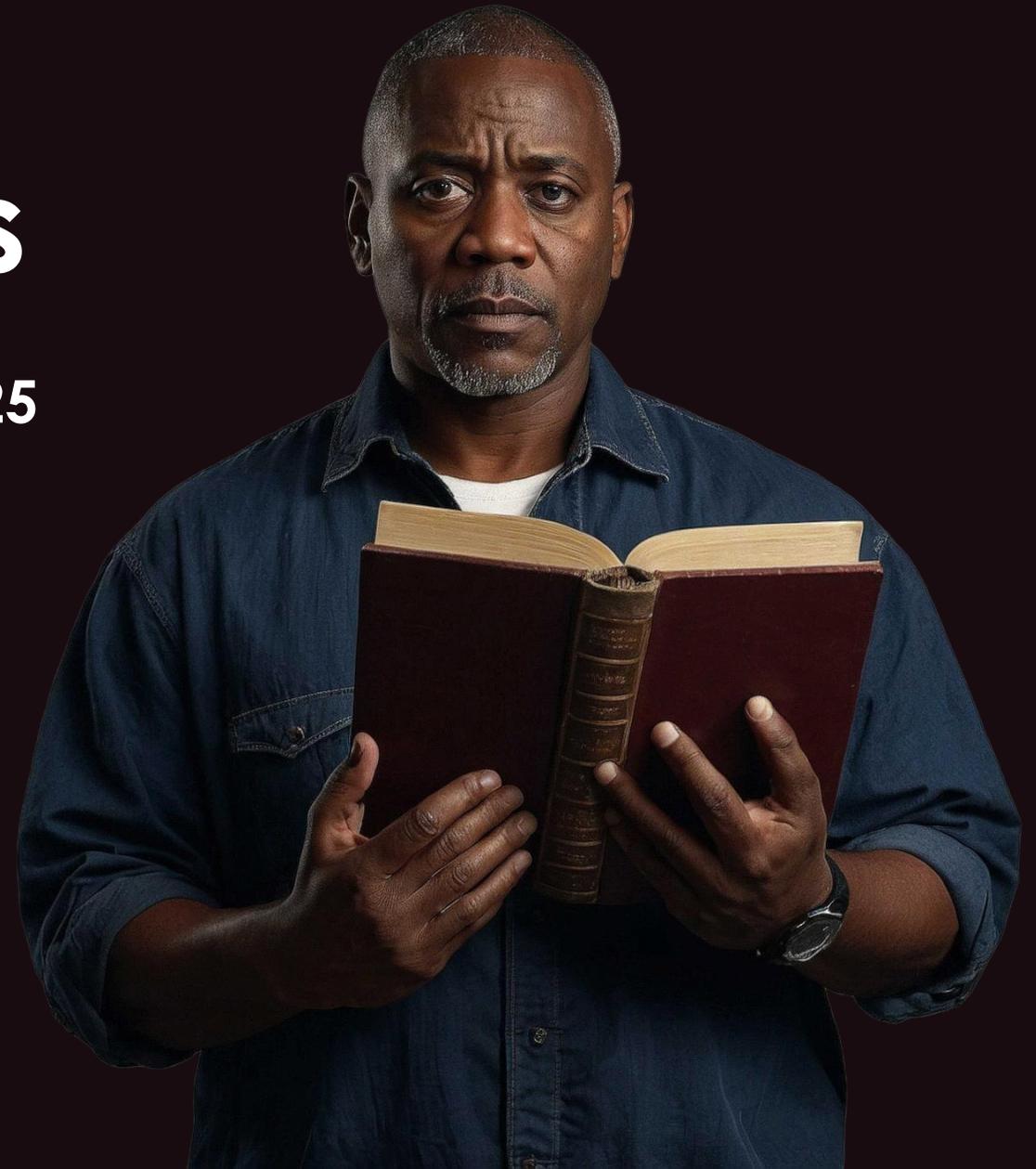


# Transformational Leadership in **Mission Contexts**

**WAD LEAD CONFERENCE May 6, 2025**



Presented By  
**Pr. Robert Osei-Bonsu PHD**  
WAD, President



# Introduction and Hook

Imagine every church leader on fire for mission, transforming their community. What would our world look like?"

