

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEN IN ACCELERATING **FELLOWSHIP IN THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL CHURCH**

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By Rev. C. Ben Hezekiah, Ph.D.

INTRODUCTION

There is primarily one word that is translated as “fellowship,” in the New Testament and it is the Greek word *koinonia*. This word is derived from *koinos*, which means *to have something in common*. When it becomes *koinonia*, which is primarily how it is used in the New Testament, it conveys the idea of *fellowship, interaction, mutual participation, or partnership*. Acts 2:42 is a great example of fellowship, where we are told about the early Church:

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers” (NKJV).

The word “fellowship” in this verse reveals that right from the outset of the Early Church, the believers entered into fellowship, interaction and partnership with one another. This fellowship and partnership became so strong that it carried them through the turbulent periods of their time; and accelerating fellowship today cannot do less. In a similar way, the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Philippians speaks of their “partnership” in the Gospel; he meant that they were his partners (1:5). He was doing his part and they were doing theirs and, together, they made a great team that was having an eternal impact. Everyone was on the same team, moving toward the same goal. They were simply fulfilling different roles to get the work of the church done. Evaluation of the Bible and church’ history unravels that men have been used by God to play important roles in accelerating (fellowship) the work of God. Men have the responsibility to live in a way that honors God and reflects his character. God has been pictured in the Bible as seeking to use men to fulfill his eternal purpose. Every (man) member of the church is commanded to be a godly example that leads others to grow in Christ; men of the church are specially commissioned to serve others in the church. Leadership over the entire church history is a role that has featured men prominently. In the absence of ready men, God had used women. This was an exception rather than a rule.

Key Words: **Role:** Expected behaviour pattern determined by status in a particular family; **Responsibility:** Fact of being answerable or accountable for something within one’s control; **Accelerate:** To move faster, advance or to progress; **Fellowship:** shared participation within a community.

A REVIEW OR ASSESSMENT OF WHAT THE CHURCH/MEN IS DOING NOW.

There has never been a perfect church and by extension a perfect men's ministry. There is a seeming loss of fellowship in some places. The measurement of progress towards the roles, and responsibilities of men in accelerating fellowship in the church is key to demonstrating the necessity and justification for an impactful men ministry in the church. The men's ministries have challenges and until we are in heaven, we always will. This assessment put the church into two groups. The first group, are churches below average in the roles and responsibilities and the second group are churches above average. In the first group, our Men's ministry has maintained a parochial approach to ministry. The status quo include: Weekly Scheduled Men's meeting, Two or three times in a year Rally, Once a while Conference, Struggle to raise fund, donations or levies, local officers stay donkey years in office hardly with tangible or appreciable results. Furthermore, it is easily perceived that there are no new projects or Programs, and there is lack of dynamic and creative leadership. The men in this group are usually very cold and inactive in Church Worship especially on Sundays. The atmosphere of operation among this group suggests that there is no well-coordinated caring and hospitality among the men; no clear-cut approach for support to the ministry. At this operational level, there is lack of vision. Most of the men in this category seem to be in one financial level. There is spiritual laxity and lukewarmness to say the least. The inability of the men to see themselves as gate keepers from creation poses another challenge and some Pastors are not deeply involved in the week-to-week affairs of the Men's department. It is rather seen as their thing instead of our thing.

The second group has done things differently. The men here are very zealous for God, the church and the department. They embark on impactful projects and programs. Churches in this group go on Evangelism. The department is lively and dynamic. The churches are viable by every standard and the impact of individual men is felt. For example, a single man roofed Okigwe South District secretariat at a cost of over 35 million Naira; a man built a district auditorium costing over 700 million Naira; a man bought land and built a church; a man bought cars for pastors and built houses for fellow men. In this category, Men undertake Medical outreaches, and enforce the socio-humanitarian mandate of men's ministries. More so, entrepreneurial development of the Men and other members of the church is promoted and championed by the men's ministries. Pastors in this group are very supportive and deeply involved in the week-to-week affairs of the Men's department.

A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE OF WHAT THE MEN SHOULD BE DOING (1 Corinthians 16:13-14, Philippians 4:13, 1 Corinthians 14:20)

Throughout the Bible and in the church's history, God has used men to forward His

sovereign and eternal plan for His people. God has frequently been portrayed throughout the history of His people as looking for men to play the roles He has intended for them: "...The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart..." (1 Sam 13:14, NKJV). "And I sought a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none (Ezek 22:30, AMP). The scriptures above and many other similar ones indicate that it is not an overstatement to say that the welfare of God's people rises and falls on the men. And as the last verse indicates, the unfortunate absence of men who "stand in the gap" is all too common. Today's churches will rise to the standards of their Lord only if they have men who are loving leaders, effective teachers, and godly examples.

