

THE YOUNG
MINISTERS' FORUM

LIFT YOUR EYES AND LOOK AT THE FIELDS

*Strengthening and equipping young
ministers to serve God's purpose."*

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ISSUE PAPER: LIFT UP YOUR EYES AND LOOK AT THE FIELD!

Introduction: God's Time

“God’s time” is a household phrase in Nigeria. When a long-awaited baby is finally born, you’ll often hear it: “*God’s time.*” Or, “*This is God’s time to have a baby.*” It’s the phrase that soothes waiting hearts, affirms divine timing, and seals long seasons with grateful reverence. In such moments, what was once delayed becomes proof of divine scheduling. *God’s time*, they say, *is always the best.*

But what if I say to you that **every time is God’s time**?

Yes. Every time is God’s time—not just the ones that finally match our desires. God is always at work, always on schedule. Time is not random; it is sacred. Time is God's workshop, His canvas for crafting eternal purposes on the earth. In time, eternity finds expression. Every moment holds divine intention. Yes, different stages unfold at different times. Yet **all time has its significance.**

To a believer, time must not be measured by human expectation but by God's eternal will unfolding. We should always ask:

- What is God doing now?
- What is He saying to this generation—to every soul—**in this moment**?

This issue paper is not just about information. It is an **invitation into consciousness**, into seeing and living every moment as God's time. Also, to know what God is saying **THIS TIME**. To redeem the time means more than managing hours (though not less than that); it means catching God's will and executing it in real time.

A man only lives accurately when he lives intentionally, in harmony with Divine Clocking—using every moment to perceive and fulfill the will of God. As Ephesians 5:15–17 says: *“Be careful how you live... redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.”*

Jesus modeled this awareness. He spoke often of “the hour”:

- *“My hour has not yet come...”* (John 2:4)
- *“This is your hour, and the power of darkness”* (Luke 22:53)
- *“Now is the hour for the Son of Man to be glorified”* (John 12:23)

Jesus knew what to do in each moment because He lived in the rhythm of God's timing. He did not rush. He did not delay. He walked in step with the will of the Father.

John 5:19–20 *Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.*

His intimacy with God gave Him this sense of time. And this same intimacy is what we're being called into. So again, we ask:

- What is God doing **in this time**?
- And are you seeing it? What is **your** part in it?

Context of the Theme: A Journey Through Samaria

John 4:3–4 *He left Judea, and departed again into Galilee. And he must needs go through Samaria.*

In John 4, we find Jesus leaving Judea and heading to Galilee. The Scripture says, “*He must needs go through Samaria.*” Geographically, Samaria lay between Judea and Galilee, making it one of the shortest routes. Yet culturally, it was a path avoided by many Jews due to deep-seated ethnic and religious tension. Still, Jesus *had* to pass through it—not just for the sake of a shortcut, but because of divine direction, as we shall soon see from the result.

Jesus always moved by the leading of the Father. Throughout the book of John, He repeatedly says that He only does what He sees the Father doing. So this journey was not random—it was deeply intentional. It was the unfolding of God's already decided plan. The KJV makes it even more emphatic: “*He must needs go through Samaria*”—as though He were bound to go.

As young ministers, we must know that our movement and location have everything to do with God's purpose for our lives. There are places we **must**

pass through. There are people we **must** meet. There are platforms we **must** be a part of—and more.

He Still Passes Through

Ezekiel 16:6 *And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live.*

Jesus still passes through cities, towns, and homes—and He says to them all, **LIVE!** Now guess what? He does it **through you**. You are like His hand gloves. He uses your body as His gloves and puts them on to reach the world.

Where would Jesus go—**through you**?

God in the Ordinary

During the course of the journey, Jesus became tired and hungry. The writer draws our attention to the **reality of the Incarnation**—how the Son of God fully identified with us in our pains. His disciples went into the city to buy food, while He sat by Jacob’s well to rest. He was weary, yet without a vessel to draw water—physically spent, and seemingly in need of refreshing.

