

# **ADVOCACY PRESENTATION**

## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

Under the auspices of our Chairman and the Executive Council, as many as three (3) platforms have been offered Children's Ministry to project and impact the Church's leadership in terms of awareness creation for children in the church. With focus on the theme of the Vision 2018 "**Impacting Generations**", these attempts were made to highlight the need to ensure that leadership at all levels would leave legacies for the children who are envisaged as taking up the mantle of leadership for the next generation if Jesus tarries.

Specifically, Rev. Dr. Rudi Mans of Petra Institute, South Africa presented a talk on "Raising up a new generation of leaders with insight on their uniqueness" on 10th January, 2014 at Pentecost Convention Centre (PCC) at the All Ministers and Wives prayer meeting. Thereafter, Rev. Dirk Coetsee, the Managing Director of Petra Institute, South Africa also presented on two (2) topics: "Stewards of God's little children – The way of Jesus" and "Stewards of God's little Children – Serving God together" during the 2014 November Heads Meeting. Thereafter, the Children's Director, Apostle Fred Tiakor was also graciously invited to present on "Stewards of God's Children" at the 2015 All Ministers and Wives prayer meeting on 16th January, 2015. Though the impact of these three (3) presentations were expected to have caused a paradigm shift considering the immediate impact and thrust of the messages, the desired expectation was not rightly achieved. It is however gratifying that an exemplary practice is being effected in some isolated local assemblies.

## **2.0 WHAT IS BEING PRACTISED**

The following, on close observation, are some of the lapses observed:

- The practicing assemblies were variably and involuntarily applying the wrong principles, namely:
  - Gathering the children separately at the adult services.

- Dismissing the children back to their meeting places prior to word ministrations.
- Treating the children as “strangers” within the adult services.
- Some assemblies have permanently absorbed the Sunday school class into the adult service, thus disbanding children services.
- Some locals feel it is culturally incorrect to admit the children into their adult services perceiving the ensuing and resultant noise-making atmosphere as an affront.
- The local church, in some places, still displace the children when the auditorium is getting full to make room for the adults especially during special services like joint services, conventions, weddings, etc.
- In an attempt to create a shift system in their services, some locals tend to disregard the meeting time of the children’s services, rendering some of them literally displaced and non-functional.

### **3.0 THE PROVISIONS OF VISION 2018**

- 3.1 Part of the “overview” of item 3.1 states, “Impacting people greatly depends upon their being with you, doing, seeing, hearing and understanding the rationale behind your actions”.
- 3.2 Under “Actions to be employed”, sections:
  - 3.2.1 states, “Children will often be encouraged to attend the main service”
  - 3.2.2 “Presiding elders, officers and parents will be encouraged to facilitate the participation of children in the main service”.
  - 3.2.3 “Open forum will be organized for children and youth to ask questions on issues they do not understand”.
  - 3.2.4 “Children and youth will be encouraged to bring forth their ideas on how to move the church forward in modern times”.
  - 3.2.5 “Children and youth will be consulted in decisions concerning them and the church”.
  - 3.2.6 “Children who excel in teaching and preaching will be asked to preach on children’s days”.

3.3 Section 10. **Re-organize the roles of Ministries to be more functional.**

10.7 – Action to be employed: Children’s Ministry.

10.7.4 – “Children services will be directed to be held concurrently with adult services”.

10.7.5 – “The children will be asked to join the adults’ service from time to time”.

10.7.6 – “the situation where the children ministry comes to church early and close before the adult service commences will be discouraged”.

10.7.7 – “Ministers will be expected to visit children’s services”.

#### **4.0 THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ADVOCACY WORKSHOP**

With the kind permission of the Chairman, this proposed workshop is geared towards the following factors:

- 4.1 Identifying deficiencies in a church that is unable to practice intergenerational ministry.
- 4.2 Demonstrating the inherent advantages for a positive growth to an intergenerational-driven local church.
- 4.3 Formulating the need to apply and implement the vision 2018 provisions enshrined for children’s ministry.
- 4.4 To appeal to Heads and Ministers to accept this paradigm-shifting process and exercise to be replicated at further forums where they will wholeheartedly embrace it for full implementation for the ultimate benefit of the church.

#### **5.0 THE CONTENT OF THE WORKSHOP**

##### **5.1 Proposed Advocacy presentation at the November Heads’ meeting**

There will be five (5) difference groups. Each group may comprise forty to fifty members, a facilitator, one person to write on the board and another person to assist in other things. Each group will present the same topic

using the same process and at the same time. The full process will be run in the small groups. The bigger group will meet after the presentations and Fred, the Director will make a final appeal to the Area Heads and the intention of the Children Ministry Directorate sending the Advocacy team to the various Areas nationwide. The facilitators are Fred Tiakor, Peter Adjei, Jonathan Kofie, Samuel Bram and Ebenezer T. Kpalam.

## **5.2 The Process**

5.2.1 5 minutes for the groupings.

5.2.2 The number 4 game will be used and it will also cater for what is currently going on in the Church of Pentecost (CoP) – 40 minutes.

5.2.3 Why we still do not involve the children – 10 minutes.

5.2.4 What ought to be going on – 15 minutes.

5.2.5 The way forward, commitment – 10 minutes.

## **6.0 CONCLUSION**

It is hoped and envisaged that this proposed presentation will serve as a clear discovery of our clarion call of advocating for intergenerational ministry where the value and place of children in the church will be given the due recognition. May the Lord be our helper as we strive to impact our leaders who will in turn impact both our present and future generations.

Thank you.

**Fred Tiakor (Apostle)**  
**CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR**

