1:8-9, Revelation 20:11-15**). We believe that the devil and his angels and whosoever is not found written in the book of life shall be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake, which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. (**Revelation 19:20, Revelation 20:10-15**)

xix) **THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH:** “We according to His promise look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwells righteousness” (**2 Peter 3:13, Revelation Chapters 21 and 22.**)

xx) **RESURRECTION:** WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ was physically resurrected from the dead in a glorified body three days after His death on the cross. One day all believers who have died in Christ, will also be physically resurrected in their glorified bodies and will be judged to determine their eternal rewards in heaven, where they will dwell with God forever. (**Luke 24:36-40, 1 Cor. 15:42,44, John 20:26-28, John 21:4, Luke 24:15-18**)

The final resurrection at the close of the millennium will be mainly for those who have rejected Christ, and they will be judged for what they did while in the body. Following this judgment, those who rejected Christ will be consigned to the lake of fire (spirit, soul and body). (**Revelation 20:13-14**)

Two categories of people in the final resurrection, who will come forth to the resurrection of life and not condemnation, are people such as the queen of the South (Sheba) and the men of Nineveh referred to by Jesus, who were not granted a revelation of Christ’s atoning sacrifice in which they could trust for salvation, (Luke 11:31-32) and the righteous who died during Christ’s millennial reign on earth. (One of the purposes of Christ’s return is for the national salvation of Israel.)

xxi) **CREATION:** WE BELIEVE that the heavens and earth and all original life forms, including man, were made by the specific immediate creative acts of God as described in the account of origins presented in Genesis, and that all biological changes which have occurred since creation are limited to variation within each species.

PART 2: THE FIRST THREE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH

“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”
(1 Corinthians 3:11)

“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.”
(Hebrews 6:1-2)

In this passage of Scripture six doctrines of our faith are identified:

- 1) Repentance from dead works, 2) Faith toward God, 3) The doctrine of baptisms,
- 4) Laying on of hands, 5) Resurrection of the dead, and 6) Eternal Judgment.

The first three of these six doctrines will now be discussed in turn.

i) REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

True repentance must always precede true faith. Without such repentance, faith alone is an empty profession. Christ and His apostles preached “Repent and believe.” Any preacher who leaves out the call to repentance is misleading sinners and misrepresenting God. Jesus Himself made it clear to those who told Him about the Galileans who had been killed by Pilate, “...unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3)

WHAT REPENTANCE IS NOT

- **Repentance is not the conviction of sin.** Conviction brings people to repentance. However many people go to the altar feeling guilty of their sin, but are not willing to let go of their sin.
- **Repentance is not remorse.** A person may have remorse over what they have done, but not wish to repent of what they have done. A person can stand before a judge with tears in his eyes, feeling sorry for himself, not wanting to go to jail, yet not sorry for breaking the law.
- **Repentance is not just a determination to do better (Reformation).** Many people make New Year’s resolutions, however they do not last long. Whilst repentance does involve reformation, if God is not involved in the reformation, if it is not based on the work of the cross, then it is not repentance and it will ultimately fail. Unrepentant Christians are most likely to be caught up in religious works.
- **Repentance is not just being religious.** People can even serve in a church and raise their hand and even shout “Hallelujah” but still not repent.
- **Repentance is not “just believism.”** Repentance is not just an emotional feeling.

WHY WE NEED TO REPENT

Repentance is necessary because we have all sinned. “For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God.” (**Romans 3:23**) There are around 103 sins defined in the Bible in every category imaginable, however the root of all these sins is the same. This root is the rejection of the rule and ways of God, due to unbelief. This root of unbelief must be dealt with through repentance.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (**John 3:16**) The need for repentance must be focused on the condition of a person’s heart before a Holy God. The Prophet Jeremiah said, “The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (**Jeremiah 17:9**)

A person who has not repented is simply committed to going his own way and doing his own thing apart from God.

WHAT IS TRUE REPENTANCE

TRUE repentance has two compulsory components:

- 1) **TRUE REPENTANCE** is based on a recognition that we have sinned. It is the supernatural power of God that has been placed in the gospel, which enables a person to repent. (**God’s saving Grace**)
- 2) **TRUE REPENTANCE** also involves a recognition that we are responsible to turn from our sins to God. Repentance is an inner change of mind resulting in an outward turning back, or turning around, to face and to move in a completely new direction. ***This turning around has three elements. A turning from sin and dead works, a turning to God, and an intent to serve Him and to obey His commands.***

ii) FAITH TOWARD GOD

After a person repents, he must then make a *personal response to the gospel*.

THE BASIC FACTS OF THE GOSPEL ARE:

- 1) *Christ was delivered by God the Father to the punishment of death on account of our sins*
- 2) *Christ was buried*
- 3) *God raised Him from the dead on the third day, and*
- 4) *Righteousness is received from God through **believing** these facts*

To receive salvation and the gift of eternal life, each individual soul must make a **direct personal response to Christ**.

THIS PERSONAL RESPONSE TO CHRIST CAN BE DESCRIBED IN MANY WAYS:

i) Calling upon the Name of Christ as Lord

“For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (*Romans 10:13*)

ii) Coming to Christ

Jesus said, “Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (*Matt. 11:28*) “...and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.” (*John 6:37b*)

iii) Personally receiving Christ

“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (*John 1:11-13*)

iv) Drinking of the water of life, which Christ alone can give

Jesus said, “But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (*John 4:14*)

Each individual soul must make a direct personal response to Christ from the heart.

Jesus said, “Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.” (*Revelations 3:20*)

iii) THE DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS

“There are two Christian Baptisms. One is the Water Baptism and the other is being Baptised in the Holy Spirit by Jesus. They will now be discussed in turn.

WATER BAPTISM

“The bible makes it clear that water baptism is not an optional extra. Jesus Himself was baptized, even though He had no need to repent of sin. (**Mark 1:9**) Jesus commanded His disciples to baptize new believers. (**Matthew 28:19**) Water baptism is for all believers. (**Mark 16:16**) *Water Baptism is an outward expression of what has already taken place in the heart of the new believer.*

Before a person is baptized he must have first repented of his sins and believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. (**Acts 16:30-33**) Water Baptism, or baptism by full immersion, is also called the “Believers Baptism”

Baptism speaks of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When we follow the Lord’s command to be baptized, we identify with Him in this way. When you accepted Christ as your Saviour, your sins were forgiven – you became “dead” to your past life. (**2 Corinthians. 5:17**) Baptism signifies this death. The water into which you are immersed is like a “grave” and indicates that you were buried with Christ. As you rise from the water you testify that you are now a new creation, rising to newness of life (resurrection power) in Christ Jesus. (**Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:12**)

In Water Baptism we identify with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (**Galatians 2:20**) Water Baptism also helps to enable a new believer to separate themselves from their ‘old man’, which was dead in sin, whilst reinforcing their commitment to walk in the newness of life in Christ Jesus. (**Romans 6:1-14**)

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Once a person becomes a Christian, God has another wonderful gift for them - the gift of the Holy Spirit. This gift is known as the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. The Bible speaks much about this experience. John the Baptist spoke of it, and revealed that Jesus is the Baptiser with the Holy Spirit. (**Mark 1:8**) The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is described in a number of different ways, each way referring to an aspect of this wonderful act:

- i) **Baptism in the Holy Spirit** (John 1:33) – which means immersion into the Spirit
- ii) **Gifts of the Spirit** (1 Corinthians 12) – emphasizing the gift aspect
- iii) **Receiving the Spirit** (Acts 19:2) – referring to the actual moment of reception
- iv) **Filled with the Spirit** (Acts 2:4) – suggesting something poured into a person

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is also spoken of as the promise from the Father, which the disciples were to wait for (**Luke 24:29**), and which they received on the day of Pentecost. (**Acts 2:33**)

Before a person can receive the Holy Spirit, they must be saved (Born Again).
(**Acts 19:2a**)

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the submerging of the whole being into the Spirit of God. It is being filled with the Holy Spirit Who Himself is a living person.

The Holy Spirit empowers us to minister to others. Jesus promised His disciples that when the Holy Spirit came upon them they would receive power to be His witnesses. (**Act 1:8**) After receiving the Holy Spirit, all the disciples become powerful preachers. Being Baptised in the Holy Spirit enables all believers to witness with greater joy and freedom, and with much more boldness when sharing with others who Jesus is, and what He has done for them. It also helps believers to enter into a richer spiritual awareness of the Lord.

God has given a lasting sign as evidence that we have been baptised in the Holy Spirit. That sign is speaking in tongues, or praying in the Spirit. (**Mark 16:17 and Acts 2:4**) The language that you receive when baptised in the Holy Spirit, is not one that you have learnt with the mind. However, you must use your own mouth and tongue to speak the words that God will give you.

The bible says that God gives good gifts. (**James 1:17a**) The Holy Spirit is one such good and perfect gift from God. **The baptism of the Holy Spirit is available to all believers.** Jesus said, “If you then being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.” (**Luke 11:13**) When Jesus baptises us with the Holy Spirit, He does so in a very personal way, a way that seems to suit our individual lives and personalities.

For some it is at home alone and for others after being prayed for by other Christians. This was very common in the early house churches, (**Acts 8:17, Acts 19:6**), but not always so. (**Acts 10:44-46**) The basic requirement for receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit is defined by the Apostle Paul as the hearing of faith. Six steps of faith and obedience, which help a person to be Baptised in the Holy Spirit, are:

- 1) **Repentance** (Acts 3:19) **and** 2) **Water Baptism** (Acts 2:38)
- 3) **Being Thirsty and Hungry for more of the Spirit** (John 7:37-38, Matt. 5:6)
- 4) **Asking for the Holy Spirit** (Luke 11:13)
- 5) **Drinking (Active process of receiving)** (John 7:37 and Psalm 81:10), and
- 6) **Yielding (Surrender of will, physical members and intellect)** (Rom. 6:13)

(Refer to Kingdom Power teaching for a more detailed teaching on receiving the Holy Spirit)

THE PRINCIPLE OF TWELVE

Jesus spent much of His time in ministry training up and equipping twelve disciples. Before ascending back to Heaven Jesus gave the command “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations ...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;” (**Matthew 28:19-20**)

The Apostle Paul also emphasised the importance of training up other Christians who in turn would be empowered to raise up other mature disciples. In his letter to the young Pastor Timothy, he wrote, “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (**2 Timothy 2:1-2**)

Within the context of a small group or home group, Christians can be prepared for ministry roles within the church. Small groups are also a great vehicle for helping new Christians to become connected to a local church.

The early church had many house fellowship groups (**Acts 5:42**) and as a result “believers were **increasingly** added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,” (**Acts 5:14**) During this period the number of disciples was multiplying in number. (**Acts 6:1**) Having healthy small group fellowships in a local church is a key to church growth and to seeing individual believers being trained up and mobilised into their ministry callings.

Larry Stockwell in his model of the Cell Church came up with a model for multiplying the small groups in his church. This model has been incorporated in the following example of how to raise up healthy cell or home group fellowships in a local church.

