

MISSIONARY FAMILIES OF CHRIST

CHAPTER LEADERS' TRAINING

The Chapter Leaders Training (CLT) is the formation course for all chapter leaders (Chapter Leaders (CL) and wives.)

Content of CLT

1. Orientation
2. The role of Seniors in MFC
3. The elder as shepherd
4. Our multi-faceted identity
5. The humility of a Christian leader
6. The character of an elder
7. Maturity of character
8. Perseverance
9. The deceitful bow—dangers in pastoral life

Conduct of CLT

The CLT is handled by the Area Servant. It may be conducted by the Area Servant or by the overall leadership in a particular area (city, province, state), if there is no Area Servant in the area.

The Orientation is given prior to a Chapter Leader and his wife assuming their responsibility as chapter leaders. The rest of CLT is conducted over 8 separate monthly sessions.

Content of each session

Each CLT session would normally consist of the following:

1. Worship (about 30 minutes)
2. Talk (about 45 minutes)
3. Open forum (about one hour)

The worship may be led by any of the Chapter Leaders present or by other seniors. The talk is given by the Area Servant or any other senior designated by the Area Servant. The open forum would normally be handled by the speaker.

Attendance

Attendance in a CLT is a must. Absences may be permitted for acceptable reasons, but those absent must secure and listen to a video/audio recording of the talk.

Continued absence at the CLT sessions, whether for acceptable reasons or not, can be grounds for removal as chapter Leaders.

MFC PFO. Oct. 07, 2019

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TALK No. 1: ORIENTATION

Expanded Outline

A. What is a Chapter?

1. A Chapter is a basic pastoral subdivision of MFC.

a) It is composed of units and households that are territorially proximate to one another.

b) The Chapter is in effect a “mini-MFC.”

□ It would have its own life, conduct its own evangelization, appoint its own leaders, have its own prayer meeting, etc.

□ The only area it would not handle independently is finances, which are still centralized.

2. The Chapter provides a structure that is a key to our rapid and massive evangelization.

It is self-sufficient and can carry on the work of MFC even if it were the only chapter existing.

It allows for unlimited growth

A Chapter never grows too large, with the corresponding problems associated with growth. A Chapter that has grown is split.

Whether there is only one or there are 10 to 100 chapters in an area, each chapter remains manageable.

3. A key aspect of our pastoral organization is balance.

- a) There is a balance between independence and interdependence, between autonomy and unity.

Keep in mind that you are “on your own”, but you are also fully apart of the body, under one overall authority.

- b) The life and mission of the chapter is always in accordance with the overall MFC vision, mission and culture.

B. What is your role?

1. The Chapter Leader (CL) is the overall pastor and governor of the chapter.

- a) The family that is MFC involves the following roles:

☐ Household Leader - Big brother Unit Leader - Father
Chapter Leader - Patriarch

The wives have the corresponding roles of big sister, mother and grandmother.

- b) While the Unit Leader (UL) is the pastor of the unit members, you are the overall pastor.

The Unit Leader is the one directly concerned with the lives of unit members; you provide overall guidance and care.

2. Your role as CL is crucial because:

- a) We cannot have more chapters without new CLs.

- b) You are running a mini-MFC.

☐ The buck stops with you. Though there is the Area Servant, it is basically you on the firing line.

- c) You lay the foundation for the birth of new chapters.

☐ You oversee our evangelistic work and growth in numbers.

☐ You identify and form leaders, especially another CL.

C. What do we expect from you?

1. Have the attitude of a servant.

- a) You are just an instrument in God's hands.
- b) You are not building your own kingdom or turf.
- c) Be humble.

- God will work through you.

- Recognize that all your fruitfulness will be due to Him.

2. Develop a high degree of appreciation for the vision and mission of MFC.

- a) Read and re-read our official documents. Know our life more and more by heart.
- b) Eagerly seek out other Seniors for input.

3. Be fully committed to MFC.

Assign a very high priority to your life and work in MFC.

- MFC for you must not just be another group, or just another facet of your life, but your very life.

Give your time and energy.

- Do not be too busy with your personal life and career.

- Give yourself sufficient time to pray, plan, interact with others, counsel, etc.

Of course, you should not neglect your family, your secular work, or even your social life. But in all these, see MFC as a top priority.

4. Be a model for Christian living.

- a) Christian life is modeling. 1 Cor. 11:1.

- How your chapter members will turn out will depend to a larger extent on what you show them.

- b) Work on various areas of your life.

- Family life.

- Zeal and dedication to the work of MFC. □ No addiction to any vice.

5. Support MFC with your finances.

Be convinced of our teaching on financial stewardship, and show others the way.

Work at giving a full tithe (10%) and even more if you can.

6. Be open to correction.

We are all still growing and will make mistakes.

Welcome and eagerly seek correction.

Even from peers or subordinates.

Do not be onion-skinned or feel bad when corrected.

7. Work under authority.

You are part of a team.

You work under the authority of the MFC Servant General, through the Area Servant.

□ Unity and cooperation are crucial.

□ Look to an exchange of resources with other chapters.

b) Be open to direction.

Do not do your own thing. The MFC Servant General's goals are to be your goals (e.g., growth rates).

Do not shield your people or hide your problems from the Area Servant or other Seniors over you.

Actively seek the input of the Area Servant.

Act quickly on memos, directives, etc.

Make sure all your chapter members are aware of these.

8. Be authoritative.

a) MFC backs you up and invests you with authority to govern.

But do not be authoritarian.

b) Important areas:

Discipline and good order.

Attendance and punctuality.
Directions/instructions for leaders/members.

9. Constantly push for the mission of MFC.

a) Be mindful of our vision and our goals.

☐ You are the one on the frontlines.

b) Important areas:

☐ Annual goals. Doubling. Thus, you have to anticipate the number of CLSs necessary.

☐ Faithfulness to meetings. Purge those uncommitted.

☐ Financial generosity.

☐ Utilization of available pastoral resources: the books of the Servant General (Frank Padilla), Catechism of the Catholic Church, Church Documents.

☐ Development of leaders and resources.

☐ Family Ministries.

☐ Live Christ, Save Christ (LCLC) mission

D. Conclusion.

1. You can see that your role is very important to the life and mission of MFC.

2. Look beyond your own chapter.

a) Our work is to renew the face of the earth, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

b) The foundation for this global work is MFC in the Philippines. The foundation for this country in turn is Metro Manila. Ultimately, all depend on the strength of the individual chapters.

c) Thus, while you may just be exposed to your chapter's small territory, have a vision for the larger work.

