

MATHETES BIBLE COLLEGE (GHANA/USA)

PROGRAM: BACHELOR IN THEOLOGY (BTh.)
MASTERS IN THEOLOGY (MTh.)
(1 YEAR INTENSIVE)

COURSE: School of Missions – MISSIOLOGY (MBC5A)

LECTURER
BISHOP NII NAI MENSAH
(CHURCH BUILDERS CONSULT)

MATHETES BIBLE COLLEGE (GHANA/USA)

(FULLY ACCREDITED by WWAC, USA)

INTRODUCTION

The Mathetes Bible College **BACHELOR IN THEOLOGY** degree is a **ONE-YEAR INTENSIVE** program directed to meet the leadership needs of the church today. It is not necessarily academic but basically practical theology stuff well-tailored to fix the leadership gaps in the church, community and the nation. The goals of the Bachelors program is exactly what the world is yearning for in the mental, physical and spiritual spectrum.

THE ESSENCE OF MATHETES DEGREE PROGRAMS

In a chaotic and disjointed world where the devil seems to be in control, we need men and women of God who have been trained, equipped and ready to become world changers under the unction and power of the Holy Spirit infilling. And this is what the Bachelors and the Masters Degree programs exactly offer. Both the Bachelors and the Masters programs have online and classroom medium of tuition and course materials available. Seekers are at liberty to opt for what suites them.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A prospective student must be already a Christian, and if not, one can still apply because we believe the Holy Spirit can touch such and him/her a Christian or child of God.
- Seekers must be 18 years and above.
- No basic academic qualifications required but seekers must be able to read and write and fluent in the English language.

COURSE SUMMARY:

MBC5: SCHOOL OF MISSIONS (MISSIOLOGY)

The course curriculum introduces students to the dynamics of church planting, church growth, hindrances to church growth and missions. How one engages the leadership anointing in areas of church growth and missions. It takes candidates through zoo in the church and how to handle enemies of church growth. The course also looks at church planting and tent ministry and the impact of tent making in ministry. It looks at difficulty in starting a church and the growing your

church into mega church. And finally, the impact of mega churches on world missions, church planters and missionaries among others.

BACHELOR IN THEOLOGY Program: One-year intensive:

COURSE LIST:

- MBC1 PERSONAL MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT
- MBC2 PREACHING (HOMILETICS) AND PASTORAL THEOLOGY
- MBC3 SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY
- MBC4 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
- MBC5 MISSIOLOGY (SCHOOL OF MISSIONS)
- MBC6 SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IMPARTATION
- MBC7 BIBLICAL THEOLOGY
- MBC8 COMPARATIVE AND ETHICS THEOLOGY
- MBC9 HISTORICAL THEOLOGY
- 50 PAGE DISSERTATION PAPER

MASTER IN THEOLOGY Programs: One-year intensive:

COURSE LIST

- MBC10 BASIC THEOLOGY
- MBC11 ETHICS AND LOYALTY THEOLOGY
- MBC12 STRATEGIC LEADERSHP DEVELOPMENT
- MBC13 FAITH THEOLOGY (SCHOOL OF FAITH)
- MBC14 REVIVAL THEOLOGY
- MBC15 POWER HEALING AND HEARING FROM GOD
- 200 PAGE DISSERTATION and CLASS PRESENTATIONS

MATHETES BIBLE COLLEGE program schedule (1YEAR INTENSIVE):

Master In Theology: Every Monday 7AM-1PM

Bachelor In Theology: Every Tuesday 7AM-4PM

Bachelor In Theology program: Every Saturday 7AM-4PM

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CHURCH PLANTING

The School of Ministry and Church Planting (SOMACUP) seeks to introduce students to the following aspects:

1. Church Planting
2. Church Growth
3. The Five-fold Ministry
4. The Spiritual Gifts
5. Hearing God's voice
6. The Dynamics of Preaching and Teaching
7. School of Prayer
8. Church Management

Church Planting

Church defined

Church is defined as the called out people. They are a people belonging to the holy family of God. God gave birth to them.

- *John 1:12-13 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

Church Planting means taking the initiative to start a new church. And in the words of Jesus Christ, two or three can start a church in His name.

- *Matt. 18:18-20 Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."*

How churches are started

1. Churches are started through evangelism and missions.
2. Evangelism is telling the lost about the good news or the gospel of Christ.
3. “Missions” is sending spirit filled Christians to evangelize and disciple people.
4. And to establish local churches.
5. Again, missions is sending matured believers to encourage and strengthen existing churches; to equip, train pastors and church leaders for the work of ministry.
6. “Missions” is part of the “Mission” of the church.
7. The “Mission” of the church is to glorify God by bringing lost people to God and building them up in Christ.

Col 1:24-29 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Starting A Church

All the early churches in the New Testament started by missions. Peter preached his first message in Jerusalem and 3,000 believed. He preached another message and 5,000 believed (Acts 4:4). After that the church started multiplying.

1. The church in Jerusalem
2. The church in Judea
3. The in Samaria
4. The Gentile church in Antioch Syria

THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM

Acts 2:37-42 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

THE CHURCH IN JUDEA

Act 9:31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

Act 11:1 Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.

The church in Samaria

Act 8:1, 5 And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ.

THE GENTILE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH

Act 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

CHURCH GROWTH

16 Reasons Why The Church is Not Growing

1. It is due to the neglect of basic growth principles.

2. The absence of Love: Rom 12:9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.
3. Not making friends: Rom 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.
4. Not willing to forgive: Rom 12:17-18 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.
5. Lack of fellowship or togetherness (Acts 2:41-42)
6. When children outnumber adults
7. When children remain children and cannot grow: 1 Cor. 3:1 But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.
8. Feeding on milk and not meat: 1Cor. 3:2 I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready.
9. Carnality: 1Cor. 3:3 for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?
10. Church trying to solve every problem with prayer. it is important for the church to learn how to overcome evil by doing good: Rom 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
11. Too much Familiarity with the Pastor
 1. Some church members think they see and hear their pastors everyday so they listen more to outside pastors than their own pastors.
 2. So they begin to lose the sense and value for their pastor
 3. This robs the church of its blessings including numerical and spiritual growth

4. Familiarity is all about knowing someone very well. This causes you to lose your respect.
12. Consider the parable of the Sower and the Seed (Matt. 13:18-23).
1. The wayside heart: They don't understand the Word of God. Because pastors don't teach, church members don't know how to apply the Scriptures.
 2. For example, if you preach or teach fasting, tell them how to fast and, methods of fasting and the benefits it brings (Matt. 13:18-19). The stony heart: They have no roots. Pastors need to teach members to be rooted in Christ. Mat 13:18-19 "Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.
 3. The thorny heart: They can't stand persecution (Matt. 13:22)
13. Worldly cares can choke the word and prevent growth: Matt. 13:22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.
14. Jesus did not give the same message to the disciples and the general public. Pastors should know the type of message to be given to leaders and congregation. Some even don't organize leadership seminars for the church leadership. foundation of the world." Matt. 13:36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."
15. Finally, lack of teachings on discipleship in the church. Pastors don't know men who will be able to teach others. Men who will be able to carry the message to the next generation. 2 Tim. 2:2 and what you have heard from

me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

16. Pastors can't differentiate between salvation and discipleship

HINDRANCES TO CHURCH GROWTH

When the Focus of the Church is Not Soul Winning.

1. Soul winning is for everybody (Entire Church)

- I. Anybody can preach – The 70 **Luke 10:1** After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.
 - II. Jesus is depending upon the church to win souls. Jesus worked to some point, and thereafter left the rest for the apostles to do. John 20:21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."
- Jesus asked all to preach Mark 16:15-16 And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
 - Mark 16:17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues;
 - Mark 16:18 They will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."
 - Mark 16:19 So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.
 - Jesus promises to work with you
 - Mark 16:20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.]]
- ### 2. You don't need to be a professional such as Pastor, Missionary, Prophet, Apostle, Evangelist!

- I. Blind Bartimaeus followed & glorified God the day he was healed. Luke 18:43 And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.
- II. Zacchaeus confessed the very day he was saved (Luke 19:8-9) Luke 19:8-9 And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham.
- III. The woman at the well John 4:28-30 So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the town and were coming to him.
- IV. The demoniac at Gadara – Legion Mark 5:19-20 And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

HOW CHURCHES CAN GROW

Recipe for church growth

1. Pastors should Teach Soul Winning principles.
2. Lifestyle evangelism: Make evangelism part of your life.
3. Personal evangelism
 - I. Jesus and the Samaritan woman (John 4) John 4:7-9 A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)
 - II. Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:34-38). Acts 8:35-36 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?"
 - III. Hospitals, prisons, orphanages (Social Gospel) evangelism
 - IV. Make friends with youth outside the church
4. Mass crusades and open air: Peter on the day of Pentecost. Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.

Continuation of Methods of Evangelism

5. Power Evangelism: It is the surest way to grow the church. Jesus Christ told the disciples not to go until they are endued (clothed) with power from on high.

- I. Luke 24:49 And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."
 - II. After the power anointing, soul winning became easier. Acts 2:41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.
 - III. The church kept increasing from 3000 to 5000 Acts 4:4 But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.
 - IV. The church grew from additions to multiplication Act 6:7 And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.
6. Print and Electronic media: Radio & Television Ministry; Telephone, Emails, Face book, Tweeter, WhatsApp on mobile phones, text messages etc..
 7. Music and drama
 8. House to house evangelism
 9. Film show: Jesus Film, Pilgrims Progress
 10. Concentrate on Church planting: Local and cross cultural or foreign missions
 11. God fearing Believers: "If I could get 300 men who fear nothing but God, and who hate nothing but sin, I would set the world on fire." John Wesley

ZOO IN THE CHURCH

The Sheep In The Church

Their characteristics:

1. They lie down (Psalm 23:1-2)
2. They listen to the shepherd (John 10:7-16)
3. They have a heart for the shepherd.
4. They follow the shepherd – obey instructions
5. They do not talk bad about the shepherd.
6. They love the Lord, the church and the shepherd.
7. They have the heart for evangelism
8. They are prayerful
9. They live pure lifestyle
10. They respect authority
11. They don't rebel
12. They don't gossip
13. They are faithful
14. They are willing to follow Christ no matter the cost
15. They don't follow strangers or false pastors
16. The Levites served the Aaronic priesthood. The sheep minister to the pastor.
17. They give themselves to the pastor just as God gives children to parents.
 - I. Num. 3:6 "Bring the tribe of Levi near, and set them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister to him.
 - II. The sheep guard the pastor. They defend the pastor. They stand for the pastor.
 - III. Num. 3:7 They shall keep guard over him and over the whole congregation before the tent of meeting, as they minister at the tabernacle.

IV. Num. 3:9 And you shall give the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they are wholly given to him from among the people of Israel.

18.They are satisfied with the pastor/shepherd and the church.

19.They always want to eat food provided by the shepherd.

20.They have a meek and quiet spirit.

21.They seek church growth.

22.They share same mind with the pastor

23.They are not aggressive

24.They don't pretend they know it all

25.They are not hypocrites

26.They can be depended upon

27.They understand the vision of the church

28.They can preach or teach when given the opportunity

29.They yearn for the spiritual welfare of the church and the shepherd.

30.They pray for the other flock and shepherd.

31.The sheep are obedient and willing to submit. "Submission is permission to protect," says Mike Murdock. If you submit to your pastor, your business, family, destiny, vision are all protected by God. It eventually brings church growth and peace.

I. Heb. 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.

32.They aim at serving the church

33.The are willing to be part of the teamwork led by the pastor

34.The sheep walk with the pastor just as Timothy did to Paul

- I. Philip 2:19-21 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.
- 35.They don't stop supporting their pastor because there are so many fake pastors around bring the ministry into disrepute.
 - 36.The sheep know and have the understanding that men of God are judged and corrected by God.
 - 37.They don't behave like Aaron and Miriam who criticized Moses for taking an Ethiopian woman.
 - 38.They promote church growth through reproduction of their kind – they give birth to lambs
 - 39.They are the soul-winners
 - 40.They should be the focus of every pastor, and without them, the church will never grow.
 - 41.The pastor has to feed, protect defend them from the wolves
 - 42.The sheep are committed to the prosperity of the church. They are regular tithers.
 - 43.They protect the image of the church and the pastor
 - 44.They don't join divisive factions in the church. They abhor disunity.
 - 45.They are planted in the house of the LORD
 - 46.The sheep don't pretend and their hearts will never leave the pastor nor the church
 - 47.Their family loves the church and the pastor
 - 48.They bless the pastor with their substance

The Ravens

Their Characteristics

1. They are a group people in the church who are misunderstood.
2. The way they appear is not how they are (sometimes the pastor's wife is tagged as a witch, yet she feeds the pastor & guests)
3. How God sees them is not the way we see them. They are bad birds in the sight of men but good in the sight of God.
4. They obey the commands of God
 - I. 1Kings 17:4, 6 And it shall be, *that* thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.
 - II. The ravens don't take what belongs to the pastor and other church members
 - III. The ravens know when to move to fulfill God's program
 - IV. And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.
- The ravens are the people in the church who pray and God answers. Psalm147:9 He giveth to the beast his food, *and* to the young ravens which cry.
- Luke12:24 Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?
- They are fed by God in hard times and enhance church growth
- God uses the prayers of the ravens to destroy the works of the devil
- Prov.30:17 The eye *that* mocks at *his* father, and despises to obey *his* mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

The Eagles in the Church

Their Characteristics

- They also destroy the works of the devil and promote church growth.
- Prov.30:17 The eye *that* mocks at *his* father, and despises to obey *his* mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.
- Eagles wings is a symbol of church spread and God's strength
 - Exodus19:4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and *how* I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.
- Eagle sheep are visionary and see from afar of
- They mount up; they run and walk without getting tired
- They provide financial strength to the poor in the church
- They provide emotional and spiritual hope for the church
- They are secret intercessors and waiters in the church
 - Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

The Fishes in the Church

Their Characteristics

- They partner with God in ministry
- They help to fulfill the destiny of the church and others
 - I. Jonah 1:17 And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.
 - II. Jonah 2:1, 10 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish. And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.
- The fish sheep are sources of finances for ministry work

- The fish sheep serve as ministry helpers
- The fish sheep come in sizes. Some are big fish others too are small fish. They seriously promote church growth
- Matt. 17:27 Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

The Lambs in the Church

Their characteristics

- The Lambs are the new converts and babies in the church
- They are not matured as compared to the sheep
- They can't give birth. Only sheep give birth.
- They have to be fed always
- They don't have the capacity to feed others
- They feed on milk not on solid food
- And they have to grow to become disciples
- They are vulnerable and have to be shepherded gently
- Isaiah 40:11 He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.
- John 21:15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs."
- 1Pet. 2:2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation.

Deer in the church

Their Characteristics

- Psalm 42:1 As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.
- The Deer kind of sheep are fast and can't sit at one place.
- They go from church to church, and are not planted in the house of God. Not established!
- They have different kinds of pastors and join several prayer groups
- They avoid stability and commitment
- They follow preachers, pastors and prophets on TV and FM radios and even tell others to join that pastor on the radio or TV at this time. They think they know more than their pastor.
- They testify to others what the Lord is doing through this radio and TV preachers and seem to draw converts after them.
- They always have a good reason of not going to church
- They don't add to church growth. Rather they take from it.
- They can be irritating. The pastor can't use them for any purpose.
- They don't believe in going to one mother church
- They are often out of their pastor's governance and care
- They are spiritually not malnourished and poison others with their doctrine unchecked doctrine

The Lion (Gen. 49:8-12)

- They are the engine for the church.
- They provide power and defend the weak.

- They fight against the enemies of the church.
- They are the prayer warriors of the church.
- They are the royals of the church.
- They are fearless and formidable.
- They provide wealth for the church.
- Jesus is the Lion of Judah fro the church (Rev. 5:5, 9-10).

The Ox (Deut. 22:10)

- Deut. 22:10 Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together.
- The ox enjoys teamwork in the church.
- They cannot perform if you pair them with unlikely candidates.
- They are the workaholics in the church.

Buffalo or Unicorn in the church

Psalm 92:10 But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of a unicorn; I shall be anointed with fresh oil.

- They have enough power to drive the church forward.
- They are the carriers of the anointing.
- They are formidable and can wreak havoc to the enemy.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ZOO IN THE CHURCH

This side of church members are a burden and a challenge to the church.

The Ass (Deut. 22:10)

- Deut. 22:10 Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together.
- They are not good team players.
- They are a burden to the team.
- They drag the church backwards.
- They can't achieve results.
- Sauk was looking for his father's ass and he was a burden to Israel as a king. Unlike David, he was a keeper of his father's sheep and was profitable to Israel.

The Goats in the Church

Their Characteristics

- Goats are stubborn and unruly (difficult to control)
- Unlike sheep, they do whatever they like and how they like it
- They are difficult to shepherd and control their movements
- Goats like to have their own way
- This goat element in the church hinders church growth
- They are cursed
- Pastors need to deal with the "Goat attitude" before the church can grow
- They are highly immoral like dogs and will not enter heaven
 - I. Matt 25:32-33 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep

from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.

- II. Matt. 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.
- III. Goats in leadership positions make work difficult for the pastor
- IV. They feel they own the church and think they can delay the programs of the church
- V. Goat types: Judas goat, Achan goat, Jezebel goat

- Goats like independence and disorder. They want everything their own way.
- They are murmurers and the cause of fighting in the church.
- They are spectators who sit outside or on the fence to criticize every good thing done in the church
- They are not faithful in paying tithes and offerings. And they have a reason for doing that.

The Vipers in the Church

Their Characteristics

- They are the “Snake sheep” which carry venom or poison to destroy the church.
- Like the devil, they have been around the church for a long time.
- They seem to be part of the foundation team which started the church and know the genesis of the church and the pastor.
- They seem to know all stories about most men of God in every place and are experts of who is right and who is not.

- They do not belong to one church and anytime they come to join a church, they appear like angel of light. They use such attitude to deceive unsuspecting pastors and leadership of the church.
- They usually are very self-righteous, hypocritical, critical and carry holier than thou attitude.
- They often question the vision God has given to the pastor and why the church is doing this program and not that.
- They question the financial blessing of the pastor and why the church is not helping the poor just like what Judas told Jesus.
- John 12:3 Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.
- John 12:4-5 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?"
- John 12:6 He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.
- The snake sheep are agents of the devil and not Christians.
- John 13:27 Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly."
- The viper sheep have nothing to show for their achievements and proud history.
- They are simply empty talkatives who discourage other serious minded Christians by the way they carry themselves around.
- They don't have the fruit of the Spirit and therefore lack character.
- They don't have what it takes to correct others. They always pretend to know.

- They are anti-church growth
- They play the cards of their master, the devil.

The Little Foxes in the Church

Their Characteristics

- The little foxes sheep work under cover
- It is not easy to see how they enter the church to destroy it
- They always look for loopholes in the church and capitalize on that to take action
- They destroy young and upcoming pastors and Christians.
- They destroy the future and vision of the church or pastors
- They make the church think sin is normal and carries no serious consequences
- The little foxes sheep don't contribute to church growth. They hinder growth.
- They make people think that even the pastor is human and he sins from time to time. Therefore, there is no need to get disturbed about sin. And sin is not a big deal!
- Song of Songs 2:15 Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines *have* tender grapes.

The Wolves in the Church

- A wild carnivorous mammal, which is the largest member of the dog family. They are wild and violent and attack sheep and sometimes shepherds.

Their Characteristics

- Wolves are enemies to the sheep and the pastor
- They destroy what it has taken many years to build
- Wolves must be fought against before they to implement their diabolical motives

- They come in the same clothes as the sheep. Thus can teach, preach, pastor, sing and fit into the leadership.
- They are sheep stealers

Matt. 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

- Wolves break away thriving churches and use to convince the rich in the church to follow them.

Act 20:29-30 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

- Wolves are a huge hindrance to church growth
- They are obsessed with power and ambition and always attacking the leadership and naive (lack of experience or wisdom) members of the church.
- Wolves work under demonic or satanic influence
- Wolves are pretenders and may not be born again Christians.

Wolves are false prophets who claim to have false visions to gain popularity and have followers. They openly challenge the authority of the church

- They operate with hidden agenda to destroy some members of the church.

1Tim. 1:19-20 Holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, Among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

The Birds in the church

Their Characteristics

- The bird sheep eat up blessings
- They are destiny destroyers
- They are thieves and steal the word of God

- The bird sheep attack the word. They pick up the results of the word from the church.
- The cause misunderstanding of God's Word
- Gen 40:17 And in the uppermost basket there were all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating it out of the basket on my head."
- Gen 40:18 And Joseph answered and said, "This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days.
- Gen 40:19 In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head from you!—and hang you on a tree. And the birds will eat the flesh from you."
- Mat 13:4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them.
- Mat 13:19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.

The Dogs in the church

Their Characteristics

- The dog sheep represent the devil and destruction.
- They are cursed, like the goats, dogs breed immorality.
- Dog sheep move their tongues against the church.
- They can't enter heaven. They are outside the holy city
- Dogs revisit their vomit (2Pet. 2:22).
- They are church destroyers and not church growers
- If you cast your holy things before them, they will consume it and attack you (Matt. 7:6).
- Philip. 3:2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.

- Rev. 22:15 For without *are* dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loves and makes a lie.
- Exodus 11:7 But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.
- 2Pet. 2:22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog *is* turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

The Pigs in the church

Their Characteristics

- The pigs sheep are a symbol of uncleanness
- They keep revisiting their past sins. They can't be holy.
- Pigs sheep keep revisiting their past sins
- They are abode for demons and fight against church growth
- Matt. 7:6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.
- Matt. 8:31 So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine.
- Matt. 8:32 And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters.
- 2Pet. 2:21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

- 2Pet. 2:22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog *is* turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Dragons in the church (Job 41.1, 21)

Description

- They are fictional beings (they exist in the mind)
- Snake-like tail, lion-like claws, huge wings etc.

Their Activities within the church

1. In the church dragons are real
2. Most often they don't intend to be sinister (evil, disturbing, threatening)
3. They are usually friendly
4. They are sincere
5. They are well meaning saints
6. They don't consider themselves difficult people
7. They don't sit up nights thinking of ways to be nasty (mean, spiteful, cruel, unkind, pitiless)
8. Often they are pillars of the community
9. They have strong personalities
10. They are talented
11. Deservingly respected
12. They are not naturally rebellious
13. They are loyal church members
14. They are convinced they are serving God
15. They know they are accepted by a circle of the society or congregation

16. Paul thought he was serving God – rather he was a thorn in the flesh of the church

17. They operate within an inner circle

But

- They undermine (damage, dent, demoralize, challenge) the ministry of the church
- They leave ulcers and strain relations behind
- They leave hard feelings in the wake of their activities
- They wind up doing more harm than good
- They can drive pastors crazy
- They can drive pastors out of the church
- They make it hard to disagree
- They make pastors feel like failures

What they openly criticize

They are the ones who accuse you of:

- Being too spiritual
- Not being spiritual enough
- Being too dominant
- Too laid back
- Too narrow
- Too loose
- Too structured
- Too disorganized

The impact of their criticism

- Their criticisms can cause pain

- Their criticisms are largely unanswerable
- You cannot defend yourself
- Unable to maintain the spirit of unity and peace
- You cannot prove the purity of your motives
- Difficult to get along with them in ministry
- Dragons make pastors feel like failures
- Pastors feel the pain when one vocal member becomes an opponent than 49% of voters against a politician
- Dragons can leave you betrayed and isolated

Handling Dragons

Common mistakes we make

- We come to church not expecting the presence of dragons
- When left betrayed and isolated we become frustrated
- Pointing out a problem is not solving it
- Prayer meetings where 15 minutes is used talking about the pastor and 10 minutes for prayer – people will quit

Approaching the dragons

1. Get close to them (bridge the gap)
2. Separation is not answer to confronting dragons
3. Make them evangelistic by assigning certain areas for them to evangelize
4. Make them prayerful by involving them in the hour of prayer
5. Understand the ways dragons think
6. We can still have warmer relations even under cold conditions
7. The willingness and humility to admit defeat
8. Don't try to be hostile (unreceptive, unfriendly)

9. It may be your greatest spiritual test
10. Learn love and forgiveness when it's hard to do so
11. Don't forget that rebuilding is difficult than building
12. Try to forgive
13. Try to work together
14. Give them a call
15. Send a note of encouragement
16. The goal in handling dragons is not to destroy them, not to dissociate them but to make them disciples.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MATURITY AND CHURCH GROWTH

- There is a difference between growth and maturity. Growth is not maturity. A church can have 2000 members and yet not matured.
- A fruit-bearing tree can grow but not matured. A tree bears fruit when it becomes matured.
- Maturity leads to church growth but growth (numbers) doesn't lead to maturity. Maturity takes time and enhances church growth.
- Every Christian begins like an infant
- God's word is like milk and helps infants to grow into maturity
- To grow, you have to desire God's word
- The matured have put away the childish ways
- 1Pet. 2:2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation.
- 1Cor. 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.
- All Christians grow from infants to sonship
- Babies don't turn forty the first day they were born.
- No Christian becomes like Paul the first day he becomes born again.
- Salvation is a single birth, once, but growing into maturity or sonship is life-long process.

Jesus Had Different Disciples

- The church can grow whereby the pastor is involved in training the leadership in sensitive areas of the church.

The Method Jesus Used

- Jesus had John as His bosom friend
- Jesus had the three as His associate pastors
- Matt. 17:1-2 And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.
- Jesus had the 12 as His students who became His Apostles (Luke 9:1-3).
- Luke 6:12-13 In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles:
- Jesus had the 72 as His distance learning students (Luke 10:1-2)
- Luke 10:1-2 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.
- Jesus had the 120 as confirmed graduated students who received the Holy Spirit
- Acts 1:14 All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.
- Acts 1:15 In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said.
- Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.
- Jesus had the 500 secret disciples He appeared unto after His resurrection
- 1Cor. 15:6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.
- Jesus had the 4,000 wilderness church

- Matt. 15:37-38 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up seven baskets full of the broken pieces left over. Those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children.
- Jesus Christ had all nations as His focus
- Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
- Jesus had the 5,000 as sister church
- John 6:10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number.
- John 6:11 Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted.
- John 6:12 And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost."

