

The Great Commission Missionary Institute

The Great Commission Missionary Institute is a practical instrument of Baptist associations, fellowships or churches to enlist and train large numbers of dedicated Christian workers to disciple and evangelize the unchurched people of their community and to open new work in unchurched communities.

Required Courses	Classes	Hours
Missions	<i>The Great Commission Is Personal</i>	6
Personal Ministry	<i>Your Little Flock Ministry</i>	6
Disciple Making	<i>Teach to Save Lives</i>	8
Discipleship	<i>First Steps in Christian Discipleship</i>	8
Church Planting, Growth	<i>The Church on the March</i>	9
Spiritual Basis of Ministry	<i>Spiritual Power</i>	6
Pastoral Leadership	<i>The Pastor God Uses</i>	6
Pastoral Ministry	<i>Pastoral Ministries in the Church*</i>	6
Biblical Homiletics	<i>Preach the Word</i>	10
Biblical Homiletics	<i>Dramatic Preaching, Stories of the Bible</i>	12
Christian Doctrine	<i>Doctrines of the Bible*</i>	12
Family	<i>Ministry to Families*</i>	9
Christian Leadership	<i>Dynamic Spiritual Leadership</i>	6
Christian Stewardship	<i>Your Prosperity Pleases God</i>	6
Elective Courses	(Listed separately)	12
Total hours:		120

Certificates Offered

Certificate of Study	First 60 hours
Diploma of Missionary Preparation	Final 60 hours



DYNAMIC *Spiritual Leadership*

*Christian Leadership Practice & Principles
Based in the Studies of Nehemiah*

GREAT COMMISSION MISSIONARY INSTITUTE



"Every Community on Earth Deserves a New Testament Church"



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Textbook of the Great Commission Missionary Institute

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DYNAMIC SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

INTRODUCTION

THE MAIN PURPOSE IN YOUR LIFE

Let's start with really good news: God has great plans for your life! ***"For I know the plans I have for you, says the lord, plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and hope."*** (Jeremiah 29:11, TLB)

We who belong to Christ and His kingdom are blessed beyond measure, it is not only the fact that we have salvation through the cross of Christ, but that God has saved us with great and beautiful purposes. We are people chosen by God; ***"You did not choose me, but I chose you..."*** (John 15:16). We weren't chosen for being the best or more deserving of God's grace than others who still live in darkness.

We were chosen for very special purposes that God has and is willing to do through us. Jesus our Lord says: ***"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide"*** (John 15:16).

Another passage from the scripture compares us to a vine that God has planted (Jeremiah 2:21). He planted us not only to be a nice decorative plant but in order to be a fruitful plant of God, a plant that will give abundant fruits.

From the time we meet Christ, we must be dominated by one single question, the question that came to be the theme in the life of Apostle Paul: ***"What shall I do Lord?"*** (Acts 22:10)

Jesus says that we are placed like ***"the salt of the earth... light of the world"*** (Matthew 5:13-14, NIV). We are placed in the world to give taste and light, to provoke fundamental changes in society and in the lives of men, women and children.

We are placed by God, in His hands as divine agents of change, revolutionaries, and agents of the deepest revolution that has ever happened in the world.

All of this talks about leadership. A lot of the Bible speaks about the search that God has for new leaders to unify, edify, motivate and supervise God's people in His grand projects. The calling of Abraham, Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah and the apostles, among others, simply make a part of history in the history of divine rising of leaders for God's people. These were outstanding leaders who led God's people throughout history. However, we must recognize that God needs and calls millions of Christians. ***"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few"*** (Matthew 9:37, NASB) affirmed Christ, who instructed His followers to become good leaders in order to make them His disciples, ***"teaching [the disciples they create] to observe all that I have commanded you"*** (Matthew 28:20).



The best book to guide leaders is none the less, the Bible. Throughout the Bible, there is possibly no other book than Nehemiah that is so useful in the preparation of Christian leaders. This book contains the detailed testimony of a great leader placed by God to help God's people in the making of a very difficult project: the reconstruction of Jerusalem's walls. The purpose of the following Bible study is to guide each person who is taking it to discover how to give Christian dynamic leadership in their own world.

