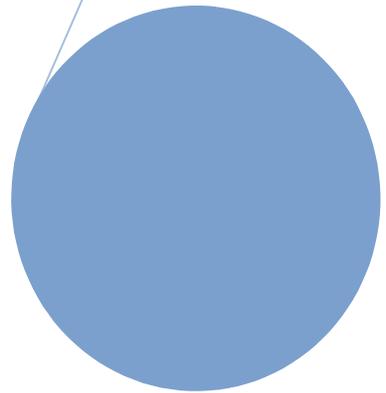
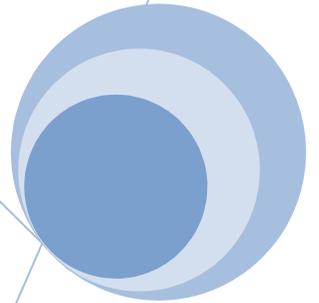
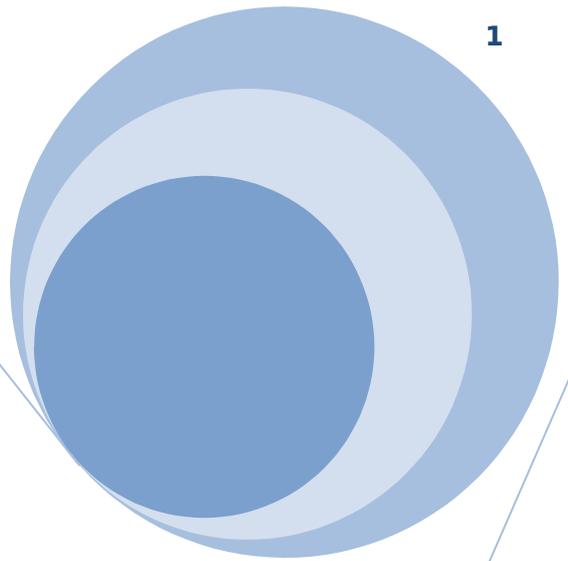




My Leadership Journal





My Leadership Journal

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“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.” 1 Peter

5:7

June 2, 2018

As I reflect on the things that happened this past week, I can see the hand of God pulling me along towards His purposes for me. I've pondered over the question of "What does it take for lasting change to take root in one's life?" I seem to be stuck on prioritizing the goals that I have set for myself and I can't seem to get back on track. I consider time management a big part of leadership. Right now I feel like a failure and here's why. All week I have worked on my LEAD assignments little by little instead of devoting more time to my two classes. I figured that between Friday and today I would really buckle down and finish everything. Of all days I woke up this morning to discover that my entire face was swollen due to allergic reaction. It was too late for me to grab my EpiPen because now my eyes and lips were affected. I knew what a trip to the emergency room entailed, but I had no choice. I called my son to drive me to the hospital. I told him not to wait for me because I would have to stay all day to receive intravenous medication. Lying on the hospital bed gave me plenty of time to think about the work that I needed to finish for my classes. I arrived home from the hospital two hours before the deadline to post my work, as it was. Not wanting to completely ignore my assignments, I turned in what I had left incomplete. I thought what a shame! I remembered the words, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." (1 Peter 5:7). As I continued to feel like a failure, the issue of time management continued to resonate in my spirit.

I had ⁴ learned the “crowding out” discipline of time management early on, but knowing and doing are two different things. The discipline says that, if you spend all of your time on highly productive tasks, by the end of the day, you will have “crowded out” all the unproductive activities that might have distracted you from your real work. On the other hand, if you spend your time on *low* value activities, those low value activities will *crowd out* the time that you need to complete the tasks that can make all the difference in your life. I thought back on the day that I spent going to an unimportant event. One of the people that I thought would attend the event didn’t come. When I called to ask her why she replied, “Girl, I can do that any time... All this week I have set aside 4 hours each day to prepare for my finals. After the incomplete work that I turned in tonight, I’ll be missing some events, too. I have some *crowding out* to do.”

[Type text]

June 8, 2018

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

Psalms 37:23

This week has been especially hard for me. My mother's birthday is in two days, bringing with it the memories of my life as a child and the great gift that God gave me in her. I've had funerals to attend this week so, my mind has been on a different path. Eliud, my spiritual son, was finally able to come to America after being gone for 10 years. His returning from Kenya brought back bittersweet memories of the day that he and his family left Georgia. My husband and I had a big Send -Off service for them. Now Eliud is back and while he was gone, the Lord gave my husband a big Send-Off service. Eliud had yet to mention DeMond's passing. That kind of bothered me. I finally admitted to Eliud how much I missed my husband. His reply to me was so freeing, "I miss him too, he responded, "but one day we will see him again. The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way" (Psalms 37:23). My focus went back to my mother's upcoming birthday and the time when I will see here again, too. I suddenly realized that from the time I first meet him, Eliud has always focused on the future in one way or another. I recalled that one of the marks of a good leader, according to Kouzes and Posner (2010) was that leaders focus on the future. Although, the principle was brought to my attention in an unconventional way I purposed in my heart to be more forward thinking, more of a future-focused leader. Kouzes and Posner (2010) opined that focusing

on the ⁶ future requires you to reflect back on your past to discover the themes that engage you and excite you. And it means thinking about the kind of legacy you want to leave and the contributions you want to make (pp. 58-59). That's it. I want to leave a legacy that's pleasing to the Lord. Maybe that's why Eliud is so future-focused. Today, I purpose to become more focused.

