

CHURCH *SHIFT*



THE GUIDE

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THE GUIDE

by

Sunday Adelaja

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT

CHURCHSHIFT

God has raised up Sunday Adelaja to lead men and women to a deeper understanding of their spiritual destinies. Read this book, and let the journey begin.

~ Rear Admiral Barry Black (Ret.)
Chaplain, U.S. Senate

Nothing like the Embassy of God has ever been seen before in Ukraine.

~ British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)

The Embassy of The Blessed Kingdom of God for All Nations church has ballooned from a ministry for society's troubled into this ex-Soviet republic's first true megachurch.

~ Associated Press (AP)

Pastor Sunday is a man with a mission.

~ Wall Street Journal

I have heard and read a great deal about Pastor Sunday and about the work he is doing. All those who do great things go through attacks such as Pastor Sunday has endured.

~ Former U. S. President Bill Clinton

Sunday Adelaja is a leading figure, not only in the Ukraine, but in the world. He has a spirit of faith driven by his compassion for people. The word he speaks is one of authority!

~ Billy Joe Daugherty
Founding Pastor, Victory Christian Center
Tulsa, OK

Some are called to churches. Some called to cities. Sunday Adelaja has a fresh word for the nations!

~ Kenneth C. Ulmer, D.Min., Ph.D.
Presiding Bishop, Macedonia International Bible Fellowship
Los Angeles, CA

I was gripped by Sunday Adelaja's brilliant grasp of the interrelationship between biblical truths and public policy.

~ Dr. Jim Garlow
Senior Pastor, Skyline Wesleyan Church
San Diego, CA

"Thank you for your contribution to our common victory. Your conscious work is a considerable factor in that victory. It was you who protected democracy in Ukraine, standing for its high ideals and not considering your own interests. I am convinced that as long as there are people in Ukraine who have the same civil position, dignity and spirit as you have, everything will be alright in this country.

~ Victor Yushchenko
The President of Ukraine

Through Pastor Sunday's endeavours we have become bold and fearless people who are able to stand for truth, liberty and for God.

~ Leonid Chernoverskiy
Mayor of Kyiv, Ukraine

The most successful in contemporary European churches is the Ukraine-based ministry of Sunday Adelaja...

~ Philip Jenkins
Distinguished Professor of History and Religious studies, Pennsylvania State University,
Missiologist, Author of *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*

Sunday Adelaja is an indisputable success in his family, in his church, in his nation.... This book will help you grow personally and spiritually. Read it and SUCCEED!

~ Peter Lowe
Founder and CEO, Get Motivated Seminars

I know of no Minister around the world that is more unique and influential than Bishop Sunday Adelaja. The supernatural principles of this book are radical, controversial and life changing. They will make ministers of the Gospel reconsider their place and calling in ministry. Our minds will be stretched and our concepts will be challenged, as they should be, for more effective 21st Century ministry.

~ Dr. Wendell Smith
Senior Pastor, The City Church
Seattle, WA

Strong Kingdom visionary leadership is required in order to fulfill the Great Commission in our lifetime. Pastor Sunday Adelaja presents a powerful pathway to empower both the pastor and the church for societal transformation.

~ Phil Pringle
Founder, Christian City Churches
Sydney, Australia

In order to reclaim America's communities, a dynamic leadership paradigm shift will need to take place in our local churches. Pastor Sunday Adelaja has provided a pathway for us to achieve success.

~ Alton Garrison
Assistant General Superintendent, Assemblies of God
Springfield, MO

Pastor Sunday Adalaja has been used by the Lord to transform his society for Christ. In *CHURCHSHIFT*, he teaches how one can learn how to take full responsibility and begin to climb the ladder of true greatness in life.

~ Pastor Stan Toler
Senior Pastor, Trinity Church of the Nazarene
Oklahoma City, OK

CHURCHSHIFT is a study in contemporary application of the relevant Kingdom Principles taught by Jesus Christ, and give evidence that the real mission, purpose and mandate of the church is not to abandon earth but to affect and infect it with the culture and nature of heaven.

~ Dr. Myles E. Munroe
Founder/President BFM International
International Third World Leaders Association (ITWLA)

In a meek yet bold way, Pastor Sunday shows the world how to make the Gospel socially relevant. His words will challenge you.

~ Bishop Dale C. Bronner, D. Min.
Founding Pastor, Word Of Faith Family Worship Cathedral
Atlanta, GA

Reading these pages, you will be inspired to live a greater life than you have ever dreamed possible.

~ James O. Davis
Co-Chair/Founder, Second Billion

CHURCHSHIFT will stretch your mind through God-given principles being applied in personal and powerful ways. You will understand your uniqueness in Christ and will have greater faith to experience supernatural results.

