

## **LEADERS NEED ENCOURAGEMENT TOO**

Leadership is listed as one of the gifts in Romans 12:8 (NIV), *“if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”*

Just because some have and use this gift does not mean they can do it on their own. They need others using their gifts as well. The first gift mentioned in the Romans passage is encouragement.

Leaders tend toward discouragement because they see more of the problems than most. They are also the target of criticism when things are not going well. Some are not satisfied because their personal preferences are not acted upon and let the leader know it. A number of times Moses had experienced discouragement while leading with God's direction. Moses knew how needed encouragement is, and that was the reason he spoke words of encouragement to Joshua.

Some of us may have realised that JCC is now operating differently compared to the past. Things are intentionally done out of necessity due to the size and value of the church building. For example, we may have encountered some inconvenience from the new financial guidelines relating to ministry expenses; and some may wonder about the necessity for facilities usage guidelines. After the few reported high-profile cases of mismanagement by a local mega church and other charities, the authorities have begun scrutinizing the effectiveness of the corporate governance practices and internal guidelines of churches and charities. JCC will strive to remain as a close-knit family church, but we have moved up to a different league, and we can no more operate like a small 'kampong church'.

JCC Constitution Article IV lists down, among many other things, the Council's responsibilities, which includes:

- a. To guide the spiritual life and activities of the congregation, including all organizations related to it, and to ensure that everything is done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practices of the Lutheran Church.
- b. To ensure that an effective program of Christian education for all ages is conducted within the congregation.

- c. To encourage and develop the practice of Christian stewardship by all members of the congregation including active participation in the affairs of the congregation and grateful financial support of the work of the congregation and of the Lutheran Church in Singapore. It shall promote the spirit of free-will offerings by all members and permit no funds to be raised by methods not in harmony with the New Testament.
- d. To encourage and in a helpful way to support the pastor in fulfilling his duties and in so doing to visit the sick and those who have become indifferent, to assist the poor and distressed, and to maintain a vigorous program of outreach into the community.
- e. To be concerned about the spirit of harmony within the congregation, and if differences arise to seek to restore harmony and goodwill.
- f. To arrange with the Bishop for proper leadership during the sickness or absence of the pastor.
- g. To be responsible for the use of all properties, facilities and equipment, and in no case to permit their use for programs or activities not in harmony with the principles of Christian witness.

The enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy, and one way it does this is to attack the church leadership and even the ministry leaders, and by so doing, it hopes to weaken the church.



Encourage our leaders. Of course, they may get a big head and become prideful like anyone else, but most need an honest encouraging word.

What can you do? Look for the things that you sense are the leading of the Holy Spirit in the ministry around you, and encourage the leaders (with the testimony of how it has ministered to you.)

Consider dropping them a note or giving them a call. If we encourage others, we are acting in obedience to the teachings of the Bible. But on the other hand if all a person knows is to criticize and complain, it does not only discourage, but it makes the complainer negative in his/her outlook.

Hopefully, with a better awareness, our members can better understand the need to cover our leaders with prayers, work alongside to support them and speak words of encouragement to them.

*Tai Kim Keang*



Got this chart from a WhatsApp message:

Comparison between the Salvation Gospel and the Kingdom Gospel

<b>The good news</b>	Salvation : Jesus came to save us from hell and from this perishing world to take us to heaven	The Kingdom : Jesus came to defeat the devil and restore all of creation to be under His rule
<b>Salvation</b>	Escape	Restoration
<b>Worldview and Beliefs</b>	God is holy. The world is sinful and lost. A person's soul is saved if he accepts Christ as his Savior. After that, life consists of two parts : spiritual/sacred and non-spiritual/secular. Spirituality is an internal personal experience maintained through personal devotions. This world is not our home. Our destiny is heaven.	God created us in His image, to reflect His character/glorry. All of life is sacred as God created all. Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth. He is establishing His Kingdom on earth. Everything is to be brought under His rule. All who surrender to His Lordship will be part of His Kingdom. They are empowered by His Spirit to live out His design in all areas of life as they remain one with Him.
<b>Focus</b>	Us : our salvation	Jesus : our King

<b>Spirituality and Concern</b>	Self-centered : Inside a person and inside the Church. Our relationship with God. Our heart and the eternal future of the soul	Other-centered : Love God and neighbors. All of life here, now and forever : law, government, politics, business, art, science, family, sports, education, media.
<b>Church</b>	Building, congregation, meetings	God's Kingdom Community
<b>Mission</b>	Save souls for heaven	Work with God for His Kingdom to advance on earth
<b>Workers</b>	Pastors, seminary teachers, missionaries, evangelists	Every person who is a citizen of the Kingdom
<b>Activity</b>	"Spiritual" : Personal devotions, Evangelism, Church planting, Church growth, Church services, Church programs, Cell groups.  "Non-spiritual" : work, sports, hobbies, entertainment	Life as God designed it to be - living under the Lordship of Christ, living out and discipling nations in the truths, culture and values of the Kingdom, being salt and light influence wherever we live and work.

acts122@gmail.com  
<https://acts122teacher.wordpress.com>