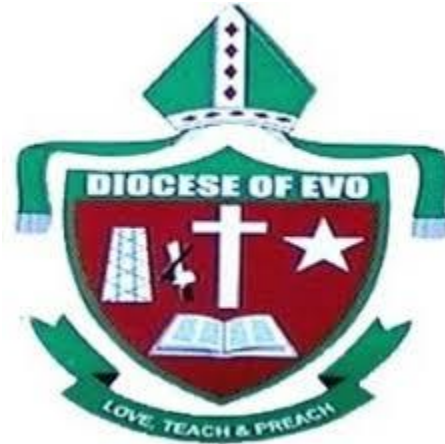


- LEADING FOR A LEGACY
- RUNNING AND WINNING WITH DIOCESAN VISION
- LEADING REVIVAL IN A LOCAL CHURCH



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**PRESENTED AT**



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## Leading for a Legacy

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*“Work for a cause, not for applause. Live life to express not to impress. Don't strive to make your presence noticed, just make your absence felt.” (Author Unknown)*

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### Introduction

- One day it will not matter how long or how well you lived here on earth; your whole life with its achievements will be

represented in perhaps a phrase – today you can decide what it will be

- Leadership is a sacred transaction between those who are privileged to lead and those who chose to follow
- In leadership, success and significance represent two different territories
  - Success with pride, tells the story of your personal survival and achievements
  - Significance proclaims with humility, how your survival and success impacted positively on other people
- Leading for legacy is making a conscious choice to follow the path that transcends personal survival; it is having the courage to push beyond the borders of success into the region of significance

## What is a Legacy?

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*“A legacy is something we live behind to the next generation. It can be possessions that we place in the hands of others. It can be principles we lived that carry on beyond our lives. It can also be people we have influenced whose lives are better as a result of knowing us” – John C. Maxwell*

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- A legacy is what you will leave behind

- It is what you will be remembered for when you are no more around
- It is what we will pass on to the next generation
- Legacy is created intentionally and unintentionally
- It is bigger than trophies and stronger than souvenirs
- Consider deeply, the words of Joseph Addison:

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*“When I look upon the tombs of the great, every emotion of envy dies in me; when I read the epitaphs of the beautiful, every inordinate desire goes out; when I meet with griefs the parents upon a tombstone, my heart melts with compassion; when I see the tombs of the parents themselves, I consider the vanity of grieving for those whom we must quickly follow: when I see kings lying by those who deposed them, when I consider rival wits placed side by sides, or holy men that divided the world with their contests and disputes, I reflect with sorrow and astonishment on the little competitions, factions, and debates of mankind. When I read the several dates of the tombs, of some that died yesterday, and some six hundred years ago, I consider that great Day when we shall all of us be Contemporaries, and make our appearance together” – Joseph Addison*

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### **Lead with the End in Mind**

- Leading for a legacy is a journey that begins with a personal vision

- It means having a clear mental image of what you could contribute towards life, including the Diocesan vision with a conviction to make it happen
- It is defining from the outset, what you are in a system to contribute and what you will want to be remembered for, after you exited
- It is knowing that the end will surely come, and deciding in advance to define and determine the color of that end
- In Evo Diocese, the vision and mission of the Church is very clear but your personal vision is the invisible image of the part of that Church vision you have taken responsibility to achieve
- Leading with the end in mind is to engage today with the image, picture, or perception of the end of your life as your frame of reference or standard by which everything else is examined

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*“Each part of your life – today’s behavior, tomorrow’s behavior, next week’s behavior, next month’s behavior – can be examined in the context of the whole, of what really matters most to you” – Stephen R. Covey*

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- By capturing your desired end in a vision and keeping that image clearly in mind, you can make sure that whatever you do on any particular day as a leader does not sabotage your journey towards reaching the established end
- Leading with an end in mind means starting with clear understanding of your destination

- It places a demand on you to know where you are going, understand where you are now, and to ensure that the steps you take are always in the right direction

### **Pour the Right Foundation**

- Leadership that aims at creating a legacy always stands on, and is sustained by strong foundation
- Love is the foundation of leadership that lasts
- The reason is very simple: life is not fair and all of us have had measures of ugly experiences that could forge strong self-centered belief system in us
- Leading in essence is freeing yourself from shackles of self-centered tendencies and thinking
- Love is powerful and prevailing; it cannot be held captive by our thoughts, emotions, fears, or outside limitations