The function of overseeing the entire church is one that is specifically intended for men. Almost all positions of authority in biblical history were held by men. God occasionally employed women in the absence of excellent men, but this had been the exception rather than the rule. Everyone, including women, has a legitimate position to serve in the church. However, for the most part, it has remained a scriptural norm for male leadership in the church throughout the previous nineteen centuries. Unfortunately, few men are assuming leadership roles in the church and the home and leading it toward a more virtuous path. In the church and at home, the man is to be the leader. Sadly, though, there are moments when he refuses to do it. At such times, Wives and other women have confided that they are frequently forced to make crucial decisions because the men who are meant to handle them are not representing well. Men must accept accountability, have the guts to become leaders, pray, and put our faith in God to guide us first. However, men are expected to lead with love and gentleness, humility, and selflessness. Whether it is our children, our wives, or leading God's people, we are to treat everyone in our care with gentleness and regard (1 Peter 5:1-3). Men were required to be loving leaders and prohibited from being tyrants or seeking only their own benefit in any way. Also, Men are to labour in that we are to provide for our families and support the ministry of the Church with responsible stewardship of our substance (money). The man cannot be indolent or ill-equipped. He is to be learned and be ready for any good work. He is to be the prime mover in the Church in all its ministries.

Often there is a sad lack of effective male teachers in the church for the Sunday school, missions work and other ministries as well. Christian men must make a conscious effort to read, study, meditate and apply God's Word and to be trained to teach others also. It is written,

"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2, NKJV).

The churches need more Timothy's and Titus' to carry on the functions of effective

teaching and preaching of God's Word to the flock of God. Men are to have multiple effect ministries to reach to more men of Christ. This is the will of God concerning us.

Among others, men are to be godly examples that lead others to grow in Christ. The men of the church are especially commissioned to serve others in this way. Being an example or positive model is such an integral part of effective leading and teaching (1 Pet 5:3; 2 Thess 3:6–7) that those roles cannot be fulfilled effectively without it. The following are qualities with regard to men in the pursuit of whom and what they represent as leaders:

- 1). They are to be one-woman men and faithful to their spouses. Fidelity at home begets fidelity to God in the church.
- 2). They are to be spiritually stable, watchful and alert, having a clear, biblical perspective of life and are to be self-controlled.
- 3). Men are to know their priorities, be wise and discreet in their ways. They are to have such well-ordered lives that they are honoured for it and are to be examples for others to follow.
- 4). Men are not to be addicted to alcohol or drugs or craving of any kind. They need to be in control of themselves and be well- disciplined.
- 5). Men should not be self-centered. A church should not have men in leadership who are concerned only about themselves. The important thing about church leaders is that they be genuinely concerned for the people they are leading and the cause of the gospel. Neither should God's man have a volatile temperament; they must be patient and have a good disposition and not easily agitated or provoked.
- 6). Men are required to keep their children and spouse under control with dignity, and be the head of the house. "Men should be as good as you can be, because your sons and daughters will follow in your footsteps" (Ihekoronye, 2024).
- 7). They are to be consecrated in their lives and committed to the service of the Lord in the church.
- 8). The early Church was known for the following (Odionyenma, 2024):
 - a. **Spiritual and Concentrated in their Conviction to Ministry.** Their attention and concentration were second to none. Hence, they we will rather obey God than men. The kind of energy, vibe and seriousness in depopulating hell was very contagious and challenging.
 - b. **More Practical in their Approach to Ministry.** In less than two years Apostle Paul had covered the whole of Asia with the Gospel. They were action packed

or activity oriented. We may say that they live obscurity, lacked modern technologies that are now more accessible but their impact was undeniable.