Christ and Church Growth

Christ's View of Growth Categories

- He commissioned Peter to:
 - I. Feed the lambs (John 21:15)
 - II. Tend or take care of the flock (John 21:16)
 - III. Feed the sheep (John 21:17)
- Flock equals the whole church: Lambs plus Sheep

Feed my lambs (John 21:15)

- The Lambs:
 1. The lambs are the infants, day old and beyond
 2. The lambs are the weak and sick ones

- Provide food for them
- Take care of especially when weak and sick
- Defend, lead, and pray for the lambs

John 21:15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs."

Feed my sheep (John 21:17)

John 21:17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

- Who are the sheep
 1. The sheep are the matured
 2. The lambs grow to become sheep.
 3. The sheep can take care of the lambs
 4. It is the sheep which give birth to lambs
- Soul winning and church growth is the work of the sheep. Lambs cannot win souls.

Tend or take care of the Flock

- John 21:16 He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep."
- 2Tim. 2:2 And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
- Who are the Flock?

1. They are the entire church
2. They include the day old lambs to the oldest sheep
3. They include the sick, the strong and weak ones
4. Making disciples is the work of the whole flock

Paul's Version of Church Growth

Taking care of the flock brings church growth

- Taking care means:
 1. Feeding them together: The church includes lambs and sheep put together.
 2. Feeding means bringing the babes into maturity.
 3. Feeding means discipling the matured till the end of the age
 4. Tending the flock means training leaders to occupy leadership roles in the church.
 5. Again, tending the flock means, guide, lead, and defend the sheep.
- *Acts 20:28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.*
- *Acts 20:29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;*
- *Acts 20:30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.*

To keep the church growing, pastors and the leadership have to be alert

- *Acts 20:31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.*

To maintain church growth, pastors and the leadership have to pray always for the church

- *Acts 20:32 And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

To enhance church growth, pastors and church leadership don't have to covet the silver nor gold.

- *Act 20:33-34 I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me.*

To maintain and increase the church, pastors must use their God ordained gifts

- *Eph. 4:11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers.*

Tending the flock means perfecting the saints for work of ministry.

- *Eph. 4:12 To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.*

Tending the flock means train, equip until they reach the full stature of Christ. This enhances church growth and maturity.

- *Eph. 4:13 Until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.*
- Tending the flock means training leaders to take care of the lambs. It's the surest way for church growth.
- Tending the flock means training more leaders to pastor other daughter churches. Sending trained pastors to the mission field.

The problem with the present day church is that there are so many infants than adults. Infants are those believers who don't grow, but rather go round chasing for miracles and prophecies.

Infants are those who are easily deceived by modern day false prophets.

In Paul's version of Church Growth, as the leadership teaches and trains the congregation, chasing after miracles will reduce and maturity would be entrenched.

Again, Paul thinks we have to speak the truth but in love, not hating the flock.

- *Eph. 4:14 So that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.*
- *Eph. 4:15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,*

The Apostle John's Version of Church Growth

- John taught about three stages of maturity and growth
 - I. Children
 - II. Young men
 - III. Fathers

The little children are vulnerable to sin and needs daily or constant forgiveness.

- *1John 2:12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.*

Fathers are matured and they know Christ through many years of walking with Him.

The young men are those who have been trained, have God's word abiding in them, and are strong enough to overcome the devil

- *1John 2:13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.*

- *1John 2:14 I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.*

John admonished all the 3 levels of the flock (children, young men and fathers not to love the world. For the world and everything in it are passing away.

John cautioned about the antichrist, but encouraged them that they have the anointing which is able to teach them.

- *1John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*
- *1John 2:16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.*
- *1John 2:17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*
- *1John 2:18 Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.*
- *1John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.*
- *1John 2:20 But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.*

Meeting the children in the church

1. They are not the Sunday School children. This is not about children with regard to physical age. It's about somebody being 20 years in the church and still a child; not growing in the Lord.

- *Heb. 5:12-13 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.*
2. They cannot be teachers. They have to learn and grow.
 3. Naturally, children don't give birth, it's adults who give birth.
 4. They are the infants, immature, carnal, or new converts in Christ
 5. Some of them behave like unbelievers.
 6. They can't take solid food.
 7. They are carnal in Christ not spiritual.
 - *1Cor. 3:1 But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.*
 - 8 The church at Corinth is a type of present day Charismatic church.
 - 9 The present day church is not ready for hard teaching such as holiness, going out to win souls, casting out demons, among others.
 - 10 The present day church is frosted with jealousy, strife, divisions, leadership struggle & behaves like unbelievers.
 - 11 The present day churches have made icons out of pastors and the pastors are glad it's so. Carnal Christians create more problems than unbelievers.
 - 12 This attitude will keep hindering church growth if not corrected by the leadership.
 - *1Cor. 3:2 I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready.*
 - *1Cor. 3:3 For you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?*

- *1Cor. 3:4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?*

13. Paul stood against carnal Christianity and had it corrected. Carnal believers don't add to the church, rather, their behavior reduces the size of the membership.

14. Pastors need to take it serious and correct it immediately.

15. Reject it when church members are calling you names and trying to make you their icon.

16. Point church members to Christ and tell them it's God who gives the growth not man.

17. If you are not a prophet, don't allow the congregation to call you prophet. Paul told the Corinthians in clear terms that he planted and Apollos watered. Thus Paul started the church and Apollos did the discipleship work. Nothing more, nothing less!

- *1Cor. 3:5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each.*
- *1Cor. 3:6-7 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.*

18. Children can't handle solid food.

19. Children are unskilled, untrained, can't preach.

- *Heb. 5:13 For everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.*

- *Heb. 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.*

20.They need continuous help.

21.They easily commit sins knowingly and unknowingly:

- Sins of commission (sins intentionally and knowingly committed)
- And sins of omission (sins committed which they don't know are sins).

22.They need regular confessions

23.They need to be taught forgiveness through the blood

- *Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood*

24.Children need to be taught how to walk in the light and deal with sin

- *Col 2:13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,*
- *1John 1:7-9 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

25.Children are the lambs and carnal Christians in the church

26.Children need assurance of salvation and forgiveness of sins (1 John 2:12)

- *1John 2:12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.*

27.They have access to pray to the Father (Matt. 6:9).

- *Matt. 6:9 Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*

28.Children can overcome the world since they are born by the Father

29.The reason why they are children and carnal is that they have little or no faith, and care so much about worldly matters.

- *1John 4:4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*
- *Mat 6:30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?*

30.They always want simple things to be done for them.

31.They like crying over simple issues.

32.They can't solve problems.

33.They depend much upon pastors.

34.Naturally, children cannot solve difficult problems

35.They are not strong like the young men and fathers

36.They need simple teachings and are comfortable of being fed with milk (1 Cor. 3:1-2).

37.They think they have no business in the house

38.Just like natural children, they look up to others all the time for everything.

Meeting the young men in the church

22 Facts About Sons

1. Young men understand what children don't understand.
2. Young men know what children don't know. They are men and strong.
 - **1Cor. 14:20** Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men. KJV

- **1Cor. 14:20** Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. ESV
 - 1Cor. 16:13 Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.
3. Young men don't speak like children.
 4. Young men understand spiritual things than children.
 5. Young men don't think like children.
 6. Young men have put away childish things.
 7. 1Co 13:11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.
 8. Young men are sons of God not children of God.
 9. In any house, sons control and lead children and not vice versa.
 10. Young men have overcome the wicked one.
 11. Young men are led by the Spirit and add growth to the church.
 - *Rom 8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*
 - *1Jn 2:13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.*
 12. Young men, not children shall see visions and prophesy. Children were not mentioned in Joel's prophecy.
 13. Young men are servants of God.
 14. Servants are sons who have the Spirit poured upon them.
 - *Joel 2:28 "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.*
 - *Joel 2:29 Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.*

- 15.They are the future leaders and visioneers of the church.
- 16.Young men can hold ministry positions. In Ephesians 4:11, Paul wasn't talking to children and carnal believers.
- 16.They can help the children and carnal Christians to grow into sonship through discipleship. (Matt. 28:18-20).
- 17.The word of God dwells in them (1 John 2:14; Psalm 119:9-11, 105).
- 18.They already know the Father and use their faith to overcome.
- 19.They are strong
1. *Eph. 4:11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,*
 2. *Mat 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*
 3. *Psalm 119:9, 11 How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*
 4. *1John 5:4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.*
- 20.They know they are the temple of the Living God.
21. Young men separate themselves from the world
22. Young men are pro-active. See before it happens
- 23.Young men touch not what is unclean.
- *2Cor. 6:16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

- *2Cor. 6:17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,*
- *2Cor. 6:18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”*
- *2Ti 3:15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

24. Young men are courageous, obey the Word and Lead (Josh. 1:6-7)

Josh. 1:6-7 Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.

25. Young men meditate on the word and succeed

Josh. 1:8-9 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful 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 courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

UNDERSTANDING THE ANOINTING

- Your ministry and church should not be reduced to human ideas, board meetings and suggestions. Your church will not witness the power and presence of God if you forgo the anointing and God's way of doing ministry.
- Pursue the anointing with all your strength, time, soul, spirit and body. Never think the anointing is for certain ministers and men of God alone. You are part of the Body of Christ and hence, you qualify for it.
- As a minister, don't make your church a mere ideological institution, a powerless institution, and a tradition of doing normal things every day. Move to the supernatural by catching the anointing.

Facts about the anointing

1. Strong desire
2. Respect the anointing
3. God anoints the desirous
4. It is difficult to get the anointing
5. The patriarchs were anointed
6. The prophets were anointed
7. Priests were anointed
8. The apostles were anointed
9. You have to be anointed too

Strong desire

- The anointing is the highest stage in ministry. The anointing is the Holy Spirit Himself and God does not just give bestow it upon anyone. God does not cast His pearls before swine. You would not do either.
- If you don't desire or have a strong respect for the anointing, God will never bestow such His precious gift to you. God will look for somebody who really need it and will appreciate it.

Respect the anointing

- God hated Esau, why? Perhaps he showed no respect for the gift as first born. If God hated Esau, then it's possible that God can hate you if you disrespect the anointing just as Esau disrespected his position as first born.

Gen. 25:32 And Esau said, Behold, I *am* at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?

- If you keep speaking against the anointing in the life of other men of God, you are showing gross disrespect and you are exhibiting the life of Esau. You cannot expect what you don't respect. You cannot receive what you don't recognize.

God anoints the desirous

- God knows the desirous; He cannot be deceived. He is looking for those whose hearts are seeking for Him, to cloth them with His strength for ministry.

2Chron. 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart *is* perfect toward him.

- God is telling you to desire the anointing because without it all your Bible school knowledge and certificates are nothing. The anointing is the main tool for ministry.
- The anointing is not taught by going to school, the anointing is caught. Covet the spiritual gifts could also be interpreted as desire the anointing.
- Again, you have to follow after the anointing and desire the spiritual gifts. It is people with strong desires are those who get the spiritual gifts. Desire the anointing more than any property, riches or wealth in this world.

1Cor. 14:1 “Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts”

1COR. 12:31 But covet earnestly the best gifts:

It is difficult to get the anointing

- To get the anointing, there are certain tests you must pass. Understand that few people have the anointing because it is hard thing to get it. There are few rocket scientists in the world because it is difficult. Few science students end up becoming rocket scientists.
- Many are called into the pastoral office but very few get the anointing because it is difficult to get it. Elijah told Elisha that he has asked a difficult thing but not impossible.
- **2Kings 2:9-10** And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.

The anointing of the patriarchs

- The patriarchs are the fathers and founders of Israel. Abraham was anointed. God spoke to him several times. He saw visions of Israel's 400 years captivity in Egypt and also visions of the messiah from afar.

Gen. 15:13 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land *that is* not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years.

- Isaac was anointed. God spoke to him on several occasions. He was told not to leave the land and but was to dwell where God tells him to dwell. He heard from God. he prayed for the womb of his wife to be opened and God heard him.

Gen. 26:2-6 And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father. And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws. And Isaac dwelt in Gerar:

- Jacob met God and the blessings of Abraham was pronounced upon him. It takes the prophetic anointing to meet God.

Gen. 28:10-11 And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put *them for* his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

Gen. 28:12-15 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I *am* the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I *am* with thee, and will keep thee in all *places* whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done *that* which I have spoken to thee of.

Priests were anointed

- Aaron and his sons were anointed to occupy the priestly office and perform their priestly functions. Every pastor needs institutional anointing or public ordination by the church as well as the desire to catch the anointing which takes ministry to another level.

Exodus 28:41 And thou shalt put them upon Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him; and shalt anoint them, and consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office.

Exodus 30:30 And thou shalt anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office.

Prophets were anointed

- The prophet Elijah had the anointing and Elisha requested to get a double portion of Elijah's anointing. Moses, the man of God was a carrier of the anointing. God took some of the Mosaic portion of the anointing to the seventy elders who were to partner Moses in the daily affairs of leading Israel.

2Kings 2:9-10 And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.

Num. 11:16-17 And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee. And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.

The Apostles were anointed

- Jesus ordained the twelve to be with Him, and to have power to heal the sick, and to cast out demons. Thus, He anointed all the twelve disciples whom He designated apostles. Moreover, after His resurrection, He instructed them to go and wait for the promise of the Father until they are endued with power from on high.

Mark 3:14-15 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

You have been anointed

- All believers have been chosen and ordained by Christ Jesus.

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Demystifying the anointing

- The anointing is the Holy Spirit.
- The anointing is not pouring oil on people and laying hands on church members to fall.
- The anointing is not praying over handkerchiefs and distributing them for church members.
- Demystifying the anointing means explaining, clarifying, deciphering, elucidating, or interpreting the anointing.
- The purpose of the anointing is to plant churches and make them grow.
- The major purpose of the anointing is to teach because the anointing is the Holy Spirit. According to Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to teach.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

1John 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of

all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

John 16:13-14 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

1. Therefore, the evidence of the anointing is teaching.
2. The Spirit shall speak not of Himself but of Christ.
3. The Spirit shall show forth things to come.
4. The Spirit shall glorify Christ.
5. The Spirit shall show us things to come.

ANOINTING FOR CHURCH GROWTH

Be a seeker of the anointing by asking yourself these questions:

1. Why church is not growing?
2. Why are some churches growing and others not growing?
3. How church should grow?
4. When church should grow?

THE SEVEN SPIRIT OF GOD

- The seven Spirit of the LORD brings massive church growth and multiplies church planting. Pray and seek the face of the LORD to catch the anointing behind the passage. The anointing is not taught but caught.
- The anointing is not taught in any Bible college; it doesn't come by holding PhD in theology; it's not by position and money; it is caught.
- Study and pray over the passage below to catch the anointing.

Isaiah 11:2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

1. The Spirit of wisdom.
2. The Spirit of understanding.
3. The Spirit of counsel.
4. The Spirit of might.
5. The Spirit of knowledge.
6. The Spirit of fear of the LORD.

7. The Spirit of the LORD

The Spirit of wisdom

- The Spirit gives you wisdom to grow the church. It's not your wisdom but the wisdom of the Spirit. He is in charge and not you. The moment you ignore the Spirit of wisdom, you will use human means for church growth and that will not work. It is the reason why many churches have got stuck after being planted and cannot grow.
- Again, wisdom is the supernatural means to heal the sick, destroy the works of the devil, and operate in all the spiritual gifts. Hence, the Spirit of wisdom can take you to the next level in ministry. The people of Nazareth concluded that Jesus used wisdom to do His mighty works.

Mark 6:2 And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands

The Spirit of understanding

- Next to the Spirit of wisdom is the Spirit of understanding. Understanding grants the insight, foresight and far-sight to do what others cannot do. It makes you see what others cannot see.
- God filled Bezaleel first with his Spirit, then with wisdom, and thirdly with the understanding to device cunning works. To develop a plan to construct the tent of meeting and the ark and other vessels to be used as worship without using nails.

- Bezaleel did what is used to build modern equipments such as the airplane to build the ark and other vessels at that time. It is the Spirit of understanding. You need understanding to build your church, to write books, to know how to enlarge your ministry, to know how to take your ministry to another level, and to plant church in every nation of the world.
- Bishop Dag Heward-Mills has planted 3000 churches as I write this material today, 19 September 2019. He is an example of what the Spirit of wisdom and understanding can accomplish.

Exodus 31:1-5 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship.

The Spirit of counsel

- The Holy Spirit gives guidance and directions to do what is right; to do what can bring church growth; to show areas to plant churches; to comfort and strengthen us when we are facing challenges and frustrations are setting in.
- The Holy Spirit gives counsels in the areas of church administration and leadership. He gives directions as to how to lead the church to bring explosive growth and to maintain the growth.
- Through the counsels of the Holy Spirit, a small church can be turned into a mega church. And where the counsel of the Spirit is absent, a mega church can become a weak and small church or can even fade into insignificance.

- Jethro came all the way to advise Moses in handling the burden of the people. The method Moses was using was wearing the people down as well as Moses himself. The Holy Spirit can use mentors and fathers in the ministry can offer good counsels to young pastors.
- The absence of counsel wears the pastor down, he goes through untold levels of stress and eventually suffers burnout in ministry. Good counsels keep your people strong and active. They come to church without getting tired of doing the same thing always.

Exodus 18:15-22 And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to enquire of God: When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws. And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good. Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone. Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God:

Exodus 18:20-22 And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do. Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee.

Exodus 18:23-24 f thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace. So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said.

The Spirit of might

- This is the Spirit of power to do mighty works. Any minister lacking mighty works cannot carry his ministry to the next level. Several mighty works were wrought by the hands of the apostles which authenticated their ministry. The churches have to be proof producers if they can change society.
- Jesus Christ did lots of mighty works to proof both His divinity and humanity. Without such mighty works, it would have been difficult for several people to believe in Him. His works alone silenced His critics. That is what pastors need today.

Matt. 13:54 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

- After Peter and John have healed the paralytic, about five thousand men believed excluding women and children. Even priests humbled themselves and became obedient to the gospel.
- The power anointing caused the Word of God to increase and the number of the disciples multiplied. The power anointing will cause your church to multiply. Great men will come to the faith as well.

Acts 4:4, 6-7 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand. And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

Acts 6:7-8 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

The Spirit of Knowledge

- Many people perish for lack of knowledge. Lack of knowledge in the areas of prayer, the Scriptures, church growth, church planting, church administration, leadership, preaching and teaching among others is keeping many churches retarded in growth and expansion.
- It takes knowledge to expound, understand and know the Scriptures. It takes knowledge to handle vision, to preach and to teach. The Spirit comes with knowledge which every pastor and church need.
- It was through knowledge that the people in Gennesaret knew that Jesus was around. They brought several sick people and they were all healed. Through knowledge, they touched the hem of Jesus' garments, and as many as touched Him were healed.

Matt. 14:35-36 And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they sent out into all that country round about, and brought unto him all that were diseased; And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.

- It was through knowledge that the tabernacle and all its furnishings were built. As a pastor, you need knowledge to teach, preach and make your work effective. Go to school, add value to your life and ministry, and your ministry can move to another level. Peter and the rest of the apostles walked with Jesus for some years and their lives were changed.
- Disciple is a student learner. They studied under the feet of the Jesus Rabbi.

Exodus 35:31 And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship.

The Spirit of fear of the LORD

- The Spirit of fear of the LORD strengthens the receiver in the area of character development. It enables the receiver to control the aforementioned anointings under the Holy Spirit.
- The fear of the LORD makes the receiver to hate and avoid sin. He leads a holy life to contain the righteous nature of God in him. The Spirit of Fear of the LORD enables the receiver to cultivate a deep art of humility, sanctity and seeks to honor and respect God in all that he does.
- Joseph was a type with the Spirit of fear of the LORD. Joseph knew adultery is a sin against the Lord. Moses too had the Spirit of fear of the LORD. He did not fight back when Miriam and Aaron spoke against him.

Gen. 39:8-9 But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept

back anything from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

Numbers 12:3 (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)

The Spirit of the LORD

- The Spirit of the LORD coming upon you is “Jesus way” to make the church grow. The Spirit upon is the highest form of the operation of the anointing. Most prophets and other leaders in the Old Testament experienced the Spirit coming upon them. Jesus Christ had the Spirit coming upon Him in Isaiah 61:1 which was fulfilled in Luke 4:18.
- He Spirit upon comes with various forms of power anointing, fire anointing, and Holy Spirit anointings with demonstrations. The apostles and prophets of old including some of the Judges of Israel used the Spirit upon to proof their ministry. Today’s pastor can’t do otherwise.
- It is the double portion of the anointing. Despite the fact that it is difficult to get the Spirit upon, it’s gettable.

1Sam. 10:6 And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.

1Sam. 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

2Kings 2:9-10 And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.

ANOINTING FOR CHURCH PLANTING

The Spirit of wisdom

- It means wisdom to plant churches. You get ideas of how to use lay people to establish more churches. You get ideas on how to use volunteers to plant more churches. Volunteers are dedicated church members who work without salary.
- You get ideas on how to use women in ministry – women help the church to grow very fast. Women have very soft heart and when they are well trained, they foster church growth. Women cannot easily break ministries like men do. They are very supportive in ministry.
- Spirit of wisdom means you get the understanding of how churches are planted. And how you can grow the church.

The Spirit of understanding

- Church planting involves several dynamics. Understanding the details is very important. Understanding locations and why and how you are going must be headed by the Holy Spirit.
- In some occasions, Paul and his team of missionaries were directed by the Holy Spirit not to do missions in some places. You need to understand how the Spirit works in locations to plant churches before you can succeed.
- It takes the Spirit of understanding to understand and know God is doing in every movement you make. If the movement is not approved by God, it brings untold challenges to church planting. Understanding the problems.

Acts 16:6-10 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not. And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, come over into Macedonia, and help us. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

The Spirit of counsel

- Moses upon all his anointing needed counsel from Jethro to sustain his ministry and to accomplish God's program for Israel. Many pastors have had their programs and ministries cut short because they think all they need is power and the prophetic to the neglect of divine counsel.
- Samson's story would have been different if he had heeded to the divine counsel offered by the angel that "He is a Nazarene and no razor shall touch his hair." In the multitude of counselors there is safety.
- Jesus was guided by the counsels of His Father. He does what He sees the Father doing. In agony He asked the will of the Father be done. Although He is God, He never used His own will without the consent of His Father. As a pastor, heeding to the counsels of your fathers will enhance church planting.

Prov. 11:14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

Judges 13:5 For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

Matt. 26:42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.
The Spirit of might (power)

- This is the ability to plant churches. God will connect you to places you don't think of to plant churches without your strength. People will invite you to come to other countries to start churches with them.
- The Spirit of might gives you supernatural power to plant mega churches for Christ. It makes you do what you could never have done under normal human strength.

The spirit of might

As a good leader, you begin to have the strength for leadership. You show yourself strong. You begin to have the Jesus style of leadership.

The Spirit of knowledge

- God will give you ideas to start churches in other areas. God through some prophetic directions will direct you to go to certain areas to plant churches. God will give you knowledge of things you are not familiar with which can tool you to plant churches.
- It is just like putting up a building. The architect designs the house and the drawings are followed by the builders of the house. God is the architect and

through the Holy Spirit, He gives you knowledge to plant the church by His standards.

- There is knowledge you need to acquire. Read books

The Spirit of fear of the LORD

- You begin to fear God that except God plants His church, nobody can plant a church. Learn from pastors with big churches like Youngi Choo who has about 700,000 member congregation. Connect with pastors with mega churches. Then get closer to God. that is the Spirit of fear of the LORD. As you get closer to God it affects everything you have.

The Spirit of the LORD

- This is the spirit of Jesus. If you have the SPIRIT of the Lord upon your life it means you are becoming like Jesus. That is how your church can grow. What was Jesus pattern of planting churches?

LEADERSHIP ANOINTING

- Be strong and show yourself a man. The next type of anointing is the anointing for good leadership. Certain churches don't have anointing for good leadership. Wisdom is how to! How to do something! How to know something! You will be searching, seeking, knocking till you find.
- Leadership anointing is being strong showing yourself a man. Weak leadership; phlegmatic leadership; leadership which can't take decision is what is retarding the progress of Africa and the churches.

1Kings 2:2 I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man;

- People can't see you, but they obey you. They may be in foreign countries yet they obey you. To be a God leader it's God who subdues all enemies around you. You don't do it yourself. The LORD positions you where others can't touch you.
- It is the LORD who is your light and salvation. David never said he was a gifted leader. David it was the LORD'S mercy and not by his strength. It keeps you humbled.

Anointing for wealth

- You have wisdom for getting money. You have the wisdom that creates wealth. You have the spirit of understanding money. Many people don't understand why money come to some people. Why some are rich and why some are poor.

- There is a reason why rich countries became rich and why poor countries remain poor. You need understanding to know why rich are richer and poor are poorer.
- But when the spirit of understanding is gotten, it tells you why rich are rich and the poor are poor. There are causes of poverty. Why countries are poor.
- If you want to be rich do not borrow money. God can give you strength for wealth. Strength for money. Knowledge about money. Developing countries want the money of America and but does not want the wisdom of America.
- It takes the anointing to be wealthy. It takes the grace; it takes the Holy Spirit. You will have the highest level of wealth. You want nothing. You despise money. That is the Spirit of Jesus. The higher you go in the LORD money is not the issue.
- When Jesus died, He had nothing. He handed His mother to John. He had no wealth. He had no wife. That is the highest kind of wealth. Anointing to build. Anointing for construction. You will build churches till you die due to the anointing to build.
- The greatest wisdom is not to build a church. Jesus never built a church. Jesus never bothered to build any house. He built in the hearts of people. That is the highest form of building.
- Healing anointing. You need to understand why people are sick. They are sick because some of them are cursed. If you don't understand why people are sick, you will pray over them and nothing happens. Because there is a reason why the problem is there.

- Shepherd anointing. Understand why church members behave the way they behave. You need the spirit of knowledge. Learn the patterns of Jesus. The Jesus way ministries.

CHURCH GROWTH

Jesus and worldwide vision

- Is the church moving in circles or it's moving forward? The is a question every pastor must answer. Jesus has a vision of expanding the church from Jerusalem to Judea, and then to Samaria right to the uttermost parts of the world.
- Jesus sees the church as advancing way down in two thousand years ago. He commanded His disciples to preach the gospel to every creature. This includes all humans and natural resources such as r=rivers, mountains, tress and animals among others.

How to start a church – church planting

- Jesus Himself came to preach. He preached repentance and the kingdom being at hand. To plant churches, do what Christ came to do; follow the instructions of Christ and a church will be born. The church will advance if only we will.
- We advance the church under the power of the Holy Spirit. As we preach the gospel; and teach the disciples; and witness for Christ; we will see churches being born.