3. It is a privilege for all of us to serve the Lord as CLs.

MISSIONARY FAMILIES OF CHRIST

CHAPTER LEADERS' TRAINING

TALK No. 2 : THE ROLE OF SENIORS IN MFC

Expanded Outline

A. Introduction

1. MFC is not just a service organization, but a Christian community.

- a) As such, our members are together not just to get the job done, but in order to care for one another.
- b) Our commitment to one another is a full rather than a partial one. We share our whole lives- time, talents, resources and personal lives.

As such, the Seniors of MFC have a greater and more personal responsibility than leaders of just institutions.

Seniors are concerned not only for common activities but for the people themselves.

Seniors are governors over God's people, exercising authority over the common life of brethren and leading them in the Lord's way of living.

B. What Seniors are not.

1. Seniors are not managers.

- a) They are not mainly administrators or managers concerned with getting things done. Rather, they guide people in living a certain kind of life.

Their concern is not so much efficiency in tasks, but in building up the body in love.

- b) We need to be careful of relying on things like managerial skill, executive experience or a corporate mind-set.

2. Seniors are not academic teachers.

- a) Seniors are mainly governors of people.

They are men who can take a group of people and lead them forward in the Christian Life.

- b) Of course, the Seniors need to know sound doctrine and be well versed in MFC teachings and culture.

3. Seniors are not counselors.

Much of pastoral care today is patterned on the "helping professions" – social work, guidance counseling, psychological counseling, etc.

Many pastoral leaders see the heart of their work as involvement in individual counseling relationships.

But the Seniors primarily govern the life of the body.

Individual counseling may sometimes occur. But the system of pastoral care does not center on one-to-one helping relationship.

Rather than focusing in individual problem solving, what is promoted is a corporate Christian environment, where members are taught how to relate as brethren.

The Seniors would have many direct and natural ways to teach and admonish people, aside from individual counseling.

4. Seniors are not representatives.

One political notion is that the core group should be representative of the various elements of the body they are leading.

- Various interest groups.
- Various age groups.
- Both men and women.
- Various socio-economic levels.

But the Seniors are chosen not in order to represent or to balance differences, but because they are able to govern the community and teach the Christian way of life.

They are considered to be trustworthy, full of faith and wisdom, self-controlled etc.

In fact, it often is better when the elders have the same mind and heart with regard to the community's vision, mission and way of life.

5. Seniors are not a balanced team.

One view is that the Seniors group should be made up of people with various gifts.

One should teach well, one should be strong and aggressive, one should be compassionate and gentle, etc.

Often, in setting up service groups (e.g., kids section), this would be the right approach.

However, this is not the case with the body of seniors, which is made up of those who are the heads of the community.

All of them have the same charge: to take a group of people and govern them so that they all follow and serve the Lord well.

To do that, all the Seniors need the same gift, the same kind of personal maturity, which enables them to govern well.

6. Seniors are not the only leaders.

a) Many others share the work of leadership in the community.

□ In MFC, we have unit and household Leaders, team leaders, music ministry Leaders, etc.

b) The Seniors are responsible for seeing that the members of the body are drawn into service according to their gifts.

□ Seniors do not do everything themselves.

□ Seniors do not give detailed instructions for everything.

□ Seniors oversee everything and ensure that everyone's efforts are building the one body and pursuing the one mission.

C. What seniors are.

Seniors are shepherds.

1 Pet. 5: 1-5a

In the Old Testament, the term "shepherd" was applied to the king and rulers of Israel.

2 Sam 5:2; Jer 23:1-4, 25:34-36; Ezek 34; Zech. 10:2-3.

Peter is addressing himself to the men who govern the people of God.

The shepherd is supposed to govern the flock with a concern that the flock is doing well. A shepherd is not successful if the sheep are not healthy, thriving and strong.

The shepherd is to be an example, since they are leading a group of people in a way of life- the Christian way of righteousness, faithfulness and love.

The shepherd does not exercise lordship over others, but rather lays down his life.

He does not hold his position for his own benefit, but rather in order to build up the body.

Seniors are leaders.

Heb 13:17.

A Christian community is normally headed not by a single leader but by a body of leaders.

There is a lot of work that is needs to be shared.

There is a great protection in having a body of Seniors working together.

This is crucial for MFC as we are in spiritual warfare. Prov. 24:6

As leaders, the Seniors are not primarily responsible for activities going well, but for how well the people themselves are doing.

- Seniors have a responsibility for the personal lives of the people.
- If people are in right relationship with God and one another, the activities will be blessed.

Seniors are overseers.

1 Tim. 3.

“Bishop” in verses 1 and 2 = “overseer”.

V.4 and 5 relate oversight in the home to that in the church.

An elder must have a good family life because there is a basic similarity between being head of the family and head of a community.

Being a father puts a man in the same type of personal relationship with his family that an elder has with his community.

In both family and community, people share their lives. Parents and children are committed to one another in a family; the same is true of the Christian community.

There is a link between governance and care.

The kind of governance we have in MFC consists of caring for people.
Just like a father to his children, a Senior is not governing well if the people are not maturing in the Christian life.

D. Conclusion.

God has raised up MFC to do a mighty work for global evangelization and renewal. God also raised up men, supported by their spouses, to govern His people.

The fruitfulness of MFC's work will depend on the faithfulness of its members to God.

The situation of God's members will depend a great deal on the faithfulness of the Seniors.

MISSIONARY FAMILIES OF CHRIST

CHAPTER LEADERS' TRAINING

TALK No. 3: THE SENIOR AS SHEPHERD

Expanded Outline

A. Introduction.

1. Our text: 1 Pet. 5:1-11.

2. Addressed to Seniors (v. 1a)

a) Seniors are those to whom the task of governing the Christian community is entrusted.

b) In MFC, seniors are:

- Servant General
- Members of the Servant Council (SC)
- Continent Coordinators and Diaspora Coordinators
- World Region Coordinators
- Country Coordinators
- Zone Coordinators
- Area Coordinators
- Chapter Leaders
- National Section Coordinators and Couple Coordinators

- In addition, there are specialized bodies, as follows:
 - International Body of Counselors (IBC)
 - International Core of Seniors (ICL)
 - European Council (EC)
 - Latin American Council (LAC)

B. Important elements (what you are).

A witness of Christ's sufferings (v. 1b).

Know Jesus Christ.