Raising up and Multiplying Small Groups (House Churches):

- 1) **The church leader or pastor of a new church plant or an existing church which has no small groups, needs to begin by running a small group for potential leaders. Over a period of time this group should be allowed to grow until it reaches twelve people.**
- 2) **In this group for potential leaders, which is run by the Senior Pastor, future small group leaders are trained up. Part of the training in this Senior Pastor’s Leadership small group would also involve preparing these leaders for other future ministry roles in the church.**
- 3) **Over a period of time, as God leads, the Senior Pastor raises up each of these potential leaders to become small group leaders.**
- 4) **These small group leaders are now the *Pastor’s assistants* and *continue to be a part of his leadership small group*. In this way the small group leaders that the Senior Pastor has raised up, will still be ministered to and mentored by him as they themselves minister to others in their own small groups.**

- 5) Each of these *Pastor's assistants* will continue to be trained up and mentored by the Senior Pastor in his *Leadership small group*. In addition to being coached in their small group leadership role, these assistants would also be equipped personally by the Senior Pastor to prepare them for future ministry roles as the church begins to grow in numbers. i.e. Preparing them to oversee and train those who will be involved in the Children's ministry as many new families are added to the church in the future.
- 6) The Senior *Pastor's input* into the lives of the Pastor's assistants in his small group is obviously very important. Those being raised up as leaders will *reflect the heart and the character of the Pastor himself*. Jesus Himself said, "*A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.*" (Luke 6:40)
- 7) Each of these *Pastor's assistants* would have been *fully* equipped by the Senior Pastor before being appointed as a small group leader, to disciple up to twelve people in their own small group and to see everyone in his or her small group as also being potential future leaders. Each of these Pastor's assistants would also have been encouraged to place an emphasis on evangelism in their new small group. In this way each small group will quickly grow to twelve members and each member of the small group will also be empowered to evangelise to others.
- 8) Every small group leader should be active in soul winning and in equipping those in their small group in the area of evangelism. Each small group leader should also be looking at grooming and preparing potential leaders. The Senior Pastor's passion for evangelism will invariably be reflected in the lives of their *Pastor's assistants* and in those who their assistants in turn train up and disciple in the future. For this reason it is imperative that the senior pastor of every church seeks God to have His heart for the lost.
- 9) The training up and development of good small group leaders is a key to retaining the harvest of lost souls which will come in when we experience revival. If a church has trained up many potential leaders, as hundreds and even thousands are saved, these new believers can be placed in home groups. At the end of the Apostle Peter's first sermon after the Day of Pentecost, three thousand people called on the Name of Jesus.
- 10) Over a period of time the Senior Pastor will in God's timing release the small group leaders (Pastors assistants) in his group to raise up new small groups and to disciple and mentor those who will be leading these *new small groups*. These *pastor's assistants* will now themselves be training up and equipping new small group leaders. They themselves (*the senior pastor's assistants*) will continue to be part of the Senior Pastor's small group but they will now have a group of small group leaders that they themselves are responsible for discipling and mentoring.

- 11) The Pastor's assistants now have the responsibility of training up and *preparing* those in their own small groups to be future small group leaders themselves. As the Lord leads, the Pastor's assistants, with the approval of the Senior Pastor, begin to raise up leaders to run new small groups. Over a period of time each of the Pastor's assistants will also end up having a group of twelve small group leaders that they are discipling and mentoring on an ongoing basis. Eventually in God's timing, the Pastor's assistants will themselves *release the small group leaders that they are mentoring and discipling*, to establish their own new small groups and to disciple and mentor the leaders who are will be running them.
- 12) The small group leaders that they have now released to train up other small group leaders will still however continue to attend the Pastor's assistants small groups (for continued leadership training and development) but they will also now be training and equipping other new small group leaders themselves.
- 13) When *this new group of small group leaders are in turn themselves released in the future* to raise up and mentor the next group of small group leaders, there will be an additional 20,736 new small groups raised up. This is why Jesus chose to disciple twelve apostles who would then in turn teach others all those things that He had taught them during His ministry here on earth. (Matthew 28:20)
- 14) This Discipleship model has a number of great advantages. Firstly each small group leader in the church is both ministered to as well as ministering to others. Secondly, every small group leader is accountable to another leader. Finally this model also helps to see every person being given the opportunity to be recognised for some future leadership role and to be better equipped for their ministry calling.
- 15) As all small group leaders are also ministered to in this model, all leaders are in turn far more empowered to raise up strong and capable future small group leaders themselves in the groups that they run.
- 16) This church growth model provides good training and accountability for all the small group leaders. If this is also combined with an evangelism and evangelism training focus in each of the small groups, multiplication of small groups will increasingly occur.

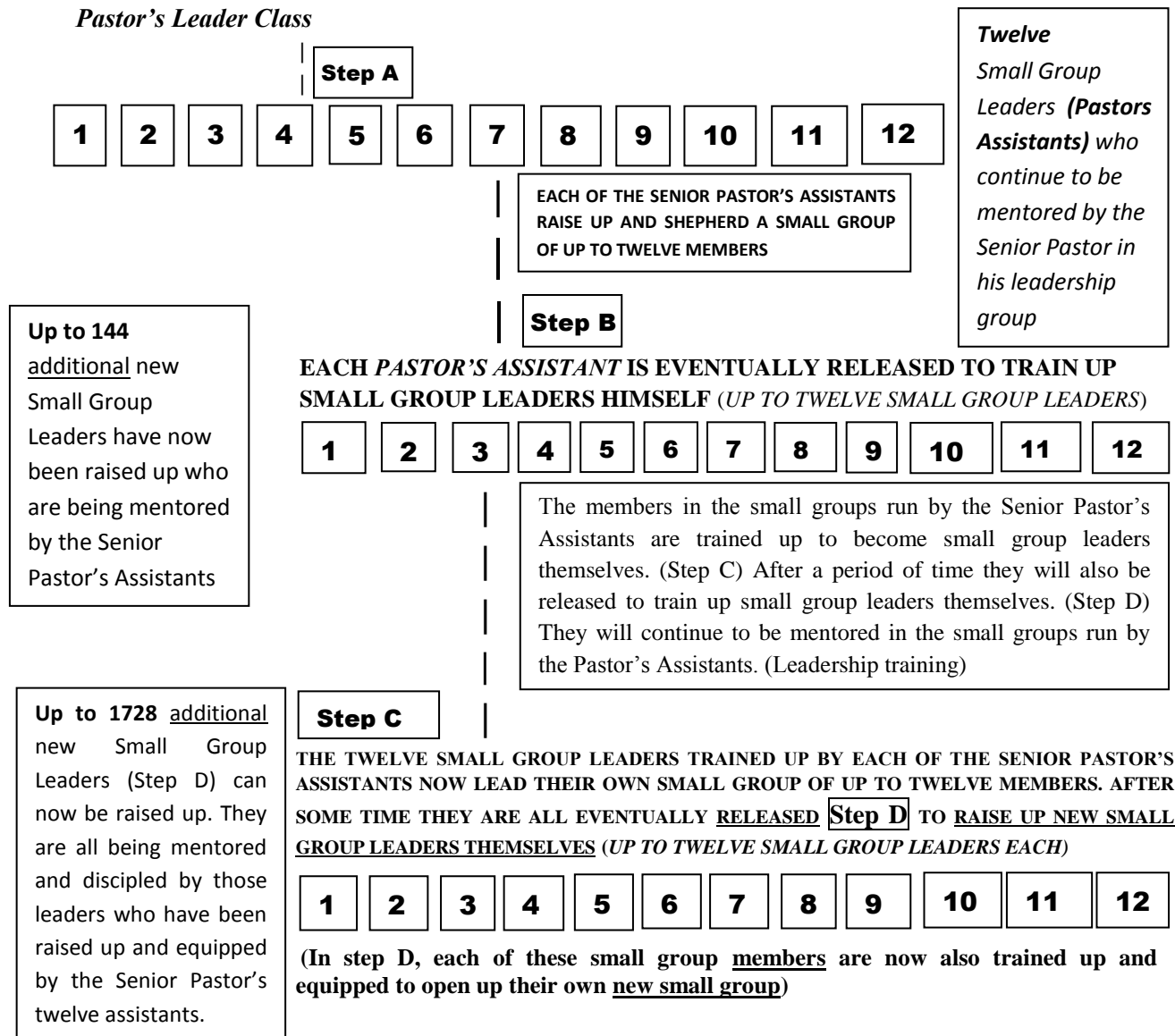
GIVEN THE VILLAGE STRUCTURE IN INDIA, THIS SMALL GROUP MULTIPLICATION MODEL WOULD BE IDEAL FOR PLANTING HOUSE CHURCHES THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGES OF INDIA.

(i.e. A Pastor in an established local church could raise up over a period of time twelve "pastor's assistants" in a leadership training small group run by him or her. As God directs, these twelve assistants could then be raised up to be small group leaders in twelve different villages and begin the above discipleship multiplication process. **This discipleship model can be clearly understood by looking at the following Schematic Illustration)**

SCHEMATIC ILLUSTRATION OF THIS DISCIPLESHIP MODEL

SENIOR PASTOR

(12 Senior Pastor's Assistants) After being trained and equipped by the Senior Pastor, each Pastor's assistant is given their own small group to lead. (Step A) After the Pastor's assistants have proved faithful in leading their own small group, the Senior Pastor also releases them to train up new small group leaders (up to 12) themselves. (Step B) They continue to be a part of the Senior Pastor's Leader Class



MULTIPLYING SMALL GROUP LEADERS Using this discipleship model mature small group leaders are raised up who have ongoing accountability to other leaders. All small group leaders are both ministered to as well as ministering to others. After the twelve small group leaders released by each of the Senior Pastor's twelve assistants (12 x 12 = 144) have all raised up twelve more new small group leaders, an additional 1728 new small group leaders will be running small groups. (144 x 12) **When these new leaders raise up the next group of small group leaders in the future, there will be up to 20,736 additional small group leaders.** (1728 x 12)

A WORKING EXAMPLE OF THIS DISCIPLESHIP MODEL

Pastor Peter Shepherd plants a new church with a small team and has a vision to raise up small groups to help his church to grow in the future, **OR**

Pastor John Shepherd realises the need for his church to start developing some small groups to enable his church members to grow more in their faith and to help the church to grow in the future.

IN BOTH THESE CASES THE CHURCH HAS NOT YET RUN SMALL GROUPS

IN THIS WORKING EXAMPLE WE WILL USE PASTOR JOHN SHEPHERD'S CHURCH TO ILLUSTRATE THIS DISCIPLESHIP MODEL

- 1) Pastor John Shepherd starts a leadership class (small group) for potential small group leaders on a Monday night. Over a period of time it grows to twelve members. These small group meetings are held every Monday night from 7.30 pm**
Note: This small group could be held on any week night or even on a Sunday afternoon, but I believe it would be best to run this group early in the week. The reason for this is that if the Senior Pastor wants to let all small group leaders know about any upcoming events or church policy in the future, he can let his own small group of leaders know first before they hold their own small group meetings later in the week.
- 2) After a season of preparation Pastor John Shepherd raises up each of these potential leaders to actually run their own small groups. For ease of illustration we will look at one of these members of Pastor John Shepherd's small group. For this example we will call this small group member's name Peter Sampson.**
- 3) Pastor John Shepherd now appoints Peter Sampson to start running his own small group every Thursday night from 7.30 pm. Over a period of 12 months Peter Sampson's small group grows to twelve members.**
- 4) Pastor John Shepherd now releases Peter Sampson to start raising up his own new small groups and to train and equip these new small group leaders in his Thursday night group.**
- 5) Those in Peter Sampson's small group (as God directs) are now raised up to begin their own small groups every Tuesday night from 7.30 pm. For example sake, let's say that one of these new Tuesday Night Small group leaders from Peter Sampson's group is called John Moses.**
- 6) After John Moses has established his own small group of twelve members over a period of twelve months in his Tuesday night meeting, Peter Sampson now with the approval of the Senior Pastor John Shepherd releases John Moses to raise up his own small groups and to train up these new small group leaders.**
- 7) These new small groups may run on a Thursday night (or another suitable night) Lets for example sake say that one of the new small group leaders that John Moses has raised up is called John Paul and that he begins to run his own small group every Thursday night from 7.30 pm.**

- 8) **Having small group meetings mid-week on Tuesdays and Thursdays is probably the recommended days as there is a one day break between the two meetings.** (Small group meetings can also be held on Saturdays or even on Sunday afternoons after the Church meetings if these days are more convenient)
- 9) **In this model one of these small group meetings is to enable all small group leaders to be encouraged and ministered to themselves, so that they are then more empowered to minister to those who are in the small groups that they lead.** In this way all small group leaders continue to grow themselves and become increasingly better equipped to run their own small groups.