This sparks curiosity about transformational leadership.



Transformational leadership in mission contexts is leadership that not only manages or maintains, but **inspires change**—change in people’s hearts and in how the church fulfills its mission. It’s about leaders being agents of spiritual transformation and mission momentum, not just administrators.



# OBJECTIVES

Inspire a mission-shaped leadership mindset.

The purpose of this presentation is to rekindle our focus on **mission as the core** of all leadership efforts.

Leaders should think and act with the Great Commission at heart, allowing mission to shape every decision.





**Preview the journey:** We'll ground ourselves in Scripture (Romans 12:1–2; Matthew 28:19–20), draw insight from inspired counsel (Ellen G. White), see a real-life example from WAD Impact 2025, and then draw practical lessons. Finally, I'll appeal to each of us to lead with vision, integrity, and example.



# Biblical Foundation and Theological Reflection

Transformational leadership **begins with God's Word**. Our leadership philosophy must spring from biblical principles. "What does the Bible teach us about being transformed and leading in mission?"



“Paul urges, ‘present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God... And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**’ (Romans 12:1–2).”



A mission leader's mind must be renewed by God's Spirit—our attitudes, values, and vision aligned with God's will. Only then can we inspire change in others.”

Emphasize the call to non-conformity: we don't simply adopt secular leadership trends; we seek a higher standard, pursuing God's **“good and perfect will.”**

