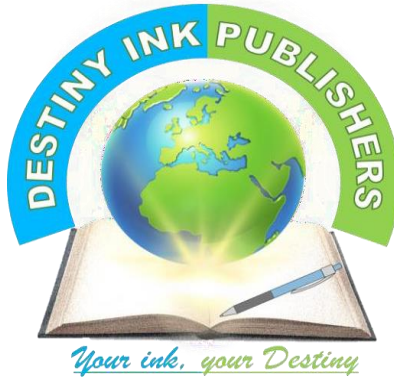


NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH



•ASIA •AFRICA •AMERICA
•EUROPE

Restarting the sleeping engine

**You will know the truth, and the truth will set you
free (John 8:32)**

Peter K. Keitany

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DEDICATION.

I dedicate this book to my family members, friends, and church leaders in the body of Christ who have been a great source of motivation during the writing of this book

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

I would like to acknowledge, and express my heartfelt gratitude to God my heavenly Father and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for the abundance of His grace bestowed upon me in the Lord Jesus Christ who revealed and taught me these wonderful truths through the Holy Spirit.

I also thank my local fellowship Sogon, and those who participated either by prayer, advice or by any other way and more so those who minister with me in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I further thank my mentors in ministry Bishop Julius Chepsat and Rev. Joseph Chepkoyo for the spiritual guidance they gave me for many years. My prayer is that God will use this book to encourage and enlighten pastors, church leaders, and all believers in the body of Christ to learn these wonderful truths and use it to expand the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I also thank Radio Imani Baringo presenters Carol Sigei, and Hildah Rop for giving forum and media to share the ideas on church matters with thousands of listeners who gave valuable feedback.

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FOREWORD.

This book has been written to reveal, and share 29 critical Biblical truths or radical revelations which a Christian requires to survive the world onslaught by several powers which is driving the church far away from the will of God. This Book is hereby written for the current, and future church of Jesus Christ and the next generations.

The main purpose of this book is to equip all the believers (saints) to do the will of God on earth. It is to help believers teach sound doctrine and lead transformed lives, showing true agape love, practicing true worship in giving in the church, leading fruitful lives, serving as per the grace and calling, using wisdom from above, living and walking by faith as empowered by the Holy Spirit, making disciples for Christ, dying to selves, fighting and winning their spiritual warfare and embracing spiritual maturity. It also seeks to revive the sleeping church, and inculcate Biblical values in church leadership, family, and parenting in the Lord. These truths may be very controversial in some religious cycles yet it is the bitter truth. These radical teachings have the potential to stir, and cause revival in the church and set the standards of the vibrant and spiritually fiery early church which Jesus left.

It targets to help the believers to worship God in truth, and Spirit so as to touch and transform the lives of millions of people in the body of Christ around the world.

Furthermore, it is to insist on team leadership in the church for effective ministry as opposed to the most popular one man show which is selfish, immature and ineffective.

It aims to radically assist the church to transform from the rigid mechanical religious system run by mere rules of men to dynamic, spirit filled and graced church touching lives with the love of Christ, causing revival and winning them for Jesus worldwide. It is a book which sharply departs from the ordinary books about church and ministry. It calls for church transformation for better generation. The revival of the church by God in the past brought disruption, and turbulence. Today it will not be different. God disturbs the status quo before He rectifies the situation. I have known the author for 20 years as somebody consistent, honest and passionate about serving God. It is a book the church worldwide should read to get enlightened and guided in key spiritual matters.

**Pastor Joseph Chepkoyo, Bachelor of Theology (BTh),
Church Leader, Teacher, Presiding Bishop,
Jesus Foundation Ministry,
Facilitator, Global Disciples.**

INTRODUCTION.

This Book has been written to reveal, and share critical Biblical truths or radical revelations which a Christian requires to survive the world onslaught by several powers which are driving the church far away from the will of God. This book is hereby written for the current, and the future church of Jesus Christ, the next generations.

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It targets to help the believers to worship God in truth and the Spirit so as to touch and transform the lives of millions of people in the body of Christ around the world.

Furthermore, it is to insist on team leadership in the church for effective ministry as opposed to the most popular one man show which is selfish, immature, and ineffective.

It also seeks to revive the sleeping church and inculcate Biblical values in church's leadership, family and parenting in the Lord. These truths may be very controversial in some religious cycles yet it is the bitter truth. These radical teachings have the potential to stir and cause revival in the

church and set the standards of the vibrant and spiritually fiery early church which Jesus left on earth. It is aimed at waking up the church which is a sleeping giant. It is about restarting again or resuscitation of the powerless Church to life. It is aimed at regaining the lost glory. Over the years the church has declined because of her priorities which have been upside down. It is a protest against the current traditional and mechanical arrangement of the church today; calls for reformation by going back to the spiritual basics.

It aims to radically assist the church to transform from the rigid mechanical religious system run by mere rules of men to a dynamic, spirit filled and graced church touching lives with the love of Christ causing revival and winning them for Christ Jesus worldwide. It is a book which is far away from the ordinary books about church, and ministry. It calls for church transformation for better generation. The revival of the church by God in the past brought disruption, and turbulence; today it will not be different. God disturbs the status quo before He rectifies the desperate situation.

Peter K. Keitany,

Author.

CHAPTER 1: TRUE LOVE.

Love is a strong affection or attraction for another person. It is fatherly or brotherly love. It is written 660 times in the Bible and this indicates its importance for Man.

Agape love is from God and in Latin it means wonderful affection. Signs of true or agape love is full of forgiveness, concern, support in problems and actions not just display of theoretical love or cheap optics. God began it by sending Jesus to die for us. They say it is blind because it can take you beyond the normal limits e.g. The rich can marry a poor or a normal person can marry a blind person.

"Whoever does not love God does not know God, because God is love", 1John 4:8, NIV.

Man is a product of love through salvation by Jesus Christ. Love is an irreducible minimum for any Christian. You cannot be a Christian without the love of God. You can easily change the people you love.

God wants us to love our neighbors, and enemies not only those who love us. Don't love the world, money or its goods. Our love should always be sincere; does no wrong, and never fails. Love one another to show that you know God. Do everything in love because without love we are just empty tins. It is kind, patient and covers multitude of sins.

Fake one is envious, jealous, selfish, arrogant, harmful, boastful, full of lies and gossip. This applies to where people, friends or families seem to relate or live happily but at some point, they are in conflict, separate or even kill each other due to lack of trust and irreconcilable relational differences. The world today is full of fake love.

Biblical References: Mat 5:43-46, John 3:16, Romans 5:8,1
Peter 4:8, Mat 6:24, Rom 12:9,13:10,1 Cor.16:14,13:1-8,1
John 2:15-17,4:7-12.

CHAPTER 2: CALLED TO SERVE GOD.

God calls, and uses people on earth to achieve His objective. God has called us to serve Him, and people. Calling is a strong inner impulse towards serving God. It is accompanied by a divine conviction, and it appears 950 times in the Bible.

Some people respond to the calling by God while others ignore. In calling God looks at the hearts of people first. The Bible tells us not to be ignorant of the spiritual gifts for they are used for a common good in the church, and in a proportion to the grace given by God and working outside the grace will be disastrous for anyone.

When God calls, He empowers us by giving the anointing, grace, favor, power and authority to ensure we are effective. Don't look at your weakness because He empowers you to overcome them.

The whole duty of man is to serve God and obey His commands. This is why we must invest in heaven. Everything on earth is vanity without God.

God calls us before we are born just like Jeremiah; He looks at your heart and commitment.

“It was He who gave some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers”, Ephesians 4:11, NIV.

Every believer has been called, and set apart to serve God and transform lives of others on earth. Some are prophets, apostles, pastors, teachers, evangelists, miracle workers, intercessors, worship teams, administrators, healers, helps, workers of faith, people with word of wisdom and knowledge, people speaking in tongues and interpreting them, people discerning etc. There are also serving and helps, exhortation, giving, mercy, visitation, reconciliation, social concern, literature, media and fine arts.

You must know your calling today to be effective in ministry. People who operate outside their calling will make many mistakes and hurt people. Today, many people think that only pastors are called and others are just spectators because of the importance placed on that gift. They also believe that they reach God through pastors which is a fallacy.

Word of wisdom is where divine and mysterious spiritual truth is applied in life while word of knowledge is where someone is given supernatural knowledge (intuition) about a situation that could not be known by human ability. Works of faith is a great special ability to believe God to do extraordinary things. It is a high level of risk taking. Healings are unique abilities to heal various diseases.

Serving and helps is the practical service in the local fellowship while exhortation is to encourage, inspire, warn and inform people, stir up believers to worship, work and witness for the lord. In giving one gives his or her earthly goods to support God's work and mercy is having sympathy and caring feeling for the needs of others. Intercession is praying and fasting on behalf of others. Hospitality is a kind welcome in church or homes which has won many to Christ.

Visitation is taking God's love to others who can't come to us e.g. the sick, lonely, aged or those in prison. Reconciliation is to bring together in peace those who have been enemies in church or outside; to bring healing to their painful hostility. In social concern God wants us to reach out to the poor and needy in the community.

Literature, media and fine arts is very key in ministry. There is power in reaching people through the written word, films, radio, television, internet and technology. This aids in teaching

the word, enriching worship and making better witness to the world.

Qualification to serve God cannot be confined only to education like with other professions. Even pastoral ministry cannot be based only on academic achievement but is 'me not go first' based on calling, favor and the grace of God. In church, God equally calls academically educated and illiterate people into ministry.

Churches have special programs to take people through basic Biblical training even those who have not gone through formal education to make them effective in their calling and in running church affairs. This process alongside mentoring imparts sound Biblical doctrine into them. It can be done even in one's mother tongue.

Evidence of calling by God.

- Grace and favor of God through breakthroughs and provisions.
- Power and authority with open doors is clear.
- Anointing and goodness which brings acceptance.
- Heavy burden which brings stress if the assignment is not done by the person.
- Passion to perform tasks even in the midst of strong opposition or many difficulties.
- There is no too much straining to achieve results. Absence of blame game or complaints.

NB: The above gifts grow and mature gradually.

In his book 'The Purpose Driven Life' Warren Rick (2002) says everything starts and ends with God and it is not about you. He

says ‘you were born by His purpose and for His purpose. You are not an accident’. We must see life from God’s view. Life in this world is a temporary assignment hence we must invest on eternity.

The writer points out that the reason for everything is to show the glory of God because He made everything for His glory and created man for His own pleasure, enjoyment, benefit and purpose. You were brought into the world to serve God and make a difference using your grace or gifts and not just to consume and enjoy world resources.

Biblical References: Ephesians 4:11-14, 1 Corinthians 12:1-28, Jeremiah 1:4-10, Romans 12:6, Mathew 6:19-21, Ecclesiastes 1:2-9, 12:13, Acts 13:1-3.

CHAPTER 3: WORSHIPPING GOD IN TRUTH AND SPIRIT.

Worship is to show extravagant honor to God. It is written 334 times in the Bible. The Lord cannot worship Himself but waits upon us to do it. It is an expression of adoration and reverence to Him with the help of the Holy Spirit, and a communion with Him backed by divine anointing.

Worship is not a demo or entertainment and not so much reliant on musical equipment but the Holy spirit and flows like a river flowing down stream. It is not mechanical, rigid or too formal. It may not even be so uniform in dancing for it's linked to good character, prayer and anointed songs.

“God is Spirit and His worshippers must worship in Spirit and in truth”, John 4:24, NIV.

We worship God from our hearts with our bodies as holy sacrifice, wealth, new songs and obedience to God. Prayer and fasting forms part of worship because you cannot do it minus prayer. Singing to men or about Satan or world events (secular) has no room in true worship.

True worship leads to physical and spiritual healing, peace of mind, joy, victory in warfare, blessings, deliverance from sins, salvation and hearing God clearly. True worship should be a lifestyle done 24/7 and not seasonal. God looks for true worshippers to use them; He created man mainly for this purpose.

We need to avoid fake worship which is full of hypocrisy, traditions and rules of men, worldly, secular, full of drama, and just for optics for it is in vain because it doesn't reach God and is from the lips and not the heart. Today's church is full of cheap entertainment and fake worship: something radical needs to be done urgently to salvage and correct the anomaly. That is why the current church is on decline spiritually; there is more focus and shift towards external ways of worship

instead of the spiritual, hence many people don't see the difference between true church and world.

Music skills, calling and character of the worship team members makes praise and worship more accurate. In many cases singing worship songs freely in church meetings has more spontaneous spiritual flow and power than using hymn books. Worshipping God in a hurry makes worship meaningless, hence need to give quality time to praise and worship in the church.

Songs sang directly to God like 'You are worthy' are more powerful than those done indirectly e.g. 'He is worthy'. Songs like 'come down God' (Shuka chini Mungu), 'visit us Lord' (Tutembelee Bwana), 'don't pass me by Lord' (usinipite Mwokozi) among others are not speaking to the current spiritual reality of God dwelling in the hearts of believers through the Holy Spirit. Such songs, however, are good for sinners or Christians who have backslidden. We must appreciate that in the current priesthood, all saints are priests and have the ability to access God directly and not necessarily through pastors or other preachers. God is everywhere and omnipresent (i.e. God dwells in heaven, on earth and in the hearts of saints).

Worshipping God with one accord radically empowers, transforms believers and strengthens intimacy with God. There is a need to identify anointed worship members and leaders, then pray with them, train, nurture and mentor them so as to be effective in their areas of calling.

Biblical References: Proverbs 3:9-10, Acts 16:25-31, Mark 7:6-13, John 4:23-25 and Acts 13:3.

CHAPTER 4: POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD.

The Word of God (not words) is the Biblical truth. Word is written 1551 times in the Bible. The Bible contains the word of God written by about 40 inspired men over 2000 years. It was written in Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic languages. The Old Testament has 39 books while the New Testament has 27 books bringing a total of 66 books. The Old Testament is grouped into law, history, wisdom and prophetic books. The New Testament is grouped into gospel books, Acts, letters and the Book of Revelation.

The law books forming the foundation of the Bible are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. The historical books which illustrate God's patient work with the people of Israel, preparing the way for the Messiah are Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther. The poetry and wisdom books which are treasures of worship and meditation are Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. In the prophetic books major prophets are; Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel and Daniel while minor prophets are; Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Zechariah and Malachi. In the New Testament the gospel books are; Mathew, Mark, Luke and John while the Book of Acts dwells on how the early church was formed and its fast growth. The letters giving a fascinating look at the early church are; Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians, Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, Peter, John and Jude. These books are mostly written by Apostle Paul to specific people and congregations for teaching, encouragement, correction and fellowship. The book of Revelation is a prophetic book written by Apostle John. The main character in the Bible is Jesus Christ with one message on the plan of God to redeem humanity through salvation.

Global Disciples (2022) indicates that the 'Word' was there in the beginning and was God and nothing could be done

successfully without it. In the early church the Word took an important place in the lives of believers hence they met daily to read and listen to the it. During the time the word was given more priority than church physical projects.

It has power, and authority to transform people and bring miracles, healing and salvation for it is sharper than the double-edged sword for it penetrates into the bone marrow, thoughts and attitudes of men.

He who hears and follows the Word is wise and those who reject it are foolish.

The scripture is used for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training people in righteousness.

God wants us to be doers of the word not just casual hearers for it is foolishness to those perishing but power to those who are saved by the Lord. "The world will pass away but those who do the will of God will live forever", Global Disciples (2022). Jesus instructed the disciples to spread the word all over the world, to make new disciples and multiply. Jesus spoke the word and people were healed; He overcame temptations of the Satan by saying, " It is written". The Word is the most powerful weapon for any Christian. Saints need to increase the intake of the word daily as spiritual food so that they grow to maturity. God spoke the Word and there was creation.

The Bible encourages us to be filled with the Word so as to be strong and victorious. Jesus said we cannot live or thrive on bread alone but by the Word of God. Without it we are nothing but empty vessels to be used by the Satan.

"All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness", 2 Timothy 3:16, NIV.

How to prepare for a Sermon (Bible Study).

World Map (1993) provides the following guidelines on how to prepare for a sermon. as below;

Homiletics.

Preaching is one of the greatest responsibilities and privileges God gave to man. "The knowledge of God is conveyed through preaching and will lead men to eternal salvation and transform them into the image and likeness of God", 2 Corinthians 3:18.

Homiletics is the art of study of the word and preaching derived from Greek word homileo meaning to communicate. Preaching has both the human and divine aspects.

It is false to say preparing for a message is not necessary or human ability is enough.

How to be effective in preaching.

- Wait upon God, be still, discern the voice of God and what is in His mind and heart. Create time with God.
- Study the Bible prayerfully and ask for the illumination and inspiration on His word.
- Keep a notebook to record the thoughts and ideas that you receive during meditation so that you don't forget. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you revelation.
- Be cleansed by the word. Study the word for your benefit and not mainly for preaching to people. Share your experience and what you believe not just theory, (2 Timothy 2:6). Feed on others what you have eaten.

Concept: Obtain the original theme of the message. Get a seed thought in the mind and develop it into a clear and truthful message.

Composition: Meditate and prayerfully analyze the points of truth.

Construction: Assemble the truthful thoughts in order for easy presentation to listeners.

Communication: Present the message of truth clearly in a simple and interesting way.

Written Sermon

- It is comprehensive, detailed and involves several pages.
- It is normally boring, not interesting and doesn't capture interest of the listener.

Skeleton notes type Sermon

- Brief notes/outline to prompt memory.
- Allows the preacher to be more flexible and inspiring.
- Delivery is more spontaneous and interesting.

Extemporary Sermon

- It is spontaneous, spiritual and emotional, presented without notes.
- The mind and the heart are filled with the message with the help of the Holy Spirit.
- Evangelists have more grace here.
- It often lacks meaningful content and may become over-emotional and become irrational and unconvincing.

Textual Sermon.

- Based on short portion of the scripture which you investigate, analyze and discover the entire truth.
- Presents the truth in clear, orderly and progressive manner.
- Captures interest, prevents wandering, increases boldness and keeps sermon Biblical.
- Structure: Introduction, main truth, conclusion and application.

Topical Sermon.

- Presenting a message on specific topic like love.
- Discover everything the Bible says about the topic, arrange scripture ,revelation and thoughts in an orderly manner.

Typical Sermon.

- Uncovering and communicating the hidden truth in the Bible in a simple way e.g. an event which is symbolically prophetic like the Passover Lamb in Exodus referring to Christ. (John 1:29, Hebrews 8:5,10:1)
- Illustrate doctrine, have broad interpretation, and are open to correction.

Expository Sermon

- Expound meaning and hidden truth in a passage in the scripture. It can also be an analogy.
- It is teaching the whole counsel of God chapter by chapter e.g. gospel of John, Acts 20:27. It should be brief, clear, consistent and coherent.
- It is Biblical; enhances equipping in church and encourage deeper interests.

Biographical Sermon.

- Study of lives of characters in the Bible to enable listeners to learn from them e.g. life of king David.
- Assemble thoughts into chronological order: Birth, upbringing, dealings with God, successes, failures and lessons to learn.
- Realistic with examples to learnt from.

Analytical Sermon.

Detailed analyzing of a subject to get the truth and share.

The preacher.

- God must speak to the preacher for them to be effective.

- Effective speech involves 50% subject matter, 20% psychology, approach and conclusion, 20% effective delivery and 10% personality.
- Be yourself, original, simple, dynamic, attractive, adaptive, audible voice, clean vessel, sincere, relaxed, with passion, so natural, and don't copy others because you are unique.
- Public speaking: Correct breathing, tone, speed, volume, pausing and pronouncing words.
- Dress and stand properly, establish eye contact and proper/moderate facial expressions.
- Don't develop a religious voice.

NOTE: The current church loves fun and entertainment more than the word of God. Bible study has become boring for many and they rely on Sunday sermons only which is not sufficient for spiritual nourishment. This has led to the current immaturity in the church. In the early church Bible study was done daily in homes which is a sharp difference. Many preachers also share motivational sermons with more focus on contemporary material and prosperity so as to please congregations instead of sharing revelations which transform lives of people. The church must repent again and come back to the right track.

Biblical References: Luke 8:22-25, Hebrews 4:12-13, Mathew 7:24-27, John 1:1-3, Acts 2:42,1:8,6:1-6, Genesis 1:1-3, Colossians 3:16, Mathew 4:4,2 Timothy 3:16, James 1:22,1 Corinthians 1:18,1 John 2:17.

CHAPTER 5: TRUE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

Every human being needs to have a true relationship with their creator. Global Disciples (2022) defines intimacy as friendly closeness with God. It is an inseparable oneness joined with deep love and trust. God created us for intimacy with Himself. Jesus Christ went to the cross in Calvary to restore the broken relationship with God due to sin.

Our primary calling is to walk with God through prayer and fasting, meditation on the word and His goodness, true worship, confession of sins and hearing God, and praying without ceasing as guided by the Bible.

Build your relationship with God and enjoy fellowship daily by spending time alone with Him. Communicate with God in a solitary place and don't be too busy in your work or ministry until you replace your personal relationship with God.

