

THE CHURCH FOUNDATION.

Building our lives on Jesus Christ our true foundation.



• AFRICA • AMERICA • ASIA • EUROPE

A bridged version.

JULIUS K. CHEPSAT, BTh.

I Corinthians 3:10-11

The sure, tested, and reliable foundation.

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DEDICATION.

This book is dedicated to the members of my beloved family (my wife, Alice; my children, Emmanuel, Michael, Grace, Joy, Naomi and Sheila), Christ Dominion Church, and the entire body of Christ who have been a great source of inspiration to me throughout the writing of this book.

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- a) Prof. Lawrence Kangogo, PhD, Lecturer Egerton University.
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- c) Rev. Japhet Kangwony, Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) and Diploma in Theology.
- d) Apostle Peter Keitany, MBA (HRM) and Diploma in Missions.
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The above team carried the heavy burden of commitment on behalf of the church and burned the midnight oil for many hours and days to ensure that the book becomes a reality.

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I also thank Destiny Ink Publishers for burning the midnight oil to make sure this book becomes a reality by their dedicated time, quality approach, reliable services, timely production, and credibility in all the processes involved.

FOREWORD.

This Book is hereby written, and dedicated to the current and the future church of Jesus Christ and provides sound doctrine, and foundation in the body of Christ. It is an expert and a true foundation to lean on during this time of confusion, mix up, and turmoil in the church. A church without a strong Biblical foundation (Jesus Christ) cannot, and will not do the will of God on earth.

This is to acknowledge the great testimony God has done in our lives and in the ministry for the last 25 years of His unique grace and favor. It is to encourage us to keep trusting in Him to help us carry on with the church vision of transforming lives through the love of Jesus. It is about looking back with gratitude, and looking forward with a fresh vision. This book has been written by the church for the church so as to fulfill the original corporate vision of the Church (body of Christ) on earth. It provides the required sound doctrine during this time of invasion of church by cultism, false teachers, false pastors, false prophets, false apostles, and religious traders on rampage. We are in a period when everybody is faking church all over the world until many cannot know the truth.

The book is a great tool to equip all the believers (saints) so as to do the will of God by ministering to one another, and the world and to help the believers to minister and worship God in truth and the Spirit. The book is a church manual to help church leaders (i.e. Five fold grace ministers) and believers in the body of Christ to facilitate the functioning properly of the church and to make disciples for Jesus, and multiply churches in line with the great commission of Jesus Christ. It inspires the church to leave the four corners of the church building, and go out to harvest souls and make a difference.

It discourages the religious trading going on in church as being witnessed currently and insists on team leadership in the church for effective ministry. It encourages the church by to dig the wells of revival as witnessed in the Baringo revival movement of the 1990s.

It condemns the rigid religious system run by mere rules of men to a dynamic transformed church empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Finally, it also encourages parents to bring up their children to know and follow Christ through teaching, prayer, discipline, and modeling them. It is about securing, and spiritually fixing the next generation.

Apostle Peter K. Keitany, MBA (HRM),

National Coordinator,

Christ Dominion Church

INTRODUCTION.

This Book is hereby written and dedicated to the current and the future church of Jesus Christ and the next generations. It provides sound doctrine and foundation to be used in the body of Christ. It is an expert and a true foundation to lean on during this time of confusion, mix up and turmoil in the church. It is written by the church for the church. A church without a strong biblical foundation (. e. Jesus Christ) cannot and will not do the will of God on earth.

This is to acknowledge the work God has done in our lives and in the ministry for the last 25 years of His grace and favor and to trust on Him to help us carry on with the church vision of transforming lives through the love of Jesus. It is about looking back with gratitude and looking forward with a fresh vision.

The main purpose of this book is to equip all the believers (saints) so as to do the will of God by ministering to one another and to the world through evangelism and compassion empowered by the grace of God and with the leading of the Holy Spirit, Ephesians 4:11-16.

It is to help the believers to minister and 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 as genuine worshippers.

The book is a church manual to help church leaders (i.e. Five fold grace ministers/elders) and believers in the body of Christ to facilitate the functioning of the church biblically as an organism and organization so as to meet the purposes of God. It seeks to assist make disciples for Jesus and multiply churches in line with the great commission of Jesus Christ. It is to inspire the church to leave the four corners of the church building and go out to harvest the many souls.

Furthermore, it is to guide and encourage all ministers to share the true gospel of Jesus Christ as they reach the unreached or less reached people and not just preaching materialism and world prosperity as currently being done in the body of Christ. Also, it is to insist on team leadership in the church for effective ministry as

opposed to the most common one man show which is very selfish, unreliable and immature. It inspires the church by sharing the fruits of the revival movement of the 1990s.

The book deals with intimacy with Christ, church reformation (revival) testimonies, signs and wonders and lessons learned from them. It also deals with the structure of the church of Christ, the purpose of God, dedication of Infants, marriage, biblical wedding, baptism, holy communion, ordination, burial, circumcision, dress code and order of Sunday worship service.

Its further deals with a church centered on Christ, the picture of the church function, church mission and worshipping God in truth and spirit.

It handles the features of the church, the local church autonomy and interrelation, giving in the church, the power of knowing your identity in Christ, the grace of God, church leadership structure, corporate hearing and team leadership, role of the five-fold ministries and other gifts (ministries), growing and strengthening the local Church and parenting.

It deals with church planting, making disciples for Jesus, evangelism, mentoring to impact lives and church's statement of faith.

CHAPTER ONE: BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

This chapter deals with intimacy with Christ, church reformation (revival) testimonies, signs and wonders, and lessons learned from them.

The following is the background information which mainly dwells on the saint's revival movement of the 1990s which led to the spiritual transformation of many lives in several parts of Baringo County, and beyond.

The Journey of intimate walk with Christ.

A number of faithful brethren in Christ brought up in a legalistic traditional denomination, thirsty for the Holy Spirit experience, continued to seek God earnestly through prayers of repentance, intimate worship and fasting. This ignited the fire and flames of holy Spirit's movement which gave birth to the spiritual events that had an impact in the church of Christ.

During the revival movement God gathered brethren in His own design for His divine purpose to build them up together so that they can manifest His nature through ministering, healing, deliverance, and the true message of the kingdom. The holy Spirit Himself made the saints as the only stewards of the revival, and He has been always there to sustain His work.

The revival which took place was to restore the church into the apostolic, and prophetic foundation; operating in the five fold ministries to prepare, and to equip the saints for the work of service so that the church of Christ may be brought into maturity, Eph 4:11-16.

The brethren freshly filled with the holy Spirit began to experience Christ, and acted according to the Holy Spirit contrary to that of the ordinary religious organizations. It was so powerful that it transformed the entire lives of the believers and the way to exercise ministry completely. In this situation they found themselves unable

to conform to the rigid conservative system of traditional churches which was not conducive to the leading of the holy Spirit but was merely governed by mere rules, and regulations of men from church constitutions which were frequently quoted more than the holy Bible.

The revival which began in Kabarnet and spread to many parts of Baringo and beyond like Nakuru, Keiyo, Eldoret, Nairobi etc. was great. It was not centered on personalities but on the saints compelled by the holy Spirit. It was a unique revival, spontaneous, and greatly imparting. It was a saints movement which radically changed, and transformed many lives by the grace of God. Rededication to the Lord, and repentance was witnessed as many came to the Lord. There was remarkable physical healings, and emotional restoration during church meetings. Many deeply fell in love with Christ and with one another as it was a real renewal. There was extreme and much hunger for the word, fellowship, and prayer. Powerful transformation was experienced by the pastors and other leaders from all denominations who experienced fresh touch from the Lord. Differences in denominational doctrines were not of any importance any more. The impact was so great that it has made key spiritual matters clear, and fruitful. It transformed lives of people up to date. Due to the spiritual experience, there were long hours of prayer and intercessions, praise and worship, prophetic utterances, signs, wonders, and miraculous healings.