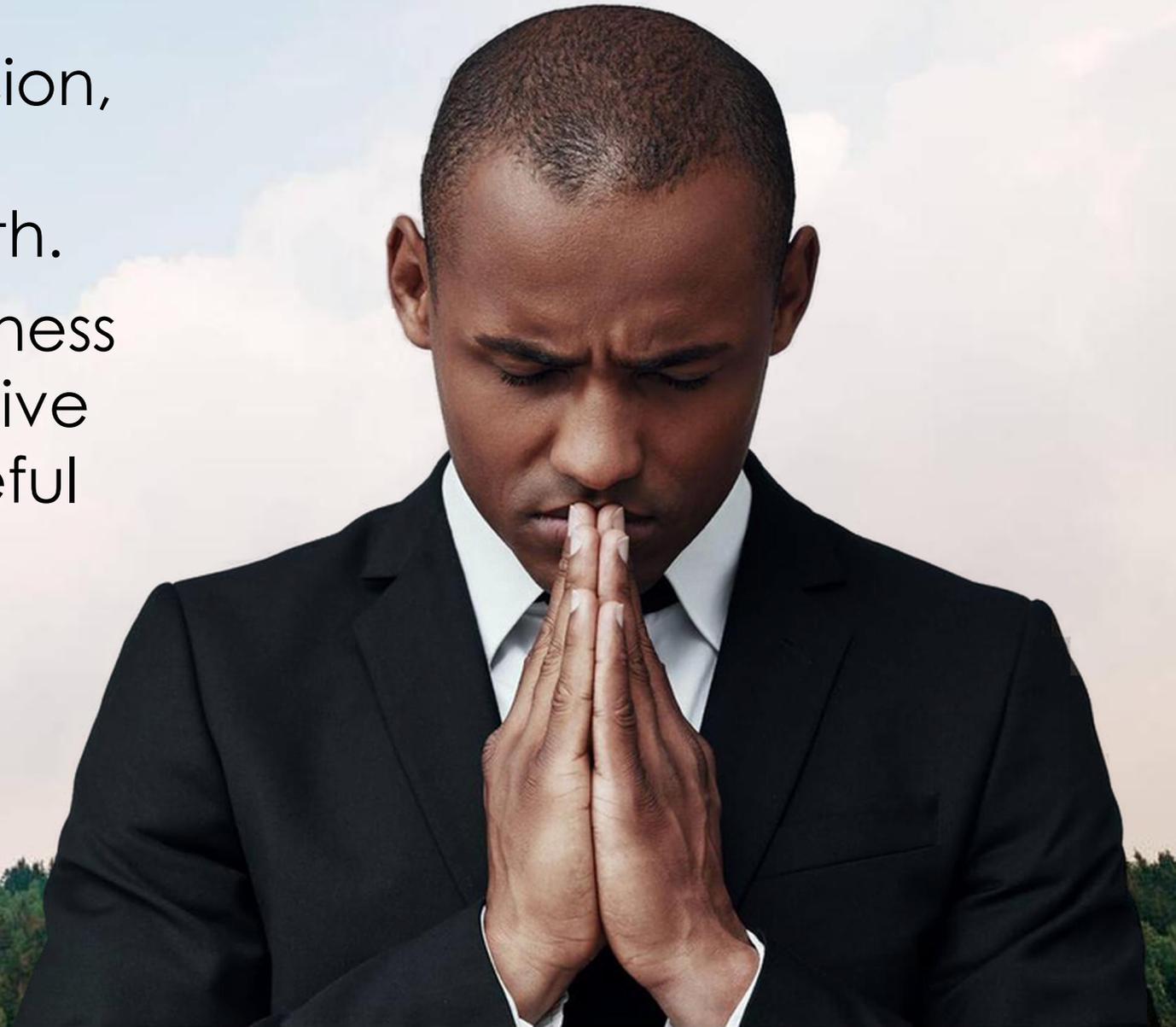


**Theology of sacrifice:** Reflect on Romans 12:1 – being a “**living sacrifice.**” “In mission contexts, leaders often must sacrifice comfort, time, and even personal ambition for the sake of the gospel. Paul’s appeal reminds us that total surrender is our ‘reasonable service’ to God



Transformational leaders lead from a place of full consecration to God's mission, where they bring about positive change and growth.

This connects personal holiness and dedication with effective leadership, offering a hopeful perspective on the transformative power of leadership.



“Go therefore  
and make  
disciples of  
all nations ...”  
- Matt. 28:18-20





Christ Himself gave us our marching orders. A mission-shaped leader keeps this mandate front and center: every program and every initiative should ultimately lead to making disciples. This global vision (**'all nations'**) pushes us beyond our comfort zones, and Jesus' promise (**'I am with you always'**) is not just a promise, but a reality that we can rely on.