~ David Mohan
Founding Pastor, New Life Assembly
Chennai, India

Sunday has practically applied the principles of the Kingdom to his life, church, city, nation, and the world in every sphere of life and it is bringing transformation. The only hope of seeing transformation in our world is the living out of the principles he teaches from God's Word about the Kingdom.

~ Bob Roberts
Senior Pastor, North Wood Church, Keller, TX
Author, Transformation and Globalization

Pastor Sunday is a young old man: young because of his age of forty years old, old because at such a young age he has known what old men like me know and has been able to accomplish what many old men like me have not been able to do.

~ T. L. Osborn
International Evangelist
Tulsa, OK

God's mandate to us is nothing less than taking dominion of His entire creation here on earth. No one has put this mandate into practice more wisely and effectively than Sunday Adalaja.

~ C. Peter Wagner
Presiding Apostle, International Coalition of Apostles

Sunday Adalaja is one of those new breed of men who is influencing a nation, and modeling a new style of missions. He is a cross-cultural missionary who has made a new mold of what missions can do, to touch a nation. I consider Pastor Sunday a modern day hero of the Faith.

~ Pastor Robert Barriger
Founding Pastor, Camino de Vida
Lima, Peru

What a mark Pastor Sunday has made on Ukraine, Europe, and the world! I applaud his vision for ministry.

~ John Sorensen
Executive Vice President, Evangelism Explosion International

This book provides God's model for transformation and the mind-set of a Christ-centered revolution all from an incredible man who has lead and experienced them both.

~ Dr. Ben Lerner
New York Times Best-Selling Author, U.S. Olympic Team Physician

This book will be a catalyst in leading a strategic church in today's world. I cannot wait to see this book read by thousands of pastors and church leaders like me who are hungry for a powerful and extraordinary move of God to impact our cities and nations.

~ David A. Sobrepeña
Founding Pastor, Word of Hope Church
Manila, Philippines

Sunday Adalaja is a man of great influence for the cause of Christ. Catch the largeness of his spirit, and find the greatness of God unfolding in your life.

~ Paul Louis Cole
President, Christian Men's Network

Sunday Adalaja's ministry inspires people all over the world. For those who live where Christians are persecuted, we are encouraged to see God quickly bring a nation from religious repression to freedom of religion and democracy. We are inspired to see God use a pastor to bring national transformation. Thank you, Sunday, for providing hope and for setting such a bold example.

~ Eddy Leo
Founding Pastor, Abbalove Ministries
Jakarta, Indonesia

If there is one book that can change your life, you're holding it in your hand. **CHURCHSHIFT** is one of the most important and timely messages that you will ever read. It's revolutionary!

~ Sam Hinn
Senior Pastor, The Gathering Place Worship Center
Sanford, FL

Kingdom leaders expand our spiritual horizons and cause us to see the world from God's perspective. **CHURCHSHIFT** challenges the reader to trust God for the resources required to bring societal transformation.

~ J. Don George
Senior Pastor, Calvary Church
Irving, TX

In today's fatherless world, where men abdicate their roles and shun responsibility, God must raise up fathers who will accept responsibility for families, communities, and nations. Sunday Adelaja, a fatherless child, has become a father to a nation.

~ J. Doug Stringer
Founder and President, Somebody Cares
Houston, TX

In **CHURCHSHIFT**, Sunday Adelaja articulates the greatest need Christians have today — for churches not just to be large, but to be large in influence. This book will help not only to build churches but to take nations.

~ Alexey Ledyayev
Senior Pastor, New Generation Churches
Riga, Latvia

The Embassy of God church is the biggest church in Ukraine and well-organized. Pastor Sunday is a unique man. This is a big church that keeps growing everyday.

~ Vasily Onopenko
Chairman of the Supreme Court of Ukraine

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

We are delighted that you hold this book in your hand today. It is the culmination of a 20-year pathway that led its author, Sunday Adelaja, to become an unlikely ambassador. Born in Nigeria, educated in the former USSR, and now pastoring in the nation of Ukraine, Pastor Sunday's message is for people who lead and attend church everywhere.

Our goal with this guide is to help churches all over America and the world to experience a *SHIFT* in the way they "do church." This will bring a *SHIFT* in how church members experience church, and a *SHIFT* in how the society views church and the Kingdom. This *SHIFT* will help you become more Kingdom-minded than ever! It is Pastor Sunday's express intention that the study of **CHURCHSHIFT** would equip and help the church in the following ways:

- Transform America and the Church worldwide by introducing a new way to do church
- Empower pastors to "pastor without tears"
- Avoid church splits and division
- Change every Christian's view of "Ministry"
- Inspire Christians to believe for supernatural outcomes
- Equip church members to impact the seven spheres of society
- Teach Kingdom values for societal transformation
- Activate the potential of the local church
- Change a nation by emerging from four church walls
- Provide the keys to achieve NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION!