FUTURE CHURCH PLANTERS WILL INVARIABLY COME FROM SMALL GROUP LEADERS WHO GOD WILL RAISE UP TO PLANT NEW CHURCHES

THIS EXAMPLE CAN BE SUMMARISED AS FOLLOWS

Monday Night: Pastor John Shepherd runs a leadership small group of twelve (**Peter Sampson attends this small group**)
(This is the foundational small group)

Thursday Night: Peter Sampson leads a small group of twelve (**John Moses attends this small group**)
(At this level of the discipleship model Peter Sampson is one of 12 new small group leaders)

Tuesday Night: John Moses leads a small group of twelve (**John Paul attends this small group**)
(At this level of the discipleship model John Moses is one of an additional 144 new small group leaders who have been raised up)

Thursday Night: John Paul leads a small group of twelve
(At this level of the discipleship model John Paul is one of a further 1728 new small group leaders who have been raised up)

Ministry Manual (*Teaching No.17*)

THE ATTRIBUTES OF A GOOD LEADER

- **As Christians, we are all called to be leaders in our sphere of influence. We have all been called to reign with Christ here on earth.** (Revelation 5:9-10)
- **God calls some Christians into Ministry Leadership.** (1 Timothy 1:1 and 1 Timothy 1:12)
- **Jesus Himself “...gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints...”** (Ephesians 4:11-12)
- **God raises up leaders in the church to shepherd and oversee other believers. The pastor of a church must be an example to those that God has entrusted to him.** (1 Peter 5:1-4)
- **A PASTOR NEEDS TO BE A GOOD AND CARING LEADER**
- **TO BE A GOOD LEADER, A PASTOR OR CHURCH LEADER MUST LIVE:**
 - i) **To Serve God , and ii) To Serve Others**
- **A GODLY LEADER HAS DIED TO HIS OWN AGENDA (*John 12:24-26*) (*Galatians 2:20*) (*Luke 9:23*) AND FOLLOWS GOD’S PLAN FOR THEIR LIFE, WHICH BEARS MUCH FRUIT**

ATTRIBUTES OF A GOOD LEADER

- 1) They are HUMBLE** (Philippians 2:5-8) (Numbers 12:3)
- 2) They are SERVANTS** (Matt. 20:25-28) **and lead by Example**(1 Tim. 4:12)
- 3) They have a HUNGER for GOD’S WORD** (Joshua 1:8) (Psalm 119:105) (Matthew 7:24-27) (Colossians 3:16) (2 Timothy 3:10-17) (Hebrews 4:12) (Psalm 1:1-3) **and** (Colossians 2:6-8)
- 4) They have a VISION for their life and church and are able to effectively COMMUNICATE that vision to others.** (Habakkuk 2:2-3) (Proverbs 29:18) (Ephesians 5:15-17)

- 5) They are **STRONG** and **COURAGEOUS** (They never give up on God's plan for their life) (Deuteronomy 31:6) (Joshua 1:6-9) (Hebrews 10:36) (Revelation 3:12) (2 Timothy 4:7)
- 6) They are **APPROACHABLE** (1 Peter 5:2-3) (Colossians 3:12-14) (2 Timothy 2:23-25) (Titus 1:7-8)
- 7) They have a **LOVE** for, and **COMMITMENT** to those they are leading or shepherding (Acts 20:28) (1 Peter 5:1-4) (John 10:11) (John 21:15-17) (John 10:15)
- 8) They are **TOTALLY GOD DEPENDENT** (Exodus 33:11-13) (Lamentations 3:24-25) AND LEAD A LIFE OF OBEDIENCE (Acts 13:22) **Abraham continually put his trust in God** (Romans 4:20-21)
- 9) They have been baptized in the Holy Spirit. (The gifts of the Spirit include: the *word of wisdom*, the *word of knowledge* and the *gift of faith*). (1 Corinthians 12:7-9)
- 10) They have a close and **INTIMATE** relationship with the Lord and are:
 - i) **Worshippers**, (John 4:23-24) The great *King David* was a worshiper and a man after God's own heart. He wrote many of the Psalms
 - ii) **Prayer Warriors**, (Ezekiel 22:30) (2 Chronicles 7:14)
 - iii) **Full of God's Word**, (Joshua 1:8) and
 - iii) They have a heart for lost souls (Matthew 9:35-36) (Proverbs 11:30)
- 11) They have a **TEACHABLE spirit** (Hosea 4:6) (Proverbs 9:9) (Proverbs 10:17) (Proverbs 11:14) (Proverbs 12:1) (Proverbs 15:22) (Proverbs 16:20) (Proverbs 19:20) **Like King Solomon they understand the importance of gaining wisdom** (Proverbs 2:1-12)
- 12) They are great **ENCOURAGERS** (Acts 11:22-24) (1 Corinthians 14:12) (Hebrews 10:24-25) **They also refuse to pull down others**

- 13) They take RESPONSIBILITY for their actions. They are humble enough to acknowledge when they have made mistakes. If others have a better way of doing things they are open to making any necessary changes**
- 14) They have a willingness to DELEGATE authority to others (Deuteronomy 1:9-14) (Exodus 18:21-23)**
- 15) They have an excellent spirit. (Daniel 6:3) They give their best for the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:58) (Romans 12:6-8) (Hebrews 6:10-12) They are faithful in the little things (Luke 16:10)**
- 16) They live a life which is categorized by obedience (John 14:21) (John 14:23-24) (Isaiah 1:19)**
- 17) They complete tasks (They are COMMITTED to finishing what God tells them to do) (Galatians 6:9) Moses was faithful to the end. (Deuteronomy 34) Jesus was committed to finishing all that His Father called Him to do in His ministry here on earth. (John 4:34) (John 17:4)**
- 18) They are honest and have integrity (Good Character) (Titus 1:5-9) (1 Timothy 6:11) (1 Timothy 3:2-3)**
- 19) They are quick to forgive those who have hurt them or who have spitefully used them or slandered them. (Luke 6:27-28) On the cross Jesus forgave those who were mocking and reviling Him. (Luke 23:33-36)**
- 20) They manage their time well. They are WELL ORGANISED (Ephesians 5:15-17) They appreciate the importance of each day**
- 21) They MENTOR the next generation (2 Timothy 2:1-3) (Deuteronomy 34:9)**

22) They see the POTENTIAL IN OTHERS. They never give up on people. They continually speak destiny and vision over people's lives. KING DAVID'S 400 mighty men of valour were originally all in distress, discontented and in debt. However under the leadership of King David they all achieved great and mighty exploits. (1 Samuel 22:1-2) (2 Samuel 23:8-39) (1 Corinthians 1:26-31)

23) They have a healthy FEAR OF THE LORD, which is the beginning of all wisdom. (Proverbs 1:7), and

24) THEY ARE TEAM PLAYERS

TOPIC 4 SELECTED TEACHINGS

Ministry Manual (*Teaching 19*)

HAVING EFFECTIVE MINISTRY (LEADERSHIP) TEAMS

Introduction:

One will put a thousand to flight but two will put ten thousand to flight. Having a unified team enables individuals to do more than they could achieve if they were to do things separately. The combining of different gifts and talents in a team gives each person the ability to accomplish more than if they were to operate in isolation.

God is vitally concerned about each member of the body being connected and in relationship with others. It is in working together with others who God brings into our life, that we can realise the potential in our own lives.

Jesus Himself had twelve disciples who walked with Him. The bible says much about the need to be connected with others. Right from the beginning God has said, **“It is not good that man should be alone;...”** (Genesis 2:18) *Jesus sent out His disciples two by two.* (Luke 10:1)

- “For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, And in a multitude of counsellors there is safety. **(Proverbs 24:6)**
- “Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.” **(Proverbs 15:22)**
- “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” **(Matthew 18:20)**
- “A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.” **(Proverbs 18:1)**

When Peter began to preach his sermon on the day of Pentecost **(Acts 2:14-36)** the eleven other disciples stood with him in unity. **(Acts 2:14)** On that day three thousand souls were saved. **(Acts 2:41)**

There are several keys to having a team of influence:

1) There must be a shared vision:

“Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint.”
(Proverbs 29:18a)

“Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.” (Habakkuk: 2:2a)

2) We must allow the Lord to build our church / teams:

Leaders must seek the Lord for His strategies for their church.

“Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.”
(Proverbs 16:3)

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

3) We must (as a team) have faith in God:

Israel failed to enter the Promised Land for forty years because:

- i) Ten of the team of twelve spies had unbelief
- ii) These ten spies were crippled by fear
- iii) They only saw the giants in the land (The size of the enemy),
- iv) They failed to trust God and His promise to them, (That they would possess the promised land),
- v) Only two of the team of twelve spies had faith to take the Promised Land.

WE MUST HAVE FAITH TO BELIEVE THAT OUR CHURCHES CAN MAKE AN IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY AND THAT OUR CITIES AND NATION CAN BE WON TO JESUS.

“FOR WITH GOD NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE” (LUKE 1:37)

- **We need to become God dependent (Just do what Jesus says to)**
- **We need to acknowledge that His ways are higher than ours**
“Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” (1 Corinthians 1:25)
“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9)
- **He must be our strength**
The Lord said to the apostle Paul, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness...” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

- **Prayer must be a priority in our church and ministry teams**

Prayer was a big part of the early church. Persecution drove the first disciples to pray together. (**Acts 4:24-31**)

“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” (**Acts 4:31**)

- **We must do things in His strength and in his Power**

This was the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord of Hosts.” (**Zechariah 4:6**)

4) We must stay focused on our vision:

- **We must be committed to completing our destiny**

Jesus said, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of God.” (**Luke 9:62**)

Jesus also said, “For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it – lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, “saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’” (**Luke 14:28-30**)

It is important that we never give up on what God has called us to do.

However it is always imperative that we:

- 1) Only do what God wants us to do,**
- 2) That we allow Him to build and establish his plan for our team, and**
- 3) That we do not run ahead of God.**

We must allow the Lord to unfold his strategies for our church and ministry teams and allow each season of preparation to be completed before we commence the next phase or level of ministry.

- **We must not grow weary in doing good**

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” (**Galatians 6:9**)

- **We must have persistence**

“For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.” (**Hebrews 10:36**)

- **We must have courage to complete our destiny**

“Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and **very courageous,** that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may **prosper wherever you go.”**

“This Book of the Law shall not depart **from your mouth,** but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. **For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.**

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of GOOD COURAGE; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God **is with you wherever you go.**” (*Joshua 1:6-9*)

- **We must be prepared to make sacrifices**

Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.” (**John 12:24-25**)

IN A WORLD FULL OF TEMPTATIONS, DISTRACTIONS AND CHALLENGES, WE MUST CHOOSE TO COMMIT TO GOD’S PLAN FOR OUR CHURCH, OUR LIFE AND WHATEVER MINISTRIES WE ARE INVOLVED IN. WE MUST SET OUR MIND ON THINGS ABOVE.

