

## **Internship Reflections**

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Before this internship, I could truthfully state that I love God, others and myself. However, during this month, I have had the opportunity to truly understand that loving God, others and myself will require compassion and understand. I have begun to understand ministry as “being” versus “doing”. That means that activity does not make me a minister. While it is true that I visit the sick, read the Bible, tithe, mentor youth and young adults and do a lot of the things that the world equates with ministry, “being” a leader in ministry is different. As a leader in ministry, evangelizing others, serving others and discipling others is becoming a part of who I am at my core. Being a leader in ministry is not a title. Being a leader in ministry is not limited to what the world sees or being in the pulpit. My practical experiences and accountability continue to grow my leadership skills.

I sometime wonder how many people have jumped on the “minister bandwagon” without knowing what it means to be a leader in ministry. Probably many people have a concept of ministry that is very limited. This limited view of ministry is not what I think God is calling for his disciples to do in these days. With everything that is going on in this world, we cannot afford to turn our light off and on. We have to be an eternal flame. We have to be a light that never goes out.

I have had many experiences this month that have really brought this concept to the forefront of my mind. The youth that I mentor may be serving me a burger through a fast food window. The sick that I am able to minister to may not have physical illnesses or be in a hospital. They may be a bag boy at Publix who has a conflicted view that the world owes him everything. My walk in Christ as a leader has been broadened because of this internship. I have received an extraordinary blessing in having a mentor who is on 24/7, with few exceptions as a human. He is an awesome role model for letting my light shine so that men may see Jesus in me.