How to use this guide to *SHIFT*

Pastor Sunday has poured over every word of this guide to ensure it teaches and empowers you to *SHIFT*. As people *SHIFT* their Christian focus, the world around them will take notice!

This book has THIRTEEN LESSONS. Each lesson has THREE PARTS:

1. *SHIFT* challenge: These thought-provoking essays aimed at leaders, members or the whole church are unique to the guide, and not found in the **CHURCHSHIFT** book. Pastor Sunday wrote these lessons to help your mind fully comprehend the *SHIFT*. You may choose to include these in your group study, or read them individually.
2. Part One: Interactive questions and activities based on the **CHURCHSHIFT** book.
3. Part Two: Thoughts to help you summarize, reflect and act.

As you go through each lesson, there is ample space on each page to write your thoughts of what God is speaking to your heart.

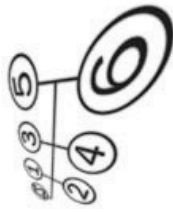
The Seven Spheres of Society

Throughout our study, you will see Pastor Sunday refer to the seven spheres of society to which we carry our Kingdom lifestyle and principles. Here is a quick reference of the seven spheres:

1. Spiritual/Social
2. Government/Politics
3. Business/Economy
4. Education
5. Media
6. Culture/Entertainment
7. Sports

ENJOY the *SHIFT!* This guide may well be the most challenging exercise you ever attempt—yet it is certain to be the most satisfying and fulfilling as well!

SHIFT CHALLENGE 1



CHURCH SHIFT

SHIFTING YOUR MIND, SHIFTING THE CHURCH

What is "Ecclesia"?
Hebrews 13:1-12; John 17:15

At some time in our Christian lives, we will hear the word "ecclesia." Most of us leave the meaning to theologians to figure out. But we are going to start our study together with this word, because it is important to understand it in order to understand our need to *SHIFT*.

Many Christians define "ecclesia" as "separation from the world" or "called out from the world." Some expand this teaching and encourage Christians to run for shelter and hide from the world. Other churches simply use "ecclesia" as interchangeable with "the church." Both definitions can be correct, yet there is even greater application in the New Testament.

"Ecclesia" was used by the Apostle Paul specifically to describe the redeemed who are called out of the world system, away from their culture's values, so they can live by the higher Kingdom value system. "Ecclesia" was not intended to say that Christians are called out from the world in order to run and hide, but that we remain in the world yet are no longer ruled by its values and standards.

As "ecclesia," you and I are called to be separated from the world system and values but not from daily interaction with the world (John 4:4). We simply no longer embrace the values of the world. We don't love the values of the world. We love God Who is superior to the world He created for us (John 3:31).

Jesus brought balance and understanding for the health of His disciples before He left (John 17:15). He knew that totally separating ourselves from the world would mean:

1. Removing ourselves from those we are meant to save.
2. Hoarding and conserving the power and resources of God in the church.
3. Removing and keeping the light away from the darkness (Matthew 5:12-14).
4. Keeping the salt from the food.
5. Removing the mustard seed from the field, the yeast from the flour.
6. Stopping Kingdom values from permeating the earth.

7. Preventing Kingdom glory from invading the earth (Habakkuk 2:13-14; Isaiah 11:9; Genesis 2:15).

Jesus wants the Church to train and release Christians so that each of us will bring God's glory to earth. "*Go ye therefore...*" (Matthew 28:19-20). The church is God's hope to restore the earth (Ephesians 3:8-10). The church is the pillar of Kingdom truth (2 Timothy 3:15). The church will eventually rule the earth (Isaiah 2:1-3; Revelation 5:10).

SHIFT YOUR THINKING:

1. Have you heard the word "ecclesia"? What definition have you previously learned?
2. How can shifting your mindset about "ecclesia" shift your church or group?
3. As "ecclesia," you and I are called to be separated from the world system and values but not from daily interaction with the world (John 4:4). How can this be done practically?

SHIFT STUDY: You Will Learn

- The church fulfills its mandate when it changes society, not when it is confined to its sanctuary and Sunday school classrooms.
- This isolation of the church from the world has led to ineffectiveness and failure to carry out the Great Commission.
- The Great Commission mandate is to go out and disciple nations.
- Ministry is what you do to bring your life and your sphere of influence under kingdom rule.
- We are not called to huddle inside the church sanctuary but to restore the kingdom of God to the world.
- God holds the church responsible for societies.
- The church is to be the training ground for people who will impact the society around them.