Know Jesus Christ crucified.

A sharer in glory (v. 1c).

You have been saved, born again and renewed.
You have an eternal hope.

Our goal: heaven.

A shepherd of God's flock (v.2a).

Shepherd's care.

Selfless care and sacrificial love for the sheep.

Mk. 10:42-44.

Care for the people who belong to God, not to us.

We build God's kingdom, not ours.

We act according to His way, not ours.

Jesus is the Chief Shepherd (v.4).

□ We merely act in his behalf.

C. How do we give a shepherd's care?

Willingly (v. 2b).

We do not look on our work as just a job, or as a burden.

□ It is not a grim and unpleasant duty, but rather a joy.

Our work is a privilege.

□ God raised you up to take His place!

Be anxious to render such service if you can.

□ 1 Tim. 3:1 Note: What we are after is not position, but rather just to serve.

Unselfishly, generously, eagerly (v.2c).

We serve not for personal benefit, not for what we can get out of it.

□ Paul in Acts 20:33, 1 Cor 9:12, 2 Cor 12:14.

□ Our desire ought to be to give, not to get.

We ought to give not just the minimum.
Be a good example (v.3).

You have gone up through the ranks and have experienced the different levels where your people are at (i.e., household and unit levels).

So you should be able to relate to where they are at.

And you can definitely teach them how to live their life in the Lord and in MFC at their levels.

You are not a lord, but a servant.

□ Do not become a petty tyrant.

□ Be aware of the dangers of power and prestige.

□ But serve with authority (v. 5a).

“Assigned to you”.

Your position has not been earned by your own merit, but simply by God’s grace.

You do not own your members. So for example, when it is time to reorganize, you can give out your best people to other chapters if necessary.

You stand in God’s place, shepherding your people as God would. You can forbear, forgive, love, serve.

Following (v. 5ff) are for the whole community (which still includes you). You as elder are the example. You show the way.

4. Humbly (v. 5b).

You are in this position only by God’s mercy and grace.

You are nothing on your own and have no room to boast.

You are just instruments.

□ Empowerment is from the Spirit.

□ If truly an instrument, then you can be used.

□ Since you stand in Jesus' place, His power and strength and gifts are available to you.

But if you lose sight of this, then God will oppose you and bring you down (v. 5c).

Humility is the key to greatness, in stature and in deeds.

Note: Humility is also to accept being raised up by God and being esteemed by men.

“God’s mighty hand” (v. 6).

Used in connection with the deliverance which God wrought for His people.

God’s hand is on the destiny of His people.

If we bow humbly, then He will take care of us.

This also enables us to accept and not to resent life experiences and trials.

5. Free of worries and anxieties (v.7)

We do God’s work, not simply ours.

Thus, the fruit is up to Him. Our part is simply to be faithful.

We can be assured that God will take care of us, if He wants us to be able to function as Seniors.

Rom. 8: 32.

6. Cognizant of spiritual warfare (v. 8).

a) Be sober and alert.

Do not be complacent or overconfident in your Christian life.

Cling to God, Prayer and Bible, etc.

Cling to MFC. Your support for life and service.

b) Satan is stalking you. If you fail, many will be affected.

c) Resist him (v. 9a).

And he will flee. Jas. 4: 7.

D. Conclusion.

Being a Senior in MFC is not an easy task.

Pastoral problems.

Unappreciative members.

More intense attack by the devil on leaders.

But our consolation is from God Himself. (v. 10).

- a) He is the God of all grace. He lacks nothing to give us.
- b) God called you to eternal glory in Christ. What a destiny!
- c) God will himself restore, confirm, strengthen and establish you.
- d) You have suffered a little while. It is nothing compared to Jesus' suffering.

Our prize/reward: the unfading crown of glory (v. 4).

Through our work, dominion will be God's forever (v.11).

MISSIONARY FAMILIES OF CHRIST

CHAPTER LEADERS' TRAINING

TALK No. 4 : OUR MULTI-FACETED IDENTITY

Expanded Outline

A. Introduction.

1. The Lord expects much of true Christians. We are all called to holiness and radical Christianity.
2. Much more is expected of Seniors. Lk.12: 48b.
3. What are we called to be? Eph 4: 11-13

B. Elements of our identity as a senior.

1. Apostle.

“To send forth”. An apostle is one who is sent by God.

When by service is properly discerned, then we believe that you are not sent by the MFC Servant General but by God.

Your power is from God, so do not fear. 1Cor. 2: 1-5.

You can act with confidence, but with humility.

You should have that “burden” to serve. 1Cor. 9: 16-17.

Two qualifications of an apostle:

He must have seen Jesus.

For us, we know Christ.

He had to be witness to the resurrection.

We must have experienced Christ's risen power.

2. Prophet.

- a) “One who speaks before others”. A prophet is one who speaks God’s word.
- b) A prophet does not “fore-tell” the future, but rather “forth-tell” the will of God.

Though there is also foretelling of the future, since he tells about the consequences of man’s disobedience to God’s will.

- c) God’s word has power! Heb. 4: 12.
- d) Always boldly speak the truth. Eph. 4: 14-15.

Do not dilute the gospel message.

Evangelist

“One who announces good news”. An evangelist is one who proclaims the gospel, in order to reach out and draw others to Christ.

Our mission is global evangelization.

Winning people’s heart and minds for the Lord.

Transfer from one kingdom to another.

We are in spiritual battle. Eph. 6: 12-18.

Our strength is from the Lord. Eph. 6: 10.

Pastor

“Shepherd”. A pastor is one who cares for and guides people, becoming instruments of their formation and transformation.

To evangelize is not just proclamation and one time conversion, but formation and ongoing conversion.

All are called on to enter deeper into the new life.

We need to act as shepherds over sheep.

Bear God’s people on our hearts. Feed them with the truth.

Seek them when they go astray.

Defend them from all that would hurt their faith.

Teacher.

A teacher is one who moves others to internalize the teachings of God and of the community.

One does not have to be a good speaker.

□ What is important is that you understand our teachings, accept them with conviction, and are able to explain plainly to others.

If you do not understand, be humble and seek the input of a wiser brother.

6. Servant (“in roles of service”)

a) You do not just do service, but are a servant.

b) Be selfless. Look not just to yourselves, but to others.

C. Our objective.

1. We want to build up the body of Christ (v. 12).

a) So that MFC can become a witness.

□ We become light in the darkness around.

b) So that MFC can do God’s work.

□ Global evangelization and renewal.

