

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Mazwe Majola



This month's newsletter is dedicated to our young people because in South Africa June is youth month. June 16 is a popular holiday in South Africa, and is a commemoration of events which saw young people fight the apartheid regime. Many of them died, others went to exile while others were incarcerated. The Bible is awash with young people who were used by God to transform not only the world but also people's hearts. One of them was Timothy. Timothy was young man who responded to Christ's call to help build His church. He was one of the Apostle Paul's special assistants. Along with Titus, Timothy tackled some of the tough assignments in the churches that Paul had founded. Timothy was brought up in a religious home (2 Timothy 1:5) and had been led to faith in Christ by Paul himself. Timothy was born of mixed parentage: his mother was a Jewess, his father a Greek, He was so devoted to Christ that his local church leaders recommended him to Paul and Paul added him to his "missionary staff" (Acts 16:15). Timothy was faithful to the Lord (1 Cor 4:17) and had a deep concern for God's people (Phil 2:20-22).

Paul redeployed Timothy to pastor a church in Ephesus. Ephesus would not be the easiest place to pastor a church. The city was devoted to the worship of Diana, the patroness of the sexual instinct. Her lascivious images helped promote sexual immorality of all kinds (Acts 19). Paul had done great work in Ephesus during his three-year ministry. It was not easy for Timothy to follow a man like Paul. Also the church in Ephesus had very difficult and impossible Elders. That is why in 1 Timothy 4:12, Paul wrote to Timothy, "Let no man despise thy youth; but thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity".

Paul named several areas of life in which Timothy, and young person should be examples:

- "In Word"—this implies that your speech should always be honest and loving, "speaking the truth in love" (Eph 4:15).
- "In conduct" - the KJV's "conversation" means "walk", not "talk" suggests that your lives are to be controlled by the Word of God. You must not be the hypocrites Paul described to Titus (Titus 1:16): "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him."
- "In Love" (Charity) points to the motivation of your lives. We do not obey God to be applauded by men (Matthew 6:1), but because we love God and love God's people.
- "In Spirit" is not in many manuscripts, but it would describe the inner enthusiasm and excitement of a child of God.
- "In Faith" implies that we trust God and are faithful to Him. Faith and love often go together. Faith always leads to faithfulness.
- "In Purity" is important as we live in this present evil world. Ephesus was a center for sexual impurity, and the young man Timothy was faced with temptations. He must have a chaste relationship to the women in the church (1 Timothy 5:2) and keep himself pure in mind, heart, and body.

I would like to challenge young people to live godly lives. Paul challenged Timothy to be as godly as an athlete is to his sport. Godly character and conduct are far more important than golf or athlete trophies, though it is possible for a person to have both. Ecclesiastes 12:1 says "Remember your creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble comes and the years approach when you will say "I find no pleasure in them".

Rejoice! Revive! Reconcile! Repent! Renew! Release!



“Remember your creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, “I find no pleasure in them (Ecclesiastes 12:1)”

Ministry Updates

Youth Ministry

Enjoy Your Youth

Greetings saints in the powerful most amazing, earth shaking name of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen! As it's been Youth Month and many celebrations have been taking place all over our country; a question came to my mind, "As the youth in Christ, are we enjoying our youthfulness? If the answer is yes then how are we enjoying it?". An elderly woman once said, "When I was young, I did many good things. I used opportunities well and gave my service where it was needed, at home, school and church or wherever I was. Wherever I went I made sure I did what was right. My service and character opened doors for me. I met different people, traveled to different places, and read many books, which inspired me. I knew how to balance my social, spiritual and academic life. I did not take people for granted, even their good advice, and avoided bad company."

"Some of my peers opposed me but I knew what I was doing and kept my principles. Some of those who were laughing at me came to me later and said they were sorry for what they did. People told me they appreciated the way I lived. I remember another lady wrote to me these words, "You are a woman of character; you have really impacted my life by the way you live. I would like you to be my mentor... Please tell me your secrets.' These words encouraged me to do what was right before men and God. God blessed my youth; it was the best time I had in my life."

