

Servants Ministry
President Handbook
August 2006



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Preface

It is of utmost importance for you to know that the following handbook is not simply a “how to” manual, nor is it meant for you to rely on man’s wisdom to create a “picture perfect” ministry. We pray that this handbook will first and foremost prompt you to seek the Lord and His will in your life and your fellowship. This is a reference tool to give encouragement as well as insight and to be helpful about the little things so that we can better focus on the bigger, more important vision that God has placed before us.

This handbook is the first of its kind; it only begins to offer experiences from a portion of Servants’ Ministry. We hope it will be an ongoing project with expanding contributions and testimonies of His goodness for years to come. Lastly, we pray that this would point to Him *“who is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, according to His power at work within us.”* (Eph. 3:20).

I. Vision of Servants Ministry

The body of Christ is still here on earth because the Kingdom harvest is still plentiful. Matthew 24:14 tells us that when the gospel is preached to the whole world, then the end will come. Accordingly, Servants Ministry exists

To reach our campus and to touch the world for Jesus Christ.

His great mandate for our life time is to win souls and make them into His disciples. The vision of Servants Ministry is three-fold:

SOUL-WINNING

First, we need to win more souls of this generation and the next one. Any nations and regions that live off only the past revivals become stagnant and decay quickly. We pray that God will use us to see more people become eternal sons and daughters of His.

DISCIPLE-MAKING

Second, we want to see more dedicated disciples of Christ. We hear and see of many crowds of Christians, but how many of them are willing to lay down their life or willing go overseas and into our inner-cities? May God raise more disciple-makers.



CAMPUS REVIVAL

Third, our focus of this Kingdom work involves campus ministry. Students make crucial life decisions during their college years -- major, vocation, life-goals, life-long friendship, etc. We desire to introduce Christ at the core of their life-decision process. Without Jesus, we end up with nothing. With Jesus, we have eternity.

FIVE SIGNS OF REVIVAL

We can discern that God is doing something real and enduring when these fruits are manifested amongst His people:

1. Changed holy life
2. Obedience to the Word
3. Passionate worship to God
4. Joyful & powerful service to God
5. Love for and reaching out to the lost

II. Living Set Apart

It is important to recognize that people, methods, technologies, and organizations themselves do not and cannot really change this world. Only God can bring about His lasting spiritual changes to this world -- and He does so through ordinary people who are willing and available. Campus ministry is a training ground in which to fulfill the call of God as we engage in learning, developing our God-given gifts, and growing through various experiences. Will you say "Yes" to His call this day?

"As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him. For who is God besides the Lord? And who is the Rock except our God? It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect."

II Samuel 22:31-33

What sets us apart from the rest of the world? Lately, many non-believers have been known to do good things by giving away their millions to the poor. Are we falling into the trap of busying our lives with things that appear to be right or good? The passage above tells us that if we will make God our refuge and live in utter dependence on Him rather than upon ourselves, we will be living the perfect way our Father has set before us. Will we actively believe Him and make Him our Rock, so that we can take part in ushering in His Glory?



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1 Introduction

When I first became president of my fellowship, I was unsure of what to expect. Seeing other presidents serve before me helped, but it did not give me a clear idea of what was expected of me. I learned as I was serving and it was tough. It would have benefited me and my fellowship if I had some guidance. However, I did not have that luxury. I had to learn on the job.

It is my hope that I can address some of the anxieties that you may be facing. I want to share with you some of the things that I learned and how I grew from these experiences. If you are not serving as a president, I want to share with you what to expect from your president and how you can support him. There needs to be an understanding from both sides of what is expected. Having a similar understanding of this position will create unity and harmony within the fellowship.

2 The President: Purpose and Origin

2.1 Purpose

Not everyone is called to be a president. Some people are called to serve as a small group leader, while others are called to be a praise leader. God has given us different gifts to glorify His name. The main purpose of this position is to bring the group together to accomplish a goal. Some fellowships have the blessing of having a pastor or full-time staff who can assist the president to bring the group together. However, if you are a student-led fellowship, it is up to the president to bring the group together.

