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MOBILIZING THE CHURCH TO SUPPORT THE COLLEGE

Introduction/background

II Kings 6:1-7 indicates that there existed a school of the prophets. The Scripture refers to them as “the company of prophets” (v. 1, NIV; NRSV). The passage shows that these prophets realized that their place of learning was “too small” for them and that it needed expansion (v.1). They discovered the solution for expanding the place and revealed their plan to Elisha, their teacher (v. 2). Moreover, they asked for his permission to carry on this expansion and they asked him to accompany them (vv. 2, 3). He accompanied them (vv. 3b, 4). The prophets’ words and actions and Elisha’s approval and his moral support suggest that leaders and students of our Bible colleges should take necessary steps to improve our places of learning in order to meet our contemporary needs.

Like Elisha and his “students”, pastors, local church members and our leaders should rise up and support our colleges to meet the present academic and spiritual needs of our pastors, prophets, evangelists and our congregations.

The church and college relationship

What could be the possible relationship that exists between the church and college? If we should apply this story to us today, we would see our pastors and our congregations (members of congregations are learners) as Elisha’s “students” and our church leaders (e.g. Superintendents and their Board Members) as Elisha. Our passage shows that Elisha accepted his students’ proposal to expand their place of dwelling and study

(v.2). He joined them to gather up the resource that they needed for the expansion (vv.3-7). This passage suggests that both our church leaders and our local churches must realize the inadequacy of our colleges and discover and gather the resources needed to eradicate the inadequacy. This is necessary in order that we rightly equip those whom God has called to deliver his words. Pastors and evangelists that our colleges train are “God’s direct mouthpiece” or “representative” to the world (cf. Jeremiah 1:4-5). We should ensure therefore that the training ground of God’s “mouthpiece” be well equipped and ready to train his prophets/pastors satisfactorily.

Probable causes for church members not supporting their college

I have observed that there are at least three probable reasons why church members are not supporting their colleges.

1. **“Denunciation of Self Ownership”**— Generally, church members have NOT seen the need to take full responsibility of owning and carrying the “Self Ownership” vision concerning their institutions. The elders of Liberia say: “The goat that does not have a particular person to take care of it and take it in at night will always sleep outside”. In other words, until someone can know that the goat belongs to him/her, there will be no care for the goat—it may starve to death. Similarly, if church members cannot rise up and take full financial responsibility of their college/seminary that college/seminary will suffer and it may eventually shut

down. Taking charge of “ownership” compels people to care and support whatsoever they have. Our churches should now take the stand and take possession of our colleges and seminaries.

2. **Deficiency of Self-sustainable Vision**-Deficiency is the “lack of an adequate quality to see lengthen or extend in duration”. One of the greatest components of keeping up any institution is training its manpower for future work. If church members realize that their college holds the future of the church by training their pastors, they will grasp the vision of self-sustainability and support the college.
3. **Deficit of passion** -- Passion is the “engine” for the creativity of things. Passion is a strong feeling or emotion or the trait of being intensely emotional. I have observed that the church members do not have this “engine” to help move them to support their college. If the church should support the college, they must have ‘passion’. If there is a deficit of passion to support the college, the church will find it difficult to support the college. Until that deficit of passion to support the college is removed, the story of NOT supporting the college will continue to be told.

Reasons for church members’ support of the college

While there are probable reasons for which the church is not supporting their college there are possible reasons why the church should support their college. Three key reasons are:

1. To **SCHOOL** more manpower- The schooling or training of more manpower for the church guarantees the church’s future biblical, theological preservation. For example, its pastors and teachers will continue to preach and teach sound and

undiluted messages from the pulpit. Moreover, the college should be equipped to train teachers for the church’s primary, junior secondary and secondary institutions.

2. To **SECURE** the future of the church-The sound biblical, theological future of the church is in the hands of the pastors who are trained to advance God’s kingdom. Therefore, if more pastors are not trained, the future of the church may likely be in jeopardy. The question is what might be the likely outcome if our present pastors are retired and there are no replacers? I assume you know the answer.
3. To **SEIZE** direct ownership-By “seizing direct ownership” I mean shouldering the responsibility of the college substantially. Supporting the college shows that the church owns the college.

Strategies for mobilizing church members to support their college- There are “God-given” strategies that can be used to help the members of the church to fully seize direct ownership of supporting their college. If these strategies are carefully followed and implemented, members of our local churches could be moved, with the help of the conviction of the Holy Spirit, to support their college.