Lesson One **Let the Revolution Begin**

PART ONE
Read the book: Prologue & People Power

The church is ready for a *SHIFT* today. The world needs us to *SHIFT!* Areas of society that are longing for our Kingdom influence as believers are religious, political, business, education, arts and entertainment, media and sports.

The revolution in Ukraine began in the prayer closet. It began when the church discovered how to *SHIFT* our mind-set as individuals and as a body of believers, empowering us to be used to change the mind-set of an entire country. It was a dramatic demonstration of God's intent for all believers to occupy to transform entire nations.

Apply the principles, tools, and strategies in these pages to embrace your earthly assignment to occupy, establish the kingdom of God in your everyday life, dethrone the kingdom of darkness, find your promised land of effectiveness where you live, work, and play, and impact the people, society, and nation where God has placed you. Transform your nation for Christ by taking simple steps daily to establish His rule and invite His glory. Be the head, not the tail. Pioneer social answers. Be a part of God's master plan to fulfill the Great Commission.
Get ready to *SHIFT!*

SHIFT SCRIPTURES:

Prayer Warriors

“And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fastings, and sackcloth, and ashes” Daniel 9:3.

“And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day” Luke 2:37.

“But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word” Acts 6:4.

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” James 5:16.

Personal Prayer

“Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer” Romans 12:12.

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” Ephesians 6:18.

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” Philippians 4:6.

A. SHIFT Your Life

1. Does anything concern you in your own community, city or nation?
2. What concerns you most?
3. What would a community look like that was being impacted and overtaken by the churches in it?

Who would be featured in news media reports?

How would schools be operated?

What would the crime rate be?

Where would community and church monies be spent?

When would a child begin learning about Jesus?

4. What gifts and abilities do you have to offer your community?

B. Laying a Foundation

The foundation of prayer must be laid to be sure we are in tune with God. Through prayer, we receive the strength and wisdom needed for the task ahead.

Read the following verses of Scripture here and in your favorite Bible translation:

“For other **foundation** can no man lay than that is laid, which is **Jesus Christ**” 1 Corinthians 3:11.

“Laying up in store for themselves a good **foundation** against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life” 1 Timothy 6:19.

1. Do you believe that every Christian should be a “prayer warrior”?

Why?

Why do we need to be fervent in prayer?

2. How does your experience in prayer compare to “prayer warriors” who you know?

3. What is Pastor Sunday’s point about the prayer time required for him and his church to hear and receive God’s instructions?

4. Describe what you could do in your prayer closet and what you would expect to achieve.

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men” 1 Timothy 2:1.

Corporate Prayer

“Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people” Isaiah 56:7.

“Men ought always to pray, and not to faint” Luke 18:1.

“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren” Acts 1:14.

“Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him” Acts 12:5.

Prayer Results

“And when they had prayed ... they spake the word of God with boldness” Acts 4:31.

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” 2 Chronicles 7:14.

"Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and bear my prayer" Psalm 4:1.

"My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and my will look up" Psalm 5:3.

"Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications: in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness" Psalm 143:1.

"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil" 1 Peter 3:12.

What changes could you make to your schedule to achieve this?

C. The Kingdom of God

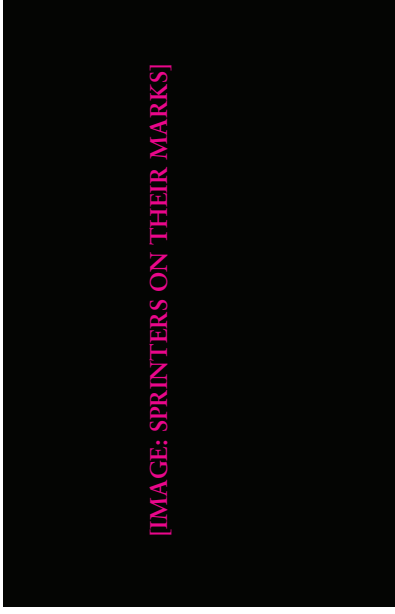
1. Fill in: (page 5)
But God opened my eyes to see that to complete the Great Commission, we must have _____ upon _____, not just _____ in _____. Transforming _____ requires bold steps.

God's Kingdom

"Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. In this manner; therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom be done as it is in heaven" Matthew 6:8-10 NKJV.

