

COUNCIL SUMMIT

A FELLOWSHIP OF LEADERS

It was my first Council Summit and you can imagine my excitement when I received the permission to write about this event held on 6 November 2018, a Public Holiday for Deepavali in Singapore.

At YWCA, the event started with worship led by Joel from the Chinese Council followed by ice-breaker games conducted by Beng Lay from the English Council. This effort brought the English and Chinese Council members together and we got to know each other better in Christ. We give thanks for this opportunity as a starting point for the leaders to meet with the Reverends and Pastors of Jurong Christian Church (JCC) on leadership and Church matters for 2019.



“Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden for that would be of no benefit to you.” (Hebrews 13:17)

There are many books in the market place about Leadership and Management practices. Many of us know about it either by having the experience in a Leadership capacity or by reading about it. Do we incorporate our market place mentality about Leadership in the Church? I borrow the concepts and Bible verses from the articles that I have read. Pray that this is going on the right track with the wisdom from God. This is indeed not an easy topic.

As a leader, it takes courage, discipline, commitment, determination, persistence and a keen mind to see the reality behind the situations/ circumstances for decisions to be made. If leadership is applied in a Church context, how would it differ or should it be different from a Christian perspective? It is crucial to have God in the equation coupled with our exposure and experience in the corporate world to execute our service in Church and as stewards and servants for God. Our experiences fall under the umbrella of God's direction for our service to Him. Yes, I am sure we all know about that. 😊

A leader gets judged, assessed and observed for decisions made where the actions have to be done appropriately and exemplarily. In an article by Mike Ayers, "5 Distinctives of Biblical Leadership", he wrote that possibly the saddest moments with the rise on the understanding of leadership is that it drifts God's people away from the Bible as the standard of truth. So, it is important to have Character, Calling, Competence, Community and Christ in it.

Leadership is a lot about power, authority and empowerment driven by Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and SMART Goals; assessed by the Performance, Efficiency and financial results in the market place. Outcomes and expectations vary on the type of Industries/ Sector and strategies undertaken on business needs. It is a professional and commercial concept of what success would probably be.

For the leadership in a Church, it should be biblical, starting with having a faith in God, the love of Christ and the love for God's people in addition to the competencies of a leadership team. So, I was thankful to see how the events continued as serious, open and candid discussions ensued with perspectives and constant reminders through prayers on the actions to be taken.



There were break-out groups for brain-storming and presentations scheduled for the discussions. Though the topics will not be shared at this point, there is still much work to be done with the wisdom and direction from God. Please continue to pray for the leadership team and our Pastors.

“Jesus called them together and said, You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Matthew 20:25 – 28)



The Church leadership and Pastors need the support and prayers from everyone. It is definitely an arduous journey filled with watchful eyes from the evil one too. ☹

While I close this article walking away knowing that leadership in a Church (wait! it is leadership in Christ), is about Stewardship, Servanthood and being a Shepherd for God, let's keep our eyes on God's Word and pray.

Dear God, please grant the leadership in the Church Council, Ministries and JCKK to stay steadfast in the Lord; serving together and submitting to God's love in faith and good works for Christ. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Joyce Tan