

40 Years of Encouraging Leaders in the North: Lessons Learned

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Moerewa Leaders' Gathering, November 10th, 2016, ekb and dmb and family

1 If you believe that the Lord has called you into one of the Ephesians 4:11 ministries, **make sure of your call.** Habakkuk 2:1-4. Discuss with your wife and family what you believe that God is saying to you, and pray together about it.

Because some of the Eph. 4:11 ministries involve a lot of travelling, you may not be able to hold a regular self-supporting job. Wait and expect confirmation from prophets, intercessors, other leaders and believers, and strong revelation to your own heart by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

To be self-supporting, or supported by the saints, is a non-issue. Just do the work. Acts 18:1-4. All saints are to be full-time. Keep a note of the words of faith, which the Holy Spirit has given to you, so that you can keep believing, proclaiming, and doing the work God has called you to, through all the testing and trials. You are beginning a strong battle of faith. 1 Timothy 6:12.

2 Maintain daily times of prayer and two way communication with the Lord, and times of reading the Word of God.

Seek the fullness of the Holy Spirit, and to be alive and fresh in the anointing. John 4:10, 14, 7:37-39, Ephesians 5:18, 19.

In your prayer times, thank the Lord for many things, praise Him for all His goodness, proclaim the rhema Scriptures He has given to you, pray for your family and cover them with His covering and protection, intercede for the Church(es), and pray for the Government, (1 Timothy 2:1-4). Let the Holy Spirit lead you. Avoid getting into legalistic routine.

3 When Jesus came to be with us on this earth, He took the role of a servant, Philippians 2:7, made Himself of no reputation, 2:7, and came in humility, 2:8. Jesus said, **"I did not come to be served but to serve,"** Matthew 20:28.

Jesus said, "Everyone who lifts himself up will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be lifted up." Luke 18:14.

Jesus calls us to be like Him. Gal. 5:13. Be a servant hearted minister and the Lord will keep lifting you up.

4 Walk by faith. Hold strongly to the rhema Scriptures the Holy Spirit has given to you.

Keep believing them, proclaiming them, and acting on them. Romans 10:10, Hebrews 10:23, James 2:17, 20, 26, Isaiah 7:9.

There is no other way to keep going. Matthew 4:4, Romans 1:17, Hebrews 11:6, Job 23:14, Jeremiah 1:12.

5 "Don't be a quitter!" God said this to me several times. At times it was hard, and the thought of quitting was strong.

"Never, never, never, give up!" (Words of a wise leader. Winston Churchill.)

"Bind the sacrifice with cords to the altar." Psalm 118:27. Given by a pastor friend.

"Don't give up!" repeated many times to me, in a letter from a friend, who had a hearing ear. Arrival: right on time.

6 Do not look to any Church, person or organisation for financial support.

Philippians 4:19, "My God shall supply all your needs, according to His riches in glory, by Christ Jesus."

This is a hard test. Do not ask any person, Church or organisation to give you money.

Cry out to God, even when you have served for a month and receive nothing. The test will come.

Many times I looked for a job, but God said, "No!" He said Philippians 4:19, many times, and Ruth 2:12.

7 Keep your word. Be reliable, as much as possible. If you can't keep your word, contact the other party, apologise and explain why. Before you agree to a suggestion, take time to pray and ask the Lord. Say, "I will get back to you on that." Proverbs 3:5, 6.

8 Don't repeat what a person says to you. Keep it to yourself and to God. Seek for a reputation of being someone who can be trusted to keep confidence. Be a person people in need can share with, and not be worried that you will spread it all around.

9 I believe that family comes before ministry. Family is your number one responsibility. They have to know that they are more important to you than other people. If not they feel rejected and this leads to very great problems.

Gather the family each day for Bible stories, praying to Jesus and our Heavenly Father, and singing Scripture in song.

Teach the family how to trust God and walk by faith. Each one needs "Daddy" time and "Mummy" time to know they are loved.

10 The husband and wife team is very powerful, because God gives complementary gifts that work perfectly together.

Romans 16:3 to 5. Importance in God's Kingdom is not measured by how much time you spend in the pulpit.

11 Forgive and bless others who offend or oppose you. Refuse to hold unforgiveness, bitterness, or offence. Luke 11:4,

Luke 6:27 to 37, Mark 11:25, 26. Rebuke a brother who sins against you, Luke 17:3, and try and sort things out in peace.

Matthew 18:15 to 17. Don't forget Isaiah 54:17: "No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper.....etc"

12 Trust God when "all the wheels fall off" and everything appears to go wrong. "Christ alone, Cornerstone, Weak made strong in the Saviour's love, Through the storm He is Lord, Lord of all." The Lord is faithful, He will carry you through. Trust Him.

13 Refute words of judgment and condemnation that are spoken against you, immediately, aloud, and to the person(s) who spoke those words. Read Matthew 12:1-8. When the Pharisees spoke words of judgment and condemnation to Jesus, He refuted them immediately, totally and completely. He did not waste any time about doing it. This is because silence gives consent and the spirits of darkness immediately start to attack with curses of hate and murder and death. I have experienced this first hand myself several times before I learned this very important truth. Read the Gospels and see the many times Jesus did this.