# Transformed for mission

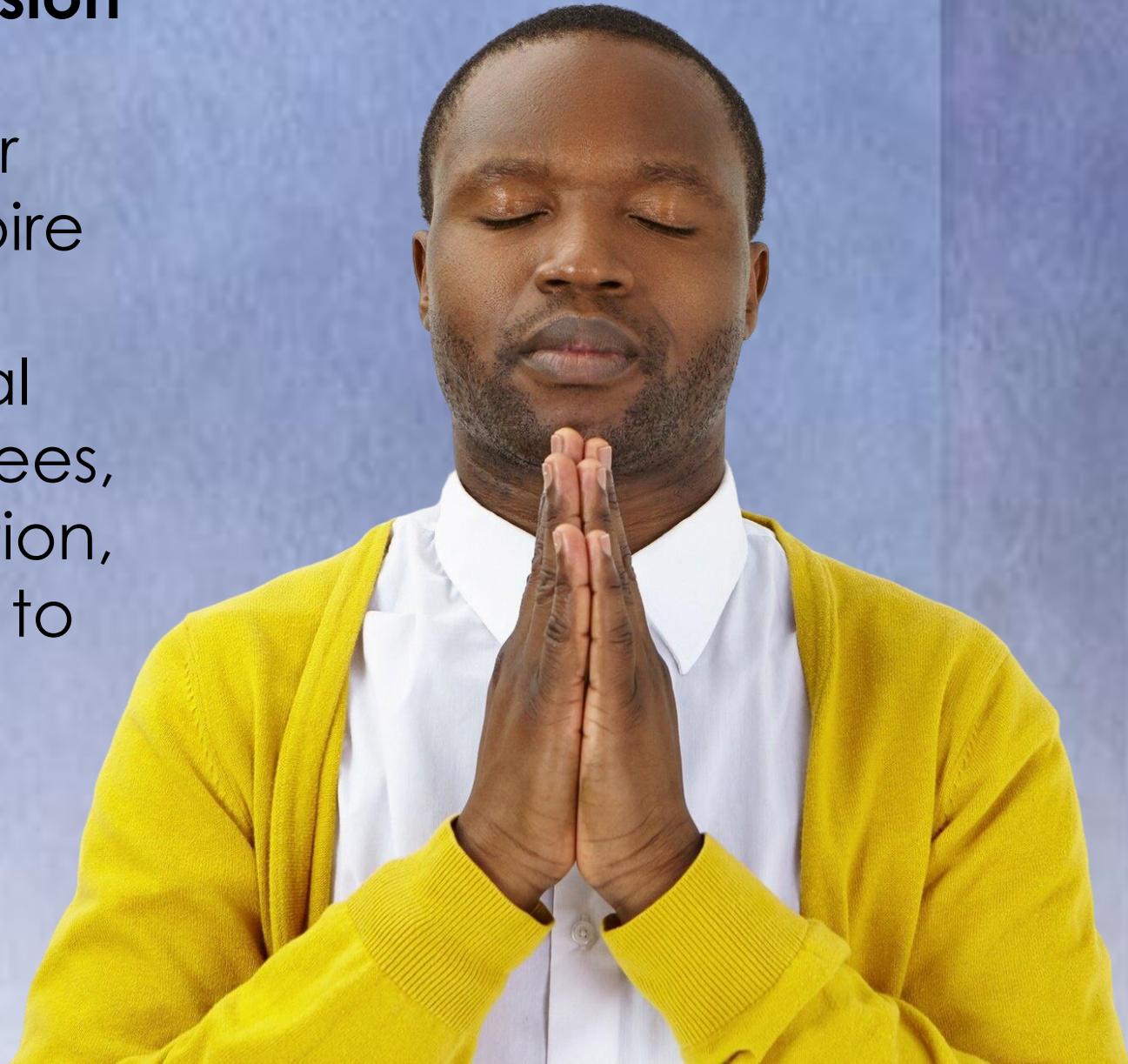
**Integrate the texts –  
transformed for**

**mission:** Notice the sequence:  
God transforms us (Romans 12)  
so we can transform the world  
(Matthew 28)



**Personal renewal fuels mission effectiveness.**

“Are we allowing God to renew our minds daily so we can inspire our members to fulfill the Great Commission? Biblical leadership starts on our knees, seeking God’s transformation, and then steps out in faith to fulfill God’s commission.”





**‘The greatest want of the world is the want of men... who will not be bought or sold... who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.’ (Education, p. 57) ,**

It may help to repeat briefly or highlight key phrases: “Men **who will not be bought or sold** — who can’t be bribed or compromised. Men **who will stand for the right though the heavens fall**— unyielding integrity even under crisis.



# Integrity



*The World is watching*

**Leadership relevance (integrity and courage):** The world's greatest need is integrity in leadership. In our mission context, this means leaders who cannot be swayed by money, pressure, or popularity. We need leaders whose commitment to truth and right is absolute — the kind who 'stand for the right' even if they stand alone, and their impact is immeasurable.



Such integrity builds trust.

Your team and church members will follow you into mission if they know you are true, principled, and unselfish. Transformational leadership is **character-driven**.

A leader who exemplifies honesty, justice, and faithfulness will **inspire transformation** in others.



**An uncompromising principle in mission:** Think of Daniel in Babylon – a man who wouldn't be bought at any price, who prayed when it was outlawed. God used him mightily in a foreign land. In WAD today, leaders with that same conscience and courage, who share our values and goals, can significantly advance the gospel



Be the leader who influences a nation like Joseph or Daniel because of an unwavering principle.  
Our mission field – whether a village or a city – is desperate for authentic, principled leadership.



# WAD Impact 2025 Illustration (Story-Based)

We don't have to look far to see what transformational leadership in mission looks like. We saw it in our own backyard with **WAD Impact 2025**.



