

Global Leadership Encounter Day 3

11 June 2020

Welcome – Joseph Ayagklan from berlin

We are going to talk about how we go about leading and pioneering and seeing apostolic movements across the nations. I have worked with David Hamilton for many years. He is a man of many talents and I have always enjoyed hearing him and the stories God has allowed him to journey through. I would need about 25 minutes to share all the things David has done not only as an elder and leader in Christ. He has worked on multiple projects including **UniScript, a global writing system for Bible translation**. UniScript is an amazing framework for being able to have a script in which we can give the word of God to the nations. He is the initiator of **the Source View bible - Bible told through first person narration**. He also does a lot outside the mission. I know his wife and four children and have been able to see how he lives his life. How he is hungry for innovation. He is the vice president of innovation in the University of Nations. He is fluent in many languages. He will be sharing in English this morning. He is a man of God. A man whose heart always yearns to see the mission God has called us to – to go deeper and farther. Open your hearts and minds – there will be a lot of knowledge brought to us this morning

1st Speaker – David Hamilton

For the next 35-40 minutes I want to go back to the original missionary pioneer – the life of Paul.

“Sumbibazo” – Biblical Concepts for Co-Creating with God

“Sumbibazo” contains within it the biblical concepts for pioneering or co-creating with God. Let me introduce this word with some thoughts around it.

Sumbibazo in Paul

1 Corinthians 2:16 – when we instruct people or when we teach them we are helping to bring them understanding together. We are uniting people with revelation and insight.

Sumbibazo in the LXX

Exodus 4:12 – “So go now, and I will be with your mouth, teaching you what to say”

Exodus 4:15 – “Let him give ear to your voice, and you will put my words in his mouth; and I will be with your mouth and with his, teaching you what you have to do.”

- God commissioning Moses out to lead the people, God speaking and saying he will teach - God “Sumbibazo”-ed Moses and his brother Aaron.

Side note: Biblical Hebrew was translated into Greek (known as the Septuagint, which means the 70 – named after the translators involved the translation). This is the bible that Paul would have used. In the Mediterranean, in that century, Greek was the language used for wider communication in order to have conversation across the ethnic groups. The Greek translation gives us some idea of how Paul’s thinking was.

Deuteronomy 4:9 – “Only take care, and keep watch on your soul, for fear that the things which your eyes have seen go from your memory and from your heart all the days of your life; but let the knowledge of them be given to your children and to your children's children; “

- When the Israelites did these special events they were to watch themselves closely so that they didn’t forget – in doing so “Sumbibazo”-ing their children.

Acts 9:22 – “But Saul went on increasing in power, and the Jews in Damascus were not able to give answers to the arguments by which he made it clear that Jesus was the Christ.”

- After Paul was converted on the way to Damascus. He was taking scriptures from the Old Testament (prophetic words) and showing that Jesus fulfilled the prophecies. He connected the old words of the prophets with the new words of Jesus saying that these were the same.

Sumbibazo in Acts

Paul’s Second Missionary Journey Acts 15:36-40

Diagram of a map of what modern Turkey looked like in the era of the Roman Empire

Paul had just started something incredibly new. After a decade and a half of knowing Jesus he launched out on his missionary journey. He went to what is now Cyprus, in the central part of Pisidia and Galatia. Remember that first journey beginning in Acts 13, which begins with an international staff conference. It included leaders from around the world who would have been big names at the time (e.g. Billy Graham now).

Moving according to the heart of God

Consider:

How can I build on that? How can I advance that? How can I take that and plant it in another context? If I see something that breaks God's heart, how can I change that? How can I change darkness into light, and pain into healing?