Mark 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Why are pastors not obeying?

- They want to please people. They think the bigger your congregation the more important you become. Therefore, they like sitting at one place expecting God to do some kind of wonders to bring more people to the church.
- Jesus did not say sit at one place and the people will come. He said “Go ye therefore and make all nations my disciples.” The “go ye” has turned to become “sit ye” and we cannot fulfil the great commission with such mind set.
- Some pastors are deceived into thinking that the those with larger congregations will be the most important in heaven and will receive the noblest rewards.
- The pastors who will be the greatest in heaven are the humble and faithful ones. Those who were faithful in little things. Those who serve God in honesty and with a childlike heart.
- Some pastors have “super star” mentality. He is the only one everybody knows, acknowledges, and the one in town. This must not be. Pastors need training, all leaders and church volunteers need training. The humble will always submit to be trained.

Matt. 18:1-4 At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Matt. 25:19-21 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

- Those who will be great in the kingdom is clear in the passages above. Those who are humble; those who work hard; those who are faithful. Pastors with small congregations are likely to be humble than those with bigger congregations.
- The mounting population growth and the size of the world demands that pastors must from one location to another to multiply gatherings in other places. If you are really serious at obeying the Lord Jesus, then this is the time. Further waiting is disobedience.
- What we need is more congregations, more fruits and multiplying of souls. Souls were added daily in the early church. Why not today too? Let us plant more satellite churches at every door, village, towns and cities. Let all the nations be covered with churches.

- It's time to evangelize, start churches, teach those who come so churches can be established. If you evangelize without follow-up, churches cannot be established. It is important to teach or disciple the souls won, so churches can be established. Start planting churches in new territories where there are no churches. Reach the unreached and church the unchurched.
- Move to new areas where things are not working and are difficult. There are many unreached areas where Christ has called us to go. Take a step of faith now! Move now! Signs will begin to follow as you obey the great commission.

CHURCH PLANTERS

- If you want to become church planter, what should be your mindset? You need to have the mind of Christ be in you. Christ has His own way of thinking. If you want to do what he did, operate in His level of anointing, then it's important you let His mind dwell in you.
- If you want to become a church planter, there is a particular way your mind has to work. You don't have to think like the rest of the pastors. Think like Christ. Christ saw the harvest; he saw the people; he saw that they were without a shepherd; He saw the need to reach out to them.
- What do you see as you walk in the streets of your community? Church planters see like Christ; they have the mind of Christ.
- What do you see as you walk in the streets of your community? Church planters see like Christ; they have the mind of Christ. Christ saw the need to pray for more laborers to come into the harvest field.

Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Matt. 9:35-38 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and 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 on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.

Christ knows your mind

- Christ knows what you are thinking; Christ keeps monitoring your work; you stand accountable before God for whatever assignment He gave to you. One day you will stand before God and will answer questions. Everything shall be exposed because right down here, He knows your mind already. Church planters know this truth and they walk and comport themselves as such.
- Jesus was monitoring all the works of the seven churches in Asia Minor. He was walking within the seven candle sticks. He knows the works of every church, every church member and every pastor.

Rev. 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

Rev. 2:9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Rev. 2:13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

Rev. 2:19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

Rev. 3:1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Rev. 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

- Food for thought: Jesus did not say, I know your properties, lands, building, cars, local and foreign bank accounts, university degrees, political positions, and church positions among others. But he said, “I know your works.” Your works shall follow you right to heaven. Church planters know they will one day answer this question: “What do you do for Jesus Christ?”

Rev. 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed *are* the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.

Church planters go “the Jesus way”

- They make Jesus the number one in life. They don’t care losing everything for the sake of Christ. Christ Himself made Himself of no reputation, came down on earth and died to save sinful humanity.
- Church planters go all out for Christ. They go all the way for Christ. They know that whoever will save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for the sake of Christ will find it (Luke 9:24).

Church planting is good works

- After salvation, which is not by works, the next step Christ has commissioned and ordained us to do is church planting. These works were prepared before we were saved. The only reason you are alive is to do what God is expecting you to do, “Good works.”

Eph. 2:8-10 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Eternity never ends

- What you do on earth determines your position and reward in heaven. Consider being without reward in heaven and that is going to be eternal; how would you feel? Perhaps you had to chance to do great things for God; you could have made yourself a savior of men, but you did not.
- The houses you are building have no eternal value. What matters to you most on earth matters not in heaven. The more eternity conscious you are, the wiser you become. Awake o sleeper, and work for Christ now!

Eph. 5:14-17 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Dan. 12:3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

The sending church

- How is the strength of a church measured? Many have the perception that a church is measured by its seating capacity, the size and the number of the congregation. The more the people seated in the church, the stronger is the

church. It's considered a good church; a Holy Spirit filled church; and the pastor is considered anointed. This is wrong perception!

- The strength of a church is determined by its sending capacity. It's measured by moving from seating church to sending church. Therefore, if your church is small in number, and yet you are able to send missionaries, preachers, and church planters to other parts of the country and the world, you are stronger than the sitting church; sitting at one place and boasting of what their pastor can do among other things. Be a moving and a sending church from today. It's "Go ye" not "Sit ye!"

Acts 13:1-4 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

Church planters don't pursue vanities

- As you pursue the things of God, obviously, you avoid material things of the world which have no lasting value. When you die, nothing follows you. You leave your cars, houses, education, certificates, friends, families, travels, and anything you could ever imagined. This is a fact because all such things belong to the world.

- Being a church planter is only an opportunity given to you by God to be involved in His work. It's a high calling! None of the other works had been described as high calling apart from doing God's work. It's due to God's mercy that you have this divine calling.

Church planters avoid criticism

- Church planters don't have time to criticize their co-workers and co-pastors destructively. A stagnant water stinks but a flowing river is always fresh. Churches which have chosen to sit at one place stinks. Therein are lots of criticisms, infighting, disagreements, who is who, pointing accusing fingers, and time wasting. The reason is they have nothing to do. They can't see beyond the walls of the church. Therefore, go ahead, plant a church. Keep moving. And you will eventually discover your call.

The Jerusalem Church

- The Jerusalem church was the first church the apostles established. The apostles were the founder members of the Jerusalem church, and probably the 120 disciples gathered at the Upper Room. they were prosperous and flourishing church.
- There was massive growth in the church. The church was bounded by unique unity and brotherly care. They had great power and God made the church triumph over their enemies of Christianity.
- God's power was manifested in diverse ways. Unlike many churches today, they cared for the poor. But unfortunately, they did not obey the instructions of the great commission.

Acts 2:41, 44 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

Acts 4:4, 34-35 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand. Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

Acts 5:12-16 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed everyone.

The Antioch Church

- The church of Antioch was a sending church. It was not a sitting church like the church in Jerusalem. They did not sit down to be awakened by persecution before going into missions. It was started by some disciples from Cyrene and Cyprus.

Acts 13:2-3 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

- It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians. It was a dynamic church. It was a center of revival and great awakenings. Barnabas was sent from Jerusalem to help.
- Barnabas decided to get Paul to join the revival. Paul felt more comfortable with the church in Antioch Chapel International than the Jerusalem Christian Center. It was from Antioch that Paul and Barnabas embarked upon the first missionary journey in the history of the church.

Acts 11:22-26 Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord. Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

- There were many prophet, teachers and missionary minded people in Antioch than in the Jerusalem church which was not so keen on reaching the then world with the Gospel.

Acts 13:1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

- The Antioch church obeyed the voice of the Holy Spirit without delay. The boldly sent out the best apostles to as missionaries to plant churches. Paul and Barnabas did not see much power when they were in Antioch. It was when they moved out that they experienced signs and wonders. The miracles recorded in the book of Acts are the result of church planting.

Acts 13:2-3 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

- The great difference between the church in Antioch and the Jerusalem church was their response to the command of Christ. The Antioch church exactly the same command to plant churches as the Jerusalem church did. May we follow the example of the Antioch church. May we take instructions for church planting as urgent. No more delay!

If God became man

- What would He have done if God were to be man? Will do what men are doing? Will He have committed sin? Would He have fallen sick and died? Will He have travelled and involved in accident? Would He have built buildings including factories, universities, houses, accumulated huge sums of monies

in the banks, bought properties, send His children to the best colleges? Will He have become world President?

- If God became man, would he have the same priorities as man? Would He have done things differently? And finally, has God come to this world before?
- Yes!
- God entered this world in the person of his Son Jesus Christ. His entrance into the world was unique. Jesus was sinless till the day of His death, resurrection and ascension.
- By critically examining brief life of Christ on earth will give us answers to all the above questions. Hence, if God were to be man, He would have died and saved us from our sins. He did this through His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus was selfless. Apart from the atonement, Jesus came to preach, teach and healed sick people.

Matt. 9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

- Jesus went about teaching, preaching and healing every sickness. This is the highest form of ministry and it's what the Lord has called the church to do. Any different thing is short of this mandate and not accepted by God. the church has to plant church, preach, teach and heal the sick.

CHURCH PLANTING AND PREACHING

- Nobody can be saved without preaching. How can they hear without a preacher? Jesus came to preach repentance, believing in the Gospel and the urgency of the kingdom of God.

Mark 1:14-15 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

- John the Baptist preached about faith, repentance, remission or forgiveness of sins. Both Jesus and John were serious preachers of sin and repentance. What the message of the church today. It's through preaching that sinners are saved and churches are planted.

Luke 3:2-3 Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

- The apostle Paul came to preach to the gentiles the unsearchable riches of God. he preached that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom he is the chief. He declared that woe unto him if he preaches not the Gospel.

Eph. 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.

1Tim. 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

1Cor. 9:16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

- The preaching of Jonah was able to convert a city of 120,000 people. Jonah did not lay hands nor anoint people with oil. There was not any remarkable miracle except the transformation of the 120,000 lives. Human beings and even animals repented in sack cloth and ashes. This is the kind of preaching anointing the church needs in these last days.

Jonah 3:1-3 And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.

Jonah 3:4-5 And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

Jonah 3:6-7 For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered *him* with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he caused *it* to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water

Jonah 4:11 So why shouldn't I be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 human beings who do not know their right hand from their left, as well as a lot of livestock?

- The first thing Peter and the eleven apostles did immediately after the Pentecost experience was to preach the Gospel to the masses from the diaspora. The preaching of Peter founded the first church.

Acts 2:14 Then Peter stood up among the eleven apostles and raised his voice to address them: "Men of Judea and everyone living in Jerusalem! You must understand something, so pay close attention to my words.

Acts 2:37 When the crowd that had gathered heard this, they were pierced to the heart. They asked Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

Acts 2:38-41 Peter answered them, "Every one of you must repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus the Messiah for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the Holy Spirit as a gift. For this promise belongs to you and your children, as well as to all those who are distant, whom the Lord our God may call to himself." Using many different expressions, Peter continued to testify and to plead with them, saying, "Be saved from this corrupt generation!" So those who welcomed his message were baptized. That day about 3,000 people were added to their number.

Preaching is God's power

Rom. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is God's power for the salvation of everyone who believes, of the Jew first and of the Greek as well.

Psalm 107:20 He issued his command and healed them; he delivered them from their destruction.

Preaching saves life

Acts 16:30-33 he took them outside and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you and your family will be saved." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and everyone in his home. At that hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds. Then he and his entire family were baptized immediately.

Prov. 4:20-22 My son, pay attention to my words, and listen closely to what I say. Do not let them out of your sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body.

CHURCH PLANTING AND TEACHING

Differences between teaching and preaching:

- Teaching comes to exhort but teaching comes to instruct.
- Preaching ministers to the soul whilst teaching ministers to the mind and the spirit.
- Teaching has more lasting effects than preaching.
- Teaching is more difficult to absolve which preaching enters quickly and fades quickly.
- Preaching is moving and stirring whilst teaching slow with less response.
- Preaching is more demonstrative and impressive than teaching.
- Teaching is not popular as preaching. Most pastors and church members prefer preaching to teaching.
- Most people think preachers are more powerful than teachers.
- Teaching is more systematic than preaching and enables the church to grow steadily than preaching.
- The teaching of the Word is similar to planting a seed.

Effects of Jesus' teaching

- Teaching is powerful. It has direct effects over demons. demons cannot stand teaching ministry.

Mark 1:21-24 Then they went to Capernaum. As soon as it was the Sabbath, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were utterly amazed at his teaching, because he was teaching them like one with authority and not like their scribes. Suddenly there was a man in their synagogue who had an unclean

spirit. He screamed, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

- Teaching ministry has power to heal. It attracts people to come because the Word brings to sick life. Teaching under the anointing makes the teacher attractive. There are many accounts in the Gospel where people came to hear Jesus teach and to be healed of their plagues. Teaching ministry is enhanced by retiring to desert places and praying. Teaching ministry can attract people from different countries to the teacher. Teaching ministry can bring anointing to the teacher.

Luke 5:15-16 But the news about Jesus spread even more, and many crowds began gathering to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. However, he continued his habit of retiring to deserted places and praying.

Luke 6:17-19 Then Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place, along with many of his disciples and a large gathering of people from all over Judea, Jerusalem, and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Even those who were being tormented by unclean spirits were being healed. The entire crowd was trying to touch him, because power was coming out from him and healing all of them.

- Teaching affects the root cause of sicknesses and brings healing afterwards. According to Jesus, the Word of God is spirit and life. They can enter into every part of the body, soul and spirit. The Word of God is living and

powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword. It divides the soul and the spirit asunder.

Prov. 4:20-22 My son, pay attention to my words, and listen closely to what I say. Do not let them out of your sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh accomplishes nothing. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

Heb. 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul and spirit, joints and marrow, as it judges the thoughts and purposes of the heart.

- The Word of God is light. It is the easiest way to cast out demons because they dwell in darkness. Demons cannot stand the light of God's Word. As the Word is taught, lives are transformed. It is the reason why the devil does not want Christians to listen to Bible studies and God's Word. Teaching is God's way to grow a church after it is planted.
- Teaching is like planting a seed. It germinates and grows and gives strength to the church. It produces more workers and volunteers for church growth. Teaching lasts longer than preaching so teach more.

Mark 4:14 The sower is he who sows the word.

CHURCH PLANTING AND TENT MAKING

- Tent making is the art of doing part time work to support the financial needs of ministry. It happens where the tent maker cannot leave his full-time secular work into full-time ministry.
- Tent ministry is equal to lay ministry. It is possible to combine secular work with lay ministry. It is one of the extensive ways of church planting. In the tent making ministry, several pastors and evangelists work hard without being paid.
- Tent making enhances the ministry of every church and reduces the budget of the church. People must be taught how to work without being paid. It's not in every church that pastors can be paid. Some churches are too poor to pay pastors and lay ministers. That is the reason why tent making ministry is important in some circles.

Paul was a tent maker

- Tent making is the ability to combine secular work with real ministry calling. The best example is the tent ministry of Apostle Paul, Aquila and Priscilla.

Acts 18:1-4 After these things Paul departed from Athens and came to Corinth and found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla (for Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome) and came unto them. And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them and worked, for by their occupation they were tentmakers. And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath and persuaded Jews and Greeks.

Combination of tent making and secular ministry

- Tent making is a ministry in which you support yourself in ministry. It is possible to combine secular work with ministry. Paul was a pioneer in church planting among the gentiles. He was able to accomplish great things for the Lord whilst he supported himself with the tent making ministry. The tent making ministry is more important in church planting today considering the financial crises churches face.
- The fact is those who preach the Gospel must live by the Gospel. But it seems this principle is not forthwith applied in many churches. It was ordained by the Lord.

1Cor. 9:14 Even so the Lord has ordained that those who preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

Daniel and tent ministry

Daniel in the old Testament had three secular jobs in addition to his calling as a prophet.

(1). He was a member of parliament for the province of Babylon.

Dan. 2:48 Then the king magnified Daniel and gave him many and great gifts and made him governor over the whole province of Babylon and prince of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.

(2). He was the second Vice President to Belshazzar.

Dan. 5:29 Then Belshazzar commanded, and they clothed Daniel with purple and put a chain of gold about his neck and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

(3). He was the Prime Minister during the reign of Darius.

Dan. 6:1-2 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty governors who should be in all the kingdom; and over these three presidents, of whom Daniel was first, that the governors might give accounts unto them, and the king should not be bothered.

- Being a tent maker or a full-time minister can both be the will of the Lord. Actually, the right thing to do is to be fully supported by the Church. On the other hand, it's equally right to be self-supporting in ministry. It is important to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit to know to do exactly.
- Paul as an apostle went through good times bad times. He was supported and sometimes received no support. He knew how to abound and how to abase. Yet the most important thing is that he could do all things through Christ who gives him the strength.

Phil. 4:12-13 I know both how to be humbled, and I know how to have an abundance; in everything and by all things I am instructed, both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

- Tent making is the best for some people. Tent ministry could be one of the best ways to do ministry to some people. Some people can do secular ministry during the week days but get involved into church ministry perhaps on Sundays. Paul did likewise

Acts 18:3-4 And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them and worked, for by their occupation they were tentmakers. And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath and persuaded Jews and Greeks.

Paul was a pace setter in tent ministry

- Paul was a pace setter in tent ministry. He urged the Ephesian church leaders as well as the church leaders in Thessalonica to follow his footsteps. Paul and his team wanted to set an example in tent ministry to the Thessalonians.

Acts 20:32-36 I now place you in God's care. Remember the message about his great kindness! This message can help you and give you what belongs to you as God's people. I have never wanted anyone's money or clothes. You know how I have worked with my own hands to make a living for myself and my friends. By everything I did, I showed how you should work to help everyone who is weak. Remember that our Lord Jesus said, "More blessings come from giving than from receiving." After Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed.

2Thess. 3:7-9 You surely know that you should follow our example. We didn't waste our time loafing, and we didn't accept food from anyone without paying for it. We didn't want to be a burden to any of you, so night and day we worked as hard as we could. We had the right not to work, but we wanted to set an example for you.

- Paul was not a reverend minister who sat at one place expecting tithes from poor church members. He was an anointed and a powerful church planter. Paul wasn't inferior to the other apostles. He was even a notable apostle among them who wrote thirteen of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament. Tent ministry can be just as fruitful as full-time ministry. Some pastors are full-timers yet are no-where near some tent making ministers.

IMPACT OF TENT MINISTRY

- Tent ministry helps the tent maker to avoid being a burden to the church and his host. Many full-time workers have become a burden to their small churches, and this is preventing the church from growing. The budget is strangled, and such churches cannot initiate new projects. Even your presence in certain homes can be a burden to them. Certain individuals are even burdened by the bills of the pastor. Listen to Paul:

2Thess. 3:8 and we didn't accept food from anyone without paying for it. We didn't want to be a burden to any of you, so night and day we worked as hard as we could.

- Tent ministry will make you survive any condition especially when you are not paid by the church. Projects cannot be slowed down because of you. Missionaries and other workers can be sent because you are not a burden. Thus, your paid allowances can be used to sponsor other church budget. Baby Christians who talk about pastors' allowances will have no cause to complain. To will make you free from all men.
- Huge donors in the church easily develop some bossy attitude and sometimes feel they can control the church. They dictate who should be done and what should not be done. They can even direct pastors what to do and even stop missions that the church has no money. Such attitude can be avoided if you are a tent maker.

1Cor. 9:16-19 I don't have any reason to brag about preaching the good news. Preaching is something God told me to do, and if I don't do it, I am doomed. If I preach because I want to, I will be paid. But even if I don't want to, it is still

something God has sent me to do. What pay am I given? It is the chance to preach the good news free of charge and not to use the privileges that are mine because I am a preacher. I am not anyone's slave. But I have become a slave to everyone, so that I can win as many people as possible.

- The tent ministry makes you do ministry your own. You step forward whether your mother church can finance you or not. There are some people with the calling but because their mother has not the resources, they get stuck. This is why tent ministry is important. Lack of finances cannot stop tent ministry. Paul said he is doomed if he preaches not the Gospel.

1Cor. 9:16 Preaching is something God told me to do, and if I don't do it, I am doomed.

- Tent making enables you to be partaker of a great ministry. Many have been called as tent makers and will continue to serve Christ as ay preachers. They not inferior to fulltime workers. It is a huge blessing to support yourself and yet make significant contribution in the kingdom. We all don't have the same calling. Some are apostles, others are not. The most important is to be a partaker in the ministry.
- Some church planters are able to work well with tent ministers more than full time pastors. And vice versa. Some combine the two. Know that the tent ministry involves a lot of sacrifice. I know some tent making pastors who have bought land for their churches, built cathedrals and are paying other full-time pastors of the ministry. Amazing!!!

- Any pastor who embarks upon tent ministry does a double work. Why? Because there are so many people who only support the church with their finances and go about doing their secular work. Whilst there are pastors who embark upon tent ministry and at the same work as pastors. If you are such a person, you have double blessing from double sacrifice.

Listen to the Apostle Paul, he surrenders his rights and he had double blessing from double sacrifice:

1Cor. 9:1-6 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to eat and drink? Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living?

1Cor. 9:7-12 Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

1Cor. 9:13-18 Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel. But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

- Tent ministry will make the tent maker give out his precious assets, money, time and all to the Lord. Every tent maker thinks first of the Lord than his or her personal welfare in his little world. Becoming less selfish means you are deeper with the Lord. That is the mind of tent ministry.

Phil. 2:20-21 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

- Tent makers are financial supporters of the church. Thus, they are self-funding what the church should have paid. Tent makers are a massive support base for the church. They don't only sponsor themselves but sponsor the weak and the poor as well.

Acts 20:35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

- Tent ministry can kill idleness and busy bodies in the church. There are people in the church when trained to do some work with their hands with their idle times, they can become profitable in the ministry.

2Thess. 3:11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

CHURCH PLANTING AND BARRENNESS

Credit: Bishop Dag Heward-Mills

- According Bishop Dag Heward-Mills, when barrenness is taken away, fruitfulness is always the result. Barrenness is the major cause for lack of church planting in modern Christian churches. Some pastors are barren. No matter what such pastors do, their ministry never flourish.

The concept of spiritual barrenness

- Spiritual barrenness affects church planting. The church can do several programs and activities, but there is no or little church planting. No church growth. No zeal for soul winning. This is a sign of spiritual barrenness.

Understand the following Hebrew and Greek words:

1. **AQAR:** The word means destructive of removal of productive organs. It is used in reference to Sarah, Zeleponi; the mother of Samson and Rebecca. Churches, pastors and individuals suffering from “AQAR” deficient in fruit bearing aspect of ministry. They can’t plant other churches. Such pastors and churches receive messages from other sources; become fat spiritually but cannot give birth to spiritual children.

As a pastor, the absence of crusades, soul winning programs, church planting activities, outreach, evangelism and witnessing are clear signs of spiritual barrenness (1Sam. 2:5; Gen. 11:30; Gen. 25:21; Deut. 7:14; Judg.13:2-3).

Gen. 11:30 But Sarai was barren (AQAR); she had no child.

2. **SHAKOL:** This means “to miscarry, to be bereaved of children. To be barren, to cast your young, to make childless.” To be desolate; sparse church auditorium; and such churches cannot keep the souls God gives to them.

Such churches cast their young, thus, they suffer spiritual abortions. It means such pastors cannot sustain new converts and church growth. They get more converts and visitors, but they have no programs to sustain them.

Pray for the visitors and new converts to come back. And when they come back, they should come with more people. Tell old church members to come with new people. Pray for your members to become ministers, and ministers to give birth to new converts. You need to send new pastors to plant new churches. When all these programs are not happening, then it’s a sign of a miscarriage (aborted) church (2Kings 2:19; Deut. 32:25).

Lev. 26:22 I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, and destroy your cattle, and make you few in number; and your high ways shall be desolate (SHAKOL).

3. **MELECHAH:** This word means “a salted land, a desert or barren land.” It speaks of no produce as a result of no life. The land is dead to any kind of seed.

People suffering from “MELECHAH” are spiritually salted lands. They are dead. In spite of what is poured into them, they are unable to bear fruit. Seeds cannot germinate in that land. Many people have been in church for

many years, they have been anointed and prayed for; they have heard many sermons, but still cannot bear fruit.

There are also salted churches. No matter the messages poured into such churches, there is no growth. Until the salted land is healed, there will be no fruit (Psalm 107:34; Jer. 17:6).

Jer. 17:6 For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land (MELECHAH) and not inhabited.

2Kings 2:21-22 And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the LORD, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land. So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of Elisha which he spake.

- Break out from the salt state and begin to bring forth or give birth to other pastors. You can begin to give birth to other churches from today. A salted land can be corrected. Pray for the Lord to open your eyes to know the real thing blocking the growth of the church and deal with it.
4. **OTSER:** It means “to close up, restrain and retain.” This type of barrenness makes people to hold back. They don’t give out what they receive. They refuse to be fruitful. Pastors and churches with “OTSER” barrenness have the money and resources to plant more churches but they simply refuse to do it. They use their resources for other things outside soul winning and church growth.

Others can do many things for the Lord but they retrain and hold back their God-gifted talents. They have time for education taking MBAs and PhDs but not God's work.

Prov. 30:16 the grave, a barren (OTSER) womb, a land that never gets enough water, a fire that does not say, "Enough!"

5. TSIYAH: This word speaks of being "parched and barren." It speaks of drought, a dry land and a wilderness." This is a church often dry of the Spirit. It's a type of wilderness without prayer and worship. It is very secular and uses logical approach to spiritual issues.

Introducing new way of worship is met with opposition. Sometimes changing the worship leader or the pastor can bring a major change in the church. Worship songs and messages about soul winning can bring church growth. Do not wait forever to make the changes you need to make (Psalm 63:1).

Isaiah 41:18 I will make rivers flow on bare hilltops. I will make springs flow through valleys. I will turn deserts into lakes. I will turn dry land (TSIYAH) into springs.

Two Greek words for barrenness

6. **STEIROS**: This word means "to be stiff and unnatural." Stiffness speaks of people who are unyielding and disobedient to the Word of God. such people like to look diplomatic; they pretend to be spiritual but in reality they are not.

Such unspiritual and stiff people normally sit up front and their presence make church atmosphere stiffer. This does not allow growth. Growing churches are full of lively, exuberant and excited dancing atmosphere. Stiff people are deep freezers enhancing a cold atmosphere. Remove them (Luke 1:7, 36; Luke 23:29; Gal. 4:27).