To help us feel the intensity of His weariness, the writer tells us the hour it happened: the **sixth hour**, that is, **12:00pm**.—noon. It was during the heat of the day, when you’re most thirsty. Jesus was tired, hungry, and thirsty, and the disciples had gone to look for something to give Him to eat.

Jesus didn't live daily by some spectacular miracle to isolate Him from the problems of humanity. Yes, He multiplied bread at some point, yet He also used the ordinary means God had set in place. He used the kitchen and the market. Even in these ordinary and mundane things, God's hand is at work. He makes the **common sacred** by His presence.

We often think "*God is only at work in His temple,*" but we must realize **we are God's temple** in the midst of a profane world. And just like Ezekiel saw water flowing from the temple to the nations, so does the **living water** flow through us. Even in eating, drinking, meeting new friends—**living water flows through us. Ministry is not confined to the congregation.** It happens on the field, in the slums, at work, in schools, on the streets... it happens **wherever people live.**

As C.T. Studd rightly said: *"Some want to live within the sound of a chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of Hell."*

Jesus would have to pass through the addict's camp, the wounded paths, the immoral streets—having contact without contamination, **through you.** We must run a rescue shop within a yard of Hell—**just as Samaria was to the Jews.**

A Woman at the Well

Don't forget: it was noon. Jesus was tired, hungry, and thirsty. And at this point—when He was in need:

John 4:7–8 *There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)*

It was at this very point that a Samaritan woman approached Him, and the needy Jesus asked for a helping hand. He had been ministering. He had walked a long distance. He was not so familiar with that route.

What do you think? **Hope.**

If you're a good student of the Bible, you'll know that **great things happen at the well:**

- Eliezer met Rebekah at the well.
- Jacob met Rachel at the well.
- Moses met his wife at the well.

Eliezer was given water by a woman who was a stranger—not only for himself, but also for all his camels. That means **women at the well** could sometimes lend a helping hand. So her coming made Jesus say, “*Give me to drink.*” And the writer mentioned that the disciples had also gone to get food for Him—as though saying He wanted something to temporarily quench His thirst and refresh Him before they returned.

Breaking Barriers, Offering Living Water

This moment was **significant:** Jesus—a Jewish rabbi—was speaking to a **woman**, and a **Samaritan** at that.

Earlier in Matthew 10, He had instructed the disciples *not* to go to the Samaritans.

Matthew 10:5–7 *These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

But here He was—**breaking barriers, building bridges**, and offering what He called “*living water*”—that which truly satisfies the human soul.

Their conversation exposed the woman’s deepest needs—her relationship history, her questions about worship and the Messiah. And then Jesus plainly declared to her: “*I who speak to you am He.*”

She became the **first evangelist** in Samaria, running to her town and telling everyone about the Man who knew everything about her. What followed was nothing short of a **community-wide awakening**. How casual conversations can switch to eternal conversations when a man is mission-minded! How we have wasted precious moments of ordinary conversations because we were waiting for a stage, looking for a pulpit, or hoping for a perfect time to perfectly present the gospel. I think about myself—sometimes I want to preach, but I feel so tired and say, “*I’ll do it when I’m more strengthened.*” Could I have wasted many moments that could have brought eternal realities into earthly discussions? Jesus is our model. When people casually mentioned unrighteousness, have I forgotten to speak of the King of Righteousness?

Your daily, ordinary duties and conversations can have eternal impacts you never imagined.

Food You Know Not Of

When the disciples returned and found Jesus speaking with her, they were shocked—but said nothing. Instead, they urged Him to eat. He declined, saying, *“I have food to eat that you do not know about.”*

They were puzzled. Had someone already brought Him food? But Jesus explained: *“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.”* Jesus acted with strength and was rejuvenated, though He had seemed exhausted earlier.