1. **Intentional Congregational Prayers**— Our local congregations should pray for their college daily. They should place the needs of the college on their prayer list and pray fervently. As they pray, God will surely prompt their hearts to give even beyond their ability.
2. **Intentional Church Leadership Involvement**— “Leadership” includes the Superintendent (District, National, and Regional) and the Administrative Boards (e.g. DBA, NBA, RBA). There is an African proverb that says, “The direction the head takes is the direction

the whole body takes". Another proverb says, "The man who wants for someone to help him set his load on his head, must set the load on his knee". A third proverb says, "He who wants for someone to wash his back, must himself wash his front." As the head, your voice has certain gravity or magnitude that the voices of others do not have. If the Spiritual and Administrative head takes the lead of spreading the message of support for the college, I believe that local congregations and their pastors welcome and embrace it. In Africa, the leader's words are commands rather than options.

3. **Continual Pastoral Sensitization of his local congregation-** While it is true that the spiritual and administrative head should take the lead, pastors should robustly sensitize their congregations. In other words, pastors should reinforce the leader's words. The fact is, the pastors are "spiritual" and "administrative" heads of their congregations. This implies that their voices are also weighty.
4. **Monthly support book/card for each member in a local congregation-** The local pastor who sees the college support as a "must do", will make sure that it happens. The monthly support card/book is given to each member with a specific amount indicated in it. That amount should be paid at the end of every month. This will help our colleges appreciatively. Let us imagine that The Wesleyan church of Liberia has about 3,000 (three thousand) members and each of those members is asked to pay a monthly due of \$100.00 Liberian dollars. If they all pay, the monthly income will be \$300,000 (three hundred thousand) Liberian dollars and the yearly income will be \$6,600,000.00 (six million and six hundred thousand) Liberian dollars. If this amount is converted to United States Dollars, the total US dollars would be

\$22,500.00 (twenty-two thousand and five hundred) USD. Interestingly, as local church membership increases, this amount will increase. Again, the church leadership must intentionally get involved in "selling" this idea.

5. **Organizing "Friends of the College"-** "The Friends of the College" is an organization that will work closely with the administration of the college for the college's operation. This organization will carry out several responsibilities for the college, including fund raising, scouting and lobbying for scholarship for needed students, working alongside the administration to implement projects, and praying continually and fervently for the college. The Friends of the College membership may comprise of members of the Wesleyan Church, Wesleyan pastors and other God-fearing Christians. These "Friends" will oblige themselves to contribute to the growth and development of the College.

Possible benefits when church members support their college- There are possible benefits for the church and its membership when they support their college. The following are some of the possible benefits:

1. **Experiencing the God of the drought, 1Kings 17:1-16-** This passage talks about a widow who was at Zarephath and obeyed the voice of the prophet Elijah. She was told to support the work of God. After she obeyed the voice of the prophet Elijah, even though there was a drought in that land, she did not experience it. She always had enough for her and her son to eat. If you support the work of God, in the midst of shortage of things, your house will not run dry.
2. **Experiencing the divine provision and protection of God-** God accused the children of Israel of robbing Him of His tithe and offerings. He told them to bring the tithe and offering into His house and

see if He (God) will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so many blessings. God also promised them divine protection (v. 11). As God's children support His work in any manner or form, He (God) will provide for him/her and protect that individual in any manner or form. (See Malachi 3:10-11).

Conclusion

There is nothing more worthy of doing than supporting the school of the prophets. Bringing our minute resources that God has entrusted into our care will greatly help our colleges and secure their future. Nobody will be in the right position to do it except the

owner, the members of the church. When the congregation takes full ownership and responsibility of their college, great windows of blessings will be opened for the church. In order for the church members to support the College, they should constantly and intentionally seek the Lord's face. Finally, when the chief spiritual and administrative leaders of the Church passionately and intentionally take a commanding lead for the support of the college, pastors and their congregations will respond positively.

May God bless the Wesleyan denomination and its training grounds (the colleges) for the safety of our denomination's future!



**Rev. Charles Saywon,
Lecturer
Wesleyan College of Liberia**

Email: charlessaywon@gmail.com

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## **STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COLLEGE AND THE CHURCH**

### **Introduction**

In this paper I will be writing about strengthening the relationship between the church and the college. First before I unveil the relationship between the college and the church allow me to identify the identities of what the church and the college are otherwise without their meanings my paper will be invalid.