The feature of the traditional system was a worship from lips through very simple programs, and not from the heart. Moreover, leaders were not keen on listening to the holy Spirit for direction. It was an example of the old wine skins which could not hold the new wine, Mark 2:21-22; 7:1-13, Mat 15:8-9. The old wine was resistant to the new wine leading to very sharp conflicts, and differences. There was less preaching of the word, and prayer in churches that time; more concentration was on physical activities like raising funds to construct buildings instead of exercising evangelism to win souls, and make disciples.

The revival movement led to some significant growth in church attendance. The church leaders (pastors and elders) preferred the old way of running the church while the revival team felt many things should be changed in the church to contain the new wine.

God proved himself to be progressive, and dynamic. He was taking us always in a new direction. He was not stagnant or static. God demonstrated that He is adventurous, and not for the boring concentration on just meaningless routine religious works in the church.

During the revival movement the Lord demonstrated His mighty power, anointing, miracles, signs, and wonders. These things were touching many lives, and brought them to the Lord Jesus. The power was in a great magnitude that proved unstoppable for everyone at that time.

Unique testimonies.

Below are some of the unique, and shocking testimonies experienced by the saints during the revival movement: -

- Massive infilling of the holy spirit everywhere; 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.
- In some meetings believers praised and worshipped God the whole day without a room for other programs like preaching due to the heavy presence of God.
- Demon possessed persons were delivered, and healed.
- Many people were slayed, filled with the holy spirit, and left lying down for up to eight (8) hours and taken in the spirit in a spiritual tour to heaven. They came back to life and gave stories of the beauty and greatness of the heaven.

- Long hours of daily non stop praise, and worship songs by congregations without the use of hymn books while standing up for up to ten (10) hours.
- The revival disturbed 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 any price for the gospel.
- 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 and affirmations, and assurances were witnessed.
- Deep revelation of heaven, and release of very specific words of knowledge on current events by 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. They were advised by more mature leaders against their immature actions.
- Massive delivery of people from demonic bondages leading to repentance, and complete change e.g. many left sinful lives, collapse of local breweries i.e. the local alcohol (busaa and changaa) businesses stopped as people accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and savior.
- Walking for long distances by brethren for up to 70 km per day to preach the gospel 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.
- Radical teachings during church meetings and open air crusades e.g. calling people who were not born again uncircumcised and

exposing deep secret cultural traditions in public like the monster acted by Tugen people (*Talkuku*) during circumcision, something which caused great protest by the community.

- Miraculous instant healings of various diseases including fractures, and severe injuries.
- Radical evangelism on daily basis through door to door visits, open air crusades, in schools, and evening revival meetings from Monday to Sunday.
- Worshipping God in the Spirit and truth accompanied by great shouting, crying, jumping, dancing, matching, weeping, and groaning was seen frequently.
- Many revived 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 who loved status quo.
- 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. They fiercely rebuked sin at school, and home.
- The testimony on the revival movement was heard widely and people from Kenya and outside the country came to witness it. Also journalists came to cover the miracle works of Christ and published stories in newspapers.

Signs, and wonders.

The following signs, and wonders were also witnessed during the spiritual renewal;

- Provision of supernatural lights at night during a church prayer meeting.
- Filling up of an empty lamp with paraffin to provide lights during a meeting through payer.
- Opening of locked doors in a church building through prayers after some church leaders blocked access for intercessors.

- A broken lamp was instantly returned to its original state miraculously after it was prayed for. It had fallen down during an evening meeting.
- Miraculous stopping of rains during meetings was common.
- Some of those who opposed the gospel were visited in visions, warned, physically beaten by supernatural beings on white clothes or even fell sick (paralyzed) or died.
- Some known illiterate members spoke fluently in English, and quoted Bible verses during meetings.
- 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 released in prisons after prayers, and declarations by preachers.
- Bows and arrows aimed at brethren during an evening house church meeting five times failed to work even after frantic efforts by the shooter who later apologized and accepted Jesus as savior.

Lessons learned during the revival movement.

The following lessons were learned by the believers during the revival movement: -

- That it was possible to worship God in truth, and the Spirit for long hours with the enablement of the holy Spirit.
- That God dwells in people not just in heaven or in buildings.
- That the church is a living organism made up of people with Jesus Christ as the head, and not church leaders or the denominations.
- That the ordinary believer can also access and hear God directly, and not just through the popularly known ministers of the gospel (clergy) by the laying of hands. Hearing God was not just the arena of professional, career pastors, and other ministers.
- That it was more powerful to worship or praise God directly not as a third person e.g. to tell Him "You are able" and not "He is able".

- That it was more valuable in a church service to spend more time worshipping and praising God than just going through routine mechanical religious programs and formalities. These released healings (both physical and spiritual) in the congregations. In many traditional churches this was seen as waste of time then, and even today.
- That many things seen as impossible were actually very possible if we wholly trust in God when the level of faith was raised higher.
- That it was much greater for ministers to preach the true gospel of Jesus to win souls, and transform lives than to preach on selfish material or world prosperity.
- When we pray, we don't come before the Lord but we are before Him daily 24/7. Also, we don't call on God to come down from heaven to visit us since He dwells in us always as His holy temples.

CHAPTER TWO: CHURCH FOUNDATIONAL TEACHINGS.

This chapter deals with features of the church, the local church autonomy and inter-relation, giving in the church, the power of knowing your identity in Christ, the grace of God, church leadership structure, corporate hearing and team leadership, role of the five fold ministries and other gifts (Ministries), growing and strengthening the local Church, and parenting.

The Church structure.

The structure of the Church of Christ should be Biblical, and according to the design, and purpose of God as indicated below;

Features of the Church.

The most important features of the church of Christ are as follows: -

- It should derive its life from God himself as the only source.
- Jesus Christ is eternally the head of the church, and the centre of everything while the saints form the body of Christ, Eph 1:23, Col 1:18.
- Jesus Christ is the true foundation of the church, 1 Corinthians, 3:10-11.
- Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone of the church, 1Pet 2:6-7.
- Jesus Christ is the true vine in which the branches spring up, and without Him we can do nothing. Through the holy Spirit Jesus is truly present in the church, Mat 28:20. **"I am the true vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing," John 15:5, NIV.**
- The church should not be a rigid form of religion or mere system of rules or laws.
- The church is made up of people demonstrating the grace, life, and the power of God to the world.

- It is a living organism sensitive to the growing needs and the demands of the believers and other people.
- It is a shared commitment, and not demonstration of one man show or a game of a special few. It is not about clergy versus laity.
- It is about majority functioning and manifesting a collective concern for ultimate meaning and purpose in life.
- The leadership in the church is based on the principle of serving one another, and not servant-boss relationship.
- Every church, fellowship (local Church) must have a unique way of doing things in a certain reflect by the Holy Spirit leads them i.e. making disciples, soul winning, church planting, witnessing for Christ etc.

The local Church autonomy, and interrelation.

All the fellowships (local churches) should be autonomous and interrelated since they hear God directly and carry out all their functions both spiritual and physical as led by the Lord in relation to all ministry activities like preaching, planting churches, preachers welfare, purchasing properties, church programs, and managing finances.

