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ACAP. Biblical Values: Stewardship, Responsibility, Integrity, Transparency

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2. ACAP. Biblical Values: Stewardship, Responsibility, Integrity, Transparency

**African Church Assets Programme ACAP II Workshop,
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Content

Biblical and Ethical Basis of Asset Management:

- 1. Stewardship**
- 2. Responsibility**
- 3. Integrity**
- 4. Transparency**
- 5. Spiritual basis: Prayer, Repentance, Metanoia, reformation/innovation**
- 6. Asset Mapping: My/our Resources**

1.1 Biblical Basis for Asset Management: Stewardship

- Gen 2:15 and Gen 1:26: Mandate from God
- Luke 4: temptation of Jesus: money, power, miracles
- Luke 12:42-48: the good and bad manager
- Matthew 25:14-30: the manifold entrusted talents
- John 4:12: the Gods are from God
- Acts: to correct and monitor each others
- 2Cor 8-9: managing the collection for Jerusalem
- 1Peter 4:10: Gods managers
- The human body as temple: managing first oneself
- Managing time
- Corruption: see later. Many biblical texts

1.2 Stewardship, not Ownership

- Stewardship is a core value in Christian Ethics. The steward acts not as owner, proprietor and shareholder of goods and services, but as steward, responsible manager, “careholder” even if he/she is owner.
- Luke 12,42-48 is the precise story of the bad oikonomos (economist, manager, steward) who behaves like owner and exploiter and the good economist who acts responsibly on behalf of the owner (God).

1.3 Titles of Asset Managers

How to call the good steward/manager?

- Steward?
- Manager?
- Servant?
- Oikonomos? (Luc 12,42ff)

For this workshop (and beyond?) I suggest to call ourselves and the others not pastor, officer, secretary, bishop, professor, Dr etc. but steward. Call me steward Christoph. This reminds us each time that we called to be God's steward in managing and developing entrusted goods, services, talents, resources.

2.1 Responsibility as Accountability

The word responsibility (in the ‚European‘ languages deriving from Latin) is composed of two words:

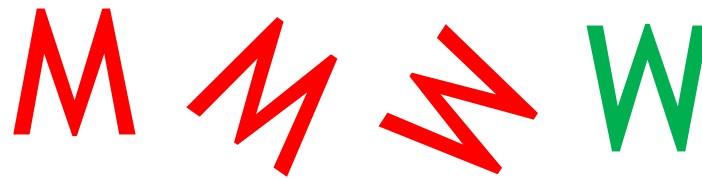
- „Spondere“ (Latin) means to promise, to offer, to commit, to sign a contract, to entrust power (in the monotheist theological perspective: God offers his earth, he commits it to humankind), he empowers (gives power) human beings.
- „Re-spondere“ (Latin) means to respond, to answer to this offer by responsible behaviour / responsible use of this offer/power.
- Power and Responsibility are interconnected: the more power one has, the greater the responsibility is!

2.2 Accountability as Obedience and Resistance

- Obedience is the capacity to be faithful to the promises made and to the objectives agreed or given and to implement them as well as possible.
- Obedience to authorities is ethically positive as long as the object is and common values are strengthened and implemented.
- Disobedience to authorities is ethically necessary if with obedience the objectives and values are in danger or weakened and if they can be strengthened by disobedience.
- Resistance as right, even obligation, is a Christian, especially protestant principle.
- Obedience to God (represented in the own conscience) is superior to obedience to human authorities (Paul in Acts 5)

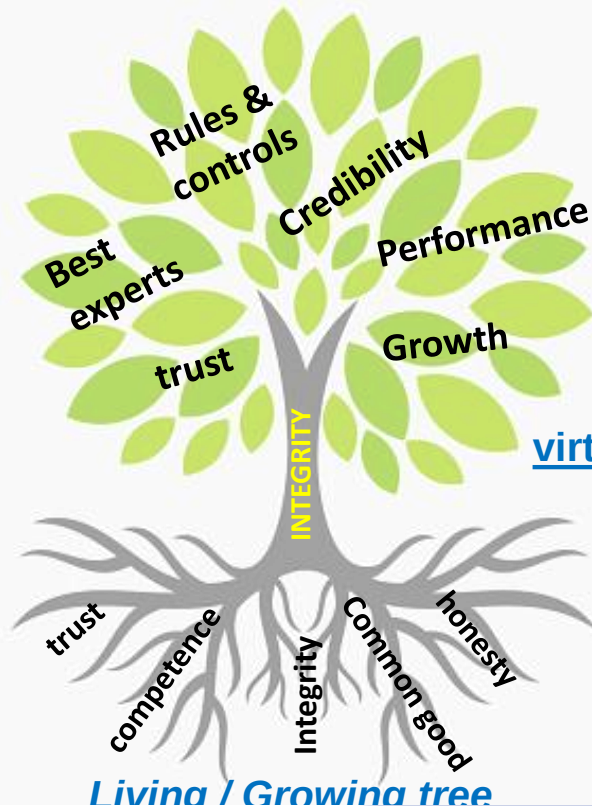
3.1 Integrity: The One-Letter-Revolution