Our brother, Nehemiah who experienced spiritual leadership's great challenges 2500 years ago, will be our guide. We will dedicate ourselves specifically to the first chapters of the book of Nehemiah, chapters which have divine principles for spiritual dynamic leadership.





FIRST STUDY

The Divine Calling to a Dynamic Spiritual Leadership

A good leader is usually someone who takes the initiative and leads the way. When we are interested in studying a certain matter, most of the books are written to present the expert in that matter. The author is the leader and the reader is his follower. The student simply reads a book and tries to absorb the author's point of view. If one wants to be a leader, it is necessary to learn to come to your own conclusions based on your own findings. This book has been written with that principle in mind. Instead of describing the findings and opinions of the author, it guides its readers into making their own findings and to make their own conclusions. This is not only a good practice for growing leaders, but it means that the study will be much more interesting and valuable to the students. We can easily forget what others tell us, but we remember well what we discover on our own. In this case, the students will learn from their own investigation made possible through an inductive study, taken from Nehemiah's leadership experiences and challenges, who demonstrated to have been a Dynamic Spiritual Leader.

Before considering the following questions, read **Nehemiah 1:1-4**

Questions to Answer in Groups

1. What was the news that moved Nehemiah? (v. 2-3)
2. What was Nehemiah's reaction when he heard these sad words? (v. 4)

3. Mark all the leadership principles that you find in these statements:

- The good leadership spirit starts when a person is moved by the needs of his/her people, church or group.
- God does not depend on people to make His own projects with His people.
- A deep compassion for the needs of the people give initiative to very important projects.
- Perspective leaders are people who are sensible to the real situation of their people and those who ask and investigate according to this situation.
- Spiritual leaders receive their motivation from God Himself and he uses other people as instruments to communicate and to motivate.

Personal Application

4. What are the actual conditions of your people, your church or your group and how can they be inspired with compassion? What hope is there in fixing these situations if there is no one to be deeply moved with the desire to see changes in salvation?

Read Nehemiah 1: 4-11

Questions to Answer in Groups

5. How much time did Nehemiah dedicate to prayer and fasting as a result of his understanding of the gravity of the situation? (v. 4)
6. What was Nehemiah's confession when he prayed to God about this sad situation?
7. At the end of his prayer, what did Nehemiah ask from God?

Mark the right answers:

- Nehemiah was convinced that only God had the power to change the situation.
- Nehemiah's sadness resulted in fasting and prayer.
- Nehemiah blamed God for Jerusalem's bad situation.
- Nehemiah confessed that the whole bad situation derived from the sin of the people, his own sin, and the former generation's sin.
- Nehemiah affirmed that God is entirely loyal in accomplishing His covenant with His people.
- Nehemiah had faith in the fact that God could change the situation and his faith was due to many actions made by God in the past that resulted in the rescue and blessing of God's people.
- Nehemiah asked God to do something without him getting involved.
- Nehemiah asked God to fix the situation.
- Nehemiah recognized that God had placed him in a very special place of opportunity to fix the need that God's people were facing.



8. Mark the leadership principles that you find in these statements:

- God gives special opportunities to certain people to make certain projects or tasks that are important for God Himself.
- A way for you to know God's will for your life, is to simply examine the special opportunities that God has given you.
- God makes His biggest projects without the need of human leadership.
- Dynamic Christian leadership depends in strong people who are moved by the needs of the kingdom of God and His people.
- God reveals His plans, He opens doors of opportunity and demonstrates His divine intervention in answer to sincere and tenacious prayers of His people and His leaders.
- Dynamic Christian leadership has its basis in dynamic spiritual life that God desires to use.
- For each need in the kingdom of God, there are people that are already placed by Him that could be used to fix a situation. If it is done or not depends on your sensibility to God's desire and your disposition to be used by Him.

Personal Application

9. What are some of the most urgent spiritual problems in your community? Give some specific examples.

10. Are God's people's walls tumbled down today? I mean, is there evidence that the same people of God live in a bad state now-a-days?

11. How do you qualify the interest in God's people in dealing with solving the spiritual problems in their society?

- Total indifference.
- Mental interest, but without a greater impulse toward making a change.
- Deep emotional interest, but without making a major effort.
- Powerful interest that compels constant prayer and superhuman efforts.