2. We want to achieve unity in Christ (v.13a).

a) We need to grow in appreciation of our new life.

b) We want to be a strong united community, able to be used effectively by the Lord for his purposes.

3. We want all our members to be perfect in Christ (v. 13b).

a) We realize God’s call to holiness and perfection unto the Father.

b) We want to be more and more like Jesus each day.

D. Conclusion.

1. To be a CL is to have a lofty calling.

a) Our work has elements of being an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher and servant.

□ These are all necessary if we are to truly move our people forward.

b) You are instruments of God Himself.

2. In this call, we need not fear.

a) God will provide whatever we need for the task.

□ Our empowerment is from the Holy Spirit.

b) We are a network of leaders in MFC, supporting one another.

MISSIONARY FAMILIES OF CHRIST

CHAPTER LEADERS' TRAINING

TALK No. 5: THE HUMILITY OF A CHRISTIAN LEADER

Expanded Outline

A. Introduction.

The Lord is blessing our work tremendously.

We need to recognize that it is God's grace and power that make our work fruitful.

Thus, we should not become proud, but rather should take on Jesus' humility.

Let us examine Phil 2: 1 – 11.

In verse 1, Paul appeals to everything to stress the importance of what he is about to say.

- Encouragement in Christ. As brethren, they owe encouragement to Paul.
- Solace in love. Paul appeals to their brotherly love.
- Fellowship in spirit. Paul appeals to their being one in the Spirit.
- Compassion. Paul appeals to their compassion.
- Pity. Failing all the above, Paul asks just for their mercy.

In verse 2, Paul “begs” them to complete his joy.

- What he is about to tell them is very important.

B. Important qualities in an elder.

Unity (v.2)

The elder has to work on our unity of vision and mission in MFC.

- We are one family, one work, one team, one army.

Our relationship with one another is that of real brethren.

We are to be loyal to each other.

Humility (v. 3).

Since MFC is one work, there should be no rivalry.

- Rather, we serve so as to promote the overall good of MFC.

We are experiencing signs and wonders in our ministry. We need to realize that this is not our doing, but God's.

- We have nothing to boast of, except our own weakness and total dependence on God.

Servanthood (v. 4).

We have been bought at a price, at the cost of Jesus' blood.

- We belong totally to Him.
- We have no rights of our own.
- We are to serve him with our all.

We are to take the lowest place, that of a slave.

An important basic attitude: Lk. 17: 10.

Being Christ-like (v. 5).

Jesus is our only model. He is the focus of our Christian life.

We want to move forward and become like Jesus more and more each day.

There are no superstars in MFC, only Jesus.

Our life and service all point to Jesus.

Not after position or power (v. 6).

There should be no turfs or factions.

Only one Kingdom is being built, that of God.

Stand ready to step aside in favor of another, if called on to do so by the leadership.

Do not protect your couples from your elder.

Jesus has shown the way. He was (is) God, but he did not grasp at this.
Self-denial (v.7).

All of us are called to discipleship. One condition is to deny ourselves.

There should be no room for self-concern or self-interest.

We should be able to endure difficulty, even deprivation.

Paul in 2Cor. 11: 24-27.

We need to empty ourselves, so God can fill us up.

7. Self-sacrifice (v. 8).

We need to give our all, until it truly hurts.

Perhaps even unto death.

Unlike the early Christians, we are too comfortable.

C. Conclusion.

1. If the work at these qualities, what will be the result?

a) Just like Jesus, God will lift us up (v. 9).

Go will console us, purify us, empower us, use us.

b) And we will begin to deserve to carry Jesus' name. We will become true Christians, those who are disciples of Jesus.

2. And we will have an impact on the world.

a) Our task and call in MFC is rapid, massive and global evangelization, so that every knee will bend before Jesus (v. 10).

b) And we want every tongue to proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord! (v. 11).

MISSIONARY FAMILIES OF CHRIST

CHAPTER LEADERS' TRAINING

TALK No. 6: THE CHARACTER OF AN ELDER (OR A SENIOR)

Expanded Outline

A. Introduction.

1. Our text: 1Tim 3: 1-7.

“Bishop” (v. 1) – position of leadership in early Church.

Two words used in NT for the principal office-bearers in a congregation or community
=: “presbuteros” (elder) and “episkopos” (overseer).

Elder – description of position and stature.

Overseer – description of function or responsibility.

Chapter Leader (CL) in MFC is both. He functions as an elder in MFC and as a
“bishop” or overseer in the chapter.

Aspiring to serve as bishops/CL is good.

Our desire is not for position, power or prestige, but rather for greater service to
God’s people.

The verses that follow give many characteristics (15) of a bishop. All are applicable to you as
CLs.

These can be your guide for self-evaluation. They are your goal if you fall short.

These also provide a guide for recommending new CLs, whom we need to raise up
every year.

B. The character of an elder.

Irreproachable (v. 2)

A man against whom no criticism can be made. One who has a position that is not open
to attack.

Obviously, none of us are perfect.

Also, even if we do no wrong, some may still criticize.

This does not mean therefore that no one will ever criticize. If this were so, even
the pope cannot pass this standard.

Rather, within the context of the community, one has no faults or defects
that even his peers or those over him would criticize. But if criticized: 1Tim
5:19.

Still, there is the ideal of perfection that we need to strive for.

Mt. 5:48. For everyone, but much more the case for Seniors.

Married only once (v. 2).

Literal meaning of Greek: the husband of one wife.

Shouldn't this be obvious? Why list it down?

Not so obvious during Paul's time.

The world then, including the Jews, was in moral chaos.

Polygamy.

Ease of divorce.

No rights for women.

- The Church needed to demonstrate the chastity, stability and sanctity of marriage.

The CL needs to be a loyal husband, preserving marriage in all its purity.

Of even temper, temperate, sober (v.2).

Greek "nephaios" = sober.

- Characterized by properly controlled faculties; well-balanced; characterized by moderation or absence of extremes.

Not blow hot and cold.

Not zealous now and lazy tomorrow.

Also means "watchful and vigilant".

- Remember, the CL must allow himself no indulgence which would lessen his Christian vigilance.

Self-controlled, prudent, sensible (v. 2).

- a) Greek "sophron" – prudent, self-controlled, of sound mind, discreet, chaste, having complete control over sensual desires.

- Mastery of pleasure and desire; a limiting and ordering of desires, eliminating those that are excessive.

- b) The CL must strive to have every part of his nature under perfect control.

