

# **ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL**

## **THE BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE OF MINISTRY**

Without a doubt, one of the reasons why most ministries ordained of God fall short of expectations or collapse completely is their un-business-like attitude toward ministry. A lot of Ministers and Elders in ministries think that ministry is just going to Church on Sunday to preach well prepared messages. The only day you see them busy is on Sunday morning when they come up in their stage-managed roles. This is not ministry. Ministry is essentially a business. Jesus said:

....." Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?" Luke 2:49

Ministry is the Father's business. It is God's business. It is not Father's religion but Father's business. It is neither a funfair nor another way of life. It is not a political institution or party – "You know you either beat them or join them" No! Ministry is business. It is not a place for idlers. It is a place for those who face challenges with one aim – overcoming them. It is a place for those who are ready for the press to get the prize; for everyone who wants to succeed in Ministry must press into it; he must press into success and achievement. Ministry is a place for those who want to make satisfactory progress; those who are ready to explore the unlimited possibilities the saints have in Christ Jesus. These are the ones who stay on in Ministry and take it to the enviable position it ought to be. 'Those without a business perspective cannot make Ministry produce. The slothful cannot make it; neither can those who wait for manna to drop from heaven'.

Why is Ministry a business? What is this business perspective we are talking about? What does it involve? Business normally involves investment and profiting. In business, you always look for investments that will bring profit. You invest to profit. This is exactly how Ministry is. It involves investments that lead to profiting. When you invest correctly, your profiting must appear for all to see. Your profiting will constitute an attraction, which will draw all manners of men to you.

Businessmen in the world make use of all their faculties to enable them make profit. They invest their being. Their spirits are dead since they are not born again but, they use their minds and bodies to the utmost. You see them running up and down trying to succeed. They don't sit down in their houses and wait for their businesses to run themselves. If spiritually dead business men can make it, how much more then can a spiritually alive believer who has all his faculties open to God flourish, when he puts Ministry in its proper perspective. He has to go into Ministry with all of himself. He has to invest himself, his life, his time, his wisdom, his knowledge, and his all, for his Ministry to produce.

Partial investment produces partial results. What you sow, you must surely reap. He has to sow his life as a seed. This means, his spirit, soul and body have to be completely involved in the Ministry. He has access to divine ideas from God through his spirit. These ideas go into the mind for analysis and acceptance and he uses his physical frame for exploration and possession.

Look at the Ministry of Jesus for a minute. It followed this same pattern. He heard from the Father, planned practical means of attaining what He heard and His body pressed on tirelessly to achieve. When God brings you into His vineyard or whatever your responsibilities may be in the Ministries ordained by God, He doesn't tell you these minute details. Most often, He will tell you the end. You have to work out all those details by yourself. To make sure you succeed; He has given you a sound mind and a healthy physique to be able to carry out your task.

"For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word, which they heard, did not profit them, being mixed with faith in those who heard it." Hebrews 4:2

Ministry holds profit for those who understand the business ethics. There is therefore a profiting in the word. The Ministry, which is based on the word, must then produce results.

"For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come" I Tim. 4:8.

You can now see that Ministry business, which is part of godliness, is profitable unto all things. It holds a two dimensional future for the saints. There is earthly and heavenly profiting. All you need is to have a business perspective of your Ministry, and invest all of yourself into it. Ministry is not just an involvement, notwithstanding your position or responsibility in it; it is an appointment by God.

" After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them..." Luke 10:1

Nobody comes into ministry because he wants to involve himself in God's business. No! You have to be appointed. God is the one who appoints you and puts a specific task in your hands.

In government, when appointments are made, the people appointed would have been looked into to see if they will be able to perform or not. Nobody takes an illiterate from the village and appoints him a minister, though with the exception of the Nigeria military government. So also God will not appoint you to a ministry without being sure that you can make it. This is not in terms of natural qualifications as in the world system but in terms of availability and commitment to His cause. He knows your ability since there is nothing hidden from Him. Until He is persuaded you can run a ministry or support its running, He won't put it into your hand or put you there.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." Matthew 28:19.

Ministry is not just a commitment; it is a commission. When the Lord leads you into Ministry, it becomes a commission. It becomes a task that must be accomplished. In that word "Go", there is all the enabling and backing you need for a successful ministry. God who has said to you "Go" will also teach you to profit if and only if you take it in business-like manner.

"I am the Lord, your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you by the way you should go" Isaiah 48:17.

The Lord does not ask you to go where it will not profit you. He believes in making profit. If He didn't, He wouldn't have sent Jesus. In the beginning, He had Jesus, His only Son, with Him; who is His express image; who Himself is God, to come and physically execute this plan of redemption. In fact God Himself came down! He invested Himself and what happened? His Son back with Him in a position of honour and dignity. In addition, He has millions of other sons, and many more trooping in everyday.

"Whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son...Moreover whom he called, these He also justified: and whom He justified, these He also glorified" Romans 8:29-30.

Ministry is a business. Take it as such and you will see it produce results. It will flourish and this will attract others into it. I can boldly say that to work in the ministry is a business deal. It is like a bond, an agreement between God and the worker. It is not a foolishness to answer a call into ministry. It is simple covenant wisdom.

"Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for my sake and the gospel's who shall not receive a hundred fold now in this time houses ...and in the world to come eternal life" Mark 10:29-30.

We have now entered into another summer, the more convenient period of the year for door to door Evangelism. All living Ministries and Christian workers altogether should be looking forward to taking the opportunity to organise and co-ordinate an evangelistic activity within their locality. How would you like to play your part during this period? This is a question for all of us, and the Lord is watching to judge your response. May the Lord bless your decision to take your calling in a business-like manner!

## CONDUCTING A HOME BIBLE STUDY

### DOS

BE NEAT AND CLEAN  
BE VERY COURTEOUS  
BE A GOOD LISTENER  
STAY ON THE SUBJECT  
BE ON TIME FOR YOUR STUDY.  
NEVER MISS A BIBLE STUDY  
GO IN PAIRS OF TWO (male & female)  
ALWAYS GO TO THE PERSON'S HOUSE.  
KEEP A RECORD OF YOUR STUDY  
CLAIM THE FULNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
START WITH A FEW MINUTES OF LIGHT MORE THAN CONVERSATION

### DON'TS

DO NOT EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING IN  
DO NOT BE MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES

DO NOT CALL TO CHANGE THE DATE OR THE TIME  
DO NOT GO OVER YOUR STUDY TIME FIVE MINUTES

REMEMBER: THE NEW CONVERT IS "YOUR BABY" TO FEED AND MATURE.