



RIVERS of JOY MINISTRIES

NEWSLETTER
1 October 2014

Dear Pastor

Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. I thank God for your life and commitment to this ministry and above all to God's service. Here is my latest pastoral letter for you all. Please share it with your people. It is very important that your people can be blessed with these great teachings.

The Word of God

A good idea or a God idea?

The things you decide to do in your life, the choices you make, the decisions you take can make all the difference between living a successful, joyful and prosperous life or a life under oppression of the enemy, constantly filled with difficulties and challenges. God has given us a mind and it's right for us to use it; but a mind that is not submitted to God's will is a mind that is being manipulated by the enemy. In Prov. 16: 9 we read, "A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps."

In other words, there is nothing wrong with coming up with ideas and plans and projects, there is nothing wrong with realizing a need around us and wanting to do something about it, there is nothing wrong with wanting to do something for the Kingdom of God. BUT.... here is the key.... is this the will of God for you at this present time? In the English language there is a great difference between "and" and "but" and that is reflected in the verse from Proverbs. God is saying that sure our minds will make plans BUT are these plans and projects in His will? Isn't time that as the verse says we let God direct our steps, what we should be doing, where we should be going? Isn't time to let God do the driving? Isn't time that we let God be God? Remember a good ideas is not always a God idea!

School of leadership

7 Ways for Teaching Leadership

I believe in the old saying: "Everything rises and falls on leadership." If you don't believe it, then I would invite you to intentionally lead poorly for a season and then report to the rest of us what happens. Now, yes, for my theologically-minded friends, I know that everything really rises and falls on God's providence, justice, and grace. Yes, I will give you that. So, with that as the foundation, we can then move on to all understand the power of leadership. And, the necessity of it.

Without leadership, what will the church look like? Not the church. Leadership is inherent to God's intention for the church. Leadership is included in the [Romans 12](#) list of [spiritual gifts](#). We are told in [Ephesians 4:11](#) of five different roles of leaders within the church: apostle, prophet, evangelist, shepherd, and teacher. In his letters to Timothy and Titus, Paul taught about the two positions of elder and deacon for the body of Christ; one as a servant leader and one as a lead servant. (I will write about that distinction later.)

At what I see currently, we need more leaders. Or we need to better train the leaders we already

have in our churches. Have no doubt about it: there are leaders in your church. They do not have titles, but they lead. They may not be on the board or a committee, but they have influence. The only issue is whether or not we train them well. Let me give you a few ideas about teaching leadership.

1. Put it in the priorities. If you do not have new leaders stepping into responsibilities, it is likely because they do not know how. You teach your way out of every problem. The lack of leaders can be solved in two ways: prioritizing the need in verbal communication and through relational discipleship. So make it a part of who you are.

2. Fight consumerism. The movement out of consumerism requires an application of the truth. We are to be leaders in the culture and not merely consumers within the religious establishment. Leadership begins as a new perspective before it is a new behavior. You must move people from consumption to production.

3. Actually teach. Just as "living like Jesus" alone is not evangelism, "living for the kingdom" alone is not discipleship. You must put together a plan to communicate the principles and work of leadership. So read the entire Bible, buy good books, talk to veteran leaders, and put together a plan to talk about it. Some of the books I would suggest include:

- *Spiritual Leadership* by Oswald Sanders
- *The Missional Leader* by Alan Roxburgh and Fred Romanuk
- *Basic Christian Leadership* by John Stott
- *The Disciple Making Pastor* by Bill Hull
- *Lectures to My Students* by Charles Spurgeon
- *Pastoral Care* by St. Gregory the Great
- *Spiritual Leadership* by Henry Blackaby

In teaching, leaders must speak the truth to followers in order to affect change. Be clear about the current environment, needs, and how involvement as a leader can change things.

5. Train leaders to also be theologians. In leadership, the truth precedes method. Otherwise, we thoughtlessly stumble into a way to do church. To put new leaders on a missional pathway, they must be able to contend for the truth before they know how to be counter-cultural with their lives. Don't be afraid to tackle the hard subjects and use large words. As my friend Ed Stetzer says, "If people can learn how to order stuff at Starbucks, then they can learn theological language."

6. Understand the relationships of major disciplines. There is a relationship of theology, missiology, and ecclesiology that must be observed and understood. Currently, you can stir up a great debate among scholars if you ask which of these comes first. Normally, theology and missiology compete for the title. It is not likely the territory that you want to wade into early on with your blossoming leaders. Instead, help them to understand the relationship between the three arenas and how they are all necessary in the life of the church.

7. Make a plan. Just remember that it does not have to be a perfect plan before you start. I am reminded of a man who once told Dwight Moody that he did not like the way he did evangelism. Moody replied, "Well, sir, I like the way I do evangelism better than the way you don't do it." For now, just get going. Work hard at having a great plan so get a head start on that great plan by training some leaders for the work right now.

God bless you all!

Bishop Alex Tana

General Overseer