

**REPORT OF THE 2ND LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CHRISTIAN YOUTHS IN
PLATEAU STATE HELD AT THE WORD FEAST CHAPEL, JOS, PLATEAU STATE-NIGERIA FROM
25TH TO 27TH NOVEMBER 2005.**

PREAMBLE:

The African Christian Youths Development Foundation (ACYDF) www.acydfoundation.cfsites.org , in collaboration with the Word Feast Chapel and the Chapel of Mercy, convened and hosted the second 3-day Christian Youths Leadership Training Conference for Christian Youths in Plateau State of Nigeria, at the Word Feast Chapel, Jos, Plateau State-Nigeria, from Friday 25th to Sunday 27th November 2005. The Conference was the second in the series of training programs lined up for the one year Christian Youths Leadership/Evangelism Training Program and was jointly funded by the African Christian Youths Development Foundation, finances generated from the 25 participating Churches in Plateau State as Local Church Support (LCS) and a match-up grant from **The Mustard Seed Foundation**. The theme of the Conference was: ***“Empowerment for Harvest and Productivity: Responding to the Great Commission challenge”***.

The Conference attracted about **120** Christian youths from **25** churches and Christian youths NGOs and associations in Plateau State of Nigeria. Rev. Philip Kings Abimuku, Founder and Senior Pastor at the Word Feast Chapel, Jos, declared the Conference open. Pastor Caleb Aondover, Chairman of the Board of the African Christian Youths Development Foundation, delivered the Keynote address, while Engr. Emmanuel Aunde Ivorgba, Secretary General of the Foundation facilitated and coordinated the proceedings. Important dignitaries that graced the opening ceremonies included Dr. Edward Suswan of the Anointing Faith Ministries Makurdi, Pastor Ben Acho of the Charismatic Renewal Assembly Bauchi, Evangelist Anietie Robert of the Federal Polytechnic Bauchi, Evangelist (Mrs) Peret Pusmut of Destiny Chapel Jos, among others.

RESOURCE PERSONS:

A team of resource persons within the Christian and academic community in Nigeria led by Dr. Patrick Agber of the Federal University of Technology Yola, Rev. Mike Ekwuem, Rev. Fr. Moses Agada, Pastor Clement Igba and Evangelist John Ortyom, including Rev. Philip Abimuku and Pastor Caleb Aondover, conducted and trained participants at the intensive and very interactive 3-day Christian Leadership Program.

CONFERENCE GOALS:

The Conference was designed to provide Christian Youths in Plateau State of Nigeria, with a better and more comprehensive understanding of leadership, especially in the context of the Church and the Society. The Conference focused on the practical and more realistic means of developing youth leadership potentials, particularly in periods of rapid change and crisis; the kind of situation that is being witnessed currently in Plateau State. Personal leadership development, drawing from the Biblical example of our Lord Jesus Christ constituted the pivot and heart of the Conference. The Conference sought to develop and enhance youth leadership skills that are necessary for Christian Youths to function effectively and efficiently as respected, competent and contagious leaders, evangelists and “Ambassadors of Christ”, within the Church and the Society. The overall objective and goal of the Conference was to make the Lord Jesus Christ known, worshipped, loved and adored by all, through a deliberate and consistent promotion, facilitation and enhancement of our common faith in Christ, one love and unity, cohesion, Christian brotherhood and Communion.

The Conference sought to develop the spiritual and leadership capacities of Christian Youths as they

journey as leaders in the Christian Community and as Christian Market-place Ambassadors in a changing, materialistic and fragmented world.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

Paper presentations and talks at the Conference covered major topical areas as follows:

- a. Leadership Principles of Jesus Christ
- b. The Role of Christian Youths in Promoting Social Change and Community Renewal
- c. The Ministry and significance of Education within the Church
- d. The Role of the Holy Spirit in the Apostolic and Present-Day Evangelical Efforts
- e. The Old and New Testament Models of Leadership
- f. Qualifications and Challenges of Leadership in a Modern World
- g. Taking Our Place as God's Children in an Ungodly World.