12. How do you qualify your own interest? According to your previous answer, which is your degree in leadership?

13. What special opportunities do you have as a person for reasons of: a) family, b) your membership at the church, c) your work, d) your geographical location, e) your influence over certain people, f) your special abilities, g) your time resources; money or wealth?

14. Tell your group about a special opportunity that God has given you among the options of the previous questions.

15. What must you ask from God in order to have a conqueror's spirit like Nehemiah's?





SECOND STUDY

First Steps in Dynamic Leadership

Read Nehemiah Chapter 2

Questions to Answer in Groups

1. Three months went by before God answered Nehemiah's prayer. In your opinion, why didn't God give Nehemiah an immediate answer?
2. What was Nehemiah's first reaction when the king asked him about his sad appearance?
3. According to Nehemiah, why did the king give him everything he asked for?
4. Describe the ways that Nehemiah was helped by the king in order to do his project?
5. What were Nehemiah's first activities when he got to Jerusalem before speaking to the Jews about his purposes? (v. 11-15)
6. In your opinion, why did Nehemiah delay in revealing his mission to the Jews?
7. In verses 17 and 18, what did Nehemiah say according to:
 - the need of the people he spoke to.
 - the definition of the task to be made.
 - the evidence that it was God's plan and not his.



8. What was the answer of the leaders and the others that would do the job?
9. Nehemiah sold his idea pretty well to those who would put it in practice. What did he do to sell his idea that probably not many leaders would have done?
10. What was Nehemiah's answer to those who made fun of the great project that God had revealed?
11. It is probable that Nehemiah took part in this great project because:
 - He wanted the Jewish people to see him and to honor him as a leader.
 - He wanted the king to see his spirituality.
 - He only wanted the Holy City to be built strongly and for the honor of God to be affirmed, without caring about the implications that would come upon him.
12. When God reveals project plans that are important for Him:
 - He can provide all the resources needed to accomplish it.
 - He leaves us frustrated without being able to do anything.
13. Normally, when God reveals to someone the urgent need of a task or a special project:
 - God doesn't involve this person in that project.
 - God makes it possible for this person to be involved.
 - God uses this person to involve others as well.
 - God blesses the project or task, only as long as His servants publicly and constantly recognize the fact that the success and efforts depend on God's special work.
14. How is it possible to motivate other's into making a big effort?
 - The leader needs to feel the transcending importance of the effort being made.
 - The leader must exactly know what he expects to accomplish and communicate this goal clearly to those who work with him.
 - The leader needs to study the details of the task to be accomplished.
 - The leader needs to convince them of the urgency there is in making the work or in having the job done.
 - The leader must challenge those who will be able to help with the job inviting them into decisively participating.
 - The leader publicly commits to conclude the task to be made.
 - The leader expresses absolute confidence in the fact that God will give them victory.
 - The leader does not show fear before the threats and mocking of people who are not in the project.

Personal Application

15. In your opinion, why is it that our churches do not show more consciousness toward the horrendous spiritual conditions in our communities?

16. Before trying to sell an idea to other Christians that must participate in an important task or project, what kind of preparation must a dynamic leader make?

17. What must we do to make conscience in God's people's hearts for them to realize that they are capable of being used in God's important projects?

18. Which would be a project or a task that God can use you in as motivator and collaborator with others? If nothing like this comes to your mind, what does this indicate about your sensitivity to God's desires in your life? In such situation, what must you do?

19. What can you do to motivate others in participating with you in accomplishing this project or task?

20. Write down a big project that must be accomplished by your whole church or an organization you have a lot of influence in:





THIRD STUDY

Total Leadership Scheme

In the first two studies, covering chapters 1 and 2 of Nehemiah, you have seen many spiritual leadership principles that are necessary in order for God to use you to motivate others and like this, guide a Christian group into accomplishing projects and tasks of great importance. In the Bible readings of the next study, study four, you will notice new evidence dealing with the certainty of these principles and you will see other leadership principles that are likely important. In this third study, we'll leave Nehemiah's testimony briefly to see in a panoramic view, everything that is involved in spiritual and dynamic leadership. Therefore, when we end our workshop, and study four, we will be able to identify more exactly, the importance of all the details noticed in the experiences Nehemiah had, as leader of God's people.

