

A FOCUSED AND DISCIPLINED CHOIR/CHORISTER

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The Choir is an important unit in the house of the Lord. It is the window through which salvation seeking souls view the church. It is from the conduct of the Choir, both within and outside the Church, that the spiritual inclination of the Choir can be assessed or gauged to assist or propel people in making a right choice of which church to join and worship. Indeed, if a voice-pop of members in a any church or denomination is conducted on what motivated or caught their attention or convinced them to worship where they currently do, many are more likely to point to either the way the word of God was preached (i.e. the message) or the melodious and/or soul lifting songs rendered (i.e. song ministration) from the Choir.

According to the dictionary, a Choir *is an organized set or group of singers in a church building or auditorium and situated before the altar*. In the Bible, they are members of the Levites i.e. people that work in the house of Lord. The Choir is a service unit in any church. Their sitting arrangement is always conspicuous; they are often adorned with a special robes or uniforms to distinguish them from other worshippers in the Church. Their primary role and assignment is to lead the church in various songs and in rendering hymns and lyrics.

A Chorister's calling involves a lot of commitment, hard-work, sacrifice and

service; it is not a call for funfair. Once a decision is taken to join the Choir, a prospective Chorister must be sure of the call and conviction; and not to join because of peer pressure interest or mere interest to belong. Choir work takes a considerable chunk of time; and just like the Boy's Scout motto, the Chorister must always "be prepared". This is because a disciplined and focused Choir exhibits zero tolerance for indolence. Any slight hic- cups or indolence by one or more chorister may directly or indirectly affect the operation and performance of the entire Choir. So, a Chorister is expected to be disciplined, be sacrificially-minded, embrace value-addition posture and be willing to operate with a large heart of humility.

A dynamic Church needs to have a focused, balanced and disciplined Choir which is always ready and willing to carry out its primary roles and assignments that are necessary in leading the congregation in songs ministration; and bringing succor and relief to the broken-hearted while primarily inspiring and motivating listeners to have personal relationship with God. Consequently, for any Choir to be relevant in the Church and to stand out among its contemporaries, it must totally be focused and disciplined. These are the ingredients that are necessary in rendering well coordinated, spirit-filled songs designed to lift the souls of worshippers towards God.

An undisciplined Choir will lack the commitment and dedication required to avoid chaos and become disorganized and disoriented in their arrangement and rendition of songs. Indeed, as a disciplined and focused member of the Choir, Church members or listeners are more likely to see and experience Christ. This is why Choristers should never indulge in vices or engage in activities that lack morals and Christ-like features, e.g. sexual immorality, back-biting, gossiping, stealing and other unspeakable acts that should not be associated with a Christian.

The motive for becoming a member of the Choir should not be based on monetary rewards; otherwise there will be no personal fulfillment and this will be at the detriment of personal salvation. Rather one should express personal commitment and joy in working for God. Taking a clue from David, the man in heart of God from the Bible, he derived pleasure and fulfillment in praising the Lord with his Harp and voice; and God was always pleased with him even to his generations- of which Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior is a direct lineage.

In addition to being focused and disciplined, a Chorister should be prepared to be productive and be irrespective of position. The Chorister must at all times be ready to put in his/her best irrespective of the condition or situation, whether convenient or not. Fabricating habitual excuses to avoid practice sessions or rehearsals should be avoided; while there must be that willingness to accept responsibilities as and when they come. Furthermore, a disciplined Chorister must as matter of routine embrace the culture of synergy; because any mistake made by any member will rub on the Choir at large. Untoward attitudes

such as mocking a fellow Chorister, rudeness, etc. should be avoided. Rather a Chorister should not only be receptive to love-laden criticisms and corrections but must also be willing to offer helping hand and exhibit seriousness at all times in order to achieve the wholistic objective of effective performance for the Choir. In effect, a disciplined Chorister should exhibit a balanced lifestyle centered on sound character, integrity, worthwhile purpose; and project a high level of grace, humility, etc. far beyond the accompanying popularity.

More importantly, a focused and disciplined Choir cannot afford to toy with spiritual growth of its members. The Choir can only develop with God on her side; hence there is the need to allow God dictate and direct the path of its activities. Either as a group or individuals, the Choir needs to develop spiritually. Members should always be encouraged to pray and fast without ceasing. At the same time educational advancement should be given due cognizance; as education is the bedrock of technological advancement. This is critical in order to remain relevant in a dynamic world that has been characterized by technological feats and networking, to the extent that the world has been turned into a global village. This could come in the form of formal education, attending short and medium term courses, attending conferences, reading motivational books, etc.

In conclusion, a focused and disciplined Chorister must be humble, tolerant and submissive to constituted authorities; and be bold and courageous to confront situations and challenges while being courteous and un confrontational.

Generally, Choir unit is a blessing to the church and should not expect to be rewarded from individuals or groups but only from God who sees the heart. The ultimate prayer should center on having the grace and privilege to be part of spiritual Choir which transcends all earthly Choirs ever known: where heavenly songs of *Holy, Holy Holy, Lord God Almighty* fill the horizon both day and night, and ceaselessly praising God in His Holiness.

As the Cherubim & Seraphim Movement Church Worldwide Dakibiyu District Headquarters Abuja celebrates its 25th year anniversary, the entire Choir of the District wishes to felicitate with the District Chairman, Council of Elders both Male and Female and the entire members of the church both at home and abroad. May God grant everyone the grace to witness many more years in good health and with God's abundant blessings. AMEN.