Luke 1:7, 36 And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, (STEIROS) and they both were now well stricken in years. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

7. **ARGOS:** The word means “inactive, unemployed, useless and lazy.” It also means slow and barren. Laziness is one of the principal causes of unfruitfulness in ministry. Lazy people are inactive in church. Their laziness makes them useless to God.

Churches which are made up inactive and lazy people will not grow. To break this type of barrenness, it is important to teach on diligence and how to win souls.

2Pet. 1:8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

DETECTING BARRENNESS

Follow the dictionary definition if you want to understand, know and diagnose barrenness. To be barren means:

1. To be unfruitful.
2. To be sterile.
3. To be childless or heirless.
4. To be lacking or poor in production.
5. To be not conceiving at all or not producing at all.
6. To produce in small quantities.
7. A barren land is a waste land.
8. Barren trees do not produce normal fruits.
9. Barrenness speaks of bleakness.
10. Barrenness speaks of dryness.
11. To be depleted.
12. To be deserted.
13. A barren land is a scanty land.
14. Barrenness sometimes mean dullness.
15. A barren individual does not produce after his kind.
16. Barrenness means without the power of conception.
17. Barren places are impoverished (bankrupt).
18. Barrenness can be described as not being Copious (abundant).
19. Barren places are un-tillable (unworkable, cannot be cultivated).

BARRENNESS IN THE CHURCH

Credit: Bishop Dag Heward-Mills

Barrenness exists in a church if any of the following is happening:

1. If there is no growth in church numbers.
2. If there is no converts; if there is no growth in the number of new converts.
3. If there is no growth in church attendance.
4. If there is no growth in full-time workers.
5. If there is the absence of healing and miracles.
6. If there is no growth in the number of people baptized.
7. If there is no growth in church leaders.
8. If there is no increase in the knowledge of God.
9. If there is no growth in relationships.
10. If there is no growth in visions.
11. If there is no growth and no program to send out missionaries.
12. If there is no growth in church finances.
13. If there is no growth in Bible studies and devotional life of members.
14. If there is no growth in ministry experience.
15. If there is no growth in prayer life.
16. If there is no growth in challenges to strengthen members.
17. If there is no growth for greater vision.
18. If there is. No growth in sister churches.

Prophetic words to break from barrenness

Isaiah 54:1-8 Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD. Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.

Isaiah 54:4-6 Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood anymore. For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God.

Isaiah 54:7-8 For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer.

FIGHTING BARRENNESS

Fighting barrenness of old age

- Sarah stands for old age. She stands for a church which had been in existence for a long time and still remains the same. Again, you could consider Sarah to be a type of church, or pastor, or member of a church who is not bearing fruit as it ought to be. Sarah could be likened to a wilderness kind of church in which there is no life.

Spiritual lands differ

- In church planting, locations are very important. Sarah's land was barren whilst Keturah's land was fruitful. When Abraham married Sarah, she was not able to have children for 24 years.
- But when the same Abraham married Keturah after the death of Sarah, she had five more sons (Gen. 25:2) and other grandchildren. Thus, Keturah's son, Midian, gave birth to other five sons (Gen. 25:4). It means any daughter church that you plant should be able to give birth to other daughter churches; and daughter churches too must give birth to other daughter churches.
- For example, Jokshan, Keturah's second son begat two sons. One of his son's was Dedan, who begat three other sons. It means Keturah had great grandsons. Your church should not die, she should have great, great, great grand-daughter churches up to infinity.
- That is why it is called church planting. Per the laws of nature, whatever is planted does not have to die. The natural environment has the dynamics to

sustain nature. Your church should not be different. Spiritually, the environment must sustain church planting and church growth.

Gen. 11:30 Abram married Sarai, but she was not able to have any children.

Gen. 25:1-2, 4 Then again Abraham took a wife, and her name was Keturah. And she bare him Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah. And Jokshan begat Sheba, and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, and Letushim, and Leummim. And the sons of Midian; Ephah, and Ephher, and Hanoch, and Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah.

Do not overcome barrenness the wrong way

- The pastor must lead the church to win souls and bear fruit. The pastor should not be like Sarah who shifted responsibility of childbearing to Hagar, the Egyptian. Do not attempt to overcome barrenness the wrong way. Every pastor and church can bear children and become fruitful.
- If you shift responsibility of fruit bearing to another person, eventually, when the person bears fruit and does what you cannot do, he may despise you. Stop delegating soul winning and church planting work to your associates and other leaders. Begin to lead.

Gen. 16:1-4 Abram's wife Sarai had not been able to have any children. But she owned a young Egyptian slave woman named Hagar, and Sarai said to Abram, "The LORD has not given me any children. Sleep with my slave, and if she has a child, it will be mine." Abram agreed, and Sarai gave him Hagar to be his wife. This happened after Abram had lived in the land of Canaan for ten years. Later, when Hagar knew she was going to have a baby, she became proud and was hateful to Sarai.

Prophetic words can break barrenness

- Do not reject the prophetic word. Sarah thought her days of childbearing were over when the prophetic word came to her. She laughed within her thinking she was old as well as her husband. Never reject or ignore prophetic words given to you before you started the ministry or whilst in ministry.
- Prophetic words can change your life project your ministry into higher heights. Sarah's name was changed from "Sarai" to "Sarah" which means mother of nations. No more a single mother but universal mother. Yours too is a universal ministry.

Gen. 18:12 So she laughed and said to herself, "Now that I am worn out and my husband is old, will I really know such happiness?"

Gen. 17:15-16 Abraham, your wife's name will now be Sarah instead of Sarai. I will bless her, and you will have a son by her. She will become the mother of nations, and some of her descendants will even be kings.

- At 90, Sarah behaved like a youthful lady and had sex with youthful Abraham who was hundred; and they gave birth to Isaac. Pastor, be youthful, be zealous, be on fire and on power. Don't behave like a 90-year-old man if you want to break the barrenness barrier. At age 90 and 100, Sarah and Abraham gave birth, how much more you, who is young and energetic. You can give birth to churches.

Gen. 21:1-2 And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken. For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

- Familiarity with the man of God can result in barrenness in ministry. Familiarity cuts off the anointing. It is one of the greatest impediments to the anointing. Michal suffered from familiarity towards David, her husband. That resulted in her barrenness for life. If you disrespect the anointing on the life of your pastor due to familiarity, it can bring ministry barrenness.

2Sam. 6:20-23 David went home so he could ask the LORD to bless his family. But Saul's daughter Michal went out and started yelling at him. "You were really great today!" she said. "You acted like a dirty old man, dancing around half-naked in front of your servants' slave-girls." David told her, "The LORD didn't choose your father or anyone else in your family to be the leader of his people. The LORD chose me, and I was celebrating in honor of him. I'll show you just how great I can be! I'll even be disgusting to myself. But those slave-girls you talked about will still honor me!" Michal never had any children.

- Familiarity prevented Jesus from doing what He should have done in His hometown. Familiarity is the greatest hinderance to receiving god's power from God's men. Jesus was greatest healer and teacher, yet His anointing was neutralized by the presence of familiar people. Familiarity in the church will stop that church from planting other churches and also from growing spiritually.

Mark 6:1-3, 5 Jesus left and returned to his hometown with his disciples. The next Sabbath he taught in the Jewish meeting place. Many of the people who heard him were amazed and asked, "How can he do all this? Where did he get such wisdom and the power to work these miracles? Isn't he the carpenter, the son of Mary? Aren't James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon his brothers? Don't his sisters still live here in our town?" The people were very unhappy because of

what he was doing. Jesus could not work any miracles there, except to heal a few sick people by placing his hands on them.

Sick but anointed

Do not be deceived by the apparent weakness of a man of God. the weakness is intended by God to filter out unworthy recipients of the grace of God. Elisha was sick but anointed. Moses had impediment of speech yet anointed. The anointing still works irrespective of the physical weaknesses of the anointed. Paul had a thorn in the flesh yet he went to the third heavens.

2Kings 13:14-16 Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died. And Joash the king of Israel came down unto him, and wept over his face, and said, O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And Elisha said unto him, Take bow and arrows. And he took unto him bow and arrows. And he said to the king of Israel, Put thine hand upon the bow. And he put his hand upon it: and Elisha put his hands upon the king's hands.

2Kings 13:17-19 And he said, Open the window eastward. And he opened it. Then Elisha said, Shoot. And he shot. And he said, The arrow of the LORD'S deliverance, and the arrow of deliverance from Syria: for thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou have consumed them. And he said, Take the arrows. And he took them. And he said unto the king of Israel, Smite upon the ground. And he smote thrice, and stayed. And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice.

Dead but anointed

- Elisha was dying but still anointed. Elisha performed his last miracle on his death. You can even be dead and anointed. Believe it or not, the lingering

anointing on a dead prophet raised someone from the dead. It is easy to be deceived by the natural weakness of God's servants.

2Kings 13:20-21 And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year. And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet.

Use prayer to fight barrenness

- The missionary ministry of Paul and Barnabas were born out of prayer by the church of Antioch. The greatest church planters of the New Testament were born as they ministered unto the Lord with fasting and prayer. A praying church always leads to new ministries and church growth.

Acts 13:1-2 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

Acts 13:3-4 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

The prayer of Hannah

- Hannah was a type of barren church. She never remained in that state forever. She broke the power of barrenness by wrestling with God and

became very fertile. She gave birth to five children after Samuel. A church or pastor going through unfruitfulness must go the way Hannah went. Hannah did not expect what God did. It can be yours too.

1Sam. 1:13 Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken

1Sam. 2:21 She LORD took note of Hannah, and she became pregnant and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel continued to grow, and the LORD was constantly with him.

The prayer of Elijah

- The prayer of Elijah for rains to stop the famine is a timeless example of what a church suffering from spiritual barrenness can do. We already know that a fruitless land is a type of barrenness. Hence, praying fervently for the rains can cause the land to be watered and for plants to grow. Every barren church and pastor need to pray the prayer of Elijah.

James 5:17-18 Elijah was a person just like us, and he prayed earnestly for it not to rain, and rain never came to the land for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the skies poured out rain, and the ground produced its crops.

The prayer of Jacob

- Jacob wrestled with an unknown man throughout the night until his name was changed from Jacob to Israel. The seed of Jacob is still a force to reckon with in the 21st century. Unyielding prayers by barren churches and pastors can have a destiny effect.

Gen. 32:24 And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

The prayer of Moses

- Amalek is a type of enemy which fights against the church from behind and through laying ambush. Amalek ambushed Israel and started destroying her from behind. When the church is attacked from behind, it loses focus and makes church planting difficult. But Moses prayed on top of the mountain and Israel won. The church too can win the battle over barrenness.

Exodus 17:8-12 Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim. And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand. So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

Rebecca anointing

- Rebecca anointing solves the barrenness challenges of a church. “And they blessed Rebecca.” Your church has to be a blessed ministry. The pastor has to be blessed. A blessed church and a pastor can multiply to become a church for the nations. The church should become mother of thousands and millions. This is fruitfulness. The pastor has to multiply into “Multiply senior

pastors” to become overseers in churches in every nation. This is the “Rebecca Anointing.”

Gen. 24:60 And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them.

Obedience kills barrenness

- Obedience killed the Mosaic generation of Israel. This is the Egyptian generation which left Egypt and crossed the Red Sea. They could not enter into God’s rest. Another generation “the Joshua generation” took over from them. The major cause of barrenness in the church of today is disobedience.
- Over two thousand years ago, Jesus said, “Go ye” but we say, “Sit ye.” The church is dying as a result of sitting at one place for too long. No multiplication; no growth; no increase; no fruitfulness; the church is stagnant.

Reasons for not obeying

1. People think sacrifice is better than obedience.
2. People want to fully understand things before they obey.
3. People think obedience is not important.
4. People want to agree with the commander before they obey. No!!! You obey if you still don’t agree.
5. People want all conditions to be perfect before they obey. They want US dollars, vehicles, buildings before they go on to missions. Learn that God instructed Abraham to sacrifice his only son under imperfect conditions. Jesus sent the twelve not to carry gold nor silver.

Gen. 22:1-2 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

Matt. 10:9-10 Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.

6. Jesus has given a command to go but people think it is too simple. Jesus says we should teach the nations; preach to every creature; preach repentance and forgiveness of sins to the nations; we are sent as Jesus was sent by the Father; and that we should start from our Jerusalem to the ends of the world.

Matt. 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Luke 24:47-48 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things.

John 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

7. People don't know disobedience is more expensive and no amount of obedience could ever compensate disobedience. No sacrifice is acceptable by God if it is done in disobedience. Christians talk about the disobedience of Saul but never learn any lessons from it.

1Sam. 15:22-23 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

The disobedience of Joshua

- Joshua was given clear instructions to wipe out the inhabitants of the Promised Land. The rest of the leaders were including all the Levites were witnesses to these commands. Joshua was warned of the consequences to come if he disobeyed.

Numbers 33:55 But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell.

Joshua left key cities of the inhabitants of the land. He obeyed God in everything except in **Gaza, Gath** and **Ashdod**.

Josh. 11:18-21 Joshua made war a long time with all those kings. There was not a city that made peace with the children of Israel, save the Hivites the inhabitants of Gibeon: all other they took in battle. For it was of the LORD to harden their hearts, that they should come against Israel in battle, that he might destroy them utterly, and that they might have no favour, but that he might destroy them, as the LORD commanded Moses. And at that time came Joshua, and cut off the Anakims from the mountains, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the mountains of Judah, and from all the mountains of Israel: Joshua destroyed them utterly with their cities.

Josh. 11:22 There was none of the Anakims left in the land of the children of Israel: only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod, there remained.

Josh. 11:23 So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And the land rested from war.

- Joshua left three cities: Gaza, Gath and Ashdod. Each of these cities gave birth of formidable enemy for the children of God. these cities became a nursing place for future enemies of Israel. The LORD saw this in advance and if Joshua had listened. The god of Dagon where the Ark of the LORD was taken was in Ashdod. Goliath the Philistine came from Gath; and Delilah who brought Samson down came from Gaza.

Goliath of Gath

1Sam. 17:4 And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

Delilah of Gaza

Judg. 16:1, 4 Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her. And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah

Dagon of Ashdod

1Sam. 5:1-3 And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it from Ebenezer unto Ashdod. When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon. And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again.

May the LORD save us from our modern-day cities of Gath, Gaza and Ashdod.

JESUS CONTENDED WITH FIVE GROUPS

1. The Pharisees let's go back to the Old Testament.
2. The Sadducees let's go ahead, let's be very liberal, they don't believe in the resurrection; they believe only in the Torah.
3. The Herodians let's go with; let's cooperate with Rome
4. The Zealots let's go against Rome; kill every Roman you can find; stop every politician; one of Jesus' disciple was a Zealot
5. The Essenes let's go out; let's get out of here.

Today's church is going through similar encounters. For your church to grow, know how to contend with all the present-day Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians, Zealots and Essenes.

HOW CHURCH PLANTING BEGINS

1. Prepare yourself in prayers as a church planter.
2. Prepare the grounds through prayer.
3. Send advance team to do prayer mapping and study the culture. Sometimes Jesus send teams ahead of His visit.
4. Pray for the town, city or country.
5. Pray against satanic, demonic territorial strongholds.
6. Pray for the particular location; pray against any spiritual barrenness. Pray for sinners to come to Christ.
7. Prepare your pillars for witnessing and follow-up.
8. Two or three is enough to start with. Don't be discouraged with lower membership initially.
9. Don't be desperate!
10. Motivate them!
11. Use Gospel tracts and street evangelism. one

Luke 10:1 After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

WHY IS IT DIFFICULT TO START A CHURCH?

- Our societies have been infested by many smaller and mega churches. Sometimes it is intimidating if you are going to start a church under such environment. Especially, comparing what you are going to do with a mega church in the area can easily intimidate a new church planter.
- Pastors don't like starting a new church because they think they will not get space. You may feel this way until you get to the ground. God in His grace has a program and space for everyone who wants to start a new church. Souls are still there, and you have at least, 25% of them to win.
- Some pastors think they cannot do it and lack resources to match the new vision. Others think what they are going to do will not survive the test of time. Some are still waiting for opportune time. Take a step of faith now!
- Like the anointing, it is always not easy to start a church. Not many people find it easy to pioneer something new especially if it is small. Some want the short cut by fishing in somebody's fish pond whilst rivers, lakes and the seas are there.
- Neither should you demolish somebody's house and use the cement blocks to construct your own. You don't need to break somebody's church to start your own. Don't be a sheep stealer. Start your own and if called God has called you, He will proof your ministry.
- Another reason why it is difficult to start a new church is that you do not normally receive help from any of the bigger churches of the day. You may be ridiculed and opposed by friends. No man of God will give you approval. They may think you don't know what you are doing.

- Network of churches can be a huge advantage in church planting. If you start a micro church without a network of churches, it is difficult to increase membership. Church of Pentecost, Deeper Life Ministry, First Love Church and Light House Churches (by Bishop Dag Heward-Mills) have network of churches. It is easier to start a church under network of churches than a small church without network.
- When you ask some pastors the reason why they do not plant new churches, the answer you are given is sponsorship as the major hindrance. If the new church has not got the financial capacity to pay the pastor, they can choose to send a lay minister or a tent maker. Most churches don't use tent making ministers, so they are always financially handicapped. It makes starting new churches difficult.
- Do not be desperate for more offerings from your new church. A church of even twenty-five cannot support you, pay insurance and support your kids school fees. Get to do some tent making and at the right time, the same church can have more than enough to take care of its full-time ministers.
- Do not aim at starting a church with ten or twenty people. The minimum membership to start a church is two or three. That is the Jesus principle. If by reason of the anointing and God gives you more than the minimum, then praise God. but if not, do not be desperate. Do not think you have failed if yours is not as the other pastor you started church with at the same time. Even there are stories of some megachurches which started with one member.

Matt. 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

- Do not rush. Respect the process of time and life. Nothing grows overnight. Day and night start with the first minute at midnight. Seeds grow through time to become big trees and bear much fruit. Church planting as the name implies should indeed be planted. It goes through germination and systematic growth before being fully matured, and then bear much fruits. It's like a mustard seed, it will surely become a big tree one day.
- Jesus told us to ask the Father to provide more laborers into the harvest field. Train some of the members who are potential leaders to become pillars of the ministry. The disciples who graduated to become apostles were the pillars in the early church.

Matt. 4:18-22 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

Gal. 2:9 And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

- You can also recruit pillars for your ministry. Pillars are already matured Christians planted somewhere in other ministries. Pray the prayer of Jabez for the LORD to enlarge your coast. Ask the LORD to increase you with men like flock. Give birth to souls through travailing.

Psalm 2:8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

1Chron. 4:10 And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.

Ezek. 36:37 Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them; I will increase them with men like a flock.

Isaiah 66:8 Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

- Motivate yourself first then your audience. With the few people sitting in front of you as you begin a new church, you need to encourage them including yourself. They are still a church even if there are only three people sitting there.
- Let that little flock know that though their beginning is small, yet their latter end shall greatly increase. They should not despise the days of little beginnings for the end is always better than the beginning.
- Tell them they are privileged to be pioneers of a great church. Let them know the foundation of the building is the most important part so they are important, and their future is good. Be bold and shameless to declare the Word to them.
- Do not make the mistake of rebuking and shouting at them. Do not vent your frustrations on the few sheep. It is not their fault that the church is small. Preach faith! Preach hope! Preach about a better tomorrow.

Job 8:7 Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase.

Eccl. 7:8 Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

Zech. 4:10 For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.

- Being ashamed sometimes discourages pastors from continuing with a small church. Shamelessness must characterize all that you do. When people come and they see that you are bold and focused, they will be interested in coming. Shamelessness advertise your church.
- Another challenging area in church planting is follow-up and one on one evangelism. If your church is to grow, do not neglect these areas. Lead people to Christ anywhere you find them. By the road side, in the taxis, hospitals, homes and in the church. Sow whatever you want to reap. If you want souls, invest in souls, outreach, evangelism and crusades.

THE MEGA CHURCH

- Mega is something which is bigger, extra-large or mammoth. The command by Jesus for the church to preach the Gospel to every nation indicates that

Jesus has the entire world as His harvest field. Jesus was thinking we should fill His church with the whole world harvest. Jesus was thinking of mega harvest. In His day, He made this remark, “The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few” (Matt. 9:37).

- It is the vision of Jesus to fill His house with souls. It is God’s heartbeat. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son” (John 3:16). God had a worldwide vision by loving the entire world that He gave His only Son to save it. God did not aim at a particular people group but rather, all the people groups of the whole world. God is a cross-cultural missionary. God is unselfish. He wants the church to compel all to come to His Kingdom. God supports the mega church idea.

Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

WHY YOU NEED A MEGA CHURCH

1. Your church should be mega because that is God’s vision. God’s vision is the best and you too should aim at nothing but the best. God loved the whole world. He wanted the whole world to be saved and not just one country. God is mega church thinker. Mega church is the dream of every pastor.
2. Confessions bring possessions. What you speak is what you get. Life and death are in the power of the tongue (Prov. 18:21). What things so ever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them (Mark 11:24). If you desire and pray for church growth, you will have it. A growing church will help you overcome more challenges and fulfill the great commission than a dying church.

3. The fruits are always greater in number than the single seed planted. Your church, which is likened to a seed shall definitely have a greater end than the beginning. The glory of the latter house shall be greater than the former. God's Word has directed so it must be fulfilled in you.
4. Jesus Christ supported the mega church idea when He declared that the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few (Matt. 9:37). Pastors called by Jesus must have the same vision of a big harvest. It means we can still win the winnable and church the unchurched. Have a huge salary, nice car and packed auditorium does not mean the worldwide vision has ended. You have not still made it yet. Jesus says, "Go ye therefore into the whole world." The size of your church auditorium is the standard for the end time harvest. Let world outreach be your ultimate vision.
5. It is the will of God for His house to be filled. When the servant came and reported that there are still places in the banquet hall left to be filled, his lord to him to go back by passes and highways to compel to come. So long as there are still empty seats in your auditorium means you still have more winnable souls to be won. Don't sit idle.

Luke 14:21-22 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.

Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

6. Jesus is sending His church to the entire world. It's a worldwide vision and not a "one-man church vision." The field is the whole world and not your small village. Therefore, work according to the size of the world. The whole world is your space.

Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

7. The apostles did not have small churches. Peter preached and one day three thousand came to the Lord. Another time, he preached, and five thousand men came to the Lord aside women and children. In the early church, more members were added to the church. It some point it moved from additions to multiplications. This is the reason why you need a mega church. If they spoke in tongues and we are doing likewise; if they preached and we are doing likewise; then if they had mega churches, we should have same.

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Acts 4:4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

Acts 6:7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

8. You need a mega church before more workers produced as laborers for the end time harvest field. A mega church will have more apostles, prophets,

bishops, evangelists, pastors and teachers than a small church. Mega church wins more souls than a small church. They have the financial resources and greater cooperate anointing than a small church. They can do more work than a small church will do. A mega church can establish Bible schools to train more workers than a small church.

Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Matt. 9:37-38 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.

9. A mega church can pray more and have rapid and greater results. If five shall chase a hundred, a hundred shall put ten thousand to flight. Therefore, imagine a mega church with hundred thousand members praying all night!!!

Lev. 26:8 Five of you will chase a hundred, a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you.

10. The spiritual atmosphere of a large crowd and small crowd are not the same. The larger crowd comes with excitement, greater expectations and inspires hope and faith. A smaller crowd is sometimes discouraging, and people don't think they can feel the presence of God. In a mega church, the cooperate anointing put together charges the atmosphere than where one minister stands before a small group of twenty or less. Large crowds generate great

faith, power, and expect massive healings, miracles and bigger blessings. The apostles did not preach at one place, they preached everywhere, and the Lord confirmed their messages with signs following. Philip the evangelist attracted a whole of Samaria. Imagine the miracles.

Acts 8:5-8 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began to preach the Messiah to the people. The crowds, hearing his message and seeing the signs that he was doing, paid close attention to what was said by Philip. Unclean spirits screamed with a loud voice as they came out of the many people they had possessed, and many paralyzed and lame people were healed. As a result, there was great rejoicing in that city.

Mark 16:20 Then his disciples went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord kept working with them and confirming the message by the signs that accompanied it.

11. More souls can be won under mega churches. Several ministries can be formed with unique outreach program for each ministry to reach out to the lost every month. The singing ministry alone can range from children, teenage, junior youth, older youth to adult ministries. And all such ministries can organize special outreach programs to save the lost. This is the reason why we need mega churches.

1Thess. 1:8 From you the word of the Lord has spread out not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place where your faith in God has become known. As a result, we do not need to say anything about it.

12. Another massive advantage mega churches have over smaller ones is massive income generation for church work, social work, and preaching the

Gospel in any part of the world. A church with one million members can contribute more in offerings than a church with fifty members. As a pastor, it should be your dream to build mega churches. Even the lifestyle of the church members will improve; several connections such as getting employed (large pool of employers available in mega church), college admission, and other opportunities will be available to help the church members.

13. Special ministries such as prisons ministry, hospital ministry, ministry to orphans, ministry to the poor and beggars, schools ministry, ministry to the homeless, ministry to those with special needs such school for deaf, dumb and blind, ministry to those with severe physical handicaps among others could be created by a mega church. Mega church is also a good and big platform and opportunity for potential marriage partners to meet. It creates a bigger platform of contacts and connections.

Acts 4:34-35 For none of them needed anything, because everyone who had land or houses would sell them and bring the money received for the things sold and lay it at the apostles' feet. Then it was distributed to anyone who needed it.

14. Mega church can be a nation within a nation. It is fearsome and even politicians fear mega churches. They try to coerce pastors of mega churches to agree with them on national issues in order to have some kind of favor before them. Some politicians have made some leaders of mega churches their personal pastors because they fear them. Governments fear the power of mega churches.

Haggai 2:9 "The glory of this present house will be greater than was the former," declares the LORD of the Heavenly Armies. "And in this place I will grant peace," declares the LORD of the Heavenly Armies.'

Zech. 4:10 For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.

- In this end time God is not using person alone to plant mega churches. Planting mega churches is a wave led by God for the end time harvest of souls. It's not only "one Elijah" who was a prophet in good standing in Israel, there were other seven thousand prophets who have not bowed to Baal. Perhaps you may be one of the seven thousand prophets God is planning to use in this end time. Catch the latter-day spirit of mega church planting. Be part of the flow.

