

CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, INC.



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EDUCATE – ENGAGE – CONNECT

ALL ROADS LEADS TO TUPELO, MS.

**May 10 – 13, 2011 51st NATIONAL
FOREIGN MISSION CONVENTION**



Convenes at Hilton Garden Inn, 363 E. Main St., Tupelo, MS 38804 – Bishop G.T. Howell & Bishop H. Coleman, Host Bishops-
Reservations: 1-800-445-8667 or 662-718-5500 - \$89.00 + 9.25% tax nightly –

Elder Edith Wilson, NFM President,
Elder Frances Bultron, NFM Vice Pres.

ALL ROADS LEADS TO LANCASTER, PA

**July 25 – July 30, 2011
NATIONAL YOUTH**

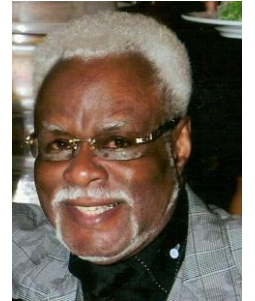
CONGRESS



Lancaster Host Resort, 2300 Lincoln Hwy E., Lancaster, PA 17602, Reservations: 1-877-784-6835 - \$89.00, Elder Robin Taylor, National Youth Congress President, Elder Orlando Pannell, National Youth Congress Vice President and Bishop Dr. L. Delores Ward, Liaison Bishop.

FAMOUS QUOTATION

Many succeed momentarily by what they know;
Some succeed temporarily by what they do, but
Few succeed permanently by what they are.



STOP! LOOK! READ!

There was an interview conducted with Bishop Brown by Gail Hollenbeck Religion Writer St. Pete Times/Hernando Times . The story on him will go in the Times this coming Saturday, April 9th- please get it.

Ten Commandments for African American Clergywomen

1. Thou shall be prepared.
2. Thou shall be a team player.
3. Thou shall network
4. Thou shall be accountable.
5. Thou shall empower others.
6. Thou shall use sound management principles and techniques.
7. Thou shall be committed to the servant leadership style of management, exemplified by Jesus Christ.
8. Thou shall pursue continuing education and personal development in order to provide quality leadership.
9. Thou shall develop, pursue, and establish a Bible-centered ethics and ethos in all areas of ministry.
10. Thou shall be accessible to Christ and to those you are called to serve.

Building Leadership Skills

I offer the following facets of leadership on the basis of my study of Scripture, my experience, my fieldwork, and reading. You won't find this list *per se* in Scripture, but you will find these characteristics displayed by the Bible's leaders and by Jesus *par excellence*. Being a good leader involves developing what I call *personal disciplines*:

- You need to learn to analyze situations, goals, resources, and strategies objectively. This means that you try to elicit and consider all aspects, and to do so from other points of view besides your own.
- You need to develop a system of feedback concerning every situation – some legitimate avenue for confirming or disconfirming your perception. This both requires and furnishes wisdom; it also requires and heightens your credibility as a leader.
- You need to invest yourself in other people, especially in those who are potential leaders.
- You need to be willing to put your insights into practice. Simply being insightful does not amount to leadership. Insights need to be implemented in order to be effective.
- You need to possess and implicitly communicate confidence.
- You need to be confident in your own personal focus, the specific task and strategy to which God has called you at the present time.
- You need to be confident of your desire to serve in this capacity. For the elder, this means being sure that you desire to be an elder – a sign of God's calling you to this office (1 Timothy 3:1).
- You need to be confident that as you word, the Holy Spirit plays the supreme role, effecting all outcomes. You act and lead with confident expectation of supernatural involvement. This ought to be recognized in every human organization, since God is Lord of all. In the church, this reflects the all-important distinction between the organism and the organization, between the life and the ministry of the church: the latter of each pair represents the tangible structure that we shape and interact with; the former represents the intangible, but essential spiritual entity which is the church.
- You need to be confident that you are qualified, that God has used and will use your leadership and your

gifts. For the pastor, this includes confidence in the spiritual effectiveness of your preaching and teaching. This confidence is corroborated by the affirmation of the church.

Being a good leader involves naturally projecting certain qualities of life:

- You project inspiration for your vision – that is, for your idea about what is good for the group to do and be. People say, “He knows what he is talking about. The vision makes sense.”
- You project excitement in your vision. People say, “I want to be part of this vision!”
- You project confidence in your leadership. People say, “I can trust this person's leadership.”
- You project sensitivity to your followers. People say, “This person understands me and wants to hear from me.”

