

## **Leadership Letter #5 – September 22, 2006**

Greetings once again to my Nigerian pastor friends,

Wow ... time has flown since Ken Eze was here in Florida and we began writing these leadership letters to prepare you for the church planting conference in November. This is now the fifth leadership letter to help prepare you for our Church Planter's Summit Conference in November. I have loved hearing from many in Nigeria as well as leaders from Cameroon, Zimbabwe and Ivory Coast. If you have not received any of the first four letters, please let me know which ones you are missing and I will send them to you. For reference, here is a listing of the content of the first four letters and the corresponding Bible studies that we have sent out:

### Leadership Letter #1

Why have a church planting conference in Nigeria?

Bible Study: How Jesus prepared His men for Church Planting – Acts 1:1-11

### Leadership Letter #2

What does it mean to fulfill the Great Commission? (Discipleship)

How can we make the CP conference most successful?

Bible Study: The measure of a church – faith, hope, and love

### Leadership Letter #3

Growing healthy churches – Five Purposes: F-L-O-W-S

Bible Study: Sharpening the focus of the church – Acts 2:41-47

### Leadership Letter #4

The primacy of the Word of God – 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Getting to know one of our speakers: Arjuna Chiguluri from Visag, India

Bible Study: Pictures of Power – Acts 3-4

## **Understanding Our Primary Motivation**

What is at the heart of ministry? What is at the heart of life itself? Read these verses with me from Philippians 1:19-21. Paul writes:

*<sup>19</sup> For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, <sup>20</sup> according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup> For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

Do you know what that says? That at the heart of everything we are, at the heart of everything we do, at the heart of everything we hope for, Jesus Christ must be central. He is our life. He is everything. Our desire and passion for Him must be greater than building a church. Our desire and passion for Him must be greater than our family. Our desire and passion for Him must be greater than money, fame, safety, health, or anything else you can imagine.

Therefore, our primary motivation is NOT for "ourselves." It is not to make ourselves look good. It is to glorify and exalt Him. God is most glorified when we find our life-source in Him and relate to Him as grateful children loving our Heavenly Father. At the heart of all that we are and do must be our relationship with Jesus Christ. That is our life-source.

Don't forget that. It's way too easy for us to get "busy" for God. We must become preoccupied with Him, falling in love with Him more and more each day. I have just started going through the book of Romans in my quiet times. And I'm reminded again about how rich His mercy and grace is to me. I am nothing apart from Him. And that motivates me to love Him more and more each day.

### **Grace Global Network**

One of the questions you all have asked is about the organization I work with, Grace Global Network (GGN). I want to take a few minutes to describe who we are and what we do so that you will understand our reasons for coming to Nigeria and why we love working with Ken Eze and Living Spring Ministries.

GGN was founded two years ago to provide leadership, vision, coaching and mentoring for church planters and church planting movements. Our goal is to help influence the planting of over one million churches around the world.

We are active locally here in Florida in mentoring and coaching dozens of church planters on a monthly basis. We consult with church planting leaders around the United States and throughout the world face to face, by the phone, and over the Internet. We are actively developing and leading training seminars, writing Biblically-based training materials, and consulting with many churches and denominations.

It is often helpful for a church or a church-planting movement to list its values and purposes. Our values are described as follows: we nurture and empower worldwide new church influencers and church planting movement leaders for Jesus Christ in truth and relationships through Biblical vision, love, integrity, passion, prayer, authenticity, accountability and consistent family life. We focus primarily on church planting movement leaders (like Ken Eze) and their ministries which are accomplishing the following:

- healthy relationships with like-minded kingdom ministries
- world evangelism
- multi-ethnic, cross-cultural, multi-generational ministry
- disciple making
- leadership development
- godly family life
- yieldedness to the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit

Here are a few things other church planting leaders are saying about Grace Global Network:

*The Leadership of GGN is seasoned, thoughtful, visionary and practical. These*

*leaders are servants and equippers who really do 'make a difference.' GGN is a wise and good investment of Kingdom dollars. -- Dr. Dennis N. Baker, Church Consultant, Former president of Conservative Baptist Association*

*GGN has not only the heart but the hands-on experience to offer world class coaching and mentoring to any church planter. -- Bill Easum, Easum, Bandy & Associates*

*The GGN team provides outstanding services to the local church planter including much needed encouragement and equipping. Without such involvement, it is unlikely that I could have weathered the early days alone! -- Mark DeYmaz, Pastor, Mosaic Church of Central Arkansas*

So ... why are we working with Ken Eze and Living Spring Ministries in Nigeria? We long to see a church planting movement raised up by God that will reach an entire country for Jesus Christ. "Every man, woman and child" is not just a slogan ... but something we believe can become a reality. Ken's initial vision of starting one hundred churches that will each be responsible to plant ten other churches can do that very thing. We love Ken. We love his heart for God. We love how he develops leaders and equips them to be successful. And we love how teachable he is. Leaders like that are easy to work with.

For more information about Grace Global Network, please visit our web site:  
[www.GraceGlobalNetwork.org](http://www.GraceGlobalNetwork.org)

### **Getting to Know Stephen Bowe**

One of the pastors we have worked with for the last sixteen months is Stephen Bowe. Stephen is the pastor of First Baptist Church in Lehigh Acres, a community near Ft. Myers, Florida. God has used Stephen to bring about dramatic change in that church. When Stephen first arrived at First Baptist, they had a very unhealthy image in the community. There had been many problems with previous pastors. The church was divided and angry, and there was sin in the lives of the church's leadership.

Stephen began teaching the Bible. He focused on the call of God for the church to be the church. He called the church's leadership to repent and to follow God fully. The result is that in sixteen months, the church has grown from a pitiful group of seventy to over 350 faith-filled Christ followers.

Stephen is committed to church planting. He and his congregation are actively supporting the efforts of church planter Mike Lowery and CounterPointe Church to launch a new church. They are having preview services this fall and will officially launch the church in January 2007. And even though Stephen will remain at First Baptist and not be the church planter for this new work, I can see in his eyes that this is very close to his heart. His church is giving generously (both money and manpower) to assist this new work and to see it launched successfully.

Stephen will be coming with us to Nigeria for the first time. (I've already told him how much he will enjoy eating **pounded yams!**) He will be one of our plenary speakers (speaking on "Evangelism" and "Turn-Around Churches") and leading a workshop series where he will work with pastors in the areas of: evangelism, prayer, Bible teaching, and community outreach. You will enjoy meeting this great man of faith and learning from him.

### **Our Next Bible Study**

Are you able to download these Bible studies from your computer? Are you benefitting from them? I've already heard how some of you are taking these lessons and teaching them to your congregations. That's encouraging!

The one I have attached this week talks about "Following the Leader" and is taken from Hebrews chapter 13. I originally spoke on this topic at a local church here in Florida where the people in the church were disrespecting their leadership and not following them as they should. My prayer is that this study will give you biblical convictions about leadership that you can teach to your congregation. God bless you as you study this crucial topic.

Henry Oursler