From **ME** to **WE**

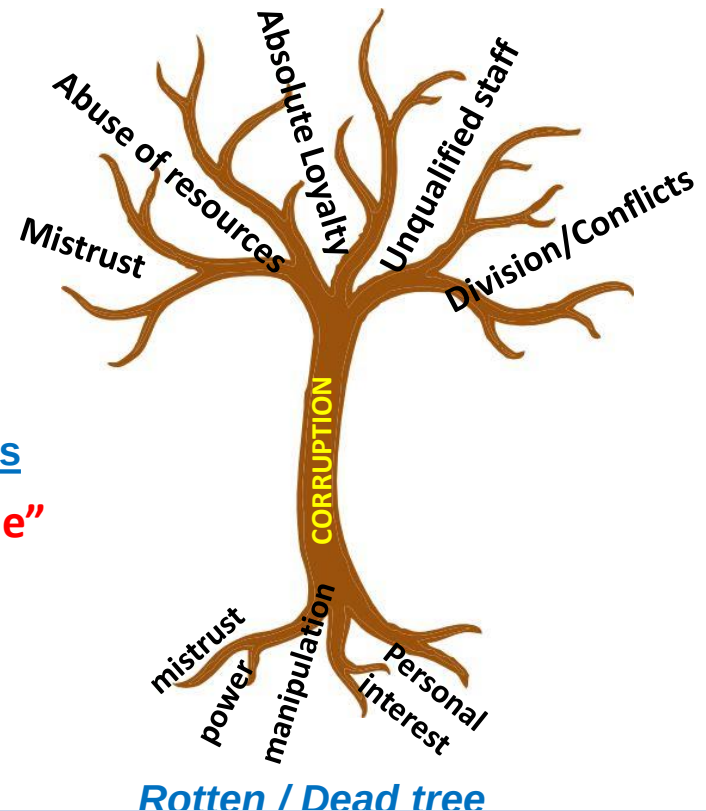


3.2 Integrity: the Core of Management

Integrity Leadership

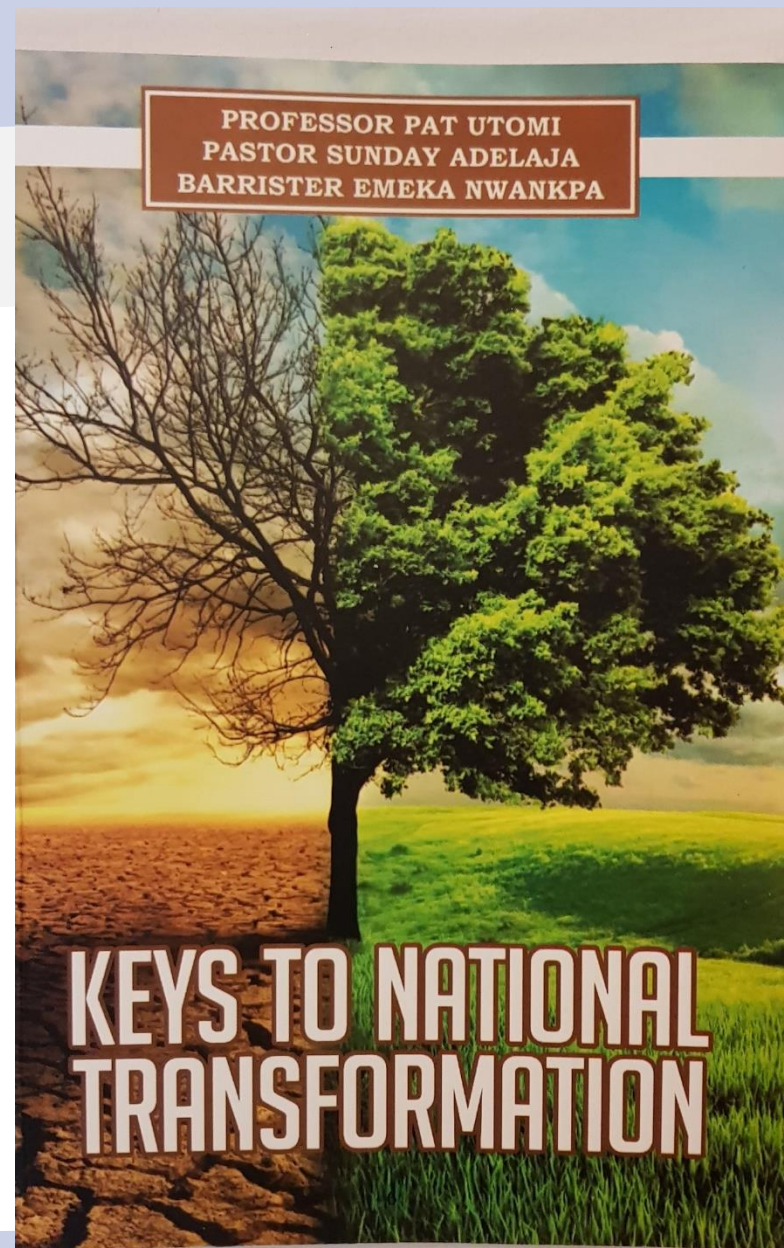


Abuse-of-Power Leadership



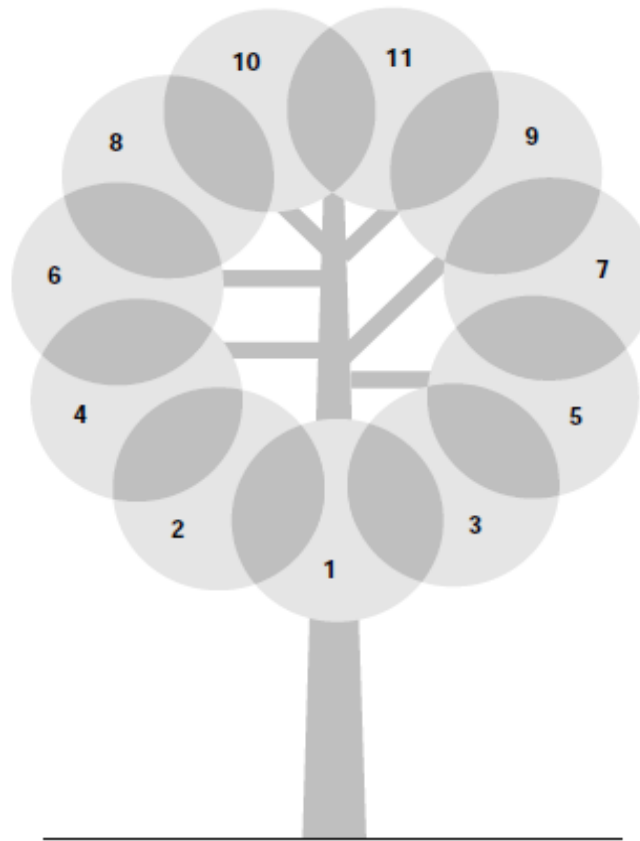
virtues vices
“we” “me”

3.3 Integrity: key to National Transformation



3.4 The Tree of Values and Virtues

1. Dignity
2. Freedom
3. Justice
4. Equity
5. Peace
6. Security
7. Community
8. Inclusiveness
9. Participation
10. Forgiveness
11. Stewardship



1. Integrity
2. Compassion
3. Care
4. Transparency
5. Accountability
6. Reliability
7. Respect
8. Humility
9. Courage
10. Gratitude
11. Generosity

4. Ethical Basis for Asset Management Transparency. Reasons for

Christian ethical reasons for transparency:

- God is love: No love without trust. No trust without control. No control without openness and transparency.
- God is light: He came on earth, incarnated in Jesus from Nazareth. "The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil." (John 3,19-21)
- Stewardship: Christians are called to be good stewards in the management of goods, services and all gifts. (Luke 12, 42-48)
- Accountability: Christians are primarily accountable to God, but also to the brothers and sisters of the Christian community/society.
- Procedural justice: Procedural justice which means calculable, constitutional (publicly and privately) regulated, transparent, corruption free and thus fair procedures. Reliability.

No value/virtue is absolute, also not transparency. Has to be balanced with Confidentiality, keeping promises (e.g. of confidentiality)