A good happy marriage can be a good example of intimacy expressing the oneness between a husband and wife.

"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you don't know", Jeremiah 33:3, NIV.

Prayer must be two-way where you hear God and He hears you. Pray with faith and confidence as per the will of God and not of your selfish will so as to achieve better results.

Fasting is abstaining from food, sex, routine work, cellphone, computer etc. It's breaking away from our normal needs or routine life.

Global Disciples (2022) indicates that Moses and Jesus fasted for 40 days and nights to seek God. King Jehoshaphat called for a fast to win a dangerous war against Israel. The people of Nineveh fasted on sack cloth in response to the preaching of Jonah. Nehemiah organized prayer and fasting when he heard that Jerusalem was in ruins. Anna, an elderly lady, prayed and fasted day and night in the temple. In the ministry of Paul and Barnabas prayer and fasting was a common feature. In the

revived early church everything was conceived, birthed and carried in prayer and fasting.

Fasting helps us to have a deeper fellowship with God and takes our eyes out of this world so as to focus on Christ. Fasting should be gradual from one day, 3 days, 21 days to 40 days. Dry fast is recommended for 3 days while fasting on water may go up to 40 days as enabled by the Lord.

Fasting for public relations and selfish reasons will be a flop. Fasting for good intentions brings good results. Sick people or breast-feeding mothers may not be recommended for fasting for health reasons. Some sick people have died while fasting. Meditation is listening to God in silence, stillness and reflecting on His goodness. This requires a quiet place and time. The Bible tells us to meditate day and night. We cannot hear God in the midst of noise inside or outside us.

God speaks to Man through creation, visions, scripture, dreams, angels, audible voice and the life of Jesus Christ. If we are intimate with God, we will definitely hear His voice.

God can also speak to man in a dramatic way through wind, earthquake, fire, tsunamis, diseases like recent coronavirus. The prayers of Elijah are a good example.

Warren R. (2002) says God wants to be your best friend enjoying continual presence. To develop friendship with God you must choose to be honest, obey and value Him, and have faith in Him. You were formed for God's family where real fellowship (community) among believers is cultivated and unity is protected like in the early church.

Obstacles to hearing God include environmental noise, hardness of heart, not forgiving others, disobedience, pride, bad prayers, fear of man, lack of faith, carnal mind or without the Spirit and wrong intentions. Boy Samuel failed to hear God clearly in first instance. A Christian who doesn't hear God is like a deaf person.

Biblical References: Mathew 22:37-38,6:12, 6:16-18,4:1-10,Jeremiah 2:2, 33:3,Mark 1:35,6:31-32,45-46, Mat 7:7-11, John 15,:1-10,8:47,10:4-27,Acts 1:14, Luke 6:12-13, Isaiah 58:3-9, Psalms 1:1-2,46:10,1 Kings 19:11-15,1 Samuel 3:4-14, Hebrews 4:6-7, Romans 8:16-17, Proverbs 29:25.

CHAPTER 6: LIVING BY TRANSFORMATIONAL FAITH.

Faith is being sure of what you have not seen now and in the future. It is a strong conviction to believe in God. It is a belief without question. It is written 534 times in the Bible.

Firstly, demons also believe in God but while trembling. This is not honest, genuine or sincere. It is believing God in fear.

Secondly, there's faith with hypocrisy or pretense like the teachers of the law and Pharisees who displayed fake faith. Jesus condemned them saying they love long garments, places of honor in parties, titles of honor in public places and praises of people. Jesus said they don't practice what they say but do things for men to see. Jesus called them blind fools, snakes and whitewashed tombs with dead bodies who will not escape hell. They don't enter heaven but shut others from entering. They win a soul and prepare them for the hell. They love material things but hate the spiritual. They clean outside but ignore their inside. They appear righteous outside but full of wickedness inside. It is clear those who exalt themselves will fall down and the greatest person is the one who is a servant.

Thirdly, Transformational faith is the opposite of hypocrisy. It is focused on the inside and spiritual part of a person. It is genuine, honest and sincere. It pleases God. It leads to healing, signs, wonders and strength of the church. It is faith with action and a strong foundation of the church.

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and He rewards those who earnestly seek Him”, Hebrews 11:6, NIV.

We must live by faith not by sight so as to experience the fruits of salvation. Faithless people are failures and don't go far in life for lacking faith invites mental stress and suffering and puts us firmly in the highway of failure or destruction. Transformational faith is like a magnet for it attracts good things from God. It also fills the gap by providing us with what we need.

Biblical References: Mathew 23:1-37, 6:30,9:22,21:22, Hebrews 11:1-40, Acts 6:5,16:5, Romans 1:18,3:28,1 Corinthians 12:9,6:6, Galatians 2:20,3:9, James 2:27.

CHAPTER 7: WALKING IN THE SPIRIT.

We must walk in the Spirit to understand God. The Holy Spirit forms part of the holy trinity of God. The Spirit is bodiless but a person (divine, supernatural God) with mind, will and emotions. The Holy Spirit is God while the evil spirit is used by the devil to promote kingdom of darkness. The Holy Spirit is the source of all spiritual power, guidance, and enablement for all Christians to live a holy victorious life. Spirit is written 842 times in the Bible.

Global Disciples (2022) says that all Old Testament ministers, Jesus Christ and the apostles in the early church were empowered by the Holy Spirit for effective ministry which played a major role during the birth, baptism and ministry of Jesus Christ who was anointed by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the good news, drive out demons and heal the sick.

The Holy Spirit speaks, teaches, testifies, convicts sin, guides, intercedes and sends ministers. He came to comfort, strengthen and guide us. "He is all knowing, everywhere and knows the inner heart of a man. He dwells in the saints and empowers them to live holy lives and minister to the family, church and world", Global disciples 2022. Lying to the Spirit is a great sin because it amounts to lying to God. That's why Ananias and Sapphira died in church for lying to God about their finances. Its work was visible in creation, empowerment of servants of God both in old and New Testament in ministry and warfare. We dearly need the holy Spirit to convict sin, help in repentance, salvation, prayer, ministry, transformation of life, understanding the Bible, spiritual gifts and display of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. The signs, wonders, miracles, healings, evangelism, true love and unity are its work. That's why Jesus commanded the disciples not to leave Jerusalem before they receive the holy Spirit to enable them to be effective ministers.

Even today no Christian will do any meaningful work without holy Spirit's empowerment.

In spiritual warfare which we face daily it assures us victory. The devil uses deception, fear, temptation, accusation, negligence, rebellion and ungodliness to fight believers. Our great enemies in this world are sin, Satan, darkness, and death. To know God and His will we must first of all be able to worship in the Spirit.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth", Acts 1:8, NIV.

A Christian without holy Spirit is like a car without a battery, a posho mill (machine) without fuel, electric power lines without transformers or match box without match sticks. This means a believer without holy Spirit is a non-starter because he or she will be the agent of darkness. If you are not in the holy Spirit, you are in the flesh pleasing the sinful desires of your body. No Christian believer or preacher will do anything spiritually meaningful without holy Spirit's empowerment. Even theological training means nothing since mere academic knowledge, rigid religious traditions, systems and structures alongside sinful acts seriously blocks holy Spirit's work.

Biblical References: Luke 1:35,4:1,4:18, 1 Corinthians 2:10-11,12:7-10, 3:16,12:7-31, John 15:26, Acts 2:1-17,5:3-4, 4:30-37, Genesis 1:2, Exodus 31:3-5, Judges 3:10-11,1 Samuel 11:6,1 Kings 17:2-3, Joel 2:28-32, John 4:23-24, Ephesians 4:11-13, 6:12, Galatians 5:22-23.

CHAPTER 8: OVERCOMING WORKS OF THE FLESH.

Overcoming the works of the flesh is to die to oneself. To die is to cease to exist. There are physical, eternal, and spiritual deaths. Flesh is written 288 times in the Bible.

Global Disciples (2022) states that God wants us to surrender all, follow Jesus, die daily and live under His lordship. We will only become like Jesus when we die to ourselves by falling in love with Him, and begin doing the will of God. Many crowds followed Jesus on earth for healing, deliverance, and food; they left Him when their needs were met. Disciples of Jesus denied themselves, followed Jesus, and took up the cross. The Christ-like disciples had evidence of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their lives which included love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Today the church has few true disciples but many casual members or mere converts. Everything in the world has a price tag. So, the kingdom of God has a very expensive price. To deny ourselves is to renounce our selfish interests which are contrary to God, obeying God fully, and willingness to die for Christ. It is about rejecting self-seeking attitude, dreams, and plans. It is making God everything, and man nothing. It's submitting daily to the will of God, and living under His lordship as empowered by the Holy Spirit. Selfishness involves personal interests, and loving oneself more than anything else including God.

Dying to sins means being in a total freedom from sinful behavior. It is like taking a dead body, and expecting it to commit sin which is impossible. Christians are expected to be slaves of righteousness, and not sin. Israelites came out of Egypt but many failed to enter Canaan, the promised land, because they didn't die to sin. This world is our wilderness, and heaven is our promised land. We are in constant temptations in

this world, and we must fight in spiritual warfare to overcome ourselves. He said to them all;

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me," Luke 9:23, NIV.

Jesus is the best example of dying to oneself, and a total sacrifice for He died for our sins; us to give salvation. His death led to millions of believers worldwide. Jesus paid the ultimate price to give us hope, and eternity. Love for money, and worldly comforts hinders many believers from being true disciples of Jesus Christ. It calls for a real sacrifice to be a disciple of Jesus. It's giving top priority to kingdom of God, and not family, business, occupation or other interests. The top world marathon Champion Eliud Kipchoge had to put a lot of sacrifice in form of training, discipline, and hard work before he became a multimillionaire.

Abraham at 75 years old was called upon by God to leave his country, household, people, and servants to go into the unknown land which he obeyed. He lived in a strange land in tents. After this sacrifice he was blessed greatly, made great, and was a blessing to many people. The descendants of Abraham were uncountable like stars and sand, Global Disciples (2022).

Warren R. (2002) says you were created to be like Christ as per God's plan. We must grow up to be like Christ. We must be transformed by troubles we go through because God uses our problems to develop our character. We must grow through temptations as they are stepping stones, and not stumbling blocks. Every temptation is an opportunity for us to do good. Maturity takes time, and there are no shortcuts. The development of Christ like character cannot be rushed; it is like the process of growing from childhood to adulthood- takes

years. God is looking for disciples to transform the world because mere converts, and casual church goers will not change the world. Disciples are those who have died to themselves, and are ready to sacrifice everything so as to live a life pleasing God. Selfishness has spiritually killed many ministers or ministries. Are you available to be used by God?

Biblical References: Luke 9:23-24,14:25-33, 9:62, Mathew 6:33-34, Hebrews 11:8-17, Mark 8:34-38, John 12:24-25,10:27, Romans 6:16-23, Philippians 3:13-14.

CHAPTER 9: FRUITFUL LIVING.

A fruit is a product of a plant, fertilization or outcome of a good work. A good thing is attractive, profitable and fruitful while a bad thing is evil, harmful, morally wrong and unacceptable. Fruit(ful) is written 352 times in the Bible. There is a normal fruit from a tree, and the spiritual one. There are good, and bad fruits. Bad deeds breed bad fruits. The Lord said we will know people by their fruits. False prophets, teachers, apostles, evangelists, brothers, preachers etc. are known by their fruits. It is very obvious. The Holy Spirit empowers us to receive the fruit of the Spirit which helps us eliminate spiritual bareness, escape world corruption so as to partake the nature of God, and helps us grow spiritually to mount serious and powerful witnesses to the unbelievers.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law," Galatians 5:22-23, NIV.

The light came to the world but men loved darkness, and evil because their deeds are evil e.g Cain killed his brother Abel. The Bible teaches us that Christians are the light of the world, and like a city on top of a hill which cannot be hidden. We are a lamp on the table to shine before men by good deeds. We can only win the world by good attractive deeds.

Fruits of the Spirit.

Global Disciples (2022) explains briefly about the fruits of the Spirit: -

Love.

- Strong affection for God, and people.
- Caring for others more than yourself.
- Immense overflowing to win many for Jesus.

- Will never end because it flows beyond limits
- Loving even in the midst of hatred, and difficult situations.
- It is God (Agape).

Joy.

- Expression of wellbeing, success, and goodness.
- Happiness, cheerfulness, and gladness.
- Rejoicing in the Lord beyond limits.
- Fullness of happiness in every situation.
- It doesn't depend on human moods.

Peace.

- Harmony, security, tranquility, and order.
- Comes from God not from material prosperity.
- Surpass human understanding.
- Sustains life by providing tranquil in the midst of turmoil.
- People without it don't want to live, and can even commit suicide.

Patience

- Long suffering, and tolerance habit.
 - Gentle, and constant in all circumstances.
 - Apostle Paul was in deep pain because of a thorn in his flesh, and prayed God for healing but instead he was given grace to be patient.
 - God's patience delays His wrath against humanity.
 - Able to forgive people even in difficult situations.
 - Acting good, and enjoying life while in the midst of hardships.
- You don't become wild.

Kindness

- Respect, compassion, charity, mercy, and sympathy.
- Putting others first before yourself e.g. a mother parenting children with love and concern from infancy to adulthood, the good Samaritan who helped the needy and Joseph who was sold by his family but came back to help them.

Goodness

- Beneficial, quality, and nice.
- Leads people to repentance.
- It is equal to godliness.
- It is inspired by God, and obvious to all.
- Light in the midst of darkness.

Faithfulness

- True, firm promise, and with strong assurance.
- Loyal, and reliable.
- Walking by faith.
- It's impossible to please God without faith.
- We must imitate God.

Gentleness.

- Meek, mild, soft, and modest.
- Free from pride or arrogance.
- Slave like submission to God.
- Not weaknesses but strength.
- Serving God in every situation.
- Bearing with insults, and its injuries.
- Leaving revenge to God.

Self-Control.

- Restraint over impulse, emotions, and desires.
- Discipline with self-command.
- Control of the whole person (spirit, soul, mind and body).
- Mild, calm, and avoids extreme behavior.
- A person without self-control is like a car without a brake and will cause accidents or deaths.
- A man without self-control is like an insecure city with broken walls, (Proverbs 25:28).

Hardworking farmers receive good fruits. The axe is at the roots of the trees to people that don't produce good fruit. They will be cut down and burned. It is a warning to all people that with bad fruits they will be destroyed. Desire the fruit of the Spirit and you will live long, enjoy life, and taste eternity. The church should be populated by people full of good fruits so that they can be a blessing to the evil world. There are no miracles here but the principles of the good, and bad are in play with clear demarcation.

Biblical References: Galatians 5:22-23, Mathew 5:14-26, 3:10,6:1-6,2 Timothy 2:6,1 John 15:2-8,3:20, 3:12, John 3:19, Ephesians 5:11,2 Corinthians 11:15,1 Timothy 5:25, Titus 2:7.

CHAPTER 10: ROLE OF THE CHURCH ON EARTH.

The church is the body of Christ made up of called out believers, disciples demonstrating the grace, love, and power of God on earth. The true church is not a denomination but body of believers in the whole world, and is made up of people; not a mere constructed building.

Jesus is the head and center of the church for He provides guidance and leadership in everything, and is the true foundation and vine of the church. We are helpless, and headless without Jesus. The church is the mobile temple of God where He dwells 24/7, hence it cannot be a physical building but spiritual being made up of living stones (people). God lives in people, and not in physical buildings made by hands of men. Heaven is His throne and the earth footstool; that's why we can't put up a building to fit God because He occupies everywhere. The great buildings (houses of prayer) we put up are for human habitation and not God's.

The church is a family made up of God and His children, sons and where all are priests who can access Him directly without going through any servant of God if they purify their hearts. The church is made up of true worshippers, forgiven sinners living new lives, hearing God and with the mandate to transform lives of people on earth. They worship God in truth and Spirit using their bodies as holy sacrifice, wealth, obedience, songs and prayer.

The church is a place of servant leaders following examples of Jesus in serving God and people, not bosses. They include graced apostles, prophets, pastors, evangelists teachers, administrators, miracle workers, healings, helps, Intercessors, praise and worship etc.

"All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need", Acts 2:44-45, NIV.

Today most churches have misplaced priorities by spending much of their resources in projects, buildings etc. while neglecting the spread of the gospel which is not the will of God. This must be fixed so that our work will please our God who loves people more than projects. Today the church operates like a commercial bank where money is preached more from January to January every year instead of winning souls and making them disciples of Jesus Christ. The church is on a mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ, not mere converts or church goers or members, who will bring transformation on earth.

God will use the church to save, inspire and show the love of Christ to the world. The church is the light, and salt of the world; must show love to the world. It is facing opposition from powers of darkness on daily basis to live fake, and immature life or in hypocrisy. We must fight on until the church becomes what God wanted. The world is anxiously waiting for the true church full of life, love, and honesty inspiration.

Biblical References: Ephesians 1:23, Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 4:8-16, 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 1 Peter 2:6, John 15:5, 1 Corinthians 6:19, 1 Corinthians 12:12-17, 1 Peter 2:4-5, Acts 17:24-25, Isaiah 66:1, Acts 2:42-47, Matthew 28:18-20, Ephesians 4:3-6.

CHAPTER 11: BECOMING A NEW CREATION.

New is something which is not common or familiar. A new cloth is packed in a plastic bag, and has not been worn by anyone. New is written 411 times in the Bible. When anyone accepts Jesus as Savior, they become a new creation with the old nature gone, and new life begotten. A new believer is new in the Spirit, and doesn't grow old; gets power and authority from God to reconcile people to the Lord, and must grow gradually to become like Christ in the long run. The old nature is full of corruption, deceit, hatred, falsehood, anger, laziness, slander, malice, gossip, theft and evil talk. New nature is associated with holiness, righteousness, kindness, compassion, forgiveness and spiritual riches.

The new man receives the fruit of the Holy Spirit to help transform lives of people on earth i.e. love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. The new person in the Spirit doesn't count sins of people to condemn them but becomes a real ambassador of Jesus Christ.

God has promised to remove the heart of stone in us and replace it with the heart of flesh which is soft, contrite, humble, patient and obedient to Him. The Lord will also give us a new spirit which receives new revelation, dreams and vision from God using the opened spiritual eyes. Jesus told Nicodemus that to see the kingdom of God, he must be born again by being baptized into the death of Jesus so as to live a new life.

You cannot patch new cloth on old cloth because it is not sustainable. It is not wise also to pour new wine on old wineskins for it will break the skins leading to loss. God wants us to focus on the new Jerusalem (heaven), and not the world. He wants us to forget the past because He's doing new things. He is able to make a way where it's impossible for us. He wants

us to always look forward, and not the past in life. The devil will remind you about your past but don't be tempted to look back because you can't change your past; you can only change your future. You cannot change your history or past social backgrounds. Move on by faith, and venture into the new and great grounds.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.

People who look backwards live in the old nature, and are in carnality. It's a terrible tragedy for Christians to begin life in the Spirit, and end up in the body like the Galatians. The World Population Review.Com reported in the year 2022 that 183,671 people died daily and this comes to 2.2 million annually. If you are alive today you must thank God for His favor, grace, and protection. We are alive not because we're special, and all those who die daily are not bad people. As people religiously keep celebrating birthdays and new years we have a reason to be new with a new life. Accept Jesus, leave your old nature, live a new life, and be a true worshipper. This is the most sustainable thing to do in life. We cannot be born again, repent, and remain the same doing former sinful things.

Verses: Ephesians 4:22-32, Ezekiel 36:26-28, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Mark 2:21-23, John 3:3, Romans 6:4, Isaiah 43:18-19, Revelation 21:1-2, Philippians 3:13, Galatians 3:3,6:15, Genesis 1:1-4, Mathew 26:28, Acts 8:12.

CHAPTER 12: SPIRITUAL FREEDOM.

Freedom means liberation, independence, sovereignty, and autonomy while redemption is about winning back, buying back, setting free, and restoration. A prisoner is a person who is in a captivity or jail against his or her will. Israelites were in prison in Egypt, and Babylon where they had no liberty. Apostle Paul was proud to refer himself as a prisoner of Jesus Christ i.e. in Colossians, Philippians, Ephesians, and Acts. This means born again Christians are actually prisoners or slaves of Christ, and righteousness.

‘Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free’ John 8:32, NIV.

The real truth is about the fall of man due to sin, salvation through the blood of Jesus at Calvary, the second coming of Jesus, and judgment. The believers who have been set free enjoy, and exhibit the fruits of the Holy Spirit which include joy, love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Those who have been set free, and live holy lives also access God’s presence by entering the Holy of Holies as priests not just depending on other servants of God like pastors, apostles, prophets, evangelists, elders etc.

The believers who are set free, and filled with the Holy Spirit are bold in faith and their preaching. They enjoy wisdom from above and grace of God, are able to show agape love and forgive others easily. God sets us free from fear, pride, evil tongue, arrogance, sin, doubt, world or evil influence, love of money or greed for wealth. He delivers us from carnality or flesh, selfishness, bondage, law, idolatry, stress or depression, evil traditions or rituals, corruption, and eternal death.