# WAD Impact 2025 Illustration (Story-Based)

For that period, we lived out our identity as a missionary church. It wasn't about programs or politics; it was about **souls**. We remembered that evangelism is not an event—it's who we are."



# WAD Impact 2025 Illustration (Story-Based)



**Emphasize unity and momentum:** What's truly remarkable is how this initiative **unified our churches.**

It didn't matter if you were in Lagos, Lomé, Douala, or Dakar — we were all preaching the same Christ, driven by the same Commission.



# WAD Impact 2025 Illustration (Story-Based)



Our core identity as a church is mission and evangelism. We are at our strongest when we all work together, united in our mission to lead people to Christ. WAD Impact 2025 was a powerful reminder of this unity.





## The challenge of sustainment:

Remember, a campaign has an end date, but a mission does not. “Now, the great challenge for us as leaders is **to sustain that momentum.** The fire that was lit during WAD Impact 2025 must not be allowed to die down.

Our Division is ablaze with the fire of evangelistic Activities – a flame that we must not let die out. It's not a one-time event, but a continuous effort. If we keep adding the fuel of prayer, planning, and passionate engagement, this fire will only grow **brighter**.



# Application and Leadership Lessons

So what lessons do we as leaders take from Scripture, prophetic counsel, and our own experience?" How do we move forward?

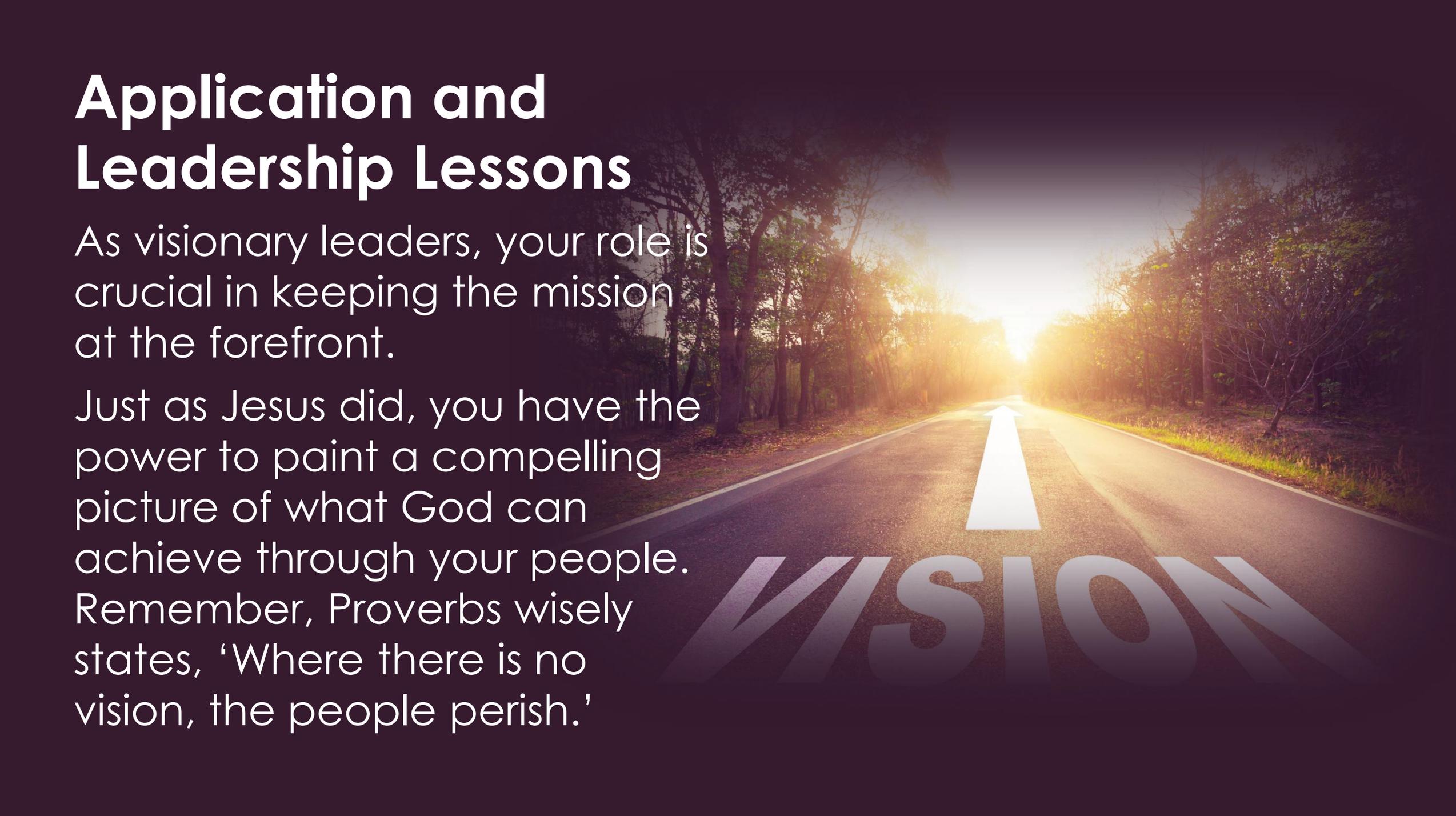
**Lead with Vision:** First, **lead with vision**. Cast a compelling **Great Commission vision** for your church or organization.