1. We must look at things through the eyes and character of God.
2. If we want to see God's purposes advance, and nations change, we must focus on God's heart.
3. Our sensitivity to him and listening to him keeps us growing and developing in His will.
 - a) Paul and Barnabas were connected to God's heart. They both acted according to it.
Illustration – You can't steer a parked car. For example, my kids can pretend to be driving a parked car but they aren't going anywhere. As soon as I put on the engine and put the car in motion, the slightest movement of the steering wheel will veer the car. The steering can only work when the car is in motion.
4. Why didn't they stay in Antioch until they got full instruction from God?
 - a) **Sometimes we don't hear the word of God because we are not moving.**
 - b) Paul decided to start moving. And God could then touch the steering wheel slightly and move Him to where he was supposed to be. **That is how God moves us.** He moved them from Antioch to Tarsus.
 - c) On the map it doesn't seem a long way to go but remember Paul was walking. It was arduous and time-consuming, and might have even taken a week of walking including going over a mountain range. Then they went to Galatia and picked up Timothy. As they went they were encouraging the brothers and sisters to continue in their walk in faith and to continue growing in the Lord.
5. The journey is not a neat line from point A to B. Our journeys will look messy.
 - a) There is a highway moving from Galatia into Ephesus, a huge connection from the eastern reaches of empire into Ephesus. He headed there trying to do something new, wanting to pioneer and God said, "No." So he decided to head north moving to Bithynia and Pontus. As they were getting close the Holy Spirit said, "No." So they decided to cross to Troas. At this point we are thinking he must be confused! **Going down blind alleys is part of the discovery of finding the fruitful places of the Lord.** We can't expect to write out a 5 point plan, with a budget and for it to work out neatly. Our journeys will look messy. Every "no" is part of God's guidance (as much as a yes). We learn and grow through that process.
 - b) The distance would have been about 1200 kilometers if Paul went straight from Antioch to Troas. He would have walked maybe 8 hours a day, 5 kilometers an hour to set a good pace. That is 30 days of walking. It wasn't in a straight line, so it might have been 45 or 60 days of walking. Maybe they didn't make up the kilometers because they met someone in route. Where did the money come from? How long did it take? Anything from 2-6 months: different places, encounters, preaching here, discipling 3 days here and 5 days there. This would have taken money, time, and

effort. Maybe they got on a horse or donkey now and again. Maybe many times their sandals were worn out. Just think of that kind of life: not sure where they were going, not sure when they were coming back for 6 months until they finally got to Troas.

- c) Then something amazing happened. He was preaching there and we read that he had a vision of the man in Macedonia who said come and help. Acts 16:10 states that “After Paul had seen the vision, **we** got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, **concluding that** God had called us to preach” – that tells that from that moment onward the author of the story was part of what happened. Prior to this he was recording second-hand information. The author is Luke – a doctor from Macedonia. Imagine Luke saying: “why don’t you come to my house, to my place” after hearing the truth and getting saved and then joining in and helping them into Macedonia. “Sumbibazo” teaches and instructs and they were thinking and reasoning around the revelation: God, we know you want us to preach, for the gospel to go where it currently isn’t, that you said not here, and not there, and not this other place. **They discovered their destiny on the road to Troas.**
- **You don’t get the vision sitting down.**
 - **You need to find your Troas – to journey with God and get his unexpected call in your life.**

On the road to Troas

How do you get there?

1. There is no simple formula; it is a journey of continuous intimacy with God.
2. **LISTEN, DO, LISTEN, DO, LISTEN, DO, LISTEN, DO, LISTEN, DO, LISTEN DO and repeat...**
3. Apostolic innovation is a result of a **genuine partnership** between God and people which involves:
 - a) Revelation
 - b) Reason
 - c) Great worship
 - d) Great work
 - e) Intent listening
 - f) Deliberate research
 - g) Waiting on God
 - **Waiting on God is not assuming a posture of passivity.**
 - h) Persevering

*It is not just God saying and doing everything, **we** are wrestling, asking, **we** are pursuing. There is a dialogue between God and us, as we journey and walk with Him. It is exciting when God asks us questions that challenge us. **This is the process of pioneering.***

How does it look?

HEAR GOD, WORK HARD. HEAR GOD. WORK HARD. HEAR GOD. WORK HARD. HEAR GOD. WORK HARD.

We should aim to live life always on the road of God. This involves always being on the road of discovery and never settling into a preset notion of what God desires for us. God is with us every single step of the journey.