A leader is a mover and a shaker

- You must be a shaker, a person who causes people to question the status quo. To get anything done, you have to incite people to be unhappy with their current circumstances, to see that the status quo is not enough. You also have to remove any barriers that prevent people from making changes. I do not mean to condone dissension or discontentment! But you will agree, I think, that as long as we remain sinful people, we can expect that the Holy Spirit will need to change us. The status quo will always be in need of improvement, both in our personal lives and in the life of the church body. Leadership, therefore, has to begin with Spirit-directed “shaking.”
- You must be a mover in the sense that you can influence people to strive toward a goal. Once people recognize the need to change, a leader uses his/her skills to encourage and enable them to move toward the goal.

A good leader must employ the following skills:

- You can motivate people. For people to be motivated to do anything, three things are needed: First, they must sense that their basic needs have been met, and that they are deemed significant people – that they are needed and appreciated. Within the church, the single greatest source of motivation is vital worship of the living God. This includes an ongoing sense of His presence and power, and it includes compelling preaching of His Word. Second, there must be a motivator, someone to get them moving. Third, there must be a plan for accomplishing the change.

- You can communicate successfully. This process is complete only when the message has been understood.
- You can function as an agent of change. The agent of change is the one who gets and keep people moving toward the common goal. Obviously this involves having a plan. But more is needed besides motivated people and a careful plan. I have in mind two things in particular: you must be able to resolve conflict between people, and you must be able to delegate responsibility.

These leadership disciplines, qualities, and skills characterize anyone who leads, Christian or not. The Christian leader must recognize them and enhance them, relying on the Holy Spirit. The leader cannot take them for granted, but must project them if he or she is to be followed.

It doesn't take leadership training for you already to be practicing leadership. Stop and think of the times in your life when you "get people to do things," whether it's involving your children in homework, household chores, or coaching a team. The good news is that good leadership skills can in large measure be learned through ongoing training and assessment. Leaders can and must hone their skills in order to grow into God's plan for their leadership.

A Man and Stewardship

What were your reaction and/or response when you opened this Newsletter and saw the topic "A Man & Stewardship? My guess is that you one of two responses:

- You groaned, resigning yourself to sit through and read another article on tithing and giving.
- You smiled and rubbed your hands together, thinking, "I'm already tithing, so I've got this one covered.

Guess what? If you already tithe, big deal. If you want to brag about it, you can brag right along with the Pharisees. Any Pharisee can tithe. In fact, this religious group was so scrupulous about money matters that members even measured out the spices in their homes and tithed on their value. But the Pharisees tithed without undergoing a change of heart. Jesus said they ignored greater issues like justice, love, mercy and faithfulness (Matthew 23:23 & Luke 11:42). Jesus said they should have done both – they should have tithed,

but they also should have concentrated on the overarching issues that reveal the heart.

Do you think that God wants 10% of your money? Forget it. Make no mistake – stewardship is about money. But it's not just about money, and certainly not about a measly 10%. 10% is no big deal. He doesn't want 10% of your money. That is so lukewarm. He wants it all. God already owns 100%, He owns everything.

You see, tithing really isn't about God's need to receive; it's about our need to give. Tithing gives us the opportunity to express our appreciation to God for His provision to us, and to participate in building His kingdom. What tithing does is help us remember that every good thing comes from Him. Tithing is not a blessing for God, but from God. Tithing, instituted by Abraham, is a way of thanking the One who blessed us: 90% for temporal life, 10% (or more) for spiritual life. A faithful steward isn't some miserly person who counts out 10% to drop in the offering plate on Sunday after Sunday. A faithful steward devotes 100% of their time, talent, and treasure to God's glory

Everything we have come from God, and it belongs to God. If you're a Christian, you don't even own yourself. You've been purchased with the blood of Jesus Christ, through His death. Everything you have is given as a trust with which you must prove faithful (1 Corinthians 4:2).

For the purposes of government and order, you may own your car, home, bank account, etc. But if you're a believer, you don't actually own anything – God does. Therefore, our understanding of ownership affects our decisions at every level. That is the foundation of biblical stewardship. Any Pharisees can tithe 10%, but a faithful steward devotes 100% of his/her time, talent, and treasure to God's glory.

- Recognize that stewardship is a lifestyle of daily choosing to submit to God's agenda, since He owns everything.
- Understand our role as caretakers of what is His.
- Learn to submit 100% of our time, talent, and treasure to God as a faithful steward.

Stewardship is how we use all of the resources God gives us. Are you faithful with and can you be trusted with what God has given unto you?