

True leaders lead with the love of God

William Leleki

True leaders are those who are called to leadership by an inner voice. Their being in leadership means the fulfilment of what they have been called to do, not to be.

Leadership is not necessarily a position, but fulltime responsibility characterized by huge sacrifice, pain and tears.

Leadership by its nature is about the fulfilment of mission.

Leadership is about moving with people from one point to another in love.

Those in leadership must always demonstrate love for the people they lead and motivate them to see the bigger picture in life.

People will move forward when they catch the vision of a better destination and brighter future.

Leadership decisions are based on making people's lives better than yesterday.

When the quality of people's lives is deteriorating as we see in our Metro, it is because those in leadership seem to have forgotten or ignore the purpose of leadership.

Leadership based on love is not about seen in most expensive clothes and cars but being with the people in their pain of poverty and make them to realise that the pain of moving on outweighs the pain of being trapped in poverty and hopelessness.

All leaders must understand and come to terms with the reality (rightly or wrongly) as the ones who make transformation possible.

People know that their lives must change for better, but they would not move up until such time that they are positively influenced by their leaders.

True leaders are drivers for a better life for their people and they resist the temptation of wanting to claim benefits of success alone.

Their success is measured by the improvement in the lives of the people they lead.

Good leaders are known by their people, and they too know the people they lead.

Building good relationships is a sign of a leader motivated by love to lead.

Many good relationships are based on trust and for leaders to be trusted they must walk the talk.

Leaders who lead with love are like Prophet Ezekiel who saw his role as the Shepherd and watchman over the community. He emphasized the individual responsibility of each person before God (18:1-20).

It is interesting to study the ministry and teaching of Jesus from the point of view of principles in leadership.

We see that Jesus was able to minister meaningfully to the people He worked with during His lifetime.

We can learn a lot from His willingness to face up to the various people that opposed Him on many different occasions.

Paul was able to have a significant pastoral ministry in relatively short periods of time in cities like Athens, Ephesus, Corinth and Phillipi.

He was able to communicate that was of significance for people in his messages and these messages met the spiritual needs of the people who listened.

He showed love in his heart as he admonished Timothy to be loving towards everyone (2 Tim 2:24).

The Christian religion emphasizes the importance of individual and corporate gatherings.

The leader traditionally is the one who directs all kinds of gatherings. Therefore, the leader needs to develop the art of conducting public and private gatherings in such a way that each will be meaningful to the participants.

The leader must be genuinely interested in people, their needs and difficulties, their joys and sorrows, and their ability and readiness to receive help.

The true leader must be able to respond to critical circumstances in an empathetic way which will make him/her available to people. The leader must be willing to take initiative in reaching out to people who are in trouble.

The leader must be involved in many meetings in the community which give him/her opportunity to get to know people. As a result of his/her friendship, people may stop the leader in the grocery shop and speak about matters that are important to them.

The leader who has been with his/her people over a period of time will be able to sense what people need from her/him during times of crisis.

His/her presence will be very important for them even though she/he may not be able to give a satisfactory explanation of what is happening (2 Cor. 2:14, 16; Ps 19:3, Job 13:4,5).

By Bishop Dr William Leleki, SACC NMM Chairperson