*****BREAKOUT SESSION*****

1. *Process about listening to God – how have you heard God in the past?*
2. *Sharing how God has steered us in what we do. How has that applied, how is it applying now or how should it have applied in your life?*

On Listening to God – David Hamilton

This is about the process of listening to God. That doesn't just happen when you are sitting in prayer – but when doing research, wrestling with God, living within your circumstances, and meditating on the word. Isaiah 30:21 is a wonderful promise, **I don't have faith in my ability to hear from God. I have faith in God's ability to communicate with me.** There is always more to learn not about confidence in our own ability. There can be a sense of questioning even when we have been doing it for decades. Is this really what God is saying? But God promised that his spirit will be with us, his voice will be with us, if we go off course, he will tell us and guide us, now to the right, and now to the left. He will make sure we know when to change course because he is committed to us. How do we know we are in the right place? God promises to tell us. But he doesn't say keep going straight. He doesn't promise to do that. **If we are in the line doing the last thing we best understood, keep doing the work or the ministry until he places some Macedonian in our path saying, "now to the right."** We are all created equal; each of us have some creative genius in some capacity. Some of us doubt it and some of us need to grow in confidence. The key for YWAM is to link up our creativity with God's creativity. And unique gifts and talents and abilities in you connected with the almighty God is formula for awesomeness, listening to God and co-creating with Him!

Not just individualistic – also in community. Like the elephant and the mouse going across the bridge and the bridge is rocking and the mouse saying we really made that bridge rock – God is the elephant and we are the mice, but there are things He won't do without the mouse participation -- what an amazing opportunity!

Second session – David Hamilton

Three essentials of pioneering

You cannot pioneer without:

1. Listening to God (see notes from first session above)

2. Spirit of Generosity

- a. **We cannot pioneer without it costing us.** Pioneering is costly. If we are not sold out to living a life of radical generosity we will flounder. Everything about mission is generosity – giving of self to others in the name of God. This includes self, talent, time, and our life. We give and give and give. It is impossible to think of missions as a means for getting. It is a contradiction in terms. This requires a lifestyle which will cost money, pain, time, frustration, all kinds of things. And you can approach it with reluctance or with a disposition of total abandon to God. It won't be any easier with the latter, but it will be a lot more joyful.
- b. **When God modeled pioneering for us in the incarnation of Jesus is there anything he held back in generosity?**
 - Imagine what it means for the omnipotent God who caused the cosmos to explode into existence to become a baby – the most dependent creature of all. Giraffes walk within hours of their birth; fish can breathe under water and swim instantly. Human babies cannot survive on their own. The great I AM became totally dependent on an inexperienced, teenage first-time mother without a relational support network. This is the God who is the WORD of GOD, his words are powerful. The most intelligent being, became a human baby, gave up all that knowledge (language skills, mathematical skills, the physics he used to create the universe) and was born as a child. How many languages do you speak? For the multilingual imagine how much time you spent learning these languages – how many hours, years that took. God made all the languages and he gave them up. Then one day he said Ima and Abba. The One who spoke the world into existence took 10 months to speak. He emptied himself as Philippians 2 says. Have you ever wanted to be in more than one place at a time? God never had FOMO, He was always able to be everywhere at the same time. And yet, he chose to become a baby limited to one piece of geography at any given time. What an ability to relinquish in order to serve. In order to pioneer as he did, we have to be as generous as he was.
- c. **The words describing God's actions in the original Hebrew and Greek – a generous communicator and innovator.**
 - In the Old Testament the first verb used most often is **God said**. The second most used verb is **God gives**. **He is a communicator and He is generous**. In the New Testament it is the same.

- In Genesis, these are the words that God says about himself – 27 times God says “**I give**”. Second most common – “**I bless**”, and third – “**I create**.” When God talks about himself – and says this is who I am, this is what I do, this is my identity – **I am a generous, blessing innovator**. He says “**I am a pioneer who loves to give and who loves to bless**”. That is God’s self-description. Psalm 111:3 says – The acts of God will be the glory of His majesty. We should meditate on his acts which reveal his character. John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that He gave His son...” The first thing He wanted us to know about Him is that He is a giver.
- How can we show him off as a giver if we are not a giver ourselves? We have to posture ourselves as givers, even when the going gets tough (and it will).
 - *Note : My known income has never exceeded more than 2/3 of my known expenses. It is a mystery where the other 1/3 is coming from. **If you have all the resources for what you want to do, you are probably not dreaming big enough.***

