

Stewardship mission: Empowering Church leaders by Rev Nzayi Dieudonné

Overview of the Initiative:

The ministry's purpose is to provide training for ministers, empowering, equipping for life, engaging in theology and to grow in charity to support Congolese churches to accomplish the Great Commission. Inspire the Nations is a Ministry of support and growth.

Vision: Every Minister will be able to preach the Word of God, serve better the church and making disciples.

Visionary's Personal Background:



I was born and grew up in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Due to the war and the fear in the eastern part of the country, I fled to Rwanda, where I began my theological studies at the Adventist University of Central Africa. I completed four years of study and earned a Bachelor of Theology degree from 1996 to 2000.

I began my ministry as a pastor overseeing 11 churches from 2000 to 2006. In 2006, I was promoted to Church Radio Coordinator for the Voice of Hope and the Publishing Associate Department, serving in this role until 2010. In 2011, I was promoted to Executive Secretary of the South Conference in Rwanda. That same year, in September, I moved to England to continue my studies at Newbold College in Reading.

In 2015, I moved to Sheffield, where I started a church plant. In 2017, I joined the New Testament Church of God as an Associate Minister. In 2021, I was appointed Senior Pastor of Beautiful Gate Church in Bradford. In October 2024, I completed my Postgraduate studies at Nazarene Theological College.

Throughout my ministry, I have travelled to many countries to provide ministerial Bible training, including Kenya (Nairobi), the USA (Ohio, Michigan, and Kentucky), and Canada (Edmonton, Ottawa).

Need Assessment

In the past 30 years, at least 15 armed conflicts have broken out or resurged across the globe, including in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The crisis began on 24 April 1998 in Congo. The rising tensions in the country raised fears of further deadly instability, accompanied by persecution, widespread violence, and human rights abuses. People fled the country, seeking refuge in neighboring countries such as Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, and Kenya, where they were accommodated in camps. After spending years in these camps, many individuals did not attend school and endured the hardships of war and displacement. The intervention of the United Nations failed to address the mental health needs of affected families. Men, women, and young people were exposed to multiple episodes of violence, and evidence suggests that this has contributed to higher rates of negative behaviour and delinquency.

Many Congolese families continue to struggle as they attempt to adapt to life in different countries. As refugees, they face numerous pressures, with many families finding it difficult to make ends meet. Additionally, and particularly acutely, they grapple with the challenges of navigating cultural differences, such as raising children in a context very different from their own. As a result, many turn to their church ministers for advice and support.

Congolese ministers who have lacked formal education often face significant challenges in effectively leading their congregations. Without sound theological training, they may struggle with accurately interpreting scripture, providing proper pastoral care, and addressing complex theological or ethical issues. The lack of formal education can also hinder their ability to engage with broader theological discussions or minister in an informed, culturally relevant way. Sound theological training equips ministers with essential knowledge, critical thinking skills, and spiritual maturity, enabling them to lead with wisdom, teach sound doctrine, and better serve their communities in line with the Great Commission.

Evangelism Gaps:

Effective evangelism is central to the mission of any faith community, and today, congregations find themselves facing new challenges in reaching people with the message of the Gospel. However, tools alone are not enough. It is equally important to empower church leaders to guide their congregations in effective evangelistic efforts. When leaders are equipped with the right skills, vision, and resources, they can equip their members to become more confident, compassionate, and effective evangelists. Some of these tools are as follows:

Relevance and Connection: Storytelling techniques, digital media strategies, and even updated teaching materials can ensure that the message is heard and understood.

Personal Empowerment: Evangelism tools are not just for pastors and evangelists - they should be designed to empower every member of the congregation to share their faith. Tools that facilitate training, encourage dialogue, and provide practical support can help believers grow in confidence and readiness.

Cultural Sensitivity: Effective evangelism must be culturally sensitive and respectful of the demographic we seek to minister to; this is especially true of the Congolese community in the many places where they live and work.

