

Over 250 undergo three weeks Administrative Management Training in Lagos, Nigeria.

Amidst songs and thanksgiving, more than 250 businessmen, church leaders and civil servants recently graduated with Diploma in Administrative Management. They completed what many described as a "rigorous three-week marathon" program with particular emphasis on "insight and foresight in leadership strategies in administrative management."

The program was a brainchild of a Canadian Institute, the Advanced Community Education Service (ACES), but was administered in conjunction with the Abia State University (ABSU). The program, which was facilitated by Rev. Paul Ndukwe, (popularly called 'Prof' by the students) initiator of the ACES, had as resource persons Prof. Mkpá Agu Mkpá, the Vice-Chancellor of ABSU; Dr. Danny McCain, the founder and International Director-at large of International Institute for Christian Studies (IICS), and also an Associate Professor of Biblical Theology, Department of Religious Studies, University of Jos (UNIJOS); Pastor Iphy Okonkwo, former lecturer in the Department of English at the University of Jos (UNIJOS) and the Senior Pastor of Glory in the House Ministries; Pastor James Wuye, Co-Executive Director of Inter-Faith Mediation Centre, Kaduna; Barrister Emmanuel Uche, the former Deputy Registrar, Industrial Arbitration Board, Lagos; Mr. Davies Echegwuisi, the Executive Director of DGM Consulting Services, Lagos; Dr. Humphrey Erumaka, Senior Pastor of Wordbase Assembly and Ndukwe as well.



Dr. Humphrey Erumaka



Rev. Paul Ndukwe



Mr. Davies Echegwuisi



Dr. Danny McCain during one of his sessions



Pastor Iphy & Dr. Erumaka

The three week (September 11 – 29, 2010) program was hosted by Wordbase Assembly and held at its headquarters in Okota, Lagos. Speaking at the graduation ceremony, the Vice Chancellor of Abia State University and one of the resource persons charged the graduates to see themselves "as mustard seed that must provide refuge for birds of the air."

The event attracted leaders of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) including Pastor Wale Adefarasin, National Secretary and Apostle Alex Bamgbola, Lagos State Chairman of PFN, among others.

While presenting the graduates to the Vice-Chancellor, Rev. Ndukwe said he visualised the program in Canada some years ago. He said: "The Lord gave me a vision to come back to Nigeria to train our people. I had close

shaves with death through an armed robbery attack, but God spared my life to do this project." He stressed that the 12-course program, which should have lasted for nine months but was compressed to three weeks, was meant to develop pastors, political and corporate leaders who are involved in administrative management in their various fields to be productive servant-leaders. The ACES boss added: "The program seeks to groom servant-leaders who will serve effectively and efficiently wherever they are deployed."

Earlier, Erumaka, the Lagos campus Director and also the West African Coordinator of the program said Canada has one of the best educational systems in the world. He extolled the virtues of Rev. Ndukwe as a dedicated man of God and scholar. In the same manner, Prof. Mkpa described Ndukwe as ABSU's Goodwill Ambassador to North America. In a cheery mood, he said: "All the graduates here today have been certified, qualified and accredited in character and in learning to receive these certificates." He urged them to treasure the certificates because "after the Holy Bible, it is the next most important document."

Erumaka, on his part, described the participants as "salt that had been thrown back into the society, charging them to unleash their molecular effect, dissolve into all sectors of the society, so that in few years their impact would be felt by Nigeria."



During group interactive session



A cross section of the students

In addition, the VC stressed that the problem of the African continent was leadership. According to him, if the graduates would put what they had learned into practice, things would change. "In fact, the best way to appreciate all your resource persons is to return to your various stations and do likewise. Teach and be an example to others. Your certificates are very authentic and cannot be faulted by anyone anywhere under the sun."

Speaking of the program, Rev. Ndukwe said, "We have taken off and we will not relax. Our students drawn from all over Nigeria and other African countries like Liberia, Kenya, Cameroun and Benin Republic cut across various denominations and all walks of life."

Pastor Adefarasin, quoting copiously from Proverbs 16:16, urged the participants whom he said had been equipped with wisdom, understanding and knowledge, to see their certificates "not as an end but a means to an end which is to transform this land for better; go therefore and make a difference just as the church of Jesus Christ is the custodian of a better Nigeria."