They are only required to remit 10% of total tithes, and 20% of total offerings to the National Administrative leadership on monthly basis to assist in administrative functions which include organizing regional and national meetings, trans local missions, and submitting annual returns.

Through relationship with each other in Christ we have become both givers, and receivers. We encourage giving freely what we have received freely. However, there must be a leadership team carrying out oversight of all the fellowships (local churches) to ensure they are accountable as per the Biblical teachings, the church structure, and systems as per the grace given by God. This will check on possibility of diversion of the key church vision, mission or heresy.

Giving in the Church.

We are stewards of God's resources who should manage, administer, and take care of that which belongs to God. Our God asks us to tithe to support the poor, and needy in God's family, ministers in the church (Pastors, Teachers, Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Elders etc.)

Tithing and giving offering does not buy God's blessings but it expresses faith and releases His blessings upon our lives. God allowed His people to tithe money, oil, flour, fruits, wood, animals, and other possessions. With God's blessings the remaining 90% after tithing will purchase more than the 100%.

The Bible teaches us to be generous, and cheerful givers. We do not need to be pressurized as currently seen to give. We should be mature enough to know its importance. Forcing believers to give will never be sustainable. God rewards us according to what is left after giving. Generous giving is a proof of our love, faith, and maturity. The Macedonian Christians were in great poverty but they gave generously. Giving breaks the curse of poverty since blessed are those who give than those who receive.

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously,” 2 Corinthians 9:6, NIV.

Other forms of giving in addition to tithe in the Old Testament were first fruits of their crops, wood, tithe of tithe, free will offerings, special projects, and offerings for the poor, widows, orphans and aliens, etc. All brethren are encouraged to work, get income to be able to eat, and give. The Bible teaches against any form of idleness in the church, 2 Thes. 3:10-12.

References.

1Pet 4:10, 1 Chron 29:14, James 1:17, Lev.27:30, Deut 14:22, Luke 11:42, Exod 23:11, Deut 15:11, Lev 19:10, Deut 14:28-29; 26:13, Acts 4:34-37, 1Cor 9:14, Gal 6:6-10, Phil 4:15-19, Luke 6:38, Heb 7:1-2, Mat 23:23, Deut 18:1-4, Neh 10: 38-39; 7:70-72, Lev 22:21-

22, Deut 15:1-11, 2 Cor 9:6-9; 8:9, Luke 21:1-4, 2 Cor 8:24; 9:6-8, Mal 3:8-12.

Power of knowing your Identity in Christ.

As believers we must know our identity in Christ so that we do great exploits in this generation, and bring mighty transformation upon the lives of people. we are;

a) Children and Sons in Christ.

We are God's children in whom He delights, heirs of His incredible blessing, sons, saints with new natures, and citizens of God's kingdom, John 1:12, 1 John 3:1-2.

b) New Creation in Christ.

We are forgiven our sins and we enjoy the new hope, strength, and courage in our new birth. 2 Cor 5:17. We cannot live in the old nature any more.

c) We are God's Temple. In the Old Testament era God's presence dwelled in buildings at Jerusalem but now in the New Testament era God has made His dwelling place within our hearts. So, He lives in us, I Cor 6:19. We must live holy lives to sustain the presence of God in our lives.

d) All priests.

The lord Jesus Christ has come in grace and truth. He enables believers to offer up spiritual sacrifices directly to God without depending on intermediaries, 1 Pet 2:5, Heb 13:15. Saints can now access God, and hear Him directly.

e) Disciples of Christ.

We are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ who serve the Lord with obedience, and are ready to pay any price for this faith, Math 28:18-20.

f) A family.

We are born into one family of brothers and sisters. There is more emphasis on family relationships because we are united by the love

of Christ, Eph 2:19, Acts 2:42-47. We cannot practice hatred anymore.

g) Body of Christ.

We are heirs together, members of one body, and share together in Christ, Eph 3:6, Eph 1:22-23, 4:15-20. If one suffers, we all suffer, and feel it.

h) Like a building.

We are living stones building a spiritual house, 1 Pet 2:4-5. We are all committed to build the house, and not to destroy.

The grace of God.

Grace is God's unmerited favor which means even though we were sinners deserving judgment, He looked us in love and forgave our trespasses. He accepted us into God's family. He also gave us an enabling power which we dearly need to live a believer's (Christian) life.

God gives us the power, authority, and anointing which we require as ministers to operate and function in the church according to His will and purpose. Heroes of faith like Moses, Gideon, and Apostle Paul began their walk with God aware of their own weaknesses and inability; they had to fully depend on God to succeed. Our response to God's calling is to trust and believe His word; obey His word.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith –and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God,” Ephesians 2:8, NIV.

God's response to our faith is to provide the enabling power (grace) which causes us to triumph in every situation. No one serves God effectively without His grace. However, there is caution that no one should misuse the grace by making it a license to sin. Christians operating outside the grace will hurt many people hence everyone must stick to their boundaries.

References.

Acts 14:26, 2 Thes 2:16-17, Eph 2:8-9, Eph 1:4-6, 2 Cor 5:17, 2 Pet 3:18, Exodus 3:11-13, Exodus 4:1-13, Judges 6:1-24, Acts 15:40, 2 Cor 12:9, Heb 4:16, 2 Cor 9:8, Rom 6:1-14.

Church leadership structure.

a) Leadership.

The church leadership is where Christ's servant leadership is modeled, understood, and practiced. Every ordinary believer is called, empowered, and commissioned to manifest the works of Christ. Pride has no room here.

b) Plurality of Leadership.

The church is led by a team of elders where one is clearly understood to be gifted to be a lead elder who is called, commissioned, ordained, recognized, and confirmed by other leaders. One of the leaders in the five fold ministry is given the grace to provide leadership to the rest who readily submit to him not by election.

c) Elders are servant leaders.

Elders (both male and female) are honored as servants caring for the flock, providing spiritual care, and directing them to the Chief Shepherd (Jesus). They support the five fold ministries in the local church.

d) Called to Pray, worship, and intercede.

The church leaders are called to impart intercessors, praise and worship teams to worship in the Spirit and truth, John 4:23-24.

e) Leadership role.

Leaders should empower the local church members to hear God, and function not just pursuing their vision and empower them to stop over depending on them. For instance, in church planting the mother church doesn't open churches for pastors but they should clearly listen to God before opening churches to avoid closure. It is only a midwife, and the pastor who must raise his child (church) as per the

grace, and burden given by God. Pastors can be given ministry covers but not the grace which they need dearly to function effectively.

f) Relational leadership.

The ministry is based on relationships founded on the Lord Jesus Christ. No one has any control or can dictate on the running of the fellowships as pertaining leadership. The ministry is purely about relational accountability. No one forces oneself over any fellowship of believers.

g) Recognition, and submitting to leadership.

The early church devoted themselves to the apostolic teaching in meetings, and submitted to their decisions made with the direction of the Lord, Acts 2:42. Submission to leadership provided by God is key.

Leadership God's way.

- God's leadership is based on God's gifting and grace, not man's elections or campaigns.
- Leaders are appointed by God and not by man. God is the source of all leadership authority, Rom 13:1.
- Leadership is not also about self appointment. Others will confirm the grace.
- Leadership is not attained by promotion or career progression. It is spiritually based on character and not academic achievement, 1Tim 3:1-8.
- It is not a reward for long service in the church.
- It is a spiritual gifting, i.e. gifts of administration for steering, and directing God's work; Romans 12:8, 1Cor 12:18-28.