- This happens as more and more Christ reigns in our hearts and over our lives.

Modest, well-behaved, respectable (v. 2).

Greek “kosmios” = orderly, honest, decorous.

More than simply good behavior, this describes a man whose life is beautiful and in whose character all things are harmoniously integrated.

- One not just respected, but greatly admired and looked up to.

Connection between “sophron” (no. 4) and “kosmios”.

- Sophron in one’s inner life leads to kosmios in his outer conduct.
- A man who is sophron has his every instincts and desire under perfect control; one who is kosmios has his inner control issuing in outward beauty.

The CL is a leader in whose heart Christ’s power reigns and on whose life Christ’s beauty shines.

Hospitable (v. 2).

- a) Hospitality is a quality stressed in the NT.

Paul. Rom. 12:13.

Peter. 1Pet 4:9.

- b) The CL must have an open heart and an open home.

As overall head of the chapter, be open to the needs of all members.

Of course, we also normally follow our structure of Unit Leader (UL) and Household Leader (HL).

Let members know your home’s door is open.

A good teach(v. 2).

Instruction is crucial to Christian formation.

Thus, the many teachings and formation courses in MFC.

This does not mean the CL has to be a good speaker. Rather, he knows our teachings well and is able to pass these on effectively.

Know, believe in, and live out our teachings.

Oversee the formation of each member, ensuring their attendance at our courses.

The most effective teaching is done not by speaking but by being.

Not addicted to drink, not over-indulge in wine (v. 3).

Drinking is permissible, getting drunk is not.

However, overindulgence in drinking is wrong, even if one does not get drunk.

For CLs, any addiction is undesirable.

Perhaps TV, sweets, golf.

These can run our lives.

Not contentious, violent, assaulting others (v. 3).

This includes bullying, blustering, being irritable, having bad-tempered speech, even physical violence.

This is characteristic of authoritarian rule. But we are Leaders, not lords.

Our Lord's example. Even when he was smitten, he did not retaliate.

Gentle (v. 3).

Greek "epieikes". This is very difficult to translate (and pronounce!).

Aristotle: noun "epieikeia" = that which corrects justice; that which is just and better than justice.

That quality which corrects the law when the law errs because of its generality. The CL does not jump on people for seeming infractions of our "rules", but rather looks to helping members cope with their problems and thus move them on.

Look to the spirit rather than the letter of the law.

Be able to pardon human failings.

Look to the law-giver, not to the law; to the intention, not to the action; to the whole, not to the part; to remember good rather than evil; to the good one has received, not the good one has done.

When there are disputes or disagreements or debated, settle these in love rather than in law.

□ Consult Jesus rather than consult our manuals on rules, regulations and procedures.

A man of peace, not quarrelsome (v. 3).

Peace = not just absence of war, but rather, right relationships.

Work for peace, order and unity in the body.

- No favoritism.
- Rule with impartiality and fairness. □ Act on disputes and dissension.

Extend this peace to others (beyond MFC)

- Not contentious when defending MFC.
- Zealous to propagate the gospel of peace to all.

Not a lover of money (v.3).

1Tim 6:10.

Practice financial stewardship.

- All belong to and come from God.
- Detachment.
- Tithing, resource sharing, almsgiving

Be beyond reproach in business and financial dealings.

Trust in God for your needs and the needs of MFC.

A good manager of his own household (v. 4-5).

A CL's more basic duty is to serve his family, even before MFC of course,
you are expected to do both well.

The CL's success in managing his home (own family) qualifies him to manage the chapter (God's family).

This does not mean that all our children will be in the Lord. We try to raise them up well, but they ultimately freely choose their response.

In the same way, not all your chapter members will be OK.

Rather, our children are under control, i.e., submissive and respectful.

Not a new convert (v. 6).

In MFC, a CL is first a member, then a HS and then a US.

Not even the most gifted and mature person who joins MFC would simply jump to the position of CL.

Beware of pride.

You are a CL not because of your personal gifts or abilities, but due primarily to the mercy, love and power of God. You are nothing on your own.

If proud, God Himself will cut us down.

Well thought of by outsiders (v.7).

Has the respect of his fellow-men in the day-to-day business of life =.

There is much scandal today in seeing people active in religious activities but not living out their faith while in the world.

The CL is an ambassador of Christ and represents MFC.

C. Conclusion.

1. Being a CL (bishop) is a noble task. It is also a demanding one, requiring that you manifest the many characteristics of a CL we have studied.
 - a) Do not despair if you are far from the ideal; rather, be encouraged to strive for more.
 - b) God make use of ordinary men who can become extraordinary if they open their lives fully to God's action.
 - c) Knowing we fall short should lead to humility.

□ Then God will lift us up. 1Pet. 5:6.

□ As God uses us, let us never forget our total dependence on Him.

2. Apply yourself to the task.

- a) A privilege to “take care of the church of God!”
- b) The strength of chapters (subdivisions of MFC) is crucial for successfully carrying out the MFC mission.

MISSIONARY FAMILIES OF CHRIST

CHAPTER LEADERS' TRAINING

TALK No. 7: MATURITY OF CHARACTER

Expanded Outline

A. Introduction.

1. The Chapter Leader (CL), being the overall leader in a chapter (the “autonomous” subdivisions of MFC), holds a very important position.

The right choice of a CL can have a very positive impact on our life and mission. The converse is also true.

2. A strategic factor in the quality of leadership is maturity of character.
 - a) Being capable or gifted or functioning effectively do not necessarily mean maturity.
 - b) For top leaders to be fruitful there must be a depth of inner security, integration and wholeness.
3. In his pastoral letters, Paul emphasizes this point in his discussions about selecting church leaders.
 - a) Paul is much more concerned with qualities of personal maturity than with the ability to perform certain activities or to exercise various gifts.

Titus 1: 7-8.

- b) In considering a Unit Leader (UL) for the position of CL, we need to inquire into the depth of his Christian character.

B. Characteristic of a leader.

1. He has dealt with his own sin before the Lord.
 - a) This seems obvious, but we cannot take it for granted.
Acts 24: 16, 1Tim 3: 9.
 - b) We need to readily confess our sins and receive forgiveness.

An ongoing process of dealing honestly with our daily failures.

No covering up and making excuses for oneself.

- c) Allowing the Lord to thoroughly expose and deal with sin in our lives is a laboratory experience in which we learn how to detect and deal with sin in all its subtle and complex varieties in other people's lives.
- d) Experiencing forgiveness for our own sin also gives us compassion for others.