A college/ university in Zambia is a higher learning institution that provides instruction and advanced knowledge to people who have just graduated from secondary education. The education system of Zambia starts at pre-school up to grade 12. This

mostly sees children sit under a teacher for 12 years before graduating to college or university level. However, the college provides specialized skills and levels of study in definite areas unlike pre-school to secondary school where a pupil takes more subjects than their mind can accommodate.

A church according to definitions around the world is an institution or organization that provides spiritual guidance and insight to people according to the Bible. Hence a church has become a building where worshippers of Christ meet to praise, pray and worship to God. But in my definition I will say the church is you and me in the body of Christ, where Christ is the head of the

church and mediator of our faith, hope, belief and trust in the true and only living God. The church is a place of the homeless, the needy, the broken, the rich, the blind, the poor and any other person who is ready to accept Jesus Christ as his/her Lord and Saviour. Its major emphasis is reaching out to the lost providing spiritual insight and guidance while giving hope of eternal life and life after death.

However according to history it seems that the church started earlier than colleges. The churches started building colleges. But in this paper allow me to focus on colleges started by the church, especially those whose focus are to train future spiritual leaders who will in turn lift the spiritual standard and leadership of the church. The church started the colleges and the colleges became the heart of the church. Because without these colleges producing empowered future leaders the church can eventually fail to run smoothly or cease to exist. The college plays the major role in the survival of the church and quality spiritual provision of spiritual needs to its people and uplifting of the church through training its leaders.

Allow me to breakdown the points that analyze the strengthening of the relationship between the church and the college.

### **Ownership**

The ownership of the college comes from the church. The church built the college as its heart through the production of its leaders who will turn lead the church. We see this vital relationship to be one of the major links of the college to the church because church politics and governance depends on the kind of leaders the college has trained. Therefore, the church owns the college and in turn the college pays back by doing its role of providing leaders to the

church for its leadership sustainability and growth.

### **Cooperation of the church and college**

#### **a) The National Theological Education Board**

At this point of time I will focus on the Pilgrim Wesleyan Church's operation of its colleges. The Pilgrim Wesleyan Church cooperates with the college through a media of communication called the NTEB (National Theological Education Board). The NTEB functions as a link between the church and the college. The NTEB consists of the board appointed by the National Board of Administration (NBA) of the church. The Secretary of the NTEB comes from the college - he or she should be the principal of the college. This board (NTEB) oversees the growth and education requirements of the college.

#### **b) Finances**

However, even if the college sometimes seems to have the capacity of finding finances through projects and donor funding, one of its major sources of its financial sustainability comes from the church. The church provides the college with some finances through helping its students with money, food, and clothing. Sometimes the church engages itself with some charity organizations in order to come up with help to help with running the college.

This year 2019, for the first time the Pilgrim Wesleyan Church calendar has reflected the need to totally engage itself in the help of the college. Therefore, 29th September, 2019 has been set apart as a day of self-denial of all Pilgrim Wesleyan Churches to totally help the college financially. This sees all the branches of the Pilgrim Wesleyan Church which are close to 400 engage in giving the college financial support to help it

run its everyday activities and programs as it builds the future leaders of the church.

### **c) Student Pastors**

The church provides the college with student pastors who are ready to be trained and transformed into future leaders. We see prominent church members, leaders, and lay pastors coming from the church to the college seeking to learn spiritual leadership, attain spiritual growth and know the history and core values of the church.

I would prefer to say it's a circle. After these leaders are trained they go back again to the church and make a very good impact on the church by influencing the church with good leadership skills and spiritual guidance.

Again, we see the church helping the college by supporting the students it has sent. This varies from church to church - some church branches prefer giving money, others food or perhaps love offerings. Though the college not only enrolls students from the Wesleyan circles, the church also supports students from other denominations with financial support by offering them contracts that allows them to be part of the Wesleyan church for a period of three years and then later they can choose to go whenever they want in exchange for the Wesleyan sponsorship.

### **d) Doctrine**

The college and the church in the Wesleyan Church work hand in hand in teaching the true and sound doctrine of the church. The church teaches the basics of the doctrine of the Wesleyan Church and majors in the Bible study to influence members about the love of God. Hence from that point of view it is where some of members who feel they are set apart decide to take part in the gospel by going to the college to understand

higher levels of spiritual understanding. The college plays a major role in equipping leaders who will in turn equip the church with the sound doctrine.