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*“Love brings unstoppable freedom when we learn to love as God intended.” – Paul J. Meyer*

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- Leading for a legacy is learning from the Lord Jesus, for He is the Prince of leadership wisdom
- In terms of leading for a legacy, the Lord is the Master
- In the words of the Master, He said that loving God and loving people is the greatest commandment

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*“One of the scribes came, and heard them questioning together. Knowing that he had answered them well,*

*asked him, "Which commandment is the greatest of all?"  
29 Jesus answered, "The greatest is, 'Hear, Israel, the Lord  
our God, the Lord is one: 30 you shall love the Lord your  
God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with  
all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first  
commandment. 31 The second is like this, 'You shall love  
your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other  
commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:28-31  
WEB)*

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- Leaders who labor intentionally to build legacies are driven by nothing but love
- These leaders sacrifice all to help others, even when they know well that they will never have opportunity to reap any benefit directly from those people
- They have deep understanding about life, and what it is meant to represent
- Think about this statement credited to a 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Theologian and Author:

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*"People have made at least a start at understanding the meaning of life when they plant shade trees under which they know full well they will never sit" – David Elton Trueblood*

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### **Fifteen (15) Characteristics of Love:** 1Corinthians 13:4-8 (NKJV)

1. Love suffers long
2. Love is kind
3. Love does not envy



4. Love does not parade itself
5. Love is not puffed up
6. Love does not behave rudely
7. Love does not seek its own
8. Love is not provoked
9. Love thinks no evil
10. Love does not rejoice in iniquity but rejoices in truth
11. Love bears all things
12. Love believes all things
13. Love hopes all things
14. Love endures all things
15. Love never fails

## How to Love God

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*“But whoever keeps his word, God’s love has most certainly been perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in him” (1John 2:5)*

*“If you love me, keep my commandments.” (John 14:15)*

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- To practically love God is to obey Him in all things
- Our love for God is demonstrated by how much we obey Him
- It is not about how much His word we know and preach; it is how much of our lives that are submitted under the authority God’s word

- In loving God, we must be sacrificially generous with our time, money and other resources towards His work on earth

## God Responds in Love to our Love for Him

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*“But as it is written, “Eye has not seen nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things that God has prepared for those who love Him.” (1Corinthians 2:9)*

*“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28)*

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- Our love for God is demonstrated in our obedience to His words and every step of obedience has its own reward
- God rewards us in ways that our mind cannot fully comprehend
- The motivation to lead for a legacy flows primarily from the spring of our love for God
  1. My love for God stirs me to make incredible sacrifice just to obey Him in all things
  2. My love for His kingdom inspires me to do the impossible in order to make a difference for Him
  3. My love for His Church strengthens me to bear all things with all people because I want to keep His vision alive

## Love Yourself

- To love yourself is not the same thing as to be self-centered or egoistic; it is simply to accept and belief in yourself
- In most cases, conflict in group settings stem from people who are struggling with self-esteem
- They disagree with everyone and every idea, fighting against all things to prove that they matter
- Healthy self-esteem means I respect myself so strongly and deeply that I will never disrespect others
- Loving yourself means knowing that you have right to succeed in life and work
- It is also knowing that your success is actualized when you assist others to succeed
- Success that lasts is built on the foundation of personal and organizational integrity
- Integrity is the soul of leadership and it rests on self-love
  1. I love myself so dearly that I won't get involved in any deal that could lead to disgrace
  2. I love myself so deeply and with commitment that I want to be remembered for good; not for evil
  3. I love myself seriously that I won't do anything that will commit me to eternal damnation

4. I love myself that I will do so much to leave a lasting positive mark with everyone that comes in contact with me

## Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

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*“The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone but the things you do for others remain as your legacy” – Kalu Ndukwe Kalu (Author)*

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- One of the powerful and enlivening discovery of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Christianity is: “every Church member is a minister”
- Every member may not be ordained and will not be ordained but all members must be equipped to serve

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*“And He gave some to be apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some shepherds and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” – Ephesians 4:11-12 (IKJV)*