Important principles in Church leadership

These are important principles in relation to church leadership: -

- The church belongs to Jesus, the head of the church, top stone of the pyramid, Mat.16:18, Eph.2:20.

- Members of the church are believers, saints, brethren, Christians or the elect. The church is the body of Christ, 1Cor.12:27.

"And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church...." Eph.1:22-23, NIV.

- It is a building involving much work, resources, and team work, Eph.2:21-22.

- There is a need of growing the body to maturity through leadership gifts, Eph.4:13.

- More focus by leaders should be on the great commission; an assignment to all as per gifting, calling, and grace.

- True leadership is about being fruitful, and multiplication (Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob are examples demonstrating the power of God and transforming themselves and other people) Gen.1:28, Gen.9:1, Gen.12:1-2, Mat.28:19-20,

- Leaders should not waste much time on conflicts or fighting other denominations but should partner where possible to advance the kingdom of God, 1Cor.4:20, Mat. 13:24-30, Phil.2:12.

Corporate hearing, and team leadership.

Leaders must be able to hear God to be effective in ministry and in their areas of grace. Wong L. (2016) provides important guidelines on hearing God corporately as indicated below: -

- Provide practical action plan for the church i.e. Antioch church with diverse backgrounds and gifts united and shared beliefs; were interdependent (Acts 13:1-3, Rev.1:3)

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says...." James 1:22-25, NIV.

- Teaching and training i.e. start with full time workers, then elders (tent makers), middle level leaders, grass root leaders, and finally the whole congregation.

- Worship, and prayer teams prepare the hearts of the congregation and lead them to spiritual ambiance (mood) hence the right people should be identified. They are the catalysts of corporate hearing.
- Two or three people should record important happenings in the church for future review and action i.e. messages, prayers, songs etc.
- Encourage everyone who has received a word, a phrase, an inexplicable image (unable to explain), an idea, a biblical verse, a song or a feeling for the church to share it Infront of the congregation. This will encourage all members to participate.
- Leaders should discern all the reported revelations without too much focus on errors or mistakes. This will help mature the church.
- Consolidation of what has been heard by a team with the gift of discernment to include the pastor and prayer team leader. Check if it is Biblical, relevant to situation, glorify God, bless lives or contain forerunners' insights.
- Form a group to include the pastor and elders that possess the gifts of planning and organizing to turn the above messages to practical actions by coming up with an action plan to include ways to achieve i.e. resources required.
- Assess the effectiveness, and impact of the implementation plan annually in the church.

Signs of an ineffective leader.

The following are the signs of someone who is not having effective leadership skills: -

- Not a team player but a lone ranger.
- Without a father's heart for he cannot mentor or disciple others.
- Not hearing God, and cannot influence through the grace of God.
- Kills the vision, and ministry of others.
- Condemns and curses people, divides people, and creates conflicts.
- Only theoretical i.e. in prayer, worship. evangelism etc. They are not men or women of action but are only lecturing people without deeds.

- Lacking zeal, and passion to lead.
- Involved in gross misconduct and sinful acts i.e. careless, abusive, lack integrity...

Role of the five fold ministries.

The following leadership gifts still exist, and function today as per the grace given. The church should embrace them in order to grow, and mature; to attain the fullness of Christ.

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for the works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up... Ephesians 4:11-16, NIV.

World Map (1993) explains the grace of various spiritual gifts as indicated below;

a) Apostles.

They are missionaries called, set apart, and sent by God to preach the gospel and open churches. They are followed by signs and wonders. They are willing to suffer persecution for the gospel or even death. They also teach the correct or foundational practices so as to bring order in the church. They should meet the qualities of an overseer i.e. they should be above reproach in family, and church. They work well with prophets.

References:

Eph 4:11, Mathew 10:1-5, Acts 14:13-14, Acts 2:43, Acts 5:12, Acts 14:3, Rom 15:20, 2 Cor 10:16, Acts 2:42,15:1-35, Acts 17:10-11, Acts 5:18-20, I Tim 3:2, Titus 1:9.

b) Prophets.

Prophets work with Apostles to bring a balance in the ministry. They foretold events, and warned of danger that might come. They also confirmed what God had spoken. Their words should be carefully examined to ensure they agree with the word of God because there are also false prophets, Apostles, teachers, brothers etc. They also

redirect the church to the purposes of God. They should meet the qualities of an overseer i.e. they should be above reproach in family, and church.

References:

Eph 4:11, Luke 11:49, 1 Cor 12:28, Eph 2:20, John 16:13, Acts 11:28, Acts 21:10-11, Acts 15:32, Deut 18:22, Acts 13:1-2, Jer 28:9, 1 Thes 5:19-22, 1 Cor 12 & 14, Acts 20:22-23, 1 Tim 3:2, Titus 1:9.

c) Evangelists.

Evangelists are gifted with the zeal in preaching the gospel and help people accept Jesus as a Savior. They travel, and preach in open air meetings; also carry out personal evangelism. They also equip the believers to reject sin. They should meet the qualities of an overseer i.e. they should be above reproach in family, and church.

References:

Acts 8:5-13; 26-40, Acts 21:8, 4: Eph 4:11, 1 Tim 3:2, Titus 1:9.

d) Pastors.

They are shepherds who guard, guide, and feed the sheep. They care for discipline, pray for, love, and minister to the believers. They should meet the qualities of an overseer i.e. they should be above reproach in family, and church. This gift is more recognized in the world today than the other gifts which should not be the case. All gifts or graces of the Lord must be recognized, and embraced. Most gifted pastors are currently treated just as ordinary church elders.

References:

Eph 4:11, Acts 20:28, 1 Tim 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9.

e) Teachers.

They are enabled by the holy Spirit to help others understand the word of God and His plan. This gift is normally combined with the role of pastor or elder. They should meet the qualities of an overseer i.e. they should be above reproach in family, and church. Most gifted teachers are currently treated just as ordinary church elders.

References:

Eph 4:11, 1 Tim 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9.

Summary.

- In short, the apostles guard the church from false doctrine, and practices.
- Prophets guide the church in evangelism, and missionary outreach.
- Evangelists gather the unbelievers through preaching the word accompanied by healing, exorcism, and miracles.
- Pastors help grow the believers spiritually.
- Teachers ground the believers on the solid rock, Christ Jesus.

Not about titles.

Jesus is our model as He served in all the five fold ministries. Church leaders may be combinations of the above as the Lord gives the grace according to the need of the time e.g. pastors may be also teachers, and evangelists. These are job descriptions given by God, and not titles given by men. Mere titles without the grace of God are meaningless. Paul is referred to as brother Paul not Apostle Paul. Leaders are not elected but recognized and appointed as per the calling and the grace of God.

It is good to know that in the church the above ministries may overlap or work together in **harmony, not in competition with each other.**

NOTE:

The spiritual gifts have been given and apportioned by Christ. One has to work according to the grace. It may lead to conflicts when one goes beyond the borders.

Role of other gifts (Ministries).

The Lord wants us as a church not to be ignorant of other different kinds of spiritual gifts, kinds of service, kinds of working, message of wisdom and knowledge, gift of faith and healing, miracles, discerning of spirits, gift of administration, speaking in tongues and its interpretation.

All these gifts are given by the Holy Spirit for the common good of the body of Christ.

"Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant... There are different kinds of gifts but the same spirit...." 1 Cor. 12;1-31, NIV.

The church is a unit made up of many parts which complement each other. Below are areas believers are gifted, and talented in the body of Christ which may be exploited for the glory of God: -

(i) Serving and helps.