5) The power of unified prayer

The first disciples operated in power in the early church and saw thousands impacted by the gospel and the signs and wonders that accompanied the preaching of the word. United prayer was a key factor in seeing the early church grow.

“These (Disciples) all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.” (**Acts 1:14**)

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.” (**Acts 2:42-43**)

AFTER BEING PERSECUTED FOR SHARING THEIR FAITH IN JESUS, THE DISCIPLES RAISED THEIR VOICE TO GOD WITH ONE ACCORD:

“Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, “By stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” “And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were **all filled with the Holy Spirit,** and they *spoke the word of God with boldness.*” (**Acts 4:29-31**)

6) Team unity will produce powerful results:

Much emphasis in the early church was placed on unity and prayer. Being of one accord was a dominant trait of the early church leaders. Their unity and agreement was both spiritual and practical, and not only theological, for they shared their lives and possessions. They met often to pray, revealing both a relationship with each other and a total reliance on God.

“Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart...And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:44-46, 47a)

WHERE THERE IS UNITY, THERE IS POWER AND GRACE

THE EARLY CHURCH WAS OF ONE HEART AND ONE SOUL

“Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.” (Acts 4:32-33)

THIS KINGDOM VIEW FOR OUR FINANCES IS A KEY TO SEEING THE CHURCH MAKE AN IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY. WE MUST BE MISSIONS MINDED. IF JESUS IS TRULY LORD OF OUR HEART, OUR FINANCES WILL BE HIS AS WELL AND WE WILL GIVE TO THE WORK OF EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS AS HE PURPOSES IN OUR HEART TO GIVE.

WE MUST ENDEAVOUR TO MAINTAIN UNITY AT ALL TIMES

LIKE A CHAIN, A TEAM IS ONLY AS STRONG AS ITS WEAKEST LINK (TEAM MEMBER). OUR LIVES IMPACT THE LIVES OF OTHERS

Jesus said, “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.” (Matthew 12:25)

WE NEED TO SEEK UNITY WITH ALL CHRISTIANS AND BE OF ONE ACCORD IN OUR CHURCHES AND MINISTRY TEAMS

SOME KEYS FOR MAINTAINING UNITY ARE:

i) Walking in love towards each other (By this people will know that we are His disciples)

Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

ii) All team members knowing how to walk in the Spirit

The Apostle Paul said, “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:16)

The bible says in the book of James, “But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth...For where envy and self seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there...Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” **(James 3:14,16,18)**

The Apostle Paul cautioned the church in Galatia: “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!” **(Galatians 5:14-15)**

iii) Dealing quickly with any spirit of division

“But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self- condemned.” **(Titus 3:9-11)**

The Apostle Paul said in his letter to the church in Rome, “Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.” **(Romans 16:17-18)**

iv) Each team member has a heart to serve others, and

“Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant...Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many,” **(Matthew 20:26,28)**

v) Each team member (church leader) has died to selfish ambition. Loyalty and humility are two necessary traits for all those who are placed in leadership.

“Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour giving preference to one another.” **(Romans 12:10)**

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.” **(Philippians 2:3)**

A CHURCH MUST HAVE DISCIPLESHIP STRUCTURES IN PLACE TO HELP ALL BELIEVERS TO GROW IN THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT AND TO FIND AND FOLLOW GOD’S PLAN FOR THEIR LIFE.

7) Individually each team member must seek to become more Christlike:

The call to discipleship involves following in the steps of Jesus and becoming more like Christ. To become a disciple involves surrendering all of your life to Jesus Christ. Those in leadership in churches need to be living examples of what it is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

A leader who is passionate for the things of God, for lost souls and who is servant hearted will by his own example encourage others to lay down their lives for Jesus Christ. Jesus said,

“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it” **(Luke 9:23-24)**

SMALL (GROWTH) GROUPS OR CARE (HOME) GROUPS, ARE A KEY TO SEEING NEW BELIEVERS DISCIPLED AND GROWING IN THEIR FAITH

Encouraging the mature Christians to mentor new believers is also another key to seeing Christians growing in their faith. All leaders in particular should have accountability with other mature Christians. *The relationship of Apostle Paul to Timothy is a biblical model for mentoring.*

Having good discipleship and mentoring structures in place in a church, enables new believers to grow more quickly in their faith and in developing Christian character in their lives. (Fruit of the Spirit)

The following areas of character, which are important in the lives of all Christians, can be addressed in small care groups and mentoring relationships. Christians who struggle in these areas are capable of bringing disunity into any church, group or team:

- i) Any form of pride (God resists the proud)**
 - a) Rebellion**
 - b) Being easily offended**
 - c) Religious Pride**
 - d) Excessive desire for praise**
 - e) Finding it hard to say ‘I am sorry’ even when in the wrong**
 - f) Inability to acknowledge when you are wrong**
 - g) Defensive / critical spirit**

ii) **Having an unteachable spirit**

“For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not... They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.”
(Titus 1:10-11 & 16)

iii) *Not adapting to or yielding to the best interests of the group or team (Having an independent spirit)*

iv) *A person who is envious or self seeking*

THE FOLLOWING TRAITS CAN BE ENCOURAGED AND DEVELOPED IN THE CONTEXT OF A LOVING SMALL GROUP, OR MENTORING RELATIONSHIP:

- i) **Humility,**
- ii) **Forgiveness and reconciliation,**
- iii) **Integrity (Through accountability to others),**
- iv) **Personal obedience to God,**
- v) **Helping new believers to become encouragers of others,**
- vi) **Developing relationship skills, and**
- vii) **Helping new believers to walk in love towards others.**

8) The importance of esteeming others better than yourself (Helping others to fulfill their destinies):

“Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour giving preference to one another.” (Romans 12:10)

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.” (Philippians 2:3)

9) Each team member is using their gifts

God gives each believer gifts and abilities to be used for the Body of Christ and in expanding God’s kingdom. It is so important that believers are given an opportunity to use their spiritual gifts. The church must encourage all believers to use and exercise their ministry and spiritual gifts for the edifying and expansion of the Body of Christ.

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. **But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)**

10) Each member of the team has been placed in the team as God has directed according to their ministry gifts and callings

God has a unique plan and purpose for every Christian's life. **(Ephesians 2:10)** It is only in doing what God has called us to do, that we experience the abundant life that comes from serving Him. A good leader will help all believers to find their fit within the Body of Christ. Running regular "Spiritual Gifts Workshops" helps all believers to become more aware of their spiritual gifts. To have a team of influence it is imperative that each member of the team is:

i) Positioned by God in the team according to their ministry gifts

"But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased." **(1 Corinthians 12:18)**

"For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another." **(Romans 12:4-5)**

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way." **(Psalm 37:23)**

ii) That each member of the team is operating in their unique gifts and callings

The Apostle Paul wrote, "There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:" **(1 Corinthians 12:4-7)**

iii) That each team member is placed in a role which is suited to them in which they are able to use their ministry gifts

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: If prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. **(Romans 12:6-8)**

The apostle Paul said in his letter to the Colossian church:

"And say to Archippus, "Take heed to *the ministry which you have received in the Lord*, that you may *fulfil it*." **(Colossians 4:17)**

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which *God prepared beforehand* that we should *walk in them*." **(Ephesians 2:10)**, and

iv) That all team members are given the opportunity to use their gifts

“from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which *every part does its share*, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” **(Ephesians 4:16)**

“Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.” **(1 Corinthians 14:12)**

A good Leader will actively encourage all Christians to find their fit within the Body of Christ and to use their spiritual and ministry gifts fully

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT IN BUILDING A CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM AND WHEN FORMING MINISTRY TEAMS, THAT WE ALLOW THE LORD TO BE IN CONTROL OF ALL THAT WE ARE DOING: “UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE, THEY LABOUR IN VAIN WHO BUILD IT...” (PSALM 127:1) WHEN GOD BUILDS A TEAM:

- i) There is a greater likelihood of there being ongoing team unity,**
- ii) Each individual team member will be placed in a role that fulfils him or her,**
- iii) The team building process will be far easier** (The Lord knows what is best, and the best blend of people and gifts for a particular church or ministry. Churches must be able to minister to the needs of the people in the community. These needs can vary considerably from place to place),
- iv) The team will operate in power and there will be much fruit forthcoming, and**
- v) The team will just seem to run smoothly as everyone does their part**

11) That all team members have a heart to see people won to Jesus. (He who wins souls is wise)

Every church leadership team and ministry team should never lose sight of the fact that Jesus Christ came to seek and to save the lost. The heartbeat of every church and ministry team should be to see heaven populated and hell plundered. Jesus had compassion for the lost

“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.” (Matthew 9:35-36)

JESUS SAID PRIOR TO RETURNING TO HEAVEN

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” **(Matthew 28:19)**

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” **(Mark 16:15)**

GOD WANTS ALL PEOPLE TO HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

“Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord God, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live...’ (Ezekiel 33:11a,b)

12) The focus of all leaders of churches, small groups, ministry teams and other teams / groups should be:

T*raining*****

T*eaching*****

E*quipping*****

E*mpowering*****

A*ssisting*****

A*ffirming*****

M*ultipling*****

M*obilising*****

Others to help them to find their fit in the Body of Christ and to fulfil their God given destiny as part of the team.

THE ROLE OF THE FIVE FOLD MINISTRY

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” **(Ephesians 4:11-13)**

SO THAT EVERY PART (OF THE BODY OF CHRIST) DOES ITS SHARE, CAUSING GROWTH TO THE BODY AND THE EDIFYING OF ITSELF IN LOVE (Ephesians 4:16)

We all have a role to play in the Body of Christ and we are all part of a bigger team where our gifts complement the gifts of others in helping to see the world won to Jesus. Church leaders must look at encouraging each believer in their church to find and follow God’s plan for their life.

A VIBRANT AND EFFECTIVE CHURCH PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR EACH BELIEVER TO FIND AND FOLLOW GOD’S DIRECTION FOR THEIR LIFE.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS WORKSHOPS ENABLE BELIEVERS TO IDENTIFY THEIR SPIRITUAL AND HELPS GIFTS, WHILST SMALL GROUPS AND MENTORING RELATIONSHIPS HELP BELIEVERS TO GROW IN THEIR CHRISTIAN WALK AND TO USE THEIR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND MINISTRY PREPARATION CLASSES HELP TO PREPARE AND EQUIP BELIEVERS TO USE THEIR MINISTRY AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

The Apostle Paul said to Timothy, “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witness, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:1-2)

13) We cannot allow past setbacks and failures to stop us from fulfilling our destiny:

Every church and individual will at times experience failures or disappointments. It is always important to keep our focus on Jesus and His vision for our Church or ministry team and for our own life.

WE MUST BE FOCUSED ON FULFILLING EVERYTHING THAT GOD HAS FOR OUR CHURCH AND FOR OUR OWN PERSONAL LIVES

WHAT GOD STARTS HE WILL COMPLETE

“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” **(Philippians 1:6)**

WE ARE NEVER A FAILURE WHEN WE EXPERIENCE FAILURES. IT IS ONLY IF WE FAIL AND GIVE UP THAT WE ARE A FAILURE.

WE MUST BE SINGLE MINDED LIKE THE APOSTLE PAUL

THE APOSTLE PAUL:

i) DID NOT ALLOW HIS PAST FAILURES TO DEFEAT HIM

“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead.” **(Philippians 3:13)**

ii) KEPT FOCUSED ON GOD’S PLAN FOR HIS LIFE

“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me...I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” **(Philippians 3:12,14)**

iii) KEPT HIS FOCUS ON FINISHING THE RACE AND FULFILLING HIS GOD GIVEN DESTINY

Towards the end of his life here on earth, the Apostle Paul said, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” **(2 Timothy 4:7-8)**

14) It is important for team members to have regular fellowship with each other (Leaders Meetings) and informal meetings to have FUN TOGETHER

It is important for church leaders and team members to meet together regularly to maintain unity and focus. These meetings also enable the team members to encourage one another in their faith, particularly during times of tribulation. Prayer and worship should be an important part of these meetings.

