

MLR 2023 PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOP GENERAL

OUTLINE

“LABOURING UNDER OPEN HEAVENS IN THE WORKPLACE”

WORKSHOP BURDEN

Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." Joh 1:50-51 NKJV

God called forth the **Rehoboth** of our labours at the Ministers Leadership Retreat (MLR) of 2021. This marked the beginning of the season of an abiding, abounding and abundant fruitfulness in our labours for revival. Thereafter, the LORD has commanded us to pursue the “thief” that has stolen, killed and destroyed righteousness, godliness and peace from our homelands and workplaces. He assures us that with the help of His Spirit, we shall surely overtake our adversary and recover all our losses.

This year, He has declared that **“Hereafter, you shall see Heaven open ...”**. This means that the unprecedented Divine visitation for which we have prayed, laboured and waited is now at hand. We are at the threshold of an unbroken flow of Divine grace and mercy from heaven upon the Son of Man who is at work in our lives.

The Father will open the heavens unto us to glorify Jesus, to confirm the Gospel message with signs following and to establish His Kingdom upon the Earth. This unusual open heavens is being released to sponsor the mission of Christ Jesus on our hands.

In our Professional Workshop at this MLR, we need to strategize on how to labour diligently to establish His Kingdom in the workplace. Otherwise, we shall end up wasting the unusual open heavens we have graciously received from on-High.

DISCUSSIONS

Read John 1:50-51 again.

1. List the areas and aspects of your profession and workplace that have suffered lack or loss of godliness under “closed heavens”.
2. What change do you desire to see in each of these as you come under the unusual “open heavens”?
3. Notice that Jesus said to Nathanael: “... **do you believe?** (Joh 1:50). This is quite similar to what He also said to Martha: “... **Do you believe this?**” Again He said:

"Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" (Joh 1:26, 40).

- a. Discuss the importance of believing this prophetic Word of Christ regarding the resurrection of those aspects of your workplace where righteousness is currently considered "dead and buried" and salvation of the lost souls of your professional colleagues. ***"If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."*** (Mar 9:23).
 - b. If you do believe, Jesus expects you to ***"Take away the stone."*** What are the "stones" that you must arise to remove from the "dead" practices in your professional environment?
 - c. Taking the "dead" practices one by one, discuss and outline the effective procedure to follow in removing each "stone".
4. Jesus said: ***"hereafter you shall see heaven open ..."*** The word ***hereafter*** is an adverb of continuity. It means ***following this***. Heaven will not open upon your profession or workplace in a vacuum. It only comes as you are busy believing Christ and following Him.
 - a. Discuss the need to intensify your labours in disciple-making and purging of your workplace of ungodliness as you await the unprecedented dimension of open heavens.
 - b. In what other ways can you persevere in your ***pursuit to overtake and recover all*** that is lost within your professional domain as you expect unusual open heavens?
5. The open heavens shall trigger the traffic of ***"the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man"***. What is the relevance of this to those who are seeking revival in their workplaces? This reveals to us that God is clearly not interested in doing business with any other person on earth besides Christ Jesus. The Father cannot invest on earth in anything or anyone that does not profit ***the Son of Man***. Therefore:
 - a. Do you pledge to live for Christ alone and faithfully represent Him in all you do professionally?
 - b. In what practical ways can you diligently focus on living for Christ and faithfully representing Him in all you do on your professional platform?
 - c. What could possibly hinder you from living as a true ambassador of Christ in your workplace? What is the Biblical solution to each of the identified hinderances?
6. What steps should you arise from here to take in your pursuit for recovery of all the losses in your professional domain:
 - a. ***Individually***, as you personally live for the Lord and serve Him on a daily basis?
 - b. ***Collectively***, in your workplace, in your various professional associations and fellowships?
7. The unusual open heavens we are stepping into by the mercy of God should not end our pursuit to overtake and recover all. We shall continue our pursuit

with an even greater vigour with the aim to recover all. The unusual open heavens will rather supernaturally accelerate our pursuit and hasten our recovery of all that we lost.

- a. When you catch up with the **‘invaders’** of your workplace, how practically should you **‘overtake’** the enemy and begin to recover what is under his bondage? Discuss with reference to the peculiarities of your profession.
- b. We **‘Overtake’** when we **“take over”** the control and can begin the process of **‘recovery’**. How should you go about the **‘recovery’** of the losses you have suffered in your professional environment? Discuss the **recovery** of the following losses:
 - i. Salvation of the souls of men and women who are either colleagues or clients.
 - ii. Strategic raising of disciples among influential colleagues in the profession.
 - iii. Envisioning all disciples who are professional colleagues for Kingdom service in the workplace.
 - iv. Deliberate posting of envisioned disciples in strategic positions to take over, fill and subdue the professional landscape.
 - v. Aggressive rewriting and replacing the unrighteous principles and practices in our professions with those of the Kingdom of Christ.

SUMMARY OF CONVICTIONS AND PRAYERS

- A. Assign one of the leaders of each Onsite Workshop Group to take notes during the sessions. At the end of the session, he or she should present a summary of the convictions and strategies arrived at during the discussions. Participants may offer corrections and additions if they have any.
- B. The leaders of the group should also appoint someone to lead the closing prayers of each session.
- C. During the closing prayers of a session, a brief moment of time should first be given for individual prayers on the fresh convictions each person may have contracted during the session. Corporate praying may then follow, drawing each point of prayer from the group’s summary of convictions and strategies.

CONCLUSION

The final Workshop Group session may conclude with the following useful items:

1. Presentation of upcoming events and any other information of relevance to the particular professional hub.
2. Verification and completion of the attendance register of participants in the Onsite Workshop Group.
3. Other useful discussions related to the future plans of the group in order to continue pursuing with passion and personal commitment.