

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

KEY TO EFFICIENT PERFORMANCE IN TEAM MINISTRY

How can you build an effective relationship? How can you gain new insight into inter-personal relationship needed for the growth of your Ministry? Then take some time to study this note on working in the Ministry with other people. The study becomes necessary because of your responsibilities over the people in your team.

DEFINITION OF TEAM MINISTRY

It is a group of people willing to function together in a supportive role to meet common goals and who need each other in order to get the job done in the most efficient manner possible. Individual commitment by each team member is *a means to an end*. Each member must see himself in a supportive role. Each must understand that he needs the others in order to get the job done, hence the need to commit oneself to the process, following the guidelines and regulation and avoiding the abuse of leadership power.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS STUDY

By the end of this note you will be able to:

- Understand the dynamic of Team Ministry.
- Be more efficient in your responsibilities towards the church.
- See Team Ministry from the New Testament perspective.

CORPORATE VISION

All Christian Churches or Ministries – in fact, every work of God – should be founded on corporate vision. Corporate vision is received by an individual, but is not limited to that person alone.

It is given by God to enable His will to be carried out by a group of people (most of God's work is carried out by teams of people). Here, God releases His vision to one person and then catches other people up into it so that the vision can be fulfilled. Plurality of vision in a church set-up will bring confusion and division and God is not the author of confusion but in fulfilling God's giving vision, it takes more than one person. But it is important that all the team members should catch the vision so that together they can run with it to the glory of God. (Example of God's given vision: The building of an ark for the salvation of people and animals from an impending danger of flood – Gen. 6:5-8, 14-22).

THE COMPONENTS OF CORPORATE VISION

VISIONARY: - The way God has moved throughout history is finding a person who would be a creative source of His vision. This is why some churches become suddenly alive after 200 years and why some can be a huge success after only a few years – God has founded and

planted a person through whom He could source His vision. Here he is called VISIONARY. If you take away a visionary from a church, it may run for a while, but it will eventually stagnate, and become traditional and ineffective. Moses is an example of creative visionary for the people of Israel.

ENABLERS AND SUSTAINERS: - A vision needs people to maintain it. God calls people to actually lift up His vision on daily basis by doing the work the vision creates. Without these people the vision could not be successfully outworked. These people do what is necessary to solidify the vision practically and to keep it going. The Enablers get the vision organised and take up more difficult leadership tasks; then it is up to the people we have called Sustainers to carry out most of the work of the vision.

Moses – the source of a creative vision (VISIONARY) for his people: ISRAELITES. ENABLERS: Aaron (spokesman); Joshua (director, Army captain Moses'aide); Bezalel (craftsman, builder); Hur (uplifter); Caleb (encourager); Jethro (advisor). The Exodus 3 experience did not belong to these men, only Moses. These men were called by God to enable the vision that was source in Moses to become practical reality. In case of Moses, his sustainers were: the Levites, the sons of Aaron, the judges, the leaders of the 12 tribes, the master craftsman/designer, and the 70 elders etc. these men were responsible for particular areas of activity of the enablers.

COMMITMENT

These are some of the very vital points that one has to get registered in mind. They give impetus and motivation such that produces commitment.

Team Ministry originates in God Himself and so, He becomes both your example and goal (Gen. 26:27; John 17:20-23).

Commitment to Team Ministry must come out of a strong belief in the vision of the Ministry and such would regularly take some of your time, money and energy both physical and intellectual.

Let not your commitment be attached to any condition, for God knows your heart (Proverbs 20:27; Matthew 25:21-23).

The grace of God does not come by simply asking for it or hoping for it, it comes only by self-giving service to the Lord – (Mark 10:35-45).

God does not depend on your natural ability but your availability – Zech 4:6-10.

You cannot expect your followers to submit to you when you do not submit to your leaders. Therefore, efforts should be made to build trust and to ensure clear and constant communication with one another (Matthew 7:2).

THE NEW TESTAMENT PERSPECTIVE

JESUS COMMITMENT TO TEAM MINISTRY: - The term/word "Disciple" became the most commonly used to designate the followers of Jesus, to the extent that in Jesus' so-called Great Commission the objective of the world-wide mission was to "make disciples" of all nations (Matthew 28:19). The English word disciple normally designates a 'follower', 'adherent' or student of a great master, religious leaders or teacher. The Four Gospels unanimously testify to the core of twelve who were called by Jesus into a special relationship with Him. They were individually responsible for one thing or the other in the Ministry e.g. (Judas Iscariot was the treasurer) and Christ Himself committed His time to teaching them who eventually followed up the work after Him. This explains His commitment to teamwork.

PAUL'S HISTORY OF TEAM MINISTRY: - Born in Tarsus and when he was young, Apostle Paul received training in the various Greek Philosophies and religious cult through Gamaliel (a member of Sanhedrin). He was on his way to Damascus, carrying authorisation from the High Priest to arrest and bring to Jerusalem any Christians whom he might find, when he had an encounter with Jesus.

He became blind by the brightness of a sudden powerful light and was led into the city where he fasted for three days, after which a disciple named Ananias came to him, healed him of his blindness and baptised him. Having being filled with the Holy Spirit, Paul began to carry out his mission (taking the Gospel to the Gentiles) as given to him by Jesus Christ during the said encounter.

Paul and Barnabas, commissioned by the church in Antioch, embarked on an evangelistic tour. It took them across the Island of Cyprus, Ephesus and through Galatia (Antioch, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe). In fact through the province of Asia (Acts 13:14). It was one of the outstanding missionary accomplishments of history. The first mission was by three people, the second was by seven while the third was by fourteen people. By this we can understand Paul's commitment to teamwork.

CONCLUSION

It is my prayer that God may grant you patience to study and the ability to understand this note that you may make use of the wisdom contain in it and be better able to prove your Ministry before man and God.