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- Ministry means service and a minister is a servant in, and for the Church

- In the parable of the good Samaritan, Jesus our Lord made it clear that our neighbor is every person regardless of race, tribe, gender or age
- It means we are to love everyone
- Loving our neighbors means ministering to people
- The church is an a service institution
- To reach the nations for Christ, we must first achieve relevance with our host communities
- Our services to the people represent the key to achieving relevance
- Ministry is giving God's love to the world by meeting the changing needs of the people
- Ephesians 4:12 reveals that the reason for equipping the saints is to enable them do the work of ministry
- The church ministers to all kinds of needs: spiritual, emotional, relational and physical
- Loving and ministering to the needs of our neighbors is leading for legacy

### **The New Commandment: Love Your Neighbor as Christ Loves You**

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*“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, just like I have loved you; that you also love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

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- To love God is easier: God is always good towards us
- To love our neighbors as we love ourselves is a bit difficult but not impossible: a number of us can do that
- To love others as Christ loves: humanly impossible except by the help of the Holy Spirit, however it is the commandment of our Lord
  
- Paul J. Meyer made a sampling of the ways Jesus showed His love for us:
  1. He stopped to talk with the lowest of the low
  2. He dispensed justice wherever He went
  3. He healed the social outcasts
  4. He ate with sinners
  5. He cared for the poor
  6. He gave up His will
  7. He allowed His body to be beaten for our sake
  8. He died on the cross for our sins while we were still sinners
- As difficult and impossible as it is for us to love like the Lord Jesus, it is still His expectation from us as His followers
- This level of love defines the core of our identity as Christ's disciples

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*“We know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and he who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. 17 In this love has been made perfect among us, that we may have boldness in*

*the Day of Judgment, because as he is, even so are we in this world" (1John 3:16-17 WEB)*

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- Leading for a legacy requires making huge sacrifices
- At some time, the price may be more than you may be willing to pay, but the good news is when it is paid in full you move from the stage of being a good leader to that of outstanding leader

## **Build on the Foundation**

1. Make the Right Decision
  - a. Leaders are investors
  - b. The most critical decision you must make in leadership is choosing between investing to build things and sacrificing to build a people for God
  - c. The Church is the people; the physical house and other investments are church properties
  - d. It is possible to have properties without having a Church but it is not possible to have a healthy Church without having properties
  - e. The leadership strategy of our Master Jesus Christ is people-strategy

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*"If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade plant trees; if you are planning for a life time, educate people – Chinese Proverb*

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d. The most important contribution you will make in Eyo Diocese may not be what you will do but the people you will help to raise

e. When people are transformed and empowered through proper discipleship initiative, they will become profitable for:

1. The local church
2. The Diocese
3. The Anglican Communion
4. The Nation of Nigeria

## 2. Make your Money Available for the Kingdom

a. It is true that giving creates room for God to prosper you but give for a reason higher than personal blessings

b. Start with proper and faithful tithing

- i. Don't engage in empty argument of whether it is proper to tithe in New Testament or not
- ii. Winning or losing this argument will not advance your life in any way
- iii. Tithe to make your money count for the kingdom



- iv. Tithe because it is the most strategic and steady way to fund your Diocesan vision
  - c. Advance in your giving by offering your first fruit to God
    - i. In Anglican Communion, first fruit harvest is an established doctrine and ceremony
    - ii. If you believe and participate in first fruit harvest, do it in spirit and truth
  - d. Take up special projects and fund them personally
    - i. Make sure you fund what will count for eternity
    - ii. Do it to honor God and not yourself
    - iii. Do it by faith
    - iv. Do it expecting God to bless you
- 3. Always Vote for God in Your Church
  - a. Don't vote to prove your power and influence
  - b. Vote to allow God accomplish His purpose
  - c. Don't vote to create and sustain division
  - d. Vote to allow peace and inclusiveness
  - e. Vote for Holy Spirit inspired progress
  - f. Don't vote to preserve man-made tradition

## **Conclusion**

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*“One of the most amazing things ever said on this earth is Jesus statement: He that is greatest among you shall be your servant.’ Nobody has one change in a billion of being thought really great after a century has passed except those who have been the servant of all.” – Harry Emerson Fosdick D.D.*

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- How do you want to be remembered:
  - He loved God first
  - He loved his family and extended family
  - She loved her friends
  - She was a great giver
  - He kept his word
  - He was not ashamed of the gospel
  - He was a role model
  - He raised many leaders
  - He was a peace maker
  - She forgave
- You can actually write your epitaph while you are still living and leading
- It is also important you go ahead lead a life that will plant that epitaph in the hearts of the people around you
- May God help us in Jesus name!