# Application and Leadership Lessons

As visionary leaders, your role is crucial in keeping the mission at the forefront.

Just as Jesus did, you have the power to paint a compelling picture of what God can achieve through your people. Remember, Proverbs wisely states, 'Where there is no vision, the people perish.'



VISION

# Application and Leadership Lessons

Vision gives direction – it's the *why* that motivates the *how*. Our Division leadership provided a vision with WAD Impact 2025 – and look how churches responded!





# Application and Leadership Lessons

Second, **lead with integrity**. Be the kind of leader described in that Ellen White quote – **honest, principled, and courageous**. Practically, this means doing what's right even when it's hard or no one is watching.

# Application and Leadership Lessons

**Integrity builds trust.** Your example of faithfulness to God's principles (in finances, in morality, in keeping your word) will set the tone. **If we want our members to live authentic Christian lives, they must see it in us.**

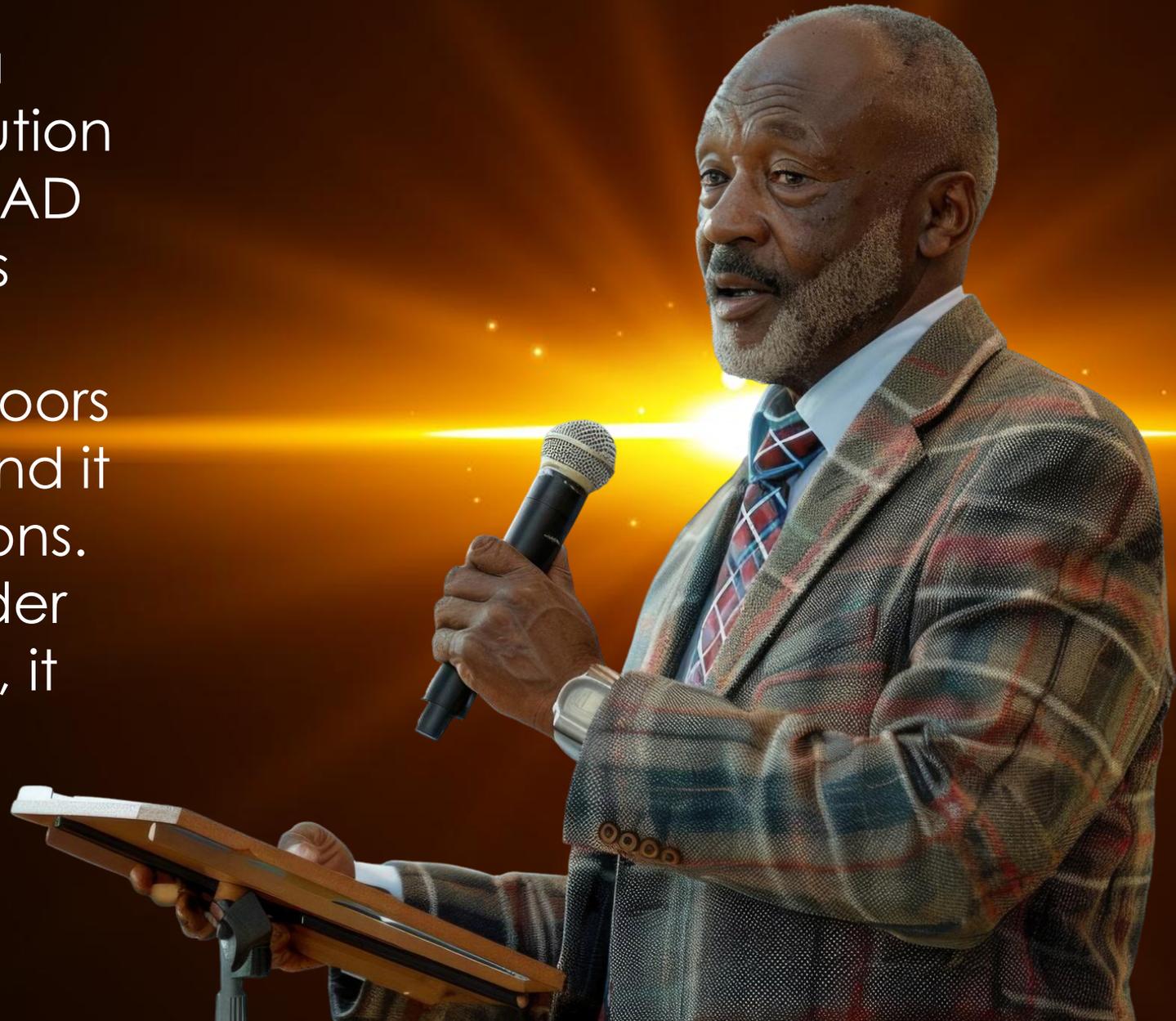


**A transformational leader stands firm for truth.**

Doing so creates a culture where the mission is pure, and God can bless. Remember, God honors those who honor Him.” “Let’s determine to be leaders who cannot be bought or sold – leaders God can trust with His work.”



Your involvement is not just a task; it's a significant contribution that inspires others. During WAD Impact 2025, many of you as leaders preached in the campaigns or knocked on doors alongside your members – and it galvanized your congregations. Keep that spirit. When a leader rolls up his sleeves for mission, it breaks down barriers and excuses. It tells the church, 'We're in this together.'



# Empower and mentor others:

Transformational leadership isn't about doing it all yourself but **empowering others**.