Signs of people who are not set free (in bondage)

- a) Evil talk, and always in the evil side.
- b) Sinful activities are very common.
- c) Full of pride, selfishness, and carnality.
- d) Hardness of heart hence unable to forgive others.
- e) Love for evil traditions, systems, and tuck in the old nature.
- f) Love material prosperity i.e. money.
- g) Live in fear of people, demons or the unknown.
- h) They are stressed throughout, and stress others. They glorify problems in life.
- i) They have no grace from God; depend solely on their academic, and human abilities.
- j) They have many idols which fully control them like cellphones, wealth, other people etc.

NB: We must be set free so as to live genuinely a victorious, and a fulfilling life as Christians.

Biblical References: Exodus 6:6, Hebrews 10:19,13:5,1 Timothy 3:13, Acts 14: 3,21:5,24:27,1 Peter 3:10,2:16, Luke 7:42,12:15, Galatians 5:13, Romans 8:21,6:22-23, Philemon 1:1, Colossians 4:10, James 3:17, Titus 2:14,1 Corinthians 7:22,15:53-54.

CHAPTER 13: MAKING DISCIPLES FOR JESUS CHRIST.

According to Global Disciples (2022) a disciple is one (adherent) who accepts, and assists to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. Discipleship is a lifelong process of equipping followers of Jesus Christ to become intimate friends with Him. There is no graduation from the school of discipleship until we go home or until Jesus comes to take us home.

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit”, Mathew 28:19, NIV.

Disciple(s) is written 288 times in the Bible. Disciple making is not an event but a practical life on training that transforms one's life to be like Jesus, and can take years like in Antioch where disciples were assembled for one year. It is about our personal relationship with Jesus, one another, and the world. We must follow the example of Jesus in discipleship - Global Disciples (2022).

We are all called to be disciples of Jesus Christ, living our lives fully for His glory and making our priorities around the global mission of Christ no matter where we live on earth. Before we make disciples, we must be sure we are disciples ourselves. To grow to be a disciple of Jesus we must know Him as our Savior, Redeemer, and Lord of our lives.

Secondly, we must see things, people and situations as seen by Jesus i.e. having faith, do things with love and obedience, become friends of Jesus (joyful and purpose filled), knowing His likes and dislikes, and make friends for Jesus around the world (eternal fruits).

Jesus as an excellent trainer transformed lives of the 12 disciples who went to transform the lives of many others. Our training should point to Jesus who is the center, source of life, and ministry. Our teaching must be rooted in the Scripture (living word), prayer, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. The body of Christ will grow by sharpening each other. Jesus appointed His first disciples, prepared (trained), and sent them out to do His work. The Jesus' training model was about teaching, applying, and reflecting. He worked practically, and closely with the disciples in prayer and ministry, they were transformed a lot. Disciples must be sent out to practice what they have learned. Jesus sent out the disciples two by two to practice what they had learned. Theory in ministry is not enough.

Global Disciples (2022) points out that disciples must also be given time to reflect on their experiences. Jesus received mission reports from the disciples, celebrated them, and corrected mistakes of others in love. He gave them more training to improve on their potential, and sent them back again to the mission field for further work.

Discipleship involves making an all-round mature Christian through equipping and mentoring, ready to meet the cost of following Christ; not just being fed with the current cheap, optical, and flashy motivational preaching.

Moore (1983) says a disciple is a Christian involved in the word of God, lays down his life for others, and is fruit bearing. He adds that discipleship is the fastest way to mobilize the church for evangelism, and to mature leaders. He gives the examples of disciple multipliers in the Bible as Apostle Paul, Peter, Andrew, John, Barnabas, Priscilla, and Aquila. Disciple making begins with a new believer as a one-day spiritual child who must have immediate parental care providing loving care,

and spiritual food. There should be no delay in building relationship, prayer, Biblical teaching, fellowship, and baptism.

The spiritual qualities of a multiplying disciple maker include the grace, commitment, servant hood, parental heart, and disciplined in life which pleases God. A servant is willing to submit, and serve others; he's accessible, available, hospitable, creative, and values people.

The important Bible topics for disciple training include salvation through Jesus, prayer, Holy Spirit, victory over sin, warfare, fellowship, Bible study, personal relationships, evangelism and missions, serving God with grace and second coming of Jesus. Disciple makers are pacesetters for they set the pace for others to follow as good examples. They are patient, passionate, prayerful, faithful, consistent, wise, show the way and motivate others to move forward despite the existing challenges. Disciple making is in the heart of God and calls upon the church to raise many disciple makers starting with one disciple and multiplying them using existing church structures, evangelism, retreats, and conferences.

Biblical References: Acts 11:26, Mathew 10:25, Luke 6:40, Romans 8:29,12:2, Luke 10:17-20, 1 Corinthians 11:1, Mark 6:7,6:12-13, Luke 9:2-6, John 15:9-13,John 14:15, 23-24), John 15:16-17, John 1:39, Luke 11:1, Mark 3:13-14,6:30, Acts 4:13, John 15:5-8, Hebrews 11:1, John 15:14-15, John 15:1-4, Philippians 3:10, John 15:5.

CHAPTER 14: IMPORTANCE OF A PRAYER AND FASTING.

Prayer is a two-way communication between, man and God where we hear God and He hears us. God invites us to call upon Him and will reveal to us great, difficult and unsearchable things. Everyone struggles daily with difficult things in life and that's why we need to run to Him always. Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door shall be opened. If we evil people know how to give good things to our children how about God? Pray(er) is written 623 times in the Bible.

Effective prayer requires faith, and confidence. We receive nothing from God if we pray with doubt. Pray what is in the heart of God, and according to His will. Let's not pray selfish prayers about us only, and our families. Be generous; pray for your family, friends, community, church, country, and other nations.

In the early church everything was birthed, and carried in prayer; this should also happen today when we are tempted to plan many things without initially involving God. In prayer, create time to be with God alone in solitude. Sometimes avoid praying in a noisy distractive environment. Prayer requires a quiet place. Let's learn to listen to God in meditation reflecting on His goodness. The Bible teaches us to meditate day, and night.

According to Global Disciples (2022) God speaks to us through creation, visions, Scriptures, angels, dreams, audible voice, and Jesus' life. We must be sensitive with spiritual ears to hear God. If we are intimate with God we will hear the voice of God. Our God loves to speak to every believer directly not always through preachers; that's why the priesthood cloth was torn down after the death, and resurrection of Jesus to give access

to all saints. He can also speak to people in a dramatic way through wind, fire, earthquake, tsunami, and diseases like coronavirus to punish the world for pride. Don't be too busy, buried in your numerous routine activities, until you cannot hear God.

As sheep we must hear our shepherd, Jesus, because we're not strangers. If we can't hear Him then we are deaf, suffering from disability, and we can't be effective Christians.

Peter and John prayed until the place was shaken by earthquake, and people were filled by the Holy Spirit; they preached the word of God boldly. Jesus, while on earth, used to go to the mountain to pray the whole night, and sometimes went early in the morning to pray in a solitary place, Global Disciples (2022).

God wants us to pray without ceasing because prayer is an effective weapon for warfare. A prayerless Christian is a powerless Christian.

“ Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you”, Mathew 7:7, NIV.

Prayer can be done individually or through cooperation. Christians should pray daily for themselves, family, ministry, and nations for breakthrough. Prayer, and fasting is a great tool in spiritual warfare against the powers of darkness which try to hinder success of Christian lives daily. Believers should increase their daily prayer time so as to be strong spiritually. They should pray for needs accurately by praying in the Spirit. Fasting is abstaining from food and routine activities like ministry, leisure, phone, computer, sexual acts etc. You break away from your normal needs, and routine activities. The basic daily prayer time for every believer is one hour but intercessors have the grace to pray for more hours.

Global Disciples (2022) explains that Moses fasted for 40 days, and nights at mount Sinai while Jesus also fasted for the same period before Satan tempted Him. King Jehoshaphat called for a fast in Israel for victory over their dangerous enemies. After the preaching by Jonah the people of Nineveh fasted for repentance in sackcloth. Nehemiah also organized for prayer, and fasting when he heard that Jerusalem was in ruins. A woman by the name Anna prayed, and fasted day and night in the temple.

Fasting helps deepen fellowship between us, and God; takes our eyes out of this world. It weakens the body, and strengthens us spiritually. It's wrong to fast for public relations or sympathy. Genuine fasting must bring in good results not conflicts, hatred or evil. It must show love, humility, and please God.

Fasting should be gradual, and progressive whereby you can go for dry fast from one day to three days. Fasting using water can take you from 7 days to 40 days depending on the grace, and leading of the Lord. David fasted while using only fruits, and vegetables. For healthy spirituality chain prayer among intercessors, and all believers is encouraged on a weekly basis. A praying church is a growing church.

Fasting is not recommended for sick people or breast-feeding mothers because it has negative effects. The infants will miss the mothers' milk if they fast while sick people may be weaker health wise if they fast.

Obstacles to effective prayer.

- a) Environment noise, internal (stress) or external noises.
- b) Hardness of heart.
- c) Sin.

- d) Unforgiving others, bitterness.
- e) Not in the Spirit, carnality.
- f) Disobedience to God.
- g) Wrong intentions, and bad prayers.
- h) Pleasing men than God, fearing men.
- i) Lack of faith.
- j) Pride, and selfishness.

Effects of prayerlessness.

- Missing blessings from God.
- Lack of intimacy with God.
- Failure to hear God hence will rely on people.
- Will do things using your mind.
- Failure to understand spiritual things.
- Lack of deeper relationship with saints.
- Will entertain demons without knowledge.
- Failure to receive revelation, and wisdom from God.
- Weak, and ineffective in areas of calling e.g. preaching, worship etc.
- Facing many defeats in spiritual warfare.

NOTE: Experience has shown that a prayerless Christian is powerless, a prayerful family is strong, and a prayerful church receives spiritual revival. Every church must have a prayer team (intercessors) with its leadership for efficiency, and effectiveness. The common challenges faced by intercessors which must be tackled include pride, unhealthy relationships, backsliding, and unpleasant character.

Biblical References: John 10:4-27, Acts 4:23-31, Jeremiah 33:3, Mathew 6:16-18, 7:7-11, Luke 6:12, Mark 1:35, Isaiah 58:3-9.

CHAPTER 15: SPIRITUAL WAREFARE.

Warfare is a fight between enemies. Darkness fights the light while the light resists it. Spiritual battles are real, and we must put on the full armor of God so as to triumph. Christians are on the side of light led by Jesus as the commander while Satan, and demons are on the side of darkness. The devil fights to take us to hell through deception, temptation, and lust while God fights to take us to heaven. To fight effectively, you must know your enemies and their strategies.

Adam and Eve faced warfare, and fell into sin. Israelites faced warfare in Egypt and Babylon leading to great oppression, slavery, and suffering. Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar represented the kingdom of darkness and the devil Warfare can lead to great suffering in our lives even today. Global Disciples (2022).

"Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes", Ephesians 6:11, NIV.

War(fare) is written 1240 times in the Bible. Job was a righteous man in the land of Uz but he faced a tough test, warfare, and suffering from Satan but he fought a good fight of faith, and won. You can even face war as a Christian for doing the right thing. Jesus Christ and Moses among other servants of God faced warfare at birth, and the devil wanted them to be destroyed early but God saved them. Apostle Paul, and other disciples of Jesus Christ faced immense warfare in the early church. They faced persecution leading to great suffering, and deaths. Many were stoned, flogged, and jailed. Stephen was stoned to death because of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Both the young and adults face physical, and spiritual warfare in life. New believers begin war with the devil on the first day of their salvation hence they need spiritual support to

overcome. David faced stiff warfare while building the temple for the Lord, he almost gave up but God gave him victory. Even today servants of God face tough war while serving God but let's depend on Him for victory.

War began in heaven between angels of God, and the devil. Satan was defeated and thrown to the earth where his main work is to bring suffering, and death to people. Many believers struggle with warfare and sin leading to backsliding, they need repentance and restoration. The body of man also fights the Spirit, and is one of the great enemies.

The Bible teaches us to be strong in the Lord, and to put on the full armor of God so as to stand and win on an evil day; everyone has an evil day to face. The war is spiritual and is fought through the truth, righteousness, gospel, faith, salvation, word of God and prayer. The Bible says in life there is time for peace, and a war for the man. The devil can cause war amongst people, Christians, and family members by encouraging divisions, hatred, enmity, conflicts, and strife.

Demons enter people to oppress, and make them their slaves hence they (people) need deliverance. The devil can also use sickness, drugs, alcoholism, harmful cultural practices, devil worship, accidents etc. to enslave or kill people. He can also use disobedience of children to their parents to bring warfare. God can also punish people for sinful acts through diseases, earthquakes, tsunami or war between nations etc.

The Bible teaches that in warfare wisdom is better than ordinary weapons. This means in spiritual war; we use wisdom and don't fight with foolishness. We should fight a good fight of faith which is spiritual with the love of God. We live in peace with all people as advised by apostle Paul. We are watchful as spiritual soldiers, and stand in the gap to save the land. We

resist the devil, and he will flee from us. God tells us to be strong and courageous in warfare, and to abstain from evil desires. Darkness and light have no fellowship or connection hence we must make our right choices and stick to the light. God promises us that we are more than conquerors, and no weapon formed against us shall succeed. We are fighting a war which is already won by God. So, fight wisely, forgive people, learn how to deal with offense using agape love, and don't surrender to the devil.

Know your war, if it's from the devil resist, depend on God, and if it's punishment by God repent and receive forgiveness. Those people who love the world and its pleasure are enemies of the Lord, and He will fight them and their destiny is hell. They will suffer in this life, and in the next. King Jehoshaphat fought, and won his war spiritually by praising and worshipping God.

Ingram (2021) says in warfare trials are inevitable, and can either make or break us. He calls upon Christians to be survivors (victors) and not victims. If you are going through adversity, difficulty, pain or other challenges look at your trials through Biblical lens. God uses adversity to mature, and drives us towards Christ-like life. It enables us to witness the power of God, and provides an awesome testimony to the unbelieving world. We must believe in God to triumph, admit you are stuck, ask for God's wisdom, and know you can't succeed without Him. To slay the dragon of discouragement, get God's perspective in everything, and know you are not the victim but the survivor. Faith indicates that God is in control, hope reminds you of God's promises, and love enables you to suffer because of God.

Warren R. (2002) says God loves to use weak people and many ministers have a bundle of physical, emotional, intellectual and

spiritual flaws and imperfections. The secret is to admit your weaknesses, and allow God to assist you.

Demons. and cults.

World Map (1993) defines demons as seducing spirits that tempt us to sin. People become demonized by worship of idols, and getting involved in the works of the flesh. Unbelievers often sacrifice to demons which are able to do miracles to deceive people. In divination (witchcraft, magic, and spiritism) also miraculous signs, and wonders can be performed. Believers should command demons to leave people in Jesus' name. We need to pray, and fast to be able to chase away some stubborn spirits.

The devil uses cults to fight the church, and there is a need for believers to know the following signs of cultic preachers;

- They oppose critical thinking and normal life like working for a living, education, health, wealth etc. They don't want people to use their minds.
- Isolating members from other people e.g. relatives, and other Christians.
- They threaten, condemn or penalize members for non-participation or leaving their church.
- Emphasis on special doctrine outside the Scriptures. They are not keen on Biblical standards.
- Seeking inappropriate loyalty to church leaders on a one-man-show arrangement.
- Dishonor the family unit.
- Personality cult where one man owns the church, and has a final say on everything.
- Authoritarian leaders who cannot be corrected even when they are wrong.
- Focus on strange spiritual encounters in form of dreams, prophecies, and visions.
- Selling fear to members about their current, and future lives.

NOTE: God wants us to know church preachers as per their fruits, Mathew 7:15-23. We must test the teachings like the Berean church, and mature to test the spirits, discern the fake preachers and reject them.

Biblical References: Revelation 13:7-12, Ephesians 6:10-19, Ecclesiastes 3:8, 1 Peter 2:11,5:8, 1 Kings 5:3, James 4:7, 4:4, Ezekiel 22:30-31, Mathew 24:42-44, Joshua 1:6-9, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, 2 chronicles 20:1-25, Isaiah 54:17, 2 Timothy 4:7.

CHAPTER 16: POWER OF THE GRACE OF GOD.

World Map (1993) defines grace as unmerited divine assistance to humans from God to function as per the calling, and the will of God. Grace is written 187 times in the Bible. Actions of God's grace include signs and wonders, healings, spiritual eyes, prophecy, evangelism, teaching the word, true worship, praying, pastoring, inspiring people, serving, showing mercy, giving, sharing loving, reconciliation, media talents like writing etc.

Grace is not approved through an interview like in employment or corrupt practices. Grace in people is attractive, pleasing, honorable, and adorable. There is no straining, pushing or use of force where there's grace but full passion. God gives power, authority, and anointing to enable us function effectively. Even training cannot change the grace of God in a person; you cannot train a pastor to become a prophet. We were sinners fit for death but by the grace God has forgiven us our sins, accepted us into His family and uses us to transform lives of people.

Heroes of faith like Moses, Gideon, and Apostle Paul knew their weaknesses hence depended fully on God for success. We are saved by the grace, made new, and empowered to do great things. Grace is the fire, fuel, power, and zeal pushing ministers of God. No servant of God will be perfect without the grace of God. In fact, without the grace mistakes of ministers are exposed leading to conflicts, hatred, and dishonor.

Apostle Paul mentioned the grace in the beginning, and at the end of his letters in the Bible to stress the importance of the grace like in Ephesians, Galatians, Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians, Timothy, Philemon, and Corinthians. Grace helps us in our needs, and provisions. Failure, blame game, conflicts, and stepping on toes of others are real without the grace of God. Paul prayed three times for God to remove a thorn in his flesh, God didn't remove it but gave him the

sufficient grace of perseverance. We will have no peace when we ignore the grace. Serving God outside the areas of grace is disgraceful and leads to many complains, suffering, and failure. All ministers and believers must know their grace so that they become a blessing, and not a burden to the church.

The Bible warns us not to misuse the grace by habitual sinning because we died, rose with Jesus Christ, and now living a new life of righteousness. We are no longer slaves of sin living in the old nature. We lose the grace if we sin, and destroy our relationship with God.

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work", 2 Corinthians 9:8, NIV.

Verwer G. (2010) in his book 'Grace Awakened Leadership' says lack of grace causes hurt, and tension thus hindering the work of God across the globe. He lists enemies of grace as legalism, traditionalism, control, negativism, perfectionism, competition, pettiness, criticism, pride, fear, bitterness, insecurity, unforgiving spirit, shame, fleshly effort... He says Christians need to repent from the sin of judging, and making brethren guilty until proven innocent.

Biblical References: Ephesians 2:8-9, 1:4-8, Titus 2:11, 2 Corinthians 9:8, 12:9, Romans 6:1-15, Hebrews 4:16.

CHAPTER 17: INFLUENCE OF CHURCH LEADERSHIP.

God uses a nation's leadership to transform lives through the development agenda, and church leaders to transform lives of people through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues," 1 Corinthians 12:28, NIV.

Leader(s) is written 207 times in the Bible. A leader is a person who has influence from God to drive things to happen through other people. Not all people have leadership skills to drive things. If you put into leadership people without the calling, and the grace the work of God will stagnate.

Features of Church leadership.

- a) Servant hood based, humble not bossy or dictatorial.
- b) Team leadership, and not one man show.
- c) Based on gifting, calling, favor, and grace of God
- d) Appointed by God, and just not men.
- e) Prayerful life.
- f) True worshippers, and not hypocrites.
- g) Empower, coach, and mentor disciples to be the next leaders.
- h) Spiritual based not reliance on loyalty, career progression, education or reward for long service.
- i) Grow church into maturity.
- j) Hearing God clearly.
- k) Fruitful, and help in multiplication of disciples.
- l) Not recent converts but mature.

World Map (1993) provides the information below about the fivefold ministries;

Apostles.

- Sent on a mission to preach the gospel like Paul, and Barnabas.
- Missionaries who plant churches, and make disciples for Christ.
- Guard the church from false doctrine, and practices.
- Followed by signs, and wonders.
- Willing to suffer persecution, and even death for the sake of the gospel. Very courageous.
- Teach on the correct, and sound foundational practices to bring order in the church.
- Work jointly with prophets to bring balance in ministry.
- They are the thumb that strengthens the other leadership gifts in the church.
- They see the bigger picture in ministry since they initiate, and advance the kingdom business.
- They have the burden to identify, nurture, and release new leaders into ministry.
- They are called to serve beyond the local church or congregation.
- They are good in planning, and follow up church programs.
- They still exist in the church even today.

Prophets.

- They utter divinely inspired revelations with the authority of God.
- Eyes of the church hence guide, and confirm the work of God.
- Work jointly with apostles to bring balance in the ministry like Judas, Silas and Agabus.
- Foretell events, and warn of coming dangers in the land.
- Their words should be examined carefully because there are also false prophets, teachers, brothers, preachers etc.