1Kings 19:14 "I've been very zealous for the LORD God of the Heavenly Armies," he replied. "The Israelis have abandoned your covenant, demolished your altars, executed your prophets with swords, and I, that's right, just me! Am the only one left. Now they're seeking my life, to get rid of me!"

1Kings 19:18 Nevertheless, I've reserved 7,000 in Israel who have neither bowed their knees to Baal nor kissed him."

RECEIVING THE ANOINTING

- How to receive the anointing is very important in church planting and church growth. The anointing is a factor that will make you accomplish the great commission. It will promote the ministry and bring it out to lime light. The

anointing is released and received in several ways and a few of them can be discussed in this section.

- Zerubbabel as governor of Judah came to build the temple. On the strength of that God told him it's not going to be by his strength but by the Spirit of God. the church too will not be built by any form power except by the power of Spirit of God.
- The church is not built by personality or handsomeness of the pastor. It is not built by college certificates and anything of human power and ingenuity. The church is different from all secular jobs which requires curriculum vitae from human sources. The church is different. Human qualifications, certificates, good physical appearances are good, but let's come to the same conclusion with the Word of the LORD from the prophet Zechariah to Zerubbabel that:

Zech. 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

- The substance of the power the Father anointed Jesus Christ with was the Holy Spirit. The same Holy Spirit formed the substance of the power which the apostles received on the day of Pentecost. the anointing is that inviable cloak or mantle that goes beyond human mind and eyes. It explains why some succeed and others do not succeed.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

- It was the Spirit of the LORD upon Christ that enabled Him to preach, teach, heal, cast out demons, and attracted people from all walks of life. After His fasting for forty days and nights, he came to Galilee with power and His fame spread over all the cities round about.
- Jesus pours the same anointing of the Spirit to all those who believe in Him if they seek for it. It is the reason why this subject of how to receive the anointing is important.

Luke 4:18-19 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Luke 4:14-15 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.

Matt. 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

RELEASING THE ANOINTING

After death anointing transfer

- All the men of God in the Bible died except Enoch and Elijah, and what happened to their anointing after they died? They died with it. A few of them had their anointing transferred to some few mentees close to them. Moses released some of his anointing to the seventy elders and Joshua. But he died with a greater unction of the anointing.
- Joshua died with the anointing he received from Moses. Samuel anointed king Saul and David but died with a greater amount of the unction. Samson died with his anointing. All the rest of the Judges died with their anointing. All the major writing and speaking prophets in the Bible died with their anointing.
- Elijah transferred double portion of the anointing to Elisha but was translated to heaven with the rest. Elisha never transferred his anointing to anyone. Even when he fell sick, he was still anointed. At death, Elisha was still anointed.
- When Jesus died and rose again, He instructed His disciples to wait for the promise of the Father until they are endued with power from on high. The Spirit of the LORD was upon Christ (Luke 4:18); the LORD anointed Jesus of Nazareth (Acts 10:38); but Jesus made sure the apostles received the same unction to function as His ambassadors. He said they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them and be His witnesses from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).
- After His resurrection, the anointing of Christ was transferred to the apostles. The religious people of the day knew that the apostles had been with Jesus.

It was clear the apostles had been transformed by the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 5:12-13 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.

Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Anointing from one person to another

- In this type the anointing is transferred from one person to another directly or indirectly. It can be directly transferred from the anointed by laying on of hands or by impartation to the receiver.
- Under the direct transfer of the anointing, the anointing is released when hands are laid. The presbytery laid hands on Timothy to receive the anointing. Samuel anointed both Saul and David through direct impartation.

1Tim. 4:14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

2Tim. 1:6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

- The apostle Paul received his anointing under indirect impartation. No apostle of the day ever laid hands on Paul to be anointed. It could be understood that Paul had his anointing through divine encounter.

1Tim. 2:7 Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

Anointing together

- There are different measures of the anointing and all these measures are transferable. The Mosaic portion has seventy measures which was divided and transferred to the seventy elders.

Num. 11:16-17 And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee. And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.

Num. 11:25 And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.

- Elisha received double portion of the Spirit on Elijah. The LORD takes the anointing on one man and shares it to one or more people. Elisha performed twice the miracles Elijah performed. Elijah performed 16 miracles whilst Elisha perform 32.

2Kings 2:9-10 And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And

Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.

- The portion of Elijah's anointing rested on John the Baptist. John the Baptist was acclaimed by Christ to be the greatest man ever born of women. John was filled with the Spirit of Elijah from the womb. Elijah and John operated under the same anointing but they both had notably different ministries. Elijah came to draw the hearts of the people back to God through the working of miracles. Whilst John came to draw the hearts of the children to the fathers through preaching the Gospel.

Luke 1:15-17 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

The Spirit without measure

- The Spirit without measure is for those God has sent. God sent Jesus and gave Him the Spirit without measure. The Spirit without measure is transferred by Jesus Christ to His church because He has sent the church. The great commission shows clearly that Jesus has already sent the church under the Spirit without measure.
- The Spirit without measure starts with the baptismal measure to the fullness of God. The baptismal measure is a riverlike portion which flows without end.

It's also measured in stages and degrees. For example, from the ankle level to knee level; from knee level to waist level; and from waist level to heart/chest level. The heart level is the highest level of the anointing. At the heart level, the receiver is moved, controlled and powered by the river. He goes to where the river flows. His flow and power are determined by the Spirit flow.

John 3:34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

Isaiah 11:2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

Luke 4:18-19 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Rivers as the Spirit without measure

- The Spirit without measure is identified with flowing rivers. It never ceases. Just as River Nile flows through 17 countries and ends in the sea at Cape Town; and River Amazon is 7,000 miles long and 240 miles wide enters the sea, so is "Rivers" the Spirit without measure.
- Rivers as Spirit without measure makes the believer unstoppable, unlimited, and unending. Like rivers, the believer has the capacity to affect many nations.

Per the message of Christ, rivers of living waters shall flow from the believer and provide eternal life and healing for many nations.

John 4:13-14 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 7:37-39 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.

Matt. 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

John 1:31-34 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

Acts 1:4-6 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they

therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

Acts 1:7-8 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 10:44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

Acts 11:15-16 And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

- The reason why releasing the Holy Spirit anointing is important is that we have to reach all nations fro Christ. Ministries reaching out of their Jerusalem to other nations are a sign that they have the anointing upon, the Spirit upon, flowing out as rivers to provide eternal life and healing to the nations in every part of the world.
- Churches which experience the well type of anointing enjoy staying at one place. They have no branches outside Ghana. But churches with the rivers anointing are reaching other nations. The same applies to pastors and other ministers like prophets, apostles and evangelists called by God. however, some of the prophetic and apostolic anointing working in the first church are being introduced in our times today. Catch yours!!! Take it by force!!!

Matt. 11:11-12 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

STEPS TO THE ANOINTING

Credit: Bishop Dag Heward-Mills

The principle of vessel change

- Certain commodities are put in certain vessels. You cannot put any commodity into any type of vehicle you find. It won't fit. You cannot put Mercedes Benz engine into Toyota vehicle body, and vice versa. Every manufacturer manufactures products by specification. You cannot put milk in tomato cans.
- Similarly, in the church as the body of Christ, all the members are spiritual vessels meant for the Lord's use. Some of the vessels are for noble purposes, and others for ignoble purposes. Particular anointings work well in certain vessels or personalities, and certain anointings do not work well in certain vessels or personalities.
- So, if you want Fanta anointing, be a Fanta bottle! Prophetic anointings come upon those with prophetic vessels. Apostolic anointing comes upon those apostolic vessels, and so on and on. We are all not prophets; neither are we all apostles. Different anointings have be apportioned to different vessels.

2Tim. 2:20-21 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonor. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

1Cor. 12:27-28 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

1Cor.12:29-31 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

- Elijah and John the Baptist operated under the same anointing, but the vessel was changed. Elijah's anointing operated in John's life because he was changed into a vessel that could receive it.
- Elisha's vessel and that of Gehazi were different. Gehazi could not change his vessel to suit that of Elisha so he could not receive the latter's anointing. Elisha eventually cursed Gehazi for his unethical behavior as a prospective prophet to step into the shoes of Elisha.

2Kings 5:26-27 And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and olive yards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants? The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed forever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.

- If you desire a particular anointing, God would mould you into the type of vessel that can contain that anointing. To be a great pastor, you need a vessel

that can contain knowledge, wisdom and leadership anointing. All that God is doing is preparing a vessel that can handle the anointing. This is the principle of vessel change.

- You need to be prepared to go through major changes before you can become a recipient of the anointing. Without remarkable vessel changes, it will be difficult to receive the anointing. Be prepared to go to the porter's house to be broken, molded, melted and remade for the Master's use.

Servanthood

- Throughout the Bible many received the anointing through this principle of servanthood. Moses was a servant of God and he received the anointing. Which was transferred to Joshua and the seventy elders. All the seventy elders were to serve the people. Joshua was a servant of Moses.
- Samuel served in the temple. He had enough anointing to anoint the first two kings of Israel, Saul and David. Elisha poured water on the hands of Elijah. Peter, John and James were servant of Christ. Even Jesus took upon Himself the form of a servant.

Josh. 1:1 Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying.

2Kings 3:11 But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD, that we may enquire of the LORD by him? And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, Here is Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah.

Numb. 11:17 And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.

John 15:15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

Phil. 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Follow the man of God closely

- Another important step to receive the anointing is to follow the man of God closely. People in the Bible who received the anointing followed a man of God. Joshua followed Moses to the end. Elisha followed Elijah closely to the end. The disciples followed Jesus until He was ascended. It was at the end that all these followers received the anointing.

Mark 3:14-15 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

- Joshua, Elisha all had physical association, close interaction with their anointed leaders. Elisha physically poured water on the hands of Elijah and ministered unto him. Such close association leads to the transfer of the anointing.

1Kings 19:21 And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the

people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.

- Following the words of anointed men lead to receiving the anointing. Elijah told Elisha, “follow me” (1Kings 19:20); “if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so” 2Kings 2:10. Elisha followed these words of Elijah to the end.

2Kings 2:11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

- The disciples followed the words of Christ closely because Jesus told them His words contain spirit (anointing) and life. As you soak in the words of Christ, or any anointed man of God, the anointing can enter into you. The Word of God is able to impart an anointing into you. It happened also to Ezekiel the prophet.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Ezek. 2:2 And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me.

- Walk closely with the man of God until you receive the anointing. Elisha walked closely with Elijah until God parted them both asunder. The disciples walked with Jesus until the ascension separated them.
- **2Kings 2:11** And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

Impartations

- It is important to catch the anointing by praying and desiring for it. However, God's plan is not the same. Sometime the methods vary. The anointing is a gift the Father wants to give to His children.
- Laying on of hands by the leadership or anointed men of God is another sure way to step to receive the anointing. Timothy received the gift through the laying on of hands. The disciples also received the anointing or the Spirit when Jesus breathed on them.

Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

2Tim. 1:6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

John 20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

Sow into the life of an anointed man of God

- The great woman of Shunem showed kindness to Elisha. She built a house and provided daily meals for the man of God, and she was dully rewarded. Certain women ministered unto Jesus and some had the opportunity to be the

first to see Jesus after His resurrection. Mary poured alabaster box of ointment on the feet of Jesus and she was dully rewarded. Abraham chose to honor Melchizedek and he was fully rewarded.

Gen. 14:18-20 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the Most High God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

COMMITMENT AND CHURCH GROWTH

TYPES OF COMMITMENT

- Commitment is very important in church planting and church growth. To catch the anointing demands commitment. Your ministry and calling cannot reach certain greater levels without a certain degree of commitment.

(1) WEAK COMMITMENT

- Those who remain committed because things are good and ministry is successful.
- When ministry is not flourishing you don't see them.
- John Mark deserted Paul and Barnabas when he was needed most.

Acts 13:5 And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.

Acts 13:13 Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem

(2) SITUATIONAL COMMITMENT

- Some people could not commit themselves to Jesus due to what and where He was directing them to.
- Some are committed or not due to church location.

Luke 9:57-60 And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but

the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

Luke 9:61-62 And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

- Church members should be committed to you no matter their circumstances.
- Church members should not be members because of their circumstances.
- If parents stop coming to church children should not stop.
- Your situation should not permit you to come to church or not.
- Come to church no matter your circumstances

(3) STRONG COMMITMENT

- At this level of commitment, church members are not moved by hurts, conflicts, separation and distance.
- Members at this stage are dependable. They become friends of the church.

- **John 6:60-61** Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?
- Some of other disciples of Jesus were hurt and left.
- But the disciples stood their ground.

- **John 6:66-69** From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

DEVELOPING A STRONG CHURCH

- You place your church in a strategic position if you are able to make them strong and matured. To have a strong and matured church, the pastor himself must first be strong and a matured person.
- The pastor must make positive confessions about the church even if it is a small ministry. If the flock is small in number, he should preach like a thousand people sat in front of him. On the other hand, church members and the associate pastor (if there is any) should also say good things about the pastor.
- The pastor should say good things about the church members. Don't declare publicly that you do not want any of them in your house and you have nothing to do with them. The church members should equally say good things about themselves and their pastor. This builds a strong church.
- Encourage small group fellowships and ministries. Encourage employers to hire church members; encourage church members to apply for work within the church. Encourage church members to develop friendship and marry each other. To develop a strong church, become a friend and a father to the church. Show interest in things that concern the church members. Empathize with them. Let them see that you care.

RETENTION OF SOULS

- Souls are retained in the church by opening the front door and closing the back door. In some churches, the front door is closed, and the back door is opened. Such churches cannot add souls to the church, rather, souls leave the church every now and then.
- One major ingredient of church planting and how the church grows is the retention of souls that are won directly or indirectly into the church. Get the people to stay. Jesus never encouraged waste. Ignoring souls coming into the church equals waste of efforts God is making to bring in people whose hearts have been touched by the Spirit to come.
- As a church and as a pastor, learn how to keep what you already have and try at all cost to retain new ones coming. Some churches do not have problem getting people in. but the challenge is getting them to stay. And in some churches, they cannot even get new one in, rather, they some of the existing or old members.
- As a pastor having a church, be interested in every single member if you want to build a mega church. “little droops of water create a mighty ocean.” English proverb. It is winning one soul after another that builds a mega church. Mega church is not built in a day. It goes through passage of time.
- Jesus never wasted the fragments, He gathered them, and they amounted to twelve baskets. It is one fragment after another, one basket after another that totaled twelve in all. That should be the principle of every mega church thinker. You don’t throw away your fragments. You do not throw away what other pastors and churches will throw away. Let your eyes follow every soul in the church. If someone did not come to church, create a system to follow

the person up. He told His disciples to gather the fragments. Have a team to follow absentees up.

John 6:12 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

- It was the principle of Jesus that “None should perish.” Follow Jesus! If none perish and you don’t care as a pastor, then forget about church growth. Church growth is a very meticulous work. It involves hard work.

John 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none.

- Count the members every day. How did the shepherd on the hundred sheep got to know that one was lost? He counted them. If he had not counted them, he would never have known that one was missing. After discovering that one did not come, he left the ninety-nine in pursuance of the lost one. He never came home until he found the sheep and carried it upon his shoulders. It’s a sign of treating his lost sheep well. It was not time to punish the sheep for going wayward, rather, he treated the lost and found sheep gently and with respect. Angels rejoice if one lost soul is added to the church. When the church gets money, no angel rejoices, but when souls are saved, angels rejoice. Which way would you go?

Luke 15:4-5, 7 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his

shoulders, rejoicing. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Follow up

- Follow-up demands active involvement supported by prayer by the pastor and church members. Sometimes we have to go to farms and weed for some of our new converts. Other times too we iron their attire whilst they get ready with other household chores until they are ready. Sometime too they will tell you to take lead, but they will never arrive at the church grounds. It is the main reason why you need to back it up with prayer.
- It is important you locate the homes of these new converts. If not, you will find it difficult to know their whereabouts if they absent themselves from church meetings. Do not depend only on phone calls. Know their locations. It encourages them when they are visited by church members.
- You have to be very aggressive. Compel visitors to visit one more time. Follow up the new converts with all your heart and do not feel ashamed. If after this procedure and still some are not coming, do not waste time on the none serious ones. Pursue the serious ones, but do not forget to pray for those who are not showing any signs of seriousness. Some do come after much prayer has broken certain chains. Pray until Christ is formed in them.

Gal. 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.

- Some may even change their mind and go back to the world like Demas. Some cannot leave certain old friends. Some have all kinds of excuses to give. But

like John Mark, they can leave today but come back tomorrow to do fantastic work for the Lord. Like Archippus, have to fulfill their ministry.

Acts 13:5, 13 And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister. Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.

2Tim. 4:9-11 Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

Col. 4:17 And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

DEVELOPING PERMANENT MEMBERS

- Church growth shall be enhanced if the members are permanent. Temporal members who frequent from time to time, and on special occasions cannot be used to build a church. No good pastor can use such temporal members for any regular programs in the church. You cannot count on them. They will tell you they have other commitments somewhere and they will use your church as a part time place. Permanent members are dependable. They have a mind of staying around forever.

Body of Christ

- Every church member is part of the body of Christ. Being part of the Body of Christ means you have a part to play or functions to perform. If you are not permanent, how can you contribute your quota? Just like the human body, every part is destined to do something very important.
- No part of your body can easily be disintegrated. They are fitly connected to each other. That makes the bodily parts permanent. So is the church. One body but many members.

1Cor. 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

1Cor. 12:27-28 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

God's building

- Members who are permanent in the church are like a building fitly joined together. The foundation which is Christ, cement, pillars, the blocks, and the concrete make the building permanent. Let the members understand that because they are building, they are permanent. None should think of going back. The church is described as "Living stones."

1Cor. 3:9 For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

1Cor. 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

1Tim. 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

1Pet. 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

God's garden

- The church is described as God's vineyard; God's garden with Jesus as the Vine, and the church as the branches, with the Father as the Vine dresser. Both the Vine and the branches are permanent thing.

John 15:1-2 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

God's workers

- We are God's laborers. Temporal workers in the worldly sense don't stay on the job but permanent workers do. Permanent work comes with associated benefits which temporal workers do not enjoy.

Eph. 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Matt. 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

God's priesthood

- The priesthood is a permanent institution. Priests must be there always to mediate between the church and God. they carry the church on their shoulders to God. if members get to know that they belong to the priesthood of God, they will be permanent.

1Pet. 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

God's holy nation

- The church belongs to a peculiar people and a holy nation unto the LORD. Let members know that they are not ordinary; they were chosen by God of all the people of the earth. This can develop them into permanent people. As a holy nation, they know they have a future; they have a hope and they have the LORD as their God forever.

Exodus 19:5-6 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

- God rewards His people for faithfulness. Faithfulness is born out of permanence, stability and long relations. Permanent pastors are able to care for members who are permanent than those not permanent. On-going friendship is established out of permanence. Members will have consistent pastoral care. This again gives pastors access to the life of church members and they can lead them better.

Jesus sees the church as business

- Jesus sees His church as a profit making and productive venture. Jesus sees His church as increasing in membership; as a forward-marching church; as dynamic and making changes to growth every day.
- Jesus sees the church as a spiritual body which should be rich in soul winning, church planting and church growth. Be a business man for God; do something substantial for God; God gave His one and only Son to die for the cause of lost souls. God invested His only Son. It's God's business.
- The church is not necessarily a money-making institution. Rather, it's got to be a body which is willing to lay down everything for the sake of the lost. The church is the very heartbeat of Christ. It's the bride of Christ.

Luke 19:13 Before he left, he called his ten servants and gave them each a gold coin and told them, 'See what you can earn with this while I am gone.'

Luke 19:13 Before he left, he called ten of his servants and gave them ten coins. He said to his servants, 'Invest this money until I come back.'

Luke 19:13 And summoning ten of his own slaves, he gave them ten minas and said to them, 'Do business until I come back.' LEB

- If church planting and soul winning is a business, then develop a daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly outreach of soul winning program for it. Do it as businessmen do daily business. Be concerned with the number of people converted every day, week, month and year. The apostles did that.

Matt. 13:45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls.

Acts 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding every day to the total of those who were being saved.

MULTIPLYING CHURCH GROWTH

Multiplied pastors

1. Another major step to church growth is to multiply yourself as a pastor in the lives of other leaders and members of the church. You don't have to die with your leadership skills, gifts and talents. Teach your members to do whatever you can do. Teach them how to preach, how to teach, how to win souls and how to plant churches.
2. Jesus taught His disciples how to do ministry; He taught them how to preach, teach, win souls, cast out demons and heal the sick. He taught them hands on the ministry experience. He had sessions of debriefing, encouragements, corrections and establishment.
3. Eventually, Jesus Christ multiplied Himself in all the eleven disciples who became apostle. He also multiplied Himself in the one hundred and twenty disciples gathered at the Upper Room for the coming Holy Spirit. Jesus was all over the place and they filled Jerusalem with Jesus after the resurrection. As a pastor, your job is fulfilled when you multiply yourself in your leaders and church members.
4. The pastor is the church and the church is the pastor. People should see the leaders in the pastor and the pastor in the leaders. You enlarge your church and multiply it if you multiply yourself in the life of the members.
5. As you hold on to group "A" another pastor will continue with group "B" and on and on it goes. One person does not do all the work. There is a kind of division of labor. Churches are planted and other pastors trained by the head Pastor will take charge of the satellite churches and the work expands.

6. Jesus first sent the twelve. He multiplied Himself in them. They did what Jesus had been doing. They brought back report. Jesus again, multiplied Himself in another seventy and two disciples on another mission. Jesus taught them how to pray among others. Jesus never took things for granted.

Luke 9:1-2 And summoning the twelve, he gave them power and authority over all the demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

Luke 10:1-2 And after these things, the Lord also appointed seventy-two others and sent them out two by two before him into every town and place where he was about to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore ask the Lord of the harvest that he send out workers into his harvest.

Luke 11:1-2 And it happened that while he was in a certain place praying, when he stopped a certain one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples." And he said to them, "When you pray, say, "Father, may your name be treated as holy. May your kingdom come..."

1. Would be leaders must be allowed to do important things under the supervision of the Head Pastor. This will multiply the number of capable pastors in the ministry. Head pastors should not be afraid to trust people. They should master insecurities and be ready to let others take sensitive positions in the church.
2. The apostle Paul multiplied himself in Timothy and Titus. He made them overseers and bishops over the church in Ephesus and Crete. Paul alone could never have done the work if he did not train Timothy, Titus, Epaphroditus and

some other young men. After his death, the missionary ministry continued. You don't have to die with the ministry. The day you die as Head Pastor, the ministry has to continue.

Gal. 2:1 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking along Titus also.

Titus 1:4-5 to Titus, my true child according to a common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. On account of this, I left you behind in Crete, in order that what remains may be set in order and you may appoint elders in every town, as I ordered you.

Acts 19:22 So after sending two of those who were assisting him, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, he himself stayed sometime in Asia.

Rom. 16:21 Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you, and Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my compatriots.

1Cor. 4:17 Because of this, I have sent to you Timothy, who is my dear and faithful child in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ Jesus, just as I teach everywhere in every church.

- There are some pastors when they travel, the ministry travels with them until they come back. When they travel, ministry goes on vacation. He is the only person the members trust. Such a ministry has no future. The ministry will die the day the pastor dies.

Multiplied Sunday ministry

- Sunday is church day; members day; pastors' day; and all day. Sunday should be a day dedicated to God and must be used to its fullest. Many of the church members are available on Sunday so it's wise to make maximum use of the day. Sunday should be a full working day for every pastor because Jesus made sure He utilized the "Saturday" of His day effectively.

John 5:16-17 And on account of this the Jews began to persecute Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. But he answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."

1. He did not dance to the tune of the Pharisees and Sadducees that Saturday is Sabbath and no work should be done. Work hard from Sunday morning to late evening. On Sunday, as a pastor, do a lot of counseling and prayer. Teach a lot on Sundays. Follow members up who could not come to church. Use your church members, would be leaders, associate pastors, the youth and other able-bodied members to go out on Sundays after church service to do evangelism, follow up, hospital visitation and soul winning.
2. In the church, as the Head Pastor, conduct Bible School for lay people and volunteers. Outside the church, during Sundays, many people rest at home and some leaders of the church will have the opportunity to reach out to many people idling about.
3. As a pastor, use Sunday afternoon to do church business meetings, leadership meetings, youth meetings, women's meetings, men's meetings, follow up meetings, street evangelism, prayer meetings, training leaders, and choral meetings among others.

4. There are some of the church members when left alone will never be involved in anything. The pastor as the spiritual head should use divine wisdom to select members to form various small groups where matters of spiritual interest would be discussed. The Sunday school material or the pastor's sermon could be discussed into detail. More prayer and intercession could be made for the community. Members can know each other more in such small group units. Talents and gifts can be exposed, and members will find their footing in the Lord and their calling.
5. In a larger church atmosphere, people are not seen, some don't feel loved, appreciated or important. When the church is divided into various small groups, people feel they belong to a family. People feel good when they receive adequate pastoral care and are given ministries to perform. As a pastor, encourage church members to join various groups and ministries in the church.
6. When Jesus was feeding the five thousand, He asked the disciples to divide the multitudes into groups they can control. And each was adequately fed and all were satisfied. If they had fed the five thousand together, some might get more than others, some might get none.
7. Out of five thousand people, Jesus divided them into smaller and controllable groups. If Jesus did that, the 21st century church can do likewise. Many people get missing in larger groups. Learn new methods as a pastor.

Mark 6:39-40 And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass. And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds and by fifties.

1. As a pastor, you can start this small group system by dividing the flock into “day born groups.” For example, Sunday born, Monday born, Tuesday born, Wednesday born among others. When the groups grow bigger you divide them further into two or three. You can combine smaller groups as such to make it more moving and encouraging.
2. Treat new converts as very special. You can have after church rapport with them. Know them well and make friends with them. Some churches give them snacks and organize special beginners’ classes for them. Growth comes through new members and so treat them well. New converts group is where church increase growth come from.
3. As you cater for new converts, do not forget the on-going adult and matured groups. There are some who come to church every day and lead in various church activities. They are your future missionaries and church planters. Get close to them and involve them most church activities. Sell the vision of the church to them and train them to occupy leadership positions in the church. And there are other groups who come to church once or twice a month. Some even are occasional church goers. Thus, you see them on special occasions. Do not cast off your eyes from them. Find a way to motivate them, let them feel part of the church, visit them, pray for them and assign some of the regular leaders to them. Still the laborers are few so don’t throw delinquent members away. They can be useful in the ministry.
4. The apostle Paul brought John Mark back to the ministry. He encouraged Archippus to fulfill his ministry.