And then He said to them: ***“Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are white already for harvest.” - John 4:35***

The disciples were focused on physical food, but Jesus was trying to shift their perspective. The harvest wasn’t just wheat—it was people. While they were busy looking down, Jesus was showing them what happens when you look up—beyond the natural, into the spiritual.

The disciples, like many of us today, were often focused on the present, the visible, and the immediate. In John 4, when Jesus was ministering to the Samaritan woman at the well, the disciples were preoccupied with food, social boundaries, and cultural prejudices. But Jesus invited them into a higher vision: to see as He sees.

What Were the Disciples Looking At?

John 4:8 notes that the disciples had gone into the town to buy food. Their primary concern was satisfying physical hunger—both Jesus’ and their own. When they returned and saw Jesus speaking with a Samaritan woman, they were confused and hesitant to ask questions (John 4:27). They were focused on:

1. Physical needs (food)
2. Cultural biases (Jews and Samaritans)
3. Gender norms (Jesus speaking with a woman)

Their perspective was natural and limited. But Jesus responded, saying, *"I have food to eat that you know nothing about"* (John 4:32). He revealed that His nourishment came from doing the will of the Father and finishing His work (John 4:34).

Temporal Concerns vs. Eternal Purpose

The disciples were concerned with the temporary. But Jesus was focused on the eternal. He said, *"Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"* - John 4:35

Jesus was addressing their mind-set. Just like in Haggai 1:2, where the people said, *"The time has not yet come to rebuild the Lord's house,"* the disciples thought the time for harvest was later. But Jesus corrected them—the time was now.

In Haggai 1:3–6, the Lord rebukes the people for prioritizing their own panelled houses while His house remained in ruins: *"You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough... You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it."* Their misplaced priorities led to barrenness.

A Call to See Differently

Jesus wanted His disciples to see what He was seeing: a ripe spiritual harvest. Just like Elisha prayed for his servant's eyes to be opened (2 Kings 6:17), Jesus was inviting the disciples into divine vision. Lift up your eyes. See beyond temporary issues. See beyond food, culture, and gender. See the harvest.

Luke 9:57–62 records people who wanted to follow Jesus but were entangled with temporal priorities: *"Let me first go and bury my father."* *"Let me first say goodbye to my family."* Jesus responded, *"No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God"* (Luke 9:62).

A Warning from Proverbs

Proverbs 10:5 says: *"He who gathers crops in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son."*

There is a time for everything (Ecclesiastes 3:1), but when it's harvest time, it is not time to sleep. This is a time to prioritize eternal things. We need to roll our sleeves and go into the harvest now.

Abraham's Vision

In Genesis 13:14–15, after Lot chose the fertile land for himself, God told

Abram: "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever."

Abram could have been discouraged by Lot's choice, but instead, God called him to see with eyes of faith. The call of Jesus in John 4 is the same for us today: lift up your eyes. See what God is doing. Look at the fields that are already white for harvest. Don't be distracted by the temporary. Don't be bound by culture, comfort, or convenience. Join in the eternal work of God.

Let us pray as Paul did:

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you..." - Ephesians 1:18

May we be a people who see as God sees, who respond to His timing, and who are fully engaged in His will and work.

Yes, I know—you may be looking at your bank account, your empty hands, your body, your family, and nothing seems to reflect what God has said. But beloved, this is exactly the point: Faith doesn't start with possession—it starts with vision.

God told Abraham to lift up his eyes and see the inheritance.

Genesis 13:14–17 "Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art... all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it... Arise, walk through the land... for I will give it unto thee."

And Abraham believed God. He began to dwell and make altars in those places—tokens of God's promises, even before the promises were fulfilled. He built altars by faith, not by physical claim. He moved from one location to another, staking spiritual ownership over territories that were not yet in his hands.

He had no child, yet he built altars. He had no land, yet he lifted his eyes. He had no evidence, yet he moved by revelation. He was taking over the land not with armies but with altars—with obedience, with worship, with prophetic actions that said, *"I believe God."*

And yes, his children inherited the land (Hebrews 11:9). His obedience laid the groundwork. But what moved Abraham was this: God was showing him beyond his present state of challenge. He was childless, old, displaced, anxious, and afraid—but God was showing him his place. As you read, God is showing you your place, would you not see? Would you not take it?

