

ALL CHRISTIAN'S FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

THE NEED FOR LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The late Dr. Clate A. Risley, former Founder-President of the World-wide Christian Education Ministries, once said, "Humanly speaking, the greatest need of the church has always been and is today the need of trained leaders. The churches today that are having greatest turn-out of believers are those who are making time to train their leaders." This is to believe that leaders must multiply themselves by developing one another, giving one another full play and adequate outlet for their abilities. And having been well trained, they should feel less the weight of heavy burdens, and use the opportunity for constructive initiative and with power of decision. Unfortunately, we are presently suffering from lack of trained workers, and we are seriously handicapped by a lack of committed personnel.

Many of our leaders are indifferent or care less of their responsibility; some lack confidence in their ability to teach or lead; some lack consecration to Christ and are unwilling to put the work first; some misunderstand the task they are asked to perform; and pride would not even allow some to submit themselves for further training. This observation of mine does not mean that this is the situation with every member of our Disciples team in the various churches or ministries that are here today. There are of course, some among us that understands what Christian leadership is all about and are willing to make use of every opportunity to improve their out-put. This is very obvious as we can notice it here today.

Paul travelled about preaching and teaching the Word. To conserve the fruit of his ministry he made it a practice to select, train, and appoint faithful and able men to take leadership in every congregation he organised. He balanced his strong evangelistic efforts with effective leadership training program. Towards the later part of his ministry, he sent letters to these churches leaders. Among other things, he reminded them to carry on an effective and continuing training program to ensure the continuous growth of the

church. Thus he wrote to Timothy: “The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also” (II Timothy 2:2).

Just as professional workers such as Pastors, Evangelists and Missionaries are gifted for certain offices and functions within the body of Christ, so leaders have their individual gifts to be used in the ministry. Not all are Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists and Pastor-Teachers but all are men of God and have an important place in the building up of the body of Christ. Three great chapters of the New Testament, Romans 12, I Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4, picture for us this universal ministry in action. In reality, when man puts into position, people that are not properly trained to carry out activities in the ministry, the church is not effectively served. The effectiveness of people who are chosen to serve the body in the ministry is based on three points. 1) Their individual training level. 2) Their personal heart attitude. 3) Their on-going determined relationship with God. In other words, before involving men, we must remember to train or equip them and be sure that they have the right mind for both the works of service and God. Someone put it this way, “An army of soldiers is powerless without weapons. So also an army of leader cannot be effective unless they are properly equipped for their individual assignment in the ministry.”

Finally, Ministries should organize basic training for the leaders. It should be programmed in a way to convince these leaders of their need to the ministry, help them to see that the work can be interesting and show them that they can grow. It should be centrally organized and attendance should count on allocation of responsibilities in the ministry.