

MINISTRY MADE EASY



The Genesis Class

Are you gifted or trying to discover your gift and wondering how God can use you? Are you finding difficulty fitting into the team? Do you have a call to serve the Lord?

This book is for you!

Using a transparent approach, Isaac Serukenya provides a wealth of knowledge as he shares from personal experience in the music ministry, the challenges, trials and weaknesses that many servants of God go through.

DISCOVER

- The importance of a Spiritual Father
- How to realize your potential vision
- The unhealthy distractions to your call
- How to balance work, family and ministry

Do not give in to "burn-out" another day. Find out today how to serve effectively in MINISTRY MADE EASY.

About The Author

Isaac Serukenya has been actively involved in the music ministry at Miracle Centre Cathedral for the past twenty years. Of these, he has served as Music Pastor, Music Director and Worship Leader for 15 years. He is currently responsible for the Miracle Music Ministry composed of 5 choirs with a total of about 200 people and growing.

Born into a family of acclaimed musical talent, he has been interacting with music from an early age.

Isaac Serukenya is also an Electrical Engineer by profession.

Isaac and his wife, Janet, have been married for 9 years and have four children.



MINISTRY MADE EASY

Isaac Serukenya

MINISTRY MADE EASY

The Genesis Class

Isaac Serukenya

Letter to you from Isaac

Dear Beloved,

I simply want to Lift Jesus higher everywhere.....In the Market place, in the Community and in Church (John 12:32). That is my desire and purpose and that is what "Simply Ministry" is all about.

Thank you for ordering for this eBook. This eBook is being sent to you for free to bless you! However, please do feel free to partner with this ministry financially or otherwise. This will be a great blessing to help me do more music, books and other products to bless you and millions more out there. I shall be grateful and God will bless you more.

To partner, kindly contact me via email: serukenyamusic@gmail.com / telephone +256 775 286 246. This book is one of several "Isaac Serukenya" products already available and many more to come with a focus on this mission.

For more product information, please see the end of the book. I look forward to hearing from you! Enjoy the book! I pray that the Holy Spirit will use what i share to help you be the best you can be in every area of your life in Jesus Christ. God bless you all.

Your friend,

Isaac Serukenya

MINISTRY MADE EASY

ISAAC SERUKENYA



Ministry Contact Information:

Email: serukenyamusic@gmail.com

**facebook page: "Isaac Serukenya-simply ministry"
<https://www.facebook.com/IsaacSerukenyaSimplyMinistry1/>**

Instagram: Isaac Serukenya Twitter: isaac serukenya

Skype: isaac.serukenya

LinkedIn: isaac serukenya

Telephone No.: +256 775 286 246

Isaac Serukenya Copyright 2014

Table Of Contents

Acknowledgment	iii
Forward	v
Preface	vii
Prologue	x
Definitions	xiii
Chapter 1	14
<i>The 'M' Factor: 'Man of God' Factor</i>	
Chapter 2	51
<i>The 'U' Factor: Understand your position in the picture.</i>	
Chapter 3	79
<i>The 'S' Factor: Stay/Stand</i>	
Chapter 4	103
<i>The 'I' Factor: Get Involved</i>	
Chapter 5	138
<i>The 'C' Factor: Creativity</i>	
Chapter 6	145
<i>Work - Life - Ministry balance</i>	

Acknowledgments

I owe all my knowledge on the subject matter in this book to the people that saw enough value in me to trust me to bear the weight of the responsibility that comes along with this journey of ministry and even last this long.

Pastors Robert and Jessica Kayanja: It was twenty years ago that you trusted me with the lives of so many people and yet I was so young and here we are still serving God together. As I always say, I was young and now I am a little older now but I have not yet seen better torch bearers than you!

The Miracle Centre Family, The New Wave Band, Miracle Music Ministry: You have allowed me over the past 20 years to learn “on job” through several successes and failures how to serve and lead. Thank you for believing in me.

Frank and Evelyn Nkuyahaga for the cover design and Daisy Katorobo for the editing. May God richly bless you and double your already amazing prowess displayed in

putting this book together.

My beautiful wife Janet and our children: You have continually released me to be myself and do what I was called to do. Thank you for letting me learn from you how to balance family with my calling.

Last and most important, I thank God Almighty for trusting me to be able to go through the various challenges of ministry so that I may carry a message that will release others to enjoy Ministry made easy!

Foreword

Pastor Isaac Serukenya is not just a member of a church or part of the leadership at Miracle Center Cathedral. He is more than that; He is a gift from God to me, my family, church and the entire body of Christ in this generation.

The anointing on this man is real; the call to worship God is his passion. I first met Isaac on a sick bed in hospital, now he is healing sick hearts and souls. His unique leadership and experience in music matters reveals what a great leader he is.

Recently, we did a local recording of the songs God has given me and graced us to write and compose. Individually, my experience is that God has gifted MCC and all of us with a special gift in Pastor Isaac.

I know that the Serukenya's were called to minister alongside the Kayanja's as it was with Paul, Rita, and Ken with football playing in Miracle FC. It is true that Isaac is the most anointed of all. (Don't feel jealous you Serukenya's) I have never worked with anyone that is humble, gracious and focused in ministry like Pastor Isaac.

He's an electrical engineer, a father, a pastor as well as

seriously saved. His wife and kids, I pray will be double anointed like him.

In this book, Pastor Isaac shares proof producing principles that will help people develop themselves into leaders that will uphold and usher people into the presence of God.

I am musically inclined, but when Pastor Isaac is around, I don't have to ask, "What is the music today?" Every Pastor must have an Isaac on staff.

His voice is seasoned and is ready for worship, a proof of great practice and training and a special anointing.

I recommend this book for all, especially Godly worshippers and singers.

Thank you, Pastor Isaac, for this book.

Don't just go through this book, let it go through you.

Thank You,

*Robert Kayanja
Senior Pastor,
Miracle Centre Cathedral*

Preface

F remember when we were in school, during our music lessons; our teacher would ask “What is music?” We would then enthusiastically answer in a chorus “Music is organized sound!” One would get full marks for this.

I have often met people who ask me “How do I know I have the gift of music?”

Well, think of nature. The birds, the bees, the dogs, cats, cows and every other creature you can imagine. Each creature presents its own unique sound as a gift that nature organizes into a symphony that soothes us all time and time again.

The primary issue therefore is that if you have a sound to offer (and I am sure you do) then you have a gift to share. All you need is to have your gift (sound) nurtured and organized to form good music. A team comprising of others like you that have a sound to offer is a good place for this to happen. However, there are principles for this that must be obeyed.

I have come to believe that “If mankind were a beautiful necklace, music is a major part of the thread that holds it all together.”

Music transcends the barriers that divide us such as race, skin color, language, age, tribe, nationality etc. Music is such a powerful a force that it melts away all these barriers. It connects friend and foe and causes them to dance to the same rhythm. I believe that the principles that music demands that will determine the level of success of a music team are applicable in whichever team it is that you may be involved in with equal success.

After working with the Miracle Centre Music Ministry for 20 years now of which 15 years I have served as Music Director and Worship Leader, I often watched with despair as a lot of people joined the music team and didn't even last more than a few weeks before dropping out. They were not leaving because they had suddenly gotten busy but rather out of frustration and a feeling that they had failed to fit into the team system.

Whenever someone is embarking on a camping trip they will place into their back pack items that are necessary to ensure their survival to surmount any unforeseeable challenges on their adventure. The items in their backpack may include a knife, sleeping bag, matchbox, first aid kit, glucose, a torch, etc. These are not really items you would find on a menu in a restaurant but rather they give

you the capacity to create your own comfort at your convenience wherever you may be.

To counteract the trend in the team, I began to make a conscious effort to impart principles to as many people in the music ministry as I could as a “back pack” that I knew they would need in order to overcome any challenges on the exciting journey of ministry they were undertaking. This “back pack” has helped a lot of people.

In sharing with different people, I discovered that the challenges faced by members in our team were nearly identical to those experienced by folks elsewhere.

I then decided to write this book to share this “back pack” with everyone out there trying hard to fit into the team, all those that have altogether given up on this and ultimately all those that desire to see their teams succeed.

The success of every team is highly dependent on the principles upon which each individual team member is operating.

Let us now take a look into the back pack. This back pack contains the secrets of every successful team.

Prologue

I was born to Mr Henry Wassanyi Serukenya and Edith Zavuga Serukenya on 13th June 1975. I happen to be number five in a family of Seven namely in order, Ken, Sarah, Paul, Rita, (yours truly), Irene and Diana. My mum says I was born at 6pm. I always joked with my buddies at school that I was born just in time for the opening announcement that would start the day's broad cast on Uganda Television!

This explains my love for television, especially movies and cartoons. Yes don't laugh I love cartoons especially Tom and Jerry! I have once too often been caught rolling over and laughing louder than the kids while watching Tom and Jerry.

About the music, I have always loved it and performing arts in general. The Serukenya home has always been full of music. My mother is gifted with a lovely voice but insists that her role is to make tea for the musicians. My brothers and sisters are good at music too. My father is among the most respected musicians in my country Uganda. He has written the most beautiful choral music I have ever heard. I am not saying this because he is my Dad. I can only compare him to my favourite legendary composer,

Frederick Handel. I have fond memories of Dad sending us out of the house to play and locking himself in the study room for the entire day simply so that he could focus and write his music. Believe me by the time he walked out and presented the piece, you would conclude that the Study room had a secret passage way to heaven where he would go all day to write what the angels were singing. His music was and still is timeless and heavenly.

It was common knowledge that for Dad, as soon as he entered the study room, he was not to be disturbed. There was an unwritten “DO NOT DISTURB” sign on the door. Even meals were an unwelcome distraction.

With all due respect to all other composers, so sharp is my father’s cutting edge effectiveness and influence as a minister of music that to date, wherever his music is performed, it carries a certain level of class and elegance that places his musical prowess light years ahead of any other.

These are the traits to my sense of music that I sought to ask God for every time I knelt down to pray. I have had an equivocal opportunity through 34 years of secretly understudying my musical genius father coupled with my personal experiences, in particular making 20

years serving in leadership with the music ministry of nearly 250 people of various age groups at Miracle Centre Cathedral under Pastors Robert & Jessica Kayanja. My father and the Kayanja's have been my mentors over the years. Everything I have learnt from them has caused me to stand in the same room and platform as people of influence on the Gospel and secular scene to mention but a few, Benny Hinn, Morris Cerullo & Creflo Dollar leading praise and worship and directing music with choirs of 200 to 4,000 voices in their crusades and conferences in Uganda, Ron Kenoly, etc. This I have balanced with my role as an electrical Engineer, husband to Janet, my beautiful wife of 9 yrs, and as a father to four beautiful children Jireh, Israel, Alpha and Omega as well as a foster child, Oliver.

With this combination of mentors, it would be utterly unethical and unfair for my generation and those who come after me if I do not share my life lessons with whosoever will come into the Classroom, listen and learn with an open mind and spirit. Since you are reading this, I know you must be one of those that make the wise decision not to re-invent the wheel but rather stand on the principles that have worked for others over the years and create a better prototype for future generations.

Welcome to the Genesis Class Where it all begins!

Definitions

Rhema Word- This is a spoken word from God that may come to you as a flash of insight that takes a particular scripture verse or passage and puts it into context such that it has immediate application to a current circumstance. Rhema words give daily guidance to your life.

Breakthrough – The attainment of a much desired and anticipated goal or achievement after a period of hard work and believing God.

Ministry – Taking what you have been given as a gift from God and selflessly applying it to serve and make the lives of others better.

Fruit – Fruit is the outcome of things you say or do.

Anointing – This is the grace that God gives to an ordinary person or otherwise that empowers him or her to do extraordinary things so as to fulfil a particular assignment within God's purpose and plan.

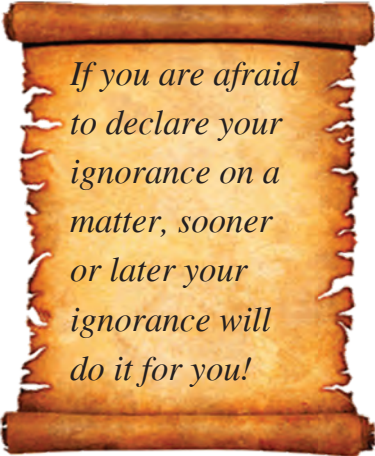
CHAPTER 1



THE 'M' FACTOR: The 'Man of God' Factor

The most embarrassing moment I remember was the time when the bass guitarist was unavailable for one Sunday service. Now, you must understand that it was general knowledge that my elder brother was an ace bass guitarist. So by default, everybody thought that I must be just as good. Everything happened so quickly, a bass guitar was strapped onto my shoulders, the praise leader started the song and the sound man turned up the guitar volume nearly twice the usual so that the 10 o'clock service congregation could hear this young guitar 'maestro'.

Oh Dear me! I blushed 1000 times with spot light on me I plucked a couple of off key notes before I was switched off in dismay by the sound man. To be really honest, the only song I could play was the good ole' "Oh! God is good!" I will never forget that day for as long as I live.

A scroll with a textured, aged appearance, featuring a central column of text in a cursive font. The scroll is unrolled at the top and bottom, with a dark brown border.

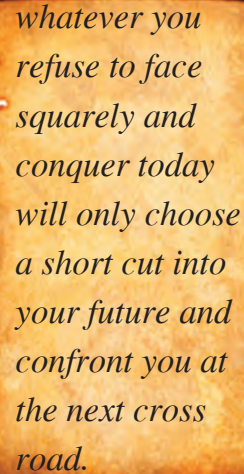
*If you are afraid
to declare your
ignorance on a
matter, sooner
or later your
ignorance will
do it for you!*

If you are afraid to declare your ignorance on a matter, sooner or later your ignorance will do it for you!

All those years of trying to hide behind the cover of my siblings, generally fleeing from the spirit of “inferiority complex” had come to an end. As my mentor often says, whatever you refuse to face squarely and conquer today will only choose a short cut into your future and confront you at the next cross road.

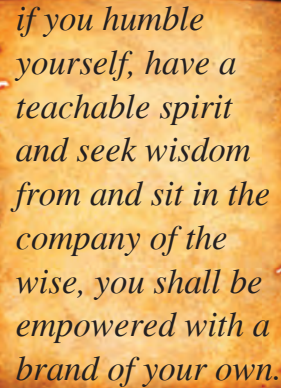
To nurse my wounds after this embarrassing scenario, God had pre-positioned a “good Samaritan” called Michael Katumwa who was the Music Director for New Wave Band at

that time and a fantastic bass guitarist. Michael took me under his wings and became my tutor. A lot of my current “touch” on the Bass Guitar is based on the patterns I picked up from watching and listening to him play and later improved on or modified to form my own style and flavour. I took personal interest in understudying Michael in his additional role as Music Director of a group of such immensely talented young people. I watched as he went about the daunting task of handling and balancing numerous temperaments toward a common objective, ensuring that the Gospel is preached.

A vertical scroll with a textured, aged appearance, featuring a dark brown border and a lighter, yellowish-brown center. The text is written in a cursive, italicized font. The scroll is slightly unrolled at the top and bottom.

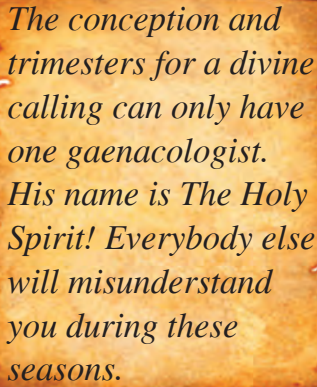
*whatever you
refuse to face
squarely and
conquer today
will only choose
a short cut into
your future and
confront you at
the next cross
road.*

I learnt that if you humble yourself, have a teachable spirit and seek wisdom from and sit in the company of the wise, you shall be empowered with a brand of your own.



if you humble yourself, have a teachable spirit and seek wisdom from and sit in the company of the wise, you shall be empowered with a brand of your own.

Through serving under Michael, God began to show me gaps in the music ministry. Through prayer, I realised that actually what God was showing me was an answer to what I had been asking him for shortly before I left my cradle “Kampala Pentecostal Church”. My cry had been “Lord, please place me where I can be useful ...” There it was! There was inconsistency in availability of some voices and instrumentalists which often created uncomfortable gaps during services and missions. The problem was that I did not have the necessary skills to fill those gaps. I knew nothing about sound apart from what I could hear; I could barely play anything one could proudly present in a service on keyboards, drums, solo guitar or bass guitar. In addition to this, my singing voice was nothing to write home about and neither could I write a song! All I had was a great interest in music and a musical ear inspired by my family background.



The conception and trimesters for a divine calling can only have one gynaecologist. His name is The Holy Spirit! Everybody else will misunderstand you during these seasons.

For the next couple of years, my cry became “Lord, teach me in a way that only you can and I will be available”. I cannot count the days of fasting and prayer, the nights and hours I spent seeking God where that was all I had come to ask of Him. Since I could find none that seemed to have been through what I was feeling, I had no one to express myself to but the Holy Spirit.

The conception and trimesters for a divine calling can only have one gynaecologist. His name is The Holy Spirit! Everybody else will misunderstand you during these seasons.

God listened to the sincerity of my heart’s cry and honoured my request and slowly steadily, my musical skills and abilities and ministry grew by leaps and bounds.

I soon took over as Praise and Worship Leader and Music Director under peculiar circumstances. My man of God had felt led to teach the worship team a song called “I’m not afraid” by Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir. He took

it upon himself to teach the song. During the rehearsal, I raised my hand to correct a few notes that I felt were incorrect. He asked that I come forward to correct them and in the process, he got a phone call. He asked that I take over the rehearsal for a while as he completes his phone conversation. By the time I finished teaching and had gone over the song five times, the Man of God had not returned to take over. I then realised that he had been watching the entire time from a distance. He then came and closed the rehearsal and scheduled another for the next day. He sent music for me to teach on the next day but never showed up again. Talk of being set up!

From then on, I grew into the position of Choir leader, Worship leader and later Music Director. Before I knew it, despite my vehement protests, I was soon called Pastor Isaac Serukenya!

In order to tag a value to something, you must understand how essential it is to both your life as well as that of others around you.

We have often heard of individuals referred to as “men of God”. It is important to know and understand who they are and what they represent so as to appreciate their value in your life. The bible has several pointers on the role of a man of God.

- 1. A man of God has the grace to see what you are capable of producing even when others (including yourself) have concluded that you are barren. A man of God is like a mid wife.**

There is a story in the bible about Manoah and his wife.

Judges 13:2

² Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had no children.

Judges 13:3

³ And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.NKJV

Manoah's wife, on a first encounter, saw characteristics of the angel that typified an ideal man of God.

Judges 13:6

⁶ So the woman came and told her husband, saying, "A Man of God came to me, and His countenance was like the countenance of the Angel of God...NKJV

The angel of the Lord; whom Manoah's wife in the first instance described as a man of God, looked beyond the woman's state of barrenness and saw a conception and a son thereafter.

Sometimes life gets so hard that you tend to give up, lose hope, shelve and even bury most of your desires and dreams. You need a man of God to speak life, revive and stimulate the God-given abilities in you and cause you to carry them through to fruition.

2. A man of God is the campus guiding you and giving you direction from the Lord

The Children of Israel had for forty years been crying out to God for deliverance from the hand of the Philistines that ravaged their land at will. God knew that an extra ordinary deliverance could only come to them through one that had been raised under extra ordinary circumstances.

For this reason God sent the Man of God to Manoah and his wife. He was to act as a campus, to give them direction and guidelines on how to nurture the child, while still in the womb and after he had been born as well. This was so that they may produce an extraordinary man with an extraordinary destiny.

In this regard, the bible says that the man of God said to Manoah's wife that;

Judges 13:4

⁴ Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or similar drink, and not to eat anything unclean.

Judges 13:5

⁵ for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines." NKJV

This is how Samson was conceived, born and grew to become the mighty man that we know in Judges Chapter 14 - 16.

Without a man of God, you are likely to move around in circles like a guinea pig on a treadmill working hard but never quite achieving your purpose in life.

3. A man of God will point you towards God for everything rather than himself or herself.

Judges 13:15

¹⁵ Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, "Please let us detain You, and we will prepare a young goat for You."

Judges 13:16

16 And the Angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Though you detain Me, I will not eat your food. But if you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to the LORD." (For Manoah did not know He was the Angel of the LORD.) NKJV

The man of God refused to have an offering made to him because he acknowledged that he was only a messenger; a courier of the rhema word from God.

Anyone that points you to God as your source is among the best allies you will ever have.

- 4. A man of God will always emphasize that not his or her name but only the name of God should be worshiped and praised for every product of the rhema word through him or her spoken into your life.**

Judges 13:17

17 Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, "What is Your name, that when Your words come to pass we may honor You?"