When we talk about "total leadership" we wish to reaffirm that, even though leadership includes spiritual vision, planning, motivation and commitment, this in itself is not enough. Total leadership does not only begin big projects with God's people, but, with patience and persistence, leads them to a happy accomplishment.

TOTAL LEADERSHIP OUTLINE

This outline comes directly from the exemplary life of Nehemiah. Be prepared, in each detail, to show how this took place in Nehemiah's ministry.

In Its Preparation

1. Receiving the vision (Spiritual Sensitivity)

- Be in communion with God the vision comes from Him.
- Take notice of the urgent needs.
- Recognize God's calling and provision.
- Dedicate oneself to God's purposes.

2. Planning (Organizational Abilities)

- Study in detail all the needs and how to satisfy them.
- Recognize available resources.
- Spiritual resource
- Human resources (other leaders and workers)
- Resources of foreign support
- Material resources, especially those who are available to the participants.
- Recognize that there will be opposition and resistance and determine the kind of attitude and strategy that will be given toward it.
- Establish the steps to take, involving other workers in the planning details.

In Its Making

3. Motivate and Prepare (Communication Skills)

- One's personal example
- Define the tasks that must be accomplished and to assign them.
- Find the needed resources.
- Look after the progress of the mission carefully.

4. Supervise (Abilities to Guide and Encourage)

- Set one's personal example.
- Define the tasks that must be accomplished and to assign them.
- Find the needed resources.
- Look after the progress of the mission carefully.
- Make adjustments according to the needs.
- Encourage the workers and to recognize them as such.
- Deal with opposition in an adequate manner.
- Reaffirm their dependence in the power of God.
- Work with persistence and patience.
- Assign the maintenance tasks.

5. Dedicate (Spiritual Stature)

- Dedicate the accomplished work to God with worship.
- Recognize God with repentance and humility.
- Make a covenant with God.
- Raise one's sight to new challenges.
- Leave in a definite manner the evaluation and the history of the accomplished project.



Questions to Answer as a Group

1. Quickly, place an "x" next to each total leadership principle that you have noticed in the first two chapters of Nehemiah.
2. Which are the five major aspects in total leadership?
3. Out of all the list of Dynamic Spiritual Leadership activities, what do we commonly fail to do?





FOURTH STUDY

Completing the Leadership Task

It is necessary for the student to have read the book of Nehemiah, from Chapters 3 to 13, before starting this chapter and then read them again after you have finished this fourth study.

Nehemiah 3: 1- 5 Assigning Tasks

Questions to answer in groups

1. Circle your answer, yes or no, after each of the following phrases:

The great labor of lifting the walls was made by assigning the different parts of this task, to different groups.

Yes No

Each group had a very specific task to accomplish in a specific time frame.

Yes No

The job was accomplished without a problem and, without an exception, all the people did what was expected from them.

Yes No



2. Mark the leadership principles that you find in these statements.

- All projects or big tasks requires the leader to equally distribute the tasks.
- Being a "leader" implies that one knows how to distribute tasks to everyone according to their knowledge.
- The leader won't have everyone participating in the tasks given, but this doesn't mean that victory won't be accomplished.

Personal Application

3. Is your church or organization such that the biggest part of its members are assigned tasks that have true meaning, tasks that they are capable of doing?

4. Do you think that the organization in your church or organization is adequate to get everyone to work?

5. Are the purposes of your group or church big and urgent enough for the members to get seriously involved?

6. As a leader, how do you act when you notice that some members don't want to do their part?

Nehemiah 4: 1- 6 Responding to Opposition

Questions to Answer in Groups

7. In your opinion, Sanbalat and Tobias made fun of Nehemiah's labor, and his followers because:

- The work they were doing was funny.
- The success in Nehemiah's job diminished the power of these two men.
- They felt jealous, about Nehemiah's dynamic leadership.

8. How did Nehemiah respond to these mocking that was heard by everyone in town?

- He reacted drastically requesting a debate on leadership.
- Nehemiah did not respond to the mocking in public but kept guiding the nation in their job.
- In private Nehemiah came before the Lord and presented all to Him, trusting in the fact that the Lord would make justice for him.