2Tim. 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark and bring him with thee, for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

Col. 4:17 And say to Archippus, “Take heed to fulfil the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord.”

1. Youth church multiplies church growth. Have variety of youth ministries from children’s ministry such as KG, lower Primary and Upper Primary. Then JHS 1-3; Then SHS 1-3. Then Post SHS, University. Organize English services for the Youth and teach them leadership. They can learn the art of leadership by encouraging to lead themselves and giving a Youth Pastor with associate. Let them do their own programs; they should go follow-ups and visitations. They should invite their fellow youth friends to church. It’s another way to make the church grow.
2. Paul encouraged Timothy to let no one despise him because he is youth. Rather, he should be an example to the believers in faith, word, love, spirit and purity. He should also give himself to reading, exhorting and teaching. This is a sure way to build a strong youthful church.

1Tim. 4:12-13 Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example of the faithful in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Until I come, occupy thyself reading, exhorting, teaching.

1. Timing Sunday forenoon service is very critical in church growth. Sitting for too long can break member’s confidence. They will think it’s a burden. Your service should not last more than three hours. You can have other group meeting after the service. Leading members can visit absentee members and new visitors. Encourage everybody to partake in group meetings. Establish

new groups for all those who don't have any group to join. And give them leader(s).

2. Organize leadership and pastors' workshops for all your leaders from time to time. Send your youth and the adults into various camp meetings and retreats. That is where you can equip the audience with your long workshops and teachings to sharpen would-be leaders, church planters, lay volunteers and missionaries of the church.
3. You can organize one day workshop for leaders from time to time. All day prayer for the entire church once every three months can equip members to grow well in the Lord.
4. Altar calls must be made after every sermon. This should be a habit and must be maintained at all costs. The pastor should stay after service and not run away to other places. Pastors must stay and get acquainted with members. Pray and counsel others. Mingle with the sheep and be smelled of them.
5. Use modern technology to monitor church members, preach messages and get in touch with the world at large. WhatsApp and Facebook application can be very critical in this area. Create Youth Groups and ministries on various platforms. You can have technology centralized system where as General Overseer, you can number the people who went to all the churches and the offerings for the day.
6. In most churches, few people do majority of the work. In some, 5%, 10%, 20% among others. You have to train the members in such a way that majority of the people will do all the work. For example, 30%, 40% or 50-80% will do all the work. This a critical method to bring about the needed church growth. Ina situation whereby few people do majority of the work, then it will call for training to be done to meet the need.

7. A church with 80% majority doing the work means there will be more missionaries, lay pastors, volunteers and leaders to be sent to win souls.
8. The art of learning, reading more books, listening to tapes can upgrade your ministry as a pastor. Try as much as possible to add value to your calling. There are some pastors whom after attending Bible College, packed all their books in the wardrobe, and have gone back to where they were before going to the Bible college. They did not see any value of enhancing the spiritual and mental capacity through knowledge.
9. Majority of the prophets in the Old Testament were learners, else how could they have written the entire Old Testament. Apostles and prophets were not only required to read, they were to eat the Word. That takes to a deeper and higher dimension than just reading. Have to study God's Word. Study other materials written by other men of God. When the words enter your stomach, you produce it in a spectacular way.

Rev. 10:8-11 And the voice which I heard from heaven spoke unto me again and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands upon the sea and upon the land. And I went unto the angel and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.

Rev. 10:1-11 And I took the little book from the angel's hand and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again as to many peoples and nations and tongues and kings.

Ezek. 2:8 But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Do not be rebellious like the rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat what I give thee.

Ezek. 3:1-4 And he said unto me, Son of man, eat what thou findest; eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel. So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that roll. And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. I ate it and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey. Then he said unto me, Son of man, go and enter into the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them.

Jer. 15:16 Thy words were found, and I ate them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart: for thy name was called upon me, O LORD God of the hosts.

Dan. 9:2 in the first year of his reign, I Daniel saw diligently in the books the number of the years, of which the LORD spoke unto Jeremiah the prophet, which would conclude the desolation of Jerusalem in seventy years.

1. The power dimension of ministry is important in church planting and church growth. Cut off the power aspect from the Bible and what is life is not different from human philosophies and vain ideas. God is a God of power, signs and wonders. Jesus is a miracle working Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the source of God's power in the church. The church members are able to trust God more if they see the manifestation of divine power in the ministry. Power shuts the mouths of unbelievers and is a proof producer of every God ordained ministry.
2. As a pastor called by God, seek more after God; seek after His face; practice solitude; practice your convictions; pray more; let Jesus be your standard; do not compare yourself with other ministers; be your own and be led by the Spirit. Your church will begin to grow.
3. Organizing your immediate leaders to pray at the highest level brings church growth. You can go on prayer retreats and waiting before the LORD. Let other

groups such youth groups, women's groups, men's groups; follow and evangelistic groups to go on short-term retreats and prayers.

4. Encourage individual prayers and solitude with God. Organize prayer meetings for the entire church. As a pastor, give yourself to prayer and the study of the word of God just like the apostles.

Col. 4:12 Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a slave of Christ, salutes you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand *firm*, perfect and fulfilled in all the will of God.

Acts 6:4 And we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.

- Encourage lay people to work for the church. Lay pastors, volunteers, tent makers can do most of church work. As a small church, you do not need to employ so many pastors to do the work volunteers can easily do without being paid. Making us of volunteers is a key to church stability and growth. So many paid pastors can render ministry to be in financial tatters. It serves as breeding ground for church crises.

CHURCH GROWTH

Have a vision for church growth

- According to David Yonggi Choo and other leadership experts such as John C. Maxwell, “Your vision makes you. You don’t make your vision.” Your vision must compel you to make very difficult decision and take burning steps to bring about church growth. Something must stimulate you inside out that will make it impossible for you to sleep without thinking about it; and thinking about ways to make it work. On the road to mega church, you don’t have to be lazy and a procrastinator. Vision demands hard work.
- You have to do all that is needed to make your church growth. That is internal burning desire. It is very humbling. You are not ashamed to do what you have to do. You have to put up sacrificial attitude to be attracted to God. just like praying for the anointing. You have to pray until the foundation s of your core being are shaken.
- You also have to seek after the strategies, wisdom and knowledge needed to grow your church. Study closely church growth pastors who are pastors of mega churches and what had made their churches grow. Never say these things do not work. It is the reason why your church is not growing.
- If your vision is a consuming vision eating you up, your will read the same principle again and again until it begins to work. Your will listen tapes again and again until the strategies begin to work. A consuming vision never gives easily. Eat books on church growth and mega churches like a hungry man eats food. Never get tired of searching.

- Go to pastors with mega churches, rub shoulders with them until their anointing and influence is soaked into your heart. Quote them when you are talking. Focus on their ministries and admire them. Make them your role model. Be careful you don't criticize the very thing that you need most. The journey to a mega church is very long and a consuming vision will make you never get tired.

Using lay people

- Non-ordained person of a church.
 - He is person without professional or specialized knowledge of a particular subject.
 - Someone who is not an expert.
 - A some who is not skilled.
 - He is an everyday person.
 - He is an ordinary person.
 - Someone who is not trained.
-
- Martin Luther's translation of the Bible from Latin to German; and other translations into English by William Tyndale and King James version of the Bible brought remarkable revolution into the then world. This made the Bible accessible to common people. The Bible in the hands of common people fired up the Reformation.
 - In the middle of the 20th century, very few licensed ministers were available. The Protestant churches rode on the backs of lay people to spread their

doctrine of “Salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ Jesus alone.” This was how the Methodist and the Presbyterian churches became the largest Protestant denominations in the United States. The Methodist churches had society stewards or lay preachers who preach in their Circuits and assist pastors in the local work.

- In our church, we have Church Builders who act as pastors to take care of our newly planted churches until ordained pastors take over. These Church Builders work as volunteers, lay preachers or tent makers who receive no salary. To make their work more effective, they are ordained and licensed to perform all the duties an ordained minister performs. Yet as ordained ministers, they are considered under the tent making ministry. This gives them more recognition and authority within the laity and society. We want to use this system to maintain our few full-time pastors so the church can foot the budget but encourage more leaders to become Church builders.
- The building of mega churches rested on the shoulders of lay people. For example, the Yoido Full Gospel Church, founded by David Yonggi Cho and his mother-in-law, Choi Ja-shil, both Assemblies of God pastors held its first service on May 15, 1958 with four other ladies in the home of Choi Ja-shil. Membership of the church had reached fifty thousand by 1977, a figure that doubled in only two years. On November 30, 1981, membership topped two hundred thousand. By this time, it was the largest single congregation in the world and was recognized as such by the Los Angeles Times. In 2003, its membership stood at 830,000, with seven Sunday services translated into sixteen languages (Credit: Bishop Dag Heward-Mills).

- The Church of Pentecost in Ghana and the Redeemed Church of God in Nigeria. Both ministries have huge network of churches manned by lay people.
- The Church of Pentecost was founded by Irish missionary sent by the Apostolic Church, Bradford, UK to the then Gold Coast. It has grown to have a membership of over 1.7 million members; the Church of Pentecost has over 13,000 churches in over 70 countries across all the continents of the world.
- In 1952, the Redeemed Church of God was founded in Nigeria by Pa Josiah Akindayomi. Under the leadership of its General Overseer, Rev. E. A. Adeboye. It is grown to have churches in more than 140 countries, with millions in attendance. These great achievements have been made possible the hands of lay people. (Credit: Bishop Dag Heward-Mills).

LAY PEOPLE CAN GROW YOUR MINISTRY

1. It is possible to change your financial supporters, youth leaders, matured and serious-minded leaders of your ministry into competent lay preachers. Lay people when trained can perform just like full-time ministers are and even better. The American Revolution was powered by lay people. Barack Obama, the first Black American President won the presidency through the power of lay people who contributed \$80 million for his campaign.
2. We cannot win the entire world with only these few full-time pastors. We need all hands-on deck. It is the reason why we need more lay pastors. Lay pastors are pastors who do tent making ministry (work on their own) and are involved in ministry work just like normal full-time pastors at the same time. The contributions of lay pastors can make your church grow massively.
3. Stop being an institutional pastor only officiating wedding and funerals. Do not let your ministry to go down to this point. The great commission is your greatest commandment. Do not be under any pressure to be accepted by society. Rather, persist to be approved of God.
4. Never leave your principal duties and perform any thing which will make you accepted by society and neglected by God. Lay pastors can be taught to preach, counsel and visit young Christians. They can be taught the principles of witnessing, and how to catch the anointing. Lay pastors can be taught to do whatever work pastors do. Do not limit God to what you have been used to. Use female lay pastors, student lay pastors and church elders lay pastors. As a pastor, sow the seeds of pastoral training among the laity, and very soon you will have many lay pastors like you who can take care of hundreds of infant churches. People are not in the church only pay tithes and listen to Sunday sermons. They are full of potential and they should not die with it. The people

you minister to every Sunday are church planter, missionaries and great men and women of God. train them.

5. Sow seeds in your leadership. Spend more time with them. You will one day harvest massive crops of well-seasoned leaders and lay pastors. Training lay people is a form of investment. Understand that lay pastors can help you build your church. They can take the church vision to higher levels.

2Tim. 2:20-21 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of clay, and likewise some to honour, and some to dishonor. If a man, therefore, purges himself from these things, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and profitable for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

- Once you have trained some of your members become prayer leaders, women's leaders, men's leaders, youth leaders, preachers, Sunday school teachers, it means you can train the rest to be the same. In a great house are different vessels. Everybody there in the house is a type of vessel. Help them to discover.

Pastors can share burden with Lay pastors

1. It takes one or few days to plant a church, but you need a lifetime of leadership to lead and grow the church. The task to lead is most difficult than the task to start. God through took one to deliver from captivity in Egypt, but it took 40 years to Egypt to take Egypt from Israel. The difficult to lead is what pastors do. Learn to burdens of the church with other lay pastors you have trained. You can be more efficient and church growth can be enhanced.

2. Include everybody in your program burden sharing of the church. Embrace people of all professions, the educated, illiterate, rich, poor, students, the unemployed and the employed. These can share the burdens of the church with you. The burden of church planting, visitation, praying for the sick, preaching, teaching, soul winning and evangelism among others can be shared with the lay pastors.
3. Sharing ministry with lay pastors grants wider opportunities to people you never expected the way you will operate. Do not fear your lay pastors and assistants will outshine you one day. One man cannot do all ministry work. You need to delegate leadership responsibilities to others. The work is so massive that one man will never be able to do it all alone. Moses upon all his anointing needed lay pastors who could share the burden of ministry with him

Num. 11:16-17 Then the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be elders of the people, and their princes; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the testimony that they may stand there with thee. And I will come down and talk with thee there, and I will take of the spirit which is in thee and will put it upon them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.

Lay people will bring church growth

1. Lay people eventually become loyal and are grateful for your ministry as a pastor. Lay people are mostly closer to you, and their grateful defenses help to silent the enemy of the church.
2. Having more lay people in your church serves as inspiration for others to emulate. Lay people who do not earn money from the church is a prove of their love for the church. They can be a source of support for the pastor.

3. No matter how hard you work, how faithful you are in ministry, people will betray you. Judas talked and walked with Jesus for three years, yet he betrayed Him. He was a familiar friend of Jesus. Beware of your familiar friends. They can be a threat to your ministry. The Apostle Paul was deserted by Demas. Lay pastors will help you carry the burden when you are abandoned.

Psalm 41:9 Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

2Tim. 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

- Good lay people by their sweet behavior encourages others to respond positively to the sharing of the Word. Lay people responding positively to the word encourages others to follow the message. They make other have more confidence in the pastor. They speak good things about the pastor's messages and that enhances church growth. Church growth is dynamic. All these dynamics in addition to other various factors such as having a burning desire for your vision for mega church go into church growth.

When lay people are disregarded

- What happens when lay people are not given a place in ministry? When lay people are thrown out of space and their ministry not regarded and respected? The church and the pastor stand to lose diverse ministries of other faithful men and women Christ could have used to build His church.

- Lay ministry is a ministry which comes with great sacrifice. Lay people learn several lessons on sacrifice which becomes of huge help when they answer the call into full-time ministry.
- What you do today as a lay person will determine the effectiveness of your future full-time ministry work. You cannot do well in full-time ministry if you do not do well in your lay person ministry. Reading the Bible, your regular quiet time, and the minor ministry work entrusted to you without supervision are important foundation for your full-time ministry.
- If you do not make use of lay ministry, a time may come whereby you might need to employ some full-timers who cannot even do a tenth of what the lay ministers would have done.
- Develop the whole church to become prayer warriors. That is the beginning of lay ministry. Joshua made a mistake by sending only 3,000 soldiers to fight Ai. Israel could not defeat their enemies and 36 of them were killed on top of it all.
- The church grows when everybody is included in the work of God. In Joshua chapter 8, Joshua did the right thing. He employed all the fighting men of war. The church has to use all her might against the enemy to win souls for Christ.

Josh. 7:3-4 And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labor thither; for they are but few. So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai.

- He used ambush to draw the people of Ai from their positions and they set the country on fire. The devil also uses such strategies against Christians by causing the church to leave her secured positions to follow his enticements. The moment Christians leave their position the devil invade their camps, take possession and set it on fire just as Joshua did to Ai. By employing lay preachers, we will have enough staff to protect the church whilst the rest will pursue the enemy.
- A church limited in staff has not got enough human resources to handle emergencies. It is when lay ministers are hugely involved in church ministry that enough staff are reserved for extra work for the Lord.
- Allow many lay pastors to work so the church budget could be reduced to effectively cater for the pastor and other church emergencies. If pastors are not adequately paid, they will go about from house to house saying and doing things they don't have to.

1Tim. 5:13 And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.

The rod and the staff of a pastor

- Most professionals have tools used to make their work easier and effective. Auditors use green pens often; masons use levels and trowels; carpenters use hammer and pinch bars; tailors use sowing machines and scissors; professional drivers use vehicles among others.
- Pastors with the Bible aside use rod and staff. As tools make the various professions effective and productive, so it is with the tools of the pastor. The

Bible teaches how the pastor can use the rod and the staff effectively so that the needed results can be achieved. The rod is used for protection whilst the staff is used for correction. The rod and staff are the tools the pastor uses to rule and to lead, not to be ruled and to be led.

- Any pastor would experience church growth if these tools are used effectively and accordingly. A pastor who is ruled is the one whom people see as poorly paid though the church has enough money; kind-hearted, compassionate; available at all time and never complaining even when things are not going well for him and the church. Such pastor is not using his rod and staff.
- Yes, a pastor should be gentle, king-hearted and compassionate among others, but his core role is to lead and rule. This is why he is the “Head pastor” and not a “follower pastor.” A pastor who is not leading and ruling obviously becomes a follower instead of a leader. Head pastor make decisions; boldly lead the congregation and takes charge.
- If your congregation is a flock, then a shepherd must lead them, else they all go astray. If a pastor does not show leadership, then something basic is wrong. As a pastor, use your rod and staff to take strong and bold decisions which church members cannot take. You become a weak leader when you allow small issues to overrule you.
- As wrong things happen in the church, as a pastor do not be afraid to rock the boat. Be firm and use your rod of correction to put right things in place. If not, your church is bound to fade away.
- Bishop Dag Heward-Mills calls this “The way making ministry” of the pastor. According to him, the pastor has to instruct his people by giving them different teaching and help them to obey. Moses stretched his rod to make way in the sea for Israel to cross over. He made way where there was no way. As a pastor,

use your rod to make way for church members to pass through to safer places. Use your rod to create healing miracles and open doors. Be the first to step into the sea and they will follow show them that it is possible to come to church no matter where you stay.

Exodus 14:14-16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

- As a pastor, use your rod and staff to lead the church in spiritual warfare. Use such tools to take overseas territories. Moses used the rod to cross from Egypt to the Mount Sinai Peninsula. You too can use your rod which stands for authoritative prayer to take territories.
- Use your rod to add and multiply numbers to your church. You can move from 20 to 50, then to 100 and to 1000 and above, all through the power of intercessory prayer. You can use your rod to dispossess foreign enemies. Moses used his rod to defeat Amalek which came to destroy Israel from behind.
- As a pastor, you cannot possess another territory without fighting for it. Moses could not takeover Amalek without a fight. If you want to displace the modern day “Amaleks,” you must involve in serious spiritual warfare. Nations and foreign territories differ in strength and strategies.

Exodus 17:9 And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.

Exodus 17:10-11 So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

- The rod and staff help to make self-assessment. They prompt the pastor to make constant re-examinations of his ministry, whether it is stuck at one place and membership or there is improvement. When Toyota started production there was nothing like V-8 engines and models. Imagine if the car makers had been going with the first model without updating and un-grading their products. They cannot compete with the present-day modern vehicle producers. They will fade out. So are many pastors and churches dying because they ignored making self-assessment of their activities.
- Measure your performance and analyze your activities. Imagine how many peoples should be in your church by now. There are biblical standards to attain. Compare what you are doing with the entire Bible. Is what you are doing leading to church growth? As you learn to correct yourself, rebuke and correct people as well.

2Tim. 3:16-17 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 perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

- Use your rod and staff to feed the flock. Not feeding the flock with the right diet will cause them to find nourishment from other churches. To the hungry soul, every bitter thing is sweet. They will go out and chase after other junk meals because they don't have best meals from their shepherd.

Prov. 27:7 The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

Mic. 7:14 Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thine heritage, which dwell solitarily in the wood, in the midst of Carmel: let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old.

- Paul was appointed by Jesus as a teacher to the Gentiles. He charged Timothy to preach the Word in season and out of season. Now people prefer being prophesied to than the pain and discipline of hearing God's Word. Paul's prophecy is being fulfilled that, "They will not endure sound doctrine."

2Tim. 1:10-11 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

2Tim. 4:1-2 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

JESUS – THE GOOD SHEPHERD

- Every pastor is a shepherd but not the “Good Shepherd.” But Jesus called Himself the “Good Shepherd.” Peter called Him the “Great or the Chief Shepherd.” If Jesus is the “Good Shepherd,” and pastors are shepherds (poimen), then pastors have to use Jesus Christ as their role model in order to produce the results Jesus attained as “Good Shepherd.”
- Good shepherding by pastors would obviously lead to massive church planting and church growth. Many churches are not growing the way they should because “the Jesus” system of shepherding is ignored.

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

1Pet. 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Isaiah 40:11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Learn to lead as a shepherd

1. In the Middle East, where Jesus used this scenario of shepherding, shepherds lead their flock and don't walk behind them for the flock to lead them. There is this story of two shepherds leading their massive flock from opposite directions. Both shepherds went ahead of their flock and started playing flute music. Both sheep followed their shepherd and the sound of the of the flute.

Eventually, both sheep went through without any following the shepherd of the other flock.

2. That is how it's supposed to be. As a pastor, if you are known by your sheep, they will not leave you your church and follow some strange pastors in town. As a good shepherd imitating Christ, stay ahead of your sheep always. They will follow your good and good teachings everyday no matter what happens in town.
3. Leading the flock also signifies leadership by example. You do as they follow and walk in your footsteps. When others see you doing, they would be challenged to join. David went on and out before Israel. Israel loved David because they saw him exhibiting such leadership qualities.

John 10:3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

1Sam. 18:16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

- Try to know your sheep by name. you cannot know all especially if you handle a mega church with thousands of memberships. But it good to know names of key members. Calling members by names is a good method to enhance church growth. Church members feel motivated when pastors call them by names. And they know you value their presence and remember them in prayers. They know you are thinking about them.
- Get close to your flock. Speak to them constantly until your voice stuck in their ears. Be prepared to load your belly with messages and feed the flock

with the needed soul food just as a woman breast feeds her child without resorting to another woman to feed the child for her. The flock are not used to strangers so take care of them by yourself.

John 10:4-5, 13 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

- Also be known by your sheep as a good shepherd who wanted church growth. Make yourself available and accessible to the members. Stop giving excuses and open up to them. If they know you, you will know where they work, whether married or not, whether they are regular church attendees or occasional members. Jesus one day went to the house of Peter's mother-in-law and ministered healing. If this lady did not accept Peter's full-time ministry of following an unknown man from Nazareth, who is Jesus Christ, I think from that day she would have a mind change.

John 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

Mark 1:30 But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her.

- What makes a church to grow is unity, togetherness and the ability of the pastor to keep the church from scattering when there are crises or not. A good shepherd is able to nurse injuries as members step on each other's toes. He doesn't take sides and plays the divide and rule tactics. The ability to keep the old and the young, educated and uneducated, rich and poor together is a mark

of good pastoral care. Such church has a future and can grow accordingly. Work hard to prevent the members from tearing each other.

John 10:12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

- To grow your church as a pastor, keep a close eye on the flock. They go through various emotional, financial, marital, physical and spiritual challenges. A good shepherd would have eyes to notice quick and slow changes in the flock and approach it accordingly. Good pastors have pastoral heart and knows how to tenderly care for the young, the sick and the weak sheep. They carry their sheep in their arms for protection. They lay down their life for the flock. They don't resort to insults and harassment of the sheep. They don't eat up the sheep by sleeping with them. There is a saying that "Who rears sheep and eats rats." This should not be your slogan if you want your church to grow. Sometimes you go to the extent of paying school fees and hospital bills for the poor among the flock. Be prepared to give yourself wholly to the flock.

Isaiah 40:11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION AND CHURCH GROWTH

- Church is the only group on earth which is a spiritual organism in nature and a physical organization in practice. Many pastors and churches pray several hours but neglect the physical aspect of management and daily administration of the church. Mind you, the apostles knew how to do it well: They gave themselves to prayer and preaching of the Word, and the serving on tables to the deacons. They did not neglect either.

Acts 6:3-4 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

- Poor church administration can make your dreams and visions prayed for die in your belly. You might think God has disappointed you but you rather disappointed yourself through poor management.
- The apostles did not mingle themselves in the financial matters of the church, but they supervised and controlled how it should be used. Do not give the church money to your wife for safe-keeping, yet you have to direct how it should be used.

- As a church, avoid contracting loans mortgaged on the property of the church from any financial institution. Neither should you put church money into any scam financial institution. If the institution collapsed, you put the church into serious danger and people might not believe it happened that far. You might lose some potential members.
- Try to avoid debt as far as you can as a church. Neither should the pastor try any way to get any personal loan by using any of the church's property as collateral security. Both the church and the pastor should live within their means of income.
- No church ever mentioned in the bible attempted getting any form of loan from any place. Church members rather sold their personal properties and brought the proceed to the apostles' feet, and as a result, none of them lacked.
- As a church, do not hire auditoriums you will find difficult to maintain due to high rental payments. Try as early as you can to start your own building project. In constructing your auditorium, use artisans in the church. Do not employ church staff immediately. Try using volunteers and as the church grows and gains financial strength, you can employ some few staff. Let volunteers do the rest of the work.
- The pastor's money should not be included in that of the church. Initiate some kind of insurance of social security for the pastor. With this, both the church and the pastor can contribute about 2% of the pastor's allowance to the scheme. On the pastor's retirement, this can be a huge form of income to for the pastor and a financial relief for the church.
- As a pastor, do take money direct from church offerings. Do not take money with the intention of paying later. The accounts department will not consider

you as honest. If you want money for emergencies, go through the principles and procedures instituted by the church.

- Do not use your money for church projects with the intention of being paid back later. If so, everything should be well documented. If you give a property such as land or vehicle, there should be a document covering it.
- Keep a close eye on the offering. Let more than two people collect the offering and count it. Never assume stealing offering can never happen. It happens because human beings are instruments both God and the devil can use.
- In our church, one day some body put four GHc50.00 notes into the offering which one of the ushers saw. During the time of counting the money, the GHc50.00 notes could not be found. The man who offered that money was approached and he confirmed he donated that money. The chief usher alone took the money to the office and was left there. Nobody knew what happened when the man was left there. But he suspected to be the culprit. He denied taking the money. All the ushers were assembled, and they equally denied. The money was not found till date. It was then that we realized that people have been stealing the offerings.
- Make sure all the monies are banked except perhaps some imprest for petty expenses. Keep all monies in secure safe with one person having the key to the safe and another having the keys to the office of the safe. Do not give all the two keys to one person.
- Make sure the offerings are used for the purposes intended. If the church members realize that the offerings are used for other ulterior motives, they will lose confidence and stop or reduce the amount they give. Do not raise funds too often. They can easily get tired and lose interest.