Genesis 15:5 says: *"And He brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars... So shall thy seed be."*

He had a problem on ground, but God pointed him to the stars. He had emptiness in his tent, but God showed him fullness in the skies. He had questions, but God responded with a vision.

And maybe right now, my dear reader, you are like Abraham. You are going through your own season of weariness—financial issues, health challenges, childlessness, delayed answers, uncertainty, psychological exhaustion. Life is not smooth. Your prayers feel dry. You feel abandoned, perhaps.

But listen carefully—the same word Abraham heard is coming to you: Lift up your eyes. See beyond the pain. See beyond your current health report. See beyond the overwhelming concerns. See beyond the failures. Lift up your eyes to His plans. Lift up your eyes to His purposes for the nations of the earth and start looking from your environment. Lift up your eyes to see your part in it, to see your path in it, to see what God is doing beyond what you are feeling.

Jesus Also Knew Weariness

John 4:6 *“Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well...”*

Yes, Jesus was weary. He was tired, like you. Yet He lifted up His eyes and saw a harvest coming through Samaria.

John 4:4 says: *“And he must needs go through Samaria.”*

He had to pass through Samaria—not because it was convenient, but because there was purpose there. There was something He wanted to do. He saw a people. He saw a woman. He saw the future fruit of that encounter. And from that single, weary conversation at the well, revival broke out in a city.

John 4:39 says: *“And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman...”*

So yes—Jesus was weary, yet He was fruitful. He was tired, but He was led. He was hungry, but He had a harvest in sight. And like God told Israel in

Ezekiel, even when you were abandoned and unclean, He passed through your mess and lifted you up (Ezekiel 16:6–9).

Friend, God is also passing through you—through us—to reach the those lonely women. Can't you hear the voices of those who call your name? He is moving through the land again. His eyes are on the fields.

John 4:35 declares: *"Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."*

But many of us are so focused on the problems—the politics, the poverty, the pain—that we miss the opportunity. We don't see the divine opportunities for the gospel in Nigeria. We don't see that this pressure is setting the stage for God's power to do the impossible. We are seeing the decay, but not the destiny. We are hearing noise, but not discerning the call.

But God is saying—Look Again.

Yes, the problems are real. Yes, the system is broken. But the harvest is ready.

God is calling us to move like Abraham, to see like Jesus, to go even while weary, to walk by faith, to plant altars of intercession where there are no saints gathered, to preach the gospel and have gospel campaigns in yards of hell, to claim people and places by prompt obedience.

In Nigeria, the real war is not political—it's spiritual. The real call is not escape—it's to take dominion through the gospel. So I say again, to you reading this, wherever you are, in whatever state you are:

Lift up your eyes. This is harvest.

What Is the Field? Seeing with the Eyes of Faith

Jesus saw the Samaritan woman. He had a personal encounter with her and engaged in a meaningful conversation—just one person, not a crowd. Culturally, she would have been resisted by the Jews. She seemed to be an adulterous woman and was clearly confused about faith. Yet, Jesus looked beyond all of that. He saw her with the eyes of faith. He saw a harvest in what seemed like a gloomy situation.

Then He said, *"Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest"* (John 4:35). That encounter with the Samaritan woman became a gateway to reach an entire city. How would you have seen such a situation? Would you have seen the potential for a harvest?

This is what Jesus saw:

1. Samaria and the Samaritan woman as a field ripe for harvest: There was something profound about Jesus: He had spiritual perception. He saw beyond the present. He saw beyond the woman. He understood that a single contact—a lonely boy, a gentle woman—could be a door to many more souls. One of the most powerful ways of evangelism is not just by massive outreach but by trusting God to lead us to individuals who, when transformed, can carry the gospel far and wide.