- c. **Risk Takers than the Men of Today in Ministry.** They were endearing, faced heathenism squarely, and confronted opposition to the word of God even at the risk of their lives. 2 Corinthians 11: 22-33 was a recount of Apostle Paul and his team's risk for the sake of the ministry. We can also relish with nostalgia the challenging and fiery experiences of the Apostle and the early church in their effort to defend this faith. Elder James warns us to earnestly defend this faith (trust, commission, divine calling, and divine responsibility). How many of our Men today are ready to risk all to see the Church grow or move to the next level of spiritual, numerical, financial and structural advancement. May local churches, gifts, graces and ministries not die in our hands.
- d. **Time Conscious in their Radical Ministry.** The early Church was time conscious in their radical approach to gospel presentation. They were more persuasive, more radical, more theological and more technical in handling the scriptures and the soul of sinners. They were dynamic with lots of initiative and creativity in ministry. The early Church had little or no technology and modernization but they used their imaginative ability to the advantage of the Church and ministry. See creativity and imaginary capacity of Apostle Paul in Athens. What of before Felix and Agrippa. He replicated himself in Timothy, Titus, Silas just to mention a few. We need role models.
- e. **More Action, Authority and Power.** They were like fiery furnace burning irreversibly. Their action and authority were unprecedented in human history. For them, no dull moment; no room for excuses. No room for fear or favour. It's either Christ is magnified above all demons and men alike or no other name existed. They were not entangled with fear, timidity, tribalism and ungodly conviviality. MEN! Wake up and rule your world. We are more than this!

RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO RESET AND STEP BY STEP APPROACH FOR A MORE ROBUST MEN'S MINISTRIES IN THIS DIRECTION

Some of the necessary step by step approaches to take in resetting the men for a more robust ministries should include, though not exhaustive, the following:

Step 1: Revisit the Vision, Mission and Objectives of Men's Ministries. It may be pertinent to ask, "How many men in our national church know freely and can passionately recite the vision, mission and objectives of Men's Ministries. This is more or less a cognitive approach or mindset. It may not be an over statement that 'over 70 per cent of men do not know or understand what they are. Let the men come to terms with the vision, mission and objectives of the department. Only when this is

achieved at least 70 to 90 per cent will be able to advance to appreciable level.

Step 2: Need for a Functional Template. There should be a national template on what is expected of each local church men's ministries represent, how it should operate and what to accomplish based on the relevance.

Step 3: Need to Repackage our Brand. Men's Ministries is more than just 'MM'. Men's Ministries is more than the slogan, 'Quit ye like men'. Let our brand reflect our evolution, identity, and future aspirations. If need be we may reconsider our slogan and review our perceived sentiments.

Step 4: Do away with fire Brigade Approach to Fundamental Issues. Hit and run is not the best way to fight and win massively. All men should devout to the tenets of men. Amend were necessary in view of the present realities. New wine will hardly fit into old wineskin.

Step 5: Purpose Oriented Meetings. With a clear purpose in mind, participants come prepared to the meeting, armed with ideas and insights. In this clime, the meeting starts with a focused discussion, leveraging on the collective knowledge of the group. As the meeting progresses, decisions are reached, action steps are defined and responsibilities are assigned. Our normal, usual conventional and routine weekly meetings and rallies contents should be seriously improved upon. The usual "say opening prayer, read the Bible and preach and or teach, pray and dismiss needs serious repair. There should be a systematic and an intentional approach to relevance. Buy into modern trends and realities.

Step 6: Training or Orientation on Financial/Empowerment Trends. A considerable percentage of our men are poor and leave below average. As long as this is obviously so, the challenge of failure in all ramifications will persist. This is so because everything about life and the work of God requires finance. We should stop shying away from money matters. You cannot build great churches without money. You cannot raise quality and fruitful missionary trust without adequate funding. You cannot sustain any thing here in this life without proper care and money. Virtually everything including God's work requires money yet greater per cent age of our men are living below poverty line. Both pastors and other men are hungry alike. So who helps who? The men who should give bountifully and cheerfully still give to God sparingly, tightfisted, and with grudges. This is not acceptable. They have misconstrued the text 'let your right hand not see what you have in the other hand to offer to the Lord'. This behavior calls for serious re-orientation of our men and by extension the entire AG Family. For this, men should be exposed to constant practical financial orientation and money acquisition through seminars, symposium, workshops, and financial management windows. Expose men to real success windows. Dr. Anyanwu, opines that men's ministries should be palliative

driven (2024).

Step 7: Engaging in acts of service in our communities. They will know we are Christian men by our helping to spread the love of Jesus through acts of charity that can send ripples of love and giving that will draw people to Jesus. Men's ministries can take place in the wider community like a recreation center as part of evangelical outreach programs.