5.1 The Price of Ethics: Sacrifice

Ethics as values-driven behaviour has a price! One cannot be ethical without being ready to pay a price in situations where we have to decide between a benefit (power, money, promotion etc. with violation of my values) and my values. Price/sacrifice can be:

- Not to get or accept a position
- To be discredited by fake news
- Financial losses or missed gains
- Broken friendships (“I now see it was not a real friend”)
- Loneliness etc.

5.2 The Gain of Ethics: Reputation

What do I want people to say about me after my death?

“This was a personality of great wealth”

“This was a personality of great faith”

“This was a personality I could not trust”

“This was a personality with double morality”

“This was a personality of great integrity”

Reputation (fame) by integrity is the greatest asset a person has.

6. The Spiritual Basis for change: Prayer, Repentance, change, innovation

- Daily prayer (before work: I pray to you God as your steward)
- The community of believers with mutual correction
- Repentance as metanoia (“change management”)
- The equality of sisters and brothers in Christ
- The prayer for God’s spirit of renewal

lead to

- Humility, responsibility, transparency
- Ability for self-critique
- Energy for Reformation and Innovation

شكراً جداً (Shokran Gidan)

merci

thank you

teşekkürler

ngiyabonga

baie dankie

kealeboga

diolch

yn fawr धन्यवाद (Danyavad)

tatenda

謝謝

(xiexie) asante sana

gracias Спасибо (spacibo)

Mazvita danke Siyabonga

grazie

adube oshe dankjewel

obrigado/a