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## Running and Winning with the Diocesan Vision

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*Vision Statement:*

***“To Love, Teach and Preach Christ”,***

*Bringing up members filled with the Holy Spirit, rooted and grounded in the Lord Jesus Christ and prepared to make heaven at the end of their earthly sojourn.*

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## Introduction

- Vision defines the purpose of a ministry and makes a business case for its existence
- Leadership effectiveness at all levels of an organization begins at the place of vision.
  - It is not possible to lead a group of people without deep understanding of the vision.
  - It is what compels others to follow you.
  - Vision is the ground on which influence is fostered.
  - The eyes that look are common but the eyes that see are few.
  - The few that see always lead the many that look (Genesis 41:25)

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*“Vision is a clear mental picture of what could be, fueled by the conviction that it should be”. – Andy Stanley*

*“Vision is the art of seeing things invisible – Jonathan Swift*

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- It paints an invisible picture of a preferred future.
- It speaks of a destination.
- Vision always stands in contrast to the world as it is.
- It demands change and implies movement from the present to a different future.
- Vision represents an essential revelation for maximizing the usefulness and productivity of a people.

- Without it the people perish or waste away.
- It generates a creative tension that brings out the best in people
- In the case of **Evo Diocese** of Church of Nigeria, Anglican Communion, it is to become of a community of people who **“Love, Teach and Preach Christ”**
- It means the future of Evo Diocese is defined as a city whose people are **“filled with the Holy Spirit, rooted and grounded in the Lord Jesus Christ and prepared to make heaven at the end of their earthly sojourn.”**

#### **Four Things You Must Know About Vision**

1. Vision comes from God but it is actualized on earth by men and women who are committed to it
  - a. God looks for one person to trust with a project to be executed on the earth
  - b. The birth of vision is a call to launch a movement for God
  - c. Leaders are midwives of God’s prophetic agenda for their people
  
2. Vision is usually given by God to one person but it is always bigger than the “visioner”

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*“The Lord gave the word. Great was the company of those who proclaimed it” (Psalms 68:11)*

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### 3. Vision requires runners to become a reality

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*“I will stand on my watch and set myself on the ramparts. And I will watch to see what He will say to me and what I will answer when I am corrected. 2 Then the LORD answered me and said, “Write the vision and make it plain on tablets so that he may run who reads it.” (Habakkuk 2:1-2)*

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4. Where there is no Vision the people perish (Proverbs 29:18) and where there are no runners (people) the vision will be in danger
  - a. Vision fosters an environment that brings people up to leadership
  - b. It creates tension that identifies potentials in people and enable them develop and maximize their usefulness
  - c. Runners are critically important to the life and fulfilment of vision
  - d. The absence of runners is usually the reason for the delay or death of vision
  - e. Vision is a mere statement where there are no runners
  - f. An organization can be filled with people and at same time suffer from acute shortage of runners

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Jesus went about all the cities and the villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the Good News of the Kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people. 36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion for them, because they were harassed and scattered, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest indeed is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38 Pray therefore that the Lord of the harvest will send out laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:35-38)

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## The Prophetic Portraits of Runners

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"Now Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem to keep the Passover to the LORD God of Israel. 2 For the king and his princes and all the assembly in Jerusalem had decided to celebrate the Passover in the second month, 3 for they could not keep it at that time because the priests had not sanctified themselves sufficiently, nor had the people gathered themselves together at Jerusalem. 4 Now the thing pleased the king and all the assembly. 5 So they established a decree to make a proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba even to Dan, that they should come to keep the Passover to the LORD God of Israel at Jerusalem. For they had not celebrated it in great numbers as it was written. 6 **So the runners went with the letters from the king and his princes throughout all Israel and Judah.** And according to the commandment of the king, it said, "Children of Israel return to the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. And He will return to