Step 8: Loving the Brethren. Love is more than talk: We should demonstrate our love by deeds of compassion. As we love the brethren we know that we are of the truth. We should look out for one another. Where available, give job opportunities to men in the fellowship rather than give none members.

Step 9: Spirit empowered Ministry: This is a ministry with men who have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to live lives that point others to Christ. Men empowered by the Spirit will continuously live and run the department in the conscious presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, letting His mind, through the Word of God, dominate everything that is planned and done.

CONCLUSION

The roles and responsibilities of men in accelerating fellowship in the church cannot be overemphasized. It is a leadership one, that is, to be exemplary and God-fearing. It is to be exercised in love and with a good and caring disposition in both the church and the home. Sometimes, women have to take over when men relegate their responsibilities to them. If men fail to take the lead, then we have really failed miserably. We need to be accountable to God (2 Cor. 5:10) and fulfill God-given roles with the strength and wisdom He provides, relying on Him for guidance and direction always. Above all, we still acknowledge that, since the LORD is building the house, our labour in fellowship with Him cannot be in vain, and since the LORD is guiding the city—men's ministries, the watchman cannot stay awake in vain (Psalm 127:1). My beloved MEN, let's arise and take our rightful place.

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FELLOWSHIP: THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEN IN THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL CHURCH

By Rev. Femi Adegoke.

"So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one"

Ezekiel 22:30.

"Help, Lord; for the godly man ceaseth; For the faithful fail from among the children of men"

Psalms 12: 1

"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong"

1 Corinthians 16:13

INTRODUCTION:

An Overview of the Importance of Men's Roles and Involvement in Church Fellowship

God has given men three major roles and responsibilities in the physical realms, which can be applied to spiritual matters as well. Men are designed to procreate, provide, and protect. Considerably, Assemblies of God Nigeria in general and the men's ministry in particular would receive a pass mark at the physical level, but spiritually, as it concerns these three pillars, we aren't getting it right in most of our local churches, sections, districts, and even sometimes at the General Council, and the three pillars are necessary to accelerate effective fellowship at all levels.

Firstly, by spiritual procreation, I mean adding new members to the men's ministry through evangelism and witnessing instead of relying on new members through marriage. Secondly, lack of provision through financial support and project financing is more noticeable in the men's ministry than in other ministries like women and youth. And thirdly, men's ministry suffers the most neglect from the clergy, probably because the majority of our pastors joined the ministry as youths and have never been members of the men's department. Most of our pastors, too, do not consider themselves members of the men's department, unlike our female pastors, who are active in the women's ministries.

Sadly, the neglect of men's ministry could be likened to **Ezekiel 22:30**, where God revealed,

"So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall and stand in the

gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one."

Lack of effective male workers in our churches is affecting not only the men's department but the Sunday school and mission departments as well. Often, our churches are filled mostly with women and young people who are thrust into leadership positions as a result of the scarcity of committed men for such responsibilities. Our failure as men to lead is denying the church the unique perspective and skill set that men bring to the table, and this is greatly affecting the growth and health of the church as a whole.

This consultation therefore aims to take a critical look at fellowship and the men's department's first directive in light of the roles and responsibilities of men in the local and national church.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP EVALUATION: A CRITICAL REVIEW

All men in the local church, regardless of their age, demographic, or life stage, must prioritize men's fellowship, as it is crucial for the church's healthy growth. To effectively evaluate our men's fellowship, there is a need to ask ourselves some poignant questions, like: What really is the meaning of men's fellowship? Do we need a strong men's fellowship? What does the Bible say about men's fellowship? And what are the benefits of having an effective men's fellowship? When we have given adequate answers to these questions, we can then successfully evaluate men's roles and responsibilities in three major ways: her people, her program, and her projects.

Back to the question on the real meaning of men's fellowship: men's fellowship is a group of men who are committed to serving collectively by examining and relying on scripture and life experiences to assist one another as they endeavour to follow the path left by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. If we need a strong men's fellowship, The answer is unequivocal: yes! The biblical basis of men's fellowship as a question will be considered in detail later in this consultation. And finally, the benefits of a strong men's ministry in the church include providing opportunities for men to grow spiritually, addressing the unique needs and responsibilities of men biblically, connecting and networking with other kingdom men in small group settings, and giving room for accountability as men come together with other kingdom men to serve the ministries of the church and participate in approved community outreach projects.

