

704 Leader's Role in the 21st Century

Cultural Experience Assignment

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## Cultural Experience

~~Visitation: Women's Conference at God's World International Church located in Conyers, Ga.~~

~~Shadowing: I accompanied Dr. Mazeli at the Women's Conference. She was acting president of Women's Department at God's World International Church.~~

For this assignment, I accompanied Dr. Mazeli to a women's conference at God's World International Church located in Conyers, Georgia. When I interviewed Dr. Mazeli it was done after the Cultural the Cultural Experience program which was the wWomen's cConference sService which took place on June 2, 2019. Dr. Mazeli She wasn't the keynote speaker, however, as the facilitator of the event, she was still responsible for the overall success of the program. This amazing leader made sure everything was as perfect as possible. She made sure the speaker, as well as the speaker's family, was taken care of. As a Christian of Nigerian roots, she has been socialized, through her faith and cultural tradition Her Christian faith and Nigerian roots, enabled her to invest a lot of time and energy into making sure that all the guests received hospitality and love promote a well rounded program which promoted love for one another and love for all.

The women's service was svery similar in some ways to the church service that which I normally attend, but I also noticed some differences and yet the service was very different. There were three guest speakers that were scheduled to preach on program. The first guest speaker, Miranda Anderson, spoke about Job. He maintained that Job's and how his suffering didn't make him turn from God even though he had doubts about himself. She further

~~maintained that while elaborated on how~~ we often believe God is great, ~~she~~ we doubt our own abilities. She continued to say when we doubt our abilities, we doubt God, “f for it is he who have made us and not we ourselves.” (Psalm 100:3: KJB) -The second speaker, -Dr. Candace Morton, ~~spoke on about~~ -the importance of necessity for women ~~to~~ empowering other -women. - She ~~maintained that elaborated on how~~ women are the nurturers of their families and how often times often times when they become empty, there's usually no one to pour into them not because no one wants to, but because it is often times the one who can pour into a nurturers who know how to pour into other are other nurturers. She made mention of talked about the scripture which says, “To whom much is given, much is required.” (Luke 12:48: mention the translation of scripture that you are using). -She elaborated on how women are also strong vessels who believe all things are possible, therefore, they need to be in fellowship with likeminded people. -She shared that how in her personal experiences, she has met women who seemed to be intimidated by her because she's assertive and she's willing to aggressiveness to achieve and give voice to issues others saw as being men's -issues. For instance, when she was a hile yet a teenager, she decided to try out for the boys' softball team because at the time there was no girls' softball team. Because she was such a beast at softball, she decided the team would never be at their best unless explaining to her how she should be somewhere trying to get a boyfriend instead of playing games with the boys. She went on to say that continued to explain how one of her classmates approached her and asked her why she had to be so difficult-. Dr. Morton responded, “I may have a daughter who wants to be a part of a community or career where people have gender or ethnic preferences...how -~~She said she shared with her haters,~~ how can I tell my children to do what I wasn't willing to do and that was to fight for what I she believe?”d!

The third speaker, was Dr. Mazeli's 85-year old mother, Anna Adobe. Mrs. Adobe was hilarious!—She talked about life in Nigeria as well as life in the USA. She assured all the women present that life would be good to ~~them you~~ if ~~they were you are~~ good to it. —She talked about her love affair with her husband who is now 89, ~~He and how he~~ was the only man she had ever been with; ~~she.~~—~~She~~ had never dated, called or kissed anyone except her husband. She ~~made the crowd burst into laughter when she said if anything were to ever did however state that if anything was ever to~~ happen to her husband, Denzel Washington would be the next in line. —Mother Adobe challenged ever wo~~man~~~~men,~~ at the service, to get the phone number and address of at least two ~~other~~ women ~~at the service that~~ they didn't know, ~~at the service,~~ so they could become prayer parents and create a buddy system where the women could hold each other accountable and so they could encourage one another daily by sending scriptures and positive affirmations weekly. She ~~mentioned that that's how she and stated that's how her and~~ some of her friends were able to face some of the worst storms that came their way.

~~Afterwards, e~~Each ~~of the women~~ leaders ~~y~~ gave their testimonies ~~y~~ and ~~then after the speakers had finished speaking,~~ all of the participants, who wanted to, gave testimonies ~~'~~ of ~~how amazing God how amazing God~~ has been to their families, ~~, as well.~~—After each testimony, ~~the conference~~ participants would do ~~what many considered to be~~ an African style dance. Many of the women ~~who were~~ from Africa, ~~performed~~ ~~dances from their countries and ethnic groups~~ ~~a dance according to that of the tribe they were from.~~ Those women who weren't of African descent ~~performed dances from their homelands,~~ ~~did a dance according to their native land.~~

There were some women who were different native lands yet they chose to either do a Christian dance or they chose not to do a dance at all. The speaker did speak about family, unity and the importance of making a difference in their communities.

After the speakers had finished, -Dr. Mazeli, went to each one, kissed them on both cheeks, thanked them for coming and sharing with the congregation, ~~and~~ then asked all of the family members, who had accompanied ~~moderated~~ the speakers, to ~~give their remarks~~ ~~have words~~. Dr. Mazeli then gave the speakers, ~~and~~ all of their family members, gift bags, ~~and~~ then the program ended with a lavish sit down dinner, family style.