Judges 13:18

18 And the Angel of the LORD said to him, "Why do you

ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?" NKJV

The man of God would rather keep his name secret if it meant that it would later shield the honor for the miracle from going to God Almighty to whom all honor is due. Anyone one who motivates you to honor God rather than man wishes to guarantee the longevity of your breakthrough.

- 5. The countenance of a man of God is like the countenance of an angel of God. The countenance of an angel of God is a reflection of the glory radiating from God.**

Judges 13:6

⁶ So the woman came and told her husband, saying, "A Man of God came to me, and His countenance was like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome; but I did not ask Him where He was from, and He did not tell me His name. NKJV

The first thing that should strike you about a man of God is that he does not play "God" but rather lives to reflect the will of God into your life.

The will of God in your life will always guarantee your success in all your endeavors.

- 6. The word of the Lord is always in the mouth of a man of God; this Word when spoken brings life to dead dreams and visions.**

1 Kings 17:23

²³ And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house, and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, your son lives!"

1 Kings 17:24

24 Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is the truth." NKJV

When you maintain a connection with the man of God you enjoy the benefits of the truth of the word of the Lord that proceeds from the man of God's mouth into your situation.

- 7. A man of God is an honorable man; he means what he says and says exactly what he means; all that he says surely comes to pass.**

The bible mentions one of Saul's servants giving testimony in reference to Samuel, as a man of God that;

1 Samuel 9:6

⁶ And he said to him, "Look now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honorable man; all that he says surely comes to pass. So let us go there; perhaps he can show us the way that we should go." NKJV

You are bound to get to your destination quicker with one that fits this description.

You need a man of God in your life.

8. When a man of God speaks, heaven responds**2 Kings 1:9**

⁹ Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty with his fifty men. So he went up to him; and there he was, sitting on the top of a hill. And he spoke to him: "Man of God, the king has said, 'Come down!'"

2 Kings 1:10

¹⁰ So Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, "If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men." And fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty. NKJV

The heavens had to release what Elijah had requested simply because he was a man of God.

Everybody needs a “Man of God” in their life. This is the “M” (Man of God”) – Factor!

Your “Man of God” may be male or female. It doesn’t matter!

Galatians 3:27-28

²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. NKJV

God has a plan for every one of our lives that was pre-ordained even before we were conceived.

Jeremiah 1:4-5

⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

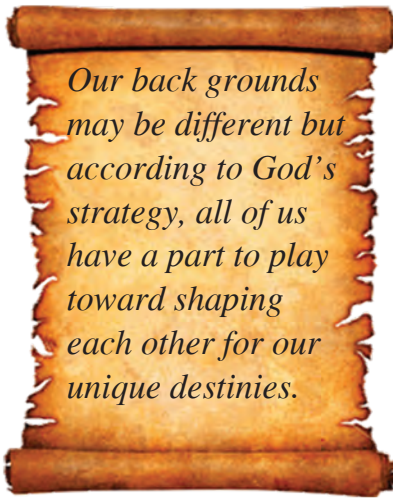
⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;

Before you were born I sanctified you;

I ordained you a prophet to the nations.” NKJV

Our back grounds may be different but according to God’s strategy, all of us have a part to play toward shaping each other for our unique destinies.

Have you ever noticed that some of the people you knew when you were growing up, you have never met again?



*Our back grounds
may be different but
according to God's
strategy, all of us
have a part to play
toward shaping
each other for our
unique destinies.*

I recall when I was younger; I used to have some friends with whom the closeness we had would drift away with time. We could barely find things that were still common interests that would keep us hanging out with each other. We were not enemies but our interests had changed.

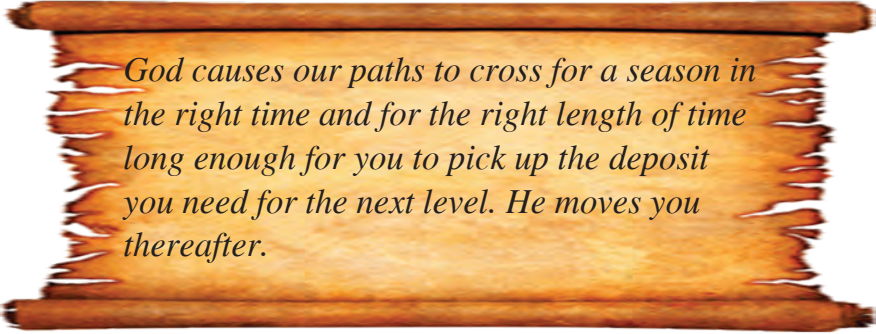
However, during the time that we were inseparable, each of us had learnt some invaluable lessons from each other that shaped our attitudes, the way we spoke, thought, believed, and even our accents. Each one of our friends, although we may have grown apart and never see each other again, in one way or another had an influence on who we are today.

God created each one of us with the core ingredients to be what he pre-destined for us. However, none of us is “self contained” and capable of surviving as an island. He has put deposits of Gold and precious stones in each

person that we meet through the path of life right from the time that we are born to the time we pass on. Only God knows where the deposit is that you need for a particular season to lead you to your next level.

All of us are on God's time table for humanity both for this generation and for generations to come. Isn't that amazing?

Therefore, I believe that God causes our paths to cross for



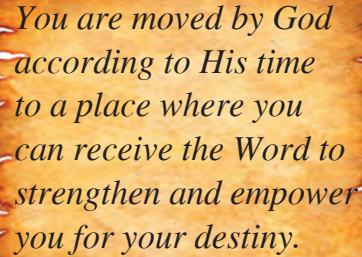
God causes our paths to cross for a season in the right time and for the right length of time long enough for you to pick up the deposit you need for the next level. He moves you thereafter.

a season in the right time and for the right length of time long enough for you to pick up the deposit you need for the next level. He moves you thereafter.

That is why it is important to love and respect everyone that crosses your path because whether they are good or bad, ugly or pretty, tall or short, born again or not, consciously or subconsciously, they hold a vital key and

a deposit that you need to push you to your next level. Against that background, now you are ready to hear this.....

Often times we think that it is life's challenges or problems that have determined where we go but on the contrary, you are moved by God



You are moved by God according to His time to a place where you can receive the Word to strengthen and empower you for your destiny.

according to His time to a place where you can receive the Word to strengthen and empower you for your destiny.

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:29

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Romans 8:30

³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called;

whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

I have heard amazing stories that have shown me the truth of this scripture. Take for example the life of a young man called Joel (“not real name”). He was born in a ‘manyata’ in Moroto, Karamoja District in northern Uganda. This part of the country was riddled with conflict. So at the age of fourteen he escaped to a nearby district called Soroti where he became a street child. After two years of living on the street, Joel sneaked away on a bus to Kampala town.

In Kampala, Joel continued to live on the street and started making a bit of money as a manual worker, loading onto and offloading luggage from buses at a small fee. Soon enough Joel saved up to rent a single room close to a church. Every Sunday morning, Joel would hear music playing from the church and in the solitary quiet of his room; he would enjoy and nod his head to the beat. He loved it!

Day after day, Joel could not get the music out of his mind, he said to himself “I’ve got to do this more often.” The following Sunday, he made it a priority to attend the

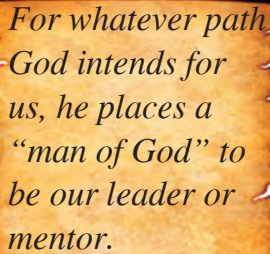
first service of the day. He quietly entered the church and sat in the pew at the back and when the music began to play, it was the moment he has been waiting for. Joel demonstrated such dance choreography and vigour that those around him could not help but give him more room to praise the Lord!

By the time the music stopped, Joel had made up his mind to join the church and the choir and at the end of the sermon he made the decision to give his life to Jesus Christ. A few years later, Joel became one of the key leaders in the music ministry; he also joined a technical training course in Mechanics and was looking nothing like the boy that fled for his life from Moroto several years ago.

This story is similar to that of a lot of people who join the music ministry.

Quite often Joel thought that it was the circumstances of his life that were dictating where he was but instead, like Joseph; they were driving him to his destiny.

For whatever path God intends for us, he places a “man of God” in our lives to be our leader or mentor.



*For whatever path
God intends for
us, he places a
“man of God” to
be our leader or
mentor.*

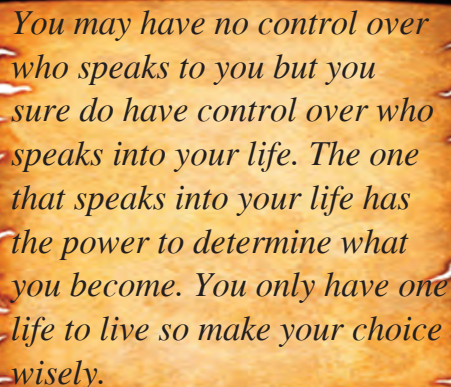
Leaders usually have had to learn from experience, a sort of On-Job training, this with success as well as costly, painful mistakes. We on the other hand can learn from them. What took

them for example twenty years to learn, should take you much less if you follow their guidance. In order to benefit from your leader, there are principles that you must understand.

PRINCIPLES OF DEVELOPING A TEACHABLE SPIRIT

1. Wisdom is only transferred through relationship, not through knowledge
1¹

You may have no control over who speaks to you but you sure do have

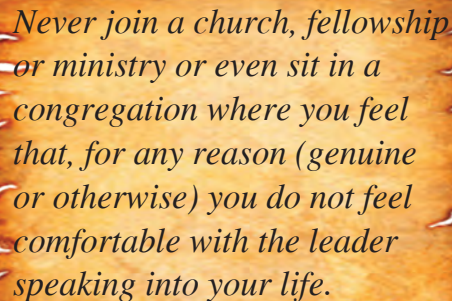


You may have no control over who speaks to you but you sure do have control over who speaks into your life. The one that speaks into your life has the power to determine what you become. You only have one life to live so make your choice wisely.

control over who speaks into your life. The one that

speaks into your life has the power to determine what you become. You only have one life to live so make your choice wisely.

Beloved, there are many “Men of God” but not all of them qualify to speak into your life. Only one of them has been assigned to you by God. The “Man of God” in your life is your Spiritual Father and this is a God-ordained relationship through which you are meant to receive wisdom. If you feel that someone does not qualify to speak into your life then seek God to lead you to someone who will and submit yourself under their leadership. This is very important because what people say to you can make you, break you or deter you from your destiny and very soon you will begin to produce what has been deposited into your life.



Never join a church, fellowship or ministry or even sit in a congregation where you feel that, for any reason (genuine or otherwise) you do not feel comfortable with the leader speaking into your life.

2. If you don't like the fruit, don't accept the seed!

Never join a church, fellowship or ministry or even sit in a congregation where you feel that, for any reason

¹ Pp 106 Excellence in Ministry, Robb Thompson

(genuine or otherwise) you do not feel comfortable with the leader speaking into your life.

If you don't like the fruit that someone is producing then you should not accept them as your "Man of God". However, when you recognise your "Man of God", open up your life so that they may speak and impart wisdom.

I do not recommend that ministers make a habit of hopping from one church to another without a justifiable reason because I believe that every "Man of God" has a word from the Lord but not every word is your rhema word. Every word spoken to you must be tested by the incorruptible Word of God and your Rhema word is guaranteed to come through your "Man of God". It is therefore important that you submit to the one that God has revealed to you as your "Man of God" than any other person.

3. **God expects you, under the authority of a Man of God, to understudy rather than criticise.**

Watch, pray, take **notes** and learn from both their successes and failures.

I have learnt that all Men of God, those in this and past generations and I dare say those in generations to

come are actually “Men” first before they are “of God”. They laugh, cry, get hungry, get angry, get hurt, and get offended just like you and I do. The fact that they are “men” makes them subject to the same mistakes, weaknesses and challenges that all human beings face. The fact that they are “of God” implies that they have been called, chosen and set apart by God to lead the way for a select group of people. I learnt that my “Man of God” and I have been assigned to each other.

One day I was in the mood to complain about some things I felt were not going right in the choir that I felt the leadership could have done better. As my mind was raging with these critical thoughts, the Holy Spirit reminded me that the Bible teaches us to pray for all in authority.

1Timothy 2:1

¹ Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,

1Timothy 2:2

² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

1Timothy 2:3

³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

1Timothy 2:4

⁴ ...who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. NKJV

As I was praying, the Holy Spirit then instructed me to get a pen and paper and make a list of all the ‘Men of God’ that I knew. I wrote, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, Moses and many others. As I was still writing he asked me another question, “What do they all have in common” and I replied, “They all purposed to obey God’s voice.”

“That is correct but you missed one important thing. Their lives were riddled with error”, replied the Holy Spirit.

Looking at the lives of these men I realised that Abraham slept with his maid (read “adultery”), Jacob was involved in fraud, David slept with another man’s wife, orchestrated his death and married her, Moses disobeyed God’s command and that cost him his “visa” to the Promised Land. However, regardless of their failures they repented and ran back to the arms of the God who chose them.

That way they were always protected and preserved by God in spite of their shortcomings.

I urge you therefore to pray for the ‘Man of God’ in your life. God chose them and placed within them the knowledge that you need to walk that path to your destiny. In other words without your “Man of God” it will be very difficult for you to breakthrough just as hard as it is for those in school to move to the next class without the indication from the teacher that they have passed and qualified to move on.

4. Love, Honour, Respect and Uphold the “Man of God”

2 Chronicles 6: 5-6

⁵ ‘Since the day that I brought My people out of the land of Egypt, I have chosen no city from any tribe of Israel in which to build a house, that My name might be there, nor did I choose any man to be a ruler over My people Israel. NKJV

⁶ but I have chosen Jerusalem that my name may be there, and I have chosen David to be over my people Israel.

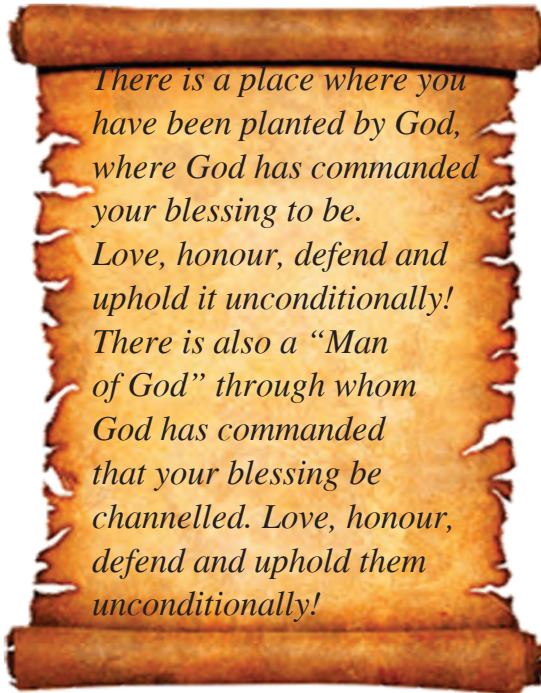
Jerusalem at the time was rugged and smaller than other cities but regardless of this, God chose it to be the place where whoever needed to call on the name of the Lord for anything had to look to and they would be saved! In a particular season, God has a place and a person, a man of God that he chooses as the channel through which the source of your blessing shall be.

Regardless of what David's weaknesses were, God had chosen him to be the king over all His people Israel. Anyone that wanted victory, peace and prosperity in Israel had to access it by submitting to his authority and accepting him as their King.

David understood this principle and that is why he would not dare to harm Saul. He even felt convicted that what he had done was wrong when he simply cut a piece of Saul's robe as the next best thing when he had an opportunity to kill Saul in the cave.

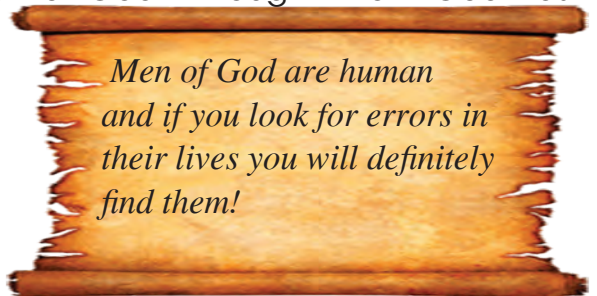
1 Samuel 24:4-6

⁴ Then the men of David said to him, "This is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.'" And David arose and secretly cut off a corner

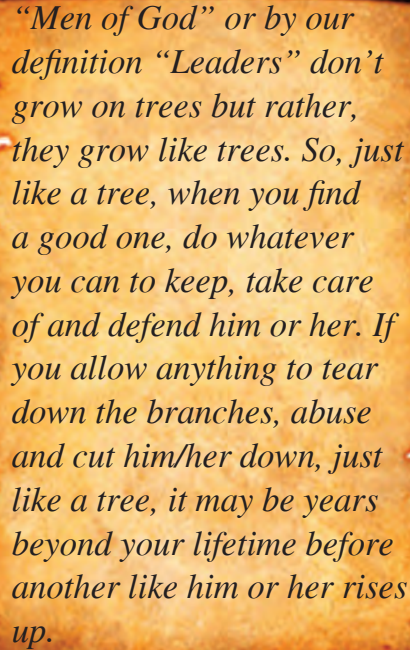


of Saul’s robe. ⁵ Now it happened afterward that David’s heart troubled him because he had cut Saul’s robe. ⁶ And he said to his men, “The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD’s anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD.”NKJV

There is a place where you have been planted by God, where God has commanded your blessing to be. Love, honour, defend and uphold it unconditionally! There is also a “Man of God” through whom God has commanded that your blessing be channelled. Love, honour, defend and uphold them unconditionally!



Some people that do not accept this very important principle are out there analysing their “Men of God” like a scientist does a specimen under a microscope, looking for anything to discredit. Simply because of this, others end up moving from church to church looking for

A scroll with a quote about 'Men of God'. The scroll is unrolled, showing the text in the center. The edges of the scroll are frayed and uneven, giving it an aged appearance. The text is written in a cursive, italicized font.

“Men of God” or by our definition “Leaders” don’t grow on trees but rather, they grow like trees. So, just like a tree, when you find a good one, do whatever you can to keep, take care of and defend him or her. If you allow anything to tear down the branches, abuse and cut him/her down, just like a tree, it may be years beyond your lifetime before another like him or her rises up.

someone with God’s CV or at least an Angel of God’s CV when looking for a “Man of God”. Let me save you the trouble. Men of God are human and if you look for errors in their lives you will definitely find them!

In twenty years of ministry, I have learnt that “Men of God” or by our definition “Leaders” don’t grow on trees but rather, they grow like trees. So, just like a tree, when you find a good one, do whatever you can to keep, take

care of and defend him or her. If you allow anything to tear down the branches, abuse and cut him/her down, just like a tree, it may be years beyond your lifetime before another like him or her rises up. Consequently, like a branch on a felled tree, you lose your ability to grow into your next level as fast as God intended.

5. God believes in delegated authority.

God the father sent his son Jesus Christ who later sent the Holy Spirit to us. When the Holy Spirit speaks, we know that God the father and God the Son have spoken. Jesus said that He does nothing apart from what his father has instructed him to do.

John 8:28

²⁸ Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.

In every society there is a hierarchy of leadership and it is the same with Ministry. Your 'Man of God' who is your Spiritual Father cannot do everything that is required for the proper running of the church on his own and therefore

he will delegate authority. The team to which you belong will also have a leader who is accountable also to the authority above them.

No matter how anointed Saul was after his encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus, Jesus instructed him to go into the city (a location, a specific address) where he would be connected to someone who had gone before him so that he would be mentored in what he should do.

Acts 9:6

⁶ So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?"

Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." NKJV

Another biblical illustration is in Acts 15 when there was a query on whether it was necessary for the gentiles to be circumcised as a pre-condition to salvation. Needless to say Paul and Barnabas were respected and famous but they recognised the need to refer the matter to their "Men of God". (The apostles in Jerusalem that had gone before them)

Indeed, even the great apostle Paul who wrote more

books in the New Testament than the disciples that actually walked with Jesus had a “Man of God” in his life!

Acts 15:2

² Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question. NKJV

In other words, Paul and Barnabas kept their personal opinions, revelations and bible study notes to themselves recognising that the rhema word from God on this matter that held the key to the continual unity and growth of the church would only come to them through His delegates, the “Men of God”.

Acts 16:4-5

⁴ And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem. ⁵ So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily. NKJV

6. The 'Who is Speaking' Syndrome.


I have met many a choir member who will make a decision on how quickly and efficiently they respond (if at all) on physical things they see about their "Man of God". I call this the "Who is speaking?" syndrome. A person afflicted by this syndrome makes statements such as;

- What am I being asked to do? Clean the toilets for the conference? I am a singer for heaven's sake! Surely I am not supposed to do that!
- Is my leader male or female? I am a man. How can a woman let alone a girl ask me to do that? Men in my culture don't take instructions from women!
- How old is my leader? I am old enough to be your parent. How can you ask me to do that?