Another woman said, "I remember, I did a few good things for my parents. Their advice was good, but it never made any sense to me, since I thought they were just making noise and blaming me. Many times I thought they were against me. I would ask them to leave me alone since I was an adult. Because of my rebellion, they wasted a lot of time and money on me. Later on, when I got into trouble, their sweet voice of advice would clearly come into my mind. Maybe, if I could relive my youth once more, I could do the many good things that I missed the opportunity to do. Sometimes when I think of what I used to do, I cry and repent. If my parents were alive today I would ask them to forgive me, because I did not listen to them."

You, who are young, obey and honor your parents, and you will enjoy life."(Ephesians 6:1-2)

How do I enjoy my youth?

Some people think that, to enjoy life is to eat well, relax, and drink and to fulfill bodily desires. In the first story, the old woman who planned and served had something good to remember, while the second woman was confessing and repenting of the wrong things she did.

To enjoy your youth is:

To use the strength of youthful age to do the things which the aged cannot do. To delight in the Lord and His creation. To find favor before God and people and prosper in what you are doing. To have peace with God and people. To enjoy one's labor and partake of the fruit of his or her good works. To do what is right and be fruitful.

You cannot become a star without making the first step. You are the one to make a step toward success. You cannot enjoy your life unless you do what is right. Your future will depend on your present. When you do something good you will also feel good and people around you will feel proud of you. Right now you need to decide to do what is right before men and God.

Who are you?

Is it good to know yourself? Yes it is, because it will help you to know what you can do and your weaknesses and where you can improve to be more effective. You were created in the image of God; you are a wonderful and unique creature. You are a person of great value who can make things happen. People who have done great things are not different from you. You are somebody who has something to give to others. Therefore, you should value yourself, appreciate your abilities and resources and use them.

When you accept who you are, you will not look miserable, desperate, hopeless and without direction. Remember that you are young and therefore, can be of much help to your family and society right now. In you, there is strength, desires, dreams and good plans. People may not recognize your worth, but you are an important person. Do not give up on yourself and do not let others lose confidence in you. Let the people who accuse and confuse you, witness your integrity when they see your good behavior (2 Timothy 4: 12; 1Peter 2: 12).



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Youth Ministry

Why it is hard to do what is right?

God created a perfect man and woman to live in peace and happiness. However, when man rebelled against God's perfect plan, sin entered into the world. Everything was messed up. But God, in His great love, came to restore mankind by offering His Son, Jesus, to die on a cross in our place so that man could be forgiven and have fellowship with God and have back the peace he had lost. Although His children still have an evil nature that we wrestle against every day, Christ can help us do what is right. If you want to have a blessed life and enjoy your youth, you need to give your life to Christ who will lead and strengthen you day by day.

So What Should I Do?

Repent

Draw close to God your creator. When you draw close to Him you will discover His will, way and enjoy your life. For you to draw close to God, you need to repent of your sins. That means turn from sin and turn to God. You need to acknowledge your sin and be willing to leave sin and live for Christ (Ephesians 4: 22-24). Sin removes peace and joy; it hinders your blessing and Christian growth (Isaiah: 59:2). In addition, sin will make your service, prayer and offering not be accepted before God (Amos 5:22-24). When you repent of your sin, you will be accepted and forgiven; you will enjoy God's presence and blessing. God is ready to forgive, cleanse and give you a new life. He will accept you the way you are and make you what He wants you to be.

Honour the Lord

You owe your life to God because He made you. Remember you are a blessed person. There have been many people who did not get the grace to reach your age; therefore, you should not take your youth for granted. The time you are given to live is a gift; do not misuse it but use it to serve the Lord and make an impact in society. For that reason, you should honour God by living for Him. It is God who works daily in your life and has the right to end or to add days to your life. For that reason you should never forget your Creator but be grateful and faithful to Him. Consequently, you will enjoy your youth (Ecclesiastes 12:1; Proverbs 3:9).

Be Humble and Obedient

Humble people find favor before God and people. Humility and fear of God lead to riches, honor, and long life (Proverbs 15:33). When you humble yourself you will learn and many people will learn from you. You should accept correction and advice and be ready to change in a positive way. People who are older than you have more experience. You should listen to them and follow their good advice. Keep in mind that there are things which look good in your eyes but their end is death (Proverbs 14:12). If you want to enjoy your youth, listen to God and be obedient.