- They may be misunderstood by many but they should just convey their message with humility without forcing believers to follow.
- They are the index finger to guide or warn the church precisely.
- They still exist in the church today.

Evangelists.

- Spread the gospel with zeal to gather unbelievers to accept Jesus Christ.
- Travel, and preach in open air or town hall meetings, use media, person to person evangelism etc.
- Accompanied by miracles, deliverance, healings etc.
- Inspire believers to reject sin which they hate with passion.
- They are like the little finger to reach out to unbelievers, and bring them into the church for nurturing.
- They may be weak in planning, and follow ups.

Pastors.

- Spiritual overseers in the local churches.
- Grow believers spiritually through care, prayer, love, teaching, and healthy relationships.
- Keep watching over the flock, and keep away the savage wolves. They guard, guide, and feed the sheep.
- They do the work a mother does in a family, raising children through good parenting, showing love, patience, and sacrifice.
- They are the ring finger which signifies loyalty, commitment, and companionship.
- Pastors are strong in relationship, love, care, and availability in the church.
- More recognized gift than any other worldwide which should not be the case. All gifts of God must be recognized.

Teachers.

- Teach to remove spiritual foolishness in believers.
- Ground believers on the solid rock, Jesus Christ.
- Help us understand the Scriptures, and God's plan for humanity which sometimes can be very complicated.
- Combined with the role of pastors, apostles, and elders.
- They are the middle finger giving stability to the other gifts. They are more aligned to the written word.
- Must be given opportunity to teach in the church although some see the gift as boring. It has a very important role in checking heresy.

NOTE: See the picture explanation of the 5-Fold Ministries in the last pages of this book.

Elders, deacons, and deaconess.

- Well-grounded with grace, and experienced in the work of God.
- They preach the gospel, and teach to support the fivefold leadership gifts in the local church.
- Guide, and mentor younger elders to serve well.
- Pray, and anoint the sick with oil to receive healing.
- They deserve respect for their calling.
- Appointed after prayer, and fasting; not identified through elections.
- They worked with the priests, and scribes in the early church.
- They lay hands, and ordain other servants of God in the local church.
- They should not be accused with baseless accusations but with 2 or 3 credible witnesses.

Bishops.

- They are pastors or overseers covering a wider area like a region or nation with more administrative responsibilities.

- They can be also in charge of a local church e.g. elders. A key elder is the bishop of the local church.

Reverend.

- A senior pastor given more administrative responsibility like celebrating marriages, and is in charge of more local churches etc.
- It's not a spiritual gift but a church appointment, recognition or assignment.

Assistant pastor.

- Not a spiritual gift but church appointment.
- God does not give a half gift to ministers but a full gift.

NOTE: All the above leaders or graces must be above reproach i.e. married to one spouse, good teachers, temperate, hospitable, and people of integrity. The leaders grow, and mature gradually.

Summary.

- All the above leaders, men and women, should function to advance the kingdom of God, and help mature the church.
- Jesus is the head of the church, and not the leaders.
- Jesus served well in the 5-fold leadership gifts (apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher). He was given all the five gifts or graces.
- Leadership may be a combination of the above gifts e.g. a pastor may also function as a teacher, and an evangelist.
- These are only job descriptions, and mere titles without the grace are nothing. Paul loved to be called brother, and not an apostle. This shows great humility.
- The leaders should be identified through prayer, revelation and discernment, and not through campaigns and elections like

political leaders. We cannot accept a corrupt system borrowed from the world.

Ineffective leaders.

- Lone rangers, and hate working with a team.
- Lacking father's heart to mentor others to be leaders.
- Killing the vision, and ministry of others.
- Not hearing God but depend on only their minds, education, and experience.
- Theoretical, and not practical. They preach what they don't practice.
- Condemn, curse, and divide people. They are not a blessing to people.
- Lacking integrity in their lives. They love sinful lives.
- Serving for selfish gains like titles, power, money, and material things.

NOTE: Run away from stubborn, wild, and ineffective leaders if you cannot change them.

Moore (1983) says leaders fail because of lack of initiative or ambition, carelessness, laziness, and uncooperative spirit.

Verwer G. (2010) says effective leaders should have a balanced life where they discern faith and common sense, discipline and liberty, top and less priorities, decisions and firmness, church doctrine and view of God.

In his book 'Releasing The Body', Zehr A. (2019) says the fivefold ministries belong to the entire body of Christ, and not just some specific congregation. He says the gifted ministers should have enlarged hearts so as to love, serve, and embrace the entire broader body i.e. serving beyond denomination.

Warren R. (2002) says we serve God by serving others. Greatness is not about power, position or prestige but servant hood as taught by Jesus. Servants are available, faithful, pay attention to needs of others, dedicated, and maintain a low profile. Service starts in the mind of servants as they think more about others.

Biblical references: Romans 16:1, 13:1, 12:8, Mathew 10:1-5, 28:18-20, 1 Corinthians 12:18-28, 1 Timothy 5:19, 5:17, 4:14, 3:1-13, Acts 14:23, 2:42, 14:13-14,15:32, 11:28, 8:5-13, 20:28, Ephesians 2:20, 4:8-16, 1:23, 2:15, 4:13, Genesis 1:28, 9:1-7, 12:1-2, Titus 1:5-6,1:9, 1 Peter 5:5, James 5:14, Luke 22:66.

CHAPTER 18: HANDLING CHALLENGES IN LIFE.

Handling challenges is a part of life in this world. Problems are a source of distress, suffering, and difficulty to people. Everyone in life faces a critical examination, and must work harder to pass. Problems are like road bumps to slow us down but not to stop us in our journey of life. Suffering produces the best products or good people. Humble family backgrounds produce the best leaders. Gold, silver, iron, and plastic products go through fire for perfection.

In life Christians go through water, spiritual, and fire baptisms in a process to make them better vessels. Apostle Paul wrote some Bible books in prison like Philippians and Philemon. The journey of the children of Israel from Egypt to Canaan was full of turmoil, hunger, wars, diseases, bloodshed, deaths, and extreme problems. However, God delivered Israelites from many of Pharaoh's hardships in Egypt. Stephen was stoned to death because of the gospel.

“Strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God”, they said. Acts 14:22, NIV.

Believers are made perfect through suffering. Job was a righteous man but suffered a lot due to actions of Satan. Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Nothing is impossible with God for He gives us victory in all situations. This world is not heaven, so, we must face problems. The Bible encourages us to be pleased, patient, and strong while going through hardships because our faith is being tried or tested. As a good soldier of Jesus, you must fight a good fight, and not lose hope so as to receive the crown of life. Each work must be tested by fire.

The apostles in Jerusalem were arrested, beaten, jailed or killed forcing them to flee, and spread the gospel to other areas. Persecution was a blessing because it forced them out of their comfort zones to soul winning. Problems will push us to be closer to God, and depend on him more. Children who don't go through disciplinary process will be spoiled, become a burden, and are shame to the parents and community. Paul and Silas worshipped and prayed God in prison leading to earthquake, freedom, and salvation.

Mature Christians will do better in problems than immature ones who love milk and not solid food. They love cheap, cosmetic, and optical motivational preaching which will not transform them to be strong believers. The best must go through fire and discipline, this takes away childish acts from children. Let's face our problems head on while trusting God for victory. Don't fear problems, and don't allow them to stress or weigh you down.

Biblical References: Acts 7:54-60, 5:17-42, 16:25-34, Hebrews 12:1-11, 2:10, 3:8, 5:11-14, Exodus 18:8, 2 Corinthians 12:10, 1 Peter 1:7, 4:12, Proverbs 5:23, 29:15, 13:24, Matthew 4:1-2, Luke 1:37, 2 Timothy 2:3, James 1:12, 1 Corinthians 3:13-14.

CHAPTER 19: EVERYTHING IS VANITY WITHOUT GOD.

Everything in this world without God is vanity, valueless, empty, and in vain. What has a beginning has an end, and there is time for everything. There is time to be born, and to die. Nothing is permanent here whether wealth, life or relationships.

Today you are up tomorrow you are down due to health, social problems, economic hardships, loss of job or business or relationship. This world is full of turmoil, and we must courageously navigate with the help of the Lord. In many occasions efforts of many in family, education, innovation or investment have come to nothing.

"Man is like breath, and his days are like a fleeting (moving) shadow", Psalm 144:4, NIV.

Man born of a woman is for a few days, and his life is full of trouble. All men are born by women hence must suffer. Heaven, and earth shall pass away but the Word of God will remain. The world will come to a very painful end but those who are in the Lord will be saved. So, watch out, invest in heaven and eternity, and not on earth. Let us focus on things above, and not on the discouraging worldly things. The things above include peace, life from God, and spiritual riches which are not tangible. The spiritual riches are by far more valuable than the tangible world riches.

"Meaningless! Meaningless says the teacher. Utterly Meaningless! Everything is meaningless", Ecclesiastes 1:2, NIV.

Biblical References: Ecclesiastes 1:2-9, 3:1-8, Psalms 144:4, Job 14:1-2, Mathew 4:4, Mathew 24:1-44, Zephaniah 1:14-18, Mathew 6:19-21, Colossians 3:1-2 and 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.

CHAPTER 20: WISDOM FROM ABOVE.

Wisdom is the divine deep understanding, and sound judgment. It is written 254 times in the Bible. The Solomonic wisdom was a great asset for the children of Israel. Those who lack wisdom will drift into the den of foolishness, brainless, and the lunatics who can be destroyed easily. God uses wise people to minister to the world.

"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure, then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy, and good fruit, impartial and sincere", James 3 :17, NIV.

The following are wisdom books in the Bible: -

Proverbs.

- Teach on fear and honor of God, humility and justice.
- Father to son advice.
- King Solomon asked for wisdom not the expiring material riches for it is the greatest resource for man on earth.
- Wisdom saves family, work, and everything.
- Foolish women destroy their homes with their own hands.
- Without wisdom many things go wrong in life.
- Foolish people can easily be deceived, and destroyed.

Ecclesiastes.

- Everything in the world is like vanity, chasing after the wind which you will not catch up.
- All things on earth are temporary and a misery, so don't depend on them.
- Death is the equalizer for the poor, rich, and professionals. All face death without exception.
- The world wealth, and pleasure has a lot of stress.

Job.

- The righteous and blameless also suffer in this world for clear, and even unclear reasons.
- Perseverance, and patience in suffering leads to victory in life.
- Trust God to the final end despite the suffering, stress, and hardships.
- Job lost everything; disagreed with his wife and friends but remained strong in the Lord to the victorious end.
- The whole duty of a man on earth is to fear God, and follow His commandments.

Joshua, and King Solomon were full of wisdom hence they excelled in their calling. The beginning of wisdom is to fear God, without Him foolishness is in abundance. Wisdom is better than rubies and pearls, will protect you from shame and destruction. When you find the wisdom of God you find life, and prosperity. Children without wisdom bring shame, and stress to their families.

House, family, and home is built by wisdom. Preachers in the early church were full of wisdom, and those who opposed them had the biggest challenge. Earthly wisdom is equal to foolishness. Getting straight 'A's in academics is not wisdom but mere educational knowledge. Real transformative wisdom comes from God, and not from educational system. Wisdom from above is pure, peaceful, gentle, courteous, full of compassion, reasonable, sincere, straight, impartial, and with good fruits.

During Christmas season a lot of foolishness, and carnality is displayed around the world. Christmas is an old popular tradition carried on for centuries by Christians to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Its original purpose was genuine but over the centuries it has been corrupted to become another meaningless festival full of evil practices with more

immorality, alcoholism, deaths, casual sexual acts, more crime, more deadly road accidents, premature and unplanned pregnancies, selfishness, violence, and gluttony. The church has lost this day to satan who has taken control to cause mayhem on earth because it is a period when the church goes into a deep spiritual slumber.

However, I thank God for the remnant Christians who spend more time during this season in prayer and fasting, evangelism, and sharing the word of God because they are fighting a spiritual warfare to save this world from the destruction of the devil who's on rampage. As many people take these holidays, and merry deep in festivities satan doesn't take a holiday but engages in intensive warfare on rampage like a lion looking for people to devour. We must know that the devil doesn't go on leave, we must be alert all the time and in a defense mode throughout our lives as believers.

In the parable of the rich fool, we are told of a man who depended on material riches to live and bragged about his wealth to last for many years but loses his life the same day. Anyone who invests only in the world, and not in God will live with suffering or is destroyed early in life. Disaster is anxiously waiting for those who depend on material prosperity, education, leadership, family network, pleasure or booming business to live.

Christmas is associated more with merry, pleasure, carnality, booming business, and extravagance than about the birth of Jesus Christ. Although the date when Jesus was born is unknown it should not be misused. Jeremiah 52:31-33 only talks of a prisoner who was released from prison on December 25th. In Romans 15:17 the Bible says the kingdom of God is not about eating and drinking but righteousness, peace, and joy

in the Holy Spirit. Let's desire to turn Christmas day to a spiritual day from a day of merry, and pleasure.

The beginning of wisdom is to fear God. Wise people offer true worship to God, and put up their houses on rocks; when heavy rains, winds, rivers, and storms attack them will not fall down. Jesus Christ is the true, and strong foundation for our lives, we will be foolish without Him. Even storey buildings collapse today when foundations are faulty. Foolish people believe there is no God thus they can survive without God.

Characteristics of wise people.

- Build on a strong, and unshakeable foundation.
- Hear the word of God, and practice it.
- The Pharisees, and scribes are a good example of religious leaders who ignored important spiritual matters, and just concentrated on external practices. This exposed their foolishness.
- Foolish people build on weak foundation; their fall is always great and loud.
- Foolish people depend more on their wealth rather than God.
- The parable of the rich fool explains that one can be rich but a fool if they depend on their wealth instead of the living God, Luke 12: 15-21. There are many rich foolish people today.

"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock", Mathew 7:24, NIV.

Advisory during Christmas period, and other functions.

During Christmas period, and other social functions like new year, birthdays, engagement, weddings, funerals... Christians should exercise wisdom, modesty, and self-control. There is nowhere God approves extravagance, and wastage of resources in life the way it is witnessed today. The current extreme

extravagance and selfishness borders on foolishness and carnality; promotes poverty in society i.e. spending more on the dead than the living people is a priority which is completely upside down.

- Self-control is very vital, and let us not fall into anything evil during such functions.
- Increase prayer and evangelism in the family and community during such occasions.
- Let's embrace true worship activities in every way.
- Be modesty in behavior, shopping, and celebration. Don't overdo anything since too much of anything is a real poison.
- Celebrate Jesus more as a King in our lives as we are told in Isaiah 9:6-7 than as a child. Moreover, Jesus told us in Luke 22:19 to remember His death, and was silent about His birth.

NOTE: Without the wisdom from God, we are completely cooked, and we will always be in the devil's menu. The devil came to devour people, steal their minds, destroy and kill them. Don't give access to the devil by playing into his hands through foolishness. Beware!

Biblical References: Deuteronomy 34:9,1 Kings 4:30, Proverbs 1:7, 4:6, 8:11, 8:35, 19:8, 24:3, 29:15, 1 Corinthians 1:21, 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, James 1:5, James 3:17, Luke 12:13, Luke 12: 15-21, Mathew 7:24-27.

CHAPTER 21: AUTHORITY OF THE REVIVAL CHURCH.

To revive is to return to life something which is dead: to become active again. It is to renew, rejuvenate or resuscitate. Church history has revealed that the revived church has a great spiritual authority. Jesus established and left a revived church; very powerful, full of power, and glory. The early church was made up of all called out believers and great disciples who were followed by miracles, signs and wonders.

"And afterward, I will pour out My spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions." Joel 2:28, NIV.

World Map (1993) explains that the 10th century was a period of decline, and decay for the church which was full of sin and corruption. The church lost spiritual power and grace; was unable to transform the world as per the plan of God. There was a great spiritual famine for the church for about 1,000 years, called the dark ages.

In the year 313 the Roman Emperor Constantine legalized church making it State religion which also brought some complacency. This was later followed by missionary work to the West, Europe, Middle East, East Africa, Ethiopia, China, Indonesia, and India.

The church revival history or reformation is well captured by Dr. Bill Hamon (2007) in his book, and World Map. Every Christian should know their history, where the church succeeded and failed because history repeats itself if we're not careful.

The church was later brought back to revival through a protest by Martin Luther who preached on faith, saving by grace and the blood of Jesus. John Wesley, founder of the Methodist church, preached on holiness, salvation and forgiveness of sins.

At the beginning of the year 1900 God had restored the church worldwide through the Pentecostal movement in which split Christians with others supporting while others opposed it. Christianity expanded over centuries, and at the moment the membership stands at over 2 billion worldwide. But the growth of Christianity in the western world has slowed down while the latest rapid growth is in Asia, Third world, Latin America, China, South Korea, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Man has mismanaged the church over centuries. He has made it a dry, and empty religious institution without love, faith, and spiritual power. The dark ages is a dry spell for the church which became carnal, dormant, and inactive. Signs of a dormant or inactive church include less evangelism and making of disciples; focus is on more investment on physical structures, and material prosperity instead of the kingdom of God.

Dr. Hamon B. (2007) provides the following information on church reformation history;

Revival/ Reformation history.

The history of reformation/revival is captured as indicated below: -

- 1500 - Protestant movement with focus on salvation, grace, and faith.
- 1600 - Evangelism movement's priority was gospel, and soul winning.
- 1700 - Holiness movement looked more at sanctification.
- 1800 - Faith Healing movement focused on faith, and healing.

- 1900 - Pentecostal movement's priority was the Holy Spirit empowerment mainly by fivefold ministries, and independent churches.
- 2000 to date is the saints movement i.e. ordinary believers initiate and dig wells of revival through holiness, true worship, prayer, and fasting.

Revival testimonies.

Below are some of the testimonies experienced by the church during the revival movement in Baringo in the 1990s, which I witnessed: -

- Massive infilling of the Holy spirit in church meetings, homes, schools, moving motor vehicles, during baptism, in business premises, streets etc.
- Many people came to Christ in a great repentance for sins while crying, mourning, and weeping. Holy Spirit demonstration was great, and amazing.
- In some meetings believers praised, and worshipped God the whole day without any room for other programs like preaching due to the heavy presence of God.
- Demon possessed persons were delivered, and healed instantly.
- Many people were slayed, filled with the Holy spirit, and left lying down for up to eight (8) hours and reported were taken in the spiritual tour to heaven; they came back to life and gave stories of its beauty, and greatness.
- Long hours of daily spontaneous nonstop praise, and worship songs by congregations without the use of hymn books or musical equipment while standing up for up to ten (10) hours. The energy, and passion displayed by believers was mind

Nothing but the Truth.

Peter K. Keitany

boggling.

- The revival disturbed traditional religious churches and normal community life until some persons reported their complaints to the top authorities in Kenya who summoned the church leaders for questioning. There was enough grace to protect the revival team from any reprisals.
- Other believers were persecuted by their relatives or community members who reacted negatively but they could not surrender since they were willing to suffer for the gospel. The courage, and inspiration by saints to serve God was beyond the ordinary obstacles.
- Prayer and fasting on daily, weekly, and monthly basis in churches, homes, forests and hills was carried out by the believers in an effort to earnestly seek God.
- Frequent speaking in tongues and interpretation, prophetic utterances, affirmations, and assurances were witnessed more frequently.
- Deep revelation of heaven, and release of very specific words of knowledge on current events to the saints were a common feature.
- More focus and zeal for spiritual matters, and end times by some believers who even contemplated to leave schooling or their jobs but they had to be advised by more mature leaders against it. They were high risk takers.
- Massive delivery of people from demonic bondages leading to repentance, and complete transformation e.g. many left sinful lives, collapse of brewing local illicit alcohol (busaa and changaa) businesses as people accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord, and Savior.

- Walking by brethren for long distances for up to 70 km per day to preach the gospel of Jesus without bothering to use motor vehicles as they were empowered by the Holy spirit.
- Brethren swimming across rivers on evangelism missions without being harmed by hippos or crocodiles to the amazement of the local people.
- Miraculous instant healings of various diseases including fractures and severe injuries.
- Radical evangelism on daily basis, and for several months, through door-to-door visits, open air crusades, in schools, and evening revival meetings.
- Worshipping God in the Spirit, and truth accompanied by great singing, shouting, crying, jumping, dancing, matching, weeping, and groaning was seen.
- Many revived or reformed brethren had to break away from rigid traditional denominations to start new fellowships to embrace the revival movement after facing stiff opposition from key religious leaders.
- Children preached to themselves the gospel in schools, and saw heavenly and angelic visions in class rooms during lessons. They also skipped lunch breaks and supper for prayer and fasting sessions.
- The testimony on the revival movement was heard widely, and people from Kenya and outside the country came to witness. Journalists also came to cover the miraculous works of Christ, and published in some newspapers.

Signs. and wonders.