It is the practical service in the local fellowship like ushers etc.

(ii) Exhortation.

It is to encourage, inspire, warn, and inform people; to stir up believers to worship, work, and witness for the Lord.

(iii) In giving.

One gives his or her earthly goods to support God's work.

(iv) Mercy.

It is having sympathy, and caring feeling for the needs of others.

(v) Intercession.

It is praying, and fasting on behalf of others; standing in the gap for others.

(vi) Hospitality.

It is a kind welcome in church or homes which has won many to Christ.

(vii) Visitation.

It is taking God's love to others who can't come to us e.g. the sick, lonely, aged or those in prison.

(viii) Reconciliation.

It is to bring together in peace those who have been enemies in church or outside; to bring healing to their painful hostility.

(ix) social concern.

God wants us to reach out to the poor, and needy in the community to show the love of the Christ.

(x) Literature media, and fine arts.

There is power in reaching people through the written word, films, radio, television, internet, social media, and Information Communication Technology (ICT). These will aid in teaching the word and enriching worship; making better witness to the world.

Growing, and strengthening the local Church.

The leaders should make efforts to grow, and strengthen the local church as enabled by the Lord since it is a very vital unit of the church. Below are some guidelines on this important matter: -

- Growing means to increase in size, become better, become more developed or mature.
- Growing spiritually can be achieved through daily home fellowships network, daily prayers and bible study, experience of signs and wonders, knowing the grace and favor, and infilling (empowerment) with the holy spirit.
- The church can grow both physically, and biologically in numbers.
- The church can also grow financially through giving.
- It can grow in development projects, acquiring properties etc. Acts 4:4; 19:1-8.

“...They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Acts 2:41-47, NIV.

Parenting in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Parenting in the church is very important since it takes care of family concerns and future of the (church) children.

“ ...Fathers do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:1-4, NIV.

Provoking children by parents is by abusing them or denying them their basic rights e.g. food, clothing, love, education etc.

Kennel T. and J. Byler (2006) defines parenting as the process of taking care of children until they are old enough to take care of themselves. Ask God to search your heart, and reveal the truth. Love your children no matter what they do and don't reject them. The church should provide support, and guidance to neglected children.

Parents are called upon to bring up their children to know, and follow Christ. This includes teaching, disciplining, and modelling. They should think, and pray continually because this is a difficult task for all of us because we're imperfect.

Home is a great, and toughest place to make disciples. However, our children should experience a genuine heart transformation, and conversion to follow Christ. It requires great energy, thoughts, and prayer.

- Parents should rear their children (Great investment) with love, and not with anger (Provocation). Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21, Hebrews 12:5-11.
- Teach the children the Word of God regularly at home. Deuteronomy 6:7-9, Proverbs 22:6.
- Trust God to save the whole household i.e. to carry the burden of salvation (spiritual, and physical nourishment). Acts 16:31.
- A child who is not raised well will bring shame, and distress to the parents, and community. Proverbs 29:15, 1 Samuel 3:13-14.

Conclusion.

- Pray for our children, and their friends because they influence each other so much.

- Pray for the future spouses of your children and for the holy Spirit to be evident in their lives. Discipline them in Jesus, and not in anger. Balance grace, and truth.
- There is no perfect parent since parenting is a hard work.
- Pray for God to give your children wisdom to enable the decisions they make daily be sound.
- Pray that the enemy will be pushed out of their lives.

NOTE:

Failed parenting will stress and frustrate the family, church, community, nation, and the future.

CHAPTER THREE: BASIC CHURCH TEACHINGS.

This chapter deals with dedication of Infants, marriage, Biblical wedding, baptism, holy communion, ordination, burial, circumcision, dress code, and order of Sunday worship service.

Dedication of Infants.

It is a prayer of dedication, and commitment done free of charge. It is prayer for the protection of the child, and for their growth in Christ. It is a time to remind the parents of their willingness and responsibility of bringing up the child, teaching, and taking care of them in the Lord. Parents should not be exploited by preachers by being asked for payments.

It is also time to remind the church of her responsibility to have a program to teach the children the word of God. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." This activity is conducted by ministers, and elders in the church

.

Marriage, and Biblical wedding.

Marriage and wedding functions should be simple, affordable, and not expensive. More focus should be on spiritual connectedness than physical appearance. Wedding is a union of two believers into one family (i.e. male and female). Emphasis is made on holy living by the youth before joining hands to become one. It is a prayer to bless the family, and not about demonstration of materials.

During the engagement parents should not exploit the youth by demanding too much money or property but they should be allowed to give according to their ability, and willingness. It should be a day to celebrate, and bless the youth not to stress them.

The wedding should be conducted in a way that it portrays the second coming of Jesus Christ whereby the bride arrives first at the wedding ceremony to wait for the bridegroom. The two should be declared united and blessed by the minister until Jesus' second coming and not until they die since binding them on the strength of death is a form of a curse. It is conducted by identified ministers in

the church. Marriage seminars should be conducted regularly by the church so as to strengthen the marriage institution. Ministers gifted, and graced in marriage talks should be engaged to assist.

Baptism, and holy communion.

All believers born again are baptized, and allowed to share the holy communion. It is not subjected to conditions like teachings first, exams, wedding or baptism.

"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day," Acts 2:41, NIV.

Teachings will continue after the baptism by full immersion into water.

References:

1Cor 11:23-25, Rom 6:3-7.

Ordination.

It is an affirmation that one is called by God, and a testimony of one's calling. God ordains, and man only affirms. It is a prayer not about a dress code or external show by gowns or collars. The laying of hands upon the minister is a form of an agreement before the Lord, church, and people.

References:

Acts 13:1-5, 2Timothy 2:20-21, 2 Timothy 2:1-3, 1 Timothy 5:22.

Burial.

It is an opportunity to encourage, and minister to the bereaved family. It is also important to preach salvation to people in the function. In burial of a brethren there should be more focus on sharing their living testimony on what God has done in their lives, and of others. Ecclesiastes 7:2; 3:1-8; 1:1-9. The church has a responsibility to bury persons even if they are not born again, and use the opportunity to share word of salvation.

Circumcision.

The church should encourage male circumcision, and condemn female circumcision which is unbiblical. The Bible should be used to train, and mentor the initiates to be God fearing without bring in the negative cultural practices. Teachings should be Bible based, and carried out by ministers with integrity. However, there should be more emphasis on circumcision of the hearts of men, and not just the physical ritual. The cultures which don't practice circumcision are respected.

“In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands...” Colossians 2:11, Amplified Bible.

Men should be trained to be responsible head of families and providing visionary leadership in the community and nation. Circumcision without salvation is nothing. The areas of training for men undergoing circumcision should include the role of man as a head of the family and a leader in the community, church, and the nation. It should also include importance of salvation, and use of wisdom from God. Other important topics are living healthy, role of current technology, wealth creation, and transforming mankind for Christ. Gal 6:13-15, Gen.17:1-27.

Dress code.

The church has moved from Levitical covenant to Melkizedek order. Hence, we are clothed with the garment of salvation, and covered with robes of righteousness. The current church should stop focusing much on physical appearances. Revelation 19:5-8, Isaiah 61:10.

"I also want women to dress modestly, with decency, and propriety, 1Timothy 2:9, NIV.

The dressing by Christians in church meetings, family, and community setups should be decent, acceptable, and moderate.

Order of Sunday worship service.

