



Church Leadership and Theological Education in Indonesia



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“Everything rises and falls on leadership.”

– John Maxwell

How does John Maxwell's statement (at top) apply to a local church? Scripture claims that the Lord Jesus is the one building His church (Matt. 16:16). How much of a role, then, does leadership play in the rise (growth) and fall (decline) of a local church?

Between January and April 2022, BRC (Bilangan Research Center) conducted its 10th nationwide survey focusing on local church leadership in Indonesia. Of the 1,167 respondents, 775 were pastors (the others were elders) representing

52 different denominations. This short article analyzes the leadership practices and performance of these 775 pastors. More specifically, it examines whether these pastors' theological educations are informing their leadership practices and performance.

Using Mintzberg's concept of organizational strategy, pastors with the highest level of theological education (a Th.D. degree or its equivalent) performed much better in providing organizational leadership for their local church. Surprisingly, in organizational leadership, as well as in almost all categories of leadership practices and competence, pastors with theological education at the master's degree level did not perform as well.

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LEADING ORGANIZATION

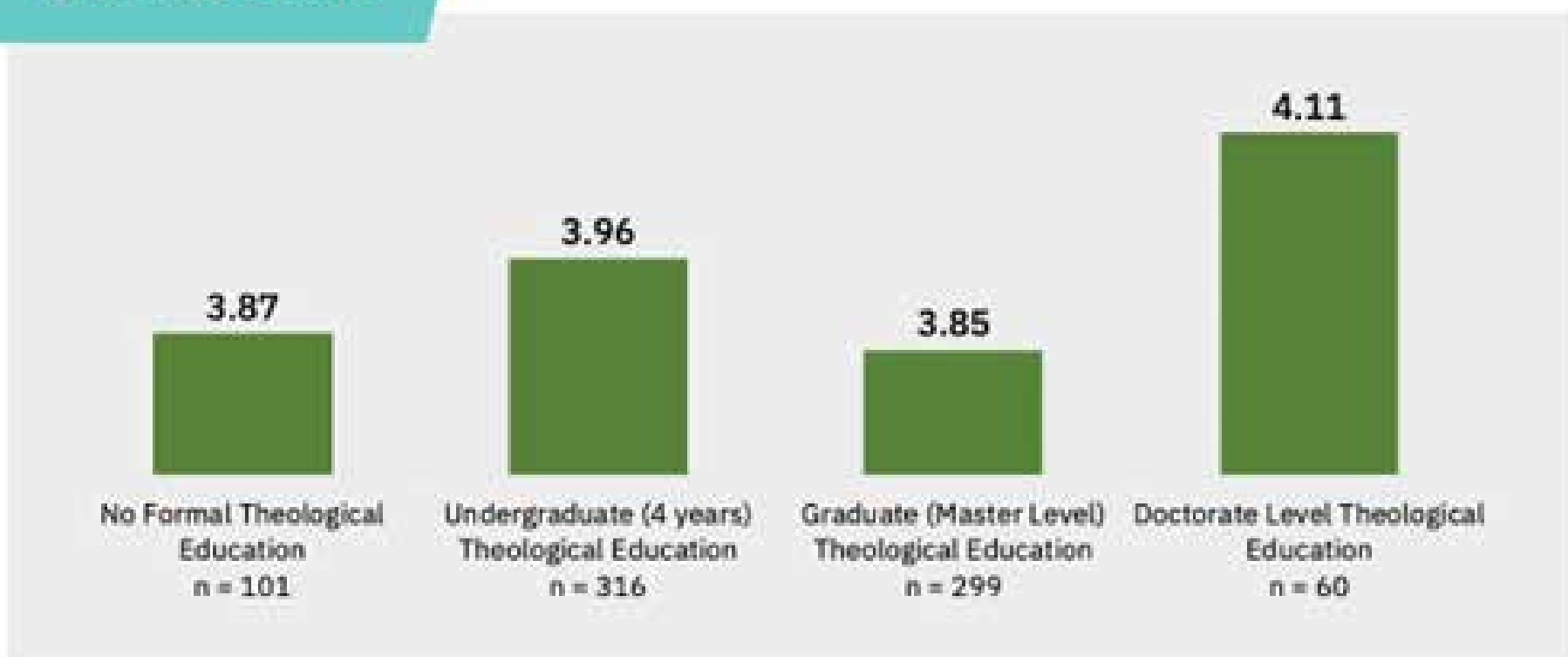
STRATEGIC THINKING
(LEADING ORGANIZATION)



Similarly, pastors with doctoral-level theological education outperformed pastors with less theological education in providing effective leadership to their peers as well as to their direct reports.