As earlier mentioned, because of the principle of delegated authority, looking at instructions from your team leader with contempt and with intention to disobey would be just like doing the same to your 'Man of God' and ultimately God Almighty. This is the reason why sometimes some people work hard, pray and fast for a breakthrough and see no results. The key to a door to success has already been

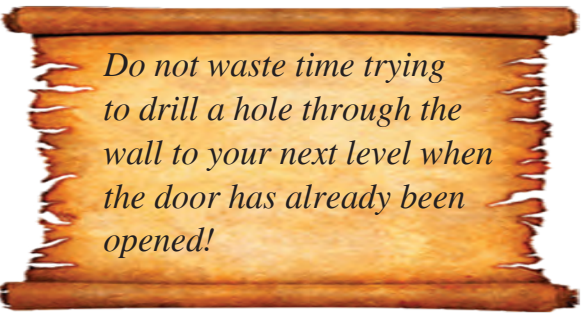
provided in following instructions of our leaders. One has got to humble oneself and reach out and receive this key.

The “Who is speaking” Syndrome is like a virus that causes its victims to question the authenticity of their leader’s instruction.



Just as one trusts that the Holy Spirit does not distort the message from the God head to you, similarly it’s important that you trust that your leader gives you accurate instructions from your senior pastor and ultimately the Holy Spirit.

When I became Music director and had a number of team leaders to oversee, I often got a flurry of phone calls from people that were in a meeting that I



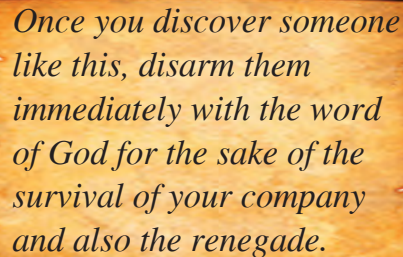
Do not waste time trying to drill a hole through the wall to your next level when the door has already been opened!

had delegated to someone else double checking if the instructions I had issued were true. I always found this very amusing because people never say “Excuse me God the Father and Jesus, is what the Holy Spirit telling me

the truth or did He add His own extra “To Do list” to your divine instruction?”

Just as one trusts that the Holy Spirit does not distort the message from the God head to you, similarly it’s important that you trust that your leader gives you accurate instructions from your senior pastor and ultimately the Holy Spirit.

The key to a door to success has already been provided, opened wide and placed by God within the team leader but a lot of people are trying to go through the wall adjacent to the door.

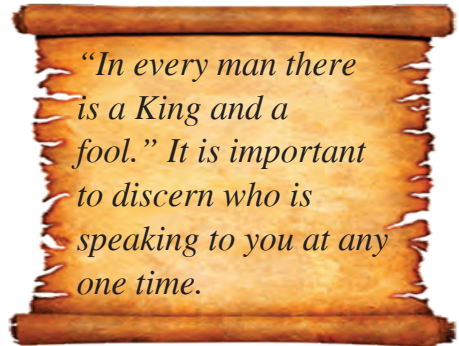


Once you discover someone like this, disarm them immediately with the word of God for the sake of the survival of your company and also the renegade.

Do not waste time trying to drill a hole through the wall to your next level when the door has already been opened!

On this basis, it is important that you respond to your team leader’s instruction immediately. The team needs to work like an army where your leader is the Commander of the battalion. In an ideal army, all the soldiers trust

that their superiors are looking out for their well being. Therefore they know that the command given is based on careful intelligence handed down from the General of the Army. Soldiers who do not follow instructions are a liability at the frontline and always get their comrades killed! It is very important that instructions are followed to the letter. One who cannot follow instructions is as deadly as a spy and has the capacity to cause damage more lethal

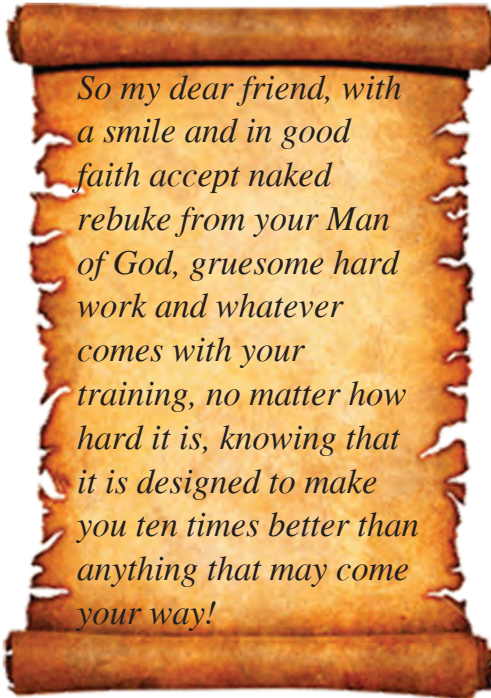


than the enemy you know. This person carries seeds of discord and confusion that cunningly take root among their comrades.



Once you discover someone like this, disarm them immediately with the word of God for the sake of the survival of your company and also the renegade.

At some point in my ministry, my leaders were my relatives, in particular, my elder brother and later on my sister. In both instances, there were times when it was rather challenging for me to sit under their authority because I was living with them. I knew them too well. I knew their ups and downs;



I knew when they got into trouble with our parents. I knew their cheeky and sometimes naughty ways. I had difficulty differentiating between my sibling from home and my sibling the choir leader.

There is a proverb that says that in every man there is a King and a fool. It is important to discern who is speaking to you at any one time. In both these instances, the Holy Spirit began to deal with me and help me discern who was speaking at any one time.

The moment your relative or friend becomes your leader or your man of God, he takes on a different persona; he

is transformed into your mentor or coach.

A MENTOR AND A COACH IS NOT YOUR FRIEND!!

Your coach is assigned the responsibility of transforming you into a champion EVEN IF IT HURTS!!!!

A true coach, take

for example, will push a swimmer past one's normal limit to do two hundred push-ups and forty laps in the pool simply because of one's assignment and faith in what that swimmer can become.

So my dear friend, with a smile and in good faith accept naked rebuke from your Man of God, gruesome hard work and whatever comes with your training, no matter how hard it is, knowing that it is designed to make you ten times better than anything that may come your way!

CHAPTER 2



The “U”- Factor: “Understand your position
in the big picture”.

Proverbs 29:18

18 Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint;

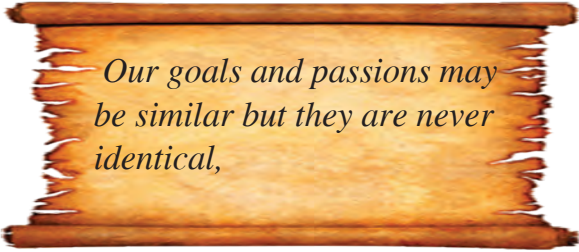
But happy is he who keeps the law.

I personally look at Vision as the micro-chip and program that gives a person the will to live. I once had the chance to watch a movie about a robot, I recall that the robot was beaten up and even lost parts of its body but because the vision on its micro-chip was intact and still clear, it kept on moving, not to the workshop for repair but onwards to fulfil the purpose for its existence even if it was the last thing it did! I believe that even before God places the breath of life in any one, he first puts a “micro-chip” which holds

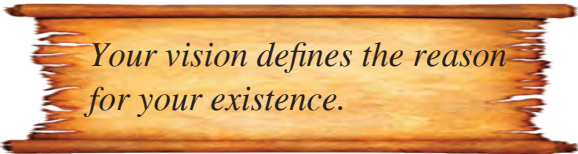
the “vision” within everyone and each “micro-chip” is unique. This is why our goals

and passions may be similar but they are never identical, for example, we all have different sense of dress, even identical twins

are actually not identical in all



Our goals and passions may be similar but they are never identical,

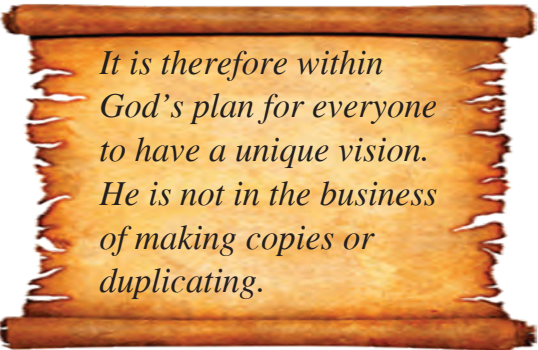


Your vision defines the reason for your existence.

aspects of life.

Simply put, your vision defines the reason for your existence.

Just like it was for the robot in the movie, Vision is the reason as to why one would set their face like flint and overcome insurmountable odds with literally a super-human



*It is therefore within
God's plan for everyone
to have a unique vision.
He is not in the business
of making copies or
duplicating.*

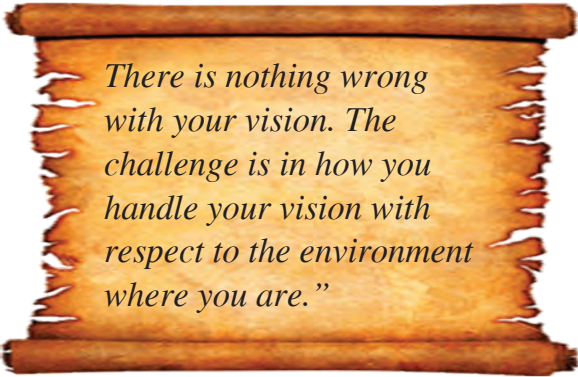
display of resilience to survive when all hope is lost.

It is therefore within God's plan for everyone to have a unique vision. He is not in the business of making copies or duplicating.

The realisation of the big picture happened when I stopped thinking about me. The challenge that I had for a long time was that everything and everyone around me seemed to be acting as a deterrent to what I felt was my vision. I thought that everyone ought to be helping me see my vision through. I wanted to go out there and hold concerts, sing at conferences and crusades and do missions everywhere. I could not understand why all those around me including the church administration could not respond to my zeal and jump onto my bandwagon. After

all, I had finally got a voice that people wanted to listen to and I could finally write beautiful songs of praise. It was hard for me to fathom why, the Man of God in my life was not as zealous about my constant flow of seemingly bright ideas. More often than not he simply smiled and gently deferred my intentions with words that in a nutshell said,

“Wait Isaac, slow down, the timing is not quite right.” This often left me deflated and honestly rather exasperated. It did not help also that some of my peers were doing exactly what I felt drawn to do and appeared to be “getting away with it”.

A scroll with a quote about vision and environment. The scroll is unrolled, showing a piece of aged, yellowish paper with frayed edges. The text is written in a cursive font.

There is nothing wrong with your vision. The challenge is in how you handle your vision with respect to the environment where you are.”

I wanted to be a star, travel to many nations and make a name. One day I decided to pray about it and ask God to help me understand and how

best I needed to respond. The Lord taught me something that day and it was the turning point in my life in where Vision is concerned.

He said, "There is nothing wrong with your vision. The challenge is in how you handle your vision with respect to the environment where you are."

Let us take a look at two visions in the bible. Abram had a vision;

Genesis 12:1-3

¹ Now the LORD had said to Abram:

*"Get out of your country,
From your family
And from your father's house,
To a land that I will show you.*

² I will make you a great nation;

*I will bless you
And make your name great;
And you shall be a blessing.*

³ I will bless those who bless you,

*And I will curse him who curses you;
And in you all the families of the earth shall be
blessed." NKJV*

On the other hand, Lot also had a vision;

Genesis 13:10-11

¹⁰ And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. ¹¹ Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. NKJV

I believe that when God speaks to us about our future, He is stirring up the Vision already in us. Opticians will tell you that if you have perfect vision (eyesight), like an ideal baby, you are classified as having 20/20 vision.

Looking at the story of Abram and Lot, God gave a vision to Abram which defined the course of his life that we know about him. Lot, on the other hand, also had his own vision of a land that he wanted to settle in. He was looking for a place that was well watered everywhere and as beautiful as the Garden of Eden. These were two men with two great visions, both of which were 20/20!

How do two people walking the same road end up in two different places? How does one end up dwelling in

Canaan, the land that flows with milk and honey and the other in Sodom, a city that is exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord? Where did it all go wrong?

I believe that the problem was at the beginning of the journey, in Haran. I believe that when Abram wrote down the vision and Lot read it, he decided to run with Abram without counting the cost or the implications of going with him. He forgot or probably was ignorant of the “U”-factor! He did not understand his position in the big picture.

Whenever you choose to run with someone’s vision, it becomes the big picture and there are principles that must be obeyed so as to ensure that both of you enjoy the journey, have mutual maximum success and reach your place of rest.

The first edition of your vision is always the 20/20, i.e. the perfect, sharpest and clearest sight. The fact that it exists within your spirit no matter how impossible it may seem is God’s guarantee that it can be done and that you (and none other) are the one that Heaven is counting on to do it.

Sometimes the circumstances that surround us seem

to cloud our vision so much that as time passes by; we begin to edit it to suit our limitations. That is why a lot of little children may say that they want to be astronauts owning a spaceship and a chain of hotels on the moon when they grow up but by the time they become adults, circumstances have battered their visions so much that they are willing to settle for a bicycle and a one roomed apartment in a slum!

The best way to hold on to the 20/20 of your vision is to write it down.

Habakkuk 2:2-3

² Then the LORD answered me and said:

“ Write the vision

And make it plain on tablets,

That he may run who reads it.

³ For the vision is yet for an appointed time;

But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie.

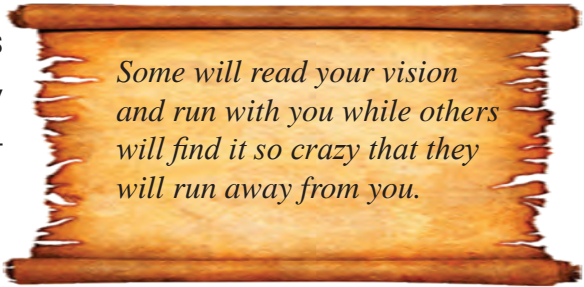
Though it tarries, wait for it;

Because it will surely come,

It will not tarry. NKJV

Write down your vision plainly without editing it to fit your current limitations in other words use permanent inscriptions so that not even you can return to edit it when the circumstances of life try to convince you that it is not possible.

Habakkuk 2:2 says
“..... That he may
run who reads it
.....”



*Some will read your vision
and run with you while others
will find it so crazy that they
will run away from you.*

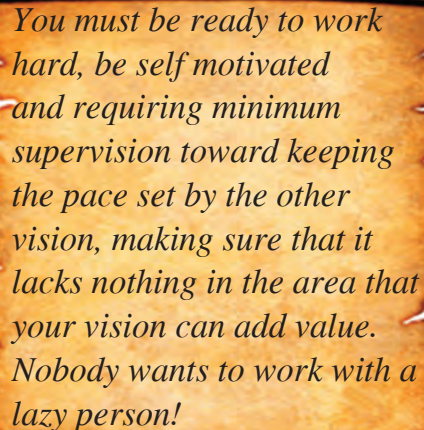
This verse suggests that the readers of your vision fall in two categories; those that run with you and those that run away from you. Some will read your vision and run with you while others will find it so crazy that they will run away from you.

It is important to know that because your 20/20 was placed inside you by God, you are on no one's time table but God himself. Do not let anything convince you that you are moving too slow as compared to another. God is not comparing you with another so why should you? Let God dictate your speed with instructions as He orders your steps.

PRINCIPLES TO FOLLOW WHEN YOU CHOOSE TO RUN WITH SOMEONE'S VISION

Mathew 11:28 - 30

²⁸ *“Come to Me all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”* NKJV



You must be ready to work hard, be self motivated and requiring minimum supervision toward keeping the pace set by the other vision, making sure that it lacks nothing in the area that your vision can add value. Nobody wants to work with a lazy person!

In this scripture, Jesus was setting the principle for the “U”-factor for how people with different 20/20 visions can co-exist for their common good.

The preliminary requirements are as follows;

1. You must be a hard worker [*“Come to Me all you who labour”*]

You must be ready to work hard, be self motivated and require minimum supervision toward keeping the pace set by the other vision, making sure that it lacks nothing in the area that your vision can add value.

Nobody wants to work with a lazy person!

2. You must realise that you need help in order to maximise your potential

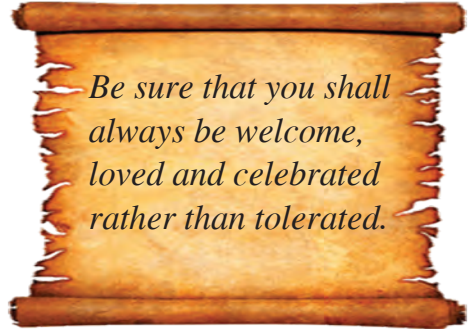
[" and are heavy laden"]

Those that satisfy these preliminary requirements must take time (as long as it takes) to study the vision of the other entity that they feel may help maximise their potential.

The other vision (entity) should bear the following qualities;

1. It must be willing to listen to, encourage and celebrate your contribution *[..... gentle and lowly in heart]*

Be sure that you shall always be welcome, loved and celebrated rather than tolerated.



2. What the other vision demands of you must leave you comfortable and happy doing what your vision can do best in this relationship. [*.... For my yoke is easy and my burden light*]

Finally, be sure that;

1. You have something you can learn from the other vision
2. You are willing to learn from the other vision [*.... Take my yoke upon you and learn of me*]

Lot's first problem was that he registered or signed up to be yoked to Abram's vision but was not ready to learn from Abram.

I remember when I was studying to become an Engineer, there were subjects that I thought were not necessary for my career, and these were not my favourite subjects. I wondered why I was being subjected to lessons I felt were not applicable to engineering and most of the times I did not get an explanation. I could not see how the pieces would one day fall in place but my teacher did. I have since come to find out that all knowledge comes in handy toward making the presentations I make to my clients valuable and complete. I had to accept the teachers' yoke of arts subjects [*....Take my yoke upon you*] and

let my teacher lead. [*.....learn from me*].

Your team leader does not owe you an explanation for each and every instruction given to you so do not expect this to happen all the time even if you take the trouble to ask. Sometimes you need to trust them to lead you and soon you will get to where you wanted to go. Unless there is agreement between two people, they cannot move together or make meaningful progress on anything.

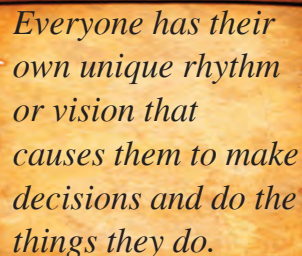
The bible says;

Luke 11:17

17 But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against a house falls. NKJV

1 Corinthians 1:10

10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined

A scroll with a textured, aged appearance, featuring a dark brown border and a lighter, yellowish-brown center. The text is written in a cursive, italicized font.

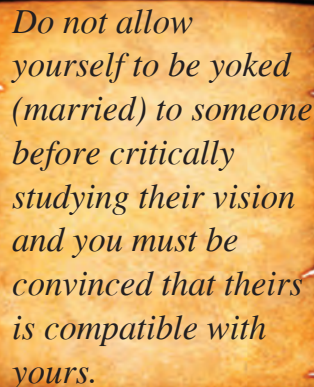
Everyone has their own unique rhythm or vision that causes them to make decisions and do the things they do.

together in the same mind and in the same judgment.
NKJV

Picture the “Three legged” Race in which each team has two people with the left leg of one bound to the right leg of the other. Unless the team players agree to run with the same rhythm, it is almost certain that they will not finish the race without falling over.

Everyone has their own unique rhythm or vision that causes them to make decisions and do the things they do.

In the three-legged race, it is very dangerous to “yoke” yourself with someone that cannot meet your rhythm; in other words with whom you were not perfectly joined together in the same mind and judgement. For example, the first thing on the checklist for compatibility for a three legged race is that you and your partner have to be nearly or exactly the same height.

A scroll with a brown, aged appearance and frayed edges, containing text in a cursive font.

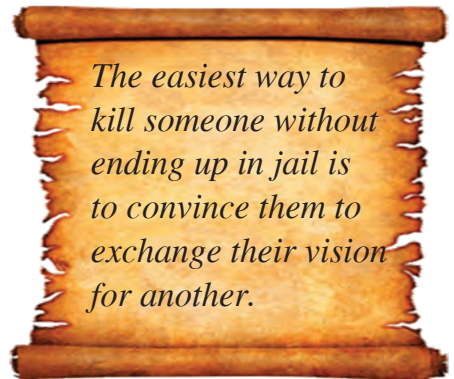
*Do not allow
yourself to be yoked
(married) to someone
before critically
studying their vision
and you must be
convinced that theirs
is compatible with
yours.*

The second prerequisite is that even though on a normal day, one racer walks faster than the other, it is imperative that the two of them agree on a pace or rhythm that would ensure their victory. Whichever way it went, one would have to submit their vision for speed and rhythm to the other so as to pace themselves properly lest they stumble and fall.