Below is the most common order of Sunday service in many fellowships (local churches): -

- Morning devotion
- Prayer, praise, and worship
- Welcome remarks to the congregation by service leader.
- Corporate prayers and prophetic declarations by ministers and brethren if any.
- Sharing the week's testimonies and short messages of encouragement, songs by groups i.e. children, youth, women, men...
- Welcoming visitors to greet the church if any.
- Praise, and worship songs.
- Committing the day's speaker to the Lord.
- Sharing of the word or preaching.
- Prayer for needs in the church.
- Offerings, and tithes.
- Announcements on church activities.
- Extended fellowship in church building or in the homes of the believers.

NOTE:

It is, however, noted that the above program is only a general guide for a Sunday worship service but the Lord may decide to lead in a different or radical way without following the sequences as indicated above. Church leaders, therefore, must be flexible to allow the holy Spirit to exercise His guidance.

CHAPTER FOUR: MINISTRY STRUCTURE.

This chapter deals with a church centered on Christ, the picture of the church function, church mission, and worshipping God in truth and spirit.

The church should be made up of relating fellowships and ministries that recognize functions in grace gifts working together as the body of Christ. Each fellowship has her own identity in Christ, Eph. 4:11.

A Church centered on Christ.

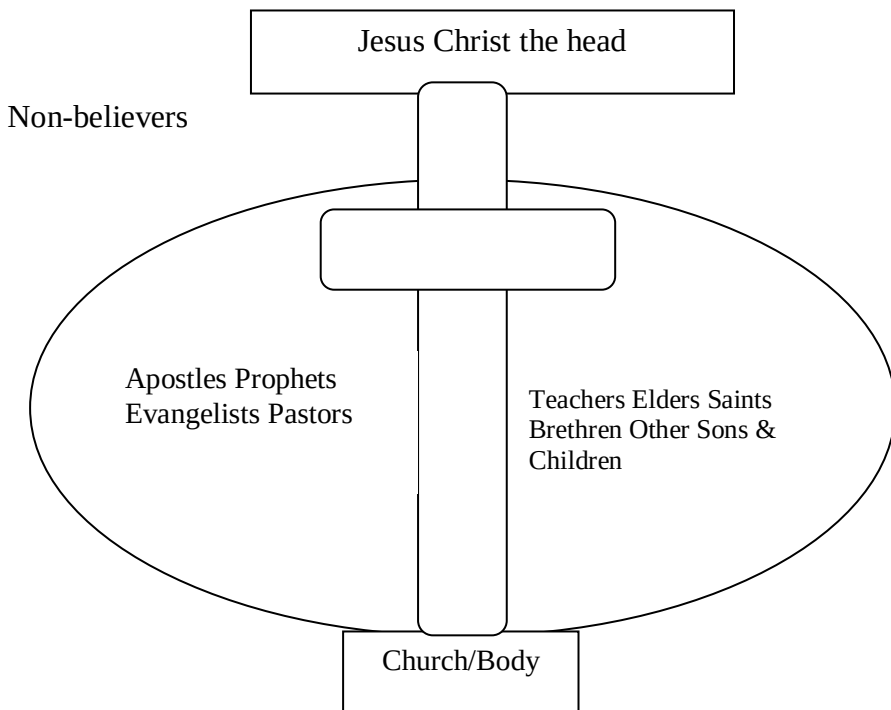
There is spiritual unity in the body of Christ focusing on Christ who is the head of the church, Eph 1:20-23. Every saint should focus more on Christ than on preachers or their denominations.

The church is founded on the rock who is Jesus Christ himself. The church is a body of born again believers who understand clearly the revelation of Jesus Christ, 1 Cor. 3:11, Mat 16:18-20.

"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..." Mat 7:24-27, NIV.

Picture of the Church function.

The Biblical picture of the church is like cycle where inside are all the five fold ministers, and the saints. All believers are priests, and no human being is above another except Jesus Christ who is the head of the church. All of them (i.e. ministers, and saints) are inside the body of Christ except the non-believers.



Paul gives us a beautiful description as to how the church is comparable to a body. While the body is made up many separate parts its purpose can only be fully realized when each part functions in corporate conjunction with other parts. When any part functions on its own, it simply gratifies itself and the body's purpose is not realized. When any organ or even a cell moves or functions beyond its measures or out of harmony with other parts that becomes the beginning of a conflict or a disease, 1 Cor. 12.

Church vision.

The vision of all believers is to be born again, lead people to Christ, and to transform lives; not just to have Biblical knowledge. Acts 3:19, 2 Cor 5:17.

Church mission.

The mission of believers is to grow in grace and knowledge of Christ. To equip saints to do the work of ministry so that the body of Christ may be build up to maturity, Ephesians 4:11-13. The Church is built on the rock; Jesus Christ Himself who is our true foundation. This should be our calling, Mat 7:24-27, 1 Cor 3:11.

Worshipping God in truth and Spirit.

Worship is to show extravagant honor or respect to God. The Lord, though He is great, cannot worship Himself but expects us to do so. True worship is not a demo, trial, or an entertainment. It is not so reliant on musical equipment but on the holy Spirit. It flows harmoniously like a river downstream. It is not mechanical, rigid or too formal. The dancing styles may not even be uniform but diverse. True worship is linked to good character, prayer, and spiritually inspired anointed songs.

We worship God from our hearts with our bodies as living sacrifices, wealth, new songs, and obedience. Singing to men, Satan or about world events (secular) has no room in a true worship. God created man mainly for worship, and is looking for true worshippers.

True worship leads to physical and spiritual healing, peace of mind, joy, victory in warfare, salvation, deliverance from sins, and hearing God clearly. It should be a lifestyle which must be done 24/7.

Fake worship which is full of hypocrisy, traditions and rules of men, worldly, secular, and drama just for optics targeting to please people and not God. It is worshipping in vain, far from God, because it is from the lips of men not from their hearts; Proverbs 3:9-10, Acts 16:25-31, John 4:23-24, Psalms 149:1, Acts 13:2.

"...These people honor me with their lips but their hearts are far from me... " Mark 7:6-13, NIV.

Today there is more of entertainment in church meetings pleasing men than true worship from the hearts of believers.

The church should concentrate on corporate worshipping in the Spirit, and not just mechanical processes. It is about worshipping

from the heart which touches God. Also prayer, and fasting is encouraged for growth in the church; John 4:23-24.

CHAPTER FIVE: DISCIPLESHIP, AND MISSIONS.

This chapter deals with church planting, making disciples of Jesus, evangelism, mentoring to impact lives, and church statement of faith. Global Disciples (2022) indicates that out of a population of about 8 billion people on earth 2.6 billion people have never heard the gospel and about 50,000 people die daily in the world without hearing the gospel. All believers have been given the responsibility by God to reach these people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“... 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?” Rom 10:9-15, NIV.

We are alive today to reach people with the gospel. This should be our priority, number one.

World Map (1993) says the world population is increasing at the rate of over 70 million persons each year, and less than 4% (3 million) of these people are touched by the gospel.

Some of the methods used to win souls are mass evangelism through open air crusades, mass and social media, and person to person soul winning.

References:

Acts 8:5-8, 8:35-36, Acts 20:20-21, Acts 8:1-4, Luke 19:10, Prov 11:30.

Why should we evangelize.

- Jesus was a soul winner; 1Tim 1:15, Luke 19:10, Mat 4:19, Mat 28:19-20, Luke 14:23, Luke 15:2, Acts 5:42, 2 Cor.5:18-19, Col. 1:20, Rom 10:13-14.
- The harvest is great, and God is looking for workers; Mat 9:36-38, 1 Cor 7:29, John 4:35, Luke 10:2, Acts 6:3-4.
- The laborers are few, and billions are yet to hear the gospel; Isaiah 6:8, Amos 8:11, Rom 15:20, 2 Cor 10:16, 2 Pet 3:9, Prov 10:5, James 4:17, Jer 8:20, Mat 9:38.