Hate Evil

Doing evil will result in bad experiences and make you miserable. If you do not hate evil, it will harm you and turn you away from God. For that reason you should avoid things that can lead you to sin and love what is good (Philippians 4:8). A small amount of evil can lead to great consequences in your life, family, plans and many other things and finally bring eternal separation from God (Hebrew 12:1). You were created to love God; by so doing you will enjoy your youth. Leave evil deeds to the devil and shine by doing good and loving God's ways. Then you will enjoy your youth (2 Timothy 2: 22).

Plan and Plant in Season

The youthful period is good if you know how to manage it. When you are young, think of your future. Understand that time is short and you only pass through youth once. If you do not plan and act now, you will regret it later. Take the different opportunity; do not postpone things. Wasting time will diminish production. Look for what is best to do and what you should avoid. Prepare for your future and live like a wise man now (Ephesians 5:15-17). Your dreams will become a reality if you are determined. Your present will beautify your future (Galatians 6:7).

Be of good Judgment

Good people shape your life in a positive way; bad company will also impact your life in a negative way (1 Corinthians 15:33). People you associate with you i.e Friends can lift you or put you down; they can lead you or mislead you. For that reason be careful with whom you associate. In addition, you should be careful with what you read, watch and listen to. There are so many things which can easily mislead you or take you away from God's ways. There are things which look good in your eyes but their end is death (Proverbs 14:12). You should imitate Christ, if you really want to enjoy your youth.



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Youth Ministry

Be useful

You have abilities, knowledge and strength. Use them wisely; prove that you can do something well. When you are a youth, people expect something good from you. Trust the Lord and be confident that God will help you. Share what you have and be ready to serve others.

Furthermore, be an agent of change and a peacemaker. Let people see your integrity, your value in society and in your family where you are. People will invest in someone who wants to make a difference rather than in someone who doesn't care about his or her life or others. Use wisely your time, money and energy so you will be able to enjoy your youth.

Be courageous and strong

For you to achieve your goals, you need to be courageous and strong. On the way to success you will find challenges, but these should not discourage you. Get focused, knowing that the Holy Spirit is within you and everything is possible with God. (Mark 10:27). Remember fear can stop you if you do not fight it. With God's strength you will succeed His purposes. If you want to enjoy your youth learn to work hard. Lazy hands make you smaller and poor, but the hard worker gets richer and is satisfied (Proverbs 10: 4; 13:4). Do not give up; walk by faith, not by sight. Be strong and courageous. Then you will enjoy your youth.

Seek wisdom

Wisdom is very important to someone who would like to enjoy life. Wisdom that comes from the Lord is pure, kind, loving, submissive and considerate of other people (James 3:17). With wisdom you will be able to discern the wrong from the right. A youth who has a good dream for his life needs wisdom. The person who has wisdom is faithful, puts God first in his life, listens and learns from God and does what is right. God promises that this person will have a long and prosperous life. He or she will have favor with God and people, and blessings will follow him or her.

The world has deceived so many who thought they could enjoy life by following the ways of the world. The Lord God is the source of success. Walk in His ways and you will be successful. The right way will lead you to Enjoy your youth ! Psalms 119:9 Your time is NOW. Do NOT wait. Enjoy Your YOUTH!

In the protective shelter of His wings,

By Mpho Rammile

Youth in Action

June is celebrated as Youth Month in South Africa, paying tributes to the school pupils and ordinary people who fought and as a result some ended up losing their lives during the Soweto uprising of 16 June 1976, 37 years ago.

Young people are just amazing! It's so easy to get through to them. The surface might be rough and tough, but it's only a two mm thick (or thin!) finish. Peel it back and there's just marshmallows!" And it's pretty close to the truth. South African teenagers/Youth, when asked to list the things that motivated them, majority rated "love" as the highest motivating factor. What one consistently notices is that while it takes different strategies to reach different kids (unchurched, churched, urban, rural, leaders, followers etc.), most of them can be reached if one person whom they trust builds tight community (close relationships) with them. It happens time after time – on camp, through contact at a school, in a youth group or on the street. Adults forging friendships with young people, entering their world and earning the right to model the life of Christ to them is what youth togetherness is all about.

The main focus of the Youth Month is to inspire and empower South Africa's young people to identify the role they can play in addressing the economic and social challenges facing not only the population in general, such as employment, HIV & AIDS and also Alcohol abuse.