The following were also signs and wonders witnessed by believers during the revival period in Baringo which took the church and communities to another level:-

- Provision of supernatural lights at night during a church prayer meeting.
- Filling of an empty lamp with paraffin to provide lights during a meeting after prayer was made.
- Opening of locked doors in a church building through prayers after some church leaders blocked access for intercessors.
- A broken lamp was returned to its original state miraculously after it was prayed for during an evening revival meeting.
- Miraculous stopping of rains during church meetings was common.
- Some of those who opposed the gospel were visited in visions, warned, physically beaten by supernatural beings or even fell sick (paralyzed) or died.
- Some known illiterate members spoke fluently in English, and quoted Bible verses.
- Some brethren who were graced as teachers of the word became walking Bibles as they could accurately quote verses with ease without reference to the Bible.
- Prisoners were released in prisons after prayers, and declarations by preachers.
- Bows and arrows aimed at brethren during an evening house church meeting failed to work even after frantic efforts by the shooter who later apologized and accepted Jesus as the Savior. Today he serves God as a church elder.

We are now in the season which God can use any believer, any saint who's sanctified and set aside to bring renewal, revival, reformation to the church today. Are you ready to be used?

Let's pray for revival of the church today so that we see more miracles, signs and wonders. We need to become powerful church so as to transform the world like the early church which its main business was to make disciples for Jesus which is a lifelong assignment. We must make disciples (not just mere converts or church goers) until Jesus comes.

Church transformation.

Change is a common feature everywhere and it affects the church, culture, communities and nations. It is making things radically different and also affects human spirit, soul, and body. There are positive, and negative changes hence we need to manage them well to bring good results. Salvation is a personal radical change of believers in a 360 degrees transition. The church must transform in a line with the Biblical standards instead of conforming to the world's as guided in Romans 12:2.

A church building everywhere.

In his book 'A Church Every ½ a Mile', Jon Zens (2008) dwells on how the American church has backslidden from glory, and now operates outside the will of God. He says the church left the great commission to put more focus, time, human, and financial resources on worthless physical church buildings. He says the radical protestant reformation of Luther, Melancthon, Zwingli, and others is repeating itself again. There is a need to re-think ministry in the body of Christ because organized religion is a sham. Church history notes of a tragic shift from spiritual simplicity in the early church to institutionalized bureaucracy that brought much negative domination. There is now a multiplication, and duplication of very expensive

buildings dotting every corner of towns with little spiritual impact.

Zens J. (2008) says the basic pattern of Christianity today is local buildings, leadership, pulpit, finance, institutions, headquarters, and programs across denominations meeting separately because of their peculiar traditions, doctrine and distinctive experience. Every denomination strongly believes that they are closer to some important truth, ideology, and theology than others; they set up a shop for their brand of Christianity. This comes with much expense since every group wants to have their land, buildings, personnel etc. instead of spending the billions in the spread of the gospel, and welfare of the needy in the church; there is extravagant expenditure on physical infrastructure and religious programs. Overspending on physically meaningless buildings by the church, and neglecting on saving lives or addressing the needs of the needy is corruption of the highest order, Zens J. (2008).

In the early church meetings were held daily in homes not in buildings, and church was like a family in a simple setting with little complications. Conflicts over the religious traditions have led to many splits across the globe, with some genuine and others selfish and narrow. Church has become a complex system of impenetrable bureaucracy. Believers today choose a church based on guidance by a friend, family tradition, doctrinal party-line, pastor's charisma and nature of programs, Zens J. (2008).

The special pastor.

Zens J. (2008) states that just like in Israel where they cried for a king, a section of the current church has crowned the pastor as their king, and professional playing a central role in church affairs. The pastor is a special person delivering a monologue frequently and is in charge of almost everything in the church

and is on call 24/7 as a center of communication, operates as a mini-Vatican Pope. Pastors, and other ministers in some denominations have been made mediators between Jesus Christ, and the people which is Spiritually a faulty setting. God wants us to recognize all His servants or ministers but not exalting them too much, and forgetting others who are equally important in the church.

Zens J. (2008) adds that many pastors have become so busy in ministry such that there is little time to cultivate closeness with God or family. They also see the local church as an extension of their own personal ministry, and calling. This is why Christianity today is personality-based and church matters are structured around talent, vision, direction and teaching of one person. It is a one-man-show business like world companies which is not the will of God.

God wants a team ministry with a blend of several gifts in play. Many clergies have been destroyed because of incredible isolation fostered by their way of life as a result of burn out, discouragement, and depression. Their pattern is to maintain a distance from the congregation and sometimes even family. This has led to proliferation of clergy conferences, and retreats to fill the huge gap. The church has drifted far from its humble beginnings into a very complex formal institution, Zens J. (2008).

Many pastors, and other ministers (Prophets, apostles, evangelists, teachers etc.) would want to be servants but the rigid clergy system cannot allow. The 'laity' has also granted the clergy special power over God's word by a virtue of their education or spiritual intuition. This explains why when a pastor leaves a certain church there is stress and trauma in search for the proper man of God through rigorous interviews yet the correct person may be in their midst.

In fact, pastor or elder or bishop are synonymous terms in the New Testament. The clergy system contradicts Jesus' teaching in every way, and this has given birth to abusive and exploitative ministers in the church, Zens J. (2008).

In his book 'Pastoring the Flock of God' Dr. Rueb J. (2016) provides the sharp difference between pastors who are called, and those who are merely trained professional pastors. He insists that for effectiveness, pastors must first receive salvation, then sanctification, and a calling from God. He says the position of pastor cannot be an ordinary career choice but must be divine. "You can quit a job but not a calling from God".

Ronald L. Durham (2023) says according to recent studies 4,000-5,000 pastors in USA quit each year from ministry because they are overwhelmed with mental exhaustion relating to carrying the spiritual burdens of people.

The church tragic shift.

Zens J. (2008) says in his book that the visible church forsook the way of Christ in a backslide leading to four tragic shifts, namely;

- From dynamic organism (a living body with many parts) to increasingly hardened institution with a fixed, and complex hierarchy.
- From polyform ministry (edification of church by gifts of all brethren) to a uniform conception of church offices which separated clergy from laity.
- From a suffering body (through persecution) to a protected, and favored institution (state religion).
- From a vibrant church depending on the Holy Spirit, and Jesus as true head of the church to a church which trusts itself as a

very powerful institution with a set of many rigid rules, rites, and offices.

Today the church is more attached to the inherited way of doing things which is based on human traditions rather than the new revelation. The contemporary Christianity is borrowing a lot from the Old Testament (covenant) where people are led to believe that the church building is the house of God. It is quite striking that the early church had its greatest period of growth without the clergy, special buildings or support from government. Homes were a natural place for believers to meet and the early church flourished well into the first and second centuries without erecting temples. There is a cry today for servant church leadership, church renewal, true worship, and righteousness in the church so as to overcome the current churchless faith, Zens J. (2008).

The lord has converted people, and built-up saints in spite of the faulty religious system because He loves his people, although He doesn't sanction such a system. The mess of competing church organizations, costly buildings, church politics, Levitical system, exalted priesthood of the pastor, religious officers (staff) and endless church splits over petty doctrines is not the will of God. The lord's desire is for His true church not personality empires and mega-church buildings.

Ernest Harrison (1965), said 'Christianity must change or die' while George Barna said 'In the revolution people are leaving institutional churches to seek better alternative options.'

Zens J. (2008) says one-man-show ministry is not healthy because it is like expecting one organ like the legs to make human body function normally while disabling all the other organs. The system also focuses more on traditions, and intellectual attainment instead of Christ-like character, and

spiritual revelation. The church service and architecture revolve around the pulpit, and the climax is the sermon though there is no Biblical evidence to support this. The New Testament giving is about the reflection of God giving Jesus as Savior, and generous giving by saints; not giving through intimidation as witnessed currently in the church. Many current church leaders have difficulty in trusting the Lord to touch the hearts of the people in light of Christ's example to give liberally to meet their real needs.

The Bible in 1 Corinthians 14, talks about a body gathering event where everyone participates with greater freedom and informality, and not a one-man business. Imagine if the church seating arrangement was circular like a round table meeting it will be more edifying. The early church had no priestly caste system but practiced polyform ministry which involved the whole body.

Zens J. (2008) adds that there was also total absence of special buildings to meet in and saints met in houses, and demonstrated true love and mutual concern for each other, but with the advent of Constantine of the Roman empire around A.D. 325 everything changed for he made institutional Christianity the state religion. There was use of state funds to erect church buildings, and to support the clergy. Today many church buildings are constructed with money majorly contributed by political leaders.

Zehr A. (2019) talks about a holy discontent moving across the church worldwide whereby Christians are looking for a 'better way of doing church' since the current status is no longer relevant at all. He says pastors are becoming more frustrated and are resigning to look for other careers with fewer demands and less pressure.

According to recent reports the church in Europe, and the West is facing great decline while Islam is growing at an alarming rate. It is projected that if nothing is done by Christians Islam will become the leading religion in Europe by the year 2030.

The call for a church transformation all along in church history has caused a stir, rebuke, opposition, and persecution by church leaders who defended the status quo but change came anyway. Even today we expect the same to happen. The church was dynamic then and should remain so even today because God is not static. If you are running a church program mechanically the same way during every Sunday worship service throughout the year that is a proof that you are spiritually static. To even indicate a clearer example some churches have even printed fixed programs for Sunday or other services and leaders are keen to ensure no one departs from them. This is carnality, and stagnation in play.

Biblical References: Acts 4:31, 6:8-10, 5:1-11, 2:26, 2:1-4, 41-47, Mark 16:15-20, 1 Corinthians 5:20, Hosea 6:2, Joel 2:28-32, Psalms 80:19.

CHAPTER 22: SPIRITUAL MATURITY.

Maturity is to attain a complete growth or to reach the final state. The church grows the way a child grows from infancy to adulthood. The Corinthian church is an example of a premature church with divisions, and followed personalities like Paul, Apollos and Kepha instead of Jesus Christ. Men were the center instead of Christ; sexual sin, disputes over basic things like food to eat, disunity, wrangles, and hatred were common features. Some even doubted the resurrection of Jesus Christ saying it was not practical. This is how the church today looks like.

A premature church is reckless in doing evil, Christians follow and believe people or mighty men of God instead of God. The Corinthian church which was full of conflicts, and sinful acts is a good example of an immature church. They are hasty in emotional judgment. In immaturity Christians love milk and not solid food, they know the truth but don't follow. They love only motivational preaching and follow miracles, signs, and wonders. There is too much hypocrisy, and theory than deeds.

In Revelation we are told of 3 Churches with some strengths, and weaknesses. Sardis church was dead, and was told to wake up. The Philadelphia church had little strength but had kept the word while the Laodicea church was lukewarm, and was to be vomited if they don't change. This shows that no church is mature but they must grow towards maturity.

"Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil" Hebrews 5:13-14, NIV.

A mature church is full of love, faith, wisdom, knowledge, and spiritual unity. They embrace righteousness, the truth, and desire holiness. They are committed to serve God, know their grace and calling, they love solid food (righteousness) and not milk.

The Berean church is an example of a mature church because they were not like the Thessalonians, they examined the Scriptures to check on teachings by Apostle Paul, and other preachers to confirm if it was true doctrine. They didn't swallow any teaching like the church today. The church must check teachings and judge prophecies to proof their truthfulness, consistency, and whether they are sound Biblical doctrine. Many preachers today share shallow teachings which look similar true teachings, and so beware.

Biblical References: Revelation 3:1-22, 1 Corinthians 3:1-9, 13:11, 4:5, 14:20, 1:12, 4:5, 2:6, Ephesians 4:11-14, Acts 17:11, Hebrews 5:11-14, 6:1-3.

CHAPTER 23: IDEAL FAMILY.

Family is the basic unit in society started by God to transform the world, and it is written 115 times in the Bible. It's a union of two people, man and woman, spiritually who become one body. Children are the outcome of a family to connect the generations. God has put a plan so that as other people die others are born to replace them. There's also the family of God which is made up of believers as children, and God as their father. Marriage is a lifelong commitment between two adults, male and female, only death can bring it to an end or the second coming of Jesus Christ. The importance of family includes spiritual and emotional union, assurance of next generation, mental wellbeing, social bonding, happiness, and security. It mirrors on the coming marriage between God, and the church.

"Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her", Ephesians 5:24-25, NIV.

The current emerging issues of gays, lesbianism, homosexuality etc. (LGBTQ) are an abomination trying to challenge the original plan of God. The Sodom and Gomorrah was destroyed by God because of such sinful acts. Even today those who engage of such sins will suffer in this life and in the next. They will lead very miserable lives or even death. God will still destroy the contemporary Sodomites. The plan of God is for a marriage between one man and woman.

God commands that all people, parents, relatives or friends, must honor marriage as something precious and the bed should remain undefiled. God will harshly judge adultery, and fornication because are sinful acts done inside the body. God also condemns divorce. Marriage or sexual union is not for

jokers or children. Apostle Paul said to avoid sexual immorality let every man marry his wife.

The Bible teaches husbands to love their wives as their bodies, support them as the heads and not oppress them. As the head, the husband, should provide for the family, teach integrity, and its vision, and plan. The Bible says if a Christian cannot provide for his family, then he is worse than an unbeliever.

Wives are required to submit to the husbands as a service to God, respect, honor, praise and help them to succeed. A good wife is kind, humble, hospitable, has self-control, and Godly character. She wakes up very early to prepare food for her family, manages home well and never nags, gossips or complains about the husband. She's not idle but hard working. The husband, and wife must share everything; support their marriage to work.

Parents in a family should not be sinful or dishonesty because they will bring a curse to the family. Ananias, and Sapphira were both killed by God one day for dishonesty. Family partners should be committed to each other, and avoid lustful temptation. Children must obey their parents to be blessed, and live long while parents should not provoke their children by oppression, and denying them their basic rights. This will remove toxic environment in family.

The family of believers should love and support each other both physically, and spiritually. We should all invest in eternity, and not the world by preparing for the marriage between the church and Jesus.

The disciples of Jesus Christ left their families to follow Jesus because God was their priority. Even today don't worship your family until you fail to serve God. Serve God as a priority, and

He will take care of your family. No one can become a good leader in the church, and society if they fail in family. A good Christian leader will rule his family well with integrity, respect, hospitality, marry one wife, raise children well, and teach the Word.

Older women should teach younger women on how to raise happy families. Young widows should get married to avoid shame of sinful acts if they cannot overcome temptations. Older widows and orphans can depend on God, and church for support both physically and Spiritually. God protects the orphans as their father, and no one should oppress them.

Nurture and strengthen family by creating time for intimacy, prayer, Bible study, play, and rest. Encourage the use of love language in a family including having quality time, going out, physical touch, sharing of gifts, acts of service, effective communication, and words of affirmation.

In his book ‘Industrialize Yourself’, Wekhomba R. (2017) says that fathers should provide nurturing, modeling, socialization of children, involvement in their moral, and spiritual development to enhance stability in the family. They should not provoke their children by being irresponsible in their family duties. A man should be a spiritual leader at home to ensure success in the future of their children.

Family order.

- Man is the head of the family, although some have ignored their responsibility until women took over.
- A wife is the helper, and companion of the husband; not the deputy or vice of the husband as some commonly say.
- Children are the blessing from the marriage, and this calls for good spiritual parenting. Poor parenting makes children a burden, and a liability to the parents.

- Love, and forgiveness are a must be to build a strong family. This is two-way relationship.
- Both parents must work hard to support the family in providing physical, and spiritual needs. It is a serious partnership arrangement.

Strong marriage.

- Parents fear God, and are prayer partners.
- God is allowed to give directions, guidance, and influence the family.
- The two trust each other, and there is no backbiting.
- Both husband, and wife defend each against any external attack or temptations e.g. from other relatives.
- They have no plan 'B' in life but are strongly committed to the marriage fully to the end.
- Partners work hard to support family in all ways.
- They forgive themselves, and settle their disputes confidentially.
- They honor their parents, and support them so as to receive blessings.
- They are committed to good parenting for their children.
- They practice intimate relationship from their bed to the outside.
- There is the presence of emotional intelligence by the two.
- They have received blessings from family, and church through their official engagement and wedding ceremonies.

Weak marriage.

- Investing in drunkenness.
- Presence of sinful acts.
- Mistrust, cheating etc.
- Only chasing material prosperity, and greedy lifestyle.
- Lack of commitment, and effective communication.
- Disrespect, pride, anger, hatred, insults, un-forgiveness etc.

- Holding many secrets in their lives. Working behind the scenes.
- Both are irresponsible. They harbor a don't care attitude.
- Absence of conjugal rights or sexual bonding.

Final statement.

- Marriage is sweet when it is managed properly but if it is mismanaged it becomes a poison leading to pain, depression or even deaths.
- No family is perfect hence don't focus on weaknesses but choose to forgive, and move on.
- Couples are not angels from heaven but human beings with strengths and weaknesses, so, focus more on the strengths to build the family.
- Not even failure to sire children (bareness) can end marriage.

NOTE: Don't shame or rebuke your spouse in public or in front of your children because it will weaken or kill your relationship.

The sex you must not have.

- You must never have sex with a married man no matter what he promises, professes or your desperation. It will leave permanent wounds in your life.
- Never have sex with your boss. If the harassment becomes too much, report, resign, and trust God for a better job. Holiness is more valuable than money.
- If God put people under your care to mentor or pastor like children don't have sex with them. Never take advantage of God's people no matter what. It is painful, and very expensive curse.
- Don't have sex with a married woman. If you are getting too much attached via chatting, official or academic rapport break up the closeness. It is sinful, and very costly.

- Never have sex with your lecturers for grades or marks arrangement. It reduces your self-esteem, and puts permanent guilt in your life.
- If you are a marketer, never agree to sleep with a prospective client just to meet your official target. Run away from cheap careless life.
- Don't have sex with your in-laws. If he or she stays with you and you are finding it difficult to resist the pull, let him or her leave. Be wise in life.
- Don't have sex with your neighbor or colleague. Don't make your life more complicated by sinful acts.
- God created sex to be between a male, and a female. Stay away from sex with your same gender, gay and lesbian relationship. God is against sexual immorality and homosexuality and will punish it severely like of Sodom.
- Don't have sex with your sibling or relatives since incest is a sinful curse.
- Don't have sex with your girlfriend or boyfriend. God created sex for marriage, and not for love relationships. Dating or courtship cannot lead to sex.
- The only sex you should have is with your legally wedded partner. This is God ordained.

NOTE: Sex is great, and sweet thing when it is practiced in a family set up but it is a curse when practiced outside marriage. Many have suffered dearly depression, shame, and even died painfully and miserably for trying sex outside the Biblical boundaries. Sex for money, lust or favors also has proved a tall order, another curse, and unsustainable.

Biblical References: Romans 12:10, 7:3-4, Hebrews 13:4, Joel 3:17, Mathew 5:32, 1 Peter 3:1, 3:5, 3:7, Ephesians 2:19, 6:1-4, 5:22-33, 1 Timothy 5:14, 5:16, 5:9, 3:4-5, 3:12, 5:8, Proverbs 31, Acts 5:1-9, 1 Corinthians 7:2, Galatians 6:10, Revelation 19:7, Titus 2:4-5, Colossians 3:18.

CHAPTER 24: PARENTING IN THE LORD.

Parenting is taking care of children both physically, and spiritually until they are mature adults able to take care of themselves. Kennel T. and Byler J. (2006) defines parenting in the Lord as about parents involving God in raising their children. Children are very important because they are the church, today and tomorrow. The family, church, community, and nation will lack good leaders with current poor parenting. Parent(s) is written 68 times in the Bible. In parenting God wants us to use genuine love and helping them to know the Lord and training them through teaching the word, discipling, and modeling. Raising children with insults, anger, and hatred will spoil them. Parenting involves prayers, and involvement of God since no parent or family is perfect. It is a very difficult task which needs the intervention of God. It requires great energy, thoughts, and resources.

"Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother-which is the first commandment with a promise-that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth", Ephesians 6:1-3, NIV.

Children are the greatest investment for their parents. Teach your child(ren) the word of God daily, and regularly to get a strong foundation in life. Trust God, and pray that He will save your whole household. Train well a child, and they will not forget when they become adults. Raise them well before they make you fail because when children fail parents will fail too. A child not raised well will go astray, and become a shame and a burden to the family, parents, community, and country. Children raised poorly will stress parents, and send them early to the graves. Bad behavior also shortens lives of the youth through crime, killings, drugs, diseases like HIV/AIDS, alcoholism, suicide, devil worship etc. Failed parenting spells

doom for the future of families, community, and nation. We must all work harder towards good parenting. The root cause of current indiscipline in families, schools, and country is due to poor parenting. The devil comes to steal minds, and hearts of our children to destroy them. Parents should not love or pamper their children too much for they will make them foolish, indiscipline or a burden to themselves.

Children must obey their parents in the Lord to be blessed, and live a long life. It's not enough to provide children with just food, clothing, house, land, education, car, phone, luxury tours, lavish life etc. without the spiritual part they will fail miserably. It's not automatic that if you are a successful parent your children will also succeed. It takes good foundation, and God for the children to succeed in life. A home is where the basic foundational practices and teachings are applied like good manners, family or Christian values. The Word of God will take center stage in parenting.