This applies also to other relationships and here is a Tip for all single people: Do not allow yourself to be yoked (married) to someone before critically studying their vision and you must be convinced that theirs is compatible with yours. Please note that Compatible is NOT Identical!

Ephesians 5:22

“Wives submit to your own husbands as to the Lord”




Ephesians 5: 25

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her”] NKJV

One of the greatest causes of misunderstanding and sadly

divorce in marriages is rooted in competition between two visions, the husband's vision on one hand and the wife's vision on the other. As we have seen earlier on, there is nothing wrong with either one having a vision; the problem is that owing to the inevitable God given unique nature of their visions, there are bound to be differences. On the onset their visions had a common purpose for example to have a wedding; however with time as they start to realise differences in their visions there will be no peace in the home unless both parties agree to prioritise one vision over the other.

The challenge that a lot of folks face is that when they get into a relationship, one tries to change the other's vision into what they think is ideal. This is the same thing

A scroll with a quote. The scroll is unrolled, showing a piece of aged, yellowish-brown parchment with frayed edges. The text is written in a black, serif font.

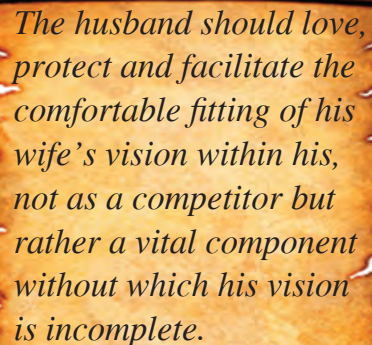
A wife should therefore use her vision to complement and make the vision of her husband complete rather than push her own agenda.

as taking away your partner's reason for living and is as a slow acting poison. In order to save your relationship, do not do it! Your partner will put up a fight for their life (vision) as one being suffocated. The easiest way to kill someone without ending up in jail is to

convince them to exchange their vision for another.

In order for a relationship to thrive, one's vision ought to be comfortably accommodated. It is important that for the sake of your happiness (as well as others) that you only establish relationships with those whose vision is compatible with yours. Only such relationships will be beneficial to all parties.

The moment you join the ministry team in your church the relationship between the vision of your church or team and your vision is similar to that between a husband and a wife. God's way of handling visions in a home is that wives should submit their vision to their husbands. Submission implies that wives should set their husbands vision as first priority over theirs. A wife should therefore use her vision to complement and make the vision of her husband complete rather than push her own agenda.



The husband should love, protect and facilitate the comfortable fitting of his wife's vision within his, not as a competitor but rather a vital component without which his vision is incomplete.

The Husband on the other hand, who is the custodian of the vision for the family, must love his wife as Christ loved

the church. How does Christ love the church?

[John 3: 16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life."] New KJV

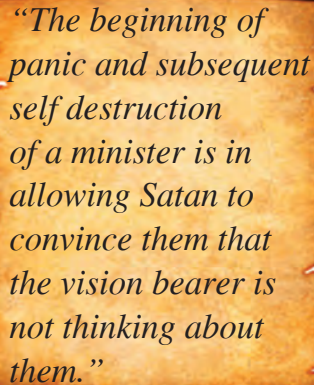
In addition to living forever in heaven, everlasting life [a life that lasts forever] is that of someone that leaves a positive visible mark that Heaven and Earth from generation to generation testifies saying, "he or she was created (envisioned) by God for a unique purpose, he or she was faithful and it was well done, lives have been changed for the glory of God."

There is no life lived more abundantly than one whose vision is fulfilled.

Jesus loved the church (the bride) so much that he was willing to die so that the bride's visionabundant life shall be fulfilled. Notice that God's vision for man's redemption was the key that would unlock the potential for abundant life a vision fulfilled for the bride. The husband should love, protect and facilitate the comfortable fitting of his wife's vision within his, not as a competitor but rather a vital component without which his vision is incomplete.

Ephesians 5: 28 (paraphrased from NKJV)

“So husbands ought to love their own wives (i.e. whatever defines who she is her vision) as their own bodies (i.e. whatever defines who he is his own vision); he who loves his wife loves himself] NKJV



“The beginning of panic and subsequent self destruction of a minister is in allowing Satan to convince them that the vision bearer is not thinking about them.”

My Man of God once said, “The beginning of panic and subsequent self


destruction of a minister is in allowing Satan to convince them that the vision bearer is not thinking about them.”

Through 20 years in ministry, I have found this to be absolutely true!

In the relationship between Abram and Lot, the “U”-factor was ignored.

When God was re-emphasising this vision to Abram, He was speaking to him alone. Only Abram had

a revelation from God of what the Promised Land looks



Just as the Husband is the custodian of the vision for the family, God chose your “Man of God” and placed within them the vision for the church.

like. Abram was the vision bearer on this journey of faith. No one else was obliged to follow him without counting the cost. Lot on the other hand simply got up and left to go with Abram.

If Lot had considered the “U” Factor two things would have happened; Either, he would have bid Abram farewell and waited on God to show him when to start on his own journey, who to involve and where to go in order to fulfil his vision. Or, he would have run with Abram accepting and following his lead until they both reached and settled in Canaan where, if he had been a little more patient, he would have realised that there was enough space and resources for both of them. Actually, Canaan did have more or less everything that Lot had in his vision.

Now, let’s bring this into the context of the church and team where you are. Everything that you can visibly see about your church is a manifestation of the vision that God gave to your “Man of God”.

Just as the husband is the custodian of the vision for the family, God chose your “Man of God” and placed within them the vision for the church.

However, the number of visions in your church on any day is equal to the number of heads that are on the church premises! The only thing that prevents the church service from turning into a local market scenario is that the purposes for our visions are coincident for the duration of the service. For the duration of the service or mass, the entire congregation put their visions under submission to the pastor.

Quite often, I have seen people in the Music ministry that get their priorities mixed up. As mentioned before, there is nothing wrong with having a vision. However, I have met ministers like Dodo (not real name) who joined the church and felt that God was leading him to start a band for evangelism and missions. He looked at the church structure and located the music ministry as the best place that his vision would be served. Based on this pre-supposition, Dodo joined the church choir or band. He was a good singer and soon had several fans and a following in the band. For a while things went in accordance with his vision. He had missions nearly every week and he had ready access to the church equipment and band members.

However, one day, the vision bearer for the church (who is the senior pastor) declared an indefinite period

of prayer and fasting and waiting upon God as well as a suspension of all missions. All ministers were required to come to church every evening to seek God for a fresh anointing and direction.

This new instruction did not go down well with Dodo's vision's momentum. He complied for the first week thinking that this instruction was only for a little while. However, one week turned into a month and a month into two months. He got restless and approached the vision bearer, presenting several letters of invitation for missions and a request to take the band as usual. The Pastor said, "No Dodo, God specifically instructed us to wait on him. So nobody goes anywhere until God says so."

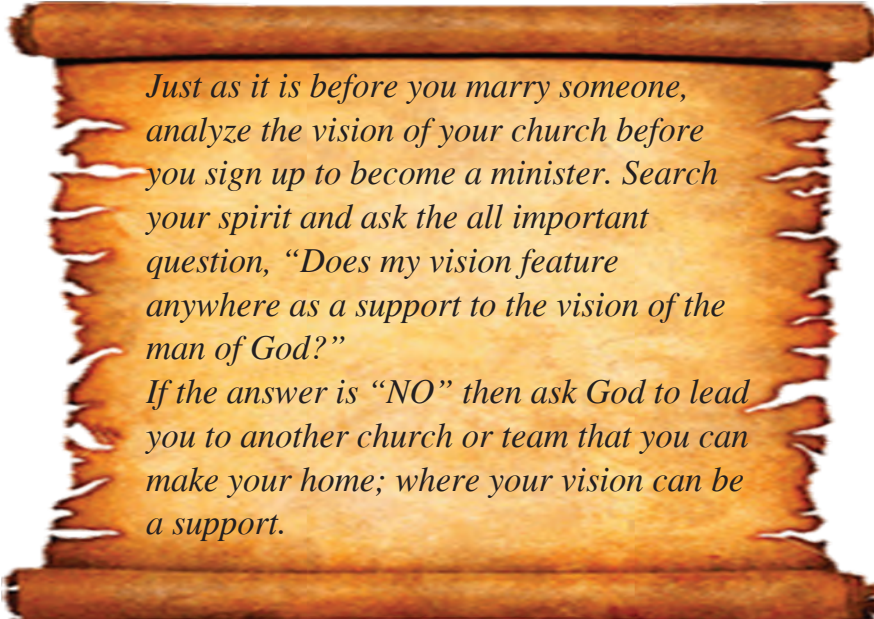
Soon, Dodo decided to find a way around this. He convinced some of his band members and a few vocalists to sneak away for a mission upcountry where it was likely that pastor would never know.

Lo and behold the mission was a success!

In fact there were plenty of testimonies of healing. This gave Dodo false confidence that his act had God's seal of approval on it so he carried on with more of such rendez vous, little did he know that he had sown seeds of disobedience in his life

as well as that of others. Soon, this began to manifest into uncensored acts of insubordination in the music ministry.

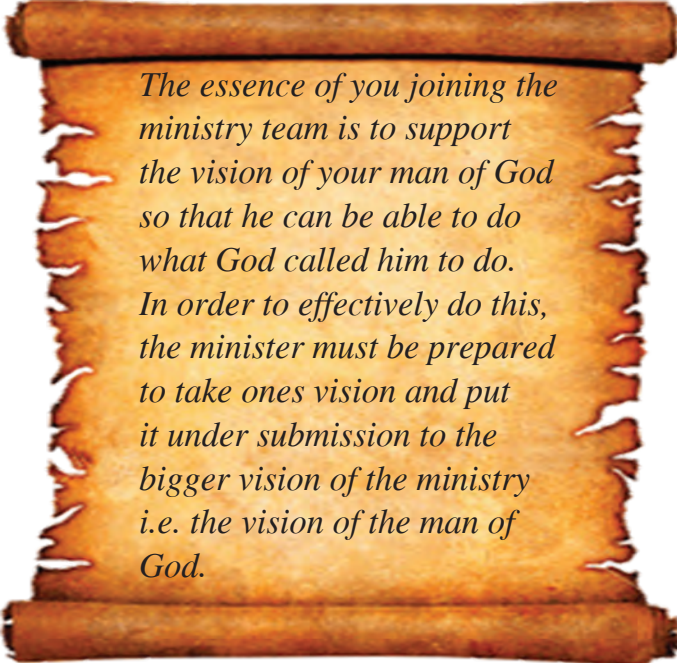
Dodo was rebuked for his acts and further attempts by him to distract others from focusing on the vision of the church were blocked not just by the senior pastor but more so other ministers that understood the gist of the U-factor.

A scroll with a textured, aged appearance, featuring a central rectangular area with a lighter, parchment-like color and a darker, brown border. The text is written in a cursive, italicized font.

Just as it is before you marry someone, analyze the vision of your church before you sign up to become a minister. Search your spirit and ask the all important question, “Does my vision feature anywhere as a support to the vision of the man of God?”

If the answer is “NO” then ask God to lead you to another church or team that you can make your home; where your vision can be a support.

Unfortunately, Dodo did not take the rebuke in good faith but instead interpreted it with expressions such as, “this church has no love..... they don’t need me here anymore They don’t recognise my anointing” He then

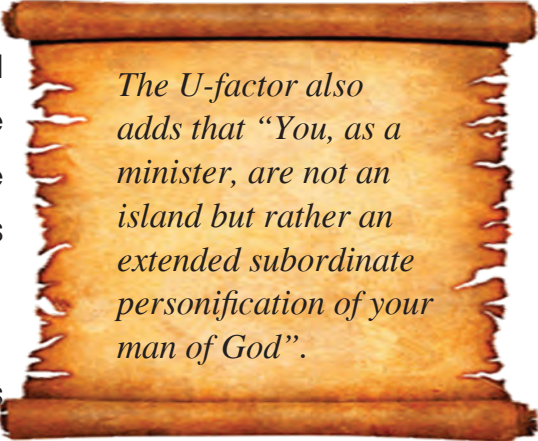


The essence of you joining the ministry team is to support the vision of your man of God so that he can be able to do what God called him to do. In order to effectively do this, the minister must be prepared to take ones vision and put it under submission to the bigger vision of the ministry i.e. the vision of the man of God.

left the church for another.

No sooner had he left than revival broke out. The church he left is now doing bigger missions than before Which is what Dodo had always wanted to do within his

vision and Dodo, had he stayed, would have been right in the middle of it and this had always been within his vision!



The U-factor also adds that “You, as a minister, are not an island but rather an extended subordinate personification of your man of God”.

I know elements of this story are familiar to many of you. Probably you know of a couple of “Dodos” somewhere.

Just as it is before you marry someone, analyze the vision

of your church before you sign up to become a minister. Search your spirit and ask the all important question, "Does my vision feature anywhere as a support to the vision of the man of God?"

If the answer is "NO" then ask God to lead you to another church or team that you can make your home; where your vision can be a support.

This is very critical especially if you are considering signing up as a minister in a church.

The essence of you joining the ministry team is to support the vision of your man of God so that he can be able to do what God called him to do. In order to effectively do this, the minister must be prepared to take ones vision and put it under submission to the bigger vision of the ministry i.e. the vision of the man of God.

I reiterate if you are not ready to do this, you will be a miserable "Dodo" as a minister!

The U-factor also adds that "You, as a minister, are not an island but rather an extended subordinate personification of your man of God".

St Paul put it very well when he wrote "... Imitate me as I imitate Christ ..."

1 Corinthians 11: 1, Think of it this way. Picture the battle

between Israel and Amalek, where Moses climbed to the top of the hill with the rod of God in his hand. He raised his hands to heaven while the children of Israel fought in the valley.

Exodus 17: 10 – 13

“ So Joshua did as Moses said to him and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And so it was that when Moses held up his

It may have been God's instruction to Moses but he needed Aaron's support to fulfil it.

Well, if you are looking for a Moses at your church, look no further. It is the senior pastor, the vision bearer. Your role is identical with Aaron and Hur. If you feel that you should be Moses, don't start a coup de tat where you are lest you be swallowed by the earth along with those that join your conspiracy go and start your own ministry!

You do not need to steal from another to make your beginning, God is the Alpha. If it is within God's will, He will bless your mission every step of the way to the end because God is also the Omega.

hand, that Israel prevailed. But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.] NKJV

For a man Abram's age, climbing up a mountain is a tall order let alone lifting up his hands all day while a war is going on below. As long as Moses' hands were lifted up, the children of Israel prevailed. On the other hand, whenever his arms grew weary and began to go low, the tide of the battle would turn. Aaron and Hur, on seeing this, went and sat with Moses supporting his arms until the battle was won.

It may have been God's instruction to Moses but he needed Aaron's support to fulfil it.

Well, if you are looking for a Moses at your church, look no further. It is the senior pastor, the vision bearer. Your role is identical with Aaron and Hur. It may have been God's instruction to Moses but he needed Aaron's support to fulfil it.

If you feel that you should be Moses, don't start a coup de tat where you are lest you be swallowed by the earth along with those that join your conspiracy go and start your own ministry!

You do not need to steal from another to make your beginning, God is the Alpha. If it is within God's will, He will bless your mission every step of the way to the end because God is also the Omega.

When I understood my position in the big picture, I saw myself as value-added and I found that by shifting into the big picture, my life had more meaning. I stopped running and concentrated on being the best component in the big picture that I could be. The church I belong to is about ministering love in a hurting world and making people's lives better. That is the big picture, so i was purposed to play my part to see it through.

The question, I most frequently get from people when I share about the U – factor is, “If my focus is on the vision of my Man of God, when will I ever see my personal God given vision begin to unfold?”

This can best be dealt with in the next principle, the “S” – factor.


CHAPTER 3



The “S” – Factor: Stay/ Stand

Like I mentioned in Chapter 1, God deals with times and seasons in accordance with principles encoded within His word. He does not delight in re-inventing the wheel and we learn from the scriptures that His intention is that the latter shall be greater than the former.

Every vision needs an incubator, brooder or a mother bird's covering within which it can take time to grow wings strong enough to carry you when you begin to fly.

A scroll with a textured, aged appearance, featuring a central rectangular area with a lighter, yellowish-brown color and darker, brownish edges. The text is written in a cursive, italicized font.

Every vision needs an incubator, brooder or a mother bird's covering within which it can take time to grow wings strong enough to carry you when you begin to fly.

One may ask the question, "But how long before I can fly on my own?"

This depends on the kind of bird you were designed by God to be and how high you were meant to soar. If you are an eaglet, do not expect to spread your wings and fly before a duckling does! Simply allow God's natural process to decide the timing of your flight. When the right time comes, it will be obvious to all.

There is a time for everything And that refers to you as an individual rather than a group.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven."] NKJV

There is a time for everything (every purpose under heaven) that you live for. In other words, there is a time for every part of your vision. Wait patiently and endure the passing of time because the set time shall surely come and the results will be beautiful to behold.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

"He has made everything beautiful in its time."] NKJV

When you look at an eagle and a duck, you discover that they are both equally content being just that. The eagle proudly soars and hunts while the duck with an equal sense of pride waddles around and swims! Believe me, one would always be miserable trying to be like the other.

The mere fact that you are taking the time to read this book is enough evidence that you not only passionately desire to live out the uniqueness of your vision but also to produce a heritage of excellence that you and

generations to come will look back to and rejoice.

Ecclesiastes 3:22

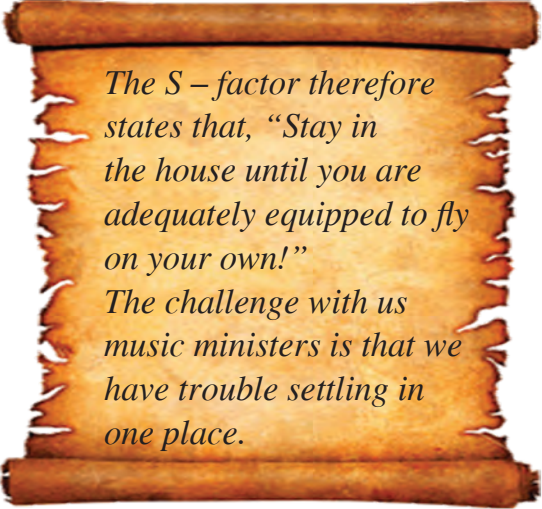
“So I perceived that nothing is better than that a man should rejoice in his own works, for that is his heritage.”] NKJV

A heritage of excellence is born out of a journey of consistent excellence.

If you would need to prepare adequately for a journey that may only last a few hours, you need to be equipped much more for this journey that will last you a life time.

The S – factor therefore states that, “Stay in the house until you are adequately equipped to fly on your own!”

The challenge with us music ministers is that we have trouble settling in one place. We have a peculiar passion for motion. In fact I dare say we are the only ones immune to motion sickness! I have found that we are very easily distracted by money,



The S – factor therefore states that, “Stay in the house until you are adequately equipped to fly on your own!”

The challenge with us music ministers is that we have trouble settling in one place.

the thrill of travel, to make performance, etc. Our eyes are constantly on the lookout for these things and whoever offers what on the surface seems to be the best deal, we eagerly agree.

Over the years I have noticed that **the more talented the minister, the more easily distracted.**

Sadly, our discernment is more often than not very low such that we end up cheated, disappointed and frustrated by those we thought were looking out for us. We have an innocence and naivety about us that comes along with our God given talent that at the same time makes us vulnerable to those that seek to first of all take advantage of what God has given us and dump us immediately after we have fulfilled their purpose, and without receiving what was promised.

We seem to have a lot of difficulty with sustaining a strong prayer life, a consistent bible study lifestyle, carrying a bible to church let alone owning one, staying in church throughout the service, submitting to authority and listening to instructions!

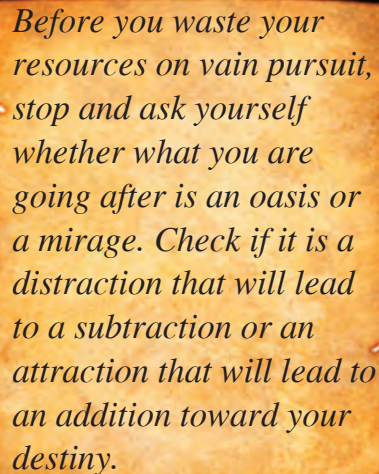
For example in a typical church service, as soon as the music stops, “some inexplicable craving” takes a hold of

us and we pick up our bags and leave to go and on following us up, you find us outside gossiping, taking tea, reading newspapers, etc! This is a spirit from hell assigned to each and every music minister!

