

***“A Guide for Ministers of Music”***

***Written by Pastor E. Mouphouet***

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**DEDICATION**

This book is dedicated to Lord Jesus Christ who has given me an opportunity to live and to proclaim the word of God through the Worship Arts Ministry.

To my dear husband, Apostle Edward Mouphouet, who have been an inspiration and an encouragement to serve the body of Christ in all capacities.

Lastly, this book is also dedicated to the men and women in the worship Arts Ministry that sacrificially lead God’s people into His very presence daily. I salute you!

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**CHOSEN TO PERFORM OR MINISTER?**

In the Old Testament, When God was ready to pro-vide a physical structure for His people to Worship, He laid down some specific instructions that served as a shadow for things to come in 1 Chronicles 15:2, the Levites were CHOSEN to carry the “Ark of Covenant” which is the very presence of God and to Minister before him.

**CHOSEN:**

To be chosen means to be selected, appointed, to be considered acceptable, elected. When you are chosen by God, the creator of the heavens and the earth, it means you have been handpicked for a specific purpose. You have been handcrafted by God to fulfill an assignment, accomplish a specific task and as a leader in the worship ministry; you should see yourself as the best person for the job.

**OUR FLAWS:**

Your flaws, mistakes, sins, were not a bargaining chip for God to hold back His call upon your life; neither did He wait for you to become born again before He

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assigned you. The assignment was already put in place, before the foundation of the world, before you were conceived in your mother’s womb. Psalm 139: 13-16, reveals God’s intention for each of His children and it’s the real you, your real purpose to live for, your eternal assignment. God will not take away the assignment because you denounce the call, or reject being chosen. Once God chooses you, He chooses you for life, and God has record of it. It’s like, **“till death do you** **part” you cannot be separated from your call.**

**MAN’S OPINION:**

Men are motivated to make choices by what the physical eyes can see what your accomplishments are and based on your educational status in life, but God chose you before you could even become a living soul. It’s not about where you come from, who your parents are or your educational background or the challenges you face in this life time, it’s all about who called you and chose you.

**ACCEPTANCE:**

If you can accept your assignment as given by God, the

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rest of the journey will become easy. You must embrace this great responsibility that you have been charged with, keeping in mind that you cannot change what has been bestowed upon you, the sooner you obey the better it becomes.

**PERFORMANCE:**

The word “Performance” is being thrown around in the body of Christ today like a measuring rod. The word performance means “a musical or dramatic or other entertainment presented before an audience.” It can also be termed an “Act.”

The difference between being a minister who ministers and a performer is that, the performer performs to appeal to the natural satisfaction of the audience and the minister, ministers to the body, soul, mind and spirit.

**CONFUSION/MISUNDERSTANDING:**

There is a misunderstanding about these words and the impact it has on your calling as gospel musician, singer and minister. Do you perform? Yes, you do. You have just one audience which is “God” the giver of gifts and talents.

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One may say it’s the same thing. If your motive and preparation is to please men then you have defeated the purpose. You are called to save lives and win souls. Every gospel artist, musician, minister should ask themselves this important question. Why am I in the music business? If you can sincerely answer that question, I believe it will be a driving force that affects your ministration and presentation. If your performance is to present your act before man, then it simply means you perform with an understanding that you are being watched by the almighty God, who is able to touch the hearts of men.

**MOTIVES:**

You may desire to do the right thing but your approach may be wrong. There’s no doubt that you have been called and chosen for a great purpose. It’s not enough to know that your intentions and expected end results are so important. This is vital because, most of the gatherings for spiritual events can end up being geared towards self-gratification. Our meetings will lack the move of God, deliverances, healings, and transformations. If you plan a meeting and you only

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concentrate on what you look like, who’s going be there and the opinion of man then, you would have man’s reward and nothing else from God. Pray for an encounter, plan with excellence. God will be glorified and the lives touched by your ministrations will be uncountable. You will be able to establish the will of God here on earth through what you do; singing, dancing, dramatizing, etc.

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**PRAYER & THE HOLY SPIRIT WHAT IS PRAYER?**

The most basic definition of prayer is communication with God. Communication is a two way street, you speak and you listen for a response. It is impossible to be effective as a minister without a prayer life or a lifestyle of prayer that includes; constantly speaking with and listening to your Father. No matter your schedule or your responsibilities, be encouraged to pray.

1 Thessalonica 5:17, “Pray without ceasing”...KJV

**MAKE TIME**

If you have good intentions, set your alarms and put yourself on regimen to achieve your goal of spending quality time with Abba Father. The reality is sometimes, twenty four hours in the day is not enough to accom-plish our daily task, speak less of spending time to pray but you are responsible to prioritize your daily activities and include your daily devotion. The command remains the same, you have to make time and cultivate a life-style of prayer. JUST DO IT!