We can successfully evaluate men's roles and responsibilities in three major ways:

a) The People: An Evaluation of Leadership, Unity, Diversity, and Mentorship: It takes a man to train a man to be a man. The increasing demands and

distractions of modern life with busy work schedules, family commitments, social activities, and the lack of role models should be a source of concern to all of us. The younger generations of men need mentors, which unfortunately are hard to come by in Assemblies of God Nigeria. The older generation of men needs to do better by offering guidance and encouragement to the next generation as they navigate their spiritual paths. As it is commonly said, "Don't blame them if you didn't train them."

Another area of our failure is the lack of investment in our men. According to Proverbs 27:17, "As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend." We need to foster a sense of community and belonging within the church family by offering support to one another not only in our faith journey but also in our marketplace. We cannot expect a harvest where we did not invest. The church needs to create a more balanced and inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and appreciated for who they are. Men also need to step up and lead the women, youth, and children of all backgrounds and ages to build a strong and vibrant church community that reflects the diversity of God's kingdom.

b) The Programs: An Evaluation of Participation in Services and Outreaches

Lack of relevant and engaging programs specifically designed for men is one of the main reasons why men's involvement in most of our churches and national programs is lacking. Attendance and participation in programs among our men are dangerously low, and it sometimes seems as if our church programs are designed for women, youth, and children, leaving men feeling left out and disengaged. Without programs that appeal to their interests and needs, men are less likely to participate in church activities.

The decline in men's attendance and involvement in church activities is a concerning trend, even at national programs like Peniel and Easter retreat. In fact, if we take a survey of our church, we will be shocked to know that few can boast of a men's department of over 100 committed members. Assemblies of God Churches need to wake up and actively seek to engage men by offering programs such as men's groups, sports activities, and leadership development initiatives that will yield positive results in men's participation and engagement.

c) Project Financing: Evaluating Participation

One of the signs of revival is generous giving, because giving reveals what we value. A five-year study that culminated in 2013 revealed that only 10–25 percent of people in the church give to the church. The failure of men's department projects financing is scattered everywhere; unlike women and youth ministries at all levels that start and complete projects including buildings and the purchase of buses, etc., you will rarely see any departmental projects done by men. An example is the never-ending national men's department building at Okpoto, while the women's ministries have successfully completed three buildings and purchased a bus. Of course, we know that

the national youth ministry also has a completed building at the camp. Of course, men hide under the laughable notion that we are the financiers of all other departments, including women and youth, both at home and in the church. How then do our dependents successfully complete projects and we, the financiers, couldn't achieve some? Maybe men are behind in project financing and execution because some don't believe in giving or don't know why they are giving? Maybe some are willing to give, but they're in a difficult financial season or they have too much debt. Could be some don't know how to give because they have not been taught? Or probably many are not participating because they don't know where their money goes or don't trust the churches and men's leadership?

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON MEN'S ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE CHURCH

The idea of Christian men's fellowship is not a new concept. From the disciples who followed Jesus to the early church in Acts, men have gathered together in a community of faith to learn, grow, and support one another. In fact, the Bible is full of examples of men who forged strong bonds of brotherhood as they navigated the challenges of living a life of faith. According to 2 Timothy 2:2, *"And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."* Men are enjoined to keep passing the baton from generation to generation because the kingdom of God and churches of Jesus Christ depend on godly men, as seen in *Ezekiel 22:30*. *"So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall and stand in the gap before me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one."* and *Psalms 12:1*. *"Help, Lord; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men."*

Biblically, male headship means that men have a holy obligation to lead their family and congregation to serve God, as enjoined in

Joshua 24:15. *"And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."*

One of the key reasons why men's involvement in church fellowship is essential is their ability to provide strong leadership and guidance. Men are often natural leaders and can inspire others to grow in their faith and walk with God. A leader is a man who does it first, does it best, does it cheerfully, and enforces compliance. The apostle in *1 Corinthians 16:13* wrote *"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong"* Quitting ourselves like men here means that great men are willing to take pain and boldly do what is right, no matter what. For a husband, it means that he has his wife's best interests at heart, that he sacrifices his own desires for hers, and that he puts her

first in his affections. For an elder in the local church, it means that he leads first, last, and always by serving others, whatever the cost.