- Get simple membership form for all church members with simple registration numbers. The same numbers can be used for their tithe cards. Children from birth to oldest adult should all tithe cards. If children start tithing, they become aware of their candid responsibilities earlier and will into maturity with it. Teach a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Prov. 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

CAMP MEETINGS AND CHURCH GROWTH

- Jesus Christ used camp meetings for detailed and long teachings. Concentration at camp meetings by Jesus was on teachings for a long time instead of healings. Miracles are sometimes performed at His camp meetings to enhance the faith of the campers. Camp meetings were used by Jesus to present detailed and systematic teachings.
- Moses used camp meetings to stabilize Israel as a people called by God. it is the largest camp meeting ever held in human history. During the camp meetings of the Jews which took forty years under the leadership of Moses, God used several circumstances and challenges to train Israel and to make them the people he intended them to become.
- God used camp meetings to appear to Israel and spoke to them through His servant Moses on several occasions. God confirmed such encounters with manifold signs and wonders to enable Israel placed their faith in Him.

Exodus 13:17 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although

that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt:

Exodus 16:35 And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited; they did eat manna, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan.

- Majority of the miracles Israel enjoyed happened during this forty-year journey in the desert. Moses wrote all the laws God gave to him and taught Israel during the forty-year encounter with God in the desert of Mount Sinai and Mount Horeb.
- Today, camp meeting is fading out of the church. The moment people come to church, the next major event they are expecting to for the minister to bring events to an end and release the benediction. Some think the few hours we engage God at church is too laborious and not enjoying. How much more can they spend whole day, two or three more at church?
- People enjoy spending time outside the church, going on long holidays, taking job vacations, and honoring personal agenda than sitting at one place for just hours to the glory of God. it is the reason why the presence of God is lacking in making Christian programs.
- Thousands of people including small boys learned how to sit for hours under the feet of Jesus. I mean people from diverse backgrounds who had various commitments left all for a moment to follow Christ.

John 6:2-10 And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased. And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples. And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh. When Jesus then lifted up *his* eyes, and saw a great company come unto

him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

Mark 8:1-5 In those days the multitude being very great, and having nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples *unto him*, and saith unto them, I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat: And if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way: for divers of them came from far. And his disciples answered him, From whence can a man satisfy these *men* with bread here in the wilderness? And he asked them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven.

Mark 8:6-10 And he commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before *them*; and they did set *them* before the people. And they had a few small fishes: and he blessed, and commanded to set them also before *them*. So they did eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken *meat* that was left seven baskets. And they that had eaten were about four thousand: and he sent them away. And straightway he entered into a ship with his disciples, and came into the parts of Dalmanutha.

- The multitude was great to the point that Jesus asked Philip where to get bread to feed such great number of people. Jesus moving such big crowds to solitary places emphasizes the point that camp gatherings took a great chunk of the Jesus' agenda.

- Jesus organized two great camp meetings in His time. In both cases the campers were found exhausted and needed some food for sustenance. It shows how long they had been with Jesus; and how their spiritual and material welfare was a prime concern of Christ.
- Ezra and the returnees fasted and waited on the LORD. It was a huge number of people returning from the Babylonian captivity to Judah.

Ezra 8:21-23 Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance. For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God *is* upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath *is* against all them that forsake him. So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was intreated of us.

- The book of the Law was read from morning to midday in the times of Ezra and Nehemiah. It involved the entire nation. It triggered revival among the people.

Neh. 8:3 And he read therein before the street that *was* before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people *were attentive* unto the book of the law.

Neh. 8:4 And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaiah, and Urijah, and Hilkiah, and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, and Mishael, and Malchiah, and Hashum, and Hashbadana, Zechariah, *and* Meshullam.

Neh. 8:5-7 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people); and when he opened it, all the people stood up: And Ezra

blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with *their* faces to the ground. Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people *stood* in their place.

Neh. 8:8-9 So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused *them* to understand the reading. And Nehemiah, which *is* the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day *is* holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.

- The apostles and the early church practiced camp meetings with teachings and long prayer sessions which matured the church. They had things in common and with one heart. It was through camp meetings that the early church spread. Persecution scattering them means they were at the same place. The number of the disciples multiplied as well in Jerusalem. They continued daily in the temple.

Acts 2:42-47 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 4:32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

Camp environment

- Camps have special environments normal church gatherings don't have. As a church get separated from normal activities and remain alone with God for several days, certain benefits and environments are recorded.
- There is a timeless environment for the pastor teach many messages and principles to promote church growth. Nobody is under pressure to attend to personal issues.
- There is tension free environment. People work and stay long without pressure. Certain targets are met by the leadership.
- The leadership can develop people with teachable spirit to reach their highest potential. Many gifts are also discovered. People come out with fresh ideas to do great things for Christ.

Effects of camp meetings

1. It brings togetherness.
2. Campers get to know themselves and others who are not part of their local church.
3. People make new friends.
4. More teaching materials can be covered.
5. People understand church policies and visions.
6. Missionaries and church planters can be sent after camping.
7. Several healings take place under fire camp meetings.
8. The presence of God is enhanced.

9. Camp[meetings bring glory to God.

Ezek. 34:14 I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel.

Matt. 15:29-31 And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there. And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.

Mark 1:23-25 And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.

Successful camp meetings

- God through Moses ordained three important feasts for Israel. The Feast of Passover which took place in the first month of the first year; the Feast of Pentecost which comes fifty days after the Passover; and the Feast of Tabernacles held in the seventh month of the year.
- All Israel especially males, irrespective of the person's work, social status or importance, took time off to attend these conventions. So should be the church. People must respect and honor camp meetings and holy

convocations. Three times a year all males in Israel must appear before the LORD.

- Effective camp meetings remain a source of funding for missions and other important church projects such building auditoriums and buying church lands. The males in Israel were not to appear before the LORD empty.

Exodus 23:17 Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD.

Lev. 23:21 And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, that it may be an holy convocation unto you: ye shall do no servile work therein: it shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

Deut. 16:10 And thou shalt keep the feast of weeks unto the LORD thy God with a tribute of a freewill offering of thine hand, which thou shalt give unto the LORD thy God, according as the LORD thy God hath blessed thee:

Deut. 16:16 Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty:

Deut. 16:17 Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee.

Exodus 23:15 Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty):

- Israel celebrates feast of unleavened bread or Passover as a sign of deliverance from Egypt. That is salvation in the present day meaning. The church needs to celebrate salvation and make altar calls in midst of camp meetings and conventions. Never ignore adopting altar calls as part of the church's principle.

Exodus 12:17 And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore, shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance forever.

Friendships and associations lead to church growth

- As a pastor with the passion for church growth, never overlook seeking relationships, friendships and associations. Churches which do not grow are often isolated ministers of the Gospel who have good relationships with others often become successful and become like their minister friends. It is important to have good friends in the ministry. If your friends have mega and successful churches, you are likely to have one too.
- Your friends, associations, relations, connections will give advice leading to unity and church growth. They will give you knowledge of what you don't have. They will tell you the truth in love.
- Associations with ministers who are blessed leads to blessings in your ministry. Isolation leads to desolation in ministry. Try as much as you can to avoid isolation in ministry. Silently living in isolation will not help you. Humble yourself and do what it takes to have friends with those who matter.

Prov. 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

- As you open up to new friends, connections, associations and relations, it causes church growth. New dimensions and new chapters are opened up in your ministry as you meet different people locally and overseas.
- Spur ye one another unto good and greater works. Other ministers of the Gospel will begin to respect your ministry if they see you having associations with certain class of men of God in the city.

Eph. 4:15-16 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Heb. 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

- Laban knew this strategy if you consider the response he gave to Jacob. It's the strategy of robbing shoulders and becoming friends with those God has blessed more than you.

Gen. 30:27 And Laban said unto him, I pray thee, if I have found favour in thine eyes, tarry: for I have learned by experience that the LORD hath blessed me for thy sake.

How to make friends with ministers

- Developing good friendship with guest ministers enhances church growth. Treat your visiting ministers with respect and curtesy. Treat them as very

important to you. Show honor to them by making them feel honored. Welcome visiting ministers with respect and at the point of entry of the church. Don't let him or her walk in alone and with a church usher.

- Welcome your guest and talk to him. Sit next to him and relate to him. Make friends with him. Be kind and good to him. He may introduce you later to other friends of his. Don't say evil of him and criticize him from the pulpit. Don't let other junior ministers of yours criticize him. Do not entertain negative comments. Speak evil of no man!!!

Titus 3:2 To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.

- Call ministers by their titles or by their official designation they have accorded to themselves. It's important you pronounce the full name of your guest properly. If the visiting minister is coming with a delegation, identify them and introduce them accordingly. If the guest came with his spouse, introduce her accordingly. Know the full name of the guest minister's ministry or church. If possible, get to know a little of the vision of your guest minister's great ministry or church and speak briefly about it.
- Respect your guest preacher and give him enough time to minister. Do not take any of his allotted time to show how good preacher or teacher you are. Respect your guest and give him all the program time as decided. Before the service let your guest minister know in detail what you exact of him. Is it an ordination, fund raising service with altar calls among others.
- Give your guest a good honorarium. Just after the service entertain him with some snacks before seeing him off. If he is staying for some time per the program line up, give him good food during his stay.

1Cor. 9:14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

GETHSEMANE AND CHURCH GROWTH

- Gethsemane is a place the church is natured for growth. Gethsemane points us to the private and personal times we have with God. it shows us the greatest experiences and examples we have with the LORD. Gethsemane teaches us places we go often to wait on God. gethsemane is moving from your usual environment or comfort zones to places where you become closer to nature and to God. it is being alone with God. gethsemane is praying the “will of God” be done for several hours and days.

Matt. 26:36-40 Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

- Gethsemane is a turning point in ministry. It was the final moments in the life of Jesus to receive strength from on high to accomplish final will of God in His life. A turning point in your life that offers church growth is your personal Gethsemane.
- Those who are seriously used by the LORD are those who have deep prayer encounters with the Lord. Moses had his burning bush encounter with the LORD. Jacob had a personal private encounter with the LORD which came

with a name changed that had been entrenched in the annals of Israel's history till now.

- Visiting “Gethsemane” should be a routine every minister should cultivate if one is to have a mega church. It was the custom of both Jesus and Daniel to have “Gethsemane times” as part of their calling.

Luke 22:39 And he went away and proceeded, according to his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples also followed him.

Dan. 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

- Build your personal Gethsemane under trees and gardens, river sides and mountains where nature can sooth your ailing soul and minister solace and peace to you. The Psalmist was right when he declared, “He leads me besides the still waters.” There at the still waters, souls, ministries, prayers, grace and favors are restored.
- Praying “Thy will be done” is found in Gethsemane. Most people do not like this type of prayer, but that was what Jesus did in the most critical moments of His life. Gethsemane is where your life is changed in order to change that of others.
- Gethsemane makes you develops the art of waiting upon the LORD alone. Spend lonely times with the LORD in prayer so you can develop your personal ministry. Jesus did that before selecting and ordaining the twelve. Again, develop that art of waiting upon the LORD with fellow group of ministers. The

prophet Joel encouraged ministers to wait upon the LORD; and to weep between the porch and the altar.

Luke 6:12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Joel 2:17 Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?

Acts 13:1-2 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

- Jesus went to Gethsemane with His disciples. He did not go there alone. As a pastor, to grow your church, develop the art of waiting upon the LORD with your congregation. An all-day worship could be appropriate way to start. Develop the art of calling upon the church together to call upon the Lord. It's a sure way to grow your church.

Joel 2:15-16 Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.

- Develop your Gethsemane prayer life by praying for a certain number of hours within the days; or set many hours within many days and pray for the number of hours set for. Pray like Jesus did, days of waiting, all night praying, and a great while before the day. Pray eating nothing (complete fasting); and pray eating no pleasant food.

Network of Satellite churches

- Developing a network of satellite churches enhance church growth. Try to develop a network of sister churches which brings stability or establishment of congregations everywhere. The good name of a united group of churches is a publicity and attracts other members of the public to join easily.
- Network of satellite churches can easily create a huge central fund to sponsor other churches in financial need than a single church can do. Network of churches can form pastoral training units to enhance training of other church members as well as outsiders.
- Network of satellite can function as many churches in many locations under the leadership of one General Overseer. There should be a system of administrative setup to monitor church attendance and finances. Pastors under Satellite churches should not be allowed to develop individualized visions.
- The General Overseer of these network of satellite churches should teach on loyalty and disloyalty series by Bishop Dag Heward Mills. The General Overseer himself must be loyal to his branch church pastors. If this happens, they can have no good reason to separate themselves from the Head Quarters. Encourage the same teachings and books to be read by all pastors.

- Let the network of churches have the same offering baskets, billboards, signboards, banners among others. Let the entire group of networked churches remain connected through the internet.
- Let the network of churches function as one large body and maintain your leadership over all of them. Set up a body which monitors attendance and finances over every member of the network of churches.
- Network of churches are not independent and will continually be monitored and governed by the headquarters. That the mother church will start the daughter churches and fully finance them. Or a special or consolidated fund can be created to finance the daughter churches under the auspices of the General Overseer.
- Let pastors and the congregations understand that it is the same church but in different locations. Plan and define important roles from the onset in order to avoid confusion and rebellion in the future.
- Let the network of churches function as one body. The churches in different locations will share its finances. This means that the money one church has belongs to all the other churches. This again means pastors can be transferred from one location to another without destabilizing anything.
- Special programs must be conducted in different branch churches to establish them and make them strong. Do not neglect branch churches. Show interest in them so that they have no reason to cause them to break off or separate.

Laws for managing Network of Satellite churches:

- **Know** what is going on in the other network of churches. This is done by sending and receiving reports from the churches regularly such every Sunday and monthly. Reports should include the actual church attendance; what is preached and the preacher; the income of the church for the week.
- **Communicate** regularly to maintain the spirit of loyalty and togetherness in the network of churches. Reports can be sent through emails, WhatsApp and Facebooks.
- **Influence** by having regular meetings with pastors and leaders. Meetings with the leaders and pastors are more important than meetings with church staff.
- **Encourage** network of churches through frequent visits by the general Overseer and the Senior Ministers.
- **Teach** and organize workshops to maintain loyalty.

ANAGKAZO, BIAZO AND ANAIDEIA

Anagkazo, Biazoz and Anaideia are not found in the English dictionary. They are all closely related words with close meanings. They are Greek words.

Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

Anagkazo

- Anagkazo means to compel, to drive, to constrain by all means such as force, persuasion and entreaties.

Biazo

- Biazo means to use force or force one's way into doing something. The managers of worldly companies and organizations use all forms of advertisements to convince customers of their products. They use all sorts of songs and super stars to make their products catchy and attractive.
- The alcoholic companies are one of the best in the business. Alcohol has broken more homes, destroyed more marriages, caused many car accidents, and started more fights than anything else. Yet it is the most sought for commodity due to advertisements.
- Through these advertisements, people are being forced to believe in things which are not true. Companies in the world are forcing their way through to make more money; they are using Biazo. What is the church doing?
- If the church should spread, it got to force her way through. The church must reach out to lost at all cost. Companies of the world which do all forms of

advertisements hardly think about the cost. They know if the product breaks through, they will recoup every penny invested.

- It is time for the church to stop thinking about the cost of missions and begin doing the unthinkable so they can do the undoable by winning the entire world for Christ.
- Christianity appears to be strangely calm. Christians are too gentle and do not want to offend anybody. That is not what Biazo means. We have to be a little more forceful in soul winning. Christianity has to be biblically forceful more than even what the world is doing in selling their deadly products.

Anaideia

- Anaideia means to be shameless. Some world class artists expose themselves naked on stages and they are not ashamed. In our Ghanaian culture this appears to be strange to see people of the opposite sex involved in open kissing. They are care less about who sees them. They are shameless (Anaideia).
- Why are you ashamed to preach the Gospel? If the Apostle Paul was not ashamed to preach the gospel, why you? The church should not be ashamed of Christ. In this adulterous and sinful generation, Jesus warns us to preach the gospel. Pray for Anaideia (shameless) to preach the Gospel.

Mark 8:38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Luke 9:26 For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.

Rom. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

- Homosexuals are shameless of their irregular sexual lifestyle. They insist it's their human rights. They are compelling governments all over the world to enact laws in their favor. All these things are taking place in our eyes. In Ghana, the government nearly smuggled the LGBT agenda in the form of Comprehensive Sex Education into the educational curriculum if it had not been the pressure mounted by religious authorities. People are unashamed to do the bidding of the devil, yet Christians sit aloof, trying to be gentle and not to hurt anybody. Paul declared that "Woe unto me if I preach not the gospel."

1Cor. 9:16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

Anagkazo, Biazo, Anaideia and Church Growth

Church growth through Anagkazo

- Anagkazo is important because it is a type of evangelism that can lead to massive church growth. It is “The Jesus Way” to fill His church. Anagkazo is an important way to reach certain people that can fill your church. Without Anagkazo, your church is going to be empty. Without Anagkazo, many churches will die a natural death because group of people will never ever be won for the Lord. Life is becoming more hectic and people becoming busier in the 21st century. Anagkazo is needed to break this deadlock and to compel people to come.

Luke 14:16-20 Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

Luke 14:21-22 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.

Luke 14:23-24 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

- The lord of the party invited several important people to his big party but all the invitations were turned down. The man was very surprised at the behavior of the invited guests after spending so much on the program. He became very angry as he listened to the excuses of those he had invited. In his anger, he decided to invite anybody he found anywhere.
- The story is a representation of the church which is tasked by Christ to go out to the world to invite people of all races to the great supper of our Lord. God has thrown the invitation for the world to come to Christ, and let's believe Christ will have His guest hall full of people.
- The Jews first rejected Christ. Then it was followed by the elite in society who had access to hear the Gospel but rather, they choose to criticize preachers. Now the poor and the less respected are reached and they are coming in their numbers to Christ.
- It is time for every believer to use Anagkazo for people of all races to come to Christ. In Pretoria, I used Anagkazo to preach to people. In Durban, South Africa, I used Anagkazo to preach to people in ships. In Glasgow, Scotland, I used Anagkazo to preach to people of all races. It is time to compel people to come so the house of Gpd will be full.
- As a pastor, evangelist, church planter, missionary or church member, use Anagkazo to persuade more people of the business and elite class to come to Christ. Per their work schedules, they think they have no time for the Lord, but go outside there and persuade them to come.
- As a church, more people come in and more as well go out. If those coming in are less than those going out, your church will soon die. Use Anagkazo as a pastor to persuade more people to stay than those who go out.

- The lord of the supper used Anagkazo to fill his house for the party. If he had not used Anagkazo, he would have got an empty house that day. Use Anagkazo to avoid an empty church.
- Sitting in the church and inviting people to come had been a long unworkable strategy. Peoples life are not touched by those strategies. The lord of the party changed his strategy when the invitation did not work. He sent people to the highways, bypasses, and everywhere any least opportunity is found to brings people in for his house to be filled. If you want church growth, use same principle.
- Simple church games, anniversaries and some kind of funny celebrations held in many churches will not affect the life of people who are lost in the pit of sin. It will not go very far and have any lasting effect in today's world. The church must go up there and drive people to God by persuasion.

It is a great supper

- Use Anagkazo to prepare for the great supper. The man in the story did not prepare for a small supper, it was a great one. And he put lots of preparations into it. Crusades, outreaches and missions depend upon great preparations. The Anagkazo man in the story did not take preparations for granted. Ministry work demands thousands of hours for preparations. To have a great harvest, you need to invest in prayer, studies, preachings, and teachings. Do it as if you are doing to tens of thousands of people.
- The Anagkazo man in the story used influence to affect many people. He sent his servants to where they were not prepared to go. Your church cannot grow if you keep what you have to yourself. If the next two or three houses

to your church do not know what you are doing, your church will not grow. Begin to become friendly to those around you.

- When you sit in a bus, taxi, or private vehicle, you can decide to be friendly to those around you or not. Begin talking to people around you. Share Christ with them. If He had saved and set you free, you can tell others as well.
- Those who preach about condoms are not ashamed to do it. If those who speak openly about their boyfriends and girlfriends are not ashamed to do so, why should you be afraid to tell people about Christ, your dearest boyfriend on earth.
- Every pastor needs the spirit of Anagkazo to bring his community to church. Use your Sunday forenoon service to send the church members out to invite people to come to church. They should persuade them, hold their hands and bring them in. do this for several weeks and you will begin to see church growth. Church is possible, only that pastors are not putting in enough effort and persuasion.
- Use Anagkazo to fill prevent empty church. Fill you church halls with members through dawn broadcast, open air crusades, street evangelism, tract distribution, radio television ministries among other to persuade people. Go to unknown places, go to foreign countries and preach everywhere. Your church would be full.
- Use Anagkazo to fight excuses. People are pruned to give excuses. Even sometimes, regular church members practice it. Consider the man in the story of Luke 14, he never accepted excuses. Whether it's an excuse about work, marriage, or purchasing some land, never be overtaken by such excuses from people. Use Anagkazo to make them follow you.

- Use Anagkazo to overcome lies and to see through emptiness of excuses. As a pastor, be a bit smarter and firm. Fight against lies and make a way for people to follow you to church. You need the ability to overcome excuses. That is the difference between successful and unsuccessful men. The man in Luke 14 was not overwhelmed by excuses. If you want to do something, make a way. If you don't want to do something, accept excuses.
- If people are not tired of sinning, why should you be tired of preaching the Gospel. Knock at the doors of people. Use Anagkazo to compel them to church. Don't relax!! Don't relent!! Noah preached for 100 years whilst building the biggest ark on earth. He started preaching when he was 500 years and the rains came when he was 600.
- Use Anagkazo until there is no room in the church. Available spaces mean you still have work to do and for souls to be saved. The man in the story kept sending his servants because there were still room in the house. He kept saying, "Compel them to come until my house is filled."

Luke 14:22-23 And the slave said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the slave, Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in that my house may be filled.

- Never be satisfied with the number of people in your church. If your are ten, desire for twenty. If you are fifty, desire for hundred. If you are two hundred, go for one thousand. Evangelism is church growth. Make soul winning your vision. "Every member one soul" should be your motto.

Anaideia and Biazo can cause church growth

- The strength and desire to evangelize depends on Anaideia and Biazo. Many Christians do not even know so much people are going to hell. They are at ease in Zion thinking hell does not exist. Many walking in the streets of your community have just died. They do not even know that they are going to hell.
- What we need now is Biazo. Biazo means to use force. Go up there and stop preaching to the same church members every day. Many are in need of the Gospel. Preach to prostitutes, truck pushers, the commoners in the streets of your locality.
- Bring people from their homes to crusade grounds, to church services, and always do altar calls. Get new people and force them to believe the Gospel. Stop being too lenient.
- The eyes of unbelievers are blinded, the church has to go in by force to bring them into the Kingdom of God. the god of this world and on 24/7 hour intensive program for unbelievers.

Matt. 11:11 Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen one greater than John the Baptist. But the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Matt. 11:12 But from the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven is treated violently, and the violent claim it.

2Cor. 4:4 in whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that the light of the Good News of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should not dawn on them.

Jude 1:22-23 On some have compassion, making a distinction, and some save, snatching them out of the fire with fear, hating even the clothing stained by the flesh.

ANAIDEIA

- Anaideia means shamelessness. It takes shamelessness to start a church. Stop thinking of if people did not come. Stop thinking of being embarrassed and the name calling. Stop thinking of people hearing that you started a church and now it's not there. Anaideia will make you break this jinx.
- In the Gospel of Luke chapter 11, Jesus told a story of a man who needed three loaves of bread. This man disregarded any shame and embarrassment and went to his friend to meet his need at that odd time. Stop being so much concerned about your public image and reputation. If you do so, you will not achieve so much for God.
- If you are ashamed to press for certain things, you will never achieve them. Jesus was publicly crucified; His nakedness was exposed for the then world to see; what is shameful than what Jesus went through in the hands of unbelievers. All His friends, relatives, and enemies were present, yet He shamelessly went through for our sakes.
- Do not be ashamed of healing ministry. Demonstrate public healing. Invite the sick and the maimed. Invite all kinds of people harassed by the devil to the platform for healing. The devil will whisper into your ears, "no one will be healed." What about if they are healed. Invite people to testify about the Lord has done and is doing.
- Bury your pride as a professional, pastor and whatever state you are in to do something great for the Lord. Respond to the call of full-time ministry, invite people to church, and shamelessly stand in the open spaces and declare Christ as Savior and Lord.

HARD LEADER AND CHURCH GROWTH

- From the words of the largest church in the world, David Yonggi Cho, that to build a large church, you need to be a very strong leader. This is not contradictory because most people think the pastor is supposed to be soft, gentle, caring, understanding, and a man who listens to all problems of the church members.
- Another picture of the pastor is that he must have time for everyone, and children of the church members. He must be friendly to people including outsiders who want to talk to him.
- A pastor ought to be hard leader because most things describing the work of the pastor refer to hard things. Jesus refers to wisemen building houses on rock solid foundations. A big church built on a soft leader would collapse one day when the rains begin to fall and the floods rise up.
- The church as a house of god equally needs rock solid foundation to deal with rising tides and difficult, situations. If the winds blow, the church should stand after the situation. If the foundation is not rock solid, such a church has no future.

Matt. 7:24 “Everyone therefore who hears these words of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man, who built his house on a rock.

Matt. 7:25 The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat on that house; and it didn’t fall, for it was founded on the rock.

- Jesus called Peter, the first leader of the church “Rock.” Jesus changed his name from Simon to Peter (Rock). Jesus knew that a hard person was needed to build the body of Christ worldwide.

- Peter wanted Peter to be rocky hard who is not easily overpowered by situations; who is not easily manipulated or moved around. To build a mega church, you must also be a leader who is not easily defeated like Peter.

Matt. 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

- Jesus testified about John to the people of being a hard leader. John was not only a hard leader but a hard speaker. He dared the Pharisees, the Scribes, the tax collectors and soldiers to repent. If you are not a hard leader, you cannot speak against corrupt government officials and open sin committed by people from all walks of life.

Matt. 3:1-4 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

Matt. 3:5-9 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to *our* father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

- John the Baptist was a strong preacher. He even rebuked Herod for marrying his brother Phillip's wife. Jesus described John as somebody more than a prophet.