- The great commission to reach the whole world with the gospel before Jesus returns; Mark 16:15, 1 Cor 15:3-4, Isaiah 6:8, Mat 5:16, Luke 14:23, Acts 16:6-9, Math 28:20.
- Unfulfilled prophecies on Jesus' return; Mat 24:14, Luke 24:47, Acts 1:8, Rev 7:9, 1 Thes 4:17, Rom 10:13-15, 2 Sam 19:12.
- God will hold us accountable for both omission, and commission of what we do on earth; Ezek 3:17-19, Ezek 33:6-8, Acts 9:6, 15, 20, Rom 1:14-16, Rom 15:15-20.
- The transformation we have experienced as believers is great, and we must demonstrate it to the world; Heb 2:3-4, Mat 4:23, Mat 9:35, Gen 1:26-28, Mat 28:18-20, Mat 24:14, Acts 5:12-16, Gal.1:6-9, Mark 16:15-20.

Multiplying Churches (Church Planting).

The following are important principles to follow in church planting:

- Hearing God, the leading of the holy Spirit, so as to know the timing and the grace of God before opening a church. Be keen to listen to the Mecedonian call i.e. where the people themselves request you to visit, and preach to them.
- Preparation through prayer and fasting, and building relationships with people to partner with as a team since you cannot work alone in ministry.
- Survey, and mapping so as to know the venue i.e. hall, plot or house church (people).
- Holding meetings to share the gospel of Jesus Christ e.g. house to house evangelism, open air crusades, online engagement etc.
- Leading or pointing people to Christ, not just to be members of the church or a certain denomination.
- Supporting the physical needs of the people where possible to show love i.e. distribution of food, clothing, cash, carrying out community projects etc.
- Training, mentoring (discipling) and coaching teams to participate in church activities. It is empowering and mentoring converts to grow and function in the church.

- Having faith in God, and strong commitment in all circumstances e.g. in warfare, and hardships. It is important to patiently wait upon the Lord since sometimes it may take many years to see the real fruits of church planting. It may even take between one year and upto fifteen years or more.
- Commitment and love in carrying out the burden of ministry in an effort to transform lives of people. It is about sacrifice of your time, resources, and paying the price for the breakthrough.
- Establishing, and empowering home cells to enhance daily or weekly fellowships.
- Making disciples of Jesus not just church converts or members through evangelism, compassion, and by design; Genesis 9:7, Acts 2:41-47, Acts 13:1-6, 16:9-16.

"So, the Word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly..." Acts 6:7, NIV.

- Receiving, and working in the Spirit or becoming effective through spiritual empowerment.
- Training believers to work with their hands, and carry out business to support the spread of the gospel and their families' needs.

NOTE:

Church planting is the most effective way to multiply churches.

Making disciples of Jesus.

A disciple is one (adherent) who accepts, and assists to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. Global Disciples (2022) defines discipleship as 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. It is not an event but a practical life on training that transforms one's life to be like Jesus. The process of discipleship can take years like in Antioch where disciples were assembled for one year; Acts 11:26, Mathew 10:25, Luke 6:40. It is about our personal relationship with Jesus, with one another, and the world. We must follow the example of Jesus.

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; Romans 8:29.

"...Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..." Romans 12:2, NIV.

To grow to be a disciple of Jesus we must know Jesus as our Savior, Redeemer, and Lord of our life (John 15:1-4, Phillipians 3:10); see things, people, and situations as seen by Jesus i.e. having faith (John 15:5-8, Hebrews 11:1); do things with love and obedience (John 15:9-13, John 14:15, 23-24); become a friend of Jesus (joyful and purpose filled) knowing His likes and dislikes (John 15:14-15), and making friends for Jesus around the world (eternal fruits), John 15:16-17.

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 and source of life and ministry, John 15:5. 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 teach, apply, and reflect; Mark 3:13-14, 6:30, Acts 4:13.

We must be with the disciples since it is a relationship. Jesus worked practically, and closely with the disciples in prayer and ministry. They were transformed a lot; John 1:39, Luke 11:1.

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; Mark 6:7, 6:12-13, Luke 9:2-6. They must be also 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; Luke 10:17-20, 1 Corinthians 11:1.

Discipleship involves making an all round mature Christian through equipping and mentoring; making one ready to meet the heavy cost of following Christ not just being feed with the current very cheap, and flashy motivational preachings. It is about a total commitment, and sacrifice to Jesus without any wavering or looking back to be controlled by sin or flesh.

Mentoring to impact lives.

A mentor is a trusted counsellor or guide. According to Global Disciples (2022) mentoring is a supportive relationship that enables one not to make the same mistakes others made. Everyone works better with an experienced friend. Effective mentoring involves commitment, love, respect, willingness, prayer, honesty, openness, trust, humility, and persistence by the mentor and the mentee.

Paul said, "follow my example as I follow the example of Christ," 1Corinthians 11:1. Jesus Christ invested three years of His life on earth with the 12 disciples and more than 2,000 years later His impact continues. Mentoring is a great tool for training or equipping disciples.

A mentor should impact the life of a mentee through love, trust, modeling, and a good mentoring relationship. Mentors should imitate Jesus so as to impact the world by multiplying mentors; John 13:33-34, John 15:12-17, John 21:15-17, John 17:18-26, Mark 10:42-45, Mark 1:37-39, Luke 11:1-2, Luke 9:1-9, Luke 10:1-17, Phillipians 2:5-11, Mathew 28:18-20, Mathew 10:2-4, Acts 1:8-9.

Speaking the truth in love strengthens trust but dishonesty, betrayal, and lack of openness or communication will destroy trust. Effective listening skills makes mentoring successful. The mentor, and mentee should create time for mentoring process to succeed.

The disciples impacted Barnabas until he sold his land, and brought the money to the apostles' feet; Acts 4:36-37. The words of a mentor have the power to inspire, and transform the life of the mentee.

Barnabas impacts Saul (Paul) and John Mark while Paul impacts Silas. Paul impacts Timothy while Timothy impacts the church in Ephesus. Peter impacts John Mark while John Mark impacts readers

of the gospel of Mark; Acts 9:26-27, Acts 15:37-41, Acts 16:1-5, Acts 11:25-30, Acts 13:42-48, 2 Timothy 4:11, 1 Timothy 1:10, 1 Timothy 4:8-14, 1 Peter 5:13.

"...To Timothy my dear son... " 2 Timothy 1:2-11, NIV.

Global Disciples (2022) stresses that mentoring is very important because of the following reasons: -

- There are over 2.6 billion people who have not yet heard of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- More than 50,000 people die every day without hearing, and responding to the good news of Jesus Christ.
- There is urgent need to respond to the great commission as commanded by Jesus so as to reach the less reached peoples; Mathew 28:19-20.
- It is a way of equipping churches to make and mentor more disciples for effective ministry to the body of Christ and to the world.
- The teaching or training of disciples targets transformation of lives not for just giving information. It is about action not just hearing the Word. The teaching is to focus on obeying everything Jesus has commanded us. We must trust, and rely on the holy Spirit to transform lives not by our own efforts; 1Corinthians 8:1-3, 2 Timothy 3:7, John 8:31-32, James 1:22-24.
- Transformation teaching is a process which takes time. It is relational, spiritual, experiential, and instructional (interactive not theory).
- Mentoring is a spiritual parenting from childhood living on milk to adulthood eating solid food; Heb. 5:11-14, 6:1-2.
- Discipleship, and mentoring ensures that a new convert is not left alone as a helpless one day old infant to struggle on her own to survive or die (stagnate or backslide).

CHAPTER SIX: STATEMENT OF FAITH.

This is an important eleventh (11) point of Church Statement of Faith which includes strong beliefs about the holy Bible, the holy trinity, mankind, salvation, true foundation, the Church, spiritual warfare, judgment and baptisms: -

1. The Bible.

It is the only divinely inspired, infallible, and authoritative written Word of God; 2 Tim 3:16-17, 1 Thes 2:13.

"...men spoke from God as they were carried along by the holy Spirit." 2 Pet 1:21, NIV.

2. God.

He is one eternally in three Persons i.e. God the Father, the Son and the holy Spirit; Is.43:10, Mat 28:19, Luke 3:22.

3. Jesus Christ.

He is the eternal Son is Lord and God; the Savior of all mankind who was born into this world of a virgin, lived sinless, worked miracles, and died on the cross at Calvary to atone for the sins of all. He was raised from the dead having triumphed over every evil, and will return in power and great glory to judge the world and establish His kingdom over all things; Mat 1:23, Heb 7:26.

"...You are my Son..." Luke 3:22, NIV.

4. The holy Spirit.

Being sent by the Father and the Son, can now lead the obedient believer into the whole truth. The holy Spirit is supposed to abide, and dwell in the believer always.

5. Mankind.

Was made in the image of God and for His glory, but through sin, was corrupted. Being totally depraved, he is unable to save himself from sin's result which is eternal death, Rom 5:12-21.

6. Salvation.

It is thus God's loving response according to His Word to regenerate the spirit of the repentant soul to eternal life by His holy Spirit. Now, the born-again believer is joined to God and has Christ. His faith dwelling within, giving him the power to live as Jesus lived, free from sin, and fully pleasing unto God, Eph 2:1-10, 1 Pet 2:24.

7. The Foundation.

For salvation is repentance from dead works, and faith towards God. These are to lead the believer to being baptized in water, and to be filled with the holy Spirit enabling him to function as priest unto God; Heb.6: 1-2, Act.2:38; 1 Pet 2:5, Rev 1:5-6.

8. The Church.

It belongs to Jesus Christ. It is His body, and He is the head. It is only comprised of those who have been born again and is God's

vehicle for the comfort and building up the saints. Jesus equips the Church with the fruit and gifts of the Spirit in order to combat the flesh and Satan, so, that it will fully reflect His power and glory on earth; Mat 16:18, Acts 2:47, Eph 4:4-16.

9. We are at War.

Every believer is to conduct himself as a warrior in Christ's service; in close, and constant fellowship with Christ. They are to in a faithful relationship to all other believers in God's army, Eph 6:10-20.

10. Judgment.

It awaits the righteous unto eternal life and the unrighteous unto eternal damnation; 2 Cor 5:10, 1Cor 3:1-15, John 5:28-30, Rev 20:11-15.

11. Baptisms.

We believe in water baptism by immersion in water after someone accepts Christ as Lord, and the baptism of the holy Spirit being an ordination to service in the church; Acts 2:41.

NOTE:

The Statement of Faith is the backbone of Christianity on earth. Without it will the flood gates of powerless church, confusion, false teaching, heresy, devil worship, and cultism are open.

CHURCH'S TRAINING ACTIVITIES.

The following form an important part of the church ministerial activities: -

- Children's, and youth ministry.
- Family ministry.
- Equipping ministry.
- Prayer, and intercessory ministry
- Outreach ministry.
- Praise, and worship ministry.
- Administration ministry or the overseeing team.

NOTE:

The specific identified brethren to be having the grace of God are assigned to coordinate and provide leadership in the above church ministries or activities.

CHURCH'S CORE VALUES.

Below are the ministerial core values which every believer is expected to comply with;

Honesty. It is being truthful/trustworthy in all dealings both in church and outside.

(a) Integrity.

It is being of good conduct, and not corrupt.

(b) Commitment to the calling.

Ready to pay the price by committing time, and resources; Gen.29:15.

(c) Team leadership.

Working in a team and not displaying a one man show in the ministry.

(d) Transparency, and accountability.

Being open, responsible, and accountable in life.

(e) Corporate hearing God.

Keen to hearing God as a team which is more effective than just one man approach.

(f) Consistency.

Being reliable, and stable.

(g) Time management.

Using God given time well, and not wasting it on worthless things.

(h) Effective communication.

Always communicating with God, and people in the body of Christ through prayer, worship etc

REFERENCES

The following are the references in relation to the writing of this book: -

- The Holy Bible
- Global Disciples Training Alliance (GDTA), 2022
- Global Lead, Training Manual, 2018
- Corporate Hearing, and Team Leadership, Lydia Wong, 2016
- The Shepherd's Staff, World Map, 1993
- Parenting, Tim Kennell and Jon Byler
- Life Testimonies from the Local Churches (1998-2019)
- Book, 'Building Lives on Christ, Our True Foundation'

APPENDICES.

God's sovereign move in Baringo

From 1998 to date, there has been a great spiritual move by God in Baringo accompanied by many miracles; but no single Christian newspaper has ever captured these events.

Some of the events in this silent revival include more Prayer and fasting by Christians, Restoration of the five-fold ministries (Eph. 4:11-14), Heavy flow of anointing and presence of God, Renewal of worship, Evangelism and Unique love among Christians.

Certain believers have also made great sacrifices in form of giving to support ministries, walking on foot for long distances (up to 30km) to preach the gospel and fasting for days in prayer and intercession.

There has been also the rejection of some cultural and traditional practices in the church, which are retrogressive to spiritual development.

There has been a release of great parts but after worshipping and praying there was instant healing.

In another worship and prayer meeting, a hurricane lamp fell down and the glass broke, plunging the meeting into darkness. But after praying, the lamp came back to normal.

During overnight prayers in another meeting a hurricane lamp without paraffin was used successfully until morning.

During one of the evangelism crusade meetings in a shopping

In another meeting, God gave supernatural light, which saw a night meeting to the end and went on immediately after the meeting.

Elsewhere, a group of youth prayed until the door of the place of worship opened after they were denied keys by the church elders.

In another crusade, the presence of God was too powerful that no one could preach. All people were swept down for hours including the ministers and praise and worship team.

In one-occasion, intercessors prayed in a solitary hill until stars began falling, something which shook the whole place.

In addition, the number of new revival churches has gone up and at the moment stands at about twenty.

This revival has spilled over to the neighboring Keiyo. Even Christians from Koibatek, Nairobi, Eldoret, Meru, Machakos Kericho and Mombasa have had contacts and



BY
**PETER
KEITANY**

Newspaper Cutting on God's Sovereign Move in Baringo



Above; Worshipping God in a Church Meeting.



**Above: Church Leaders from right to left: Peter Keitany,
Japthet Kangwony, Julius Chepsat and Philemon Kosgei in a
Church Meeting**



Above: 20 Years Celebrations of Grace by Youth and Children



Above: Joint Photo Session Between Church Leaders and the Youth During the 20 Years Celebration



Above: Evangelism



Above: Evangelism and Missions

Below: Reaching Schools with the Gospel



Below: Reaching communities with the gospel





Above: During the 20 Years Celebrations December 2019 at Kabarnet