Being honest with ourselves keeps us from self-righteousness with regard to other's sins.

We realize how easy it is to fall into sin, and how hard it is to get out of it.

We know the joy of deep love and forgiveness when it comes to us in our broken condition.

2. He has learned to deal with weakness, pain, and defeat by bringing these to the Lord.

- a) Learning to face difficulties, without trying to deny them or run away, is an important aspect of character development.

We rejoice in our sufferings. Rom. 5:3.

We are content with our weaknesses. 2Cor 12:10.

- b) We can do this because of our relationship with God. Through Him, these situations of pain and suffering are turned into moments of grace.

□ Just like gold refined in fire (1Pet. 1:7).

□ This is important, because as one's leadership responsibilities grow, the heat increases!

□ This helps develop our strength of character.

- c) This strength develops into endurance, which is necessary in order to build anything faithfully with the Lord.

In building God's kingdom, the resources with which we work are often of the "mustard seed" variety.

Mt. 24: 13.

A CL needs to be one who has learned endurance in his personal life. He is able to sustain faith in Jesus through great stress, unwelcome interruptions, frequent delays, and severe setbacks.

3. He uses his talents and resources for others, not for his own gain.

a) We put our time, talent and treasure in the service of God, rather than eagerly using these to get as much as we can for ourselves.

□ In fact, the use that a potential leader makes of money (for example) is an important clue to his character.

Paul's instruction: 1Tim 3:8,3.

□ Jesus encourages us to be free with our resources, to do things for others, to bless others.

b) A generous offering of our resources for the welfare of others springs from a confidence that own needs will be well cared of.

□ One who is "greedy for gain" has not learned to trust and receive from the Lord

c) Jeremiah to Baruch: Jer 45: 5.

4. He is able to accept and affirm others warmly and affectionately.

a) The good news is that God loves us and gives Himself for us, even while we are sinners. For people to hear this good news, it has to be demonstrated.

□ People need to experience ready and unconditional acceptance, especially from leaders.

b) This involves encouragement, affirmation, support and affection.

c) Even though Christians should not have to depend on the approval of others, such can be a tremendous source of blessing and growth for all in MFC.

5. He knows how to manage and put things in order.

a) This is a CL's role, but more than that, it is a trait of character, something which rests on his own personal experience.

□ His ability to oversee the life and service of others is directly related to how well he has learned to manage his own life.

b) This requires an understanding of priorities.

□ Mt. 23: 24. The Pharisees were unable to distinguish between weighty and lesser matters.

- Proper balance requires wisdom from above.
- As we walk with the Lord, he teaches us, so that our capacity for putting things in order grows.

6. He has learned to be honest and straightforward.

a) We not only avoid falsehood, but more subtle forms of dishonesty.

- Creating an erroneous impression by what we leave unsaid.
- Promising more than we can deliver.
- Calling for unnecessary delay simply because we don't want to deal with a situation. Prov 3:28.

b) We openly share what is happening to us on a personal level, where our hurts, doubts and struggles are.

We are sometimes tempted to hide our true feelings.

Leaders may not want to expose their weaknesses and shortcomings.

7. He can teach others to do things.

a) Some people who are competent at managing their own affairs are disinclined to ask others to do things.

- Some leaders do too much themselves rather than delegate.
- They fail to teach others how to assume a reasonable share of responsibility.

b) Teaching others is a role for leaders, but is also a character trait.

Some leaders naturally have an attitude of imparting knowledge, in their interaction with others.

This desire to teach comes out of an interest in other people and a desire to see them progressing.

Teaching and directing others grow out of a mature sense of who we are, not being insecure about our authority.

8. He knows how to obey.

- a) One very important prerequisite for asking others to do things is a readiness to be directed ourselves.

A leader should be one to whom others find it easy to give directions.
The centurion in Mt. 8: 9.

- b) To voluntarily and willingly put ourselves under authority requires a certain maturity and humility.

☐ Trusting our Seniors is a sign of our growth in faith in God, who anoints these Seniors over us.

9. He can correct others and resolve problems.

- a) Wrong approaches to correction:

- ☐ Avoid a direct approach and let the matter slide.
- ☐ Be too soft in what we require.
- ☐ Be harsh and rigid in what we require.

- b) The above grow out of insecurity and self-protection on our part.

We can keep our distance by avoiding correction or by being harsh.

Or we can come close to the other person, but avoid the pain by not requiring much change.

- c) A good leader is one who can correct with gentleness. 2Tim 2:25.

This should not diminish what is required or gloss over the problem.

But the situation is handled with compassion for and acceptance of the person who has failed.

C. Conclusion.

The requirements for leadership in MFC as a CL are high.

- a) We need to continually examine our own lives and see how we are growing in character as a leader.
- b) We need to be careful in choosing or recommending other men to become CLs. This is because God expects much of MFC and of its leaders. The

CL cares for many couples.

The vitality and strength of a chapter will determine the vitality and strength of the larger MFC.

3. Yet we can rejoice and have confidence, for it is God's power that is at work in us. (2Cor 4:7.)

MISSIONARY FAMILIES OF CHRIST

CHAPTER LEADERS TRAINING

TALK No. 8: PERSEVERANCE

Expanded Outline

A. Introduction.

1. We are in MFC for the long haul. Our work of global evangelization will probably continue until the Lord returns.
2. Many make a good beginning in the Christian life but are not able to sustain it to a fruitful conclusion. Some start out strongly in leadership, but do not last.
 - a) Many succumb to pressures and challenges of life.
 - b) All are vulnerable- individuals, leaders, groups and ministries.
 - c) Especially considering the intense spiritual warfare we are involved in.
3. Thus, we are called to endurance and perseverance. How can we persevere in Christian leadership? What are the factors that make for sustained and fruitful Christian ministry?

B. Individual perseverance.

1. Our text: the parable of the soils (Lk. 8:4-15).
 - a) Not all who receive the word and make a good beginning in Christian things will continue to the end.
 - b) Soils two and three are of particular interest to us. They refer to people who initially make substantial progress but are unable to mature. Why?
2. Soil two (Lk. 8:6,13).
 - a) On the surface, things look good and function well, but underneath are rocks and the roots cannot penetrate.
 - b) PROBLEM: Unacknowledged and unconfessed sin.
 - This functions like a subterranean layer of rock, making us hard and unresponsive inside.