d. **We have to position ourselves to live a life of generosity.**

Every year my wife and I have increased our giving. We are as challenged today as we were at the beginning of our marriage. God challenges us to give in our need. Sometimes it is about money, but much more about other things – time, effort, attention, and encouragement. God wants to do amazing things. We found this in Chile when we pioneered the work there, where we lived in a place where we had substandard diet. There was no alternative. **In places of our need we still gave.** We had our weekly community meetings. We’d go to churches and minister to them. They did not have a culture of giving. Most of you are first generation missionaries in your culture – pioneering. Your parents/friends/cousins probably think you are crazy. Why are they going in a vocation where they don’t get paid? That is just weird! Note that this is abnormal in every culture. **But, we are identifying ourselves with a God who gave all** – this shakes up the status quo. 2nd and 3rd John talk about hospitality. **Gaining the right to represent Jesus is in our giving. Jesus is a giver.** We never see him taking, charging, or collecting. He is always giving.

e. **Giving shakes things up and people start thinking how can I give? How can I change?**

An example – Back when we were doing community nights in Chile, we would find ourselves in other churches. In one church from one of the larger denominations in Chile, the main bishop died. They had a policy that his widow could no longer get support from the church. We took an offering for her, just out of love for him and her. At the time it was something we could do to care for her. It so moved that church they changed their framework for giving. **If you feel exhausted in this, take heart and take hold of Jesus, and he will give you the capacity and grace to continue.**

3. **Perseverance/Endurance**

a. **Keep the vision before you.**

Say it again and again and again. Hold on to it, without it the people perish. **Constancy in communication maintains hope in difficulty. We must be hope builders when we**

are pioneering. It is costly, but remember: we are not living for ourselves. How well we live makes an impact for the generation coming after us. With our sacrifice we are building a highway for the next generation

To close with a story:

Summary – After they had been in Chile for 9-10 years they wanted to start SBS. They had 24 students before advertising, most of whom were leaders. The base was outside the center with few amenities and he really wanted a different location – in the center where he could get churches involved and bring guest speakers in. The opportunity arose to rent a property from a Pentecostal church – new, fully furnished and central in location. It seemed to be an answer to prayer! 10 days before the beginning of the school he received news that the building had burned to the ground. He was broken-hearted and cried out to God. God asked him some questions. How long had he been preparing for the SBS? Then he asked him, ‘do you know how long I prepared for the coming of my son?’ After his attempt at a response, God said that he had planned everything, and when the moment came His son began his ministry in some stables. God led David to some trashed stables on the YWAM base site and said if trashed stables were good enough for His son to begin his ministry, they were good enough for David to start his. After more tears of repentance David got a sledgehammer and started tearing down the stables to make a classroom. It was not his plan, but it was the plan God used to form them. That was their Troas. That was their place of encounter with God. That was where their vision was refined.

Don't lose heart, hold on to hope. Consider God and his incredible perseverance, His relentless love, and unending pursuit of you and me.

Joseph from Berlin – Summary

God doesn't only lead us to pioneer ministry, but pioneers the best in us, to be better versions of ourselves and develop a Christ-like character.

Second Speaker – Paul Dangtomba (from Burkina Faso, serving in Nigeria) – Pioneering leadership

1. **God is the Creator, the Architect and the Builder. (Genesis 1)**
 - a. He is a good example for us as pioneers.
2. **We can see a pioneer is always listening to God and obeying Him.** For example God talked to Joshua and he obeyed.
3. **We do not choose the place of our calling, we allow God to lead us.**

And sometimes the place of our calling can be attractive and sometimes it is not attractive at all. *But when we obey Him, God leads us to the promised land.* And it is not always easy but as we obey Him we can see His faithfulness.
4. **God is leading us to do the things on His heart**

In Psalm 32:8, God says to us, 'I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go, I will guide you with my loving eye on you.' And it is encouraging that the One that sends us is saying He is not leaving us alone and He will guide us. Abraham, Jeremiah, and David obeyed and God was with them.

Testimony – Paul's Journey as a Pioneer

I will share this morning my own journey as a pioneer. It will be based on 1 Corinthians 3:6 – Paul planted, Apollos watered and God made it to grow. **God calls some of us to plant, others to water, but it is God who makes the seed bear fruit, God who causes the increase.**

When I was in Angola, God laid on my heart to go to Togo, but God had already spoken to me in Hawaii about going to Nigeria. When God shows us a vision and we obey him, he shows us another one and we obey him again -- we walk out the journey with Him. In Togo, God provided 40 hectares of land (we had already visited 10 pieces of land, and hotels and other buildings). When we arrived there were no buildings. And God said to me, "I don't want you to stay in the capital in Lomé, I want you to go stay on the land."