By the time they return to the service (if at all), they have missed out on a crucial word that would have refreshed and adequately equipped them to withstand the season they are entering! No wonder a lot of ministers' spiritual growth and maturity is very slow and stunted!

I struggled with this problem until the Holy Spirit revealed to me that it actually had no power over me. All it was doing was to flash a beautiful mirage to distract me as well as others from where the real pool of life giving water was. All

I had to do was to ask God for a spirit of discernment to know the difference. Around me there were a number of people telling me how good I was and how I could make it big in countries



Before you waste your resources on vain pursuit, stop and ask yourself whether what you are going after is an oasis or a mirage. Check if it is a distraction that will lead to a subtraction or an attraction that will lead to an addition toward your destiny.

abroad. I would look at the place where I was and see how poorly we were doing with poor equipment in a small wooden building and different people from all walks of life and it seemed as though they were right.

Before you waste your resources on vain pursuit, stop and ask yourself whether what you are going after is an oasis or a mirage. Check if it is a distraction that will lead to a subtraction or an attraction that will lead to an addition toward your destiny.

Over and over again, I have seen extremely talented music ministers that have responded to the mirage that beckons them to leave the “brooder” when they have barely been grounded in ministry. They take off at the first scent of an opportunity to be rich and famous only to return a while later with the stench of being poor and infamous.

The mirage in the desert always beckons the “pilgrim” with words such as;

“Hey! That was a powerful song. It would sound better over here than over there. How much are you being paid where you are? If you came here, I would give you

exposure and publicity. That’s what you are lacking. I can give it to you plus fame, money, a great house, an expensive car and all you desire.”

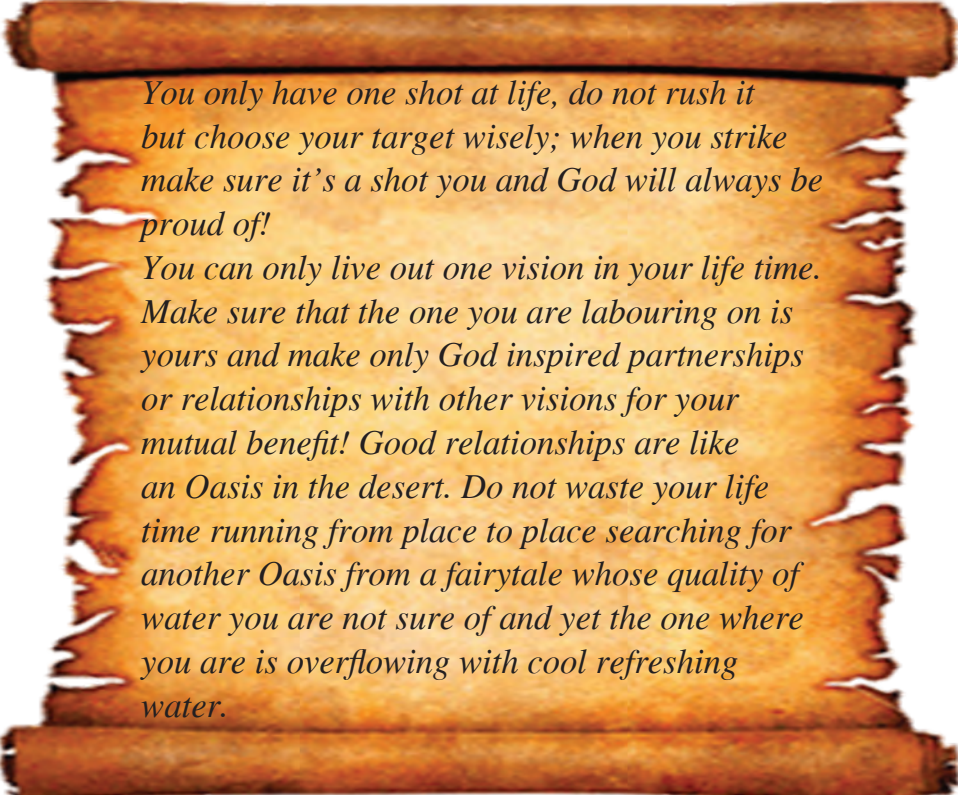
Does this sound familiar? There are two things that kept me going, my love for Christ and knowing that many people were depending on me. You might reach a point when the big picture is blurred but you choose to hold on to the faith as David did. David encouraged himself in the Lord when they were raided by the Philistines.

Just like the average guy interested in a lady uses “pick up” lines to break the ice, these lines are like a broken record that gets repeated over and over again. The majority of music ministers have heard one or all of these “pick up” lines before and sadly many fall for them.

This is the same “pick up” line that Satan used on Jesus after forty days of fasting in the desert.

Matthew 4: 8-9

“Again, the devil took him to an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, “All these things I will give you if you will fall down and worship me.”] NKJV



You only have one shot at life, do not rush it but choose your target wisely; when you strike make sure it's a shot you and God will always be proud of!

You can only live out one vision in your life time. Make sure that the one you are labouring on is yours and make only God inspired partnerships or relationships with other visions for your mutual benefit! Good relationships are like an Oasis in the desert. Do not waste your life time running from place to place searching for another Oasis from a fairytale whose quality of water you are not sure of and yet the one where you are is overflowing with cool refreshing water.

So as you make the life changing decision whether or not to pursue something that is beckoning, listen to me beloved;

You only have one shot at life, do not rush it but choose your target wisely; when you strike make sure it's a shot you and God will always be proud of!

You can only live out one vision in your life time. Make sure that the one you are labouring on is yours and make only God inspired partnerships or relationships with other

visions for your mutual benefit! Good relationships are like an Oasis in the desert. Do not waste your life time running from place to place searching for another Oasis from a fairytale whose quality of water you are not sure of and yet the one where you are is overflowing with cool refreshing water.

No matter how dry a desert may seem there is always an oasis somewhere. If God has planted you in a ministry or a team, that is your Oasis. Even when you see what appears to be better prospects at another oasis. Do not rush to pursue it. All you need to do is pace yourself and follow your tracker who is your Man of God in the ministry where you have been planted.

If it is worth it, you will soon get there together with a lot of invaluable life lessons guided by your man of God on how to find an oasis on your own. In Mathew Chapter 4, Jesus' tracker was the word of God by the Holy Spirit.

My friend, please do not respond to the beckoning of a mirage. The major characteristic of a mirage is that it changes its position every time you approach it. When you get to where it was, surprise, surprise, it is gone!!!

One of the indicators that you are beginning to follow a mirage is that you stop listening to your tracker's instruction and guidance. Secondly, you never stop to ask your tracker whether what you are being shown is an oasis or a mirage. Before you know it, you have run so far out for something that seemed so near and yet you have not yet even touched the water that was meant to quench your thirst.

The conjurer of the mirage will never be comfortable with you taking time to check its authenticity with your tracker. So, my dear friend, if someone flashes a "better deal" before you, dare him to run it by your "Man of God". If they do not have the guts to do it, respectfully decline and run for dear life, it is a mirage!

Secondly, if he or she does and your tracker or man of God says "No!", then please respectfully decline. If he or she gives the slightest indication that they hold your man of God with contempt or disrespect, do not even waste time giving them audience because sooner or later they will treat you one thousand times worse.

The S – factor applies for ministers regardless of the "measure of anointing" you have.

Jesus' desert experience in Mathew chapter 4 was preceded by the spirit of God descending on him like a dove and God's own testimony that Jesus was His son that He loves and in whom he is well pleased.

Mathew 3:16-17

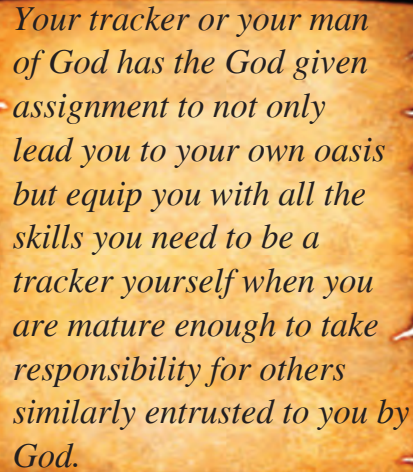
"When he had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."] NKJV

Just like it was with Jesus, so often after such experiences, I have heard voices both physical and otherwise thrown in my direction lifting me up to the highest point and offering me a "better deal" on how to better maximise the intensity of God's anointing upon my life. I have disciplined myself to use the check points above to determine whether I am dealing with a mirage or an oasis and therefore whether I ought to take up the offer or not.

The problem is not in being lifted to the highest point because I believe it is God's will for us to excel in what he has called us to do. Personally, I desire to be the best

music minister that God has ever had and I recommend this attitude for your life as well. I believe that is why Jesus never rebuked Satan for taking him to the highest point in Mathew Chapter 4:1 – 11.

The issue was that Satan was trying to offer Jesus a short cut, a mirage to what was supposed to be his anyway but was to come at a later time within his calling.



Your tracker or your man of God has the God given assignment to not only lead you to your own oasis but equip you with all the skills you need to be a tracker yourself when you are mature enough to take responsibility for others similarly entrusted to you by God.

Please note that this was actually the first challenge that Jesus had to overcome at the Genesis of his ministry. The next chapters in his ministry depended on whether he ignored his tracker (the word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit) or followed the mirage.

Beloved, I submit to you that your tracker or your man of God has the God given assignment to not only lead you to your own oasis but equip you with all the skills you

need to be a tracker yourself when you are mature enough to take responsibility for others similarly entrusted to you by God.

Therefore, the Man of God's relentless "zero tolerance to mediocrity" towards you, frequent rebuke and apparent over-protectiveness are not in an effort to keep you in church never to "move ahead" and spread your wings. All of this is to make sure that like a parent on the child's graduation day, the Man of God can proudly hand you back into God's hand as an assignment excellently completed; a vessel fully equipped and ready to be commissioned by God to independently handle the responsibility in the field for the harvest of souls.

If Jesus had followed the mirage, that would have been the end of the new testament...and of us!!!

Given a good measure of rain in a season, today's apparent location of a mirage could well be tomorrow's oasis.

Do not rush to pursue it; stay where you are, watch and pray; time will reveal the authenticity of what is before you. If it is your portion, it will come to you sooner or later.

The S - factor recommends that regardless of how long and

Given a good measure of rain in a season, today's apparent location of a mirage could well be tomorrow's oasis.

Do not rush to pursue it; stay where you are, watch and pray; time will reveal the authenticity of what is before you. If it is your portion, it will come to you sooner or later.

tough your path of training may be, hang in there and respond positively to your tracker and before you know it, you will get to where you always wanted to go.

If you stay in the house and help to water the Man of God's dreams and vision, I guarantee

that your dreams and vision will be watered as well.

Because I refused to be distracted, and I purposed to stay and serve faithfully to water the vision of my

Man of God, I have stood on the same pulpit and rubbed shoulders with men of God that I only dreamed I could. I have also been honoured to lead the dynamic music ministry in my church comprising of some of the most talented music

If you stay in the house and help to water the Man of God's dreams and vision, I guarantee that your dreams and vision will be watered as well.

ministers in my country for fifteen years. The Music Ministry has five teams with the smallest comprising of minimum 30 members and the largest about 100 members. Furthermore, because I stayed, I have led worship with choirs of up to 4,000 voices! I am almost certain that this is the largest choir that has ever been put together in my country.

This had always been my dream and a part of my vision. Now I know how it is done and heaven knows that I can be trusted to handle the task with excellence without any anxiety.

Pastor Benny Hinn came to Uganda for a miracle crusade at Namboole. He came along with his entire team together with the amazing musicians we only used to see on television. Also on his team were Ron Kenoly and one of the lead singers from Avalon. I can never forget the day of the crusade when Pastor Benny Hinn requested for a song in a local language at the Namboole Crusade. He called it a song in “Lugandan”. I thought that very funny since there is no such Language. I reckon he was using the analogy “The people from France speak French so the people from Uganda must speak Lugandan”.

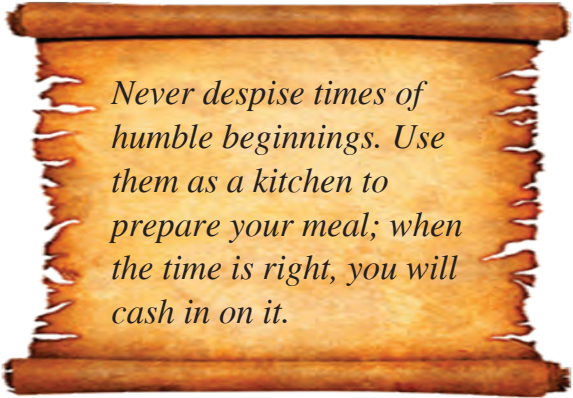
Anyway, the multitudes that had gathered for the

Crusade asked for a song by George Okudi, who is a famous Ugandan praise leader, called “Wipolo”. Pastor Benny insisted that the song be sang without instruments and without a song leader. It did not work! The result was chaotic!

Someone explained to him that in Uganda, our songs are “song leader – Congregation response” oriented and that it would not work otherwise. He accepted and called for a song leader. I happened to have led the song with the amazing 4,000 voice background choir during the praise session before he came. I was immediately pushed forward and before I knew it, there I was standing right in front of Pastor Benny and a cordless microphone thrust into my hand and nearly 50,000 people packed out in the stadium plus the men of God on the pulpit plus over 8 million people on television and internet audience all over the world by satellite plus Pastor Benny Hinn focusing their attention on me!

Oh dear me I was expected to pick a comfortable key for all (without reference from the piano), and to lead the song without instruments except the clapping of hands!

Everything happened so fast that I thought I was dreaming! A good dream though. I suddenly remembered the times that My Man of God had consistently picked on me to lead songs of praise and worship for hours in the church overnights and services long time ago when we did not have a sound system or the electricity was off and there was no generator. All we had then were traditional drums and tins with pebbles in them that we used as rattles and the clapping of hands. Still way back then, God had proved himself faithful and always showed up to inhabit our praises. Often in those seasons, my voice went hoarse and I asked my Man of God for a break but he kept on pushing me and insisting that I stay and handle all the services.



Never despise times of humble beginnings. Use them as a kitchen to prepare your meal; when the time is right, you will cash in on it.

Never despise times of humble beginnings. Use them as a kitchen to prepare your meal; when the time is right, you will cash in on it.

It was rough and tough training and I often heard my flesh say “he is being too hard on you. Give up and go

somewhere else!” However, I had made up my mind to stay and run my race. Suddenly, I felt that old fire of the Praise and Worship warrior from the “kibaawo” (the old wood and papyrus miracle centre church) rise up inside of me!

Everyone and everything became blurred! I began to sing and dance without a care in the world just like we used to do when we had nothing but dust on the floor and no public address system to write home about. I simply forgot about who was watching and I led the way to the inner court as I had always done. The glory of God filled the stadium. The atmosphere was simply electric. All of this, with just the assistance of the PA system and microphones and the clapping of hands no keyboard, no guitars, no drums!

When I ended the song, the atmosphere of praise and the faith level of the crowd was so intense that you could almost touch it. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw my Man of God jumping up and down, clapping his hands, rejoicing like a father proudly cheering after his kid’s name is read among those that excelled on graduation day!

Pastor Benny had absolutely enjoyed this intense moment of praise. He was clapping his hands with the rest of

congregation and then I gave him back the microphone and we shook hands!

It felt as though God was saying, “Well done good and faithful servant” That was a turning point in my life. Later on as I lay on my bed and reminisced on the occurrences of that glorious night, it occurred to me that the reason as to why I was on the pulpit on that day is because I had stayed i.e. maintained my address and watered the dreams and vision of my Man of God while others left. It could have been someone else!

That clip of the “Wipolo” praise played on the Benny Hinn program and website viewed by millions of people worldwide for months long

after the crusade had ended. My previously little known face was suddenly known all over the world. The exposure and open doors that had always only been a part of my dreams and vision were made manifest through that experience.

When you choose to stay, you can achieve more in one



day that is within your vision in one place than you would have in years of labour in different places.

All of these things were already inscribed within my vision but I saw them unfold right before me because I chose to stay connected to my Man of God.

I remember going to London nearly a year later and a little girl that I had never met before walked up to me. She pointed her little finger up at my face and said "Hello, I know you!" She said, "Where from?" I asked . "You are the Worship leader for the Benny Hinn Crusade in Uganda!" She replied before running off to play. I was totally astounded.

Two years later, Ron Kenoly came to our church to minister. Right in the middle of his concert, he ended the song and began to give away some free CDs. He said, "I want to give away this last CD to the tall skinny guy back there!" I turned around to see who he was talking about. He was pointing at me! He Said, "Yes you. I remember you from the Benny Hinn crusade. I could never forget you!" I was totally amazed.

Benny Hinn returned to my country once again, I was trusted to put together a choir and this time the band as well for the Praise and worship. When the Benny Hinn

team finally arrived in Uganda, they were looking for the “Wipolo” song leader and were thrilled to find me.

I was still serving at the same address where I was at the last crusade i.e. still watering the dreams and vision of my Man of God. They had never forgotten the experience of that night in the stadium either. I led the choir yet again as worship leader for the fire conference in memorable nights of praise and worship. All of these things had always been within my vision.



*It does not make sense
for one to try to break
through a wall and yet
the door has already been
opened!*

*God has opened a door
through your Man of God
for you to quickly enter
your destiny and be the
best minister you can be in
the shortest time possible
..... USE IT!!*

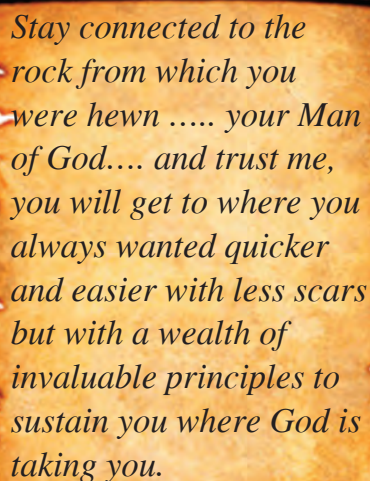
Be faithful in the little and God will be able to trust you with much more!

As a result of the above, I have been entrusted with more responsibility and successfully put together bands and large choirs and led praise and worship for many other great men of God. All of these opportunities to serve God in line with my vision have found me at the address where

I have always been, still watering the dreams and vision of my Man of God.

Beloved, my point in telling you all these testimonies is that if I had not stayed and endured the tough times of my training, God's opportunities to accelerate my placement into my destiny would have passed me by.

It is possible for you to attain within five years what another spent ten years building simply by staying with them to learn and live by the principles that made them who they are. That is the desire of a real father for his children.



Stay connected to the rock from which you were hewn your Man of God.... and trust me, you will get to where you always wanted quicker and easier with less scars but with a wealth of invaluable principles to sustain you where God is taking you.

It does not make sense for one to try to break through a wall and yet the door has already been opened!

God has opened a door through your Man of God for you to quickly enter your destiny and be the best minister you can be in the shortest time possible USE IT!!

If you choose to ignore the door and try to find another

entry, trust me it will take much longer than necessary and will be a painful experience.

Stay connected to the rock from which you were hewn your Man of God.... and trust me, you will get to where you always wanted quicker and easier with less scars but with a wealth of invaluable principles to sustain you where God is taking you.

Isaiah 51:1

*1 "Listen to Me, you who follow after righteousness,
You who seek the LORD:
Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
And to the hole of the pit from which you were dug.*

Isaiah 51:2

*2 Look to Abraham your father,
And to Sarah who bore you;
For I called him alone,
And blessed him and increased him." NKJV*

Even when the time comes for you to leave, do not slam the door, please do it gently and with the blessing of your spiritual father.

No matter how big you grow, you will always need your father.

CHAPTER 4



The I – Factor: “Get Involved”

Everyone desires to do better today than they did yesterday. It is very easy to look at the final product of a beautiful choir singing and assume that the excellence that you see just came overnight. Not at all! Through the past twenty years of ministry, I have learnt that the excellence and cutting edge you see in a minister is a conglomerate of three key principles which I will expound on.

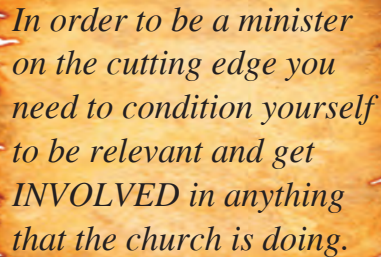
The things that you do are what make you who you are. Ever heard the saying, 'You are what you eat'? There is a lot of truth in that statement. To thrive as a minister, you have got to be humble and willing to get involved.