- Common forms: long-standing resentment, hatred, bitterness and hostility. These are tolerated in the lives of many Christians, yet are serious sins.
- Jesus made it clear that our lack of forgiveness toward others blocks the flow of God's love in our experience. Mt. 6: 14-15.

- c) Unresolved bitterness and resentment limit one's potential for long-term perseverance and growth. Resentments from the past block the flow of life and love in the present.
- d) If we want to persevere, we need to seek God's help in identifying and dealing with any such sins.

□ We also need to help our people deal with these.

3. Soil Three (Lk. 8:7,14).

Again, what looks like a good beginning does not come into maturity. In this case, it is not a question of sin, but of knowing how to cope with life.

PROBLEM: Too many grieves and cares.

- Life can have many grieves and cares for everyone.
- Sometimes these are caused by the sin of others. In fact, in Christian leadership this is what often overwhelms us. We get directly involved in responding to the sin existing in others' lives. We can easily get beyond our level of faith, wisdom and love.
- We need a balanced pastoral approach: some cares we can avoid, some we can minimize, some we must face and bear with patience and love.

PROBLEM: Too many of the good things in life- the riches and pleasures.

The world is full of legitimate pleasures. God made it so for our enjoyment.

Yet we can choke the most important and fruitful parts of our life simply by filling our psychological and spiritual space with too many of these of good things. We especially get into trouble when we start seeking after these pleasures.

We need to learn how to handle the good things in life.

How to rejoice without coveting.
How to enjoy with moderation.

How to be thankful for what we have.
How to share.
How to sacrifice what is good for what is best.
How to let God guide our choices.

C. Corporate perseverance.

1. Let us now look to how we corporately as MFC can persevere in our work and our ministries.
 - a) Our text: 1Cor 3:9-15.
 - b) Paul pictures our task in Christian ministry as the constructing of a building. He speaks particularly of laying a foundation and building on it.
2. Principles of corporate life which enable us in MFC to persevere:
 - a) Lay a good foundation.

Jesus is the foundation and no other. 1Cor 3:11.

1Cor. 2:2-5. Our people should not place their confidence in us or in human wisdom and power, but only on God.

Paul's method and content of presentation were carefully focused to achieve a God-centered result.

This is an encouragement for our people: they can serve effectively even with human shortcomings, for effective ministry depends on God alone.

If Christ alone is the foundation, construction can proceed without interruption from year to year, from situation to situation. But if some of our own strengths and understandings have been inserted at a foundational level, severe difficulties are bound to emerge later.

The problem can develop gradually. The focus of our members' faith shifts from God to our particular leadership or to some of the distinctive ways we do things.

When it is right and good for leadership and structures to change, people find change very difficult.

The bottom line: Where does the faith of our people really lie? Is Christ their foundation, or is he only part of the foundation?

One strength of MFC: There are no leaders who are superstars. There are many gifted and anointed individuals, but only Jesus stands out.

b) Carefully build on the foundation.

During the foundation stage, there is a deliberate narrowing of focus. But as we go on, we must broaden the scope of our ministry to embrace all the concerns and opportunities of our life in MFC.

There are dramatically different ways of doing this. We can make use of different materials (1Cor. 3: 12).

Wood, hay, straw: easier, quicker, least sacrifice. Gold, silver, precious stones: costlier, more difficult. Fire will test the work. (v. 13).

If we build with gold, silver, precious stones, our work can endure in the long run. How?

Careful building involves making sure that each person, each event, and each concept used in the building process is deliberately related to Christ.

In MFC, we are a group of believers being built into a spiritual house.

The difference between a heap of stones and a completed building is that in a building each stone is in a particular relationship to other stones, conforming to an overall pattern or design.

In MFC we are many stones of different shapes and sizes (different needs, gifts, personalities, cultural orientation, resources). Yet all must be put together in such a way that they create a meaningful, orderly, cohesive structure. Jesus alone is able to fit us together properly.

Unlike stones, we keep changing and growing. Thus, it is a challenge to keep us all in the right place, doing the right thing at the right time. We need to be continually in touch with Jesus, drawing our support and direction from him.

As leaders, we must encourage our people to turn again and again to Jesus to receive the wisdom and strength for being built into a spiritual house.

Begin every meeting and every event with prayer.

Keep people faithful to their commitment to pray and read the Bible every day.

Don't just have discussions during household meetings, but keep everything related to our life in the Lord.

Keep Jesus always at the center, always preeminent, always at the highest priority.

We use various human resources, techniques, methods, and these are necessary.
But we should not lose focus.

We should not be overly attached to our methods, but always evaluate their use
in how they promote Christ. If change is necessary, then do it.

When we share about the ministry of MFC and our part in it, are people impressed
with our methods, with us? Or are they inspired by what God can do? It
should be the latter.

c) Maintain balance and proportion.

As we relate every part to Christ, we discover a harmonious integration of other parts in
relationship to one another. In the light of Christ, we can see the respective
meanings of all other persons, events and concepts.

Maintaining the relative sense of importance among the many constituent elements that
make up our building process is one of the most essential features in creating a
structure that can endure.

What often causes confusion and reversals in our building efforts is that we
considerably overvalue certain elements or activities.

We need to maintain an ongoing sense of the relative importance of activities
and concerns.

□ We need to be clear in our vision and mission.

D. Conclusion.

1. We need perseverance, for our own personal Christian life and also for our work and service in MFC.
2. We need to keep everything properly related to Christ.
 - a) In this way, everything will be in its rightful proportion and relationship to the other parts.
 - b) This is a difficult and costly process. It will be painful at times and will require sacrifice. We need to often give up our own idea as to how something should be done.
3. This costly way of building up our corporate life in MFC is possible only by the power of the Holy Spirit.

MISSIONARY FAMILIES OF CHRIST

CHAPTER LEADERS TRAINING

TALK No. 9: THE DECEITFUL BOW – DANGERS IN PASTORAL LIFE

Expanded Outline

A. Introduction.

1. Leaders, especially we, Seniors, need zeal and enthusiasm in order to motivate our people and to show the way. But sometimes our own spiritual, emotional and physical needs are left untended. We may be guilty of self-neglect.
2. There is a need to maintain balance.
 - a) Acts 20:28.
 - We need to take heed for ourselves even before the flock of God, because a shepherd who is not healthy cannot lead others to health.
 - A leader's first responsibility is to stay spiritually, emotionally, mentally and physically healthy.
 - b) Otherwise one can become what scripture refers to as a "deceitful or treacherous bow".
 - A deceitful bow looks strong and well made, but either does not have the strength to deliver the arrow, or because of an internal defect, sends the arrow on an erroneous course.
 - Scripture twice refers to Israel as a treacherous bow. Psalm 78:57 and Hosea 7:16. Israel was called by God to do a job but turned aside to another direction.
3. Two elements will make a bow treacherous: a lack of integrity in its construction, or a loss of its strength and resilience by its being left continually strung.