9. Mark the leadership principles that you find in these statements:

- All of the projects that are important to God, will have distractions.
- Normally the best answer to these distractions is silence, along with an increase in your efforts to accomplish the task.
- If the task is given to us by God Himself, we can ask Him to deal with this opposition.
- When opposition comes from outside of the church or the group, its tendency is to consolidate more with the workers in the accomplishment of the project.

Personal Application

10. Why are there so many distractions when your church or your group is doing a great labor?

11. How must we respond to the opposition that comes from outside the church or group?

12. In your opinion, how must we respond if a serious opposition rises inside the church or group?

Nehemiah 5: 1-13 Corrections Along the Way

Questions to Answer in Groups

13. Put an "x" next to the right statements:

- ___ Apparently, the work plan didn't adequately consider the economical condition of many of those participating, getting as a result a lot suffering and injustice.
- ___ Nehemiah observed the work site and the people carefully letting him see a problem that he hadn't seen at the beginning of the project.
- ___ Avoid conflicts with the people's leaders, Nehemiah didn't deal with the problem directly, being confident in the fact that God would solve the problem for him.
- ___ Nehemiah dealt with the problem directly and publicly, recommending an adequate and immediate solution.
- ___ The situation given by Nehemiah negatively affected his own economy.
- ___ Nehemiah left the situation unattended, hoping for the problem to be solved in time without him bothering himself with it.

14. Mark the leadership principles that you find in the following statements.

- There is no perfect plan and there will probably be problems to solve on the way of the project or task.
- The good leader always carefully observes the tasks progression taking notice of the problems that will surely arise.

Personal Application

15. In your leadership within your church or group how do you evaluate yourself in the following:

- I am always checking on the progress of the church (or organization) to establish purposes and goals with greater values, considering the big needs that the church and the community confront to see if everything is progressing like it should always attentive toward any problem that may arise.
- I tend to trust too much in the fact that everything is being done properly until big problems are encountered or there is general discouragement.
- I regularly meet with the people that work with me to receive some information from them, to encourage and advise them, and to deal with any problem that arises before they get bigger.
- When there are problems with certain individuals, I tend to do nothing, hoping for everything to be better, as time goes by.
- When there are problems, I immediately get in to try and fix the situation and if it is possible to induce a reconciliation between the members and the workers.
- In our church or in my group or organization, there is a group of people whose level of maturity enables me to come to them, seeking advice, when it comes to fixing a problem.

16. When thinking of your future growing as a dynamic leader which of the following areas in leadership is the one that you must dedicate more attention to?

- Help the church (or organization) to establish purposes and goals with greater values, considering the big needs that the church and the community confront.
- Turn these goals into practical and detailed plans to effectively accomplish as a team (or through the different organizations).
- Tending to the many constant details that make it possible to accomplish the mission.
- To constantly encourage the workers, congratulating them, instructing them and correcting them in the development of the mission.





FIFTH STUDY

Emphasizing Dynamic Spiritual Leadership

Nehemiah 5: 14- 19 The Leaders' Interests

Questions to Answer in Groups

1. Which of the following statements are true?

- Nehemiah took his opportunity to lead and to take benefit for himself and his family.
- As a leader, Nehemiah sacrificed a lot without expecting to receive anything in return.
- Nehemiah trusted that God would reward him enough for his dedicated service in benefit of God's people.

2. Mark the leadership principles that you find in the following statements.

- Spiritual Dynamic Leadership is expensive for the leader himself.
- Leadership brings along dangers and temptations to satisfy personal interests - things that all spiritual leaders must resist.
- The spiritual leader may trust in receiving gifts from God Himself. This is why his/her life is truly a life of faith.