### **e) Supervised and Holiday Ministry**

The church and the college work hand in hand in training the leaders in the church through supervised and holiday ministry. Holiday ministry is where student pastors go to visit churches during holidays from college, while supervised ministry is where pastors go to nearby churches every Sunday from the college. This sees them do ministry under the supervision of a trained pastor who runs the church. This helps the student pastors major in the true doctrine of our lord Jesus Christ.

### **f) Internship**

Internship is a period of time in the third year and between the second and third term holiday when senior student pastors go to churches in order to do practicals. Internship equips student pastors in readiness to become a pastors in the Wesleyan Church. This grows the bond between the church and the college. The pastor learns how to run the Wesleyan Church and any other church. From this act the church benefits by having these pastors do evangelism, visitations, preaching's, encouragements and many other Christian duties.

In the same way teachers and nurses go on practical so do pastors go. This practice has seen the college in conjunction with the church raise good, strong and well-informed and trained pastors towards the work of God.

### **g) Tradition and history**

Through the years the college has helped the church by teaching its leaders the need

for church polity and history. Courses like church history, polity, Wesleyan doctrine and the Wesleyan discipline has seen the church reflect on the past for its future corrections as it meets challenges. The church has maintained its traditions and core values. Hence making it a dynamic church which transforms lives from its maintained original doctrine, empowering lives through its rich and well cultivated history hence changing communities in Zambia and the entire world at large.

The tradition and history of the church has been made rich by the deep and passionate men of God who work tirelessly for the quest of lost souls hence investing their time discovering new ways of preaching and reaching out to the lost. All these quality men of God are the products of the college.

#### **h) Pastor's retreat**

Each year pastors who are graduates from theological institutes in the Wesleyan circles meet to be refreshed and re-strategized in the word of God. This exercise and act by the church is carried on at the college. We see the college contribute to the growth of the church through re-strategizing the soldiers of the cross in the word. This sees almost all church leaders come together for spiritual refreshment.

Pastors' retreat makes graduates and students meet together and share real ministry issues, hence impacting the upcoming generation with wisdom and knowledge about the church whilst in college.

#### **i) Reports**

##### District conferences

Each year the college gives a report to the district conferences updating the church on how the college is relating

with the people and the church at large and brings out the real issues of the colleges especially the need for financial support by the church to the college.

The college also gives an account of its yearly activities and informs the church about its challenges and future plans.

##### National conferences

The college biennially gives a report to the national conference updating the church on how the college is relating with the people and church at large and brings out the real issues of the college especially the need to support the college for sustainability.

The college also gives an account of its yearly activities and informs the church about its challenges and then future plans.

##### National Board of Administration

The college through the Principal as a member of the National Board of Administration gives a report on a quarterly basis to the National Board of Administration updating the church concerning college activities.

The college also gives an account of its yearly activities and informs the administration about its challenges and then future plans.

#### **j) Educational spiritual development**

The quest and the hunger for the church to reach out to lost souls especially in the schools it owns has taken another step of forming a strong relationship between it and the college. The college sends student pastors to help the school's spiritual department in reaching out to its pupils in spiritual areas of need. Student pastors help

in counselling and praying for the pupils, preaching and teaching the word.

### **k) Games**

Games have played a vital role in bringing the college and members of the church together. The college has a game routine that is compulsory to every student. As a result, students take part in sports with nearby churches, and at the youth conference, this builds the strong relationship between the church and the college.

### **The Way Forward**

In order for the college and the church to enjoy the relationship they have there are certain things and measures that must be put in place.

### **a) Outreach programs to churches**

The college has embarked on a plan to help the church to reach out to lost souls in its communities through participating in outreach programs. This will see student pastors and lecturers taking part in

influencing the spread of the gospel in churches. The outreach programs will be influenced by showing the Jesus film, preaching and evangelism.

### **b) Capacity building**

In order to insure that the church's doctrine, history and tradition are maintained and people are taught the true gospel in the Wesleyan church the college has also embarked on a plan of training of ministers and pastors who are already in ministry. This will see the college offer refresher courses to pastors in ministry.

### **Conclusion**

The interdependence between the college and the church cannot be over emphasized. The college is there for the sake of the church and a strong and vibrant church depends on properly and well equipped trained pastors from the college. The college is the heart of the church for without it the church will lack future leaders to take up its roles and influence them, hence, the need to strengthen the relationship between church and the college.