There is only one president in each fellowship because it allows the fellowship to follow one vision. Could you imagine if there were two different presidents? The group would be incoherent and would not be able to function properly. For the same reason, there is one head to each body, and the head must lead the body. The head has to be able to utilize the uniqueness of the body to glorify God.¹

2.2 Origin

God has originally intended us to follow him alone. However, the sinful hearts of men have asked God to appoint a man to lead us.² God is the best leader that we could possibly follow, and, in order for us to be effective presidents, we need to represent that of Jesus. It was the sinful hearts of people that God decided to use kings to rule his people. We are only used to glorify God

3 The Heart of a Servant

Before you begin to serve your term, you need to look at the state of your heart. We need to have the heart of a servant. Jesus Christ is the ultimate example of what a servant is all about. He came down to this earth humbly and He left this earth humbly. However, he placed an impact that

¹ 1 Peter 4:10-11

² 1 Samuel 8:5-6



will last for the ages. That is how we need to be when we enter the campus. We need to enter the campus humbly and leave the campus humbly, but leave an impact that will last.

3.1 *Impacting Your Campus*

Many people that leave an impact on your campus are famous professors, highly acclaimed varsity athletes, rich alumni, and people with prestige. Most of us do not fall in those categories. However, Jesus did not have a lot of money or high status. Instead, Jesus had the heart to serve his brothers and sisters. He visited the sick, the social outcasts, and the poor. That is how we need to leave an impact on our campus. We need to invest our time into people and serve them. It doesn't require a lot of talent, intelligence, or money; it only requires our hearts to be humble and willing to serve.

3.2 *Your Call to Serve*

Being the president of your campus fellowship is going to require you to be the servant among servants. You have to serve the leaders of your fellowship in order to serve your fellowship. You have to be the ultimate example of what being a servant is all about. You don't have to be the smartest, best looking, or most popular. Instead, you just need to be able to allow God to use you. Jesus used 12 ordinary men to change the world, and Jesus can use you to change your campus.

4 Roles and Responsibilities

There is a difference between role and responsibility. The president's role in the organization is to act as the head of the student group. The president's responsibility is to take care of the student organization and nurture it. We will further discuss the role and responsibility of the president below.

4.1 *Roles*

The president has three main roles: represent the organization, mobilize the organization, and lead the organization.

The president represents the organization. If the president does not represent the organization, then the group is doomed to fail. For example, a Buddhist cannot be president of a Christian fellowship for many reasons. First, he does not have the same views or ideologies as Christians, though some may overlap. Second, he will not know what the group is about. Lastly, he will not be able to lead the group to glorify God. The group is bound to fail.

At the school I attended, student organization presidents were constantly asked to represent the group at meetings, luncheons, and forums. Also, when all the Christian fellowships on our campus had joint events, the president was asked to share about their fellowship. Sharing information about the fellowship is probably the most tangible way for a president to represent an organization.

A lot of things you do in your personal life will reflect on you as a president. For example, if you are unorganized in your personal life, people will assume that you will be unorganized as a



president. Always live a life that is presentable.³ When you present yourself in a negative light, you are not necessarily representing yourself. You are representing your fellowship, the church, and most importantly, Christ. Know the consequences of your actions. Make wise decisions. Be an imitator of God.⁴

The president needs to mobilize the organization. According to *Webster's Dictionary*, the definition for "mobilize" is: "to make or become organized and ready, as for war". This is the best way for the president to view what it means to mobilize the student organization. He needs to identify what the group needs and how the people within the group can use their skills and talents to execute tasks. The president needs to identify people that are willing to help because he cannot do this duty alone. Further, as a Christian student organization, it is appropriate to have an attitude to get ready for war. The enemy is working in our schools and we must *mobilize* to destroy his kingdom.

Mobilizing a fellowship can be a very difficult task. However, the president needs to be able to mobilize the fellowship. He needs to identify members who can fulfill the needs of the fellowship. Some fellowships have staff workers to help them in this process, and they should be utilized them as much as possible. Do not be afraid to ask for nominations and suggestions.