In my earlier years in the ministry, I thought that joining the music ministry would be all about singing or rehearsal. However, what I thought did not match with what I found. There are times when I thought that on arriving at church, we would simply pick up the microphone and sing, nothing other than that. On the contrary, once in a while we were being given instructions to cook, clean the "Kigo" (church premises) and what we used to call the "Temple" (the inside of the church) and organise the benches and clean the toilets and lead intensive prayer meetings. At first I thought it was peculiar and rather

annoying to do this and then get onto the pulpit and sing thereafter.

However, twenty years down the road I realise that a lot of what I am today is as a result of my determination to get involved in

the filling of any gap that there was at church. I purposed to turn this peculiar “inconvenience” into moments of

A scroll with a quote. The scroll is unrolled, showing a piece of parchment with a quote written in a cursive font. The quote is: "In order to be a minister on the cutting edge you need to condition yourself to be relevant and get INVOLVED in anything that the church is doing." The scroll is framed by a dark brown border.

*In order to be a minister
on the cutting edge you
need to condition yourself
to be relevant and get
INVOLVED in anything
that the church is doing.*

enjoyment. We even began to involve ourselves in ushering, general cleaning, and anything else totally unrelated to music where there was a need, just for the fun of it. It became so much a part of our lives that it became a joy and delight to do anything that involved serving the Lord Jesus. Picking up garbage, carrying equipment, and prayer and seeking God became as much our passion as the music was.

Musicians need to have sufficient consistent rehearsal and to achieve this when we had a two hour rehearsal with the band, I gave my full concentration, I made singing part of my life, writing lyrics and giving them tunes with Solpha notes which I learnt in school. I also had a

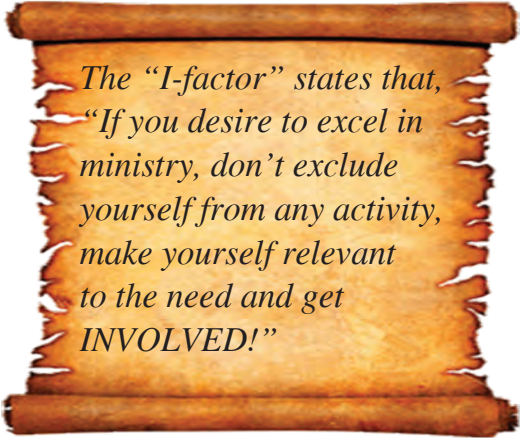
friend with whom we made a game in which we would translate and sing songs in their Solpha notation.

In order to be a minister on the cutting edge you need to condition yourself to be relevant and get INVOLVED in anything that the church is doing.

Wherever you see a gap, do not walk away simply because you are a singer and the gap has nothing to do with music. Do not see a piece of rubbish on the church campus and say,

“Oh! The ushers or the cleaning department will take care of that!” GET INVOLVED and pick it up yourself without expecting a pat on the back thereafter!

The “I-factor” states that, “If you desire to excel in ministry, don’t exclude yourself from any activity, make yourself relevant to the need and get INVOLVED!”

A scroll with a quote about the I-factor.

*The “I-factor” states that,
“If you desire to excel in
ministry, don’t exclude
yourself from any activity,
make yourself relevant
to the need and get
INVOLVED!”*

Getting INVOLVED will steadily sharpen and equip your life with three crucial necessities on your journey of excellence. These are;

- Skill
- The Anointing
- Character

1 Samuel 16: 14

14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.

15 And Saul's servants said to him, "Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you.

16 Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp. And it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well."

17 So Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me."

18 Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him."

19 Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep."

20 And Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent them by his son David to Saul.

21 So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armor bearer.

22 Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight."

23 And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him. NKJV

When Saul was being tormented by an evil spirit in **1 Samuel 16:14 -23**, his servants requested that they be sent to look for someone with two qualities in terms of order of precedence/ pre-qualification below;

1. "Someone who can play the harp" – In other words **"SKILL"**
2. "Someone who will play and the king feels better" – In other words **"THE ANNOINTING"**

Isaiah 10:27

*27 It shall come to pass in that day
That his burden will be taken away from your shoulder,
And his yoke from your neck,*

And the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil. NKJV

David's skill may have created the access to the King but it is the anointing that would destroy the yoke off the King's life.

King Saul further re-emphasised the primary requirement by replying to his servants in;

1 Samuel 16:17

¹⁷ So Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me." NKJV

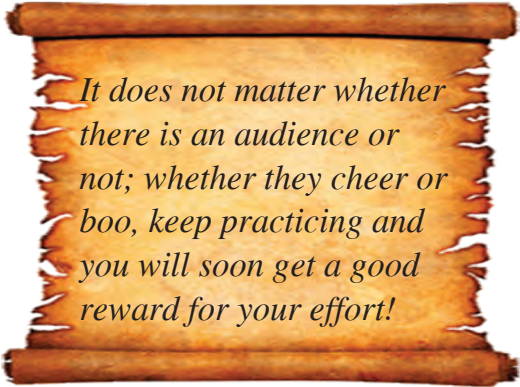
The primary requirement for Saul's deliverance was that David had to be able to play his Harp well (in other words, with Skill). Thereafter the anointing upon his life would combine with David's skill to produce the spiritual dose of medicine that Saul required in order to be delivered.

Although David had been anointed to be King by Samuel prior to this occurrence, the primary qualification that led him into Saul's service was the skill that he had built as a result of practicing whenever he got a small break from watching the sheep.

I visualize David practicing while grazing the sheep and singing while leading the sheep to the field and back home. His only audience were the sheep (not that they had any choice in the matter). It must have been silly and rather hilarious watching him do it and the sheep responding with a Baaaaaa!!! Baaaaa!!!! (Or rather Bad, Bad!)

He got himself involved in what his father was doing and used his experience practicing before the unappreciative response from the sheep to build skill that he would later need when he began to play and sing before the king.

It does not matter whether there is an audience or not; whether they cheer or boo, keep practicing and you will soon get a good reward for your effort!

A scroll with a quote. The scroll is unrolled, showing a piece of parchment with a quote. The quote is written in a cursive font and is surrounded by a decorative border.

It does not matter whether there is an audience or not; whether they cheer or boo, keep practicing and you will soon get a good reward for your effort!

I will now expound on the three key factors of the “I-factor” as follows:

Skill is a by product of nothing but practice. No extent of prayer and laying of hands can give you skill at what you are assigned to do.

a) Skill

The primary qualification for everyone to serve as an effective minister of music is skill. The bible constantly refers to the need for skilled musicians. The psalmist or the king may not even mention good appearance or the anointing but for starters, he will acknowledge the need for his subjects to bring him some one skilled.

Skill is a by product of nothing but practice. No extent of prayer and laying of hands can give you skill at what you are assigned to do.

The bottom line is that the more you practice, the more skill you acquire in whatever you have set your heart to do.

I have served in the Music Ministry long enough to realise that if you want to be an effective music minister, there is no shortcut to your standing to minister and be effective before royalty than building your level of skill or in other words practicing. YOU HAVE TO PRACTICE!!!!

Believe me there will be limited or no doors opening for

you to sing in the choir or even lead your favourite song if you have not built the measure of skill (i.e. practiced enough) required to learn the song with perfection and even be able to sing on Key!

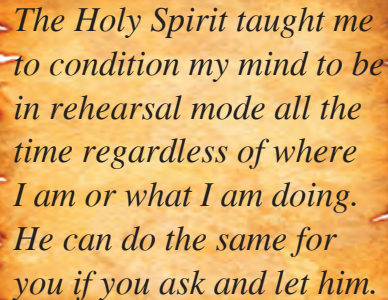
The bottom line is that the more you practice, the more skill you acquire in whatever you have set your heart to do.

Personally, I have not always been able to sing as I now do. I had to make up my mind to pursue and make singing my priority. Life is very, very busy. Everything is important but if you want something bad enough, you will always make time for it. I knew it was important for me to study, graduate and go to work thereafter. All this had to be done with excellence and to the best of my ability. However, I learnt that there was no way out. I could not use this as an excuse not to practice and improve my vocal and instrumental skills.

One day, after a long season of being so busy that I lacked time to practice, I asked God to give me a solution to my apparent inability to find the time to practice. The Holy Spirit began to show me time gaps or opportunities to practice that I had never noticed.

Have you ever noticed that your body has different parts for different functions and yet they all move together at the same time even when others seem idle?

Think of it this way. As you carry on your day to day activities, the stomach does not have to be geographically located in the dining room so as to digest

A scroll with a textured, aged appearance, containing text in a cursive font.

The Holy Spirit taught me to condition my mind to be in rehearsal mode all the time regardless of where I am or what I am doing. He can do the same for you if you ask and let him.

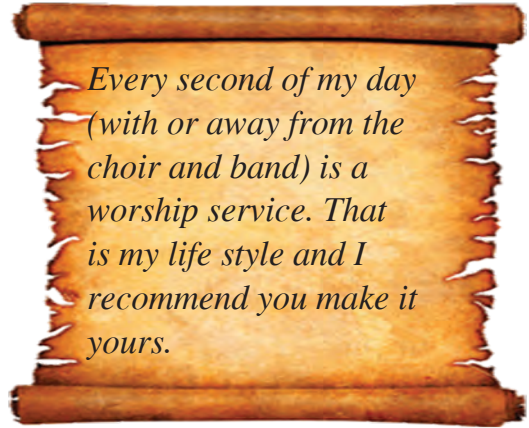
your breakfast. It will gladly carry on its assignment just as easily in the garage or on the bus to your place of work. It therefore does not stop digesting simply because it has left the dining room where the breakfast goodies entered it.

Similarly, you do not have to stop practicing simply because you are away from the choir or the band. As you go about your other obligations, go over the melodies in your mind and sing wherever you are. Do not wait for rehearsal time!

Apart from being a music minister, I am an Electrical Engineer, a husband, a father of four children, Worship Leader and Music Director. All of these other things in my life are important and require that I attend to them with

excellence and without compromise.

As an answer to prayer, The Holy Spirit taught me to condition my mind to be in rehearsal mode all the time regardless of where I am or what I am doing. He can do the same for you if you ask and let him.



Every second of my day (with or away from the choir and band) is a worship service. That is my life style and I recommend you make it yours.


For that reason, I am always singing, regardless of where I am or what I am doing. If I can't practice audibly I practice mentally. I have conditioned my heart, spirit and soul to maintain an atmosphere of praise and worship and the presence of God all around me even without a CD playing. Out of the overflow of the atmosphere in my heart, spirit and soul, my mouth subconsciously responds with an audible song and not the other way round.

Every second of my day (with or away from the choir and band) is a worship service. That is my life style and I recommend you make it yours.

Quite often, I never even notice that I am singing. As a result of this I am constantly practicing for and building skill along the way among the multitude of other things that I am doing that must be attended to with excellence. This has worked for me over the years. This way, I don't have to build my skill at the expense of my other responsibilities.

In essence, my mind is always playing music both for composition as well as that already existing. How loud it plays depends on what I am doing or where I am.

I remember way back in school, I had a challenge with concentration especially when trying to study in the Library. As soon as the room went quiet, my mind would begin to play music. Out of frustration, one day I went and talked to my father about my seemingly strange problem. Surprisingly, he did not even hesitate to respond. He said,

A scroll with a quote. The scroll is unrolled, showing a piece of aged, yellowish paper with frayed edges. The text is written in a cursive font.

“Just like anything else you grow up with, you learn to live with and take advantage of it as a unique gift from God.”

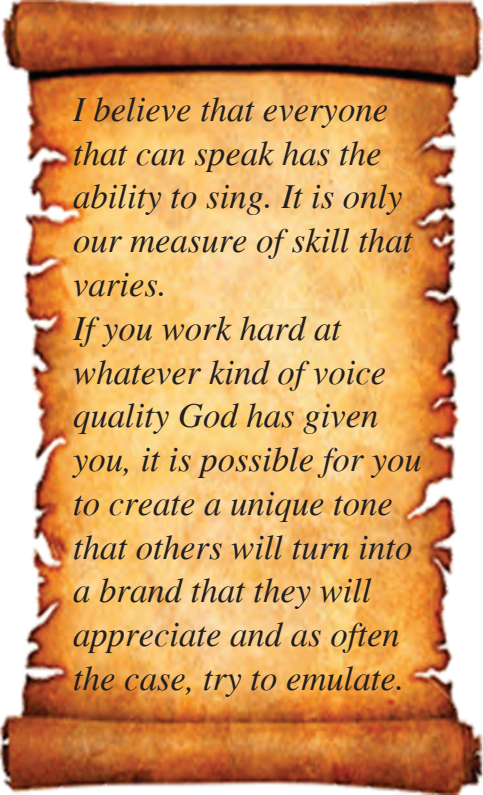
“Hey! That’s just like my experience in School.” He encouraged me saying that it was not an abnormality. In fact it was a blessing. He said, “Just like anything else you

grow up with, you learn to live with and take advantage of it as a unique gift from God.”

The Holy Spirit added an extra lesson later and said, “Whenever the music begins to play that loud. Don’t fight it! Take a minute and begin to write or record what you hear. After that it will cease. You can revisit it later and finish up.” Guess what, it worked!


I believe that everyone that can speak has the ability to sing. It is only our measure of skill that varies.

If you work hard at whatever kind of voice quality God has given you, it is



I believe that everyone that can speak has the ability to sing. It is only our measure of skill that varies.

If you work hard at whatever kind of voice quality God has given you, it is possible for you to create a unique tone that others will turn into a brand that they will appreciate and as often the case, try to emulate.



Everyone that can speak has the ability to sing! However, not everyone that can sing has the ability to be effective!

possible for you to create a unique tone that others will turn into a brand that they will appreciate and as is often the case, try to emulate.

So my dear friend, don't give up. Keep practicing and God will honour your effort with a door opening that will change your life.

This now takes me to your next major requirement in order to be effective when you begin to stand before kings.

b) The Anointing

I believe that everyone that can speak has the ability to sing! However, not everyone that can sing has the ability to be effective!

In the days of David and Saul, I am certain that in the whole of Israel there were other harp players with skill! I reckon that David being a young man, there were several older people with more experience or practice "mileage hours" and therefore skill at playing the harp than him. However, the criteria of selection required someone whose playing would go a step further and "make the King feel well". Therefore, the benchmark for effectiveness of skilful playing of the harp was measured by whether or not the King felt well again thereafter.

David was anointed by Prophet Samuel to be King but there is no biblical record of him being anointed to play the harp.

1 Samuel 16:1

¹ ... Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided myself a king among his sons. "NKJV

1 Samuel 16:12

¹² So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" NKJV

1 Samuel 16:13

¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah. NKJV

Notice that before all this happened, David was not sitting in a corner somewhere feeling sorry for himself or complaining about not being in the limelight like the rest of his brothers. Instead, in obedience to his father and tending the sheep, he got himself involved in what was happening in the background and worked on it to improve

on himself with such dedication that he improvised a way of keeping the sheep together by playing them songs on a harp! He even put his life on the line against wolves and bears in defence of what he had been entrusted with although it was not in the city for everyone to see and applaud him.

In getting himself passionately involved in whatever tasks his father entrusted him with even when they had no direct bearing to becoming King, David was subconsciously having his countenance shaped for a higher calling lined up with his destiny. It is not by coincidence that the bible slips in 1 Samuel 16: 12 that says,

1 Samuel 16:12

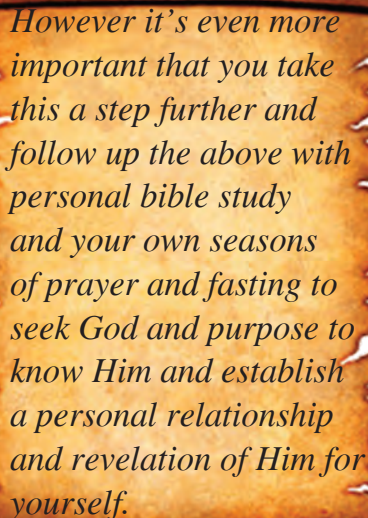
¹² So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" NKJV

David's brothers were handsome by natural standards and real "king material" by first impression but there was something striking and extraordinary about David's Countenance that simply locked in God's attention and triggered His divine instruction to Samuel.

The countenance of a man is shaped by what he does in the secret place!

David's countenance had been shaped during the times he spent in the fields with the sheep worshiping and seeking the face of God, away from the public eye.

Beloved, I want to submit to you that the primary key to the anointing for your destiny lies in you getting fervently involved in what your church is doing. Like David, these are the times that you spend worshiping, praying and seeking the face of God. It is therefore imperative that you fervently get involved in the seasons of prayer and fasting and seeking God that your church or team get into.



However it's even more important that you take this a step further and follow up the above with personal bible study and your own seasons of prayer and fasting to seek God and purpose to know Him and establish a personal relationship and revelation of Him for yourself.

Consider this as priority because it sets the stage for the anointing! Live by God's word. Do not leave this to the congregation as is often the case with ministers; believe his prophets and you shall prosper."

2 Chronicles 20:20

²⁰ So they rose early in

the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper." NKJV

However it's even more important that you take this a step further and follow up the above with personal bible study and your own seasons of prayer and fasting to seek God and purpose to know Him and establish a personal relationship and revelation of Him for yourself.

I am certain David took



The time David spent with God in the secret place shaped his countenance to create a platform for the anointing which when combined with the skill he had acquired gave him a cutting edge over those older and probably more skilled than him.

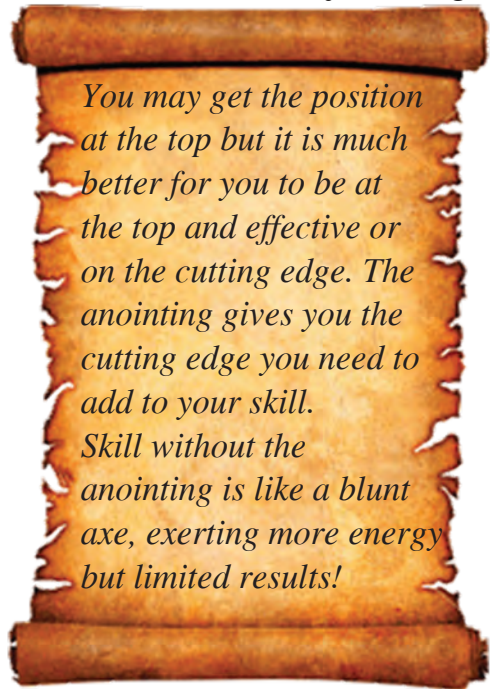
basic beginners
shepherding lessons
and thereafter harp
playing lessons and
then went an extra
mile to know the sheep
and play the harp
for them on his own.
Probably he began
with studying the book
"shepherding and harp
playing for DUMMIES"!

Throughout this, I imagine his brothers would see him from afar tending the sheep and laugh at his seemingly vain pursuit of excellence. Regardless he did not quit but kept on seeking God to teach him how to do his assignment better. Slowly but surely, God taught him how to handle sheep and play them the kind of music that kept them from going crazy and wandering off. Little did David know that in doing this, he was being shaped by God to be the shepherd of Israel!

The time David spent with God in the secret place shaped his countenance to create a platform for the anointing which when combined with the skill he had acquired gave him a cutting edge over those older and probably more skilled than he was.

Consequently, no one else could be more effective in addressing the King's need to feel well! Those that seek God have the presence of God around them that immediately sets them apart from others. For this reason, David was anointed by Samuel to be King and immediately in 1 Samuel 16:20 – 23, called to Saul's service as the only music minister on the cutting edge in the whole of Israel.

I therefore challenge you to take your eyes off the position within your vision and focus on fervently seeking the face of God and living in holiness and righteousness so that he may anoint you to be effective in that which he has called you and predestined for you to be. The anointing you will receive will promote you to the palace that you are constantly seeing within your vision without having to struggle and strive with man.



You may get the position at the top but it is much better for you to be at the top and effective or on the cutting edge. The anointing gives you the cutting edge you need to add to your skill.

Skill without the anointing is like a blunt axe, exerting more energy but limited results!

I have tasted and seen that struggling to be on the front line of the choir and to be the one holding the microphone is vanity. Your status in the choir, the congregation and society is not determined by how far you stand from the microphone. Therefore relax and allow God to anoint you to be effective where you are. That is what determines your value and ultimately adds value to your team.

You may get the position at the top but it is much better for you to be at the top and effective or on the cutting edge. The anointing gives you the cutting edge you need to add to your skill.

