

For the site visit interview, my interviewee was Associate Pastor Omar from “His Majesty International Fellowship Church” which is located at 399 Rockaway Ave Brooklyn New York 11212. It was a medium sized church with at least three associate pastors including himself. He also explained that he is a pastor early in the day while a social service worker during the evenings to make ends meet. It was also intriguing to discover that the Majesty International Fellowship Church is one of the branch churches of a larger main church as their mother church. The bishop is in the primary leadership position overseeing the management of all of these churches. This leader had started all of this from one church that he had planted in Trinidad which had carried over to the United States in New York at Brooklyn.

The model of the church is “Servant and Institution” as it prioritizes servant leadership within its local community. Pastor Omar’s philosophy and theology of ministry is to “extend and proclaim the gospel by becoming the light of your community. This also entails finding and encouraging others in Christ as well as edifying the body of the Christ.” The biblical verse which Pastor Omar had mentioned pertaining to his philosophy and theology of ministry was Ephesians 4:11-12. It states, “So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”

Furthermore, the type of ministry this church does for the community is setting up prayer stations around the block and offering food packages to those in need. Rather than focusing primarily on distant missions, His Majesty International Fellowship Church focuses on local missions for their neighbors, regardless of whether they are Christian or not. More churches should learn this unconditional love for people, as a number of churches only give food conditionally to the homeless after they hear a sermon. Additionally, Pastor Omar had stated that

“We connect to other pastors in different countries such as Trinidad, once a year in the month of April.” Thus, there is a large church networking on an international level which this particular church as well as its other churches are part of.

Moreover, the concept of leadership development for this church is interconnected to the teaching and training concerning ministry to the poor as well as bible studies. It was interesting to note that there were prayer meetings and Bible studies on Tuesdays. This is a good balance of practical application and good hermeneutics in terms of its leadership development within the church. In pertinence to discipleship, anyone who is connected to the church is considered to be a disciple. It was interesting to note the church’s general notion of the term disciple. It does not mean a specialized individual who must be the next spiritual leader, but rather a member of the Body of Christ ready to do the Lord’s work in the world.

In finality, some of his general advice to those who want to go into ministry was to make sure you are called by God. He elaborated that over 1,500 pastors quit ministry a year to do secular work because a multitude of people are leaving the church due to the coronavirus pandemic and declining Christian faith among new generations in the West. He then insightfully stated, “Keep your eyes on Christ, it’s not about numbers. Seek the face of the God and hear his voice.” Another piece of advice was to be aware that “Politics come along in the church as well as people questioning your motives, and others having negative things to say about you.” Lastly, the question Pastor Omar had encouraged me to ask myself was “What does God want you to do?”