To further understand a man's authority, we should look closely into the life of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. As the Son of Man, Jesus is the essence of manhood. In fact, his life and teachings reveal man's authority. Behold, Jesus Christ was full of the Holy Spirit and lived in full obedience and complete dependence on the Word of God. We can say of Christ in human nature that He was a man after God's heart. He came to the earth not to fulfil his will but that of God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. By so doing, Jesus Christ fully reflected the fruit of the Spirit, as seen in

Galatians 5:22–23. *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such, there is no law.”*

Hence, the life of a true man of God should also reflect these works of the Spirit.

Men are the pillars of the church, just like Paul saw Peter, James, and John as pillars of the mother church in Jerusalem.

Galatians 2:9 says, *“And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.”*

Just as King David was considered the pillar of the nation of Israel (Psalm 11:3; 75:3; 82:5; I Sam 2:8).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING MEN'S MINISTRIES: HOW TO RESET YOUR MEN'S MINISTRY AND A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH FOR A MORE ROBUST MEN'S MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH.

A) HOW TO RESET YOUR MEN'S MINISTRY:

Here are some recommendations on how to reset the men's ministries in the church.

I) Conduct a thorough assessment of current men's ministries.

Before implementing any changes, conduct a needs assessment to understand the current needs and preferences of the men in your department. Do this through surveys, focus groups, or one-on-one interviews. Review the attendance rates, feedback, and overall impact of the men's ministry on the lives of the men. This will give you insight into the specific challenges and desires of the men in your ministry, so you can tailor your programs and activities to better meet their needs.

ii) Identify key areas for improvement and growth.

Once a thorough assessment has been conducted, it is important to identify key areas for improvement and growth within the men's ministry, pinpoint areas that need attention, and create targeted strategies for enhancing the overall effectiveness.

iii) Improve communication and engagement.

Church leaders should strive to keep men informed about upcoming events, opportunities for service, and ways to get involved in the ministry. This could include creating a dedicated WhatsApp group where men can stay connected and engaged with the ministry.

iv) Provide opportunities for growth and development.

Provide opportunities for growth and development in all areas of life—spiritual, emotional, relational, and physical.

v) Foster a sense of community and brotherhood.

By embracing diversity and inclusion. Ensure that the department welcomes men of all backgrounds, ages, and experiences to ensure that all men feel seen and valued within the ministry.

B. A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO ENHANCING MEN'S INVOLVEMENT.

Here are some recommendations on a step-by-step approach for a more robust and revitalized men's ministry in the church.

i) Establish clear goals, objectives, and a strategic plan.

Build strong relationships among the men in the church by setting clear goals, tangible objectives, and strategic plans for enhancing men's involvement in the church. Think outside the box.

ii) Provide meaningful opportunities for service.

Encourage men to get involved in outreach programs, mission trips, and volunteer opportunities within your church.

iii) Provide mentorship and discipleship opportunities for men.

Mentorship and discipleship play a crucial role in helping men grow and mature in their faith. Pairing younger or less experienced men with more seasoned and mature believers can provide valuable support and guidance. Mentorship can provide men with a sense of accountability, encouragement, and wisdom as they navigate life's challenges. This will foster a culture of accountability and support among men in the church.

iv) Provide leadership development opportunities.

Many men have a wealth of untapped leadership potential. By investing in the

leadership development of men, you empower them to take on greater roles and responsibilities, help them grow in faith, and develop a sense of purpose and fulfillment.

v) Create specific programs and events tailored to men's needs and interests. Consider introducing new programs or activities that appeal to men, like leadership training, outreach programs, small group initiatives, mentorship programs, and retreats, including topics that cover fatherhood, financial management, mental health, work-life balance, and spiritual leadership.

vi) Celebrate successes and milestones. It's important to celebrate successes and milestones within the men's ministry, whether it's serving on a mission trip or reaching a personal goal. Celebrating these milestones can encourage men to continue growing in their faith and inspire others to get involved in the ministry.

vii) Evaluate and adjust regularly. Finally, it is essential to evaluate the effectiveness of your revamped men's ministry regularly. Collect feedback from participants, track attendance and engagement metrics, and assess the impact of your programs and activities. Use this feedback to continually make adjustments and refinements to your men's ministry.

In conclusion, men play a vital role in accelerating fellowship in the church through their leadership, encouragement, and example. By recognizing the importance of their roles and actively embracing their responsibilities, men can make a lasting impact on the church community and further its mission of spreading God's love.

Let us continue to support and uplift our men as they strive to be beacons of faith and sources of inspiration within the church.