Integration with Discipleship: Evangelism is not a one-time event; it is part of the ongoing process of discipleship. Promoting discipleship materials and support networks, ensure that new believers are effectively integrated into the life of the church and continue to grow in their faith.

Empowering Leaders to Address the Need

Training and Skill Development: Church leaders can facilitate ongoing training programmes to equip both themselves and their congregations with the skills necessary to engage in meaningful evangelism. Training might include cultural competence, personal testimony writing, or learning how to navigate digital platforms for evangelistic purposes.

Fostering a Culture of Evangelism: Leaders should prioritise evangelism and make it a central part of the church's mission. This will help the church to view evangelism as a natural outgrowth of faith, not a burdensome task.

Modelling Evangelism: When church leaders are actively engaged in evangelism, they inspire others to do the same and provide a model for how to engage effectively.

Providing Resources and Tools: Leaders can actively research, select, and provide simple evangelistic booklets, or an online evangelism course, among other strategies.

Support and Encouragement: Evangelism can be challenging, and many people struggle with feelings of inadequacy or fear when sharing their faith. Church leaders can provide a system of support and encouragement to help members overcome these obstacles. This could include prayer groups, mentorship opportunities, or accountability partnerships that help believers stay encouraged and motivated.

Evaluating and Adapting: Regular evaluation of tools and outreach strategies used will help to adjust their approach where necessary, thereby keeping teams relevant.

Objectives

We aim to:

- Providing training for Congolese Ministers so they have a better knowledge and understanding of the Bible and church leadership.
- Understanding of appropriate good behaviours • The well-being of young people in church
- Hope and confidence in family life.
- Equip Pastors and ministers for ministry and pastor care with members of Congolese communities.
- Safeguarding and sexuality, respecting beliefs of others.
- Identify ways of supporting families under pressure.

- Strengthen the Christian voice in the public sphere.

Evangelism Goals:

Create next Generation leaders that will be able to empower future generations including church, family, Government, business, education.

Programme Structure

Curriculum Overview:

Input from selected speakers/educators regarding the following and more:

Regarding Bible study

Church Leadership

Family Life

Safeguarding young people Group
work and discussion.

Theological Reflection

Sharing experiences

Engagement Strategies:

We propose to hold three-day residential learning sessions, drawing together Congolese Pastors and their wives (who minister alongside) with other communities of Christian leaders, by providing a platform to address the issues facing our community in the 21st century.

The following are examples of some engagement strategies we can for learning:

- Group Discussions and Debates
- Case Studies
- Role Play
- Videos and online learning platforms and resources
- Fieldwork and Immersion



Arrange for students to engage in real-life ministry or mission work, allowing them to apply their theological education in practical, lived experiences. Visiting churches

- **Theological Problem Solving**

Present complex theological or pastoral problems (e.g., ethical dilemmas, church leadership challenges) and ask students to research and propose solutions using their theological training.

- **Bible Study Workshops**

Instead of just reading or teaching the Bible, have students lead Bible study groups or workshops.

- **Theological Reflection and Journaling**

Personal Reflection: Ask students to keep a journal or reflective diary throughout their studies.

- **Mentoring and Spiritual Formation One-on-One Mentorship:**

Assign mentors to students, preferably experienced theologians, pastors, or scholars, who can offer guidance and help students process their learning journey both academically and spiritually.

- **Public Speaking and Preaching Practice**



Impact Measurement

Theological Knowledge and Competency

Pre- and Post-Programme Assessments: Implement written or oral assessments at the start and end of the programme to gauge the participants' understanding of core theological topics. This could include biblical exegesis, doctrinal positions, church history, and ethics.

Sermon Reviews: Evaluate the quality of the sermons preached by the participants throughout the programme. These evaluations can focus on theological accuracy, biblical application, clarity, and how well the sermon connects to the audience's needs.

Theological Discussions: Track the frequency and depth of theological discussions within the group. Active participation in these discussions can indicate the ability to engage with and apply theological principles in various contexts.