Apostle Bamgbola noted that the world is seriously searching for true leaders because the wisdom of man has failed. He said: "The world failed because the church has not put up leaders who can make the difference." Pastor Okonkwo, who coordinated the human resource management courses said it was time everyone, including women, started playing their roles as "that is the only way we can harness fully the potential God has put in us all." She urged the participants to ensure they utilise what they learnt.

Some of the graduates shared their impressions. Mrs. Ngozi Osy-Agbata said: "My best was a lecture delivered by Rev. Ndukwe on servant leadership. I am already a better leader, better Nigerian and better wife just because I attended this programme."



Mrs. Ngozi Osy-Agbata



Pastor Obikwe Nwandu



Mr. Bello O. Sonny

Pastor Kingsley Ezeanya, another participant, said: "I bless the day I learnt about this programme. It has totally transformed my perception of leadership and service. Now, I have a better understanding of what is expected of me as a leader."

Pastor Obikwe Nwandu, and participant, said, "For me this program is an awesome blessing. On the list of things I have gained was the opportunity of interacting with everyone who was a part of this program. I have made friends, and I know the friendship will endure for life. I left the University more than 20 years ago. I have never since then have to bring my brain to the kind of stress and strain that I did in these last three weeks. It was exciting to recognize capacities that are laid dormant for a long time. Learning must be continuous and I think we still grow better with age. So I do encourage even those who think they are advanced, we still have much to gain and much to give. The life and testimony of Professor Mkpa was humbling. There is nobody that will sit through the one day we had with him that will not come out transformed. I believe what we received from him in that one day. Corporate organizations should pay millions to have their executives sit and listen to him. I believe that all politicians especially in Nigeria who have forgotten that their main role is service to people and not the other way round, should have a session with him every year before they open the houses for the business of governance."

Mr. Bello O. Sonny said, "I thank God for this worthwhile program. I was thinking that my days at the University of Ife, there wasn't any school as rigorous as that University program until we came here. For the past three weeks the academic program has been up to the task. We will not forget the things we have learnt. For me it is a worthy investment. If the Senators of this nation have the privilege to attend these teachings, Nigeria will be a better country."

Mr. Obiakpolam Chikezie said, "Rev. Paul Ndukwe, I want to use this medium to thank you for your impartation over my life and that of other friends. You are a man from God. I participated in the Diploma program on administrative management. Sir, that program have transformed my life." Another participant Mr. Emezie P. Ibeanusi wrote saying "Dear Prof. Rev Paul Ndukwe, I am a beneficiary of the 3-weeks intensive course in Administrative Management organised by you at Wordbase Assembly, in Nigeria. The program has so enriched me that I yearn for more. Thank you and God will surely reward you here and in heaven for what you are doing in the body of Christ and in Africa. Thank you once more.



A cross section of the 2010 graduating class.

We decided to report just these few testimonies from the many we received from our students and participants

Program Courses covered during these three weeks are:

- Foundation of Leadership – Principles and Concept of Servant Leadership
- Foundation of Effective Management
- Transactional and Transformational Leadership
- Team Work and Team Building
- Life and Time Management
- Human Resource Management
- Change Process Management
- Conflict Management
- Conflict Mapping Analysis
- Mastering your Communication Skills
- Dealing with Absalom Spirit
- Sustaining Friendship
- Financial Integrity
- Two Models of Leadership
- Leadership Project (Assignments)



It was reported that during this program, Rev. Paul Ndukwe held another four day parallel training captioned “Sharpening the Skills for Effective Leadership” for General Managers, Deputy General Managers, Personnel Managers and Regional Managers of Niger Insurance Company, Nigeria. PLC.



A cross section of the GM/DGM of Niger Insurance Com., PLC, Nigeria during the training

GM/DGM's & the resource persons



Personnel and Regional Managers



In other words, our Advanced Community Education Services is a program created to serve any administration.

It is worth stating here that registration for the “spring 2011” (March – May) intake has begun. Should you be interested, contact us through any of our representatives.

Written by Ngozi Nwozor of The Nation and Sunday Ani of Sunday Sun newspapers and Rev. Paul Ndukwe