B. Integrity

1. Leaders are called by God to minister out of the integrity of their own lives.
 - a) Integrity = consistency. It is the refusal to justify, rationalize or excuse any motivation, thought or behavior which is inconsistent with the commands and principles of God's word.
 - b) David was a man of integrity.

Ps. 78: 70-72. The Lord chose David to shepherd His people “according to the integrity of his heart”. – When the Lord put King Saul at David’s mercy, David could have easily escaped an unpleasant situation by killing Saul, but he did not, acting with integrity toward Saul (1Sam. 24: 1-16).

When he was confronted by Nathan the prophet after his sin with Bathsheba, David refused to excuse himself or even ask for mercy, nor did he justify or rationalize his behavior (2Sam 12:1-15).

2. God is more concerned about integrity than perfection.

- a) Justifying our improper motivations is a greater sin than the wrong motivations themselves. Rationalizing unchristian thoughts is worse than the original thoughts. Excusing our unscriptural behavior is a greater offense than the behavior itself.

Have you ever promised to do something, didn’t do it, then tried to justify or excuse yourself? Rather than just admitting it.

- b) Integrity is something that is in the fiber of a man’s being.

A leader can have skill, education and God’s anointing, but still be without basic integrity.

Spiritual and material blessing does not necessarily mean a man has integrity.

- c) Lack of integrity is the root of current social decay.

Before you could conclude a deal on a handshake, a man’s word was his bond. This is not the case today.

3. Lack of integrity will usually manifest itself in either one’s morals, marriage, or ministry.

- a) Morals.

Prov. 11:3. Integrity means, for example, that one does not have to pray about whether it is right to sleep with somebody else’s wife. Some leaders who become sexually involved claim that the Lord led them together.

Morality does not mean keeping the minimum standard of conduct that is, looking for how much one can get away with. Rather it means the strength of mind and purpose to fulfill and obey the implications of our faith in all areas, for example, fundraising, truth in reporting, etc.

- b) Marriage.

God raises men to ministry after they have proven themselves in the care of their wives and children.

Integrity in our home means we do all the things in our own family that we tell other men to do in theirs.

Integrity in our families means giving the same quality of care to our wife and children that we give to others.

c) Ministry.

Integrity means saying no certain needs when we know our priorities require us to be some place else.

Integrity means we will open our ministries and lives to other brothers in the Lord for their scrutiny and correction.

Integrity means we avoid competition with other leaders and ministries.

Integrity means we make our decisions based on the standards of God's word and the direction of His Spirit, rather than on what will please others.

Integrity means we are not afraid to let those who are under us to see that we are not perfect.

C. An unstrung bow.

1. In the old days, men used hand-carved wooden bows, which had to be left unstrung when not in use in order to maintain their strength and resilience.

- a) There is an intensity about some leaders that makes them ready to preach, pray or present a plan on a few moments' notice.

□ Our "bows" however were not designed to handle that kind of tension without relief.

□ If we live continually with that kind of intensity, the effects may not show up immediately, but over a period of years the bow will lose its strength.

- b) Many leaders are disinclined to "unstring their own bow". But we must learn to relax the tension, if we are to remain effective for the long haul.
2. How do we know if our bow is not being unstrung as often as it should be? Following are nine symptoms of an unstrung bow (if you answer yes to three or more, your bow needs to be unstrung!)

a) Do you have a hard time laying down the preoccupations of ministry and relaxing?

- ☐ Leave the problems of ministry and work at the doorstep when you come home.
- ☐ When possible, limit phone calls, counseling and other interruptions in your family life.
- ☐ If you're not of the answer to this first symptom, ask your wife!

b) Are you unable to say no to requests for ministry (talks, travel, parish service, etc.)?

- ☐ We must judiciously watch where and to whom we give our energy.

c) Does it seem impossible to get a day off?

- ☐ The inability to take one day off a week and do whatever you want is the surest indication that you are running on needs than on the discipline of God's Spirit.
- ☐ Even Jesus took time off and got away from the press of ministry whenever he got the chance.

d) Is it difficult to keep a consistent flow of joy and satisfaction in your marriage?

- ☐ Do you find yourself appeasing or placating your wife or dealing with the same problem over and over?
- ☐ The tension of a continually strung bow leaves no room for your wife to find the personal care, attention and affection which she needs.

e) Do you feel that the responsibility for those under your care rests squarely on your shoulders?

If you do, the responsibility is in the wrong shoulders! It belongs to Jesus, not us.

Every person under our care is also individually responsible to God for the way he lives his life.

f) Is it difficult for you to be open about your burdens with others and be your real self?

An unstrung bow has relaxed to its true condition. Part of being unstrung is coming out of our place of strength and enjoying a time of weakness with those whom we can trust.

We need to develop relationships where we can let our hair down and be vulnerable about our deepest problems and struggles.

- g) Does it seem impossible for you to leave your responsibilities for even a couple of weeks?

We must learn that the level of need will always exceed the available time to work. If we wait for a break to take some time off, we will never take any time off.

Schedule a vacation with your family at least once a year, interspersed with an occasional weekend away from the press of everyday life.

If your responsibilities cannot function without you for two weeks, then you are not properly delegating to those under you.

- h) Is it hard for you to find genuine joy and refreshment in spending time with your family?

□ The atmosphere in a home is often a reflection of the father's condition.

□ Our family should be enjoyable, a place that brings us life and healing.

- i) Is it difficult for you to do something just for the fun of it?

□ False asceticism and unnatural devotion to the call of ministry make us feel guilty for wasting time if we take a few hours out doing something just for fun.

□ Perhaps each one should find a diversion which he can periodically use as an escape and time of rest and refreshment. For example, sports, reading (not necessarily spiritual), crafts, gardening, etc.

D. Conclusion.

As top MFC leaders, we need to live in integrity and strength.

God's word is an arrow that needs to be launched and penetrate the hearts of people. WE, as His leaders, are the bows by whom God can accurately deliver His word.

May we all know the integrity and rest that will keep us in such strength that we will be ready to completely give ourselves whenever the battle cry is sounded