*the remnant who have escaped out of the hand of the kings of Assyria* 10 **So the runners passed from city to city throughout the country** of Ephraim and Manasseh even to Zebulun. But they laughed them to scorn and mocked them. 11 Nevertheless many of Asher and Manasseh and of Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem. 12 **Also on Judah came the hand of God to give them one heart to do the commandment of the king and of the princes by the word of the Lord.**" (2Kings 30-1, 10-12)

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- There are two levels of leadership within an organization
  1. Strategic level
    - Determine direction
    - Defines realities
    - Establish values (Doctrines and Beliefs) and spell corporate culture (Life style)
  2. Operational level
    - Mobilize the workforce
    - Follow direction
    - Implement executive decisions
    - Model values and reproduce corporate culture at all levels
- Runners in Evo Diocese are operational leaders (Key Influencers in Archdeaconry, Deanery and Local Churches) who focus on mobilizing the people and aligning them towards the fulfilment of the Diocesan vision



- They are people who deploy their names, money, relationships, goodwill and other personal resources to get other buy into the Diocesan vision and pay the full price to attain it

### **Runners Comes in Different Ways and Play Diverse Roles**

- Runners are vision enablers and destiny helpers
- John C. Maxwell identifies what can be called eleven faces of vision enablers
  1. **Time Relievers** – people who help the top leader to save time
  2. **Gift Complementors** – people who do things that the leader is not gifted or skilled to do
  3. **Team Players** – people who add value to the leader and the leadership team
  4. **Creative Thinkers** – people who solve problems and create options
  5. **Door Closers** – people who complete assignments with excellence
  6. **People Developers** – people who develop and raise other leaders
  7. **Servant Leaders** – people who lead with the right attitude
  8. **Mind-Stretchers** – people who expand the leaders thinking
  9. **Relational Network** – people who bring other people into the leader's life and add value to him

10. **Unconditional Lovers** – people who know the leader's weaknesses, yet love him unconditionally

## The Value of Runners

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*“As a leader, you will never get ahead until your people are behind you” – John C. Maxwell*

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- There are no solo leaders: without a lot of people working together, there would be no successful leaders
  - Self-made leaders don't make much
  - Every successful leadership story is created by the assistance of many other people
- It is practically impossible to sustain success at any level if the team of people that created it are not constantly appreciated and engaged
  - The creativity and abilities required to build and sustain an outstanding organization are hardly found in one leader
  - To lose the enthusiasm and support of your people is to lose grounds already conquered

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*“Now these are those who came to David to Ziklag while he was still restricted because of Saul the son of Kish. And they were among the mighty men, helpers of the war. 2 They were armed with bows and could use both the right*

*hand and the cleft in hurling stones and shooting arrows out of a bow. They were of Saul's brethren of Benjamin.”(1Chronicles 12:1-2)*

*“8 And from the Gadites there came over to David in the stronghold in the wilderness mighty men of war fit for the battle, who could handle shield and spear, whose faces were like the faces of lions. And they were as swift as the gazelles on the mountains.” (Verse 8)*

*“21 And they helped David against the band of the raiders, for they were all mighty men of valor and were captains in the army. **22 For from day to day men came to David to help him, until it was a great army, like the army of God. 23 And these are the numbers of the heads of those who were armed for war, who came to David to Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him according to the word of LORD.” (Verses 21-23)***

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## **How to Run and Win with your Diocesan Vision**

1. Accept your Bishop as God's ordained set man for Evo Diocese today
  - a. At the root of commitment to actualize a vision are:
    - i. Commitment to God and His purpose
    - ii. An unconditional acceptance of the person of the visioner as God's agent
  - b. If you don't accept the person, you can't run with his vision

2. Celebrate your Archdeacons, Supervisors, Vicars, other classes of Priests, Ministers and Leaders as extensions of the person and office of your Bishop
  - a. Leaders at all levels must understand that people sense the harmony or disharmony that exists between you and your superiors
  - b. To the extent that they sense that harmony is to the extent that they will come directly under your influence (the story of the Donkey, Jesus and the People – Matthew 21:1-11)
  - c. Life is processed by the law of exchange: you buy your influence through the token of your own loyalty to your superiors
  - d. When the Archdeacons, Supervisors, Vicars, other classes of Priests, Ministers and Leaders demonstrate unquestionable loyalty to the Diocese, and unbreakable commitment to the vision, they help their people to submit to their authority
3. Accept your role and position with gladness, knowing that the goal is more important than your role
4. Lead from where you are at a time
  - a. Leadership is not in position; it is in disposition
  - b. Do not engage in “if I am in charge discussion”, it is dangerously Absalomitic
  - c. Develop vision for your own department but make sure it is interpreting the Diocesan vision

