

City Builders' Network

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Preface

Christians in Africa have a lot to learn about nation building. Judeo – Christian knowledge and wisdom formed the core of the reformation of societies of Europe in the 16th century and the foundation of egalitarian America. The African renaissance could become a relapse into paganism or evolve into secularism and intellectual idolatry if the African Christian does not apply biblical dynamics to nation building.

The City Builders' Network invites the African Christian to take responsibility for the development of cities, systems and sectors of society using the Bible and biblical knowledge as premise for development. The Network seeks to link African cities, systems and sectors of society to the Abrahamic Covenant, Mantle and Blessing to facilitate sustainable development.

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SCRIPTURAL BASIS

For he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God

Hebrews 11:10

... And they shall rebuild the old ruins,
They shall raise up the former desolations,
And they shall repair the ruined cities
The desolations of many generations...

Isaiah 61:1-14

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and **the powers of the age to come**, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

Hebrews 6:5

... **Let us rise up and build**... The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will **arise and build**...

Nehemiah 2: 17 – 20; 3

KEY ELEMENTS

The Key elements in the scriptures above that are relevant for the development of the City Builders' Network initiative include:

1. The continuation of the Abrahamic quest for cities with Godly foundation and future among Christians today. The quest has led to the divine release of
 - a. **Abrahamic Mantle** for nation building
 - b. **Abrahamic covenant** as foundation for nation building initiatives and foundation for redemption in all spheres
 - c. **Abrahamic blessing** as the fruit that is sought in every city and every sector of society where believers have by faith embraced both the Abrahamic covenant and mantle
2. The call to rebuild desolate cities of the world. A city could be spiritually and/or physically desolate. There is sufficient provision on the cross at Calvary to address all forms of desolations. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ enable believers to internalize/ appropriate biblical standards and exemplify it in society
3. Although all of the realization of the Kingdom of God and of Christ may not manifest in this age and time, Hebrews 6 indicates that we can partake of the power of the age to come. This includes leadership in the public sector and the general issues of development
4. The Church of Jesus Christ can be mobilized for political action and leadership through the City Builders Network. Testimonies from cities and nations which have experienced measures of reformation confirm that one of the fruits of biblical reformation is righteous political leadership.

VISION

Scene 1: In July 2005, the Lord granted me a vision. In the vision, the whole world and everything that man ever made fitted into one building of which the height disappeared into the clouds and one could not see or measure the diameters of the width. Everything on planet earth besides land, sea and space fitted into this building. However, the foundation of the building was tilted at angle 45° and it was clear that it would not recover, but that collapse was inevitable.

Scene 2: A group of people came out of nowhere, one by one towards the building. A Voice said: "That building of man is collapsing" In the vision, I saw a handful of people arriving on the same scene one after another, the voice again says "these ones are going to rebuild everything" . When I looked carefully as the people were coming and joining the small group, they did not carry anything on them and the voice said to me "everything they need is in their hearts"

Visionary

The Institute for Christian Leadership Development remains custodian of the vision of the City Builders' Network will remain part of the vision and mission of the Africa Leadership Summit, a bi-ennial event in Jerusalem and hosted by the Institute.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

In every city of Africa and I believe in other parts of the world as well, God is raising up nation/city builders. Men and women who have a similar faith and walk with God like Abraham did. Men and women willing to rebuild their cities in accordance with the heavenly pattern until the whole earth is filled with the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

The City Builders Network is therefore a fellowship of Christians in cities who are ready to walk with God towards the rebuilding of the city in which they were born or the city in which they now live until the place is filled with the glory of God and until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Caution: I do not presume Utopia or complete elimination of evil; however I believe that there is coming a revival, an outpouring of God's spirit on a magnitude unimaginable. An outpouring of the Holy Spirit that will affect every sector of society wherever the saints have engaged in the necessary preparation both in development of Kingdom lifestyle and in deep prayer measuring every area of life on the scale of the scripture.

MISSION

The development of leaders who understand, exemplify and able to apply biblical principles to public life.

CITY DEFINED

A city may simply be defined as an administrative district or entity. For the sake of this vision, any town, locality, identifiable entity may be classified as a city. A city may be big or small; it may even be a suburb of a big city. The City builders' network will allow people to delimit the city according to their area of responsibility. In other words, according to the scope of responsibility of the fellowship that is adopting the said city for the purposes of engaging in order to rebuild.