A church must be more than a gathering place—it must be a wellspring of testimonies, where lives are so radically transformed that others can't help

but notice. People should be able to say, *“Everyone who comes in contact with this church changes.”* This was how Jesus saw. He saw that woman not just as a project, but as a gateway.

Sometimes, it’s just one person or a small group you’re reaching out to—but you never know what God will do through them. I remember when I was a teenager. We had a class, and God used an elder brother in the faith for us, he was simply teaching us the Word. He helped us grow in faith, going book by book, teaching us to pray and study our Bibles. That was his focus, just us. But now, I am reaching more people than he did directly. In reaching out to me, he reached beyond me.

That’s how we must think: the person God has committed to you might be His hand extended to the nations. So when we ask, *“What is the field?”*—the answer is simple: the people around you. Don’t first dream of being a Reinhard Bonnke or a Billy Graham. First, look around you. The place God has set you might be your field.

“The most important thing you will ever do is whatever Jesus tells you to do next. Many people have dreams and visions of doing mighty things for God and making an impact in the world. Jesus told me to “Lay it all down and let your vision be no bigger than the next person God want you to meet”. - Arthur Blessitt.

2. Jesus Knew the Gift He Had: He knew the power of the living waters. That’s why He could say, *“If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that asks you*

for a drink..." (John 4:10). He was saying, "I carry something that can change everything."

Jesus knew that coming in contact with the living water would dispel darkness, heal brokenness, and restore nations. He was conscious of the divine gift He carried—His own person, the Spirit of God, and the gospel. Even when He was tired, He remained aware that He was the gift of God to the world. He carried the truth, the Spirit, and the power to transform.

We must walk in this same consciousness: that the message we preach, the Spirit we carry, and the words we speak have power. We don't minister by feelings or appearance—we minister by the power of the gift of God in us.

C. H. Spurgeon commenting on "Fields White for Harvest"

'Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.'
- John 4:35

Grind your sickles; you must go to work with such cutting truths as justification by faith, as the total ruin of mankind, as the hope that is laid up in the cross, as the energy of the Holy Spirit; and when you know these truths, and know how to use them, you shall then be made great reapers in the Master's harvest. It is idle to say, 'I will go,' and then go with no tool in your hand. Get the truth; get a hold of it well, get it sharp and in good order, and who knows, under the blessing of God the Holy Spirit, what you may do! The next want of harvest is some close binders. When the wheat is cut down you

must tie it up with sheaves. We want some of you who cannot preach, who cannot use the sickle, to go and gather up the wheat which falls under the sickle when it is used by others. Invite them to come into church fellowship; talk to them, get them into union with the people of God. And if you happen to be in the church yourselves, try to keep the church knit together in love. Bind the sheaves together. We cannot have good harvest work without loving hands to bind the people of God in one. Then we want beside these some to take the sheaves home. The church of God is the barn; it is the Master's garner here; he has another garner yonder on the hill-top in heaven, but here we want you to assist in bringing them into the church of Christ. When God has saved them, try if you can get them to practise the ordinances of God, and to be joined with his people. And we want some of you, if you cannot do anything yourselves either in reaping, or binding, or bringing the sheaves home, at least by kind words and loving speeches to bring refreshments to the reapers.

3. Lastly: Jesus acted with the Eyes of Faith: Jesus called the things that were not as though they were (Romans 4:17). He didn't wait for results to believe—He saw results in advance. He believed before He saw, and that faith became the path for manifestation. What happens when you dare to believe?

- When we believe, we move.
- When we believe, we step out of comfort zones.
- When we believe, we partner with heaven's possibilities.

Jesus had great expectations from God. He didn't approach Samaria with doubt—He approached it with faith-fueled vision. That's what happens when a man believes: he leaves safety, he acts on divine instructions, he becomes a vessel through which God's purposes are revealed. He expects God to confirm his words.

What Happens When a Man Believes?