- d. Adjust your mind, manage your emotions well and be prepared to live without gaining credits for results
  - e. Strive to overcome the temptation to always want to be visible
5. Understand your Mandate and Your Team's Responsibilities
- a. Define critical success factors for leaders at your level
  - b. Ask the right questions:
    - i. What is my business and what should be my business?
    - ii. Do I have the set of skills and relevant knowledge for my mandate?
    - iii. What will it cost to become the best leader for my position?
    - iv. Am I willing to pay the price for personal empowerment and transformation?
    - v. What is the standard with which success will be measured?
    - vi. Who is my primary audience (who am I playing to please)?
6. Master the Personal Skill to Swim in Muddy Leadership Waters

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*"I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me and heard my cry. 2 He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, And He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm. 3 He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; Many will see and fear And will trust in the LORD." (Psalms 1-3 NASV)*

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- a. When David prayed this prayer, he referred to his struggles with many enemies but primarily, that struggle was he followed an ineffective leader in the person of King Saul.
- b. In leadership, there is no muddy water worst and more dangerous to swim as a runner than the challenge of following an ineffective leader
- c. It is very disheartening to follow an ineffective leader, however, it is a part of leadership responsibility for a runner to manage his superiors well
- d. The seven most Difficult Leaders to follow:
  - i. **The insecure leader** (1 Samuel 18:5-9)
    - Thinks everything is about him
  - ii. **The visionless leader** (Proverbs 29:18)
    - Creates two dangerous problems
      1. No direction or incentive to progress
      2. No passion or fire to keep themselves and their people going
    - To master this situation, you can create a vision of productivity for those under you.
  - iii. **Incompetent leader**
    - In need of advice yet have no value for it (Proverbs 24:7)
    - Creates problem for the entire organization

#### iv. **The selfish leader**

- Advances at the expense of everyone around
- Leads for personal gain
- He is a transactional leader

#### v. **The chameleon leader**

- Always at the middle and never take a stand
- Decisions are delayed for fear of an unpredictable reaction

#### vi. **Political leader**

- All decisions are made on political ambitions not mission
- To get ahead of others

#### vii. **The controlling leader**

- Ever attempting to micromanage others
- Believes he can do all things better than everybody

#### e. Don't attempt to fix your superiors

- Your greatest limitation is not the leader above you but the spirit in you
- Your role in all situations is to add value to your organization and leader.

### 7. Run and Win with the Vision

- Nothing is more difficult in leadership than **championing** another person's vision.

- b. Most people prefer to pursue their own vision than to invest in other people's dream.
- c. Everybody may not champion the vision.
- d. Check out for the four signs of the champions:
  - i. The needs of the organization first or your need first
  - ii. Set vision before the people or set yourself before others
  - iii. Represent the leader well before others or represent yourself well before others.
  - iv. Understand their roles well or don't understand the roles well
- e. Add Value to the vision
  - i. Your most important contribution is not championing the vision but making it something **much more**
  - ii. When you add value to your leader's vision, you **eliminate** the challenge of running with another person's vision

## Conclusion

- Runners are leaders in their own right who deliberately chose to work in a leader to achieve significance
- They are people with strong desire to team up with others and create something bigger
- They see their own greatness in serving greatness
- They have passion to win but not as individuals
- They are wise to know that individuals play and score in a match but it is only a team that win championship



- In Evo Diocese, we can join resources to create a big story that will arrest the attention of the global Church
- We have what it will take, we can do it, so let us do it



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## **Leading Revival in a Local Church**

### **Introduction**

- In the dealing with the created order and the consequences of its fallen state, the Church is God's last revelation
- What the Lord Jesus began to do and teach in person and in the first Century, He continues to do today through the Church – His Body