Leaders and team members should be friends and not just acquaintances. Spending quality (social time) together on occasions will help to strengthen the unity in a ministry or church leadership team. We must ensure that we are always naturally spiritual and spiritually natural. We all need times of refreshing off the front line. We are in a marathon and not in a sprint.

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”
(Hebrews 10:24-25)

15) It's all about our hearts:

The impact that our church, our ministry teams and our own lives have on the community depends primarily on the condition of our hearts. Our lives and our churches have the potential to impact the lives of thousands, and even to see cities won to Jesus Christ. Reinhard Bonnke has been used by God to see most of Africa impacted by the gospel.

But like Isaiah, we must respond to God's call,

“...Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” (Isaiah 6:8)

With a whole hearted, “HERE AM I! SEND ME” (Isaiah 6:8)

Having a right heart means:

i) Loving God

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” (Deuteronomy 6:5a)

ii) Obeying Him

Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments. He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me...If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him...He who does not love Me does not keep My words...” **(John 14:15, 21a, 23, 24)**

“Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, ...” (1 Samuel 15:22b)

iii) Loving others

Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” **(John 13:34-35)**

iv) Serving others

Jesus said, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. “Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” **(Mark 10:42-45)**

IN THE END WE MUST NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF THE MISSION THAT, WE HAVE AS BELIEVERS: TO SHARE THE MESSAGE OF HOPE THAT WE HAVE IN JESUS CHRIST AND TO SEE HEAVEN POPULATED AND HELL PLUNDERED.

APPENDIX H (Based on a teaching compiled by John McMartin)

CONFLICT RESOLUTION (A key to maintaining unity)

The Bible says much about the importance of maintaining unity within the Body of Christ.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” **(1 Corinthians 1:10) and**

“Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.” **(Romans 12:16)**

THE EARLY CHURCH MOVED IN POWER. UNITY AMONGST BELIEVERS WAS A SIGNIFICANT FEATURE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

“Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.” **(Acts 4:32-33)**

“And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon’s Porch.” **(Acts 5:12)**

WHEN GOD IS MOVING IN A CHURCH THE DEVIL WILL DO EVERYTHING HE CAN TO BRING STRIFE INTO OUR FELLOWSHIPS.

“Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.” **(Acts 6:1)**

ONE OF OUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES IN LIFE IS DEALING WITH THE CONFLICTS THAT WE EXPERIENCE IN OUR LIFE AS A RESULT OF:

- 1) Offenses**
- 2) Misunderstandings, and**
- 3) Disagreements**

THE WEBSTER DICTIONARY DEFINITION OF CONFLICT IS:

- **Prolonged struggle**
- **A clashing or sharp disagreement**
- **To be in opposition**

CONFLICT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO:

- **Destroy marriages and friendships**
- **Split churches**
- **Ruin Businesses**
- **Start Wars, and**
- **To drive some people to commit suicide**

CONFLICT IS HOWEVER A PART OF LIFE

In life we will all experience conflicts at time. Conflicts are not necessarily harmful if they are dealt with creatively and in a reconciling way. Handled creatively people can experience personal growth and gain improved perspectives on how to do things in the future. Conflicts have the potential to hurt our church and to create ongoing friction between two or more people.

HOW DO WE DEAL WITH THOSE PEOPLE IN OUR CHURCH WHOSE DIVISIVE BEHAVIOUR IS BRINGING STRIFE INTO OUR CHURCH

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.” **(Titus 3:10-11)**

The Apostle Paul in his epistle to Titus makes it clear how we are to deal with difficult people.

Don't argue with them – warn them and if they reject the warnings reject them.

THERE ARE CERTAIN TIMES WHEN THERE IS A GREATER LIKELIHOOD OF EXPERIENCING CONFLICTS

- **When buying land or when renting or building new premises**
- **When a church adopts a fresh and new vision**
- **When appointing new leaders**

SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER IN RELATION TO HANDLING CONFLICTS CAUSED BY DIVISIVE PEOPLE THAT WILL AFFECT THE CHURCH

- **Don't bark at every car** (do not constantly be looking for problem people to address)
- **Pick your battles carefully** (Focus your attention on resolving those conflicts and divisive attitudes which must be addressed)
- **We need to look at addressing those problems and differences which will adversely affect others, our *church* and *the vision for our church***
- **For major conflicts it is also wise at times to seek the counsel of other mature Christians before confronting those who are causing division in the church**
- **We need to do what God wants – Sooner rather than later**
- **The importance of prayer – fasting – before addressing conflicts**
- **As leaders it is important to seek God's timing and to know the right words to use when dealing with conflicts with church members**
- **Never publically address people when addressing conflicts with them. Otherwise people in the church may take sides against us as leaders**

HOW PERSON TO PERSON CONFLICTS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED WITHIN A CHURCH

When there is a conflict between two or more people in a church, the Bible makes it clear how we should handle these situations:

*"Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'**v.17** And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector."* (Matthew 18:15-17)

VERSE 17 MAKES IT CLEAR THAT IF INDIVIDUALS CAN NOT SORT OUT THEIR DIFFERENCES BY THEMSELVES OR IN FRONT OF ONE OR TWO MORE WITNESSES THE MATTER MUST BE TAKEN TO CHURCH LEADERSHIP (*The elders of the church*)

CERTAIN TYPES OF PEOPLE ARE MORE PRONE TO CONFLICT

- 1) Know it all's** – Everyone else is wrong
- 2) Perfectionists** – Sees everyone's faults except their own
- 3) Self appointed judges** – They have a tendency to condemn people or to make assumptions about people
- 4) Insecure people** – They can never admit to being wrong. They have the potential to hurt you
- 5) Domineering** – Controlling and Unteachable
- 6) Gossipers** – They spread rumours which cause strife (**Proverbs 18:8**)
- 7) Angry People** – They invariably stir up strife and offend others
- 8) Liars** – They exaggerate things and tell tales about others
- 9) Quiet People** – Have the tendency at times to suppress things until they reach a breaking point and explode

THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT UN-DEALT WITH CONFLICTS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO CAUSE GREAT HARM TO PEOPLE

Genesis Chapter four speaks about man's first un-dealt with conflict between two brothers called Cain and Abel.

1) Jealousy – competition

"But He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell" (**Genesis 4:5**)

2) Resentment

"So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?" (**Genesis 4:6**)

3) Revenge

“If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.” (**Genesis 4:7**)

4) Murder

“Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.” (**Genesis 4:8**)

A QUESTION TO ANSWER REGARDING A POTENTIAL CONFLICT – **Is it worth it?**

5) God sees what we do and *knows the attitudes of our heart*

“And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground. So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.” (**Genesis 4:10-11**)

6) Conflicts result in a lack of productivity

“When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you.” (**Genesis 4:12a**)

7) People who have unresolved conflicts tend to be wanderers

“A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth” (**Genesis 4:12b**)

“Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.” (**Genesis 4:16**)

**a) Those with unresolved conflicts never settle too long.
Relationships...Work...Church**

**b) Something happens – someone, something reminds them of their past hurt-
OFF THEY GO.**

8) Our unresolved conflicts affect the next generations

“Then Lamech said to his wives: “Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech! For I have killed a man for wounding me, Even a young man for hurting me.” (**Genesis 4:23**)

- ***Lamech was Cain’s descendant***
- **That un-dealt with conflict –that angry spirit which was not dealt with – came out and two people die**
- ***Conflict affects us all***
- **We either learn to handle them or they will destroy us.**

WHEN FACED WITH CONFLICTS WE MUST EITHER:

- i) Let it go, if it is not important**
- ii) Sort it out**
- iii) Or if you cannot sort it out, let it go, or let them go – you have tried. (Romans 12:18) *“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men”***

SOME REASONS FOR CONFLICTS BETWEEN PEOPLE

- **Different DESIRES – I want a new lounge – red, blue, yellow**
- **Unmet NEEDS in a relationship / church meeting**
- **Different IDEAS – i.e. My ideas or we will not go ahead and do it**
- **Uncommunicated EXPECTATIONS (You expect, but other person unaware)**
- **BEHAVIOUR TRAITS – Arrogant, Harsh, Soft**
- **LEADERSHIP STYLES – Pastoral versus Leadership**
- **The biggest is simply MISUNDERSTANDINGS that were not clarified**

HOW NOT TO DEAL WITH CONFLICT

- 1) **Win** – I am right you are wrong. (We should always want to aim for a win-win situation)
- 2) **Withdraw** – this is hopeless they will not change
 - Avoiding conflict at all cost
 - Many use the “back off” approach to protect themselves
- 3) **Yield** – Some people’s perspective on conflict is “Differences are disastrous”
 - It’s far better to be nice, to submit, just go along with others demands
 - Personal goals or our needs are sacrificed when we yield. This will invariably lead to resentment
- 4) **Kill each other with words** (Proverbs 18:21)
- 5) **Poison people** - Negatively expressing our grievances to others in such a way that affects the church, the other person’s reputation and our relationships with others. A root of bitterness defiles many
- 6) **Taking on the victim mentality**
- 7) **Separating from one-another in resentment**

EIGHT BARRIERS TO HEALTHY CONFLICT RESOLUTION

- 1) Being locked into old patterns – behaviours
- 2) Being discouraged from past failures
- 3) Wrong beliefs or values
- 4) Fear of being hurt or rejected
- 5) Anger (Hostility or indifference)
- 6) Denial (Ignoring the conflict)
- 7) Personal sin or weakness
- 8) Lack of communication or relational skills

HOW BEST TO RESOLVE CONFLICT

We need to first have a desire to resolve the conflict. To help in this conflict resolution process we need to:

- 1) **Listen and Communicate** – Make it easy for the other person to respond. In marriage we need to hold up the yellow card
- 2) **Identify our own contribution to the conflict**
- 3) **Choose the Right Moment** – (No tempers)
Proverbs 30:33
“For as the churning of milk produces butter, And wringing the nose produces blood, So the forcing of wrath produces strife.
- 4) **Identify the real issues** (Major on the Majors)
- 5) **Get to the facts** – We must never respond to tales, emotion, or exaggeration
- 6) **Consider a mutual compromise**
 - i) Negotiate meeting half way
 - ii) Everyone comes part way
 - iii) But never compromise our values
- 7) **Practice Forgiveness**
- 8) **Re-build Trust with the other person**
- 9) **Put healthy boundaries in place**
- 10) **Give the other person an assurance of acceptance**
- 11) **Be nice – “Relax”**

IF WE DO ALL OF THE ABOVE AND THERE IS NO CHANGE WE MUST MOVE ON. WE ARE ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR SIDE – AS MUCH AS DEPENDS ON US

TOPIC 5 SELECTED TEACHINGS

Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (*Teaching No.6*)

WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE

(Making our lives count: God's way)

Jesus told "THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS"

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man travelling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. (Matthew 25:14-15)

"But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his Lord's money." (Matthew 25:18)

"After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them." (Matthew 25:19)

"...He who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' (Matthew 25:20)

"He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' (Matthew 25:22)

The lord commended them both for being faithful over a few things, and made them ruler over many things and told them both to, enter into the joy of your Lord. (Matthew 25:21, 23)

But to the servant who buried his talent (Who was referred to as a wicked and lazy servant), his lord said, "Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 25:28-30)

IN THIS PARABLE JESUS ADDRESSES THE FACT THAT GREAT JOY COMES FROM SERVING HIM, *WHILST GREAT REMORSE AND REGRETS WILL COME FROM FORFEITING ONE'S REWARD FOR COMMITTED SERVICE IN GOD'S KINGDOM* (Through burying ones gifts and talents and not using them for God's glory)

The Apostle John wrote, "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." (1 John 3:16)

The Apostle Paul wrote, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

JESUS HIMSELF SAID, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another” (John 15:16-17)

JESUS WAS THE EXAMPLE (He said to His disciples)

“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (***Matthew 20:26-28***)

HOW CAN WE MAKE OUR LIVES COUNT

(So that our lives will bear fruit for all eternity)

1) We must let our light so shine before men

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see you good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (***Matthew 5:14-16***)

2) By Serving Others (With God’s love)

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” (***Galatians 5:13***)

GOD’S LOVE IS IN OUR HEARTS ONCE WE BECOME A CHRISTIAN

“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (***Romans 5:5***)

The Apostle Paul wrote, “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” (***Galatians 6:9***) and

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.” (***Philippians 2:3***)

3) Using Our God Given Gifts and Abilities (We are all unique)

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. “For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having than gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, **let us use them:**”

“If prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.” (***Romans 12:3:8***)

4) *Where God Places us*

“But now God has set the members each one of them, in the body just as He pleased...And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honoured, all the members rejoice with it.”