"(Though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. But He needed to go through Samaria... Jesus answered and said to her, 'Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water

D. Preparation for the Race



To occupy your "Promised Land," God will often call you to do things you have never done before. He asked Sunday's church to protest openly yet peacefully against their government. This required them to overcome a mind-set of oppression, complacency, and fear. They had to question authority, show leadership with accountability, mobilize themselves, and dare to step out of line. They all knew that the last people who protested had been shot!

When Pastor Sunday asked them to take this bold action, many in his church rejected it as suicidal, unbiblical. Leaders resigned. People left the church. Sunday instructed the people to seek God about His Word to them to influence their nation by getting outside the four walls of their church.

1. If you were in Pastor Sunday's church, would you have followed him in this first march? Would you have watched from the sidelines and waited to see what happened? What would make the difference for you?

springing up into everlasting life.' The woman said to Him, 'Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw'" John 4:2-4, 13-15 NKJV.

God's Will

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me" John 6:38 NKJV.

"I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me" John 5:30 NKJV.

"I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart" Psalm 40:8 NKJV.

"Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done'" Matthew 26:42 NKJV.

"Then Jesus answered and said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner'" John 5:19 NKJV.

"Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness" Psalm 143:10 NKJV.
"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears

us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him”
 1 John 5:14-15 NKJV.

“But He answered and said to the one who told Him, ‘Who is My mother and who are My brothers?’ And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, ‘Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.’” Matthew 12:46-50 NKJV.

Authority

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen”
 Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV.

World-Changers

“Therefore You delivered them into the hand of their enemies, Who oppressed them; And in the time of their trouble, When they cried to You, You heard from heavens; And according to Your abundant mercies You gave them deliverers who saved them From

2. The church is the equipping place for world changers. Name some Christian people who changed the world.

3. God holds believers responsible for their nation. God needs believers to take a strong stand for righteousness. In what areas of your life do you need to risk making a tough decision, similar to taking the risk of marching? (page 9)

**SHIFT STUDY:
 Historical Perspective**

More than half of the soldiers and officers in America’s Revolutionary army were Presbyterians; all but one of the colonels were Presbyterian elders. In fact, the War for Independence was referred to in Britain as the “Presbyterian rebellion.”

“The Revolution of 1776, so far as it was affected by religion, was a Presbyterian measure,” wrote historian Bancroft.

One ardent colonial supporter wrote to King George III the following words: “I fix all of the blame for these extraordinary proceedings upon the Presbyterians. They have been the chief and principal instruments in all these flaming measures.”

When Independence was won and the battlefield smoke cleared, the government that took shape also was attributed to the Church. The form of government that existed in the

Presbyterian Church was the only “republic” existing on the North American continent for 75 years before 1776. This form of Church government is the one which the American government, to a great extent, simply mirrored.

Excerpted from Dr. D. James Kennedy, Adapted from “The Man Who Founded America”
 www.coralridge.org/imp/Impact072007.pdf

PART TWO

SHIFT PRAYER:

Father, I thank You that I am Your image, Your representative on the earth to cause Your will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. I therefore commit myself to seek Your face, obey, and act as You will lead me until Your purpose comes to pass in my country, city, and areas of influence. Thank You, Lord, for hearing and enabling me. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

SHIFT MEDITATION:

“The Church of the living God, [is] the pillar and foundation of the truth.” 1 Timothy 3:15 NIV.

“If change doesn’t come from the top, revolution will come from the bottom.”

~ Dr. Edwin Louis Cole

the hand of their enemies”
 Nehemiah 9:27 NKJV.

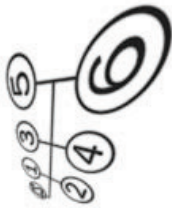
“When the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the children of Israel, who delivered them.”
 Judges 3:9-11 NKJV.

“The LORD said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’ The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth”
 Psalm 110:1-3 NKJV.

“And to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places.”
 Ephesians 3:9-10 NKJV.

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost”
 Luke 19:10 NKJV.

SHIFT CHALLENGE 2



LEADERSHIFT

SHIFTING THE LEADERS, SHIFTING THE CHURCH

A Counterfeit Ministry?

Mark 12:37; Matthew 25; Matthew 9:34; Matthew 4:23-25

Today, the Gospel message is preached more and with greater understanding and revelation than ever before in history. As glorious and wonderful as the pulpit is these days, it is difficult not to notice a common misunderstanding of pulpit ministry. To a degree, the pulpit can become a “counterfeit ministry.”

Well-meaning church members can believe the pulpit is the *only* ministry in the church, and bring their unsaved friends and colleagues to the pastor for salvation, counsel and every kind of aid and assistance. Well-meaning ministers may assume the pulpit is “their ministry.” Both parties erroneously see the pulpit as the place where “ministry” mostly occurs. This is an easy, conventional, sentimental, and historical trap, into which I naturally fell in my early years as a pastor.