For He was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God

Hebrews 11: 10 NIV

- A city that is built by God not just by man or by demonic inspiration.
- A city that has its future in God
- A city whose foundations are taken out of heaven not in the occult or demonic tradition
- A city in which every sector is developed according to God's heavenly pattern
- A city in which Christians in every generation work towards God's eternal will for that city
- A city in which Christians are able to influence unbelievers to live under Godly influence. Not a city where believers are struggling to live out the standard of biblical righteousness
- A city whose resources are harvested by the righteous and utilized for the purposes of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom
- A city whose leadership recognize the Lordship of Jesus Christ and create opportunities for all

Christians need to receive God's dream/vision for the city in which they live, work, function or city of their birth. This vision will help Christians to make meaningful contributions to

- Infrastructure development
- People development
- Development of the different sectors of society
- Development of Systems that run the city
- Development of businesses of trans – generational value
- Political development that is based on love and excludes wickedness, occultism, "God – fatherism" and violence
- Where people can benchmark development of their city with heavenly blueprint and as well with other cities of the world

SECTORS OF SOCIETY

City builders' network will develop leaders along the various sectors of society. Based on interest, training and needs, people will join the network and identify the particular sector or sectors where they seek to focus to be developed and to help develop others. Various sectors as have been defined include:

1. Agriculture & Land
2. Arts, Culture, Sports & Environment
3. Church & Religion
4. Communication
5. Economics
6. Education
7. Family
8. Government & Politics
9. Health, Sanitation & Environment
10. Science & Technology and other sectors identifiable.

For the sake of focus we encourage sub-sectors e.g. primary education, agriculture education, agro - business et al

It is also possible for a member to feature in more than one sector. The CBN will develop and adapt leadership training material focusing on biblical and professional development of the various sectors of society.

ACTIVITIES OF THE CITY BUILDERS NETWORK

Godly foundations

The City Builder's Network will have Godly content and boldly declare that we want God the creator to be part of the city. We will be openly godly and will be described as such. We will promote godliness in every sector of society. Abraham departed from Ur of the Chaldeans which was a secular and demonic city to build a city with foundations, "whose builder and architect is God".

Eliminate the secular or demonic

In the face of rising secularism in the world, CBN will eliminate secular or demonic input in the various sectors of society by emphasizing the "biblical" standard or the "natural" where the unbeliever is concerned. The application for believers would be through their faith and biblical principles; the application for unbelievers would be that which is natural.

Political Action

CBN will focus on mobilization of Christians for Political Action in every city. CBN will not belong to any particular political party but will encourage its members to be involved in as many political parties as possible. The goal of CBN is to ensure that politics and governance translates into sustainable development in every city. CBN will seek to develop future political leaders who are able to exemplify godly virtues in Politics and mentor future political office bearers. A system of accountability for leaders would be in place whereby each political actor will have both spiritual and professional accountability partners and mentors.

Committed to development

The network will be looking for Christians who are committed to not only themselves and their future, but also to development of:

- The earth
- Individuals
- Economy
- Infrastructure
- Social Structures
- Economic structures
- Family

The network is for Christians who are committed to excellence and integrity. CBN members will constantly look for better ways of doing things

Committed to Israel

The network is for Christians who are committed to Israel and who receives Biblical Israel as God's template. CBN members will commit to friendly relations, visits and defense of Israel. CBN members will facilitate highways of exchange of trade, businesses, ideas, between their city and Israel

Committed to evangelism and strategic evangelism

Evangelism is God's way for human resource development followed by Pastoral and other ministries within the body of Christ. The network will evangelize the city through unique, creative, and strategic ways. It will commit to making evangelism the biggest event in town and support other organizations in the same pursuit.

Committed to the body of Christ in the city

The network is for Christians who are committed to the local and global church. The church builds the believers life and foundation before the believer can rise up to build the city.

Promote ownership

The CBN seeks to promote ownership of land and property in a Godly way. CBN exists to promote social justice and equitable distribution of resources. CBN will encourage members to start banks, schools, businesses, etc. that are owned by the Lord Jesus Christ under their stewardship and will encourage the reservation of such ownership amongst the righteous throughout the generations. As long as an owner is a believer in Christ who demonstrate integrity, righteousness and promote Godliness, he/she will enjoy the support of the City Builders' Network whether he/she is a member of the network or not.

Directory of Christian Professional Services

The City Builders' Network will encourage the publication of Christian professional services available in a city. The list will comprise of professionals who uphold high ethical standards and biblical values. Any professional listed in the Yellow pages may be delisted if such persons are found to operate below professional and biblical ethics. The list will be available for consultation and utilization of their services both with the network and outsiders and a testimony of shining lights.

City Builders Network Magazine

As soon as the City Builders' Network is established, it will publish annual Magazine called "The Way" focusing on testimonies and advertising services of Christian professionals all over the continent. The goal of the magazine is to reveal that Jesus Christ is the way and reveals the better way in every sector of society. The biblical way is the better way of Agriculture, Medicine, Law, Education et al.

Christian Leadership Award Programme

The City Builders Network in partnership with the Institute for Christian Leadership Development and the Africa Leadership Summit will create awards for Christian Leaders with outstanding performance or testimony or work that combines professional and spiritual excellence. There will be continental awards, national awards as well as city awards in every sector of society. Each network will establish a system of nomination and selection that will be transparent, motivating and honourable. This will promote Christian activism, engagement and excellence among Christian professionals and public officers. The award will cover all categories and sectors of society.

Web Presence

The City Builders Network will have a website that will afford its members virtual global fellowship and interaction.

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The City Builders' Network seeks to model good governance and leadership in the administration of the movement in every city where it is established. The City Builders Network will adapt relational leadership model as opposed to hierarchical models. The network must be well structured and create a friendly atmosphere for emergence of a kind of humble servant leadership that is not common. We must avoid leadership conflict at all levels. Also, the network will adopt a grassroots approach to development rather than the top down model.