(1 Corinthians 12:18, 26)

“Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing. **(Psalm 92:13-14)**

5) *To lead people to Christ and to build up others*

LEADING PEOPLE TO CHRIST

“And he who wins souls is wise.” (*Proverbs 11:30a*)

The Apostle Paul said to those in Colosse,

“Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labour, striving to His working which works in me mightily.” **(Colossians 1:28-29)**

The Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans

“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things.” **(Romans 10:15a)**

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. **(Romans 1:16)**

BUILDING UP OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE LORD

“Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.” **(1 Corinthians 14:12)**

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God,

To a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-Christ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by WHAT EVERY JOINT SUPPLIES, ACCORDING TO THE EFFECTIVE WORKING BY WHICH EVERY PART DOES ITS SHARE, causes growth of the body for the edifying or itself in LOVE.” **(Ephesians 4:11-16)**

WE ARE A TEAM

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

6) ***We need to lay down our lives for others***

Jesus said “**For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.**” (Mark 3:35)

“The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.” (John 12:23a-25)

7) ***Knowing that our labour for the Lord is not in vain***

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)

“If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour.” (John 12:26)

***IN A WORLD FULL OF TEMPTATIONS AND DISTRACTIONS HOW DO WE
KEEP UP OUR PASSION TO SERVE JESUS AND OTHERS***

1) ***Living for Jesus is a DAILY CHOICE***

2) ***We need to Delight ourselves in the Lord (A true worshipper)***

3) ***We need to set our minds on things above (Keep our eyes on Jesus)***

4) ***We have to guard our eyes and ears from worldly things***

5) ***We need to meditate on things which are wholesome and edifying***

6) ***We must COMMIT to following God’s plan for your life***

7) ***We need to have an obedient and repentant heart (Keep short accounts with God)***

8) ***We must continually choose to walk in love towards others***

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy- meditate on these things. (Philippians 4:8)

“Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4) “Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.” (Proverbs 16:3)

“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few.” (Matthew 9:37a)

Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (*Teaching No. 8*) and Ministry Manual (*Teaching No. 9*) combined

KINGDOM POWER (Receiving the Holy Spirit)

- When we become Christians we become joint heirs with Jesus Christ

“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, Abba, Father. The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” (Romans 8:15-17)

- As Believers we have been called to reign with Jesus Christ here on earth

“And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe, tongue and people and nation, **And have made us kings and priests to our God; AND WE SHALL REIGN ON THE EARTH.**” (Revelation 5:9-10)

As a royal priesthood the saints (all believers) reign *now* with Christ on the earth by their worship, their prayers, and their witness in word and deed.

- WE AS CHRISTIANS ARE CHRIST’S AMBASSADORS HERE ON EARTH

AS CHRISTIANS WE ARE MEANT TO LIVE OUR LIVES IN GOD’S STRENGTH AND POWER

The word of the Lord to Zerubbabel was, “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” Says the Lord of Hosts.” (Zechariah 4:6)

THE FIRST CHURCH MOVED IN GOD’S POWER

(Even the shadow of Peter healed people, such was God’s power working through him)

“And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.

Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, **and they were healed.”** (Acts 5:14-16)

JESUS HIMSELF ALSO EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF CHRISTIANS OPERATING IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

IT IS JESUS HIMSELF WHO BAPTISES BELIEVERS IN THE HOLY SPIRIT. JOHN THE BAPTIST SAID AS HE WAS BAPTISING PEOPLE WITH WATER,

“I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Luke 3:16)

Jesus said to His disciples before ascending to Heaven:

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (*Acts 1:8*)

THIS POWER WAS RECEIVED ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (*Acts 2:1-4*)

THIS EXPERIENCE IN RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT TRANSFORMED THE LIVES OF THE DISCIPLES

They turned from being a group of disciples full of character flaws, who had just fled following the arrest of Jesus, to a group of disciples who turned the world upside down with the gospel

THE APOSTLE PAUL HIMSELF PRAYED FOR THE CHRISTIANS IN EPHESUS THAT THEY WOULD:

“know the love of Christ which passes knowledge” **AND** “that they would be filled with all the fullness of God” (*Ephesians 3:19*)

I WILL NOW SHARE ABOUT A NUMBER OF AREAS RELATING TO KINGDOM POWER

1) GOD’S WORD

“For the word of God is **living and powerful**, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (*Hebrews 4:12*)

- *God’s Word will not return void*

“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.” (*Isaiah 55:11*)

- *There is power in the preached word*

The Apostle Paul wrote, “*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*” (*Romans 10:17*)

The Apostle Paul also wrote, “For I am not ashamed of *the gospel* of Christ, for it is the *power of God* to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” (*Romans 1:16*)

“So the **word** of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.” (*Acts 19:20*)

-Abiding in God's word sets people free

Jesus said, "If you abide in My word you are my disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (**John 8:31-32**)

- HOWEVER, DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD IS A "RESISTER" TO GOD'S POWER OPERATING FULLY IN OUR LIFE

2) GOD'S POWER FLOWS THROUGH US (We are like a tap. When we begin to preach the tap is turned on and God's power flows through us)

"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God." (**2 Corinthians 3:5**)

The Apostle Paul wrote:

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (**Philippians 4:13**)

GOD ANOINTS US AND EMPOWERS US FOR EVERY TASK HE GIVES US TO DO. THE APOSTLE PAUL SAID TO THOSE IN CORINTH,

"I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God." (**1 Corinthians 2:3-5**)

3) GOD'S STRENGTH IS MADE PERFECT IN OUR WEAKNESS

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us." (**2 Corinthians 4:7**)

The Lord said to Apostle Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." (**2 Corinthians 12:9**)

4) THERE IS POWER IN THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

The Apostle Paul wrote:

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek." (**Romans 1:16**) **AND**

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (**1 Corinthians 1:18**)

HOWEVER THE GOSPEL MUST BE PREACHED IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The apostle Paul wrote, "For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake." (**1 Thessalonians 1:5**)

AND TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH

“For I determined not to know anything among you **except Jesus Christ and Him crucified**. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and of power,” (1 Corinthians 2:2-4)

WHEN PHILIP THE EVANGELIST PREACHED IN SAMARIA MULTITUDES BECAME CHRISTIANS

HEALINGS AND DELIVERANCES ACCOMPANIED THE PREACHING OF THE WORD
THERE WAS GREAT JOY IN THAT CITY

“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and **seeing the miracles** which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city.” (Acts 8:4-8)

5) THERE IS POWER IN PRAISE AND WORSHIP

WHEN PAUL AND SILAS WERE THROWN IN JAIL AFTER RECEIVING MANY STRIPES, THEY BEGAN TO PRAY AND SING HYMNS

“But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.” (Acts 16:25-26)

THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER AND HIS HOUSEHOLD WERE ALL THEN SAVED

6) JESUS EMPOWERS AND GIVES AUTHORITY TO BELIEVERS TO OPERATE IN KINGDOM POWER

“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues, they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.” (Mark 16:17-18)

WE MUST CONTINUALLY ABIDE IN HIM.

(Jesus must always be our first love) {John 15:4-5}

THERE IS POWER IN THE NAME OF JESUS (The Name above all Names)

Jesus said, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” (Matthew 28:18)

“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons;...” (Mark 16:17)

Jesus also said to his disciples “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.” (John 14:12-14)

THERE IS POWER IN THE BLOOD OF JESUS. We can plead the Blood of Jesus Christ over our possessions and our lives and finances. We can plead the blood of Jesus around the boundaries of our homes and churches. There is power, power, wonder working power in the precious Blood of the Lamb. The Blood of Jesus Christ resists the powers of darkness that would try and war against us. There is life in the Blood of Jesus. “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” (Ephesians 1:7)

THE FIRST DISCIPLES TARRYED IN JERUSALEM UNTIL THEY WERE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. Then they began to operate in power as they preached the gospel.

As believers it is so important that we live and minister in the power of the Holy Spirit. We must continually be filled with His power.

Jesus Himself depended on the Holy Spirit to fulfil His ministry here on earth. In the gospel of Luke we read; “Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. **(Luke 4:14-15)** *In the Book of Acts we read;* “how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” **(Acts 10:38)**

HOW TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

John the Baptist spoke about the greater Baptist to come (Jesus Christ) when he was baptizing people in the Jordan River.

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” **(Matthew 3:11)**

The first disciples had their born again experience on Resurrection Sunday when they were commissioned by Jesus

There are two requirements for receiving New Testament Salvation:

“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)

Prior to resurrection Sunday the apostles had already confessed Jesus as their Lord. **(Mark 8:29 and John 6:67-69)** But now, for the first time, they also believed that God raised Him from the dead. Thus their salvation was completed. This was the point at which they experienced the new birth. The Holy Spirit, breathed into them by Jesus, imparted to them a totally new kind of life - eternal life - which had triumphed over sin and Satan, over death and the grave.