The dinner included a combination of African, ~~American and Indian~~ dishes, ~~American Cuisine, Indian dishes~~, as well as other cuisines for ~~other parts of the world~~. ~~Every~~ ~~everyone~~ participant was asked to bring a dish from their native land. The potluck was a symbol ~~ization~~ of unity and power. The speakers and their families were seated first ~~followed by all the other~~, ~~then all of the other~~ participants ~~st~~ ~~were seated~~. The room, in which the dinner took place, resembled ~~that of~~ a huge dining hall. ~~The t~~ Tables were connected ~~to as if to create a~~ ~~ensure a~~ family ~~feel~~. ~~feeling was present~~. Once everyone was seated, Dr. Mazeli blessed the food. Before anyone was ~~allowed~~ to eat, hymns were sung ~~to as if to~~ thank God for the gathering. ~~The food was then~~ ~~Foods were then~~ passed around as if to say everyone at the table symbolized one family and one God. After the dinner was over, all of the women at the table locked arms and then Dr. Mazeli prayed for everyone's safe travels, ~~and~~ the success ~~of for~~ all ~~the~~ families ~~represented there~~, and then everyone was dismissed. ~~H~~ ~~however~~, ~~before~~ anyone left, ~~the dinner tables~~, all guest were given the opportunity to take home to ~~go~~ boxesags. ~~The s~~ Servers gave ~~menus to the~~ participants ~~menus~~ so they could circle the food items they wanted to take home.

This was an extraordinary experience for me. I have never been to a conference where there was so much love and admiration shared between participants especially when the women are mainly women. The spirit of love was so heavy that ~~even~~ women who ~~showed had showed~~ up late ~~sat seemed to sit~~ in awe of what they were experiencing. ~~In addition~~, I have never seen so

much food at one single event ever! Not only was there plenty of food, there was such a huge variety of food. I mean ~~entrees~~ food, deserts, drinks, ~~and so on~~ etc. ~~Furthermore, the~~ The tables were decorated as if we were attending a wedding reception. There was beautiful linen, decorative porcelain dishes, beautifully sculptured air blown glasses, high end silverware. It was simply magical. All ~~of the children were seated~~ at the children's table, ~~which had was~~ ~~accompanied by~~ its own servers and aides so the women ~~who were participating in the event~~ wouldn't be disturbed. Right before the women finished their meals, there was a ~~short~~ praise dance and ~~a small~~ skit performed. This was most surprising ~~to me, from my cultural background,~~ because during the service, ~~there was only speaking and testimonies~~'.

As I shadowed Dr. Mazeli, I ~~witnessed first-hand saw~~ how ~~well~~ she served the ~~guests and the other ladies, especially the~~ family members who accompanied the guest speakers. The women spoke so highly of God that if I hadn't been a child of God, that would've been the say I would've done so. I was also deeply impressed with how extravagantly the program flowed. Everything from the service, the dinner, the praise dance, the skit, the to go boxes, as well as the manner in which we were all served seemed as if we were being treated as royalty. When I asked Dr. Mazeli why had they decided to create such a royally styled program, she responded with this, "We are all God's children, therefore we are all from royalty."~~—~~She continued by stating ~~that how~~ the purpose of the Women's Conference, was to pamper all ~~of the women who attended.~~ She also ~~mentioned that discussed how~~ she started the services in light of her overwhelmingly busy life. Dr. Mazeli ~~talked about how she has six has 6~~ children, parents, and a husband, and a host of other family members who depend on her for everything, yet when she gets to the ~~point~~ ~~ace~~ where she needs to be pampered, she goes ~~all~~ in. She continued by sharing how she wanted to ~~provide the~~ that for those women who had no means to be that for

themselves. ~~During Dr. Mazeli continued to share how during~~ her very first conference, she came across so there were so many broken women present. She stated how ~~(should be “She stated that” not “stated how”)~~ the dinner served consisted of fried chicken and all the things most African American Women enjoyed, while some of the women from other ethnic backgrounds, mainly drank sweet tea or ate veggies and bread. She continued to discuss how she had purchased cheap paper goods and had only enough food for half the population of women attending the conference. Dr. Mazeli promised herself that if women continued to attend her conference, she would make sure she had the best money could buy to offer them.

I saw first-hand that Dr. Mazeli is an amazing leader who puts the needs and feelings of others first. She was so concerned about the ~~other~~ women who attended this conference that I had to remind her that she had not eaten. As I sat alongside this wonderful human being, I could see the hurt of her past and the triumph of her future. ~~Before the service had begun,~~ Dr. Mazeli shared with me how hard she had to work for her peers to take her seriously. Because she grew up with money, many who met her ~~(, acquainted )~~ associated her with as being a spoiled brat who inherited the world with her father's name. ~~However,~~ the truth of the matter was she acquired what she has on her own inherited the world on her own name. When she decided to go to graduate school, it was her father who encouraged her to be whatever she felt the most passionate about. Even though he was big on family, her father was even bigger on helping his children reach their personal dreams and goals. ~~Dr. Mazeli revealed. In~~ She also discussed how, ~~in~~ spite of his inner feelings, her father allowed her to get a job when she was younger because she had shared with him that she wanted the for she had shared with him, you are a great provider but I want the opportunity to acquire be just as wealth y on her my own. She wanted to be in a position to help her father in case there came a time when he needed to lean on her just in

case there comes a time when he needed someone to lean on, she would be in the position to do  
so.!