The devil has set many traps for the children, and youth so that they fail in life. Such traps include drugs, alcoholism, early sex, early pregnancy, early marriage, lust of the flesh, idleness, lesbianism, homosexuality, masturbation, violence, crime, devil worship etc. Children who are not well raised will easily fall into the satanic traps, and are destroyed.

Parents must appreciate that education, and professional careers alone are not enough to raise better children. We have seen even employed degree holders suffering because of sinful acts, and behaviors e.g. engineers, doctors etc. The devil doesn't fear flashy degrees but holy believers even if they are academically illiterate. This proves that our children first need God before education which is much more secondary in priority.

Tips for parents.

Kennel T. and Byler J. (2006) gives some tips on parenting as indicated below;

- Pray for your children before they are born, after they are born, and until they are old.
- Pray for the children to have good friends.
- Pray for protection by God from attack of the enemy.
- Pray for their future spouses that they will be a good match.
- Discipline children with love not with anger. Don't provoke children by insults, punishing them unfairly or denying them their basic rights.
- Pray that God will give them wisdom to make good, and sound decisions in life.
- There is no perfect person in parenting. Parenting is very complex, so, depend on God.

NOTE: Don't discipline, shame or rebuke your children in public since it will lower or kill their self-esteem.

About children.

- Children are a blessing from God to the parents, community, and nation.
- If children or youth are not mentored or coached well by parents, leaders, and church they will become nuisance, liability or great burden to society.
- Children are the true church of today, tomorrow and future; and will help connect the generations because they will live longer than us adults. They are the leaders of tomorrow, and we must prepare them today.
- Today, children have been neglected in family, church, community, and nation through poor parenting, abuse, and denial of rights. We hear of many cases of lack of basic needs for children, sexual defilement, early pregnancy, and marriages etc. which is disheartening.

- Majority of the population in Kenya and many countries in the world is made up of youth yet we invest less time, energy, and resources in them. Our priorities are completely upside down.
- The Old Testament priesthood and society neglected children and placed them at the lowest level in hierarchy after the priests, men, women and servants.
- Children and youth even today don't get serious recognition in church, and community functions like weddings or engagements while they are expected to be future leaders.

Way forward.

- We can change the world through children and youth; hence we must invest more commitment, money, and time in them at homes and in institutions.
- Jesus Christ said the Kingdom of God is for children, and if you want to enter heaven you must be like a little child.

"And He said I tell you the truth, unless you change and become and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven", Mathew 18:3, NIV.

The current pride of adults can only take them directly to hell. Heaven is for the loving, and very humble people.

- We must love children genuinely to transform them to be great people in the coming years. If we oppress our children we are killing our future. Children need close range relationship, and not weak long-range arrangements. Eat, play, and interact with children at home, and outside to bring them closer to you.
- You can only model, mentor, and change children to be important people when they are young before adolescent age i.e. from 2-8 years.
- A survey has proven that in many churches children are teaching children in Sunday school services which is abnormal, leading to disastrous results. In this scenario children will learn

that church is not an important business-like school or college. The plan of God was adults (parents both male and female) to teach the children, and not children teaching children.

- If we as adults hate children, they will stop loving themselves, and hate themselves for they see themselves through your eyes, deeds, and attitudes.
- Jesus is the lawyer or advocate of the children, and if you neglect or oppress them you will face God which will be very costly on your side. Jesus left the high priest, bypassed all the senior religious leaders, to go directly to the children.
- Fathers should tell their daughters they love them, and can take them out regularly to give them nice treats before boys do it in a bad manner. Mothers also should do the same to their sons before crafty ladies do it negatively.
- Let's all purpose to rescue, support, and counsel the many wounded children in our communities.
- Let's all promote the protection of children, and support their ministry for better society.
- Pastors, elders, Sunday school teachers, trainers, and other church leaders should be in the frontline in children's advocacy.
- Parents, and church ministers should take the lead in repenting for the neglect of children by the church and community; should commit themselves to a new beginning.
- You can be a partner to make your family, community, and nation a safe place for children.

Biblical References: Proverbs 29:15, Ephesians 6:1-4, Colossians 3:31, Deuteronomy 6:6-9, Mathew 18:1-5.

CHAPTER 25: GIVING AND WORKING IN THE CHURCH.

We have nothing of our own in this world but we are only stewards of God's resources, and we should manage them very well. We must work with our hands to be able to meet our family needs, and support ministerial activities. God blesses the work of our hands hence we must work, create wealth, and avoid laziness. You can only give what you have to bless others, World Map (1993) Giving is written 141 times in the Bible. God asks for tithe to support the poor, needy in God's family, and ministers in the church. Offering is used for various church operations. Tithing and giving offering doesn't buy God's blessings but it is a form of worship, and expresses faith and releases God's blessings upon our lives. We don't give tithe but we pay because it is a debt.

World Map (1993) explains that tithe involves everything like in the Old Testament; money, oil, flour, fruits, wood, animals, first fruits of crops, free will offering, the offering for the poor, widows, orphans and aliens, special projects etc. The remaining 90% after tithing will purchase more than the 100% which people retain.

"All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on", Luke 21: 4, NIV.

The Bible teaches us about generous and cheerful giving. No pressure, and threats should be applied to people to give but Christians should be mature enough to know how to give correctly. God rewards us according to what is left after giving for He is keen on the balance. Generous giving proves our love, faith, and maturity. You can't give what you don't have, you give according to your ability. Giving breaks the curse of poverty.

The Macedonian Christians were in great poverty but they gave generously than the rich people. Even today the people with less give more than the super-rich. Blessed are those who give than those who receive. We must give our hearts, and bodies first as sacrifices acceptable to God before we give material things. God is a very good example in giving His only son to die in Calvary for us to receive salvation. All brethren and preachers should work to raise income to be able to eat, raise their families, and give. The Bible is against any form of idleness because the devil will take advantage. God will bless the work of our hands. Don't offer to God poor offering like blind, sick or injured animals. We must give God the best of everything. If you obey God, He will bless you in the land with authority, and prosperity until you will be a lender. Tithing 10% is the minimum hence you can tithe 20% or 30% or more willingly if you are enabled. God loves a cheerful giver. The common practice in denominations of writing names of believers who pay tithes on envelopes is not proper because it should be confidential. Our deeds of prayer and fasting, giving, and charity should be secret so that God will reward us as guided in Mathew 6:4-18.

“Don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing”, Mathew 6:3.

The plain truth, and ideal situation here is that nobody should know the amounts of money which I give in the church in form of offering or tithes. Denominational leaders expose names to assist them put pressure on believers in case their giving goes down.

God loves a cheerful giver. The poor will always be in the land so be open handed towards your brothers, and sisters. Don't consume everything you have alone but share with brethren just like as in the early church. In the early church there was no

needy people because of generous giving, and sharing. Christians sold their land and houses, and used the money to support the needy in the church; something which is not there in the current church invaded by much selfishness. Don't be weary of doing good especially in the family of believers. The principle of giving works even for non-believers since if they give generously, they will be blessed. Selfishness is sin, so, let us be generous.

We received the gospel free of charge, and let us give it freely, 1 Corinthians 9:18-19. Today some selfish preachers in television, radio or social media are openly selling the gospel where people are told to send money to be prayed for. It is evil, and sinful to sell prayers. Also, it is not right to be preaching giving from January to January every year at the expense of the gospel to bring people to Christ, and make disciples. The church is not a bank where the key mandate is money, material or prosperity. Churches should not overdo physical projects but should balance with the gospel, the great commission. In church planting hear God, pray, build close relationships and carry out survey then outreach, and respond to needs of the people while pointing them to Christ. Train leaders, and then assign duties as per the grace, and calling.

Working with your hands.

Global Disciples, SBD (2022) calls on believers to work with their hands as indicated below. It is good to know important principles of business (occupation) to ensure successful ventures. The common types of businesses are sole proprietorship, partnerships, limited companies, and corporations.

- We must work so that God will bless the work of our hands.
- The theology of work is that work is Biblical.
- Ordinary people, and things accomplish extraordinary results.

- Choose to do business to create an access to people, and transform them.
- Choose to do business for the sake of demonstrating integrity.
- Turn your business dream into a reality.
- Discover, and use what has been given to you to bless others i.e. use what is in your hand like Moses in the Bible.

‘You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied all my needs and the needs of my companions’, Acts 20:34, NIV.

Questions to ask on business.

- What kind of business or special skills do you have?
- What kind of work do you enjoy doing? Your calling, and passion.
- What are the greatest needs of the community you will serve?
- What obstacles need to be overcome to start a business?
- Ask God to increase your vision of how He will work through you in a business.
- Pray, and ask Jesus for guidance.

Develop a strong foundation for Business

- Be faithful in the little things. Embrace integrity.
- Close any doors that give satan an access into your life or business.
- Cultivate intimacy with God, and listen to His instructions and strategies.
- Guard against relying on your natural understanding or past experiences.
- Recognize your own vulnerability, dependency on God, and need for believer's prayer support.

You must do a research /Feasibility study.

Do research before starting a business to make sure you meet a real felt need in the community touching on the following; the business idea, the market for the business and competitors, and how the business will facilitate your ministry, Global Disciples, SBD (2022).

Do your SWOT analysis.

- Strengths (internal positives) of the business or advantages.
- Weaknesses (Internal negatives) of the business to improve on or avoid.
- Opportunities (External positives) in the market for the business or possibilities or favorable trends.
- Threats or risks (External negatives) in the market for the business/ obstacles/ competition.

NOTE: All people have weaknesses, strengths, and opportunities to exploit. Every business has a risk to overcome.

Wekhomba R. (2017) says many business people fail terribly because they venture into the wrong businesses while copying others or undertaking poor feasibility studies. Business is a unique calling to different people hence you must know your calling.

Know your target customers.

- What does your target customers need from you? Avoid wants or luxury.
- When does your target customer buy from you? Frequency of buying.

- Where does your target customer live, and shop? Ideal location.
- How will you attract your target customer? Smart strategies.
- Who will take your customers away? Direct, and indirect competitors.
- Analyze business sale projections.

NOTE: No business survives without reliable customers. Research helps you make sound decisions.

Starting a business.

- Assess your market size and cash flow to come up with figures for analysis.
- Choose the best strategic location for the business.
- Seek wise, and technical counsel to help as you develop business plans.
- Begin imagining, and getting a picture of your business. Conceive in mind. Draw it.
- Find the money (capital) needed to start or grow the business.
- Be willing to sacrifice e.g. selling property to raise needed capital.
- Be willing to wait in order to maximize your reinvestment.
- Be careful about borrowing money for the borrower may become a slave to the lender.
- Borrowing, and lending are not to be done without understanding.
- We are obligated to repay what we borrow. Connect a loan with your ability to repay.
- Borrowing should be reserved only for assets i.e. things that grow in value or are essential to produce an income.
- Know that the business is a separate entity from you, and your family.

Handling debts.

- List all debts from the smallest to largest, and begin to pay.
- Make all the regular payments to avoid penalties.
- Repeat this payment process until all debts are paid.
- Praise God, and celebrate as each debt is paid.
- List also expenses in the order they are expected, with the date due e.g. basic needs like food and school fees.
- Each week discipline yourself to save the amount needed so that the funds are ready when needed.
- Be committed to saving to have the money needed to do, and grow business.
- Save at least 10% of the income you receive.
- You can start church savings groups to support the mission's ministry.
- Have competitive, and fair prices to succeed.
- Take calculated realistic risks, make sacrifices, and multiply your gifts through others.
- Keep financial records i.e. daily, weekly, monthly, and annual to help in monitoring.
- Operate within your budget always. Avoid excitement in buying things.
- Prioritize meeting family's needs before our wants or luxuries.

NOTE: Most people have debts to manage well to avoid complex problems.

Business marketing.

- Good marketing is to be truthful, honesty, and accurate.

- Marketing is everything you do to get the customer to buy from you.
- Make sure there is a real felt need for your product.
- Attract customers that come to the business through product, price, and language.
- Promise customers less, and deliver more.
- Stand out from your competition by offering something different or unique.
- Remember people are more important than money (i.e. the main thing).
- Write a business plan to enable you carefully consider all aspects of the business, and uncover omissions and weaknesses in your thinking.
- Run an honest business by seeking to do everything with integrity, and excellence.
- Partner with or employ persons you share the same business values.

What kills business.

- Lack of capital to start business.
- Insufficient capital to run business.
- Poor location of business.
- Lack of experience.
- Poor management.
- Unexpected growth.
- Personal use of funds.
- Misuse of funds i.e. diverting.
- Overinvesting in physical assets e.g. idle land, vehicles.
- Poor credit arrangements/loans i.e. over borrowing loans.
- Legal complications i.e. breaking the law.

NOTE: There is rise and fall of businesses. We must guard against eminent failure.

How to manage your money.

- Saving 10% of the profits to support business.
- Investing, and reinvesting.
- Paying taxes to government to avoid interference.
- Paying 10% to God to receive blessings.
- Paying staff salary to motivate them.
- Paying yourself to enjoy the business benefits.

How to make your money work for you.

- Invest your savings in assets, real estate, and stocks.
- Pay debts, and avoid additional ones.
- Save on utility bills i.e. water, electricity, airtime, TV, internet etc.
- Buy second hand items/equipment e.g. clothes, cars etc.
- Eat at home not hotels to save on costs.
- Do side business/hustle to supplement.
- Have a budget plan to strictly follow.
- Use a shop list to purchase items.
- Don't overspend on anything.
- Be ethical in everything.
- Avoid bad friends or company.
- Avoid poor plans.
- Have a sound business model.
- Take fair risk.
- Don't impress others.
- Be persistent, and passionate.
- Have good marketing skills.

- Build, and grow your own company.

NOTE: They say don't work for money because you will be its slave.

Biblical References: 1 Chronicles 29:14, Leviticus 19:10,22:21-22, 27:30, Deuteronomy 18:1-4, 15:5-10, 15:11, Malachi 3:8-12, Luke 11:42, Acts 4:34-37,1 Corinthians 9:14, 1 Corinthians 9:18-19, 2 Corinthians 9:6-9, Galatians 6:9-10, Luke 21:1-4, Romans 22:1-3, Nehemiah 10:38-39, Philippians 4:15-19, Proverbs 3:9-10, Acts 18:1-4, Romans 16:3 ,Acts 20:33-35, 1 Thessalonians 4:7, 11-12; 1 Corinthians 9:18-19, Genesis 12:1-2; Psalm 46:10, John 17:20-26; Romans 10:13-15, Luke 24:46-47, Galatians 3:8, Mathew 24:14; 2 Peter 3:9-13, Proverbs 24:30-34, Proverbs 14:4 ,Proverbs 24:27, Proverbs 20:18, Proverbs 21:5, Proverbs 11:1, Proverbs 20:23 ,Proverbs 20:14, Proverbs 15:27, Proverbs 18:16, Isaiah 33:14-16,Proverbs 27:23-27, Proverbs 11:24-25, Proverbs 22:22, Colossians 4:1, Proverbs 3:9-10 ,Proverbs 23:4-5, Proverbs 30:7-8, Proverbs 22:9,Proverbs 13:11, Proverbs 31:10-28, Proverbs 22:7, Romans 13:8, Mathew 5:42, Genesis 2:2, Colossians 3:17, Mark 6:3; John 5:17; 1 Corinthians 10:26, ,1 Timothy 5:8, 1 Thessalonians 4:11, Ephesians 4:28, Luke 16:8-12.

CHAPTER 26: THE GREAT COMMISSION.

The great commission (preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ) must become a great priority for every Christian. This is the greatest privilege God has given to us to share the good news to humanity. Gospel is written 138 times in the Bible. According to Global Disciples (2022) over 2.6 billion people out of the world population of about 8 billion have never heard the gospel. More than 50,000 people die daily without hearing the gospel.

According to World Map (1993) the world population grows by over 70 million annually and less than 3 million (4%) people are touched by the Word of God. Some of the methods used in soul winning include open air crusades, church planting, mercy missions (showing compassion) town hall meetings, house to house evangelism, person to person evangelism, mainstream mass media, and social media. These will include radio, television, Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp etc.

Why do we evangelize.

- We learn from Jesus Christ who was a soul winner.
- The harvest is great, and we have few workers.
- God will hold us accountable if we don't evangelize.
- Before the end of the world the gospel must be preached to all.
- Billions of people today are yet to hear the Word of God.
- We must demonstrate our salvation experience to the world (witnessing).

Jesus told the church after they received spiritual power they must witness in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to all ends of the earth. The Holy Spirit plays a great role in empowering believers to be able to share the kingdom message so as to transform the world. God calls upon us to be spiritual watchmen helping sinners in repentance otherwise their blood

will be in our hands. The main role of Christianity is to reconcile the world to God through the blood of Jesus Christ. The early church was pushed by persecution out of the comfort zone in Jerusalem, and forced to spread the gospel followed by numerous miracles e.g. Philip and Stephen who had miserable deaths because of the gospel. The current church has discarded the great commission, and is stuck in comfort zone busy and buried with cheap prosperity gospel.

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them'", Romans 10:14, NIV.

If we ignore the gospel of salvation, we will not escape the wrath of God. The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing but power to those who are saved. Jesus came to the world to save sinners (lost). He has given us the mantle as His disciples of today to advance the good news on earth before His second coming. We must evangelize because we have no other options. This is the most important assignment for any Christian on earth though it is no longer a top priority in the church today.

Wekhomba R. (2017) calls upon us to be strategic because God is strategic i.e. He knew us when we were still in our mother's wombs, and even had plans for us. We must have an advance mapping for success in our ministry now, and in the future. We must have vision, and mission for the great commission. Some careless Christians believe that planning is not necessary.

Warren R. (2002) says you were made by God for missions on earth to reach out to unbelievers. Become a world class Christian by seriously getting involved in the great commission of making disciples for Jesus, being a global thinker, having

concern for others, focusing on eternity, and having a purpose driven life.

Biblical References: Luke 19:10, Mathew 28:19-20, 24:14,9:35-38, Galatians 1:6-9, Romans 10:13-15, 1:14-15, Ezekiel 33:6-8, Mark 16:15-20, Acts 17:30, 5:42, 8:1-8, 8:35-38, 1:8, Hebrews 2:3-4, 7:51-60, Colossians 1:20,1 Timothy 1:15-16, 2 Corinthians 10:16, 1 Corinthians 1:18, Isaiah 6:1-9, 2 Peter 3:9-11.

CHAPTER 27: GOSPEL MUSIC THAT TRANSFORM LIVES.

Music is a very powerful instrument on earth, and affects humanity in many ways both spiritually, and physically. The right choice of music to listen or watch is a very important decision for Christians. We must choose a good gospel music so as to support, and give foundation to our faith. Bad music can influence Christians badly because it goes silently and secretly into the sub conscious mind hence, we must choose our music wisely. Listen to music which adds value to your life. Secular music has pushed many Christians to backslide from their salvation into the deep world of sin.

"God is Spirit and, and his worshippers must worship in Spirit and in truth'', John 4:24, NIV.

Good gospel music.

- Original, and received by revelation from God.
- About God not about people, satan, world, current affairs or events.
- With clear Biblical message, and meaning; not distorted like in secular music (rap or sheng).
- Flowing with harmony, and touching the hearts of people.
- Singing directly to God like "God, you are worthy' and not ' God is worthy '.
- Soloist is gifted with the calling, and grace to lead the songs.
- Meant for true worship to God, and not for entertainment to please people.
- Dressing, and dancing styles of singers are modest; they glorify God. They are not borrowed from the world or disco joints e.g. twerking.
- Recorded well (audio, and videos) and linked harmoniously without any clashing.

- Not commercial, and solely produced to mint money but instead its motivation is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, win souls, and make disciples.

Process of recording.

- Receive the song in a revelation individually while in prayer, vision or dream. Don't copy songs of others but get original songs from God.
- Share with a Spiritually experienced church team to vet the song to ensure it is original with a clear Biblical message, and flows harmoniously. Discernment here is required.
- Assign a gifted soloist with the grace to lead the song, and commit him or her to the Lord in a prayer.
- Practice the song with various musical instruments.
- Develop musical beats for the song through an experienced producer.
- Agree on proper dancing styles generally portraying the main message.
- Record good voices in the song, and merge harmoniously with the musical beats in a real or a makeshift studio depending on the financial ability of the singers (team).
- Songs should be recorded by singers, while on prayer and partial fasting, may be on just hot lemon water for better voices. This improves on the anointing of the songs.
- Review recorded audio and make the necessary corrections with the producer, and the singing team.
- Produce a final audio song which should be good for the gospel.
- Record video with relevant scenes.
- Share your songs widely physically in church, functions, and online.

Benefits of good gospel music.

- Touching, and blessing lives of people; can lead to conviction, and salvation.

- Release physical, and spiritual healing of the listeners.
- Create environment for peace of mind to stressed people.
- Deliverance over spiritual powers of darkness.
- Victory in warfare is realized by listeners.
- Reduce stress, and painful experiences.
- Improve on positive attitude or mood of people i.e. happiness.

Impact, and touch lives with the music.