I remember I was sleeping in the car on the land and one night a demonic force came over me in my car. And the spirit was trying to strangle me to kill me. It looked like a dream and when I woke up I was in a battle and the car was shaking. I opened my eyes and the heavy demonic spiritual force was still over me. And the spirit was trying to close my mouth to prevent me saying the name of Jesus. I could feel it and when I used the name of Jesus, the force left me, but I was so weak and had no strength in my body. I realized there was strong spiritual warfare needed in this land. **The enemy will not just allow us to take the land, but will fight us.** And you know as a pioneer, spiritual warfare is real. In every area and place you go to pioneer there will be spiritual warfare. But don't forget God said: I will be with you and I will protect you. **It is not your battle, it is His battle, because you are not living for yourself you are living for him. And if you are living for him nothing will stop you from obeying him.**

I realized there was an altar on that land and they were doing sacrifices on that altar. God laid on our hearts to go there to pray against the demonic forces. We were able to remove the demonic altar and put a cross of Jesus in its place.

At that time God spoke to me saying, "I want you to go to Nigeria. This is the time for you to move on." So I moved to Nigeria not knowing where God wanted me to go. I was just obeying His word. There was no YWAM in Nigeria and I decided to go pioneer the first base. I thought Lagos might be a good option because it is close to the francophone countries, but God said no. **When God calls you obey and don't look back.** Then I said, "How about Abuja, it is beautiful and I can settle there (and my wife can be able to go to a supermarket)." But God said, "No I don't want you to go to Abuja; I want you in Port Harcourt." I remember there were 2 hours of electricity every month.

When God confirmed the place I decided to go tell my wife who was in Togo. On my way I took a night bus to go to Lagos, which was 1000 km from where we were. I was with my friend John Azuka and 2 km from Benin our bus driver saw another bus which had a flat tire and stopped to help. I was in the back of the bus with my friend John Azuka and suddenly the Holy Spirit told me, "I want you to come down from this bus. I turned to my friend, and said, "You know, John, the Holy Spirit has told us to come down from the bus."

He said, "If you're getting out, I am following you." The people on the bus were so angry with us, wanting to get to Lagos early, they didn't want us to get down from the bus.

I came down from the bus and as I was coming close to the road I observed a car slow down as it approached the bus with the flat tire. Its lights turned off. I saw people come out of the car with automatic weapons and I said to John, "Do you see what is coming?" I couldn't scream for the people on the bus to come out at risk of getting shot, so I jumped in the bush and John did too, but the forest was so thick I had to crawl like a soldier through the bush. Suddenly I heard shooting, and people were screaming as the people with the automatic weapons shot at the bus. There was movement in the bush and they shot into the bush. Thank God we were crawling and not running. What amazing protection! The bullets were flying over our heads.

The enemy started to speak – "Do you really want to come here? You will lose your wife, children and it is not an easy place to live." **Every area you go to pioneer has a principality and the principality will give you opposition.** Lagos has a principality, as does Abuja, and Port Harcourt, and every nation and city and house has a principality. You need discernment to be able to rebuke that principality in the name of Jesus. I realized that what was happening in Port Harcourt was a result of a principality of violence standing up against me. **And it was there as I was praying that God spoke and said, "I brought you here, I am with you and I will protect you."**

As I was crawling in the bush, I started to rebuke the enemy in the name of Jesus. I said I would not be intimidated by what was happening, but I would follow the word of God and obey. In the middle of the forest I saw a cassava field and started running. I ran and ran until I saw a light – it was an evening market. When I arrived, my clothes were torn, and I found some water to shower and continued my journey to Lagos.