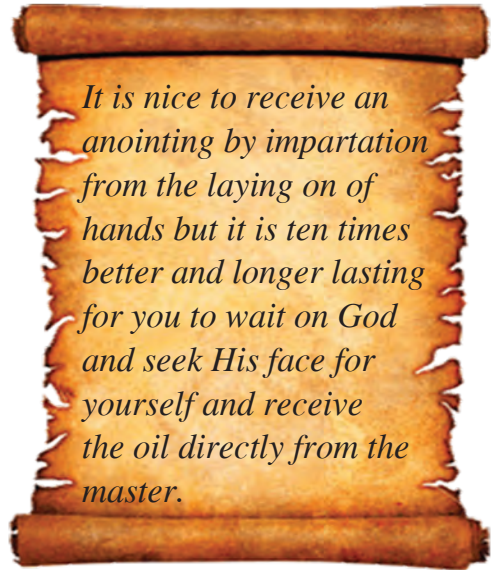
Skill without the anointing is like a blunt axe, exerting more energy but limited results!

God has placed everyone in a specific position in the team.

Your team requires all

the members to be effective in their place in order to excel. So rather than strive with another for a position, you ought to thank God for where you are and make it your prayer always for God to anoint you to be effective where he has placed you.

Jesus knew that for the disciples to be effective in the great commission (Mathew 28:19&20, Acts 1:8) to be his witnesses, making disciples of all men to the ends of the earth, they needed more than three years experience



It is nice to receive an anointing by impartation from the laying on of hands but it is ten times better and longer lasting for you to wait on God and seek His face for yourself and receive the oil directly from the master.

building skill by being under Jesus' ministry. Secondly, they needed a personal encounter with the Holy Spirit so that they may be empowered or anointed to be effective. For this reason, he charged them that, "..... wait in the city (Jerusalem) until you have been clothed with power from on high." Luke 24:49.

Luke 24:49 (New King James Version)

49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." NKJV

It is nice to receive an anointing by impartation from the laying on of hands but it is ten times better and longer lasting for you to wait on God and seek His face for yourself and receive the oil directly from the master.

Please note that Jesus gave the instruction concerning the great commission to those who had been consistent in getting involved in the responsibilities designated to them in their capacities as disciples even during the three days that Jesus was "away" and presumably not watching them.

In essence, whether you are being watched or not, get involved!

Acts 1: 12-13

¹² *“Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey.*

¹³ *And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James.” NKJV*

Acts 1: 14

¹⁴ *These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. NKJV*

Acts 2: 1

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.” NKJV

Look at the pattern here, Jesus’ instruction to “stay in the city” did not specify to them what they were expected to be doing in the meantime until the Holy Spirit would come. It is not clear from the bible who exactly was telling the others what to do thereafter. Probably it was Peter giving leadership. However, each of them personally purposed not to be left out but rather to get involved

with the rest of the team of disciples;

- in the exodus from mount olives to Jerusalem
- in going into the upper room

In constant prayer until the day of Pentecost

(whenever that would be!)

- In being together in one place until the day of Pentecost (whenever that would be!)



All of those that got involved in the disciples activities mentioned above, including Mathias who was not even among the original twelve disciples, were filled with the Holy Spirit and anointed for the great commission. The first sermon preached immediately thereafter was so effective that it yielded about 3,000 souls into the Kingdom of God. Now, that is what I call effective ministry!

Acts 2:41

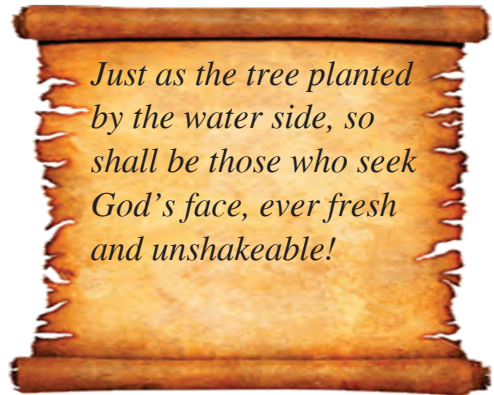
⁴¹ "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them." NKJV

What a transformation for Peter in particular! The last time he tried to convince just one person that Jesus was the Messiah; he had failed miserably and instead because his sermon had not been effective he cut off the fellow's ear out of frustration!

Those that fail to be effective will always turn to strife to achieve their objective. Avoid that path like a plague! There is a better way.... Seek God!

Acts 2:37

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"
NKJV



*Just as the tree planted
by the water side, so
shall be those who seek
God's face, ever fresh
and unshakeable!*

They had heard people speak their language skilfully before but

none had ever been that effective. The people desired to have what the apostles had received.

Regardless of how skilled you are, you need the anointing of the Holy Spirit. This, you can only get by spending quality

time in His presence and building a genuine relationship with God. Make seeking God, holiness and righteousness your priority. Lay your life on the altar, crucify your flesh and yield to the Holy Spirit. This is the only currency that can pay the price for the anointing you require. The Holy Spirit will guide you in all truth and lead you to a river of the anointing that never runs dry but keeps you fresh, effective, on the cutting edge and growing stronger day by day.

Just as the tree planted by the water side, so shall be those who seek God's face, ever fresh and unshakeable!

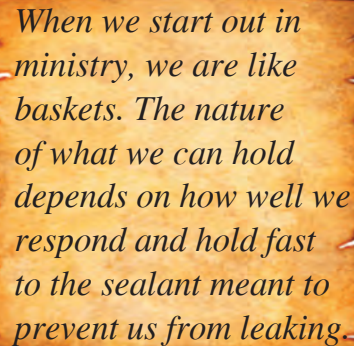
The anointing that God pours upon your life is precious and needs to be protected and guarded. You can only do this by keeping on doing what you did to get it. Spend quality time with God, listen, be sensitive, as my Man of God says "walk softly with God" and act in obedience to the Holy Spirit, Seek God through prayer and fasting, study the bible and live by God's word in holiness and righteousness.



*Never take a holiday
from the presence
of God. If you do,
I guarantee that
you will come back
more drained than
refreshed!*

A lot of music ministers love to do practice but are very

weak at prayer and bible study as well as in the other factors mentioned above. They often do not even carry bibles to church let alone own one. Hopefully you are not like that. In case you are, God can help you if you purpose to draw closer to Him, if you are willing to come close and know Him better. Working with music ministers over the years, I have noticed that a lot of them have a stronger relationship with their skilled gifting than with the giver of the gift. This is a very dangerous approach because it leaves you somewhat exposed and vulnerable to the fiery darts of the enemy.

A scroll with a quote. The scroll is made of a textured, brownish-gold material, possibly parchment or leather, with a slightly frayed edge. The text is written in a black, serif font.

When we start out in ministry, we are like baskets. The nature of what we can hold depends on how well we respond and hold fast to the sealant meant to prevent us from leaking.

I used to struggle in this area as well, but I noticed that every time I took a “holiday” from seeking God, my effectiveness in ministry would suffer. At such times, every time I sang, I would feel so heavy and tired and eventually gain in an hour what would normally take me thirty minutes. Whenever, this happened, I knew I had slipped.

Never take a holiday from the presence of God. If you

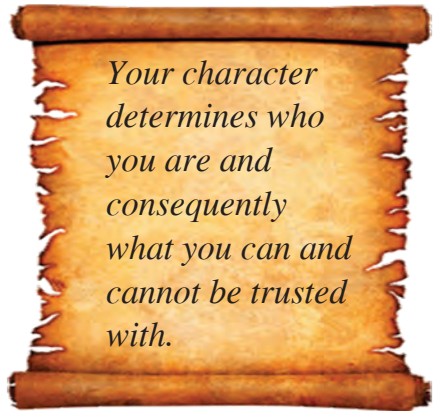
do, I guarantee that you will come back more drained than refreshed!

c) Character

I thank God for the anointing because it makes it a lot easier to break through in all you do. The anointing of the Holy Spirit will open doors for you to minister in places before people that ordinarily would not give you a minute of their attention.

Nobody paid any attention to David or even the apostles until they had been anointed.

Thereafter, they became the centre of attention. In fact the high priests in the temple did not even know or meet with Peter and John until they had been anointed by the Holy Spirit.



Your character determines who you are and consequently what you can and cannot be trusted with.

As a result of the anointing upon my life, over the years, I have met people on the streets that stop me just to say hello and bless me. Furthermore, I have received favour and had more doors opened for me in high offices than I would ever have dreamed of. I must admit that it is a

You are the vessel, (the basket) ready for the master's use; The water is the anointing of the Holy Spirit that searches the Spirit of man to reveal the flaws (the leaking part); The sealant is man's positive response to the Holy Spirit's revelation of flaws in the character of the vessel. Your ability to float (to survive the challenges of your next level) is dependent on these.

great feeling to be treated as a VIP! However, it is a dangerous place to be!

This takes me to my next point.

When we start out in ministry, we are like baskets. The nature of what we can hold depends on how well we respond and hold fast to the sealant meant to prevent us from leaking.

Baby Moses was placed in a basket and placed on the river Nile for safety. That basket needed to be water tight otherwise he would have been saved from pharaoh only to drown in the Nile! Wait a minute! Who ever heard of a basket floating? It's hard enough to get it to hold anything liquid! So are we! With all our imperfections, God is still determined to use us,

the foolish things of the world to confound the wise!

I imagine that before the basket was declared safe for

use, Miriam poured some water into it to reveal where the remaining leaks were and then sealed those places thoroughly. How well the basket was able to contain the water during the intermediate stages of testing defined its character.

Your character determines who you are and consequently what you can and cannot be trusted with.

The basket had been anointed to take on the awesome responsibility of carrying Israel's deliverer to safety but how well it fulfilled its assignment depended on how well it had held on to the sealant during the time of testing.

You are the vessel, (the basket) ready for the master's use; The water is the anointing of the Holy Spirit that searches the Spirit of man to reveal the flaws (the leaking part); The sealant is man's positive response to the Holy Spirit's revelation of flaws in the character of the vessel. Your ability to float (to survive the challenges of your next level) is dependent on these.

As God takes us from one level of ministry to another, he pours an anointing into our baskets not just to make us more effective for our current level but also reveal to us in secret the flaws in our character that may destroy us when we are exposed to the challenges of the next

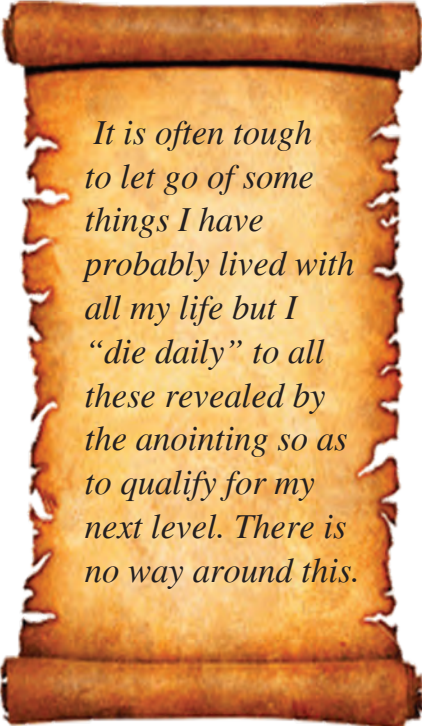
level.

Beloved, the anointing may carry and elevate you to higher heights but it is only character that will keep you from being destroyed before completing your assignment.

As we grow up in life, there are things that attach themselves to us due to our environment. They become so much a part of our day to day living that when asked why we are that way, we simply brush them aside as being “part of my nature or character”. As far as we are concerned, we are perfect baskets!

For example, I used to bite my nails...a lot. I knew and was often reminded that it is a bad habit but I simply could not stop it. I labelled it as “part of my nature or character” and carried it on for several years even when my fingers were hurting. It was not until the Holy Spirit began to deal with me about it and prompt me to stop every time the temptation was so strong that I eventually got over it. However, it was imperative that I responded to the sealant which is the instruction of the anointing of the Holy Spirit so that I could successfully break away from the habit.

Another leak in my basket that I had attributed to “my

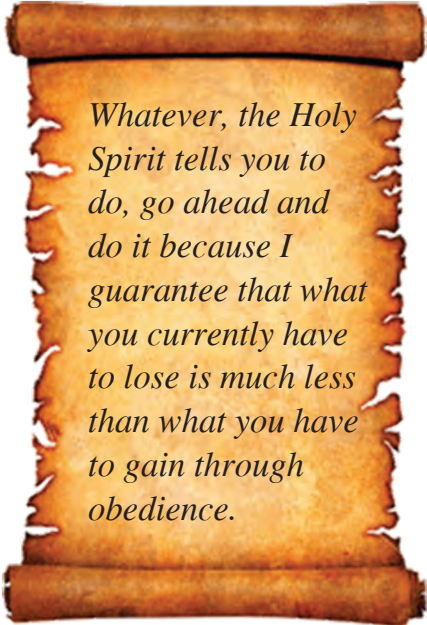


It is often tough to let go of some things I have probably lived with all my life but I “die daily” to all these revealed by the anointing so as to qualify for my next level. There is no way around this.

character” was anger. For some strange reason that I still don’t understand, I had this suppressed “dark cloud” that hung over me that often fuelled a grudge against one of my siblings and created sudden unexpected spikes of hot tempered behaviour. Quite often we glared at each other across the dinner table at

meals looking for every excuse to snap at each other. I had lived with this baggage for so long (even after I was born again) that I did not even see that it was a leak in my basket. I thought it was normal and for a long time, the two of us could barely get along.

At some point, the Holy Spirit



Whatever, the Holy Spirit tells you to do, go ahead and do it because I guarantee that what you currently have to lose is much less than what you have to gain through obedience.

by his anointing revealed to me that this was not meant to be my character and that there was a leak in my basket. I had to humble myself and with a broken spirit and a contrite heart I heeded to His voice. He always prompted me to “hold my horses”, walk away and ask God to save me from the situation every time I saw that dark cloud looming on the horizon.

Psalms 34:18

¹⁸ “The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.” NKJV

Psalms 51:17

¹⁷ “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart— these, O God, You will not despise.” NKJV

After a while of yielding to His instruction, I did not feel that way anymore and my fights with my sibling were gradually changed into hugs of love and affection. This does not mean that I am now perfect. As the anointing increases upon my life, the Holy Spirit keeps showing me other leaks that I need to get rid of if I am to survive in my next level.

It is often tough to let go of some things I have probably lived with all my life but I “die daily” to all these revealed by the anointing so as to qualify for my next level. There is no

way around this.

I challenge you to listen to the voice of the anointing by the Holy Spirit as he reveals to you where the leaks are in your basket and immediately respond by letting go of what you need to let go of and embracing what you need to embrace. It may require you to let go of anger, lust, deceitfulness or even some of your friends and embrace more hours of prayer and fasting, love, forgiveness and good company.

Whatever, the Holy Spirit tells you to do, go ahead and do it because I guarantee that what you currently have to lose is much less than what you have to gain through obedience.

I have tested and found this to be absolutely true!

CHAPTER 5



The C – Factor: ‘Creativity’

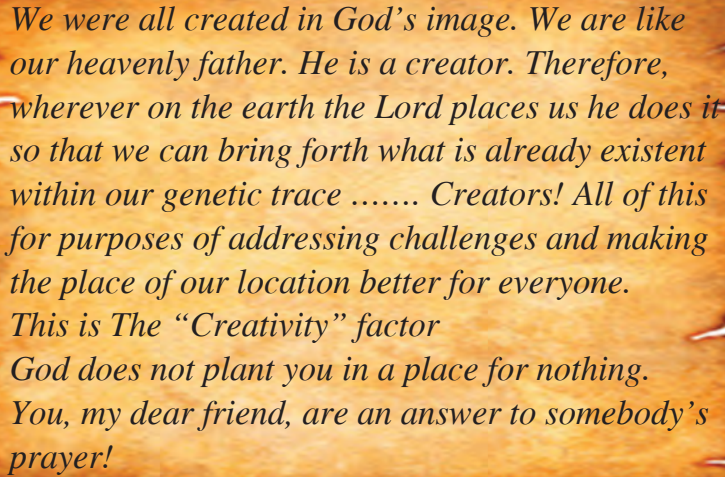
I remember the time I joined 'The Miracle Centre' my target was to learn as much as I could.

Although my musical background suggested otherwise, I felt that I had nothing to offer that could add value to what was in the music ministry at that time. Everyone in the Band that I was joining was a "Star". They were really famous and probably the most popular band in Gospel music in Uganda at the time. On top of that I was the youngest in the group, just finding my feet but with a strong desire to learn!

Many of us are like that when starting out in ministry; we feel that we have nothing to offer. I beg to differ.

We were all created in God's image. We are like our heavenly father. He is a creator. Therefore, wherever on the earth the Lord places us he does it so that we can bring forth what is already existent within our genetic trace Creators! All of this for purposes of addressing challenges and making the place of our location better for everyone.

This is The "Creativity" factor



We were all created in God's image. We are like our heavenly father. He is a creator. Therefore, wherever on the earth the Lord places us he does it so that we can bring forth what is already existent within our genetic trace Creators! All of this for purposes of addressing challenges and making the place of our location better for everyone. This is The "Creativity" factor God does not plant you in a place for nothing. You, my dear friend, are an answer to somebody's prayer!

God does not plant you in a place for nothing. You, my dear friend, are an answer to somebody's prayer!

I have learnt from serving under my Man of God and also found it true in my life that sometimes when we need a solution to a challenge, we ask God for bread (a temporary solution) and yet he is more interested in giving us a bakery (a permanent or long term solution)

Look at it this way. Jesus' method of recruitment for disciples was called "Come as you are" There is no record of Jesus asking each of the disciples that he called to first go and purify themselves as a pre-qualification for them to follow him. This should be the precedent for those

joining the church and ministry.

Therefore chances are that, yes, they accepted to follow him but carried their bad as well as good habits along with them when they came. Probably Peter came with fish in his pocket, Judas came with his cunning double faced personality, and Luke came with a stethoscope and so on. Jesus then began to influence them by a three year discipleship program. By the time Jesus was ready to die, they looked, laughed, talked, gestured and probably walked like him. That is why it was so easy for the girl and other people to single out Peter as having walked with Jesus regardless of the extent to which he went to deny Him.

Matthew 26:73

⁷³ "And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you." NKJV

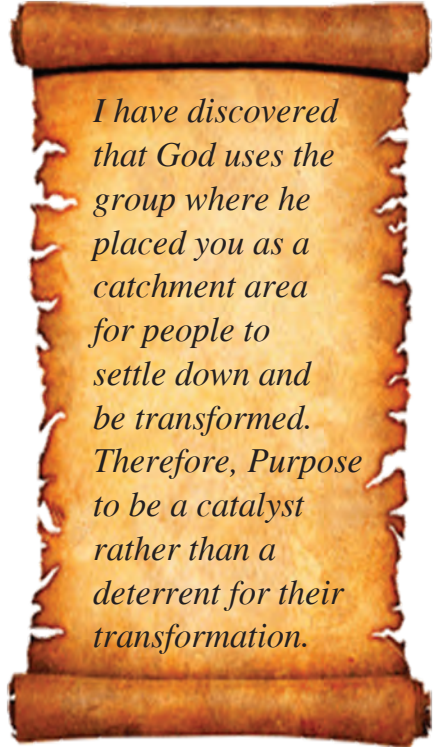
It is therefore important to realise that for those ministries or teams that use this approach, all of us that join the choir, band or whichever ministry group, have been drawn by Jesus using the "Come as you are" approach. Therefore the person that stands next to you in the choir or team is as much a vessel under purification as you

are. Chances are that in your eyes, he or she may have more “grease” to have cleaned out of them than you but please remember that all of you have been equally saved by grace.

It is therefore necessary to cut your neighbour some slack and not expect much angelic behaviour from them. Instead pray for them, encourage them, be patient and celebrate every positive change you see happening in their lives.

I have discovered that God uses the group where he placed you as

a catchment area for people to settle down and be transformed. Therefore, Purpose to be a catalyst rather than a deterrent for their transformation.



We shared this principle under the M- factor.

In fact, God may not have put you in that group to be a better soprano, alto, tenor, bass singer or actor than the

others but rather to be a catalyst to the transformation of a life that God has already drawn to the same group.

Look around you. When you look into the eyes of those in your choir or group, people are hurting and secretly crying out to God for deliverance from various challenges. You may well be the answer that God has sent. Therefore, instead of looking at the microphone or the front line as the “alpha and omega” of your purpose for being in the choir, ask God for the key reason for sending you to that group among so many.

I asked God that very question years ago and his unction was simple and to the point.

He said “Look around you, see the need that burdens your heart and get creative!”

I challenge you with this great unction. Do not just sit there waiting to be fed by your pastor and peers in the team. But rather, look around you, see the need that burdens your heart and get creative!