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But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 1 John 1:7 King James

June 15

Kouzes and Posner (2010) opined that you either lead by example or you don't lead at all. That's the truth that kept me grounded all week. I had encouraged the congregation to attend a District meeting all week. I told them that I would be in attendance, too. I knew that whether they attended or not, I had to attend. True to form, some members attended one night and others attend the next night, etc. I realized the fact that the majority of the members lived within 15 minutes of the event place. I had to drive over an hour, at night, alone. The first night, as I surveyed the sanctuary, I was a bit perturbed at some of the absent members actions. When I got in my car for the long drive home, I remembered the words that Pastor Michel, a Haitian pastor in the community had said to me as I shadowed his ministry, Haiti is a dark place but, we are salt and light. If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. (1 John 1:7 King James). There in the darkness of my car, the light came on! It's not about what the followers do at times, rather it's more about the example that the leader sets all the time. The fellowship with one another is spiritual, the light is spiritual. Leaders do have to go first, leading by example.

“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”

Romans 8:31

June 23, 2010

I reflected back on the big decision that I made this past Sunday. It was Father’s Day and as I surveyed the group the Sunday prior to Father’s Day, I surmised that very few people would be present on Father’s Day. One of the men of the congregation was having a fun outing at an area park and lake. The thought came to me, “Why not move the Sunday services to the lake. I did just that. The brother sponsoring the event was so overwhelmed that our members were freed to come to his event. Kouzes and Posner (2010) suggested that Leadership Is An Affair of the Heart .When I arrived at the event, the quests that had been at our church when I made the announcement concerning our Father’s Day activities were there, too. Of course there were others who didn’t agree with the decision at hand, but I made a call that seemed to knit those that attended the event together. We also got a chance to fellowship with people that we possibly never would have met. I’ve learned from other pastors that sometimes a change in scenery gives the people a time of refreshing. The people now want to have the morning service once every quarter at a “fun” place. In this “Affair of the Heart”, God was with us.

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For the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts.

1 Chronicle 28:9

June 30, 2018

This week my song has been, not only can't I do it alone as opined by Kouzes and Posner (2010) , I won't do it alone! As one who believes in a preaching team, in the past I had assigned one Sunday out of the month for the associate ministers to be in charge of the Sunday morning service, *from the pulpit to the door*. This process afforded a learning experience for the ministers and for me. I learned that many of them were better at it than me and I was elated. When a pastor knows that in times of emergences the church is poised to move on, there is joy in the pastor's ability to raise up leaders. Some of colleagues thought that I had lost my mind. I pressed forward. Some of the ministers went on to pastor at other churches. During this season, I was preaching three times a month. During the last four months the Lord has sent to the church two couples, each ordained and experienced in ministry. This is a sign to me to return to the preaching team concept that I once had. I remember the Bishop that ordained me. Years ago, I was a part of his preaching team that I patterned my team after.

The ¹⁰ wisdom in his model raises up ministers and gives the pastor a chance to be ministered to. This team concept has always brought extraordinary results in more ways than one. The Lord understands the thought behind this model of ministry.

Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; Philippians 1:27

July 7, 2018

I reflect back on my decision to move the church from the leadership of one Bishop to another Bishop in the same denomination. The Bishop that we were under had become ill. There were several administrative pastors under him to carry the work on, however I sensed, through the Holy Spirit, that instead of supporting the Bishop they were positioning themselves to be the next Bishop. Our congregation had a lot of love and respect for our Bishop. He was a Servant-Leader, a retired seminary Dean, and very humble but, he was not coming back to lead the people. He was being emeritized.

There were a few pastors that could be effective as Bishops but it was evident by their actions that they were ignoring the needs of our present Bishop as they fought among themselves. When I discussed my heart to the congregation several of them were concerned that if we moved the church to another Bishop, that I would have to give up the National, State, and local positions that I held as a part of the present group. It [Type text]

humbled me that the people were willing to follow my reasons to change our affiliation, but they thought about the service that I had rendered to the organization that had caused me to receive National recognition, I thought about Kouzes and Posner (2010) positing that Challenge Is the Crucible for Greatness. I assured the congregation that my thoughts were never about the positions that I had or could attain, I just wanted to lead with integrity. I could serve under deceitful leaders and I would not turn my head to wrongdoing, leaving my congregation under leadership with low values, and feel good about it. The church voted with me 100 per cent and we withdrew from the organization. When the shock waves settled, all the pastors that stayed could say was, "That took a lot of grit!" I'm committed to finishing well.

So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Proverbs 3:4

July 13, 2018

This week I made a firm commitment to head an initiative focuses on ministry to the mothers of the youth who had died of gun violence recently and the mothers of the youth who murdered the youth. As I began to pull together my team of Christian workers to begin our prayer campaign I was amazed at those who were very nonchalant about the prospect of bringing both sides of the situation together. I was also encouraged by the people that saw the initiative as a work of the Lord. At this point in my Christian journey I believe in me (Kouzes and Posner, 2010), so I must move forward knowing that the Lord is with me.

LEADERSHIP STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

My strength as a leader is that of the Transformational Leader/Servant- Leader. My weakness is that my heart bleeds for disenfranchised, downtrodden and beat down people. I will expend all my resources to support the cause of Christ. Many times in my zeal I have acted before some of my plans were well thought out. Today, I believe in me [Type text]

as never before. I am a witness that as I stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel (Philippians 1:27) God is surrounding me with like-minded and like-spirited Christians.

References

Kouzes, J. M., & Posner, B. Z. (2010). *The truth about leadership: The no-fads, heart-of-the-matter facts you need to know*. San Francisco, CO: Jossey-Bass.



JUDE 1:14-25

¹⁶ These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

¹⁷ But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

¹⁸ How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

¹⁹ These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

²⁰ But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

²¹ Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

²² And of some have compassion, making a difference:

²³ And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

[Type text]

²⁴ Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

²⁵ To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.