- Establish your presence in church, society, nation, and internationally.
- Share your music physically in the community through performances during functions, and church meetings.
- Upload music on social media, YouTube channel, Facebook, TikTok, WhatsApp, Instagram etc.
- Get Skiza tunes codes from safaricom using any of the 81 companies posted on their website.
- Share your music in the mainstream media, radio, and television stations.

Challenges gospel singers face.

- Lack of funds to record, and publicity.
- Copying of others' music.
- Few competent studios, and producers especially in rural areas.
- Greed by singers leading to backsliding to the secular side.
- Pride by singers leads to failure.
- Conflicts among singers due to diverse music tastes.
- Temptation to sing for money, and entertainment instead of worshipping God, and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Video recording is very expensive, and beyond the reach of many singers.
- Lack of good musical instruments, and technicians.
- Opposition from others in church or outside for various reasons.

- Gospel Music is not as popular in the world like secular music hence take a longer time to penetrate into the population, and bring impact. It needs patience.
- Some singers sing both gospel, and secular music because they don't know the boundaries, and the dangers.
- Some singers mix sinful acts with the word or hide in sin.

NOTE: Let us preach, and transform lives through good gospel music.

What is secular music and its Impact?

- It is relating to the world hence temporal. Not designed to worship the living God.
- Not religious, and has no positive spiritual impact on church or people.
- It is about anything else not about God e.g. praising people (leaders, friends), country, environment, culture, livestock, wildlife, current affairs, etc.
- The dancing styles may be unpleasant i.e. borrowed from the world like twerking (sexually suggestive dancing, hot or juicy to the world).
- May not have a clear message, for instance, they are sung in rap or sheng.
- The main purpose is to entertain people, and the world.
- They are mainly for monetary gains or selfish intentions.
- Has negative impact on lives of people.
- Christians who love secular music can easily backslide from the faith.

Source: Experiences borrowed from an interview with Sogon Kingdom Worshippers (2021), a team of gospel singers from Baringo County.

Biblical References: Proverbs 3:9-10, Acts 16:25-31, Mark 7:6-13 and Acts 13:3.

CHAPTER 28: LAST DAYS.

Controversy on last days/Eschatology.

It is very important to share the sound teaching/Biblical doctrine about the end times, last days or eschatology because of the various controversies as indicated below;

- Some false preachers have misled people like in the Shakahola case in Kenya, Uganda, and USA incidents which have led to deaths of people.
- Some preachers have become end time specialists by preaching it 24/7, and all the years despite the fact that there are many more messages in the Bible. Believers also need other messages to balance their lives.
- Leaving everything like working, education etc.so as to wait for the second coming of Jesus Christ which is unbiblical.
- Some Preachers say that the end has already come and the book of Revelation is just reporting history. This is a very shallow approach to this matter.
- Other people believe that heaven is about inheriting the current world, and its riches which is very crazy indeed.

Biblical teaching.

- What has a beginning has an end.
- Heaven, and earth shall pass away but the Word of God shall remain forever.

“There is time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven,” Ecclesiastes 3:1-9, NIV.

Signs of the end.

World Map (1993) provides the teachings below on the end times;

- Many false prophets and christs performing signs and miracles will come to deceive many.

- Wars, and their rumors.
- Nations will fight nations.
- Famines, and earthquakes will occur.
- Many hardships, and distress in life are witnessed.
- Christians are hated, persecuted, jailed, and killed because of their believe in Jesus Christ.
- Many believers will leave their faith in God.
- Increased wickedness, divisions, selfishness, pride, lust, and greediness among people.
- More hatred, and violence among people. They become merciless, and inhuman.
- Love of money, pleasure, cheap stories, and fake gospel. They love what their itching ears want to hear.
- Children disobey their parents, and make their own bad decisions.
- People love outward religion, and fake worship than true genuine spiritual worship.
- Dreadful days for pregnant, and nursing mothers due to the immense hardship.
- God will shorten the days to save the lives of the saints.
- The gospel will be preached to all nations.
- Like the days of Noah people will be caught up unawares while enjoying pleasure, eating, drinking, and in marriage ceremonies.
- No one knows the day, not a man, angels or the Son but only God the Father. Any man claiming to know the day is an outright liar.

Events of the last days.

- Return of Jesus Christ in a twinkling of an eye with power, and glory will shake the world.
- Trumpet call by angels to gather the saints.
- The sun, and moon will be dark.
- The dead will be raised to life.
- The bodies of the living are changed.

- Jesus rules the world for 1,000 years.
- The wrath of God will be upon the earth.
- The dead will be judged for their actions.
- Rewards will be given to the saints.
- Sinners will be destroyed in hell.

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and the end will come," Mathew 24;14, NIV.

1. Final destiny. **Heaven (New Jerusalem).**

Dwelling place for God, Holy angels and saints.

2. Hell (Gehenna).

- Also called the lake of fire or the second death.
- It is for sinners, false preachers, liars, idolaters, cowards, the devil, Pharisees, magic arts, witches, and those misleading children.
- A home for those with the mark of the beast (666).
- God will kill the body, and soul.
- Destruction will be like the one for Sodom and Gomorrah, and during Noah's time.
- Nothing will remain without being destroyed.

Watch out/ Beware.

- Jesus Christ will come like a thief on a time you don't know.
- Be ready throughout, repent your sins daily, be faithful, prepare your heart, and desire to live a holy life.
- Be strong in the Lord, fight the spiritual war, keep the faith, pray more, and walk in the Spirit not to gratify the desires of the body.

"Therefore, keep watch, because you don't know on what day your lord will come", Mathew 24;14, NIV.

Biblical References: - Mathew 24:1-51, - 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 3-4, - 2 Peter 3:3-8, Jude 1: 19-21.

CHAPTER 29: SAVING THE MALE GENDER, AND MAKING HIM RESPONSIBLE.

This chapter deals with a case study of the Tugen man of Baringo, background information of the Tugen community, Kalenjin age-set cycle, roles of Tugen men, Tugen beliefs, Tugen taboos and values, Tugen proverbs, justification (situational analysis), important points of concern about men, Tugen men cultural set up and order, outdated cultural practices, areas to cover in men's training, personal testimony on manhood, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and its effects, dynamic culture, proposed men set up or order, role of circumcision, recommended Christian circumcision model, delivery methods in men training, challenges, recommendations, and interventions.

Man is written 4508 times in the Bible while woman is written 357 times. This shows the main focus of the Holy Bible is man which includes the woman. God's plan from creation to date is to see the success of the man. Sin has been the major hindrance of man's success in life since the time of Adam until today. Man must deal once and for all with sin, his biggest enemy. Although this is a case study of the Tugen man of Baringo, most of the identified and recommended Biblical principles to save the man are applicable across all communities of the world.

Wekhomba R. (2017) in his book 'The Real Man' paints a very shocking, worrying, desperate, and sad scenario about the status of men in our society today and calls on real men to stand up, and be counted. He guides on leading men on a journey of discovery towards a true, and rewarding manhood. The writer says that the current man is moving in the wrong direction, and calls him to be sensitive to the mandate of headship and

dominion given to him by God. He says every man must move in the direction of originality as set by God.

A case study of the Tugen man of Baringo.

Background Information of the Tugen Community

The Tugen is a sub tribe of the Kalenjin alongside the Kipsigis, Nandi, Keiyo, Marakwet, Pokot, Sabaot, Ogiek, Lembus, Terik, and Sengwer who reside in the former Rift Valley Province. They occupy Baringo County and some parts of Nakuru, Elgeyo Marakwet, and Uasin Gishu counties. It has a population of 197,556 according to the 2019 census. The second President of Kenya late H.E. Daniel Toroitich Arap Moi came from Tugen sub tribe based at Sacho in Baringo Central.

In demographics the Tugen dialect/ accent is divided into sub-dialects. Tugens are divided into Arror who live in the highlands of Tugen hills (Kabartonjo), lowland areas (Kerio valley, Barwessa, and Lake Baringo) in Baringo North Sub County. The Samor live in Kabarnet, Baringo Central Sub County. Samor is divided into Torois of Lake Bogoria and Mochongoi, Lembus of Eldama Ravine Sub County and Keben, Kakimoor and Pokoor of Mogotio Sub County.

The Tugen originated from the west, a place known as Sumo between Mt. Elgon, and Cherangany hills. Kalenjin clans are 6,358,113 and divided into nine (9) culturally, and linguistically related clans according to the 2019 census. The Tugen have social organization centres on age-set (*ependo*). There are seven (7) age-sets (*epenwek*) which are rotational

i.e. at the end of one age-set new members of that generation are born.

The age-sets are Chumo, Sowe, Korongoro, Kipkoimet, Kaplelach, Kipnyegew, and Nyongi. Among other Kalenjin age-sets is Maina/Kimaina but in Tugen it is extinct and said they were wiped out by Keiyo during inter-communal skirmishes at Cheploch Gorge. For fear of recurrence of the disaster the community removed the age-set from their records. In ideal situation there ought to be an age-set between a father, and a son. Age-set was given out during the initiation (circumcision) of men.

The Tugen don't consider women to have age-set hence can marry any age-set except for her father's age-set. The popular saying that '*Matinyei korgo epen*' (women have no age-set) explains this well, however, women age-set include *Chesiran*, *Chemasinya*, *Chepingwek*, *Chesur* etc.

In the age-set the men initiates were bundled into a team called *Siritee* namely *Chongin/Kapsirwoon* (Senior team), *Kapchesuwe/Kapkisuwe* (Middle Team), and *Kibarnot/Mbarnot* (Youngest, and last team in the ladder). These are three (3) groups initiated in different years but they share the same age-set.

In religion the Tugen prayed to a god called *Asis* or *Warwap Asis* (Sun) and other gods including *Chepokipkoyo* (god of harvest), and *Cheptengerian* (god of love). Others still practice African traditional religion. However, with the coming of Christianity through missionaries many of them were

converted to Christians. *Ndasum* was an occasion for prayer while on ceremonial gear by men and the youth.

The Tugen economic activities include subsistence farming in the highlands, and pastoralism in the lowlands. They plant maize, millet, beans, groundnuts, fruits, cash crops like cotton, coffee etc. Pastoralism includes rearing of cattle, goats, and sheep for food.

Kalenjin age-set cycle.

S/No.	Men	Sons	Daughters
1	Kipnyikew	Chumo	Chebingwek
2	Nyongi	Sowe	Chesiran
3	Chumo	Korongoro	Chemasinya
4	Sowe	Kipkoimet	Chesur
5	Korongoro	Kaplelach	Kusancha
6	Kipkoimet	Kipnyikew	Chelemei
7	Kaplelach	Nyongi	Chebarkamai
8	Maina	NA	Selengwech

Roles of Tugen men.

- Men were bread winners, and decision makers in family and community; they expected their wives to be submissive, and nurturing.
- The major attributes associated with men were humility, generosity, enduring hardship, emotional intelligence, and loyalty to community leadership structure.
- Source of security in the community (i.e. *Muren Karwa*).
- Elders were respected as the final authority in the community, and given a high social status.

Tugen beliefs

- The Tugen believed in one supreme god called *Asis or Cheptaillel*.
- They also believed in the presence of ancestral spirits of deceased persons, and sometimes fed them to appease and avoid calamities. They also believed in witchcraft, and divination.
- Prayers were made to god by identified ‘holy persons’ on behalf of the community.
- Sinners were not allowed to preside over prayers or the worshiping of god.
- Stealing was sinful, and punishable by fine, God or curse. Specific elders were tasked to curse extreme sinners or wrongdoers by declaring harsh words against them while they were naked.
- It was bad manners for men to be idle instead of creating wealth to support their families, and community.
- There was more emphasis on wealth creation by men, and those who had no cattle, beehives etc. were not allowed to provide direction or counsel in community meetings.
- Learning was done through stories, comedy, plays, songs, riddles, and proverbs.

Tugen taboos/Values

- To avoid calamities the Tugen strictly adhered to taboos (*Kikirei/etan* which was about all the unquestionable don’ts in the community).
- You shall not quarrel your wife in the morning before you go out (*Kikirei*). You will be unlucky.

- Men shall not engage in sexual intercourse with women when they were on monthly periods.
- Over-eating or mixing meat with milk on the dining table was not allowed. It was a way to economize food, and avoid wastage.
- Expectant mothers shall not eat dead animals (*Moamei chepyoso (kwony) netinye tum chony ne kimee (Kikirei)*). It was a safety measure for expectant mothers.
- When a woman steps in the middle of two men fighting, and appeals for peace the fight must stop (*Masirei mureno momos nebo chepyoso*).
- Men must provide security in the family, and community (*Muren karwa*). Men cannot murder women or children.
- Women were forbidden from bee keeping (*Mayoyei chepyoso moing*).
- Women shall not head families.
- Men cannot peep at the private parts of women.
- Misfortunes follow those who disobey their parents.
- Men shall not cook in the kitchen or do women chores.
- Initiates shall not greet girls.
- Men shall not impregnate girls before marriage.
- Women shall not pass by the right hand of men.
- Adultery, and premarital sexual actions were discouraged, and punishable by fine in the community.
- Exposure of nakedness was prohibited.
- Don't attack people when they are not aware or without warning (*Makibarei chi koruei*).
- Don't count or publicize your children (*Mokiitei lagok*).
- Don't beat your parents, it's a curse (*Mokibirei sigiik*).
- Don't hand over items to people using your left hand, it's a curse (*Mokikoitoen kiy katam*).

- Don't greet people using your left hand, it's a curse (*Mokikoten biich katam*).
- Don't expose publicly the tummy of an expectant mother (*Mokibortoi moetab kwony ne tamano*).

Tugen proverbs/Sayings.

- Forgiveness is the greatest thing to have (*Momi kiy ne sirei nyoetap kaat*).
- Nothing is greater than thanksgiving (*Momi kiy ne sirei kongoi*).
- The stomach brought the eagle from the sky to be killed (*Kiregu moo motony akoi ngw'ony*). Hunger is dangerous.
- A lion can bear a fox (*Iyiey ng'etuny lel sait age*). Men may not sometimes sire their real duplicates.
- The father is the brother to the son (*Tupcho kwanda ak werinye*). The son, and father are duplicates.
- The mother is the sister to the mother (*Tupcho kamee ak Cheptonyen*). The daughter, and mother are duplicates.
- A cow shall survive if it supports itself up when it is supported to wake up (*Sobei tany ne yekinam kuusto kungeet chatit*). If you are supported support yourself, and don't be a liability.
- A goat who climbs the roof shall be slaughtered (*Arte nelonyei kisyeke ketilei kaat*). Those who do abnormal things will be eliminated.
- You shall not discipline a child at night (*Makipirei lakwa kemoi*). It was to consider children's safety.
- You shall not discipline a woman at night (*Makipirei chepyoso kemoi*). It was to consider women's safety.
- You shall not marry a relative (*Maki-ipei tilya*). This was prohibited for it kills the future generation.

- You shall not mess or do sinful acts (*Mokiyoei somer anan ng'oki*). It is harmful.
- You shall not curse or abuse cattle (*Mokichupe tany*). It expresses value of domestic property.
- You can curse or abuse a fox (*Kichupe chelelei*).
- A married woman cannot engage in adultery (*Mawendi korko sonko*). It was to honor marriage.
- You shall not marry the mother, and daughter (*Moki-ipei lakwe ak kamee (kikirei)*). It was an abomination, and curse.
- You shall not drink milk, and eat meat at the same time (*Mokilu-ei cheko ak keam peny*). Don't be wasteful.
- You shall not boil meat using milk (*Mokiyo-en cheko peny*). Don't mismanage food.
- You shall not put human feaces in your work place or where you eat from. (*Mokikoiwochinei ole kiamisien ana weli kiboisien*). Respect your occupation.
- You shall not dig into the private affairs of people (*Mokipolei chi kelat*).
- No one can reap blessings planned for you (*Mapolei chi popchan nebo chi*).
- A rotten rat has its home (*Yesamis murian kopo koiboo*). Bad people have relatives who love them.
- When a child is choked by milk you tell them its sweet (*Yechech lakwa cheko kele onyiny*). When in any danger always make good prayers.
- When a child is choked by water you tell them it is bad (*Yechech lakwa beek kelenchi yaach*). Cast out any calamity which comes your way.
- What only goes into your stomach is yours (*Chekuk chekapaa moo kityo*). Don't be greedy or corrupt in life.
- You shall not kill a mother, and her child (*Mokiparei warwe ak kamee (kikirei)*). Respect procreation.

- When you are going for an engagement, you shall not kill a grasshopper who is laying eggs (*Yeiwendi koito makiborei mokoyo (talamya) nei-yei*). Respect procreation or you will be unlucky when you need the same.
- Man is the brother to a cow (*Tupcho mureno ak tany*). Expressing the value of livestock to the family.
- Men are equal to their cattle in numbers (*Teno muren tokwach*). Few men can represent other men in making important decisions.
- You shall not kill an innocent animal (*Ameper tiony nemaam kitng'ung*). It is a curse.
- People who are not united will be destroyed (*Takibar bich chemailolchikei maa*).
- Don't despise the humble (*Mokimontoi karna maa*). Everyone is important.
- Demonstrate humility in life but not pride (*Mokilosekei, kinamen sanayan koot ak kengutyi teket*). Pride will bring you down.
- Don't brag over success but improve instead (*Mokimonye, takites*).
- Don't shout at a child (*Mokiwoken lakwa*). Handle children with the care they deserve.
- Be real, don't copy other people (*Mokirorien kelda nebo chi*).

Justification/Plain truths

Situational analysis

Substance (Drug) Abuse in Kenya is increasing among the youth according to NACADA. Current statistics indicate that

more than half of the drug abusers are aged between 10, and 19 years. Drugs mainly abused in Kenya include the illegal heroin, cocaine, local brew (changaa) bhang, kuber, and mantrax. The legal ones are alcohol (beer, wines, and spirits) tobacco, and khat (miraa).

The current prevalence usage of alcohol in Kenya is 12.2% amongst persons from age of 15-65, tobacco 8%, khat 4.1%, and bhang/marijuana 1%.

Many youths indulge themselves in drugs, and substance abuse due to dysfunctional families, peer influence, social media influence, unemployment, stress (mental health), and availability of drugs. The effects of this negative behavior among the youth include transmission of HIV, wastage of money, addiction, increase in crime, depression, school drop outs, aggressiveness, violence, fights, marital conflicts, family break ups, family disharmony, and even death.

The level of irresponsibility, and idleness among men is shockingly high, and a common life pattern today. This has left a heavy burden to the women to carry which is unbearable making family, and society lose balance. Moreover, the overemphasis on the girl child over the years has marginalized the boy child. Also, currently after the circumcision rite there are no other structured forums to entrench mentorship of the boy child/men to grow responsible.

Important points of concern.

- If we want to bring stability, cohesion, sustainability and healing in the family and society we must reach men.

- If we want to transform our cultures for Jesus Christ we must reach men.
- If we want to stop violence against women, children, and society we must change the hearts of men.
- If we want to grow Christian influence in our society we must train men in spiritual leadership.
- We cannot prepare, and disciple men for leadership by lowering the standard of manhood.
- Keeping the standard of men high will ensure men grow in respect, faith, accountability, parenting, leadership, and maturity in the word of God.
- When Christianity came “clothed with Western culture,” it destroyed the traditional cultural structures, and systems leaving a vacuum which we need to fill with sustainable Bible based contemporary standards.
- After circumcision men had no other forum to engage, bond, mentor, and bring discipline in the community. Culturally, men had a cycle of seven (7) major mentoring ceremonies focusing on man and family which brought cohesion and stability.
- Currently, circumcision is done haphazardly in diverse ways by individuals annually without any proper content, frequency, Christian or cultural system, and procedures. It is no longer a community affair. In the past circumcision was done every 6-7 years for proper age set/group arrangement.
- Women have been overloaded with almost all the family roles like providing for needs, attending school meetings, raising children both male and female, mentoring, counseling, and so on.
- The current boychild is absent in church, public barazas among others, and cannot be accessed. The man of today is marginalized while the girl child, and women are empowered.

- Mental health in family set up due to current gaps has led to domestic /gender-based violence (GBV) which sometimes is fatal e.g. many murder cases, and suicide cases among men.
- If the male gender or the boy child fail there is no future or proper continuity in the community because leadership will have been dimmed as such.
- The community will pay a very heavy price if no quick action is taken e.g. crisis and suffering in the family, separation, divorce, gender-based violence, and murders.
- Men play a major role as the heads of the family in strengthening the family, parenting, family responsibility, and resolution of conflicts in the community.
- The emerging issues of gayism (LBGTQ) will further adversely affect the man.
- There are more men criminals than women's. That is why we have more men in jail than women.

Wekhomba R.(2017) says the recent cry for the empowerment of the girl child has made women now most productive than men. Women are now rising up in every arena including getting employed in well-paying jobs, and running huge businesses for they are more empowered, and influential than men. Many men are so much immersed in the market place in search for money to take care of their families; forcing them to neglect their responsibilities of manhood. The devil also wants to destroy family by attacking the man, and pushing manhood into ruins. With the disintegration of manhood our boys are facing crisis when it comes to models to learn true masculinity due to the absentee fathers for various reasons. The sons are bleeding for the presence, and guidance of a responsible father for a secure journey into manhood.