My thinking as a young pastor centered on getting “anointed” or getting a “Big Revelation” so that we could have a good church service. I thought that if I prepared and performed well, then people would come to church in droves, and I’d be a “Big Success.” Back then, my weekly focus was to fast and pray to get an “anointing,” and study to receive a “Big Revelation.” As it turned out, the ministry God built in Ukraine was not based on my oratory skills each week. Instead, our church grew when I focused on leading people out into the world with Kingdom values.

The problem with a “pulpit-only” view of ministry is that members can become lethargic and dependent on pastors for their faith and needs. Pastors can become self-focused and performance-oriented, almost like actors, rather than manifesting and revealing God’s power through our lifestyle every day. The Good Samaritan story teaches us that the pulpit and the stage are not always the expression of kingdom ministry (Luke 10:30-37). The priest and Levite passed by the need. The Samaritan understood that “ministry” is to whomever is needy and whenever or wherever a need presents itself.

Good Samaritan pastors do not focus just on pulpit ministry. Good Samaritan members do not wait for the pastor to do all the ministry. *True ministry is in touching lives with God’s love and touching God with men’s needs.* Jesus showed us that ministry is about our daily lifestyle and revealing God to our society

and nation through our lives (Matthew 7:21-24; 25:34; Mark 12:37). A community leader, business person, entertainer or politician may faithfully attend church services and even invite others, yet not release God in their sphere of influence all week long. God is interested in our daily demonstration of Kingdom values (Matthew 9:34-35; Matthew 4:23-24). Preaching and the pulpit are *tools* to manifest the Kingdom. They are not “the ministry.” At times pastors have to leave the pulpit to go to people, and members have to relieve the pastor of the total responsibility for ministering to the entire community.

Ministry is not eloquence and oratory. It is changing lives through Kingdom values. Ministry is every Christian’s privilege and responsibility—to touch lives with God’s love and to touch God with men’s needs.

SHIFT YOUR THINKING:

1. What do you think of when you think of “ministry”?
2. What are the dangers, for both pastors and members, of focusing only on the pulpit as “ministry”?
3. What could you do today to shift your thinking about ministry? In what way could you minister all week long?

SHIFT STUDY:
You Will Learn

- God eagerly awaits the redemption of the nations.
- God wants preeminence in all things in every nation.
- Until the children of the almighty God act like His representatives on the earth, nothing will change in our countries. The destiny of our countries is in the hands of the church and her willingness to declare the position of God in the society.
- The real focus of every Christian's life and of all our church activities is promoting the kingdom of God in every sphere of our nations.
- If the church doesn't start fighting corruption, it will keep flourishing in the country.
- A church that is not focused on discipling nations exchanges its big ambitions for small ones without even realizing it.
- If you want to use your faith to get a new car or more church members, fine. But I'm using my faith to subdue and change a nation.

Lesson Two
God Did Not Create a Passive Church

PART ONE

Read the book: The Kingdom-Minded Church

The decision to stand up to our government became a watershed moment for us and for the entire nation of Ukraine. We had very good reason to believe our lives were in danger if we went to the streets in protest, but the destiny of our land was in the hands of the Church and her willingness to declare the kingdom God in our society. God wants the Church to become the standard-bearer of order and righteousness and to use faith to subdue and change nations. The reward for seeking God is influence over a sphere of society so people can be rescued from the horrors of sin and evil. We had to see ourselves as instruments in God's hand, to shift our thinking from hiding in church to ruling our Promised Land for the glory of God. We didn't have the moral right to be indifferent. We marched on city hall.

God was about to put us on the vanguard of a much bigger movement than we had bargained for!

**SHIFT
SCRIPTURES:**

God is After Nations

“For He has not put the world to come...in subjection to angels. But one testified in a certain place, saying: ‘What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the care of him? You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet.’ For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him” Hebrews 2:5-8 NKJV.

“The heavens, even the heavens, are the LORD’s; But the earth He has given to the children of men” Psalm 115:16 NKJV.

“Thus says the LORD: ‘In an acceptable time I have heard You, And in the day of salvation I have helped You; I will preserve You and give You As a covenant to the people, To restore the earth, To cause them to inherit the desolate heritages” Isaiah 49:8 NKJV.

“You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that He

A. God Is After Nations

Nations are as tangible and precious to God as individuals are.

1. How do you know God’s concern is not limited to individuals? (page 17)
2. Why does God teach us to obey, respect, and submit to the authority of man’s governments? (page 18)

3. What do you believe your own individual responsibility is to government on a

- family level?
- church level?
- government level?
- global level?