THE APOSTLES RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT AND EXPERIENCED THE NEW BIRTH

After appearing to the disciples on resurrection Sunday, Jesus said to them: **“Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them; “Receive the Holy Spirit.”** (John 20:21-22)

HOWEVER AFTER THIS WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE, JESUS MADE IT PLAIN TO THE APOSTLES, THAT ***THEIR EXPERIENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS STILL INCOMPLETE***

“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49)

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me...” (Acts 1:8)

THE PROMISE OF THE FULLNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS FOR **ALL** BELIEVERS

The Feast of Tabernacles was a joyous celebration which was observed by the priests who brought water (which was symbolic of the water supplied from the rock in Exodus Chapter 17) to the temple from the pool of Siloam in a gold pitcher

“On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” (John 7:37-38)

Those who are satisfied by Jesus will themselves become channels of spiritual refreshment for others. The fountain of water in John 4:14 refers to the New Birth, whilst the rivers of living water referred to in John 7:38, represents the overflowing fullness of the Spirit-filled life which comes from being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT

“But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” (John 7:39)

ON ***RESURRECTION SUNDAY*** THE APOSTLES RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT AND EXPERIENCED THE NEW BIRTH EXPERIENCE

THE TERM “TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT” ***FROM PENTECOST SUNDAY ONWARDS ONLY*** EVER REFERS TO THE ***BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT EXPERIENCE***

“And being assembled together with them, He (Jesus) commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me;” “for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” (Acts 1:4-5)

THIS HAPPENED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:4)

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS A BELIEVER TO WITNESS FOR THE LORD AND MAKES THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT COMPLETE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS CLEARLY SHOWS THAT THERE IS A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE BORN AGAIN EXPERIENCE AND RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT (BEING BAPTISED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT)

WHEN CHRIST WAS PREACHED IN SAMARIA

i) Multitudes in that city were born again,

“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.” (Acts 8:5-6)

ii) Then Water Baptized, and

“But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, *both men and women were baptized.*” (Acts 8:12)

iii) Finally Baptized in the Holy Spirit (Received the Holy Spirit)

“Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might *receive the Holy Spirit*. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they *received the Holy Spirit.*” (Acts 8:14-17)

To receive the gift of the Holy Spirit a believer must simply ask their heavenly Father for the special gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said,

“If you then being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.” (Luke 11:13)

Like the gift of salvation it is to be received – By Grace – Through Faith – Not of Works

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

A believer must simply receive the gift of the Holy Spirit by FAITH

“...that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” (Galatians 3:14)

FAITH IS HOWEVER NEVER A SUBSTITUTE FOR OBEDIENCE. TRUE FAITH IS ALWAYS MANIFESTED IN OBEDIENCE.

The apostle Peter focused on the obedience aspect of genuine faith in his defence to the Jewish council. “And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.” (Acts 5:32)

SIX SCRIPTURAL STEPS OF OBEDIENCE AND FAITH TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

1) & 2) Repentance and being Baptized

The first two steps are stated by the Apostle Peter. These are genuine repentance and being water baptized upon becoming a believer.

“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)

3) Being Hungry and thirsty for the fullness of the Spirit

Jesus said, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” (John 7:37-38)

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.” (Matthew 5:6)

4) Asking our Heavenly Father for the gift of the Holy Spirit

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father *give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!* (Luke 11:13)

5) We must receive the Holy Spirit (DRINK)

Jesus said, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.” (John 7:37)

“Drinking” represents an active process of receiving. The infilling of the Holy Spirit cannot be received by a negative or passive attitude, just as no one can drink with a closed mouth. The Lord says, “Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.” (Psalm 81:10) ***God cannot fill a closed mouth. We must open our mouth to receive the fullness of the Spirit***

6) We must “yield” ourselves to God

The apostle Paul speaks to Christians of a two- fold surrender to God:

“But present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.” (Romans 6:13)

- The first surrender is the “surrender of the will and the personality” **YOURSELVES**
- The second surrender involves the surrender of our **PHYSICAL MEMBERS**

In surrendering our physical members, we can no longer seek to understand intellectually what God asks of us. We must simply hand over unreserved control of our physical members and allow God to use them according to His own will and purpose without demanding to understand what God is doing or why He is doing it. The particular member He takes full control of is that unruly member which no man can tame – the tongue. Thus the yielding of our tongue to the Spirit represents the ultimate surrender of one’s members and by this we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **The above six Scriptural steps of obedience and faith are not always fulfilled when some believers receive the Holy Spirit, but they are important steps to be taught to those believers desiring to be Baptized in the Holy Spirit.**

TOPIC 6 SELECTED TEACHINGS

Ministry Training Manual (*Teaching 11*)

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE

ETERNAL LIFE IS A FREE GIFT

“The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (**Romans 6:23b**)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

BECAUSE ETERNAL LIFE IS A GIFT WE CANNOT EARN IT NOR DO WE DESERVE IT

The bible says that no amount of personal effort, doing good things, or even being religious, can earn eternal life:

“It is the gift of God, NOT OF WORKS, lest anyone should boast.” (**Ephesians 2:8c-9**)

IF GOD DID NOT OFFER EACH OF US A PLACE IN HEAVEN AS A GIFT, NO-ONE WOULD GET THERE, BECAUSE

EVERYONE HAS SINNED

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

“There is none righteous, no, not one;” (Romans 3:10a)

“But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags;” (Isaiah 64:6a)

“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; ...” (Jer. 17:9)

“All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:6)

We all have our own standards for what sin is. But when it comes to heaven, only God’s standard is relevant. To God, **hate and lust** are sins just as much as murder or adultery, because both express selfishness and ignorance of His Law.

The greatest commandments are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to care for others as much as we care for ourselves. Every time we fail to love in this manner, we are sinning. That is why the Bible says: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (**Romans 3:23**)

WE CAN DO NOTHING TO SAVE OURSELVES

The reason we cannot save ourselves is because we all miss the mark and fall short of God's standard of absolute perfection.

“Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48)

No matter how good we are, any sin, no matter how trivial it may appear to be, spoils the perfection that God requires.

“For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.” (James 2:10)

Whilst some people are better than others, being better is not good enough. It is like two people trying to jump across a deep chasm. If one falls only a couple of feet short of the other side, he is no better off than the other who only makes it half way.

BECAUSE WE HAVE ALL SINNED, NONE OF US ARE ABLE TO SAVE OURSELVES. NO ONE WOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH TO GET TO HEAVEN. HOWEVER IN CHRIST, GOD OFFERS US ETERNAL LIFE AS A FREE GIFT.

Why should God offer anyone the gift of eternal life?

BECAUSE GOD IS LOVING AND MERCIFUL, HE DOES NOT WANT TO PUNISH US

“The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy. The Lord is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.” (Psalm 145:8-9)

“For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.” (Psalm 100:5) **“For He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm.”** (Joel 2:13c)

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:6-8)

In fact the bible says, “... for God is love” (1 John 4:8)

HOWEVER, BECAUSE GOD IS PERFECTLY JUST, HE MUST ALSO PUNISH SIN

God's love does not overrule His justice.

“Ascribe greatness to our God. He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.” (**Deuteronomy 32:3b-4**)

“For I will not justify the wicked.” (Exodus 23:7c)

“I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity;” (**Isaiah 13:11**) **“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”** (Hebrews 9:27)

IF GOD WAS TO OVERLOOK OUR SIN BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE, HE WOULD NO LONGER BE JUST. HIS LAW IS PERFECT AND HIS SENTENCE HAS BEEN PASSED... “THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH” (Romans 6:23a)

HOWEVER GOD HAS BROUGHT HIS LOVE AND HIS JUSTICE TOGETHER IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST

THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT JESUS IS GOD

JESUS WAS FULLY GOD YET ALSO FULLY MAN

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (**John 1:1&14**)

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, **“God with us.”** (Matthew 1:23)

JESUS CHRIST CAME INTO THE WORLD TO PAY THE PENALTY FOR OUR SINS AND TO FULFIL GOD'S JUSTICE

WITHOUT CHRIST, EACH ONE OF US WOULD STAND CONDEMNED BEFORE GOD BECAUSE OF OUR SINS. HOWEVER BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE FOR US, HE HAS PUT OUR SINS ONTO JESUS.

- **Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and to fulfil God's justice**
- **On the third day He arose from the dead and is alive forevermore**
- **Jesus gives the gift of eternal life to all those who RECEIVE Him (believe in Him)**
- **This is why we celebrate Easter**

This is the simple gospel message which must be preached to the unbelievers. (Refer to Rom. 1:16-17, 1 Cor. 1:17-24, 1 Cor. 2:1-5, 1 Cor. 4:20 and Acts 8:4-8) **“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”** (**Romans 5:8**)

THE DEATH OF JESUS ON THE CROSS HAS REPAIRED OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. WE ALL NOW HAVE A WAY OF COMING INTO HIS PRESENCE, HOLY, PURE AND FAULTLESS

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE IS FOR **WHOEVER** BELIEVES IN HIM. **WHOEVER** INCLUDES **YOU!**

YOU CAN RECEIVE THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH FAITH

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Relying on your own efforts or even human logic, or even religious activity, cannot save you. Faith in Jesus Christ is the only way to be forgiven by God and to receive the gift of eternal life.

HOW DO WE RECEIVE THIS GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE BY FAITH?

WE MUST TRANSFER OUR TOTAL TRUST TO JESUS CHRIST ALONE

We must simply **BELIEVE** what God has done for us, and **ACCEPT** His offer of eternal life and **TRUST** Jesus Christ alone. There is no other way.

WE NEED TO REPENT OF ALL OF OUR SINS

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” (Acts 3:19)

REPENTANCE IS LIKE DOING A U-TURN

- 1) It is recognising that we are going in the wrong direction*
- 2) It is owning up to God and asking for His forgiveness, and*
- 3) Choosing to go in the opposite direction – HIS WAY*

TURNING FROM OUR OWN WAY TO GOD’S WAY IS ACKNOWLEDGING THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD OF OUR LIFE

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

GOD KNOWS WHAT IS BEST FOR US. WE CAN TRUST HIM TO LEAD US INTO THE FULLNESS OF LIFE THAT HE WANTS US TO EXPERIENCE.

Jesus said, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)

FULLNESS OF LIFE ONLY COMES WHEN WE LIVE OUR LIFE HIS WAY.

Jesus said, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word;...” (John 14:23)

GOD’S SPIRIT (THE HOLY SPIRIT) GIVES EVERY BELIEVER THE POWER TO LIVE AN OVERCOMING LIFE

OBEYING GOD INCLUDES DOING SOME NEW THINGS IN OUR LIFE AND DOING SOME THINGS DIFFERENTLY. THE BIBLE IS FULL OF WISDOM AND AS WE READ IT, GOD WILL SPEAK THROUGH IT (Psalm 119:133) TO ENCOURAGE US (Psalm 119:107) AND TO GIVE US CLEAR DIRECTION IN LIFE. (Psalm 119:105) (The bible is God's love letter to us) (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Jesus said, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." **(John 8:31a-32)**

ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT SAVED BY DOING GOOD WORKS, (ETERNAL LIFE IS A FREE GIFT), ***LIVING IN A WAY THAT IS PLEASING TO GOD WILL BE EVIDENCE OF YOUR NEW LIFE*** AS A BELIEVER, AND WILL CONFIRM THAT ***JESUS CHRIST IS TRULY LORD OF YOUR LIFE***

THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES NEW LIFE TO ALL BELIEVERS

THE HOLY SPIRIT ALSO ENABLES AND EMPOWERS BELIEVERS TO WALK IN VICTORY. BEING LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIFE, IS THE KEY TO EXPERIENCING ABUNDANT LIFE AS A BELIEVER.

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." **(John 3:6)**

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." **(Romans 8:11)**

THE NEW LIFE THAT WE RECEIVE THROUGH GOD'S SPIRIT MEANS THAT WE ARE NOW PART OF A NEW FAMILY

ALL BELIEVERS BECOME PART OF GOD'S FAMILY

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name;" (John 1:12)

Reading the bible, praying to God and finding a church home are all keys to help you to live a victorious life as a believer (Christian). Being part of a vibrant church fellowship will help you to become established in your faith.

"Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing," **(Ps. 92:13-14)**

TOPIC 7 SELECTED TEACHINGS

Ministry Manual (*Teaching 2*)

CORE VALUES FOR CHURCH OF HOPE

(Extract from Church of Hope Christian Foundations Manual)

1) **SERVING OTHERS (Acts 6:1-3)**

Jesus was known as the Servant King, and willingly gave Himself for all mankind. We believe as a church, that serving others is a key to seeing a church make an impact in the lives of those in the community. All leaders should have a servant heart where they give of themselves so that others grow in their faith and are prepared for ministry.