The first thing you need to do is pray and inquire of God. There are hidden jewels in your fellowship that people often overlook. God sees the heart and he will reveal to you the talents he has placed in your fellowship. Secondly, you must have faith that God is in control. Sometimes we get so caught up in the moment that we forget that this is not our fellowship, but God's fellowship. He will provide the pieces that are essential for you to function as a body. Next, you need to get to know the people within your fellowship. This can happen by actually meeting with people or asking people what they think about others. You have to know the people you are serving, so it helps to meet up with people and get to know them on a more personal level. Match people's talents and gifts to the appropriate responsibility. Finally, you need to cast a vision. We will talk about this more in the role of leading the fellowship.

The president needs to lead the organization. In order for the group to be unified, the group needs a vision to follow. The most important thing that a president can do to lead a group is to cast a vision. Casting a vision may seem like a difficult task, but it is pretty simple. Casting a vision is something that gets you excited about God's awesome power and how it can affect people. As Christians, our vision should be to glorify God by worshipping Him and sharing His love to others. The president has to be able to identify how the group should go about doing this. Whether it is through activities, Bible studies, praise, worship, or having large/small group, it all needs to be done according to the vision that has been cast. Remember to always inquire of the Lord during this process. You do not want to fulfill your own personal agenda, but God's.

As you cast your fellowship's vision, you need to share with your fellowship what your vision is and how you want to achieve that vision. For example, you may want to do community service to spread the gospel. You could clean fraternity houses after a huge party and spread the gospel through that service. Another example could be to just meet weekly with people within your fellowship. Through these meetings you can build relationships with other believers to pray and

³ 1 Peter 2:12

⁴ Ephesians 5:1-2



support each other as you go into your campus to spread the Word. There are many different ways for you to go about casting a vision and fulfilling that vision. However, make sure that people within your fellowship know what the vision is so they can be a part of the fellowship.

After you cast the vision for the fellowship, you need to maintain that vision. Maintaining the vision is to show people how God has been working within the service your fellowship has been doing. Tell them of how God answered prayers and how he has been breaking down walls. Testify of God's amazing love for us. This will remind people of God's faithfulness to us and will keep that fire burning.

4.2 Responsibilities

The president's responsibilities vary from school to school. For example, if there are staff and/or student leaders available, then the president's responsibilities can change. However, some responsibilities that the president must do regardless of extra help are prayer, encouraging, managing, and guiding. These are some of the responsibilities that the president must do at all times.

Prayer is the single most important thing that a president can do. The president needs to be in constant communication with God to understand what His will is for the group. If the president fails to pray, then the group will become unorganized. The president is an instrument used by God to fulfill His will. If you want your fellowship to succeed, you need to pray to God. God will give you answers and directions on what He desires from you. Remember, we need to ask how we fit into God's plan, not how he will fit into ours. There are a lot of books on prayer for more information.⁵

Spiritually guiding a group is another important responsibility of a president. After praying and meditating on Scripture, the president needs to be able to guide the group in the right direction. Whether the president guides the group through action, words or example, the president needs to guide the group.

Managing the group is a responsibility that the president must do as well. There are a ton of administrative needs that need to be done within a fellowship. The president needs to make sure that these administrative tasks get done. If he himself is not able to get these responsibilities done, then he needs to be able to identify other people within the fellowship to get them done. It is important that as a president, you do not try to get everything done by yourself.

The president needs to be an encourager. When people are serving in a fellowship, it will get tough. We are fighting an enemy and he will try to do anything to make us fail. It is important that you constantly encourage your brothers and sisters as they serve with you. Though it may seem insignificant to encourage someone, it goes a long way. It is probably the simplest way to show them how much they mean to fulfilling God's glory.

5 From One President to another.....

Being the president of a Christian fellowship is not the easiest task to do. It is a challenge because there is an enemy that we are at war with, and he will do anything to disrupt all that is

⁵ To note a couple of books: *Praying Successfully* by Charles Spurgeon and *Prayer* by Richard Foster.



good. One of the most problems that I see in fellowships is the lack of communication and the lack of harmony. Our sinful hearts are the root of the problem, but the enemy also attacks our relationships with people to disrupt them. It is important that we maintain good relationships with people because through our love for another people will know that we are His disciples.⁶

5.1 Personal Struggles

Presidents also have a lot of turmoil when they are serving. The enemy is particularly interested in attacking you because of the influence that you possess. Some of the problems that some presidents face when they are serving are feeling burnt-out, alone, frustrated, and depressed. There are some practical steps to avoid some of these feelings and have a joyous time serving God through the fellowship. A lot of the reasons why we fail is because we forget to do the simple things, such as prayer and reading our Bible.