He sees nations in barren places, like Abraham who, though childless, believed in the promise of God (Romans 4:18). He takes God's word seriously and acts on it. He sees beyond his present work and steps into the invisible.

Faith doesn't just see—it hears, and it heeds God's voice. Faith responds to the revealed will of God and moves in line with it.

And when we move in faith:

- the gospel advances.
- We see possibilities, not limitations.
- We act, and God confirms His word.

We get the job done when we believe.

It's Time to Walk: The Urgency of the Harvest

This field is wide—and that speaks of urgency. It speaks of timing. It speaks of the call to action. For the disciples, Jesus was saying: This is not the time to eat. This is not the time to be tired. This is the time to walk. This is the time

to get to work. Put your hands on the plough. Pick up the sickle. The harvest is ready. It's time to get things done. He was showing them—and He is showing us—that the world around us is ready to hear the gospel. This is the hour to serve God.

This is the day when man must work. Do not say, *"There are still four more months..."* Do not say: *"Another time will come."*

Jesus said, Open your eyes! Look at the fields—they are already white for harvest.

This calls for urgency. Because if you do not respond now, you may never respond again. And I tell you, there are moments when a man never responds again. There are divine timings that never return.

This is the time to leave temporary things and respond to eternal things. This is the time to choose purpose over pleasure, eternity over ease, and obedience over delay. Jesus was saying, *"Even now, the reaper draws his wages. Even now, he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may rejoice together."* - John 4:36

There is a divine timeline. The sower has done his part. Now the reaper must rise. The harvest is not theoretical. It's not far off. The moment is now. This is the time for the reaper to get his reward. Even from that one conversation Jesus had with the woman at the well, you could see she already carried seeds of truth. She had questions. She had glimpses of revelation. The harvest was ripe. Jesus reaped from what had already been sown.

And in doing that, He spoke prophetically to the disciples: *“I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefit of their labor.”* (John 4:38). Jesus had sown. Now the disciples would reap. The apostles and prophets laid the foundation—we are to build upon it. The sower and the reaper must now rejoice together.

The harvest is not for our barns, but for God’s kingdom—to be brought into Christ, into His body. This is the the time to respond, to respond, to labor and to work.

Now Is The Time.

Francis Schaeffer, the late Christian thinker and theologian, said the two greatest enemies of the modern church in America are “personal peace and affluence.” He was describing the prevailing indifference that envelops the body of Christ today. Christians become complacent when they are preoccupied with meeting only their needs instead of reaching out to others.

The church in America is wealthy and prosperous. But believers in many countries are imprisoned for their faith or punished with loss of their jobs. Christians in Africa and developing countries are poor. Wherever we live, there are emotional, spiritual, and physical needs, but we must first lift our eyes to the fields (John 4:35).

Complacency is also nurtured when we settle for the wisdom of our age instead of becoming *“fools for Christ’s sake”* (1 Corinthians 4:10 *NASB*). Paul

said he had *"become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things"* (1 Corinthians 4:13).

Following Christ calls for radical discipleship—denying self and discarding the wisdom of this world for the wisdom of God. Have you allowed God to disturb your comfort zone?

Father, disturb my comfort zone. Change my focus from personal peace and affluence to the harvest fields of the world. Make me a radical disciple. (Precept Austin)

David Livingstone: a Man who Imitated Jesus - Two Lives, Two Goals

Nearly 200 years ago, there were two Scottish brothers named John and David Livingstone. John had set his mind on making money and becoming wealthy, and he did. But under his name in an old edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, John Livingstone is listed simply as *"the brother of David Livingstone."*

And who was David Livingstone? While John had dedicated himself to making money, David had knelt and prayed. Surrendering himself to Christ, he resolved, *"I will place no value on anything I have or possess unless it is in relationship to the Kingdom of God."* The inscription over his burial place in Westminster Abbey reads, *"For thirty years his life was spent in an unwearied effort to evangelize."*

On his 59th birthday, David Livingstone wrote, *"My Jesus, my King, my Life, my All; I again dedicate my whole self to Thee."* (Billy Graham).