Matt. 11:7-9 And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind? But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet.

- The rise and fall of any organization or church depends on the leader. As the pastor is, so is the church. If the pastor is weak, so is the church. An entire church cannot depend upon a pastor who is weak, phlegmatic and indecisive.
- Like the Avianca aircraft pilot who run out of fuel and got crushed killing many people on board. Investigations reveal that he could have impressed on the traffic control that he needed to land urgently but he did not because of traffic on the ground.
- Jesus cannot depend upon leader who are so weak, soft and indecisive until calamity strikes. He chose strong leaders like Peter to take charge when He was away. Jesus said, **“Strike the shepherd, and the flock shall scatter”** **Matt. 26:31**. Jesus knew that the safety of the flock depends upon the shepherd. The same is true today. You cannot build a successful mega church without the presence of a strong pastor.
- As the head of the church, Jesus Himself is a hard leader. He is the Rock, which when you fall on it, you will scatter; when it falls on you, it will grind you. The Rock that followed the Israelites was Christ. The lazy man in the

parable of the talent described his lord as “Hard man.” The lord in the passage technically, is Jesus Christ.

Matt. 25:24-25 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

Matt. 25:26-27 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

COPYING AND CHURCH GROWTH

1Cor. 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of Christ.

- “What man can do, man can do,” Anonymous. What somebody has done, another man can do it better. Copying is God’s method of making you learn as His child.

Paul urged the believers to be followers of God.

Eph. 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children

And also to have the mind of Christ

- Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Paul urged believers to follow him and other leaders

- **1Cor. 4:16** Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.
- **Phil. 3:17** Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.
- **1Thess. 1:6** And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:
- **2Thess. 3:9** Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.
- **Heb. 6:12** That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Learning from Jesus

- Jesus encourages us to learn from Him. How could you do this without copying? Without humility, it is difficult to learn from Jesus. Thinking you it all will never make you be like Jesus.

Matt. 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Copying makes you successful

- Copying makes you become something that is already successful. All the software and hard wares of computers in the market are made of different brands but the same system.
- A KIA vehicle may use an Opel engine and so on and so forth. This makes car manufacturing easier. Copying in ministry is not short of this principle. If you no God has called but has no clue as to move your ministry forward, copy from those successful who are ahead of you.

The 12 Apostles and the 70 copied from Jesus

- Jesus sent them two by two to practice what He had taught them. They went and preached like Jesus, cast out demons like Jesus, and came back to report to Jesus. They did not do something different from what Christ had taught them. If they had, they would have recorded a different result.

Luke 9:1-2 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

Luke 10:1, After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

Luke 10:17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

- Copying from Jesus by the 12 apostles and the 70 means they were another of the same kind. They gained access to the strategies and formulae that have worked for Christ.
- The people of the day saw that the apostles had been with Jesus. They knew they were not different from Jesus from the way ministry is done.

Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

The example of David

- Some 400 to 600 men who were ignorant, in debt, without hope, without trade, and without vision came in contact with David, the giant and the lion killer, and at the end of the day, they behaved right like David. These men learned how to copy. David had his type all over the military.
- It made the army very strong and David did not lose any war. That is how ministry should be. For example, if all of us are working like Bishop Dag Heward Mills, we would have won the entire world for Christ in some few years.

1Sam. 22:1 David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him.

1Sam. 22:2 And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.

2Sam. 21:15-17 Afterwards, war broke out between the Philistines and Israel, so David went down to fight the Philistines. David became weary, and Ishbi-benob, who had been fathered by giants, said he intended to kill David. (His bronze spearhead weighted 300 shekels, and he carried state-of-the-art weaponry.) But Zeruiah's son Abishai came to David's aid, attacked the Philistine, and killed him. After this, David's army told him, "You're not going out anymore with us to battle, so Israel's beacon won't be extinguished!"

2Sam. 21:18 Sometime later after this incident, there was another battle with the Philistines at Gob. Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Saph, who had been fathered by giants.

2Sam. 21:19 In yet another battle at Gob, Jaare-oregim the Bethlehemite's son Elhanan killed Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear resembled that of a weaver's beam.

2Sam. 21:20 Later on, there was another battle at Gath, where there was a very tall man with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot—24 in number—who had also been fathered by giants.

2Sam. 21:21-22 When he defied Israel, David's brother Shimeah's son Jonathan killed him. These four giants, who had been fathered by a giant in Gath, were killed at the hands of David and his servants.

Go the same way

- Preach the way Jesus preached. Preach His message. Pray His prayer. The disciples one day saw Jesus praying, and they asked Him to teach them how to pray. Even John the Baptist too taught his disciples how to pray.

Luke 11:1 Once Jesus was praying in a certain place. After he had finished, one of his disciples told him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

- The disciples did not have to struggle to know how to pray because Jesus gave them the principles. Copying helps you to follow a well chartered cause and will have the benefit of those who went before you.
- The disciples had the benefit of studying from Jesus Christ and John the Baptist in the area of prayer. Pray in the same way that they prayed. Seek God in the same way that they did. You will surely become a marvelous copy of something successful.
- Copying quickens your rate of advancement in life and ministry. What slowed them down would not slow you down. Experiments and trials are all born out of copying. Researches carried out in organizations and by human beings are based on previous works.
- Copying is a natural way to increase. The natural way that all of creation multiplies is by producing another of the same kind. Pastors should shamelessly learn from those ahead. Try to be like Jesus!! Try to be like other leaders ahead of you!! Be like the same kind!!

Gen. 1:12 Vegetation sprouted all over the earth, including seed-bearing plants and fruit trees, each kind containing its own seed. And God saw that it was good.

Gen. 1:21 And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that *it was* good.

Gen. 1:25 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that *it was* good.

Church growth demands persistent effort

- 7 days prayer meeting once a year does not bring church growth. Those kinds of prophetic programs internally organized by churches does not bring church growth.
- Church growth comes by intensive fasting and prayers for the lost; intensive soul winning and evangelistic outreaches; intense burden for the lost; having a budget with the intention of saving the lost; confronting the gates of hell without fear; sending people into local and overseas mission fields; compelling sinners to come to Christ among others.
- Church growth is accomplished through persistent and constant effort. Without persistence in seeking the growth of the church, a pastor will not have a mega church.
- Diligence is the constant exertion of your body and mind towards a goal. People want hands to be laid on them so that they can receive the magical gift of mega church. But church growth does not happen that way.
- Church growth is given to pastors who are diligent. Diligent means constant and earnest effort to accomplish what is undertaken. Church growth happens through diligence and hard work. To have church growth, be relentless in pursuit of it. Do not give up!!

THE HARDWORKING PASTOR

- How does a pastor work hard? Who is considered a hardworking pastor?
How does a pastor give all his time to the work of the Lord?
- As a pastor, use your fruitful hours to work hard. Do not use it to comb about, involving in useless talks and doing nothing. Pastors have different fruitful working hours. It may not be 8am-5pm as secular workers do, but as led by the Spirit they can start work early in the morning and close at midnight especially on Sundays.
- Some pastors even do not understand what it means by pastors working hard and on full-time. Consider the taxi driver who drives 8 hours a day. This to me is considered full-time work. No pastor can claim doing the work of the ministry until it actually consumes a reasonable amount of his time in the week.

Waiting is work

- If waiting on God, catching the anointing, receiving revelations and guidance from the Holy Spirit does not take up many hours and days of your week, then you are not working yet. For a minister of God, praying and waiting on God must take up many hours. If it is work, it will take up your time.
- When you were not a pastor building a mega church, you could afford to spend few minutes catching the anointing. You could afford to spend twenty minutes receiving revelation from the Word. But now that you are a professional mega church builder, you need to spend several hours and days waiting on the LORD!

- The ministry work will keep you exhausted and worn out. It will leave you tired and worn out. It will take a huge chunk of your income it's a ministry of complete sacrifice.
- You will spend money in buying books and CDs that you need, travels, visiting both sick and healthy members, counseling, interacting with people from different backgrounds is a hard work. as you do God's work, you expend your time, money and energy. When you begin to feel tired, just remember that it is a sign that you are work.

Repetition is important

- In building a mega church, work hard by doing the same thing over and over again. By nature, all real work is repetitive and regular. Do not get bored in repeating the same thing again and again. Keep praying, preaching, visiting, counseling, waiting on the LORD, catching the anointing and revelation through the word of God.
- Never be dragged into the temptation of thinking prayer is repetitive and boring. If you treat prayer as work, it will not be boring. When visiting becomes your work, you will have to visit repeatedly and regularly.
- Conduct pastoral visit repeatedly. Mega church pastors must intentionally go to the homes of their members on regular basis. In secular work, workers go to work when they don't even feel like. And they do so repeatedly and regularly.
- In the same way, anyone who claims to be doing the work of the ministry must rise up and repeatedly do the important tasks of a pastor. Pastors do not pray just because they feel like. They pray because they have to. As a

mega church pastor, rise up early in the morning and cheerfully intercede for the people God has given under your care.

Luke 10:1 After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

- After sending the twelve, Jesus did not relent. He went ahead of sending the seventy. He did the same thing again. Going on evangelistic trip and repeating it should not be a boring activity. Mega church pastors have to do evangelism always, whether souls are won or not.

Work hard under an overseer

- The twelve apostles worked hard under Jesus Christ as their leader and overseer. Again, the seventy as well worked hard under the supervision of Jesus Christ.
- The apostle Paul directed Timothy and Titus in ministry. He told them what to do, what to say, and where to stay. He sent them on missions and to oversee churches. Timothy and Titus are good examples of ministers who worked under the oversight of an apostle. They received detailed instructions on how to behave in the church. The epistles of 1 and 2 Timothy, and Titus are manuals of church behavior and pastoral instructions. The reality is that most ministers have to be supervised.

Titus 1:4-5 To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

- A pastor seeking to grow a mega church should not frown on instructions and corrections. The mega church pastor should not consider the church systems to be too rigid, too tight and too inflexible and as a result, threaten to break away. As a pastor seeking to grow a mega church, do not think you need space to operate and develop your own ministry. And do not allow money to deceive you into building your own ministry. Your promotion comes under supervision.

Hard work from the heart

- Working hard generates from the heart. Without a good heart, you cannot work hard. Heart workers are those pastors who working without thinking about what others say. Thus, they work for Christ. And mind workers are those pastors who think about what others say about their work. These work in reaction to views from outside. Thus, they work for themselves.
- Heart workers have the mind of Christ. They have the mind to counsel people, visit people, pray to catch the anointing. Nobody teaches them what to do. They do it willingly from the heart. Mind workers wait for instructions, though they know what to do. They wait for supervisors to instruct them and they get bitter about that. They think they are under compulsion. They think they are working for somebody to enjoy. If you are a true pastor, you have a “natural care.” You care for people without waiting to be instructed.
- As a pastor, no one will tell when to pray, study or visit anyone. No one will speak to you about the changes you have to make in your ministry.

- And the decisions you have to make. Try to work hard without an overseer and do the right thing.

Phil. 2:20-21 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

Prayer and church growth

- Prayer is the sustaining force and power of the church. Pastors must learn to pray for hours if they are seeking church growth. Three hours minimum would be enough for any pastor seeking a mega church GROWTH. Pastors in Korea pray for longer hours. No wonder the largest churches in the world are found in the part of the world.

Visitation and church growth

- There is a difference between church members who have been visited and those who have never been visited. Church members who have been visited in their homes become stable and hardly ever leave the church. Pastors are expected to visit their sheep in their homes. This is different from preaching and teaching from the pulpit. One of the sacred duties of the pastor is to visit.

Jer. 23:2 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.

Counseling and church growth

- Feeding the church with the pure Word of God enhances church growth. Teaching and counseling are likened to green pastures where sheep are fed. Continuous teaching brings steady growth to the sheep. Emphasize on teachings instead of miracles. Teachings grow churches faster than miracles.
- As a pastor, mingle with the church members after the service is over. Get to know them deeper. They should know your voice as well as you knowing theirs. With this principle, you will know people who are not visited but still need pastoral visits. You will know their challenges in life and what they want to do or are doing. It affords you the opportunity to pray for them better. The sheep under the care of this type of pastoring will never scatter and will remain loyal to the church and Christ.

MEGA CHURCH GROWTH AND THE PASTOR

- Church growth depends upon the pastor than the sheep. The growth of the church rises and falls on the pastor. The ministry depends upon the pastor because he is the shepherd. If the pastor goes down, everything will go down. So, as a pastor, take heed of yourself. Invest in yourself. You must protect yourself and you must help yourself.
- As a pastor, what you need most is waiting, anointing and revelation. They are the three basic things you can do to work on yourself. Ignoring them would bring blindness in ministry; and would make ministry work hard. As a pastor, learn to cultivate the act of working on yourself and not be found wanting.

Waiting and the pastor

- As you wait upon the Lord, in His own time, He tells you what to do, where to go, and what to say. He gives concise directions in waiting times. Jesus waited before His Father in long hours of prayer before going out to minister. Reduce your busy schedules drastically and get involved in waiting long hours and days before the Lord. It can change your ministry.
- Waiting slows you down, it involves not rushing into things but letting the Lord take the lead. Waiting makes your ministry a spiritual one from the beginning to the end. Even the apostles knew that full-time ministry involves prayer and ministry of the Word. We can't do otherwise. The work of the pastor is not serving on tables. Thus, organizing food and serving the church members. It is to pray and minister the Word.

Acts 6:2-4 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

Anointing and the pastor

- Every pastor needs several kinds of anointing as he delivers his ministry tasks. Without anointing, ministry work is simply impossible and frustrating. What you are doing in ministry determines the kind of anointing the Holy Spirit imparts to you. The anointing is the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ told us to pray for the Holy Spirit. As a pastor, you need to spend several hours and days praying for the anointing of the Holy Spirit before you can be endued with that power. It doesn't come by chance nor on the silver platter. You need to put in serious prayer and determination.

Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Revelation and the pastor

- Revelation is what makes you different from other pastors and the congregation. Revelation unveil mysteries and enables you to lead your people as a leader. It sets you apart.

How to receive revelation

- Revelation is received through various means. The first and foremost is through the leading of the Spirit. The leading of the Spirit brings guidance. God knows and God directs through His Spirit.
- Revelation comes by in-depth study into God's Word and messages received from men of God. Again, revelation is received through discussions from fellow pastors, teachers and prophets. If you opened your ears, you hear God's voice when another spirit filled believer is speaking. Biographies from other men of God opens doors for. Revelations to be received. Revelation is received through studying the spiritual experiences of other men of God. revelation is received when you suddenly receive a reminder by the Holy Spirit of some vital information long forgotten. You receive a revelation when God puts a burden on your heart. You receive revelation when God impresses something on your heart through the inner witness of the Spirit.

The church in Antioch received revelation to send Paul and Barnabas.

- **Acts 13:1-3** Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away.
- **John 14:26** But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

- **2Pet. 1:21** For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.
- Revelation is received when one is led by the Spirit of God. The person is no longer a child but a son. Sons are matured enough to be led by the Spirit, hear from the Spirit and to be anointed by the Spirit.
- **Rom. 8:14-16** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:
- **Acts 16:9** And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.
- **Acts 16:10** And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

What you need now:

1. The manifestations of God
2. The presence of God

The manifestations of God

- This is to receive supernatural guidance to God's will and obedience to His Word. Also, get connected to God's people whom you know have the presence of God. the key here is to obey God and His Word whether the

Word came by the Scriptures or through dreams and visions. God will manifest Himself to you if you obey His words.

John 14:23 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

The presence of God

- Again. Obedience to the Word of God comes with the presence of God. obedience to the will of God attracts His presence. Holiness and righteous living are some other basic ingredients needed to attract the presence of God.
- **John 14:23** Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Church growth and church branding

- Church branding is how you package your church to the outside world to make it approachable, acceptable and reputable. Outward appearance matter in church growth whether you like it or not. Many people take glory in outward appearance because that is what they see and understand. You can't ignore this as a minister.
- The outward and inward appearance of your church will affect your church growth. If your church building is stuffy, hot and airless, people will snub at it. If the church is housed in a ramshackle and old building, it would not have

the needed attention. People will not see it. There should be enough and clear pointers leading to the location of your church.

- The location of the church affects church growth. If people fear to come to church because the church location is unsafe, it will affect church growth. How is the stage like? Is it overcrowded with instruments or items not in use by the church? beautifully decorated stage with nice podium will definitely affect the growth of your church.
- The outward appearance of the pastor, neat of shabby cloths can affect church growth. Again, that of the associate pastor, pastors' wives, singers, and other leaders will definitely affect church growth. Learn from king Solomon and his meeting with the Queen of Sheba.

WOMEN AND CHURCH GROWTH

- Women are very resourceful and one of the greatest assets any church can have. They can help church growth and also be a source of constant church trouble.
- Women helped the ministry of Jesus. If women helped Jesus, I will need women to help me too. So would you. It was not only the disciples who helped Jesus, women travelled alongside Jesus, ministering unto Him.

Luke 8:1-3 And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve *were* with him, And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.

- Apostle Paul used women. Women made huge influence in the ministry of the apostle Paul. They made his ministry grow and so would they make yours grow. They do not only have to run rounds serving teas and coffees. They can be very prayerful and evangelistic with worldwide healing and revival ministries.

Phil. 4:3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and *with* other my fellow laborers, whose names *are* in the book of life.

Women can carry anointing

- Women have a softer heart than men when it comes to the work of the anointing, visions and working for Christ in general. The women with an issue

of blood for twelve years was more sensitive to the anointing than Peter, John and the rest of the apostles who were rather arguing with Jesus of who touched Him. In that fateful resurrection morning, women were busy going to look for what had happened whilst the great apostles were fast asleep or hiding somewhere in their bases buried in unbelief and fear.

Luke 8:43-44 And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, Came behind *him*, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanchèd.

- Women were associates of the apostle Paul in his missionary travels. They helped apostle Paul to achieve great works for God. in this era, women can be co-workers with pastors in the ministry.

Phil. 4:3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and *with* other my fellow laborers, whose names *are* in the book of life.

- Women are instruments of church growth because they recognize the anointing and comparatively believe more in it than men. Many revivals in history including the Azusa Street Revival and worldwide Pentecostal movement began through a lady by name Agnes.
- William Seymore was the leader of the Azusa Street Revival attended the Bible School founded by Charles Parham. Charles Parham laid hands on Agnes to receive the Holy Spirit. A glow came over Agnes after receiving the Holy Spirit and she began to speak in fluent Chinese tongues. She even

received the ability to write in Chinese. This was documented by the government. Agnes started the Azusa Street Revival.

- Naturally, women are the producers of children and they make populations grow. Women attracts children wherever they are in the church and elsewhere. The ministry follows similar pattern. They invite many people and are able to convince people to church than men.
- God destined to destroy the devil through women. The seed of the women was to bruise the head of the serpent that deceived the world. The position of women because of this ancient prophesy can affect the growth of your church.

Gen. 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

- Women will make a church grow because they have the natural gift of talking and hence, good speakers. They talk to children every day and have that natural and inborn ability to easily relate to people in ministry. God used Aimee Semple McPherson to build the Four Square denomination of churches which is a growing ministry today.
- Women bring church growth because they are natural helpers. Women were created by God to help. Every woman has an inbuilt ability that makes her a natural helper. Allow them to use their helping gifts to grow your church and you will never regret you did.
- Women will make a church grow because they are less concerned about money than men. let them feel safe, secure and happy and that is all they need. Women handle money graciously than men. with this aside, women

are more permanent and loyal than men. women can keep their jobs for a lifetime but not so with men. men normally chase after money. A church filled with a faithful and a loyal people has the capacity to grow.

RADIO, TELEVISION AND BUSES HELP GROW A CHURCH

Radio Ministry

- Use it by faith to touch millions of unreached people.
- You must know that you will reach people through the radio whom you will not reach in any other way.
- Radio ministry comes with many blessings and advantages. The entire region becomes your arena and congregation.
- Be led by the Spirit into radio ministry. Make sure you have peace of heart and the settled will of God to start a radio ministry. You will receive help from unknown sources if the hand of God is in it.
- Depending upon how you are led by the Spirit, preferably, it's good for your voice to be heard preaching and praying on the radio every morning. Your radio program can be effective if you have it every day or every weekday.
- Radio programs must be prepared just as Sunday programs as done. Do not come to the program unprepared and fumble through the program. If your listeners realize you are unprepared they may be tempted to stop listening to you.
- Minister to people as though they are in front of you. Speak as if you are speaking to thousands. Do not wonder to yourself whether people are listening or not. Many people are listening to you.
- Pray for people on the radio. People love to be prayed for. Use the King James English and several synonyms. Pray from the Spirit.
- Invite people to come to your church as you minister prayer and the Word. Use your radio time wisely. Give directions to people under the anointing.

- Do altar calls for salvation and healing. The radio ministry is a big platform to invite millions to accept the free gift of salvation and be healed of all sorts of ailments. Salvation is Jesus and that is where all church growth starts.
- Ask for support at the right time. The Bible says ask and you shall receive, knock and it shall be opened unto you. Asking for support to enhance the ministry is part of the work of the pastor. Do not start your radio ministry by asking for money.

Television Ministry

- Television ministry has a powerful influence. It makes you known and your church visible. People already have you and your church in mind if they want to join one. There are times people attend your church as a direct response to your program. Be aware that having a television ministry will not necessarily cause people to attend your church.
- Be led by the Spirit of God before starting a television ministry. Do not do it because others are doing it. There are many hidden costs in television ministry. Find time to know exactly what is involved.
- Train your own people to your television programs. If not, you will incur huge costs which can kill the television ministry. Compare your programs with other successful television ministries and try to match them. Emulation is the key to catching up and surging forward. Don't be ashamed to be a copy cut. Buy expensive equipments when you are a beginner in the television ministry.
- Always keep the name of your ministry on the screen. Show people how to reach you and make it easy for them to do so. Do not let people watch your

program for twenty minutes without knowing who is speaking or which church is doing the program. It's wrong!!

- Develop a competitive website that will compliment your television ministry. You need a website that will show your programs just as you have it on the television. Throw invitations to people as your programs unfolds. Use your television time wisely and make it easier for people to see you.
- Make telephones and internet facilities ready to answer those who might need follow up. If you tell them to call in, then they must reach you. If not, they might soon lose faith in you and your television program might flop. It will eventually become ineffective.

Bus Ministry

- It is important to know that the absence of a bus ministry could be a missing key in your church growth strategies. The reason is buses help poor people to come to church. many churches have several poor people attending and making them your priority will boost church attendance and God will bless you.
- Deploy churches at strategic points especially where you do outreaches. If you make it easier for them to come to church, they will. Give free buses if you realize the need. Allow the rich in your church to support the bus ministry. It's a source of blessing to them. Charge enough if some can afford. Don't force those who cannot afford. Else, they might stop coming to church.
- Understand that many of the largest churches in the world have effective transport services where they bus people from all over the city to their

churches. Getting involved in bus ministry is simply following the examples of other mega churches in the world today.

The tests

- The mega church pastor will be tested before he can move to the next level. If you are not successful in your test, you cannot move to the next level as a mega church pastor. As you want to do something unique for the Lord, expect persecution. The key to building a mega church is not to complain when going through persecutions even from closest friends and relatives.
- In your quest for mega church, you will go through tests that are designed to humble you. Never fight back. You need to be very humble in order to be a pastor of thousands of people. You must not think too highly of yourself. Expect situations that your strength will be too limited to handle, and that will bring you to your knees.

2Tim. 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Deut. 8:2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, *and* to prove thee, to know what *was* in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

- In your quest for church growth, certain tests you will go through will reveal your true heart identity. God would remove things that you depend upon to know whether you truly love and depend upon Him or not. Don't be surprised when you are facing the hard knocks.

- Test of obedience will surely come. Obedience does not come by singing and shouting in front of the altar. Obedience simply means taking steps to do what God has commanded you. If you love God, just obey and take the gospel to those at the remote places of your community. That is where the test is and stop the too much talking. People profess, proclaim and claim things, but their deeds reveal that they are actually disobedient.
- Loving the Lord comes by deeds not by words. You will do everything for the Lord if you love Him. Whether you love money or fame of ministry, time will tell.

Deut. 13:3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

- As a pastor aspiring to be a mega pastor, expect to go through tests that are like fiery trials. Fire purifies makes one loses everything. Don't think it is strange. You have to lose certain things in order to be a mega church pastor. As long as you are building your house on the rock, the wind and the storm will come.

1Pet. 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

Matt. 7:24-25 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

- A mega church pastor will be tested for his ability to withstand pressure. Pressure from the people, pressure from enemies, pressure from wife, pressure from children, pressure from associates, pressure from the dropping attendance, and financial pressure.

Heb. 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin.

- A mega church pastor will meet wicked and unreasonable men on his way. Such men will oppose you and make things difficult for you. The unreasonable men are temptations and hurdles on your way to church growth.

2Thess. 3:2 And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all *men* have not faith.

- A mega church pastor would be tested by people who desert him. On the journey to church growth, there would be people who will abandon you. If this happens, god expects you to depend upon Him. This is because of your calling the test that go with it. People who do not support you will also test you. They will withhold their support when you need it most.

2Tim. 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

2Tim. 4:16 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.

- A mega church pastor would be confronted with personal weaknesses. Every pastor has a personal weakness. Some have issues with tempers, moodiness, depression, ego, poor communication skills, mismanagement of funds and poor personal judgment among others.

2Cor. 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

- A mega church pastor would be confronted with disloyalty. The growth of your church is determined how you handle disloyalty. Disloyal people can scatter what you are building and make nonsense your church growth efforts. You would be tempted whether you can be drawn into confusion by strife causing members.
- In your quest to become a mega church pastor, your personal need can be a thorn in your flesh. Be wise enough not to be drawn deep into your personal needs to the neglect of your calling and ministry work.

2Cor. 6:4 But in all *things* approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses.

- In your quest to become a mega church pastor, your ability to fast and pray as well as to watch and pray would be tested. Fasting is a painful activity of not eating so that you can pray. Watching is a painful activity of not sleeping so that you can pray.

2Cor. 11:27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

- In our quest to grow a mega church, you would be tested with your willingness to expose yourself to danger. There are certain places God will send you where you would not like to go, especially poor and deprived areas. And also new areas where you have never been before. And don't be deceived in your quest to grow a mega church. deception is all over the place, be warned.

2Cor. 11:26 *In* journeyings often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils by *mine own* countrymen, *in* perils by the heathen, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren.