

Weekly Connector: Leadership Matters!

August 18, 2018

Hello, Church!

Any organization well led, whether a church, a collection of churches, a company, a non-profit, a neighborhood, a community, or a family, is an organization that has the potential to do great things. The leader is the key to unlocking this potential.

In my last trip to Uganda in October of 2017, we introduced a leadership approach called **Leadership Focus**. This modular concept engages with the learning leader to grow together in clusters of four or five candidates, led by a trained coach. After successful completion of six modules, the candidate is presented to be credentialed as an ordained minister of the Church of God. Leadership Focus has been available to Church of God in various parts of North America for some years and recently made available to all parts of the US.

We introduced Leadership Focus at the request of the Church of God in Uganda as they looked for a standard approach to developing leaders. Since then, partnering with Church of God Ministries (North America), Church of God in Germany, and Church of God in Uganda, we sought to develop a way to pilot this very North American approach with an international application. This week marks a significant step in the progress of this project.



A key part of preparing for Leadership Focus includes determining a set of shared values, along with a vision, mission, and strategy for the Church at large. We just completed the first half of a visioning workshop with key leaders throughout Uganda. Building on the first thirty-five years of the Church of God in Uganda, we developed core values that will take them into the next thirty-five years. We also began to formulate a vision statement describing the "picture of a preferred future". The second half of this workshop will be held when I return with our 2018 Missions Team in November, which will seek to build onto this set of values a completed vision, mission, and strategy.

Once this is accomplished, the Church of God will be better prepared when these leaders complete Leadership Focus - placing them into ministry roles that match their unique gifting and enabling them to take decisive actions that will unite, empower, and release leaders to **"make history in Jesus' Name!"**

Next week, I will assist Jeannette Flynn, the key leader of Leadership Focus from Church of God Ministries, as she trains coaches to lead their clusters through the first two modules. I look forward to learning more as I come alongside to help.



This Sunday in East Canton, the Youth Team will lead the morning service. Please be sure to arrive early, find a seat up front, and not only show your support for their ministry, but more importantly to follow their lead as you worship the LORD together! I am so thankful for (and proud of) our youth!

These talented Ugandan leaders reminded me that each of us has been given a set of unique skills, talents, and experiences which enable us to serve the LORD as no one else can. This is true in Uganda and it is true throughout the world - even Northeast Ohio. My prayer is that each of us would recognize this truth:

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Eph. 2:10

Let each of us seek to understand how God enables us to walk in the good works He has prepared.

I love you, Church!

Pastor greg