From the moment that I decided to focus on using the time that I was involved in choir activity to help others get better and putting others before myself, my life changed. I got the revelation that I was an answer to prayer and

henceforth made it my mission to be just that. Wherever I spotted a gap, I made it my passion to pursue filling it to the best of my ability. This required that I get creative at solving the challenges that the music ministry was facing at the time both musically and socially among the members.

For this reason, I learnt to lead songs, prepare harmonies, play piano, drums, guitars, set up a public address system and also to love people. All this so that others may grow, serve God under better circumstances and live more comfortably.

I am not quite sure when I began to feel this way but I do remember a prayer I made to God saying, “Lord, please take the natural desire to be a “star” out of me and replace it with what really matters” Twenty years down (or rather up) the road, I am convinced that God heard the cry of my heart and honoured that prayer. This desire was replaced with the preaching of the gospel, winning souls, being a blessing to my leaders and everyone around me.”

Beloved, I therefore pray that you will make this your prayer too and all the natural things that come along with being a “star” will follow you without them turning into a slow acting poison for your calling.

CHAPTER 6



Work – Life – Ministry balance

I have often heard this question asked wherever I find people that know or have heard of my schedule; “You are a Pastor, husband, worship leader, music director, father of four kids, electrical Engineer, now book author, recording artist, etc. How in the world do you manage to pull off all these things without going crazy and yet excelling in all aspects?”

I felt that it would be an injustice to end this class session without sharing my “Work – Life – Ministry” (WLM) balance principles with all of you good people.

Principle 1: Whoever does not work should not expect to eat!

Principle 2: Whoever does not eat will not have life!

Principle 3: Whoever does not have life shall not have a ministry!

All of these principles work in situ. One cannot stand alone without the other. This is a beautiful balancing act whose simplicity one must master and discipline him or herself to work at in order to succeed in all areas.

Let us expound on these.

I began to practice these principles way back in

secondary school when I had just joined the music ministry at church in 1990. I was faced with a challenge in that the majority of the people that I interacted with felt that God had called them into full time ministry. Honestly for me, all of this was quite confusing because a large number of them that claimed to be in full time ministry spent most of the day sleeping or gossiping and then waiting for other people to take care of their social well being e.g. food, clothing, shelter, etc. I did not know much back then but I knew for sure that this could not be what “full time ministry” was all about.

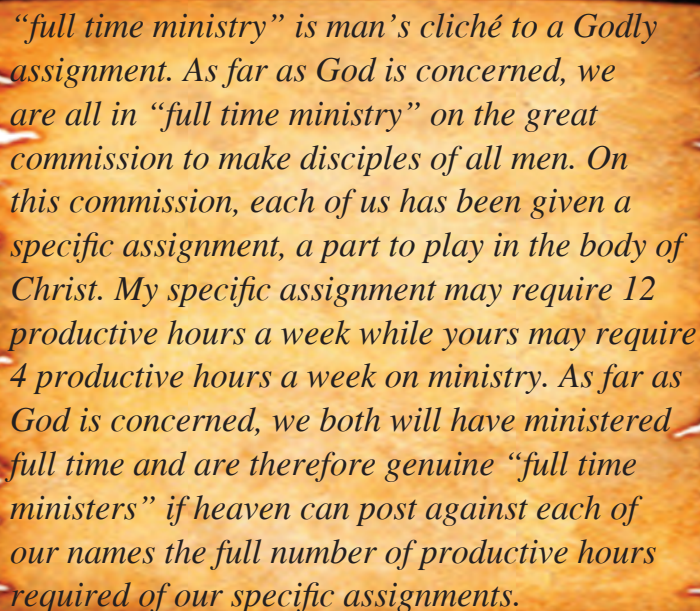
My naïve definition for “full time” meant twenty four hours working. The next best definition to this implied that one had to be fully occupied with clear designated tasks sufficient to last them 8 hours of productive work just as is expected on a regular 8am to 5pm job.

To be really honest, very few of the “full time ministers” that I knew could post 8 genuine hours of productive ministry related activities or at least prayer and intercession. Based on my young mind’s description, I therefore had very few role models in what I thought should have been the ideal picture of a “full time minister”. A lot of young people were dropping out of school saying they were

going to be “full time ministers”. I found this very disturbing because they often made me feel as though in staying in school I was not being as sold out to God as I should be. I really, really had a deep hunger to serve the Lord and this dilemma was tearing me apart! I wanted to be a “Full time minister”.

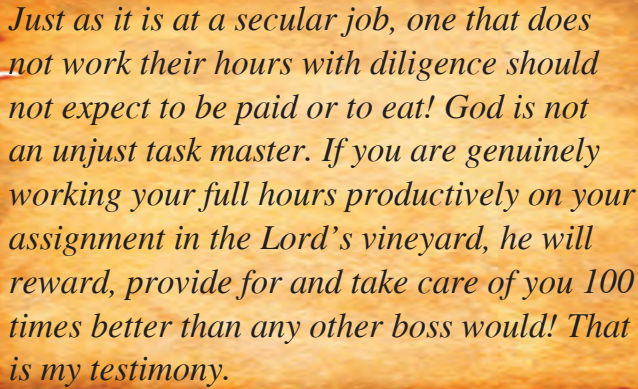
In my state of confusion and despair, I began to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit on this matter in regards to my life and future because I desperately wanted to serve God.

From him, I learnt that “full time ministry” is man’s cliché to a Godly assignment. As far as God is concerned, we are all in “full time ministry” on the great commission to make disciples of all men. On this commission, each of us has been given a specific assignment, a part to play in the body of Christ. My specific assignment may require 12 productive hours a week while yours may require 4 productive hours a week on ministry. As far as God is concerned, we both will have ministered full time and are therefore genuine “full time ministers” if heaven can post against each of our names the full number of productive hours required of our specific assignments.



“full time ministry” is man’s cliché to a Godly assignment. As far as God is concerned, we are all in “full time ministry” on the great commission to make disciples of all men. On this commission, each of us has been given a specific assignment, a part to play in the body of Christ. My specific assignment may require 12 productive hours a week while yours may require 4 productive hours a week on ministry. As far as God is concerned, we both will have ministered full time and are therefore genuine “full time ministers” if heaven can post against each of our names the full number of productive hours required of our specific assignments.

All of us have been called differently for different purposes in the body of Christ. For some, the nature of their assignment requires that they are occupied with ministry related activities from 8 am to 5pm and probably beyond. For others, the nature of their assignment or calling may require their undivided attention for probably 2 hours three times a week. I learnt that people in categories as exemplified are all “full time ministers”. What is critical is that one avails him or herself and gives undivided attention to their calling as and when it’s required.



Just as it is at a secular job, one that does not work their hours with diligence should not expect to be paid or to eat! God is not an unjust task master. If you are genuinely working your full hours productively on your assignment in the Lord's vineyard, he will reward, provide for and take care of you 100 times better than any other boss would! That is my testimony.

Just as it is at a secular job, one that does not work their hours with diligence should not expect to be paid or to eat! God is not an unjust task master. If you are genuinely working your full hours productively on your assignment in the Lord's vineyard, he will reward, provide for and take care of you 100 times better than any other boss would! That is my testimony.

I learnt from the Holy Spirit that even though I was still in school, it was possible for me to be a “full time minister”! It was such a relief for me to realise that this meant that **I did not have to drop out of school to be a full time minister.** All I had to do was be where I was supposed to be when I was supposed to be there and when there, work with all

fervency at what I needed to do. It was such a relief to discover this truth. That is exactly how Paul managed to excel as an Apostle while at the same time working with his hands!

I discovered that as long as I was in school my assignment my full time ministry was to stay in school and study hard to ensure that someday I can apply the opportunities that my education would open up for me to serve God as His ambassador in a key decision making position in my country, live comfortably and also further the gospel of Jesus Christ. Staying in school gives you a ready platform to share the gospel with future key decision makers and studying hard and getting excellent grades grants you the attention of intellectuals which you can then use to share the gospel.

Therefore, in case you are still in school, please stay in school and go as far as you can possibly go. Do everything possible to excel at it because God has put you there for such a time as this to be a full time minister there by my definition.

In case you have dropped out of school in the name of “full time ministry”, I hope that our lesson has been an

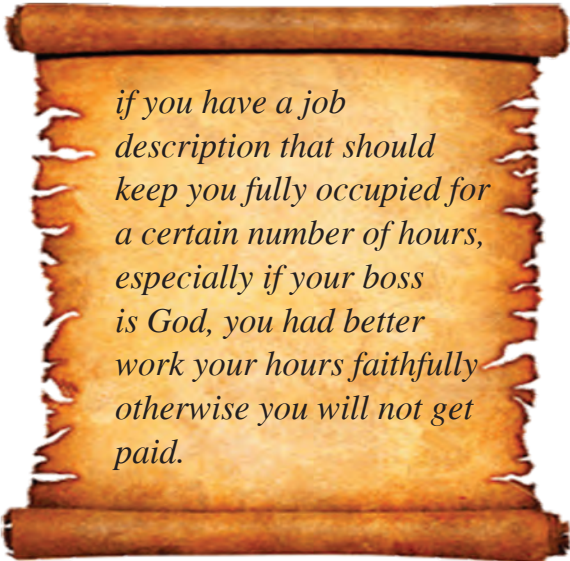
eye opener. Do everything possible to get yourself back in school. Improve on yourself so that you can be more effective in what God has called you to be.

Later on, after graduation, my work became Electrical Engineering. But still I held on to the principles while adding all my other life roles.

The Holy Spirit helped me understand that the best way that I could be a blessing to God, my Man of God, my church and country was to stay in school, graduate, be self reliant, financially independent and an all round success without letting go of my passion for ministry. He helped me understand that this was my place in the “big picture”. This was the edition of “full time ministry” that God had purposed for my life!

I have often found folks over the years who thought that I was not going to school but instead was a “full time minister” (i.e. 24 hours at church by their definition). The reason for this was that whenever I was needed to be at church on duty, I was there. Whenever, I was needed to be in school, I was there as well. I had no time to waste in between but rather always rushed to be where I needed to be when I needed to be there for nothing more or less than the time period I was meant to be there. I cannot

begin to tell you how much gossip and getting into trouble, living by these principles saved me from.

A scroll with a textured, aged appearance, featuring a central column of text. The scroll is unrolled, showing the top and bottom edges where it would be tied.

if you have a job description that should keep you fully occupied for a certain number of hours, especially if your boss is God, you had better work your hours faithfully otherwise you will not get paid.

The bottom line is that if you have a job description that should keep you fully occupied for a certain number of hours, especially if your boss is God, you had better work your hours faithfully otherwise

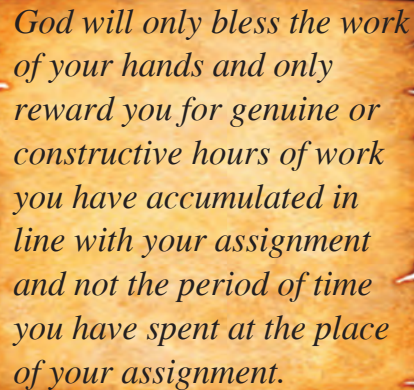
you will not get paid.

Well, I assessed my job description in the ministry where I had been planted and noted the time periods for which my undivided attention was required. I went a step further to rearrange these in a sequence that would help me do a lot of my tasks in the shortest time possible. ... Efficiency is the word.

In doing this, I discovered that I had plenty of extra time on my hands even after all my ministry related tasks had

been properly completed. Rather than being idle, I then asked the Lord to help me get another job or work, for which I could get well paid, to occupy me during the extra time so that

I do not need to depend on the church expecting them to pay me for say 8 hours of work per day that can easily be done in 2 hours per day. I wanted to live comfortably

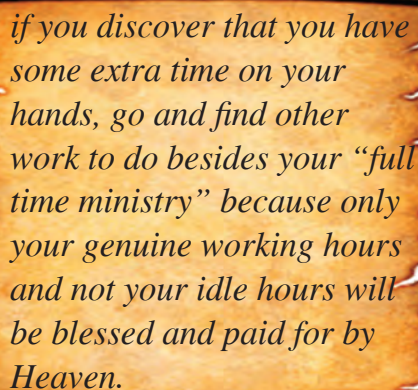
A scroll with a quote from the Bible. The scroll is unrolled, showing the text in the center. The text is in a serif font and is italicized. The scroll has a textured, aged appearance with some fraying at the edges.

God will only bless the work of your hands and only reward you for genuine or constructive hours of work you have accumulated in line with your assignment and not the period of time you have spent at the place of your assignment.

and happily serving the Lord while helping people. I felt that I would do better being a giver for the work of the gospel rather than one that constantly waits to receive. I learnt that God will only bless the work of your hands and only reward you for genuine or constructive hours of work you have accumulated in line with your assignment and not the period of time you have spent at the place of your assignment.

Because I chose to work elsewhere in my extra time rather than have idle moments pretending to be 24

hours or even 8 hours occupied by ministry, I have no problem enjoying my non music ministry related work and its benefits while helping others live a better life.

A scroll with a quote. The scroll is unrolled in the middle, showing a piece of parchment with a quote. The quote is written in a cursive font. The scroll is brown and has a textured appearance.

if you discover that you have some extra time on your hands, go and find other work to do besides your “full time ministry” because only your genuine working hours and not your idle hours will be blessed and paid for by Heaven.

The fact that I am not poor releases me to minister without hindrances or being put in a position of compromise, murmuring and complaining. I know that soon God will give me a job description that requires an increase in my “full time ministry” working hours but until then, I am required to faithfully maintain the status quo.

I hereby challenge you to examine what you are doing with your life as a minister and ask the Holy Spirit to give you a sober revelation of how many genuine working hours your version of “full time ministry” requires of you. Thereafter, if you discover that you have some extra time on your hands, go and find other work to do besides your “full time ministry” because only your genuine working hours and not your idle hours will be blessed and paid for

by Heaven.

Even the Apostle Paul was conscious of this reality. The Apostle Paul said,

Acts 20:33-35

³³ I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴ Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. ³⁵ I have shown you in every way, by labouring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" NKJV

Paul's "full time ministry" was to be an apostle. He had a passion to help the weak by being able to give.

Trust me, it feels better to be on the giving side than on the receiving side.

Paul was not about to wait on people to give him money or "bring money at the apostles feet" for his transport or food after the service. He knew that if he worked his hours productively, his pay would be sufficient to supply his needs, those of his companions as well as the weak.

2 Thessalonians 3:8

⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labour and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you" NKJV

2Thessalonians 3:9 *not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.] KJV*

For this reason, Paul rearranged his schedule and found it possible to work his hours productively or efficiently to qualify as a “full time minister” as an apostle and still have extra time to apply his hands to additional productive work. This was the kind of hard work that the Apostle Paul was recommending to the elders of Ephesus his comrades in “full time ministry” that would guarantee that all their needs are supplied with a surplus. I also recommend this to all of you.

[1 Thessalonians 4: 11-12 “And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

“That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.”] KJV

Over the years, I have learnt that if you are a “Full time minister”, in accordance with what I have shared with you above, and you have a need, God will always give you an instruction which if you obey, all your needs will be taken care of with a surplus to further the gospel as well as help others.

Plainly put, if you are in lack, first assess what you are doing and ask yourself the question, “..... Am I genuinely working?” Give yourself an honest answer and make the necessary corrective measures with guidance from the Holy Spirit. The bible says;

[2Thessalonians 3: 10-12 “For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.”

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

2 Thessalonians 3:12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.] KJV

Indeed it is very possible to be busy and yet you are not working! Make sure that you have hours of constructive work to show everyday so that you can qualify for a pay that has the capacity to guarantee that you always have a surplus. That is God's will for you!

Secondly, check your consistency in regards to how you handle your tithe;

[Malachi 3: 10-12 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.] KJV

Your tithe opens up the windows of heaven to release a blessing (which includes the pay for your labour) that guarantees a surplus and at the same time protects the fruit of your labour from being destroyed even before you enjoy it.

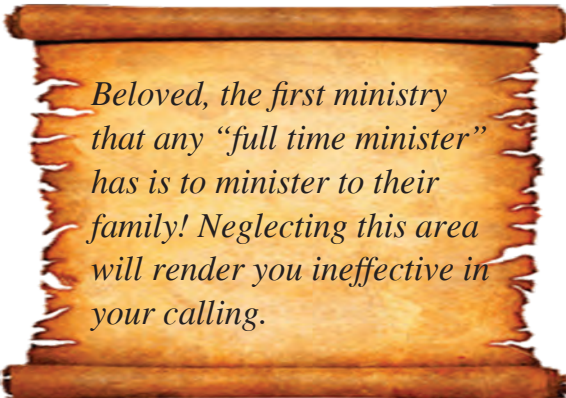
Thirdly, check your consistency in regards to giving or sowing seed;

[Luke 6: 38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.] KJV

Your giving is like a seed. It is what God has blessed you with to guarantee your future. Your seed may be money, love, a smile, material things, your time, etc. Every seed has the power to multiply itself. However, this power is only activated when the seed is surrendered to the soil. This act on your part guarantees a harvest for you in due season. In order to break the cycle of lack, it is possible to have continuous harvest in and out of season. This can only be done if you can purpose to be a habitual rather than instinctive giver.

I recommend that in this regard, in addition to this book you read another entitled “The seed, the Soil and the Season” by my Man of God Pastor Robert Kayanja.

It is also important for you to budget some of your extra time toward rest, exercise and working at your relationships



Beloved, the first ministry that any “full time minister” has is to minister to their family! Neglecting this area will render you ineffective in your calling.

with friends and family.

In all that you do, it is critical that you do not ignore your life responsibilities

towards your home, family and friends. If you are still a dependant on your guardian or parents, and if you have family that is dependent on you such as your spouse and children, do not dare to sacrifice your obligations toward them in the name of “full time ministry”. I have often seen ministers that leave home without doing any house chores, with unpaid bills and with no food or groceries, with children starving, with a neglected husband or wife and run off to church for ministry.

It is not possible for you to have a self inflicted mess at home and an effective message for ministry. Spend some quality time building your relationship with your family and ensuring their well being.

Beloved, the first ministry that any “full time minister” has is

to minister to their family! Neglecting this area will render you ineffective in your calling.

Finally, no matter how much God blesses you and your other work, never ever let your other work create a reason for you to compromise your commitment to your “full time ministry”. This is because the primary purpose for God blessing you and your other work is so that you can be more effective in your “full time ministry”.

[2 Corinthians 9: 8 “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:”] KJV

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you create a great and comfortable balance between your other work, your life responsibilities and your “full time ministry”. He will be more than glad to do it because He loves you and is your helper and closest friend and He wants you to serve God and enjoy it!

If you are trying to serve God and struggling to do it with gladness, for a start, please make a sober check on your WLM balance. Having a good Work – Life – Ministry

(WLM) balance based on the principles illustrated above has worked for me over the years and will be a great contributor to ensuring that you serve the Lord with diligence and you enjoy it all the way.

The last thing I want you to know for this class is that it pays to faithfully serve God. Those that choose to serve the Lord with diligence have everything to gain. In fact I am convinced that heaven responds faster for people such as these.

Beloved, I encourage you that no matter what the challenge is that may come along with your “full time ministry”, HOLD ON AND DO NOT EVER LET GO!

[1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.] KJV

[Galatians 6:9 “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”] KJV

[Hebrews 6:10 “For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have shewed toward

his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”] KJV

God will see you through it all because He is faithful. One day, He will cause all heaven and earth to stand still and on account of you exclaim “.....WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!”

ISAAC SERUKENYA PRODUCT INFORMATION:

*Dear Beloved, I hope this book has blessed you.
This product is being sent to you for free. However do consider
partnering with me financially so that i may be able to bless more
people. If you feel led to do so, please contact me on email address
serukenyamusic@gmail.com or +256 775 286 246. God bless you. I
look forward to hearing from you! Your friend,
Isaac Serukenya*

PRAISE AND WORSHIP ALBUMS:

"Genesis Project" album(CD)

"Audience of One" Album(CD & DVD)

"Thus far!" Album (On CD and DVD)

**More Isaac Serukenya music on Collaborations with Pr Robert
Kayanja and Miracle Music Ministry:**

"Faithful to me" album(CD and DVD)

"Best Days" album (CD and DVD)

ONLINE VIDEOS:

Isaac Serukenya - YouTube

BOOKS:

"Ministry Made Easy"

"Mentorship"

PRODUCT OUTLETS:

Online:

iTunes, spotify, Amazon

CD/DVD/eBooks/hardcover books:

Miracle Centre Cathedral

Or you can Direct order by mail to serukenyamusic@gmail.com

Telephone No.: +256 775 286 246

facebook page: "Isaac Serukenya-simply ministry"

<https://www.facebook.com/IsaacSerukenyaSimplyMinistry1/>