

Education Cycle Steps: Part I

As founder of Have You Heard The Good News international radio broadcast, I travel to Africa annually to preach the gospel in countries such as Nigeria, Togo, Benin, Ghana, and Kenya where I discovered they lack basics Bible teaching in regards to the fundamentals of the gospel. In August 2017, a Nigerian ministry called *Repairer of the Breach* (RBM) informed me their leader from the U.S.A. died before training them in the gospel in regards to being saved from sin, justification, righteousness, and being born again; the A, B, Cs of the gospel. This is exactly what is needed. I knew their leader many years, so I accepted this lead navigator position and was immediately asked, “What shall we do?” I informed them I would go back to America and formulate a plan to share with their leadership team that will focus on the basics tenets of the gospel that they will learn and train other ministers and laymen in the doctrine of salvation by grace.

As a turnaround agent having no clue how to lead this panicked but eager team from America, I relied on prayer for guidance in what to do. Prayer proved valuable for me and my answer came by Dr. Malphurs address to ministry leaders in Advance Strategic Planning. Prayer was important for my direction and was answered by Malphus through several ontological questions fruitful organizations master. *Who are we?* Defines us. *Why do we do what we do?* Defines why we exist. *Where are we going?* Defines our destination. *How are we going to get there?* Defines our mission. *Why is it necessary for us exist?* Defines our purpose. Aligning my organization with these prayer answering benchmarks should overcome its plateau of being stifled by the death of its leader. Malphus provided guiding lights in answer to my prayers for direction in what to do as a crisis ministry leader through implementing four of the following Bible based principles.

As an answer to prayer, the first biblical based principle is to build a leadership team characterized by Christian character. Scripture focuses on the character of a Christian leader which the RBM leadership team must align itself with the following Scriptures. The RBM leadership team member, male and female, must be:

“vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Also, he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.” (Timothy 3:2-7, KJV)

Since trust is a requirement for any leader, the Christian character of a RBM team leader must be held in high regard by those in and in not in ministry. Due to extreme poverty in Nigeria, the team does not has access to quality credentialed education, so my ministry will supply them with adequate qualification in the gospel.

The second principle on which a RBM team member must alignment him or herself with is to be faithfully committed to the team. To avoid morale disruption in this ministry by a member’s abrupt desertion during a process, those with proven Christian character will be asked for a faithful time-bounded commitment of nine months to train others in the gospel. It is written, “It is required that a steward be found faithful.” (1 Cor. 4:2) This ministry seeks the stewardship of qualified teachers of the gospel with highly regarded Christian character as gospel promoters as the apostle wrote “the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” (Tim. 2:2)

The third principle is this leadership ministry team formulate a vision with a strategic ministry plan. The wise Solomon wrote, “Where there is not vision the people

perish.” (Prov. 29:18) Likewise, a failure to plan is cited as a plan to fail. To avoid these pitfalls, RBM leadership team will define the purpose for its existence then envision, in words, the goal of its attainment, visualizing it in words in according with the Lord’s instruction: “Write the vision and make it plain upon tables, so even a runner can read it.” (Hab. 2:2, CEB) RBM’s succinct vision statement is to be posted prominently in RBM ministry so it can be easily read and also when appropriate it is to be on RBM materials.

The fourth principle that an RBM team member must subscribe is to be governed by consensus and support biblical plans and processes voted on in RBM’s consensus forum and use the biblical method of to end strife with a team member beginning with private confrontation of a team member in conflict as written in Matthew 18:15. “If thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.” Clearly stated, one is not to complain, bicker, or speak against the MVP being the Mission, Vision, and Purpose or any team member. “Let all these be done unto edifying.” (1 Cor. 14:26)

In ministry team building, two Core Values are imperative. In Scripture, the goal of all human relations is love. Therefore, “Let all your things be done with charity.” (1 Cor. 16:14) Since “the love of Christ constrains us”, our motivation in this ministry is the glorification of Jesus Christ expressed by sharing the gospel in love. Our second core value is to communicate this truth in love. Since Nigerian terrorist group Boko Haram hates the Christianity, Ephesians 4:15 “speaking the truth in love” is of utmost importance. Truth by itself is blunt and can be communicated in a cruel or abusive manner. Thus, love and truth in love is a CV incorporated in RBM’s mission statement. “To establish people in the faith by teaching Christ’s gospel in truth with love.”

My analysis through an environmental scan in proximity to RBM reveals a demographic 100% native Nigerian immersed in extreme but survivable poverty (no homelessness or starvation). Ages of the seven member leadership team range from 23-58 with one female. Omitting her, the others officiate as pastors. Their congregations are largely married females bringing their children without the father to worship. The average size of those active attendees range from 40 to 75 with these approximated percentages. Children 30% (half male), Teenagers 20% (majority females with 5% males usually musicians or choir), Adults 50% (majority female males with 1/3 males). Life expectancy is a median of 53 years regardless of gender. Adults age range from 18 to 67. Congregations are poorly funded. Average monthly income is \$50.00 for women \$85.00 for men. Churches use generators for electricity and are composed of wood and tin. In my recent trip to Nigeria, I ministered at seminaries and of one of my team members and at several churches were numerous ministers from other churches were present.

By using Socrates' interactive dialectal method of questioning and evaluating the answers of ministers and laity during teaching sessions, RBM will repair their breach of having a "zeal that is not according to knowledge" I observed by the scan. Repairer of the Breach's late minister saw this knowledge deficient but died before accomplishing this. Therefore, under my leadership RBM will tackle the ignorance of salvation among Christians in Africa beginning in a seminary in Nigeria. From there we train and mobilize to be lovingly patient in love training pastors in the Bible based basics of the gospel. This will be accomplished by our ministry team. Our goal is to equip West Africa with the knowledge of the New Covenant until ignorance of how to gain the gift of salvation, how one is made righteous, and eternal security are vanquished from Christians in Africa.