4. How can parents encourage a “national focus” in the home? How about a “global focus”?

B. Man Is to Spread the Kingdom of God

1. Fill in: (page 20)
God gave us this corner of the universe to _____, just as He is _____ over the universe. Adam was created in the _____ and after the likeness of God to _____ the earth. He fellowshipped and communed with God; he dressed and _____ the Garden of Eden. The glory of the kingdom was present in the Garden of Eden, and men were to _____ it.

Starting with Adam, is it typical for God’s people to take care of the world God created for us?

Do most Christians think in terms of discipling the nations?

put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him” Hebrews 2:7-8 NKJV.

Authorities

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.” 1 Peter 3:15.

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. Romans 13:1-5

“Without wise leadership, a nation is in trouble” Proverbs 11:14 TLB; “When there is moral rot within a nation, its gov-

ernment topples easily; but with honest, sensible leaders there is stability” Proverbs 28:2 TLB; “With good men in authority, the people rejoice; but with the wicked in power, they groan” Proverbs 29:2 TLB.

Our Responsibility

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’” Genesis 1:26-28 NKJV.

“Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it” Genesis 2:15 NKJV.

“For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glo-

Is it possible in our present day and time for Christians to exercise a “kingdom” purpose in society?

2. Read the following verses of Scripture here and in your favorite Bible translation:

“...Occupy till I come” Luke 19:13.

“...Jesus came...preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.” Mark 1:15.

“...No doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you” Luke 11:20.

How do these influence your thoughts concerning the kingdom?

3. “The real focus of every Christian’s life, and of all our church activities, is promoting the kingdom of God in every sphere of our nations.” (page 20)

Do you believe that spreading the Kingdom of God is your job? Explain.

How can the church/believers fight corruption? Give practical examples.

C. God Expects Us to Move in Authority and Power

1. Meditate or discuss what these Scripture verses mean:

“And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth” Revelation 5:10.

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” 1 Peter 2:9.

2. “A church not focused on discipling nations exchanges big ambitions for small ones.” (page 23-24)

Estimate the “ambition size” of your church with reasons supporting your assessment.

What is the difference between a large church and a church with large impact?

rious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now” Romans 8:19-22 NKJV.

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age’ Amen” Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV.

“Behold, I will make you small among the nations; You shall be greatly despised” Obadiah 2 NKJV.

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” Ephesians 4:11-13 NKJV.

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen" Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV.

"And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." Revelation 5:10 NKJV.

Our Authority and Power

"The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" Luke 19:10.

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" Matthew 28:18-19.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God ... But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant" Philippians 2:5-9.

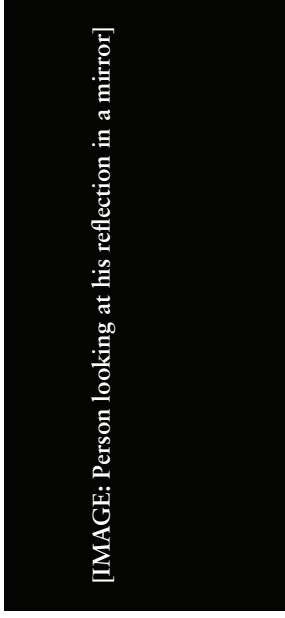
"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" Philippians 4:13; Matthew 16:18-19; Acts 4:31; 2 Timothy 1:7.

"The wicked flee when no man pursueth; but the righteous are bold as a lion" Proverbs 28:1.

"So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" Hebrews 13:6.

Have you been satisfied with only "tools" of faith, blessing or prosperity? How can you lift your faith from small satisfactions to great ambitions? (page 23)

D. The Time is NOW!



[IMAGE: Person looking at his reflection in a mirror]

"Did the only begotten Son of God humble Himself and come here to be violently and brutally murdered, hung on a cross, despised and mocked, then come back from the dead and preach and teach for forty days just so we could be prosperous and have emotion-stirring praise and worship times and pass our colorful leaflets and set up clever websites all while people around us are depressed and committing suicide, spreading AIDS, dying of hunger, wrecking the planet, and much more?" (page 24)

It is time:

- to remember the Cross and the big ambitions Christ has for this planet
- to rule our Promised Land for the glory of God
- to ask, knock, and seek results
- to stop thinking of ourselves on the bottom rung of the social ladder
- to stop lying low

God is waiting for us to take action! We don't have the moral right to be indifferent. Read the following aloud:

- I am an instrument in God's hand. I hold and help determine the destiny of my family, friends, co-workers, and nation.
- I am not small or insignificant. I am God's messenger.
- I walk in power, exercising my gifts and talents. When I give up small satisfactions, I accept ambitions much larger than I ever dreamed!