Personal Application

3. What can be some specific temptations that church leaders experience?

Nehemiah 6:15-19 and 7:5 Important Details in Daily Leadership

Questions to Answer in Groups

4. When the mission was done, who received the attributes for the accomplished project? (6:16)
5. What did people tell Nehemiah about Tobias? (6:19)
6. Why did so many people support Tobias under such conditions? (6:18)
7. Did this indicate complete and unconditional support from Nehemiah as the leader?
8. How did Nehemiah respond toward the bad attitude of many who worked for him?
9. Did this bad attitude make it impossible to accomplish the project in a successful manner?
10. After building the walls, what did Nehemiah do to make this job worthy?
11. Why did Nehemiah ask to have a family registration made?
12. Mark the leadership principles that you find in the following statements.
 - The spiritual leader is pleased when the success in his job is attributed to God more than himself or herself.
 - It is in rare cases that a leader has total and unconditional support from all of his/her followers, but this doesn't make the success of the mission impossible, that is, if God is the One promoting it.
 - The leader must fight strongly in order for the members of his/her group to support him/her completely and for them to openly reject the distractions that come around.
 - The mature leader dedicates his/her biggest efforts.
 - When an important project takes place, the leader must take immediate action to assure that the accomplished project has permanent and maximum fruits.
 - Spiritual leaders must not worry about keeping records. Secretarial tasks are of no importance.
 - Having a secretary to keep records of the people that are involved in an organization may help the leader in constantly evaluating the work and giving the adequate attention to such people.
13. What can be done for people to contribute to the churches or organizations?
14. Why do we wish for people to praise us so much?
15. If we guide our followers into praising us for the accomplished success what decision will God probably make toward the participation of the church or organization?

Personal Application

13. What can be done for people to contribute to the churches or organizations?

14. Why do we wish for people to praise us so much?

15. If we guide our followers into praising us for the accomplished success what decision will God probably make toward the participation of the church or organization?



16. Think about an important project that your church or organization is actually working with. When this project is accomplished, what will be some of the necessary activities to reassure that the project has been worth doing?

Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 13; 18, 9: 1-8, 10: 1; 28; 32
Mission Dedication

Questions to Answer as a Group

17. Mark the statements that you consider to be right:

- It is evident that Nehemiah and his followers considered that the success among them, in God's mission, demanded a lot of attention from their part to dedicating themselves to God in gratitude.
- They had a very simple dedication and the only motive was for outsiders to see the success in their project.
- The mission's dedication was a prolonged event that included: an initial worship service; a whole week of celebration and listening to the Word of God; prayer, fasting and humiliation before God, repenting from their sins; and a formal accord before God in which they committed in many details of their personal and physical life.
- The dedication of the mission was a very important thing to do for the people because the people gave God the glory and helped in spiritually conditioning the people so as to take maximum advantage of the new opportunities built for the projects success, success to the Lord and not to you.

18. Mark the leadership principles that you find in the following statement.

- If we believe that God made our success possible in any effort or project, we must dedicate the mission to Him and consecrate in specific ways to honor Him and to have a maximum experience in what God wants to do with us.
- Spiritual leaders always look for appropriate ways to glorify God for their victories among the people.
- Secular leaders are right- the important thing is to accomplish our own goals.
- If there is a "dedication" in an effort, they are simply to praise those who contributed more in the making of the effort.
- Unfortunately, many times, God gives us great victories and we do so little to recognize Him as the One who is responsible for our success, and we do not ask the people to consecrate more in gratefulness to God.

19. Mention some ways in which your church or organization could dedicate small projects where God has given you victory.

20. What new ideas does Nehemiah give you when you think of dedicating a great project to God?



ENDING YOUR STUDY PROPERLY

1. Read the "Total Leadership Outline" again with two purposes:
 - Place a mark beside each activity that you found in Nehemiah's leadership.
 - Underline the activities of your leadership in which you must pay more attention.

2. After a quick review of this whole book, write three things that will change in your leadership as a result of this study based on the Word of God:

DEDICATION OF THIS STUDY

The author of this study praises God for the given victory to His people in the raising of the walls of Jerusalem and for keeping the records of this victory, until this day.

He gives his deepest gratitude to God for giving the direction in the process of writing these easy questions that the Holy Spirit will use in planting God's message in the hearts of those who participate in taking this study.

He confesses that he is not worthy of being used for this project and that he recognized that this has been accomplished through love and the grace of the Lord in order for him to have such a privilege.

The writer invites you, as a participant in this study, to humble himself before the Lord and with him, to confess your sins and to present yourselves to the Lord as a living sacrifice. We desire for the revelations in this Scripture, the book of Nehemiah, to instruct us and to move us in such a way that our organization will be changed and guided powerfully by the Lord. For us, His humble servants, attentive to the Lord and truly consecrated as leaders sent by God, to be useful to Him and the people that need and await a true Dynamic Spiritual Leadership.