The presentations were well researched and wonderfully articulated. The Resource Persons were also carefully and prayerfully selected for the program and they not only added credibility but also greatly facilitated the success of the Conference.

TRAINING SESSIONS:

During the Training Sessions, participants were divided into four (4) groups of thirty (30) members each. The training Session was further sub-divided into three (3) sections of three hours each. Each group had a group Leader, a Secretary and a Regulator.

The Importance of Leadership and Teaching Christian Teachers to Teach the World were the two topics deliberated upon during the first section of the training session by all the Groups. In the second section of the session, participants discussed the Leadership Principles of Jesus Christ and the Role of the Holy Spirit in Church Growth and Expansion. The third section witnessed very lively discussions on the Old and New Testament Models of Leadership and also on Effective Strategies on Becoming Successful Fishers of Men.

At the end of each section, participants went on Break, while the Group Leaders and their Secretaries compiled details and reports of their Group deliberations and decisions. Participants then reassembled, during which Group Leaders made written and verbal presentations of their reports. The Resource Persons then commented on the reports, making necessary inputs, observations and/or amendments where necessary. The reports are expected to form part of the Working Document that will be released at the end of the one-year training program in 2006.

SUMMARIES:

At the end of the 3-day Christian Leadership Training Program, participants brainstormed and came out with the following very important suggestions and recommendations

1. The Conference commends the African Christian Youths Development Foundation and its collaborators for taking the lead in convening the Christian Youths Leadership Training Program in Plateau State, especially at this crucial and difficult period in the history of the Church in the State.
2. Participants expressed collective optimism that the Conference will go a very long way in addressing the major issues confronting the Christian Community in Plateau State of Nigeria as well as helping in no small measure in reshaping the destiny and direction on the Church in the State.

Participants were unanimous on the fact that Christian Youths constitute a bundle and rich combination of leadership potentials and abilities, which if well exploited, articulated and translated into positive actions, will become the propelling impetus or indices upon which a

1. genuinely sustainable, authentically liberated and development-oriented nation can be established.
2. The Conference also calls on the African Christian Youths Development Foundation, its collaborators and the entire Christian Community in Nigeria and abroad to join and support the efforts towards the establishment of a **National Christian Leadership Training Institute** in Nigeria that would provide formal training to the Christian Community in Nigeria and beyond on Christian Leadership, Evangelism or Soul Winning and other related issues of Christian significance.
3. The Conference calls on all Christians in Nigeria and abroad to unite, for only in our unity and focus can the Kingdom of our God become more effective, efficient and our Lord Jesus become known, loved, adored and worshipped by all the people and nations of the world.
4. The Conference also calls on all Christians to be sincere in their service of Christ Jesus, study God's Word and approach the work of evangelism with commitment, dedication and sacrifice. This, the Conference maintains are the ways through which we can all become active participants in the realization and actualization of our mandate in the Great Commission.
5. Participants also called for the establishment and empowerment of a **National Christian Youths Leadership Foundation** in Nigeria, to be made up of youth Leaders drawn from all the Churches across the Country, to champion the cause of Christian ideology and the propagation and promotion of Christian values within their Churches, among their peers and their communities.
6. The Conference also emphasizes on the need for consistent leadership development and training at all levels of the Christian walk as a sure way of leading our society out of its current predicaments, stating that only when Godly people occupy leadership positions that the people experience joy and happiness.
7. The Conference also commends The Mustard Seed Foundation particularly for joining in the collective efforts aimed at empowering the Christian Community in Plateau State through the provision of the match-up grant for the training program. This gesture, the Conference adds, will go a long way in bringing back the almost lost glory and power of the Church in the Plateau, stolen by the enemy.

Signed this 6th day of December 2005 in Jos, Plateau State of Nigeria.

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