5.2 Loneliness

There were many times when I felt alone, weak, and tired. The best way to avoid these feelings is to pray. Wrestle with God in prayer. I used to pray to God throughout the day as I went to class. If you find it hard to pray throughout the day because you forget, then you should set a certain time to pray to God everyday. Rid yourself from all distractions and truly seek God during that allotted time. Also, it is key that you do your quiet time. Read the Bible and seek after God. Spending time with God everyday will rejuvenate your soul.

5.3 Frustration

When I was serving throughout the year, I was getting agitated with the members within my fellowship. There was a lot of complaining and mumbling going on and I took a lot of it personally. It was hard for me because I did not want to voice my frustration too much and create separation by talking about people. Therefore, I made sure that I had a group of guys that I could turn to. Sometimes I just had to get it off my chest and I would voice my opinion to people who were not a part of my fellowship. This helped me a lot throughout the course of the year. I felt that there were people praying and encouraging me while I was going through tough times. Make sure you have an accountability partner that you can go to when you need to get things off your chest, someone to pray with, and someone you can get encouragement from.

5.4 Exhaustion

There were also times when I felt I overwhelmed with all the responsibilities that I had. It is important that you do sanity checks every so often. Remind yourself why you are working so hard to expand His kingdom. Constantly remind yourself that you are a servant of God and that as a servant you expect nothing in return.⁷ You are not doing this for your own glory; you are doing this for God's glory.

⁶ John 13:34-35

⁷ Luke 17:7-10



5.5 Organization

You need to be organized as a leader. You need to be able to keep the time and remember important dates. Failure to do so can make other people do the same. You want to respect people's time because you want them to respect your time. God is a God of order and we should also be that way.⁸ Some tips on organization. Make sure you have a calendar with you and a note pad when you are at a meeting. Write things down and utilize post-it notes to remind yourself of certain things. Also, when planning a meeting, make sure you prepare an outline or agenda to the meeting. It makes things a lot smoother and you don't go off topic as much.

5.6 *Mary versus Martha*⁹

People tend to get caught up in the work that they do and forget to enjoy God. Try not to skip out on time with God. There are a lot of tasks that need to be done, but "sitting at the Lord's feet listening" is more important. Do not skip out on your quiet time or worship time.

6 Personal Testimony

I think I started out my presidential term in a very awkward way. I was studying abroad when I was informed that I will be the next president of my Christian fellowship. I was excited to take the position and was ready to get to work. However, I was still abroad and did not know what to do. We had a staff member involved with our fellowship, so I thought that things were already getting prepared for the upcoming school year, during the summer months. I was not to return to the country until about a month before school started.

I did not know where to start, and, like I said before, I thought that all the logistical stuff was taken care of by the previous leadership team. I did what I could do, so I prayed. I prayed a lot and started to come up with ideas. I was very excited to get my ideas off the ground and start as soon as possible. As I was trying to enjoy the rest of my time abroad, I was informed by my parents that my car was totaled in an accident and that we were going to move when I came back. They told me that no one was hurt in the accident, but when I returned I would have to help them out with a lot of things.

I was getting a little worried because of all the extra things that I would have to do as soon as I got back. I had to take care of paperwork from my study abroad trip, get the right classes to graduate on time, and get the fellowship ready for the upcoming school year. I began to feel a lot of anxiety.

However, the situation did not get any better. While I was still abroad, Isaac, a friend from my fellowship, came to visit me. He served on the previous year's leadership team and told me a lot of bad news. He told me that the fellowship had a bad year and that a lot of the members from the previous leadership team will not help out the upcoming school year. Suddenly, my excitement for the upcoming school year began to fade away. My hopes turned into despair.