**Rev. Roy Habbaba**  
**Principal,**  
**Pilgrim Wesleyan Bible College**  
**Zambia**

**Email: royhabbaba@yahoo.com**

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A LEADER'S TASK: DEVELOPING OTHER LEADERS

“He also gave apostles, prophets, missionaries, as well as pastors and teachers as gifts to his church. Their purpose is to prepare God's people to serve and to build up the body of Christ. This is to continue until all of us are united in our faith

and in our knowledge about God's Son, until we become mature, until we measure up to Christ, who is the standard.” – Eph.4:11-13 (GOD's WORD Translation)

According to the apostle Paul, the primary task of a leader in the church is to prepare others to do the work of the ministry. “We do a disservice to the people we serve and the kingdom of God if we as leaders do the ministry that God has called the whole church to do.”¹

In his book “Amplified Leadership” Dan Reiland (Executive Pastor of 12Stone Church, the largest Wesleyan Church in the world) outlines five things leaders need to do to prepare others for leadership and works of ministry.² Those five practices are as follows:

1. Establish a Relationship

The ability to develop meaningful relations is the foundation upon which other leadership skills are built. So, to become a leader who develops other leaders we must invest in a conscious effort to build significant relationships with those we are leading. Obviously, depending on our personalities, that is easier and more natural for some people than it is for others. Easy or not, it needs to become foundational to our leadership.

“Meaningful relationships are built as we reveal ourselves to others and they reveal themselves to us.”³ That means we take relationships beyond a surface level and engage people on the level of challenges, frustrations concerns, dreams, and goals. The deeper the relationship, the greater impact we will have in helping people develop and become all the God intends for them to become.

2. Engage a Follower

Affirmation and encouragement are a key as we help followers in their ability to serve and lead. Reland says, “Followers want significance even more than they want success.”⁴ Leaders have the power to give significance by their words of affirmation and encouragement.

Along with encouragement, followers are engaged when leaders inspire them to become part of achieving a vision that is greater than themselves.

3. Embrace a Team Member

Leaders that develop leaders help emerging leaders feel like they are an integral part of the team. It begins by working hard to develop a strong culture of trust between team members. People need to have confidence that their leader has their best interests at heart and that they can trust him/her even when they don’t succeed.

People are made to feel a member of the team when they are invited to get involved in meaningful ministry. Ministry is experienced as meaningful when it is in line with a person’s gifting and passion and if it is seen to contribute to the overall achievement of the church’s vision.

4. Coach an Apprentice

As we develop people for ministry, there comes a point where certain people are identified and chosen to be developed at a deeper level for leadership. This follows the example of Jesus who “... appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach.” Mark 3:14 (NIV)

¹ Equip, Don’t Enable. (n.d.). Retrieved February 28, 2019, from <https://leadership.lifeway.com/2015/07/21/equip-dont-enable/>

² Reiland, D. (2011). *Amplified leadership*. Lake Mary, FL: Charisma House.

³ Leadership Matters Course

⁴ *Op. cit.* p.45

Coaching an apprentice like Jesus involves at least two things after they have been chosen. 1) Developing an even deeper relationship with them. It is noteworthy that of the disciples it first says they were chosen “that they might be with him.” It is out of that relationship that attitudes and values are passed on because values are caught and not taught. 2) Developing the necessary ministry skills. Jesus allowed his disciples to watch as he ministered. They then drew aside and discussed what happened and why. Then he sent them out to practice what they saw modeled, after which they returned and again discussed what had happened through their ministry. It’s a great model for ministry development to this day.

5. Mentor a New Leader

Eventually the ministry apprentices need to be released into leadership roles and encouraged as they begin to lead others in ministry. Sometimes that means that we as leaders need to take a step back to allow the emerging leader to step forward leading in places and ways where we once led. That does not mean we disappear from the

scene, but instead we fade into the background and help encourage the new leader with affirmation and advice and communicate to others our respect for and appreciation of the new leadership.

At other times it may mean releasing people to lead in areas outside of where we have exercised leadership – like releasing them to go plant a new church or serve a different congregation. As a mentor we still seek to encourage the continued growth and effectiveness of the new leader from the outside cheering him/her on and celebrating the victories that God may give them.

It’s no wonder that Paul stressed that the primary task of a leader is to develop other leaders. It is through this process that leaders are multiplied and the work of ministry expands. When we do the ministry ourselves the expanse of our ministry is limited by what we ourselves can accomplish. But when we develop others to lead and minister, the breadth of our ministry keeps on expanding to many times over what we could accomplish on our own.



Dr. Bob Bagley
Africa Area Director,
Global Partners

Email: bob.bagley@gponline.org



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