



MINISTERS FORUM NEWSLETTER

INFORMATION MINISTERS CAN USE

THE ART OF BEING UNITED

Acts 27:14-27; Amos 3:3; 1 Corinthians 1:11 1 Corinthians 12:14-



Amos 3:3 –
Can two walk together, except they agreed?

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Greetings
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The ART of being United

....For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them [which are of the house] of

Chloe, that there are contentions among you....

1 Corinthians 1:11

"Where there is no VISION, the people perish"

Greetings Ministers, more specifically the ones of the United Pentecostal Church of Jamaica who will be having the National Convention in the coming week. As we all know Convention is the time of year when organizations such as UPCJ examine the achievement or non-achievement since the last Conference; and which brings into sharp focus the importance of **Team Work** to achieve mandates. It is also very important to the UPCJ because the name of the organization starts with the word "**United**"; united connotes 'togetherness' and 'accordness' in order to achieved established goals and objectives through the application of "Team Work".

For this organization it is also the time when attention is placed on Vision, Mission and Strategies needed to achieve targets. The term United is defined as "joined together around policy or policies for a common purpose....". What this is saying is that if there is no agreement, common causes cannot be achieved. It has also been pointed out that many times when organization goals are not achieved - it is not necessarily because they are not desirable and achievable but the 'implementers' of the plans are not united for one reason or another. 1 Corinthians 1:11 also support the matter of Contention among brethren when it say '**For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by themthat there are contentions among you**'.

If there are contentions within the body there must be solutions. The first step is that each leader needs to examine him/herself to see if they are part of the problem or the solution. **INDIFFERENT ATTITUDE** has always been a big feature of contention, accompanied by **POWER** which is deadly forces that can destroy unity.



Conventions are not just about meeting and greeting but 'planning' and 'growing' the King's business using the same strategies He used to bring about creation –The Creator had a sense of direction as to where He was going to the point of where we are now (2017 and beyond) as to what he wants to happen (Vision) – setting out what to be achieved (Mission) through Planning, Organizing (people and goods etc) Directing (leading, motivating, communicating and delegating) and Controlling (evaluating and assessing) and at the end to look back at his creation and was able to say "it is good!"

Are there contentions among God's people?

If the answer is 'Yes' what better time than at CONVENTIONS to resolve issues that can cause division and disagreements. The word Convention is defined as *a meeting or formal assembly of representatives or delegates, for discussion of and action on particular matters of common concern*. It is at conventions that policies are agreed on for different periods of time which are passed on to members

Conflicts among members/leaders/pastors have become more frequent and the reasons for many and varied reasons. Whatever the causes, they have the potential to absorb much time and energy and inhibit God's work at many levels. In my over fifty (50) years experience in, not just the Apostolic movement but with varied faith-based organizations I have learnt that many times the problems are not with the structure of the organization, (although changes may be necessary) the greater challenges lie with the 'implementers' within these organizational frameworks'. The orientation and socialization of those who lead tend to lie at the root of the problems in churches as congregations are influenced by these leaders whose sentiments are easily transmitted to members.

Accountability to God

I do believe that *leaders are going to have to account to God for the zeal or apathy exhibited* by most of our people because they have transmitted mixed sentiments which are not conducive to organizational development. Take for example; there are some ministers who do not promote National, Regional and other special events, other than a mere announcement the day before the event. Such scant regard is an indication of the sentiments of the minister/leader and hence is treated by the members accordingly.

Leaders in organizations are challenged to examine their attitude to organizational development and assess their motives for doing or not doing or being a part of kingdom building. I am aware of that is often said that organizations can't save souls - but contrary to popular belief well structured organizations designed to accommodate soul-winning can. The fact that churches are aligned to

Psalm 133 (KJV)

133 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!² It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;³ As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.



organizations it is necessary to be loyal because an organization (truly united) can bring greater glory to Christ and the winning of souls.

What will keep God's people UNITED?

So what will make and sustain "UNITEDness" in organizations? The first thing that comes to mind is RESPECT for each other; (in the same way our faces differ so our thoughts and opinions) and should be recognized as such in keeping with scriptures – the WORD. 1 Corinthians 1:10-12 - Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and [that] there be no divisions among you; but [that] ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.....

.....members do not feel a part of the organizations and tend to linger on the sidelines and ultimately drift into other areas/ventures outside of the church that they can be aligned with and where they feel they are needed.

Decision -making

Another factor of note in being united in organizations is the involvement of leaders and by extension churches/members in **DECISION - MAKING**. When this is lacking compliance tends to be low as members do not feel a part of the *organizations' decision-making process*. In cases where members are not involved or aware of the process there is a tendency to make their own decisions especially where information is lacking. In the context of members and their immediate church leaders there is also the tendency to linger on the sidelines and ultimately drift into other areas/ventures where they can be better aligned and where they feel needed.

Boards therefore need to assess the depth of their consultation with the churches within organizations. Pastors/ministers need to also assess when last consultation was done, for example with the Youths, Elderly, members of the different ministries in the church etc on matters relating to them. "Consultation" as against just "telling" therefore is a significant feature of UNITY and "ONE ACCORDness".

Unity is when we come together with other individuals or groups to form something greater than any of us.

BIBLE VERSES RELATED TO UNITY IN THE CHURCH

(from the King James Version (KJV) by relevance)

1 Corinthians 1:10 - Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and [that] there be no divisions among you; but [that] ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Ephesians 4:1-6 - I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

John 17:21 - That they all may be one; as thou, Father, [art] in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.



Philippians 2:3 - [Let] *nothing [be done] through strife or vainglory;* but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Amos 3:3 - *Can two walk together, except they agree?*

Ephesians 4:3 - *Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

John 17:23 - I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

2 Corinthians 13:11 - Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, *be of one mind*, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

Romans 15:5-6 - Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

1 Corinthians 12:14 - *For the body is not one member, but many.*

1 Corinthians 1:11 - *For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them [which are of the house] of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.*

Ephesians 2:19-22 - Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

Have A United Conference/Convention

As stated earlier the United Pentecostal Church of Jamaica (UPCJ) will hold its Seventy-first (71st) National Convention in the coming week (February 26 – March 2, 2017) where no doubt many decisions will be taken.

*Naturally, Organizational decisions on the way forward will be discussed and commitments made by the relevant officers. It is also anticipated that these decisions will be taken back to the individual churches by the Pastors and Delegates who will in turn implement accordingly. It is the will of the Lord Jesus Christ to be UNITED –
Let's do His Will !*

ANNOUNCEMENT

DOMESTIC & INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (FAMILY VIOLENCE)

SPECIAL INVITATION

to your institution to attend the above-captioned workshop which will be held at the **Jamaica Conference Centre** on **April 15, 2017** starting at 10 am. This workshop is being sponsored by FiWi Jamaica Project, UTech, funded by the USAID in collaboration with state and statutory entities.

As you are aware the above subject matters have been on the rise in Jamaica in recent years; You may also be aware that when incidents of this nature occur one of the first places that hurting people go for help are churches; preliminary research has suggested that enough is not known or enough efforts made by churches (in particular) and other Faith-based organizations to inform the population they serve about Family Violence hence the need to have Faith based Organization equipped and informed to facilitate discussion with those who seek their help.

You will be provided with information (handouts etc), lunch will also be provided. We will also assist with transportation from strategic locations for those who might have difficulty getting to the different locations. Three workshops will be held island wide with the first being at the **Jamaica Conference Centre, down town Kingston.**

For more information email:
mythoughtsforyours@gmail.com