Wekhomba R.(2017) insists that the man must boldly take a journey of personal rediscovery, and embrace the vision of a

real man as originally set by God. A real man is humble, and seeks to honor God in all the areas of his life. Men must wake up, and fight for survival of their families, business, occupations, communities, and nation. If men neglect their responsibilities it will lead to chaos in their families, and they will become liabilities. God blessed man with the capacity to be fruitful, multiply, replenish, and subdue (Genesis 1:28). 'In man lies inherent capacity for dominion. Men are not born, they are made'. Men make themselves by actively constructing their masculinity within a unique social context through a complex process. Today our society has become manless because a lot of boys are being raised in an environment overshadowed by a strong feminine influence. The four pillars of a real man are self-awareness, powerful network of relationships, leadership capabilities, and servanthood.

Wekhomba R.(2017) points out that men have a complex secret language which many don't understand . The development of the secret language begins with the suppressed nature of a boy from when he is a child e.g. 'boys don't cry'. This makes men to bleed from inside, and are extremely difficult to open up hence their actions speak louder than words. Men have been trained to be silent because speaking their issues is portraying weakness. This push men to die silently, and early.

He says a real man lives by a strategic life plan because he is created to transmit a trans-generational impact. Real man has a purpose, persistence, a network, a life map, a dream, and a strategic plan. They must work hard, and smart so as to be providers in the family as primary bread winners.

Tugen men cultural set up/Order

The following were very important traditional/cultural activities targeted on maturity of man in the Tugen community as provided by a team of elders;

a) Circumcision (Tum/Kamuratan)

- Was exercised for the boy child from 15-20 years in a frequency of 6-7 years.
- It would take 1-3 months for training, and graduation.
- Training for man to be courageous, head, and provide for the family, become a leader and security (*Muren Karwa*) in the community.
- Teaching focused on appropriate behavior, integrity, knowledge, skills, attitudes, virtues, religion, and moral values.
- New names were given during the initiation like *Botum* (Specific group of Initiates), *Bakule* (Those who ate food together), and *Barsentu* (those who ate meat together). Also, they were taught how to greet parents, and elder people with respect.
- There was community singing, celebration, eating, drinking, and sharing of knowledge and wisdom.

b) Kiplili

- Was exercised for mature circumcised men when they were single just before marriage.
- It was a one-day important ceremony for adults. The ceremony was performed 3-4 months after circumcision.
- The main purpose was to promote man, and make him respectful in the community so as to attend all communal ceremonies/activities.

- There was community singing, celebration, eating, drinking, and sharing of knowledge and wisdom.
- A goat was slaughtered, and traditional drinks (honey beer) were taken.

c) Kwa'nge/Kiyoei Kwang

- It was a two-day important community ceremony involving only men.
- A he-goat (*Setim*) was slaughtered in the bush by men.
- No women were allowed because of the confidential matters men discussed on the key roles of a man in a family.
- It was done about 4 months after a man's marriage when wife was expectant, and attended by the best man (*Bosirek*) who provided guidance to the man on family matters.
- There was singing, celebration, eating, beer drinking, and sharing of knowledge and wisdom.
- Two he-goats (one-castrated and another one not-castrated) were slaughtered, and honey beer (*kipketin*) was taken. These were prepared by the host.

d) Torong/Tiltai

- Was exercised for a married man at the wife's home (In-laws) to strengthen relationship between the two families. It was an honor given to married women by their spouses.
- Women received wise counsel on family matters during the function.
- It was a one-day important ceremony involving the entire community.
- There was community singing, celebration, eating, drinking, and sharing of knowledge and wisdom.

e) Kekul Eei/Kipkul Eei/Moiwo

- Was exercised by the man in the community after or before marriage.
- It was time to reflect on the role of the man as a leader, and a defender in the community.
- It was a one-day important ceremony involving the entire community.
- There was community singing, dancing, celebration, eating, drinking, and sharing of knowledge and wisdom.
- A bull (*eito*) was slaughtered during the function by the man hosting the event.

f) Muntoiso

- Was exercised after the first child was born in a family regardless whether the child is boy or girl.
- There was shaving of the hairs of the wife, and dismantling of the bed.
- The man was given 3-4 years break from sexual activity until the child matures. It was an effective way of family planning.
- Women were identified to cook for the husband for one month because the wife was to take leave from hard work, and not allowed to serve the husband.
- It was a one-day important ceremony involving the community.
- There was community singing, celebration, eating, and drinking.
- A goat was slaughtered for the wife, and she was fed well.
- Any premature sexual activity by husband was reported by the wife to older women who in turn reported to the community elders for punishment. (i.e. “*Keam*” paying fines in form of

livestock (goats), and honey/ honey beer). A short session of *keanyiny* or *keayeb* was done but if it is a serious curse (*kibirchi bei*) was to cleanse the sins or curses away.

g) Katunisho

- Was the final ceremony exercised by a married man, and promoted to be honorable elder of the community who will be consulted from time to time for guidance, and wise counsel.
- It was a one-day important ceremony involving the entire community.
- There was community singing, dancing, celebration, eating, drinking, and sharing of knowledge and wisdom.
- There was a pre-wedding (*Keonso*) before the *Katunisho* ceremony.
- *Keu*: There was the giving of gifts to newlywed wife, animals which will permanently belong to her. The husband can only slaughter or sell them with permission from her. They were inherited by her last born when the lady dies.
- *Ingkwer/ingweroi*- a man with no animals because of one reason or another would ask a friend to give him some animals to take care for him. When they multiply, he will return back to the owner, and will be given some few as gift (*ingkweroi*), the term used is (*kiili nkwer*) for taking care of the animals.

h) Kokwo (Baraza)

- Was a meeting place for community led by men for sharing information, guidance, and wise counsel.
- It was held frequently as per the need to discuss and agree on matters of community interest, and correct, discipline or curse any wrong doers.

Outdated cultural practices

The following are obsolete, and outdated cultural practices which should be discarded because they are retrogressive, and not in line with current life;

- Training men during initiation while using fake stories, fear, and threats e.g. using the dreadful monster (*Talkuku*).
- Women should not pass by the right hand of a man since in an urbanized set up thousands of women do so. This was only applicable in an ancient rural set up.
- The issue of carrying canes by initiates, and using them to beat innocent people indiscriminately.
- The generous use of alcohol during initiation ceremonies.
- Using of language and songs packed with insults and unBiblical messages during the cultural rite of passage.
- Linking it with Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) which has many negative effects on girls, and women.
- Worshipping a bird as initiates wake up every morning in their training camp.
- Deaths of initiates during such activities because of mismanagement of their health conditions.
- Forceful implementation, and threatening those young men who want a different type of initiation.
- Not appreciating that culture is dynamic, and keeps changing worldwide constantly.

Recommended topics /Areas to cover in men's training

- Man as leader, defender and teacher in the family.

- Man as a leader in church, community, and nation.
- Wise, patient, responsible, self-controlled, and careful man, Proverbs 1:7.
- Man, busy in income/wealth creation: Working hard, no room for free things, laziness equals poverty, Gen 3:17, James 3:13-18.
- Man sacrificing, and denying himself for success in life for instance sportsmen in athletics training, Mark 8:34-37.
- Man and technology, social media management, moderate and not lazy, idle or addictive.
- Dangers facing men: Diseases – HIV/Aids, cancer, STDs, mental health, poor life style, alcohol, drug abuse like narcotics, family failure, sexually irresponsible behavior, adultery, and mental health.
- Man obeying the law everywhere: How to overcome all forms of violence, rape, sexual defilement, insults, theft, corruption, adultery etc. How these can destroy life.
- Man obeying parents in the Lord: To be blessed and live long, the ‘only two real men’ (parents) in the house, Eph.6:1-4.
- Education, and salvation as a transformer in the life of man.
- Man who knows and believes in the word of God, Math 4:4, Ecclesiastes 1:2-10.
- Circumcision is nothing without Christ: Need for internal, and spiritual circumcision, Galatians 6:13-15.
- Kings men: Headship and leadership, man to man relationship, Ecclesiastes 4:8,1 Samuel 18:1, 2 Kings 2:11-13.
- Relationships: Between man and God, husband and wife, fathers and sons/daughters, men and parents, men and relatives.
- Placing treasures on people: Marriage, challenges, priorities, dealing with offences and leadership at home.
- Men as a source of blessing or curse.
- Mature manhood: Four (4) types of men.

- How to balance careers, and family responsibility.
- Managing family finance, and resources.
- Man academically, economically, and spiritually balanced.
- Man, and good acceptable sound morals.
- Stress management/mental health.
- Conflict prevention, management, and resolution.
- Why men die early: Alcohol, drugs abuse, crime, violence, and ignorance.
- The making of fathers: Role of fathers.
- Role of sons in the family, community, and nation.
- Circumcision Models: Traditional, Christian, and Private. Format, merits and demerits.

Personal testimony: Painful truth on manhood.

I was circumcised physically in pure Tugen cultural rite of passage at the age of 13 years as Kipkoimet age-set in 1978 performed exclusively by elders. I was taught good values but also bad manners, alcoholism, cigarette smoking, insults, and other vices during my initiation. I graduated from the rite of passage, and plunged into heavy drinking of alcohol and sexual immorality; I almost died but God saved me.

In 1993 I was circumcised spiritually, and my life was transformed. I accepted Jesus Christ as Lord, and savior; began to live joyful, peaceful, and exciting life. Some of my close friends who continued with the reckless life sadly died prematurely. I have come to know that mere physical circumcision of the body is not enough, that is why spiritual initiation is a game changer for any man. Spiritual circumcision is more superior than the much glorified physical circumcision. The Bible indicates that circumcision is nothing without salvation, and lays emphasis on spiritual circumcision which is for both men, and women.

“In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the death," Colossians 2:11-12, NIV.

"Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation," Galatians 6:15, NIV.

Caution.

I share this important information to save someone from going through the same painful experience I went through.

- You don't need to receive wrong teaching, and get misled.
- You don't need to suffer the way we suffered.
- You don't need to get lost the way we got lost.
- You don't need to endanger your life the way we did.
- You don't need to die early the way other men died.

Female Genital Circumcision (FGM)

Female Circumcision (FGM) is the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia (clitoral hood) for non-medical reasons. Although this practice is illegal, primitive, and unBiblical it's practiced in Kenya, Sudan, Egypt, Nigeria, Guinea etc. Among the ethnic communities which practice FGM include Masai, Kalenjin, Samburu, Somali, Kisii, Kuria, Borana etc. Risks of FGM include excessive bleeding, sexual dysfunction, complication during childbirth, anaemia, damage of urethra, HIV transmission, urinal infection, post trauma stress, bacterial and viral infections, genital swelling, fever etc. These can cause permanent physical, psychological, and emotional injury or even death. It is practiced openly by force

or voluntarily where it's acceptable, and secretly where it's illegal or unacceptable. During childbirth it's practiced underground in some communities in Kenya to evade the law. FGM is primitive, dangerous, harmful, sinful, and unBiblical hence should be avoided at all costs. Every part of a woman created by God is very important, and no one should remove it in any way for flimsy reasons. This denies women the blessing, and sexual pleasure which God ordained. All women in danger zones should make an effort to deliver their babies in hospitals to escape this menace.

There is a need for the development of a curriculum module for female gender (Alternative Rite of Passage, ARP) in line with the current dynamics to bring a balance or harmony. The female gender cannot succeed fully without the male gender. This is important because most communities have dropped female circumcision, and there is a gap for the girls and women.

Culture is dynamic.

Culture is a social behavior of people and it changes all the time, and every day because human beings are diverse, and dynamic. It is influenced by social values, media, technology, globalization, and social change. It is flexible, and able to accept challenges, and competition.

From the time I was at adolescent age in the 1970s until now over 50 years I have seen great, and radical transformation of the Kalenjin culture over the period as below;

- I saw people naked or dressed on skins, and sheets but today are on smart clothing.
- Almost all women and girls are now in trousers, something which was uncalled for 60 years ago.
- Language has shifted to English, Kiswahili, and Sheng. Many of our youths today cannot speak Kalenjin in our families.

- Many have dropped female circumcision (FGM) though some people still practice underground, and secretly when young women deliver babies.
- Gender Based Violence (GBV) has greatly reduced compared to 1970s when women were caned mercilessly by men like young children.
- Many have dropped the god of ancestors (*Asiis*), and believe in the Mighty God; have given their lives to Jesus Christ as the Savior.
- We rarely see the traditional prayers today or demonic actions in our community e.g. stoning of people in daylight, lighting of green fires in rivers and bushes, suffocations during sleep at night, epileptic disorders, sleeping on pangas as pillows to chase away demons, mysterious deaths, witchcraft, divination acts etc.
- Rite of passage (Initiation) for men has radically changed, and currently there is the cultural, Christian, and private models which run very differently, and radically from dress code, teachings to the key practices. Things like the dreadful monster (*Talkuku*) etc. have disappeared as most people have embraced the modern ways.
- Culture will continue changing, and nothing can be done to stop or reverse it back. As years go by the transformation becomes more intense. Where we are today it is a tall order, and irreversible.
- Let's embrace dynamic culture for it's here with us while trusting God to guide, and help us to avoid adopting any harmful extremes.

Proposed men current set up (Maturity integrated cycle)

The following set up is a blend of culture, and Christian models to support the male gender in the contemporary society;

Role of circumcision.

- To be exercised for the boy child from 18-20 years every 4 years.
- It would take 1 month.
- Training for the man to be courageous, head and provide for the family, become an effective leader in the church, and community.
- Teaching should focus on appropriate behavior, integrity, knowledge, skills, attitudes, virtues, religion, and moral values.
- It is a Biblical covenant or sign between God, and Abraham giving remembrance of God's faithfulness, and man's need for God.
- Specific curriculum approved by the church will be used. It should not be too confidential or haphazard as done currently.
- There will be worship, celebration, and sharing of knowledge and wisdom.

Recommended Christian circumcision model.

- Pray for initiates in the church (place of worship) early morning the first day, and release them for initiation.
- Engage services of doctors to ensure high standards of hygiene are maintained throughout the period supervised by medical staff, guard (*Motiryon*) in charge and elders. This will avoid deaths which normally occur during such activities.
- Biblical teachings be administered by pastors, elders, and professionals with focus on role of a man in a family, church, community and nation, overcoming the dangers facing men today, living healthy life, integrity man, career choices etc.
- Bibles be stationed in their training camp throughout the period.

- Fathers should spend more time with their sons during training to improve on discipling or mentoring. They should sleep with them in turns in their training camps.
- There should be singing songs which praise, and worship God.
- Open public graduation ceremony be done in the church's compound while praising, and worshipping God after one month as a celebration.
- Mothers be in the frontline to welcome them back, feasting, show of love with hugs, shedding of tears, photo session, and extension into family engagement sessions. The function is to run from 10.00 am to 6.30 pm.
- The young men will be smartly dressed in shirts, trousers, and ties. The graduands come out matching singing Christian songs without canes or sticks but Bibles.
- Even the guards (*Motiren*) should not have canes or sticks.
- Integrate initiation for men to include good cultural values, current Christian, and private models.
- Explain to initiates basics of the traditional model including things like the dreadful monster (*Talkuku*) etc. so that they don't graduate, and are tempted to go back and undergo the same for curiosity.
- The training period should be shifted to April or August to avoid the stiff competition, and animosity with the traditional circumcision which takes place mostly in December. There is normally a clash in spirits leading to even physical violence.
- The church should take lead in guiding initiation to avoid Christian children going back to traditional circumcision which the fathers had left many years ago, and are now church elders or ministers.
- The spiritual church dormancy, conformity or inaction has led to the recent sharp revival of retrogressive cultural traditions.
- There should be freedom for anyone to practice religious or cultural based circumcision models without causing any

friction because it is a constitutional right under Chapter 4 on Bill of Rights (Constitution of Kenya 2010).

- Implementing of female gender rite of passage (ARP) in line with the current dynamics to bring a social balance or harmony. This can be in a house training for a period of one to two weeks where they are taken to a training camp like a school.

a) Seminar for mature circumcised men.

- To be exercised for mature circumcised men when they are single before marriage.
- The main purpose is to make man respectful, and responsible in the church, and community.
- There will be worship, celebration, and sharing of knowledge and wisdom.

b) Engagement Ceremony.

- It will be done after a man's circumcision, and education as currently done.
- There will be worship, celebration, and sharing of knowledge and wisdom.

c) Wedding Ceremony

- It will be done in church after a man's circumcision, and education as currently done.
- There will be worship, celebration, and sharing of knowledge and wisdom.

d) Seminar for men after marriage.

- It will be done after a man's marriage, and attended by the best family and eminent church elders to provide guidance to the men on family matters.

- There will be worship, celebration, and sharing of knowledge and wisdom.

e) Seminar /bonding meeting for in-laws

- To be exercised for married men to strengthen relationship between the families of husband, and wife after one year of marriage.
- Wise counsel on family matters will be very key during the function.
- There will be worship, celebration, and sharing of knowledge and wisdom.

**f) Community meeting for men after marriage
(Kapkokwo)**

- To be exercised by men in the community after marriage.
- Men are to host the community function after 5 years.
- It is time to reflect on the role of a man as a leader in the church, and community.
- There will be worship, celebration, and sharing of knowledge and wisdom.

g) Meeting/Seminar after the first child is born.

- To be exercised after the first child is born in a family, attended exclusively by married men and women.
- It will centre on matters touching on ideal family.
- There will be focus on issues of welfare for the wife, and the child.
- There will be worship, celebration, and sharing of knowledge and wisdom.

h) Promotion to community/Church elder

- To be the final ceremony exercised by married men at least at the age of 60 years after completing the mentoring cycle for men. They must be men of integrity.
- Promotion to be honorable elders in the church, and community.
- It will empower them to be able to provide guidance, and wise counsel in the community.
- There will be worship, celebration, and sharing of knowledge and wisdom.

i) Public forums (Baraza)

- Will be a meeting place for community both physically, and online for sharing guidance, and wise counsel.
- It will be held frequently as per the need to discuss, and agree on matters of community interest.

Delivery methods/Media to be used in the training.

- Bible based teachings in English, Kiswahili, and Kalenjin.
- Use of good (ethical) cultural values, systems, and examples.
- Radio programs like *Muren Karwa* (man as a security) at Radio Imani.
- During initiation of men.
- Writing materials for awareness e.g. brochures.
- Physical men meetings.
- Physical family meetings.
- Men seminars, and conferences.
- During social functions like weddings, and engagements.
- Group discussions teams.
- Video clips.
- Social media.

Challenges

- Diverse clashing opinions on this matter.
- Lack of resources to carry out in-depth research on the critical men issues.
- The curriculum for men is not a key priority in the church or community though it is very critical for success in the family set up.
- Few professionals, preachers, and leaders want to pay back to community through knowledge sharing, and empowerment of the man.
- Over emphasis on the girl child has left the boy child in confusion and limbo.

Recommendations.

- Development, and implementation of a curriculum module for male gender in line with the current dynamics.
- Support with resources like finance to come up with well researched, and documented curriculum for men to be used to strengthen families.
- The curriculum document should have community, and church ownership for easier implementation for the sake of the present, and future generation.
- Making the role of a man, and the boy child a key priority in the church or community for social, and economic stability in a family.
- There is a need to fill the existing huge gaps between the boy, and girl children through appropriate interventions.
- Encouraging more professionals, preachers, and leaders to pay back to community through knowledge sharing, and empowerment of the man.

- Creating awareness on the key role man plays in a family, and the community through mainstream media, social media, community, and church functions.
- Identifying male/family motivators, and champions to steer the process.
- Training Trainer of Trainers (TOTs) to assist in implementation.
- Patent the men graduation cycle across the age sets/groups, and roll out in the communities with support of the church.
- Coming up with alternative rite of passage (ARP) for men.
- Establishing County Men Transitional Centers to facilitate Pathways to manhood.
- The curriculum document for men can be borrowed by other communities to empower the man and the boy child.
- Development of a curriculum module for female gender also in line with the current dynamics to bring a social balance or harmony. The female gender cannot succeed fully without the male gender.

Important Intervention

- There is a need for resources, and public participation in church and community meetings across Baringo County to get more input, and approval of the proposed curriculum document for the men.
- This activity requires huge funding to do a deeper survey, and hold town hall and public meetings (barazas) hence the need for support to save the man from extinction.
- The key stakeholders to engage actively include Council of Elders, Religious leaders (Pastors), Baringo County Men Forum, political leaders or the Civil Society, Tugen Professionals, and Media.

- Establishment of Men Transition Centres per location to enhance continuous engagement.

Biblical References: - Proverbs 1:7, Gen 3:17, James 3:13-18, Mark 8:34-37, Eph.6:1-4, Math 4:4, Ecclesiastes 1:2-10, Galatians 6:13-15, Ecclesiastes 4:8, 1 Samuel 18:1, 2 Kings 2:11-13, Colossians 2:11-12.

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