In 1979 young people fought for their rights, for freedom and for democracy: today's challenges are different, but no less important.

Alcohol and substance abuse and illicit drug trafficking in global phenomenon, and South Africa are no exception.

Sex and HIV & AIDS awareness being also one of the biggest problems that the young people are currently battling with. However it's strongly believed that if parents should start implementing positive communication with their children this could help young people establish individual values and make healthy decisions.



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Youth Ministry

Divorce and Peer Pressure – Divorce being one of the serious implications for upcoming Young South Africans, Single parents and their children often have to face stigma, violence and social problems based in myths, stereotypes and prejudice which sometimes, the taunts can be subtle and leave subconscious effects of both parties. Then in cases like this peer pressure easily kicks, truth be told the people around you make up your “peer group it’s either at church or in the world. A peer group can encourage you to do good things like help others, try new things, or just kick back. But your peers just as easily try to make do things that you would normally not do and could potentially harm you.

The Bible says "The sweet smell of perfume and oils is pleasant, and so is good advice from a friend" (Proverbs 29:9). If this is true do you think we should think about whom we hang about with? What one thing do you think you could change to be a better influence to your friends? Proverbs 13:20 "Spend time with the wise and you will become wise, but the friends of a fool will suffer" I Corinthians 15:33 "Do not be fooled: "Bad friends will ruin good habits."

By Keneilwe Masiga

“Youth on Fire”

“You who are young, be happy while you are young.”

On the 9th June 2013 RBC Youth on Fire had an amazing discussion that will help us grow in our spiritual paths. We learnt to walk in the Footsteps of Jesus Christ without Compromise. This seminar was facilitated by a remarkable role model, RBC Young Adults Leader Diketso Mogwena.

As we were discussing and debating the topic at hand, one of the important highlights that stood out were that, young people face different challenges of all sorts. Many of those challenges revolve around us compromising. Young people in general compromise who they are, what they stand for, what they believe in, all to please the s. We Christians are not human’s beings having a spiritual experience on earth, we are spiritual beings having a human experience on earth. It is even harder to pursue our goals on earth if we conduct ourselves to the norms of society. We learnt to give a shout out to ‘the status quo’ and press on towards to goal that we spiritual beings have been called to do here on earth. One of the first questions Diketso asked us is, “Do you enjoy being young?”. Sadly majority of the answers were No. We then looked at the book of life and picked up Ecclesiastes 11:9, “You who are young, be happy while you are young.”. We have learnt that if we turn to our Leader Jesus Christ and walk in His footsteps, being young won’t be so much of a challenge. Society looks at life’s challenges and says, “Keep calm, and Get Over it!”, while we shall now look at life’s challenges and say, “Keep Calm, Jesus is the Messiah and He saves”. It’s time to rise up and reclaim our position as youth in Christ. We young people are privileged that God turned to us to be the light of the world. We are the chosen people but even being chosen people comes at a high price, our King Jesus had to pay a price and He got through with it, despite all the challenges He went through. He is the ultimate example of what we can become if we walk in His footsteps without compromise by the standards of the world. We have allowed the norms of society to take over while we sit and compromise .

By Nomazwi Majola



Youth Ministry

Positive attitude leads to success

In life we are given opportunities and responsibilities but it is up to us to make them realities. I often hear people say that the grass is greener on the other side, but I would like to challenge them and say the grass is greener where you water it.

Destiny is no matter of chance, It is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for it is a thing to be achieved. Now the question is how do we get to our destination of success?. The answer is simple it is how you build your foundation and with whom do you build that foundation with. As children of the most high we are so blessed to be chosen by the Creator of the whole universe. The fact that He chose to love us before we did proves a lot that with Him in our lives we are powerful beyond measure and we can do anything if we place our trust, hope and faith in Him.

As today's youth we need to seek him first above everything else and everything will be added on us. We need to be a mature youth growing spiritually in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3vs 18). There is a lot we should strive to change which is negatively affecting the environment we live in. Satanism, crime, abortion, drugs and corruption are the most fundamental issues that we as the children of most high should fight against all odds.

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us. Remember we won't always be able to solve everyone's problem, we can't always figure out the best solution, also our knowledge and resources might not be able to meet all this person's need but we can always pray and be assured that God will answer and direct our steps.

By Nkanyiso Magutshwa

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