Before We Rush Into Action!

1 Samuel 17:26 *And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?*

While everyone saw danger, David saw opportunity, because he had been prepared in the secret place. He was trained in the field of the spirit before the open field of battle. He ran to the field, armed not just with stones, but with revelation of God's covenant, courage, and obedience.

He had a divine strategy birthed from fellowship with God.

1 Samuel 17:34-37 *And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.*

We need this today. David started out responding to the promptings of the Spirit in the wilderness. Killing the bear and lion isn't all natural, it must have been spirit inspired courage like that of Samson:

Judges 14:5-6 *Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him. And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.*

This was what happened to David. As the Spirit of the Lord came mightily (in Hebrew it means *tsalach* i.e., to push, cause to do) so the Spirit pushed David. He had learnt to yield. He had learnt to move in the Holy Ghost. Have you learnt to mortify the deeds of the flesh by the outworking of God's Spirit in you? Have you learnt to be filled with the Spirit in power and might in daily actions? Have you learnt to yield to promptings to preach the word?

1 Samuel 16:13 *Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.*

The activity of the Holy Spirit in a man's life is what makes Him reap the harvest in God's field. So, David had been yielding to the pushing of the Spirit in the wilderness and has been trained to yield promptly to various ripe fields of divine opportunities that is often masked with difficulties and impossibilities.

We don't just need the right tools but training in the Spirit. Consistent yieldedness to the stirrings and intuition of the Spirit. Not just exposure to platforms but eyes that see what God is doing in our time. Not just formulas,

but the boiling of the Spirit, that internal burden that makes a person restless until they obey.

Like John Piper said: *“It is wrong not to take risks for the cause of God”*

We are not called to safety. We are called to spirit-led risk—like Gideon, like David, like Esther, like Paul, like Jesus in Samaria.

So yes, this is the call: Pray for vision. Ask the Lord, “Open my eyes.” Forge your sword. Let God train your hands for battle in the quiet place. Kill your bears and lions now. Step into the field. Not out of ambition, but out of obedience. Take holy risks. Not careless moves, but Spirit-inspired boldness.

This is not just digital strategy—it’s spiritual alignment.

It is the sword of the Lord and the sword of Gideon. It is partnership with God.

Eyes Lifted: A Field Worker’s Personal Evaluation & Practice Journal

1. Every Time is God’s Time

Summary: Time is sacred. Every moment holds divine intention.

Reflect:

- Do I usually wait for “God’s time” or do I see every time as sacred?
- How do I use my free time? What does that say about my vision of God’s timing?

Action Steps:

- Keep a “Time Diary” for 3 days, noting how each hour is spent.

- Each night, ask: “Did I see God’s will in today?”

Commitment: Lord, train me to live by Your rhythm, not mine.

2. He Must Needs Go Through Samaria

Summary: Movement must be by divine prompting, not human convenience.

Reflect:

- What “Samaritan roads” is God calling me to walk through?
- Am I avoiding people, places, or assignments because of discomfort?

Action Steps:

- Identify one uncomfortable but meaningful place God may want you to enter this week (a person, a space, a habit).
- Schedule a deliberate visit or interaction.

Commitment: I will pass through Samaria—led by love, not comfort.

3. Lift Up Your Eyes

Summary: We must look beyond the seen to discern the spiritual harvest around us.

Reflect:

- What have I been looking at lately—*problems or promises*?
- Who around me could be a harvest field I’ve ignored?

Action Steps:

- Ask God each morning: “Who do you want me to see today?”

- Write the name of one person/place God lays on your heart and reach out.

Commitment: I will lift up my eyes. I will see the field.

4. The Power of the Ordinary

Summary: Ministry flows in the mundane—at wells, markets, and tired moments.

Reflect:

- Have I limited God’s work to formal ministry settings?
- Do I engage with people meaningfully in the everyday?