**RENEWED MIND**

One may find it difficult to spend time in prayers

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because, you are looking forward to that isolated time, secluded and quiet place to communicate with God, you have to change your minds about how you see prayers. God is omnipresent; He’s able to hear us even in the loudest places. He’s with us everywhere we go by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

But **the Comforter**, which is **the** Holy Ghost, whom **the** Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you… John 14:26.

Talent is not enough. The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity is your helper, teacher, your senior partner. If your goal is to offer true worship that touches the heav-ens and move the hand of God, you need the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit of God knows and searches the deep things of God. You need the Spirit of God to help us cultivate, use our gift and talent effectively.

Raw talent will carry you far. There are many singers, musicians, etc., who have changed their spheres of influence and have written songs that are still being sung today but those songs are soulish and can only feed a man’s flesh, satisfy a person for just a moment.

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Conversely, a Holy Ghost influenced singer or song is such that transcends the soulish realm, break barriers, transforms lives, heals, delivers, strengthens and do much more.

**A NEW LEVEL AWAITS**

The Spirit of God is your partner. He is omniscient, He knows all things and He can give you specific agenda for every event you plan, inspiration for every song you write. There are many Biblical examples that show how God ministered to His people through music. It’s time to desire more than what you know; it’s time to go beyond your experiences.

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**SKILFULNESS**

Sing unto him a new song; play **skillfully** with a loud noise. Psalm 33:3… kJV

Spirit of God to help us cultivate and use our gift and talent effectively. Some of us are born with many talents as we grow in the Lord, it’s important to grow in our gifts as well.

**KWON YOUR GIFTS**

Before you can cultivate your gifts, you must first know what your gifts are. We can no doubt “do all things through Christ who strengthens us,” but like Jeremiah was called from his mother womb to be a Prophet (Jeremiah 1:1-5), so were you also called to work in the music ministry, to be a gospel artist, worship leader, musician. Until you can recognize your gifts, you can never grow or cultivate your gifts.

**BE CONTENT**

There’s a lot of competition amongst music ministers, everyone believes in the “I” factor “I” can do better than the next man. People have become so critical, bad-mouthers, dangerous competitors and wrongly ambi-tious.

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It’s good to recognize who you are, accept what God has given you and learn to build up yourself. “Godly content-ment is a great gain.”

**INVEST IN YOURSELF**

You can only become skillful, if you invest in yourself, invest in your gifts. There’s no time for you to be lazy about what God has deposited in you. If you are a singer, polish your gifts. Let’s be honest, not all singers have a great voice, but if you invest in your gift, by taking some vocal lessons you can become a better singer. No matter the level you are operating in right now, there is still room for improvement. It’s dangerous to be carried away by the applause of men, the expression of satisfac-tion on the faces of the audience and think that you have arrived.

**DANGER OF COMPLICANCY**

I’ve heard this phrase used numerous times, “as the spirit leads.” This phrase was literally drawn from the book of Galatians 5, “being led by the spirit.” The scrip-ture have been dragged in the mud, it is used to pacify the lack of commitment to pursue excellence in the things of God. So, do you have to be led by the spirit of God?

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Yes, in all that you do. Keep in mind that the Spirit of God will lead based on the room you give him to operate (exception is— God’s sovereignty). It’s unprofitable to you and your audience to rest in the place of complacency because, meetings become monotonous, dull, and the audience can tell what’s going to happen next. It has becomes like a sounding cymbal, satisfying the soul and people leave burdened, because there’s no transformation only good music in the name of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. It’s time to rise up.

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**LIFESTYLE**

The lifestyle of a Gospel Artist is no different than the lifestyle of a Christian. You are a Christian first and our lives must exemplify that of Christ. Lifestyle means attitude, moral standards, conduct, style of living and behavior. You may not think highly of it, but you do preach the gospel of Jesus Christ through your behavior, moral standard (dress code). Your interaction with people will tell a story of who you are and whose you are. You leave an impact on those around you by your non-verbal ministration. The only letter of recommendation we need is you yourself. Your lives are a letter written in our hearts; everyone can read it and recognize our good work among you. 2 Corinthians 3:2.



**DRESS CODE**

The Levites includes all church worker, but for the sake of the settings, I’ll limit it to just the artist. God was so concern and firm on dress code for His children, espe-cially the ones holding key roles in the body of Christ. There were attires carefully designed to cover the essen-tial parts of the bodies both male and female. It was against the law during the time of Moses to dress inap-propriately. Even laws and punishments for dressing

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without under garments.

1. Call for your brother, Aaron, and his sons, Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. Set them apart from the rest of the people of Israel so they may minister to me and be my priests.