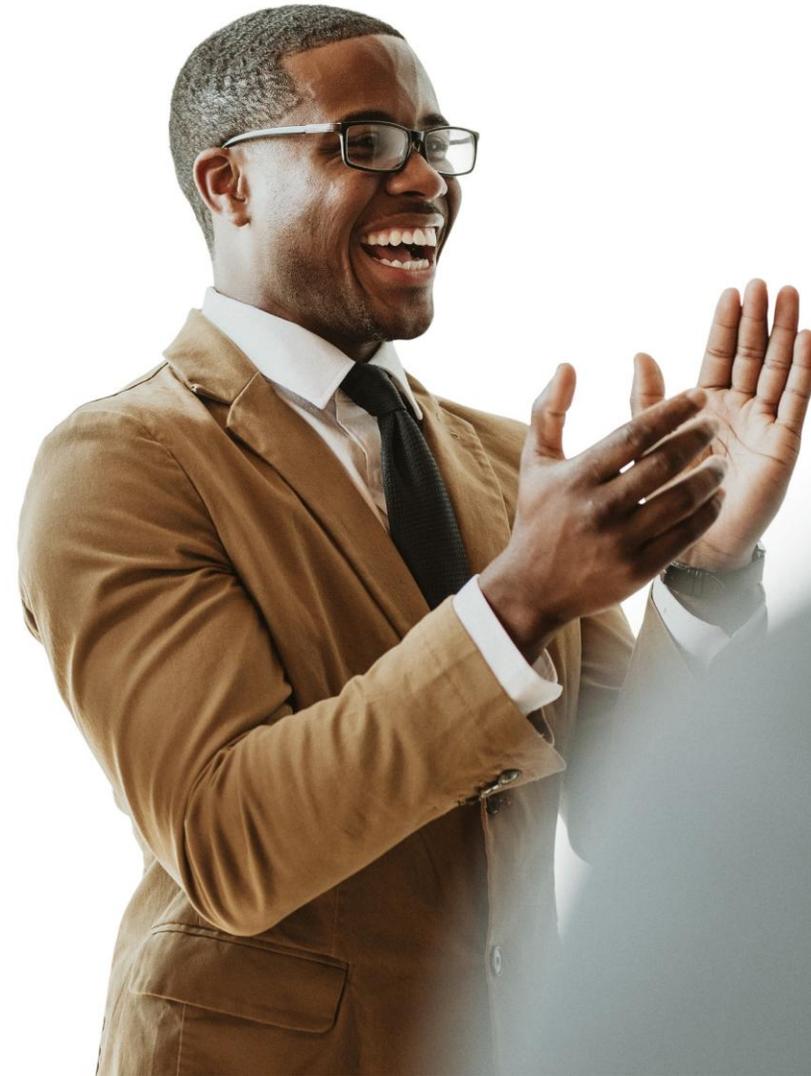
Just as Jesus mentored the twelve and Moses mentored Joshua, we should be **mentoring young leaders and members** to carry the mission forward.



Share responsibilities, provide training, and encourage initiative.

**A true transformational leader creates more leaders.**

Our mission will outlive us; part of our legacy should be a new generation on fire for evangelism because we invested in them.



A man in a white shirt and dark trousers stands at a wooden podium on a stage, speaking into a microphone. The background is dark with some horizontal lines.

## Maintain mission focus (sustain momentum):

Commit to **consistently maintaining the mission focus**. Don't let evangelism be a one-time campaign; weave it into the fabric of your church's life.

Develop an ongoing cycle of mission: revival, equipping, outreach, and nurturing.

Guard against complacency. It's easy to slip back into routine business-as-usual. Instead, keep the flame alive by continually **sharing mission stories, celebrating soul-winning successes, and setting new goals.** As leaders, we must keep reminding our people: **'why we exist.'** We exist to glorify God and save souls.



# Conclusion

We've reflected on **Paul's call to be transformed**, on **Christ's commission to go to all nations**, on the prophetic **call for courageous integrity**, and on the **amazing things God did through our united efforts in Impact 2025.**

*Appeal*



## **Reiterate the challenge:**

My fellow leaders, the greatest want of the world — and of the church — is still for those faithful men and women who will answer God's call.

Will you be that leader? Will you dare to lead with unwavering integrity, with a bold vision of God's kingdom, and with the humility to serve by example?



Ellen White's appeal:  
Heaven is looking for  
leaders **who cannot be  
bought or sold**, who will  
stand for what is right no  
matter what. By God's  
grace, let that be you  
and me. Make it  
personal and stirring.





Remember, God empowers those He calls. Zechariah 4:6 (“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord.”) to underscore dependence on God.

## **Appeal for decision:**

“Today, I appeal to you:  
make a renewed and  
unwavering commitment  
to **mission-shaped  
leadership.**

*Appeal*



**Final inspirational send-off:** Imagine what God will do in West-Central Africa as we fully embrace transformational leadership! I see churches overflowing, new groups planted in unreached areas, youth and elders alike united in service, and the name of Jesus proclaimed in every tongue and tribe in our territory.



**Conclusion sentence (vision and courage):** Let's lead with vision, integrity, and example — each of us playing a vital role in keeping the flame of mission burning bright.

May it be said of WAD that here are leaders who will stand for the right though the heavens fall, and may our Master say to us at the end, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'



Thank You