Action Steps:

- Choose one daily routine (commute, mealtime, work) and dedicate it as “ministry moment.”
- Ask: “How can I offer living water here?”

Commitment: Jesus, use my ordinary for Your extraordinary.

5. Altars Before Inheritance

Summary: Faith builds altars before seeing fulfillment.

Reflect:

- A waiting for evidence before obedience?
- Where can I raise an altar today—*of intercession, obedience, gospel campaign?*

Action Steps:

- Write down a promise God has made to you.

- Build an altar—*through prayer, fasting, or service*—as a token of faith (5 loaves of bread sacrificed can later lead to thousands salvation).

Commitment: I will build altars before possession.

6. Trained by the Spirit

Summary: Reaping requires training. David killed lions in secret before facing Goliath.

Reflect:

- What “secret training” has God been giving me?
- Have I been faithful in the small promptings of the Spirit?

Action Steps:

- Practice and journal 3 days of “Prompted Obedience”: act quickly on every nudge from God, however small.
- Journal the outcomes.

Commitment: Train me, Lord. Make me sensitive and swift.

7. The Urgency of Now

Summary: The harvest is now. Delayed obedience is disobedience.

Reflect:

- What have I been postponing in my call or walk with God?
- Who might miss salvation or encouragement because of my delay?

Action Steps:

- Write a “Now List”: 3 things you’ve delayed spiritually.
- Do one of them today.

Commitment: I will not sleep in harvest. I will rise now.

8. The Next Person God Wants You to Meet

Summary: True impact is not measured by crowds or platforms, but by obedience to the next instruction—often, the next person God places in our path.

Key Quote: “The most important thing you will ever do is whatever Jesus tells you to do next. Many people have dreams and visions of doing mighty things for God and making an impact in the world. Jesus told me to ‘Lay it all down and let your vision be no bigger than the next person God wants you to meet.’” – Arthur Blessitt

Reflect:

- Am I more focused on big visions than present obedience?
- Who might be the 'next person' God is calling me to minister to or love today?
- Have I overlooked anyone close because I’m waiting for a bigger calling?

Action Steps:

- Pray each morning: 'Lord, who is the one person You want me to see today?'

- Be attentive to the person nearest to you—at work, school, home, or church—and intentionally show the love of Christ.
- Write down one encounter you believe was Spirit-led and what it taught you.

Commitment: I will not overlook the one for the sake of the many. I will value the next person as God's priority.

ABOUT THE YOUNG MINISTERS' FORUM

The Young Ministers' Forum (TYMF) is a parachurch movement committed to strengthening and equipping young ministers to fulfill God's purpose. Our goal is to inspire and train a new generation of Gospel-driven leaders who will actively advance the Great Commission in every sphere of influence. We provide mentorship, teaching, and fellowship to help young ministers navigate challenges such as distractions, ministry decadence, loneliness, and balancing life responsibilities.

Vision: "Strengthening and Equipping Young Ministers to Serve God's Purpose."

MISSION

Mentorship: We connect young ministers with experienced leaders who provide biblical teaching, practical ministry insights, and personal guidance to foster spiritual growth and effectiveness.

Training and Equipping: Through workshops, seminars, and structured training sessions, we enhance ministerial effectiveness, doctrinal understanding, and active ministerial engagement.

Fellowship and Camaraderie: TYMF provides a network for like-minded ministers to connect, share experiences, and strengthen one another in faith and ministry.

Resources and Support: We produce resources like tracts, booklets, ebooks, evangelistic and study materials for outreaches and strengthening local churches.

Personal and Spiritual Development: We emphasize character building, spiritual disciplines, and holistic growth, ensuring that ministers are well-grounded in faith and integrity.

Mission and World Evangelism: With a strong passion for evangelism and cross-cultural ministry, we encourage young ministers to embrace their calling to spread the Gospel globally.

TYMF invites young ministers seeking growth, mentorship, and alignment with God's purpose to join our community and benefit from its resources.