Joining the Network

Believers in each city who have similar prophetic vision may come together and fellowship as City Builders and then join the international fellowship called the City Builders' Network. The Network provides vision and structure but it does not interfere in each city Leadership Networks unless it is invited to do so. However, if a city network is found not upholding the values of the network, it may be asked to leave the network until such times as it complies with the ethics of the network.

The core team of visionaries will support the various fellowships and build the international network but will not own the local structure. Each City must own its own fellowship of City Builders. The Visionary or visionaries will serve each city at the request of the believers in the city.

The structure will be owned by a local and national fellowship of people in various sectors who will work their own application for the vision with ownership for their own cities. They may look at all the options and recommendations in terms of structure and decide how they will use it.

Recommendations in terms of structure

1. It is important to be structured and to avoid arbitrariness. Arbitrariness is the state where the fellowship is subject to the discretion and impulse of the leader. Arbitrariness is the opposite of structure. Arbitrariness is corruption. It breeds poor and corrupt leadership
2. Each city structure must be sufficiently organized, transparent and accountable
3. Each City Network may adopt the Constitution of the CBN and adapt it locally for the sake of accountability, so that the leader in each member can be developed. In every city, there must be proper governance (not arbitrary) having elected/nominated leaders, boundaries, demarcation, a constitution, membership, financial structure and all other necessary office to facilitate organic growth of the network.
4. Every sector of society must be represented in a City network. It may start with a few but growing into all.
5. We are not going to "Lord" it over each other but we are going to fellowship in Godly order with one another and in the spirit of love.

6. Membership

1. Membership of the City Builders' Network is drawn from
 - Bible believing Christians in every city and every sector of society
 - Professionals
 - Tradesmen
 - Youth
2. Membership is encouraged for the sake of effective administration, mobilization and action. Every member is encouraged to be accountable. A member must be willing to submit to the body of rules and code of conduct adapted by each local network.
3. Each member is expected to be committed to the vision and the network
4. We will have registered membership for the sake of political action in particular.

One of the main focuses of each city network is to secure numbers for the sake of political action.

Governance

The network will have office bearers with 2 year tenure. No-one will be able to recommend him/herself for leadership. Unless somebody is a sinner or breaking scriptural rules, a person may not be denied the opportunity to lead. It is not going to be part of the network culture to have/entertain leadership squabbling.

Appointing leaders

When the people came to Samuel to demand a king immediately, God listened because politics is about the people. There is a process in which God exposes a future political leader to the people. If the people appreciate you, you are ready to provide political leadership. God anointed David, and then exposed him to the people. God watched how the people grew in love for him. Leadership is to love the people and for the people to love you. One can be a good leader but if the people reject you there is nothing God can do about it. The people can rebel against God's choice. The people can also rebel legitimately. You are not going to rule God even if you are God's choice, you are going to rule the people and therefore the people need to love and respect you. David had the wisdom to wait until the people were ready for him.

In principle therefore we seek leaders who are sufficiently patient for others to acknowledge what God has placed in them and nominate them into leadership. This principle can be applied both internally within the CBN network as well as towards political leadership.

City structures

In the network every city will be autonomous. For example, the whole metropolitan area could be a city, and a suburb or neighborhood could also be defined as a city. Geographical areas and sectors are delimited for the sake of focus and every focus area will have their own leadership, membership, financial governance, and a coordinator.

The purpose is for people to fellowship together as biblical leaders and to learn good governance.

Each leader in a sector is expected to:

1. Mobilize believers in that sector
2. Be informed about what God is saying to that sector throughout the world
3. Constantly weigh their sector on the scale of scriptures
4. Workshop and learn from issues of the day so that people can continually think in the word about issues of the day

Until you focus, there are things you won't learn.

Financial administration

It is recommended that each city network agree on yearly membership subscription fee from its members. The network wants to be strong financially so that it can get things done. The leaders in every city will set their membership fee and submit financial statement to members on a regular/annual basis

Friends of the Network

All unbelievers in Christ in the city will be described as friends of the network. Although unbelievers may not be registered as a member of the City Builders' Network, it is important that they are registered as friends of the network. One cannot exclude non-believers in nation building activities. Whereas they may not subscribe to biblical values, they subscribe to certain ethical standards that the CBN can appreciate and acknowledge for the purposes of collaboration in City/Nation Building and Political action.

In the spirit of love (John 3:16) every member of the City Builders' Network is expected to develop a large circle of friends and love them with the love of Christ.

The City Builders Network will maintain friendly relationship with other Christian organizations within the city and support the work of every other Christian group. The City Builders Network will not create conflict within the body of Christ. The CBN will support activities of other Christian groups within the city and ensure that it does not in any way involve in conflict or unhealthy rivalry/competition.

This is not a final founding document of the City Builders' Network. It is a working document. Input is welcomed from different quarters

Olusegun Olanipekun

Institute for Christian Leadership Development

Pretoria