1. Make sacred garments for Aaron that are glorious and beautiful, instruct all the skilled craftsmen whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom. Have them make garments for Aaron that will distin-guish him as a priest set apart for my service.
2. These are the garments they are to make: a chest piece, an ephod, a robe, a patterned tunic, and a sash. They are to make these sacred garments for your brother, Aaron, and his sons to wear when they serve me as priests.
3. So give them fine linen cloth, gold thread, and blue, purple, and scarlet thread Exodus 28:1-5

41. Clothe your brother, Aaron, and his sons with these garments, and then anoint and ordain them. Consecrate them so they can serve as my priests.

1. Also make linen undergarment for them to be worn next to their bodies reaching from their hips to their thighs
2. These must be worn whenever Aaron and his sons enter the Tabernacle or approach the altar in the Holy Place to perform their priestly duties. Then they will not incur guilt and die. This is a permanent law for Aaron and all his descendants after him. Exodus 28:41-43

Let’s discard the theory “that was under the law, we are now under grace.”

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God has not changed, if He desired that His people be at-tired a certain way in the Old Testament, it’s important to note that He will be interested in your way of dressing today, especially those of us that stand before God’s people. Dress code should be a major part of your planning if you are still ministering on and off the stage. The sad mistake that music ministers make is going around think-ing that no one sees the way you dress outside the place of assignment. When you are on the stage, you have a limited view of those in the audience. Care must be taken how you carry yourself off stage.

Your way of dressing can sometimes become a distrac-tion if you dressed inappropriately. I believe you can be modestly attired and fashionable. One thing you need to think about is your response and application of the scriptures. If priestly fashion was included in the bible, it’s important to incorporate dress code in our planning and advancement of our career as music ministers. No matter who you are or the position you hold, you are held responsible for what you say via your dress code. Some will listen to the song you sing, your attitude, your conversations, and the way you dress, before they give

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their lives to the Lord. You have to represent Christ in all capacities.

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**ATTRIBUTE YOU MUST POSSESS**

**KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM:**

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth 2Timothy 2:15. **Wisdom** is the principal thing; therefore, get **wisdom**. And in all your getting, get understanding Proverbs 4:7. You must be knowledgeable of your calling and use the knowledge you’ve acquired to the glory of God. Knowledge can some time puff up, that’s why you need to get wisdom “the know-how.” Wisdom will guide you on how to appropriate the knowledge gained. You as a worship leader must be on the cutting edge of biblical foundation of worship because, you can only give what you have. Being knowledgeable and having understanding of who your Father is builds you up and make you a better worship leader. There’s no two ways about it, there is no way you can lead someone to the throne room of God, if you have no understanding of who God is. Spiritual Leaders, Pastors, mentors, etc., can do a great job in impacting in your life but, you must have a self-knowledge base of who God is. This can only be obtained through intimacy with God. It is in your quiet time with God, that

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you get to know him personally, during those intimate times with the Lord through prayer that He reveals Himself to you, your personal worship hour is so im-portant, it’s where you are built up, equipped, grow in knowledge of Him, see God as he is. SOON IT WILL BECOME A LIFESTYLE!

**WORD STUDY:**

Another essential part of growth as a worship leader is, word study. Everything that you need to know is in the word of God. Everything that you need to know about life, destiny, how to become an effective worship leader is in the word of God. For whatsoever things were written afore-time were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Romans 15:4. You may read books, attend workshops, and attend conferences but the word of God is the ultimate.

**GODLY CHARACTER:**

Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest re-port, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business Acts 6:3. Godly character is so important in the life of a believer, as worship leaders, you stand on the frontline and your character precedes your gifts. You must practice what you sing because, exhibiting ungodly

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character can destroy trust and hinder a believer from receiving from the Lord when the leader who has exhibited ungodly character is leading worship. Who may abide in your tabernacle? Who may dwell in your holy hill? He who walks uprightly, and works in righteousness and speaks the truth in his heart; He who does not backbite with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; Psalm 15. 1-3

One may argue that, God looks at the heart and not man but, that’s a factual statement. The truth is, your life is a living epistle and your behavior tells a story about your walk with the Lord. Remember you lead God’s precious ones in worship and the expectation is high and inasmuch as you do not live to please man but live to please God, double standard life can be a stumbling block.

But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stum-

bling block to them that are weak. 1 Corinthians 8:9.

Look out for more details in my upcoming book….

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**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

Pastor Elenora Mouphouet is a dynamic woman of God that ministers the word of God with power and a pas-sion to see lives transformed through the application of the God's word, the power of prayer, discipleship, and true worship. She answered the call to ministry in her youth and has served in different countries as a music minister, Christian Counselor and Worship leader.

She is the visionary of Judah's Generation, a Worship ministry with the mandate to help restore the biblical principle of worship and she has been teaching the body of Christ on worship for over twenty years.

Pastor Elenora is the Senior Pastor of Global Revival Mis-sions, MD, together with her Husband, Apostle Edward Mouphouet, Founder and Overseer of Global Revival Missions. They bring the word of life to many. She is a mother and a mentor with a charismatic approach to minister with testimonies of an unusual move of God everywhere her ministry is received.

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