.....I returned home and started to help my parents move into their new house. I had to make reservations for the moving truck, pack, and coordinate our move-in. It was stressful because my

⁸ Hebrews 14:33,40

⁹ Luke 10:38-42



parents wanted to move before the upcoming school year and I was moving fast. I had to take care of my car situation and try to claim my losses from the car. I also had to get my study abroad papers completed and turned in and I had to get things ready to move into my dorm. It seemed a ton of things hit me at once. On top of all that, I was thinking about our fellowship and what we could do for the upcoming school year.

... I tried to encourage myself and put my trust in God. I was disappointed that a lot of people decided not to help, but I knew that we still had some help. From the previous leadership team, four people said that they would help and we had a staff worker, so I thought that it would not be too bad. Our fellowship is not that big and we had roughly 30 members. Though it would be better if we had more help, I felt that it was decent.

I began to call the four student leaders to try to identify where they wanted to serve. However, as I began to call each one I became even more worried. One by one, each person was dropping out and could not make a full year commitment to serve. One person told me that they will be studying abroad and will be able to serve for only one semester. Another person told me that they will not be returning to school for the following year because of personal issues. And another person told me that they will not be able to serve because of a surgery, and would need to take a semester off from school. That only left me and Isaac to serve as student leaders.

As the school year was approaching, I prayed. I did not know what to do. I knew that two people could not carry the load of the entire fellowship. I went to Harvest Retreat with these prayer requests and prayed with pastors and friends on the subject. I was the only representative from my school and I felt like many times I was the only one praying for the fellowship. It was very lonely and I decided that maybe it was time for the fellowship to end because of the lack of commitment.

However, as I began to pray, God reminded me of several verses. He shared with me the story of Gideon and how God shrank his army to 300 to defeat an entire army, so that his power may be shown.¹⁰ He also reminded me what he told Apostle Paul: "My strength is made perfect in weakness."¹¹ I knew then that God will bless this fellowship and that he had great plans for this upcoming school year.

My family had finished moving and I was ready for the upcoming school year. There were a lot of things that we had to get ready for the school year. The first thing we did was identify people that were willing to serve. We asked around and sought after people that had the heart to serve. We were able to find five people to help out and make a full year commitment, within the first week of school. By the time our first large group meeting met, we had a total of nine leaders.

A lot of the new leaders have never been trained and have never served in the college fellowship before. There were a lot of things that they needed to learn and experience, but we did not have that luxury. The new leaders weren't the strongest prayer warriors or the most committed members to the fellowship. However, they had the willingness to learn and be used by God. They had something greater than any other leaders had before: a humbled heart. They knew that they could not do it by themselves and would need the grace of God to help them.

¹⁰ Judges 6-8

¹¹ 2 Corinthians 12: 9



The first thing I did was assemble a prayer team. The leadership team was filled with inexperienced leaders, so I asked people outside our fellowship to remember us in prayer. We also had a prayer meeting that met every Wednesday to pray for the fellowship. Every week, I would send out prayer requests to our prayer team and the issues we were facing that week. Prayer was the vital source for everything to come.

Nothing was done over the summer, so Bible studies, getting speakers, and planning out the year happened throughout the school year. At times it seemed hectic, but the fellowship was slowly growing. The leaders were also getting comfortable in their positions. We would meet up weekly and discuss Bible studies, be trained on what it meant to be a leader, and discuss issues that we faced throughout the week. The semester went by quickly and we added new members to our group.

Second semester went a little smoother because we had the winter break to get things ready. We continued what we did in the first semester. Though the number of students didn't grow as much the second semester, the members within the fellowship grew in their faith. By the time second semester ended, there was an excitement for the fellowship. Many people wanted to be involved for the next year. We got more staff members and more student leaders for the following year. It seemed like a doomed school year, but God does truly work in amazing ways.

7 Conclusion

There are many things that the president is required to do. However there are some things that I want you to remember. You must pray, pray, pray. We are not serving ourselves, we are serving God; and we must pray to understand His will for us. Remember who you are doing this for; it is all for the glory of His name. Lastly, I want to leave you the words of Mother Theresa: "I ask you one thing: do not tire of giving, but do not give your leftovers. Give until it hurts, until you feel the pain."