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*“The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen. 3 To these men He also showed Himself alive by many infallible proofs after His suffering, being seen by them forty days and speaking of the things concerning*

*the kingdom of God. 4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, "Which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 "for John indeed baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons that the Father has set by His own authority. 8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:1-8)*

*"They went out, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word by the signs that followed. Amen." (Mark 16:20)*

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- The Church is raised to bear the standard of God's government on the earth
- It is her assignment to uphold and enforce the will of God in every sphere of life
- It is to this truth that the Lord Jesus gave the description of His Church as:
  1. The Salt of the Earth (Agent of Godly Influence)
  2. The Light of the World (Beacon of God's Kingdom Direction)
  3. A City Set on a Hill (Architectural Model of Life and All that go with it)

- A dysfunctional Church therefore is a great risk to God's purpose and his redemptive agenda for a given environment

## **The Church and Management of the Mysteries of God**

- God's eternal plan and purpose was concealed in mystery throughout the past ages

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*“For this cause I, Paul, am the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles, 2 if it is so that you have heard of the administration of that grace of God which was given me toward you; 3 how that by revelation **the mystery** was made known to me, as I wrote before in few words, 4 by which, when you read, you can perceive my understanding in **the mystery of Christ; 5 which in other generations was not made known to the children of men, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit”** (Ephesians 3:1-5 WEB)*

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- The wisest and most prudent of the world in the past ages was unable to unravel this mystery
- Concerning this mystery, our Lord Jesus Himself said:

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*“...I thank you, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have **hidden these things** from the wise and understanding, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for so it was well-pleasing in your sight.”* (Luke 10:21)

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- Apostle Paul by the Holy Spirit called this mystery the wisdom of God foreordained for our glory

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*“We speak wisdom, however, among those who are full grown; yet a wisdom not of this world, nor of the rulers of this world, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak **God’s wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom that has been hidden, which God foreordained before the worlds for our glory,** 8 which none of the rulers of this world has known. For had they known it, they wouldn’t have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written, “Things which an eye didn’t see, and an ear didn’t hear, which didn’t enter into the heart of man, these God has prepared for those who love him.” (1Corinthians 2:6-9)*

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- It is by this mystery that Heaven neutralizes the wisdom of the world and brings the intelligence of the prudent to nothing

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*“For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, I will bring the discernment of the discerning to nothing.” 20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the lawyer of this world? Hasn’t God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For seeing that in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom didn’t know God, it was God’s good pleasure through the foolishness of the preaching to save those who believe” (1Corinthians 1:19-21 WEB)*

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- God concealed His plan and purpose in a mystery until the appearance of Jesus our Lord and His Church on the earth

- The Church of Christ is the main object of God's mystery, for it was hidden in wait for her arrival
- The Church serves as the sole manager of the mysteries of God on earth
- It is the destiny of the Church to display and demonstrate the mysteries as God's manifold wisdom

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*“To me, who am less than the least of all saints is this grace given, so that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make all see **what is the stewardship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things; 10 in order that now to the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known through the church the manifold wisdom of God, 11 according to the eternal purpose that He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord”** (Ephesians 3:8-11 IKJV)*

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- It is faithfulness in the stewardship and timely finishing of God's mysteries by the informed Church that holds the key to Christ's second coming

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*“But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as he declared to his servants, the prophets” (Revelation 10:7 WEB)*

*“The seventh angel sounded, and great voices in heaven followed, saying, “The kingdom of the world has*

*become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ. He will reign forever and ever!" 16 The twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God's throne, fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying: "We give you thanks, Lord God, the Almighty, the one who is and who was; because you have taken your great power, and reigned. 18 The nations were angry, and your wrath came, as did the time for the dead to be judged, and to give your bondservants the prophets, their reward, as well as to the saints, and those who fear your name, to the small and the great; and to destroy those who destroy the earth." 19 God's temple that is in heaven was opened, and the ark of the Lord's covenant was seen in his temple. Lightnings, sounds, thunders, an earthquake, and great hail followed." (Revelation 11:15-19 WEB)*

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## **What is Revival?**

- In a very simple term, revival within the context of this study, means making a local Church viable for God, and for the administration of His purpose:
  1. For the Local Community
  2. For the Diocese
  3. For Church of Nigeria, Anglican Communion
  4. For the Body of Christ
- Leading revival in a local Church therefore involves influencing the people and the established structures for God, bringing them into kingdom alignment to pursue and attain divine agenda