A vibrant church must look for opportunities to connect with the community, schools and market place. Practically demonstrating the love of God in the community is crucial for any church to make an impact on the community. Having a drop in centre for people is also a great way of connecting with the needs of the community.

In what other ways could your church connect with the community or village?

Jesus said, “Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (**Matthew. 20:26-28**)

2) **THE IMPORTANCE OF PRACTICALLY CARING FOR OTHERS (Acts 4:32-35)**

- ii) The need to reach out into the community to connect with those who are hurting
- iii) The need to practically love people by providing help to those who are disadvantaged or homeless
- iv) The importance of providing a place where people can experience God’s love and acceptance (**A place of belonging**)

3) **THE IMPORTANCE OF PREACHING THE GOSPEL (Acts 8:4-8) (Romans 10:13-15)**

Church of Hope believes that the preaching of the gospel is the key to seeing people both coming to Christ and having their lives changed. Jesus said, “He who the Son sets free is free indeed.” Every human soul is of importance to God. As eternal life can only come through a person repenting towards God and believing in Jesus Christ, the preaching of the gospel is a major priority at Church of Hope, (both in our church meetings and in the streets of Melbourne and Sydney).

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

Maintaining our passion for souls is imperative. Leaders must be the example.

4) THE ABSOLUTE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY (ACTS 2:46-47)

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.” (Psalm 133:1)

- i) **Walking in Love** (John 13:34-35, 1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 1 Peter 1:22)
- ii) **Walking in Forgiveness** (Matthew 6:14-15)
- iii) **Having no critical and judgmental (religious) attitudes towards others** (Matthew 7:1-4)
- iv) **We need to look out for the interests of others** (Philippians 2:1-4)
- v) **Encouraging others** (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- vi) **Genuine acceptance of others (Looking for the best in others)**

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

A leader must aim to build unity in the leadership team. Some keys to maintaining unity are discussed in the teaching “Having effective ministry (leadership) teams.

5) WORSHIP (A KEY TO KEEPING US CLOSE TO GOD)

Church of Hope recognizes the importance to a believer of worship, both corporately (at church) and privately, in maintaining a strong Christian walk and intimacy with God. King David was a man who loved to worship the Lord and the Bible says that he is the only person who was a man after the heart of God. **(For this reason worship is a key part of all of our meetings and study groups)**

Jesus said, “But the hour is coming, and now is, when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. **(John 4:23-24)**

TRUE HEART FELT WORSHIP IS A KEY TO USHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD. (God inhabits the praises of our worship) *WORSHIP IS A KEY TO MAINTAINING OUR INTIMACY WITH GOD.*

6) THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER (Acts 4:23-31)

Our church acknowledges the power of prayer and encourages all believers to have an active prayer life. A strong prayer life and dependence on God empowers us to resist temptations and to remain strong during trials. A strong prayer life is a key to seeing God move in the area of supernatural provisions. **When our prayers are in accordance with the will of God and backed by faith, we can expect answers to prayers.**

“But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.” **(1 Peter 4:7)**

Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.” **(John 14:12-14)**

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” **(1 John 5:14-15)**

7) THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING (To your local church home)

The bible says that it is more joyful to give than receive. The bible also says that giving is the key to receiving financial blessings. God Himself promises to those who tithe to Him, abundant financial blessings. **(Malachi 3:10-11)**

“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. And try Me now in this,” Says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground. Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” Says the Lord of hosts;”

THIS IS A WONDERFUL **PROMISE** FROM GOD. “For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” **(2 Corinthians 1:20)**

8) THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLESHIP (Matthew 28:19-20)

Church of Hope has a heart to see all believers develop into strong and stable Christians, who will be able to stand in the times of trials and temptations, and who will be living examples of the power of Jesus Christ to restore broken lives and to see people walking in victory. Church of Hope believes in the importance of:

- i) **Encouraging people to develop a hunger for the Bible** (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- ii) **Ensuring that all people who attend our Centre have a sound appreciation of Christian Doctrine**
- iii) **Helping people to identify and follow God’s plan for their life**
- iv) **Encouraging people to develop healthy communication skills**
- v) **Helping people to develop healthy life skills which will assist them in developing meaningful relationships**
- vi) **Providing encouragement and help to people, to enable them to identify and overcome life controlling problems**
- vii) **Helping all believers to walk close to the Lord, where prayer and worship becomes an important part of their lifestyle, and**
- viii) **Helping to equip and release people for ministry**

9) EQUIPPING (EMPOWERING) PEOPLE FOR MINISTRY

God has a special plan and purpose for every Christian. For many believers their mission field is their workplace, school or another sphere of influence where they can minister the love of Christ to others.

God has placed each believer in the Body of Christ as He has chosen. It is only as we find and follow God’s plan for our life that we will experience the fulfillment and abundant life which Jesus spoke of. Jesus Himself said to His disciples, **“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.” (John 4:34)**

Church of Hope has a heart to help encourage all believers to find and follow God’s plan for their life. Church of Hope is committed to training and equipping believers to help them realize their God given potential in whatever spheres of ministry God may have for them. We believe that the five-fold ministry gifts are for the equipping of all believers, including those who are being called into full time ministry.

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” **(Ephesians 4:11-12)**

10) CREATING MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR BELIEVERS

(Romans 12:4-8) (1 Corinthians 12:4-7) (Ephesians 2:10)

Church of Hope has a heart to create ministry opportunities for all believers. Our Friday and Saturday night outreaches and Saturday Night meetings give all Christians the opportunity to be equipped and used in the area of evangelism and outreach.

All ministry gifts can be used in the streets of Melbourne, but most importantly it is important for the unsaved to see a commitment from Christians to reach out to them. To have a concern for the lost and unsaved must eventually translate into an action to become involved in their lives.

Our Centre also provides many opportunities for Christians to have some experience in the area of pastoral care and hospitality evangelism. **Does your church create opportunities for everyone to be used in their ministry gifts?**

Opportunities are given for committed Christians to be raised up in the area of small group leaders and Pastoral Care assistants, as well as many “helps” ministries which are needed to support any extension of ministry activities within the Church.

OUR CHURCH ENCOURAGES ALL CHRISTIANS TO USE THEIR GIFTS AND ABILITIES FOR GOD’S GLORY, **KNOWING THAT OUR LABOUR FOR THE LORD IS NOT IN VAIN. The Apostle Paul wrote**, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” **(1 Corinthians 15:58)**

11) EVANGELISM AND CHURCH PLANTING

Church of Hope is now running evangelism schools to help equip people in the area of evangelism. (This training is a part of preparing all of our leaders in both our Melbourne and Sydney churches.) A part of this evangelism training will include the equipping and preparation of church planting teams.

Our church has a heart to set up 7 Worship / Preaching sites each weekend in the City of Melbourne where other Christians can join us to reach out to the multitudes in the City who do not yet know Jesus. These sites would also have the purpose of supporting other Christian teams that come into the City, whilst giving Christians the opportunity of being equipped and mobilized in the area of preaching.

THESE ELEVEN CORE VALUES FOR CHURCH OF HOPE COULD BE SUMMARISED INTO TWO MAIN VALUES

1. That all those within our community and who attend our church meetings will experience God’s love and be encouraged to grow in a relationship with Jesus Christ, and
2. That there will be in all of our church meetings and fellowships an atmosphere of love and acceptance, in which all believers are encouraged to grow in their faith and to fulfill their God given destiny.

CONCLUSION

“...He who wins souls is wise.” (Proverbs 11:30)

JOHN HARPER (A true hero of the faith)

- John Harper was born to a pair of solid Christian parents on May the 29th, 1872
- On the last Sunday of March 1886, when 13 years old, John Harper received Jesus as the Lord of his life
- Four years later at the age of 17, John Harper began preaching in the streets of his village pouring out his soul to see lost people come to Christ
- As John Harper's life unfolded he was consumed by a passion to read and to preach the Word of God
- After five or six years of toiling on street corners preaching the gospel and working in a mill during the day, John Harper started his own church in September of 1896.
- This church started with just 25 members and over the next 13 years grew to 500 members
- During this time John Harper got married but shortly after was widowed. However during this brief marriage God blessed him with a beautiful little girl named Nana.
- Ironically, John Harper almost drowned on three occasions
- When two and a half years of age, he almost drowned when he fell into a well but his mother resuscitated him
- At the age of 26 he was swept out to sea by a reverse current and barely survived
- And if this was not enough, at the age of 32 he faced death on a leaking ship in the Mediterranean.
- It was like God was preparing him for what would come next
- On the 14th of April 1912 the RMS Titanic was sailing swiftly on the bitterly cold ocean waters
- On board this ship were many rich people
- At 11.40 pm on that fateful night, an iceberg scraped the ships starboard side and ripping open six watertight air compartments
- The sea poured in.
- On board the ship that night was John Harper and his much beloved six year old daughter Nana

- According to documented reports as soon as it became apparent the boat was about to sink, he immediately took his daughter to a lifeboat
- It is reasonable to assume that this widowed preacher could also have easily got on board this lifeboat and been saved
- However this thought never crossed John Harper's mind
- He bent down and kissed his precious little girl; looking into her eyes he told her that she would see him again someday.
- The flares going off in the dark sky reflected the tears on his face as he turned and headed towards the crowd of desperate humanity on the sinking ocean liner
- As the rear of the huge ship began to lurch upwards, John Harper made his way up the deck yelling, "Women, children and unsaved into the life boats."
- As the ship began to break in half many people dived into the icy waters. 1528 people went into the frigid waters.
- John Harper was seen swimming frantically to people in the water leading them to Christ before hypothermia became fatal
- John Harper swam up to one young man who had climbed up on a piece of debris
- John Harper between breaths said "Are you saved?" This young man replied no.
- Harper then tried to lead him to Christ only to have the young man who was in shock, reply no
- John Harper then took off his own life jacket and threw it to the young man
- A few minutes later John Harper swam back to this young man and led him to Christ
- Of the 1528 people who went into the icy waters that night only six survived. One of them was this young man
- Four years later, at a survivors meeting, this young man stood up in tears and recounted how John Harper had led him to Christ
- Mr Harper had tried to swim back to help others, yet because of the cold had become too weak to swim.
- **HIS LAST WORDS BEFORE GOING UNDER IN THE FRIGID WATERS WERE, "Believe on the Name of the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."**

You Matter to God

The God who created the universe and who formed you in your mother's womb knows your every single need in life. Many people are not aware of God's incredible love for them and His willingness and ability to help them. Nothing is impossible for God. The Bible makes it clear that God;

- *Does not want people to live a life that is full of fear, stress and anxiety*
- *That His desire is that all would receive the gift of eternal life. Jesus said, "He who believes in Me, though He may die, he shall live." (John 11:25)*
- *That He has a unique plan for every person's life that is full of purpose and meaning. It begins the moment they come to Christ in repentance and faith.*
- *That the LORD will never leave nor forsake those who believe in Christ.*

Jesus Christ Himself said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." (John 10:10) In the book of Hebrews we read that Jesus, "... who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2) **Jesus Christ bled and died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins, but death could not hold Him down. He arose from the grave three days later and is now in Heaven. He died that we may live forever. Because He lives we all have a hope and a future. Because He conquered the grave we can be free indeed, we can live a life that is full of purpose and meaning and we can have eternal life.** Jesus Himself said,

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) God has a great love for you. You matter to God. Today Jesus is knocking at the door of your heart. Today you can open your heart to Him.

Father God today I confess that I have sinned against You. Today I choose to repent of my sins and to follow Your plan for my life. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for all of my sins and that He arose from the dead three days later. Today I invite You Jesus Christ to come into my heart and life to be my Lord and Saviour and best friend from this day on. Amen

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