After all that I came back with my wife, we settled down in Port Harcourt and we started working. We had 24 students. The problems intensified - of militancy and violence. People couldn't attend evening services because of the violence. My wife and I weren't sleeping in the bed; we were sleeping on the floor, holding one another, to avoid bullets. I remember one Sunday, I was travelling with my wife and two children in the evening again, and the shooting started and the window glass broke and fell on us (as my I was covering one daughter, and my wife was covering our other daughter). **But God protected us all the time. Even in all that we didn't give up; we pressed on to obey what God was telling us to do.**

When we were in Port Harcourt, God laid on our hearts to send the outreach team to the university. And it was there we started discovering the young people involved in militant groups. The government

was getting tired of the problem of violence – in some villages you would see dead bodies piled under mango trees. God put on our hearts to pray and fast for the young people. One day the government called all the church leaders and missionaries (150 people) to one of the hotels. They said they didn't know what the solution was for the violence, and were looking to the church. The church and missionaries gathered together to think about and discuss the situation. At the end of the meeting they gave all in attendance envelopes with money for their involvement. God said, "Don't touch it." I turned to the YWAM leader with me and said, "God told us not to touch it." We stood up and went home.

At night some young people came and knocked on my door, and I realized it was some of the boys. They asked, "Why didn't you take the money?" I said, "We are missionaries who live by faith we trust God to provide for our needs, and we aren't taking government money for doing the work/will of God." I remember thinking of my friend Alphonse from Uganda, and how he was shot in his living room and how traumatic it was, and I told them I didn't want to talk in my living room – I led them to the hospitality rooms.

We went there and it was an opportunity for leading them to Jesus. They invited us to speak in the militant camps, to speak to the youth in the different camps. It is where we were sending our DTS students, and God did a miracle and many of them gave their lives to Jesus. Today 3000 of these youth have been through DTS. Some of them have become DTS leaders and SBS leaders. And God in His mercy provided us with a sizeable land. And that area is close to the place where the militants are. It was there that the government shot and killed the leader in this area, and there was a massacre involving many young people. Many ran away and much was destroyed.

When we came God opened the door, and provided a place. **When we obey Him, He will take us to our promised land.** Where we are is a beautiful land. God provided in a miraculous way for us to be able to buy this property. Walking around the property is 20 km. It has a large river going through it with a large beach, and a forest with monkeys and different animals. We were able to start building, as you can see this is one house we have entered in. When we are finished we can house 200 people. We just finished a hall which we can host more than 800 people. We are just finishing a primary and secondary school, and we have started the foundation for a clinic.

Different schools are running e.g. soccer DTS, SBS. **God has been faithful, but the enemy doesn't retreat. When we receive victory, he attacks us more because he doesn't want us to remain victorious.** Two months ago I was taking a nap, when someone put a gun to my head through the window and said "you are under arrest". As I came outside there was a vehicle with four people with AK-47s with 3-4 magazines each. They surrounded me. Then my young men on the base came out and surrounded them. The villagers heard about it too and they surrounded the campus. As they surrounded the campus these people realized they could not carry out their plan of kidnapping me. They were intimidated when they saw all our young boys surrounding them. Some of our boys had gone to lock the gate of the campus and planned to deal with them. Finally they decided to leave me alone and I told our people to let them go. Later the police were able to arrest all of them and they were imprisoned.

God laid on my heart to go and forgive them. I went to the prison and saw one of them was crying (he had been tortured) and begging, and my heart was broken for them. I forgave them and talked to them about God and prayed for them. I decided to drop the charges. The penalty for kidnapping in this region was death, and I didn't want anyone to die because of me. One of them was transformed and did a DTS.

As a pioneer we don't allow challenges/obstacles to stop us from obeying Jesus.

Five key points:

1. We have to plant/invest
 - a. If you do not invest/plant you cannot reap. Invest in prayer and worship, money, etc.
2. Have faith that what you invest will increase
3. When you invest you have to work hard
4. Work in unity
5. Increase in ministry is a result of obedience

Lucy – Closing comments

Remarked on the obedience of Paul and faithfulness to his call. Thankful for him being an example and spearheading the way for us and for his leadership.

*****BREAKOUT SESSION*****

Here are the two questions for our breakout groups

Please process these two questions:

1. How is our listening and going with God looking like today in our ministry? Are you doing one more than the other or are they in balance? Share where you are at with these two keys.
2. How is obedience to God key in the battles in pioneering that we face? And how do you/we stand our ground? Reflect on where you are at with your ministry calling!