Preaching Competency and Effectiveness

Sermon Content and Delivery: Conduct regular evaluations of participants' preaching, focusing on clarity, structure, use of scripture, and relevance to the congregation. This can be achieved through feedback from other ministers, church leaders, and congregational members.

Congregational Feedback: Collect feedback from the congregations where the trained ministers are preaching. This could be through surveys or informal conversations with church members about the clarity, relevance, and impact of the sermons.

Disciple-Making and Spiritual Growth

Number of Disciples Made: Track how many people the trained ministers are discipling or have led to Christ. This could include one-on-one discipleship relationships, small group Bible studies, or baptism statistics.



Discipleship Progress: Use assessment tools to measure the growth of individuals in the discipleship process (e.g. self-reflection surveys for those being discipled, tracking Bible study completion, and spiritual milestones).



Long-term Outcomes:

Leadership Development is key: Pastors and other leaders in church and family today face new challenges and confusing problems. We need to invest in the lives of those within the church and ask God to help us see the potential for authentic leadership.

We anticipate, that as a result of this time of learning together, Pastors are more able to lead the church and understand the mission of the church.

Ministers are better equipped for pastoral responsibilities among Congolese communities, improving leadership abilities.

The pastor is better able to exercise care and concern for the Congolese flock with the best interests of the church, e.g. in respect of young people and families.

Networks of support will be established across cultures and relationships forged with mainstream churches.

Ministers' faith and spirituality will be strengthened, leading to an increased respect in them from their congregations.

Ministry Plan:

This is a 5-year ministry plan.

Funding Sources:

National/Local Government Grants: Many governments offer grants for leadership development, especially for nonprofit organisations, community groups, or businesses that focus on diversity, equity, and workforce development.

Church Sponsorships: Many churches are willing to sponsor leadership training, either to develop their own leaders or to support leadership training in other church communities.

Crowdfunding: Online platforms like GoFundMe can be used to raise money for specific leadership initiatives. This is particularly effective if your programme has a strong community impact or appeals to a broad audience.

Educational Institutions: Universities or training organisations may have internal funding opportunities for leadership development programmes, especially if they align with their mission or curriculum.

Individual Donors: There may be individuals passionate about leadership development who are willing to contribute directly to funding efforts, especially if they believe in the mission or the impact of the programme.

Call to Action / Vision for Collaboration

We are seeking your partnership in equipping future church leaders through our leadership training programme. By supporting this initiative, you'll be empowering faithful men, women and young people to lead Congolese church congregations worldwide, with wisdom, compassion, and

faith, strengthening our community and advancing the mission. Your contribution will directly impact the growth and effectiveness of our church leaders. We would be deeply grateful for your support—whether financial, through resources, or in prayer. Together, we can nurture the next generation of spiritual leaders. Thank you for considering this opportunity.

Conclusion

The vision is to develop a worldwide ministry dedicated to empowering and supporting Congolese pastors, enabling them to become better, more educated, and competent ministers to their congregations. The ministry's mission is to provide comprehensive training, equipping pastors with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to effectively preach the Word of God, serve their churches, and make disciples. Through theological education, pastoral empowerment, and life skills development, we aim to equip these leaders to fulfill the Great Commission with passion and integrity.

The purpose for the vision extends beyond education alone; it is to cultivate a holistic approach to ministry. By engaging in sound theology, promoting personal growth, and fostering charitable action, we seek to build resilient leaders who are both spiritually and practically prepared for the challenges of ministry. This includes teaching leaders to serve their communities with love, compassion, and humility, and to develop congregations that reflect Christ's transformative power. We are committed to supporting Congolese churches in their mission to spread the Gospel, strengthen local communities, and make disciples of all nations. Together, we can create a lasting impact on the church in Congo and beyond, ensuring that every minister is equipped to lead with wisdom, purpose, and a heart for service.

Contact Information:

Reverend Nzayi Dieudonne



+44749022251



nzaydieudonne@yahoo.co.uk



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