## Five Things You Must Know

### 1. Time is short

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*"I saw a mighty angel coming down out of the sky, clothed with a cloud. A rainbow was on his head. His face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. 2 He had in his hand a little open book. He set his right foot on the sea, and his left on the land. 3 He cried with a loud voice, as a lion roars. When he cried, the seven thunders uttered their voices. 4 When the seven thunders sounded, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from the sky saying, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders said, and don't write them." 5 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to the sky, 6 and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there will no longer be delay" (Revelation 10:1-6 WEB)*

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- We are living and working in no ordinary time; God is moving things to align with His purpose
- Heaven is not tolerating delay any more; God has gone ahead of us
- We must seek to be clothed with the urgent spirit as was seen in the life and ministry of John the Baptist

### 2. There will be war between religious spirit and prophetic mind-set

3. Your positional powers as a Priest or a leader at any level in your Church and the Diocese is inadequate; you need to develop godly influence
  - Position
  - Permission
  - Production
  - People Development
  - Personhood
4. Supernatural capital is an indispensable tool in your life and work

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*“Hear me, O LORD, hear me so that this people may know that You are the LORD God and that You have turned their heart back again.” 38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering, and the wood and the stones and the dust and licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces. And they said, “The LORD, He is God. The LORD, He is God.” 40 Then Elijah said to them, “Take the prophets of Baal. Do not let one of them escape.” And they took them, and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon. And he killed them there. 41 Then Elijah said to Ahab, “Get yourself up, eat and drink, for there is a sound of abundance of rain.” (1Kings 18:37-41 IKJV)*

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- Personal consecration and strong fellowship with the Holy Spirit through prayers and study of the word



5. God is Sovereign, He can do with or without anybody but in His wisdom He chose to depend on you
- To raise a family and a nation for His purpose, He depended on Abraham
  - To deliver that nation from Egypt, God depended on Moses
  - To bring His people into the promised-land, He beckoned on Joshua
  - He counted on Deborah to guide Israel and lead her to victory
  - At the most critical stage in administering His purpose, He depended on a teenage girl – Virgin Mary to enter the world as a man
  - Today, He is counting on you to revive and reposition your local church and assist your Diocese to fulfil divine agenda

### **Four Things You Must Do**

1. Make up your mind and take a stand with God
  - Don't make yourself an enemy of God
  - Be teachable
  - God's work is a family business; be a child of God
  - Be willing to shift ground for God and His purpose
  - Fear God and respect His servants

2. Renounce personal agenda and be intentional in working as a team
  - Stop focusing on winning personal battles at the expense of losing corporate wars
  - Understand that none of us is smarter than all of us
  - Celebrate God's ideas instead of personalities
  
3. Make training and retraining of Church members and workers a project

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*“The voice which I heard from heaven, again speaking with me, said, “Go, take the book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land.” 9 I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little book. He said to me, “Take it, and eat it up. It will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.” 10 I took the little book out of the angel’s hand, and ate it up. It was as sweet as honey in my mouth. When I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter. 11 They told me, “You must prophesy again over many peoples, nations, languages, and kings.” (Revelation 10:8-11)*

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- A local congregation is as good as what they know
- Review and redesign your training materials and structures
- In recruiting and training bible teachers and small groups leaders, start with end in view

#### 4. Increase your giving

- Give more of yourself and time
- Give yourself to prayers and study of the word
- Give more money
- Give your influence and connections
- Give out of love for God and His people

#### **Conclusion:**

- Leading revival in a local church is a noble task that requires commitment to God and passion to see His will done in, and through a local church
- It is a huge leadership task that demands increased spiritual intelligence
- Leadership is the capacity to influence the thoughts and actions of other people to achieve worthy goals
- It consists of the wisdom to discover, develop and deploy human capacity to achieve superior goals
- It is knowing the mind of God and partnering with Him to accomplish His desires on the earth
- The greatest offering and sacrifice we can make unto God this year may be committing to make His church under our cares to be viable and strong in a way we have never seen
- Let us rise and do it

## Notes

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## Notes

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