Write two more proclamations for yourself:

1. _____
2. _____

Make a copy of these proclamations for your mirror, desk, computer, refrigerator, dashboard, backpack, PDA, or iPod.

"And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates" Deuteronomy 6:8-9.

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" John 1:12.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" John 14:12.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith" Romans 1:16-17.

"And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father" Revelation 2:26-27.

Taking Action

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment

SHIFT STUDY:
Historical Perspective

and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this” Isaiah 9:6-7.

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” Matthew 24:14.

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world...” Matthew 28:18-20;

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” Mark 16:15.

Kingdom of God

“...For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea” Isaiah 11:9.

“And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it” Isaiah 40:5.

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever” Daniel 2:44.

SHIFT MEDITATION:

“Thus says the LORD: ‘In an acceptable time I have heard You, And in the day of salvation I have helped You; I will preserve You and give You As a covenant to the people, To restore the earth, To cause them to inherit the desolate heritages’” Isaiah 49:8 NKJV.

“Where there is no vision [no redemptive revelation of God], the people perish; but he who keeps the law [of God, which includes that of man]—blessed (happy, fortunate, and enviable) is he” Proverbs 29:18 AMP.

Repeat: “I am called and saved to restore the earth back to God, using my God-given gifts, abilities, and talents.”

“For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea” Habakuk 2:14.

God’s Word

“So shall I have where-with to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word. And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments. So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever. And I will walk at liberty; for I seek thy precepts. I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed” Psalm 119:42-46.

“Is not my word like as a fire? Saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?” Jeremiah 23:29

“For no word from God shall be void of power” Luke 1:37 ASV

“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven” Matthew 10:28, 32, 33.

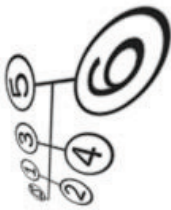
“And they overcame him (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death” Revelation 12:11.

PART TWO

SHIFT PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, I ask You to please deliver me from domestic, self-focused lifestyle and goals. Please, Lord, expand my vision, my territory, and my ambition. Cause my ambition and passion to be more about Your concerns, ambition, and vision. Help me, Lord, to see like You, dream like You, and act like You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

SHIFT CHALLENGE 3



CHURCHSHIFT

SHIFTING THE CHURCH

Egocentric Enterprises
Colossians 3:1-3

“Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven,” is our prayer. God’s dream and passion are for the Church to meet God’s need, which is to make the kingdom of the world be subject to the Kingdom of our God (Luke 4:43). We are called to live for the One Who died for us (Galatians 2:20-22). He won us at a price, that we should live only for Him and not for ourselves (1 Peter 1:18-19).

With the advent of technology, the entire world has been able to watch huge scandals all over the globe. Egocentrism is generally at the root of these business, political and even church scandals. Egocentrism thrives in a culture of self-gratification. When leadership in a church, business, sports team or any other enterprise uses its members or partners as a means to meet personal needs, the whole organization can be corrupted. If leadership gets it wrong, then the whole organization can be led astray.

In egocentric businesses, leaders manipulate employees whom they view as a means to serve their own interests. Egocentric leaders breed a culture of self-gratification instead of self-sacrifice (Philippians 2:1-9; Matthew 6:22-23). In egocentric enterprises, people focus less on blessing others or even serving the company and more on being personally blessed. Employees begin to strive to gain power and influence through any available means.

Even churches can be egocentric. In an egocentric church, members see worship services as a place to have their needs met. Church then becomes a place to get a feel-good, “ear-tickling” message that “feeds the flesh” instead of “seeking the Kingdom” (Matthew 6:33). In a recent Top-100 list of Christian books in America, eleven centered on God. The remaining eighty-nine centered on self. Egocentric Christians desire “self-exploration” and seek “self-revelation” instead of exploring Scriptures and asking God to reveal Himself to us.

God formed the church for Himself to teach us how to function here on the earth and how to take His Kingdom into the whole earth (1 Timothy 3:15). If the Church mimics the values of greed and ego from the earth, the Church and the entire earth will

suffer. We are to spread the values of the Kingdom, including love and self-sacrifice. (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 12:1, 2). Our goal in life is not seek to be blessed and have our wants and needs provided, but to be like Jesus and enforce His Kingdom principles on earth.

SHIFT YOUR THINKING:

1. What is your definition of “seeking the Kingdom”? In what way can a church foster that desire in its member’s lives?
2. Based on what you’ve read above what would be the purpose of preaching, going to church, a job, salary, etc.? Self-gratification or equipping for Kingdom service?
3. What can you do starting today to make yourself less egocentric?