LEADING PEOPLE

LEADING PEERS



LEADING PEOPLE

**LEADING DIRECT REPORTS,
STAFF, TEAM MEMBERS**



Communication is perceived as one of the core competencies in leadership. The survey data indicate that pastors with the highest (doctoral) level of theological education cared more about and performed better in

their communication to the people they lead. They appear to be more likely to perceive the strategic importance of communication and to make efforts to excel in this area.

LEADING PEOPLE

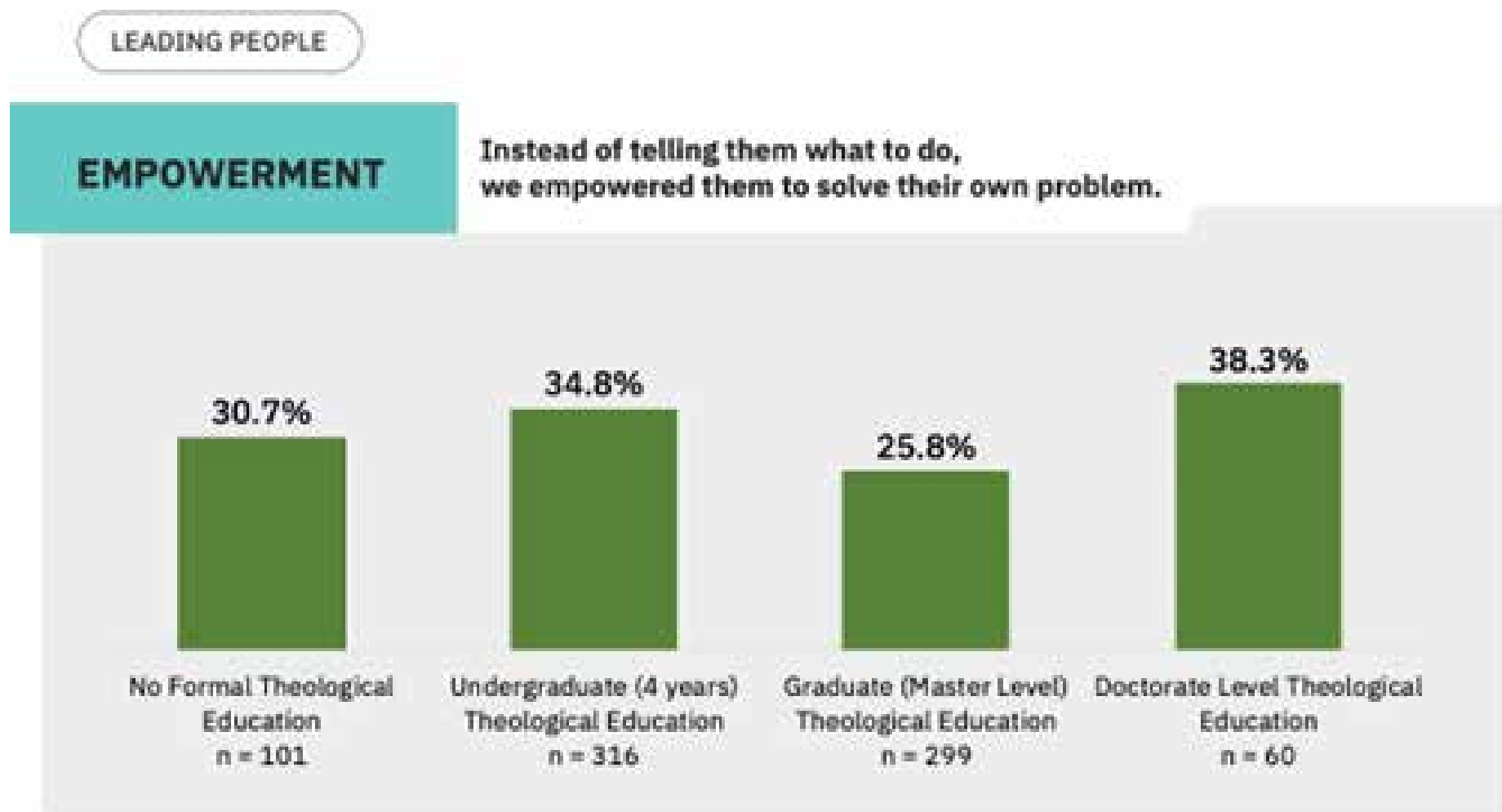
COMMUNICATION

We communicated to our team members using simple sentences and relevant linguistic expressions.



Another area of strategic importance in leadership covered by this survey is empowerment. How intentional a local church pastor is in empowering members to be effective problem solvers can translate into

significant impact. Again, the pastors with doctoral degrees seem to understand and practice empowerment more than those with less theological education.



Except in a few areas, the pastors with the most formal theological education appeared to be more intentional in their leadership practices and performed better. Further study is needed to investigate exactly how doctoral-level education contributes toward a better execution of leadership practices.

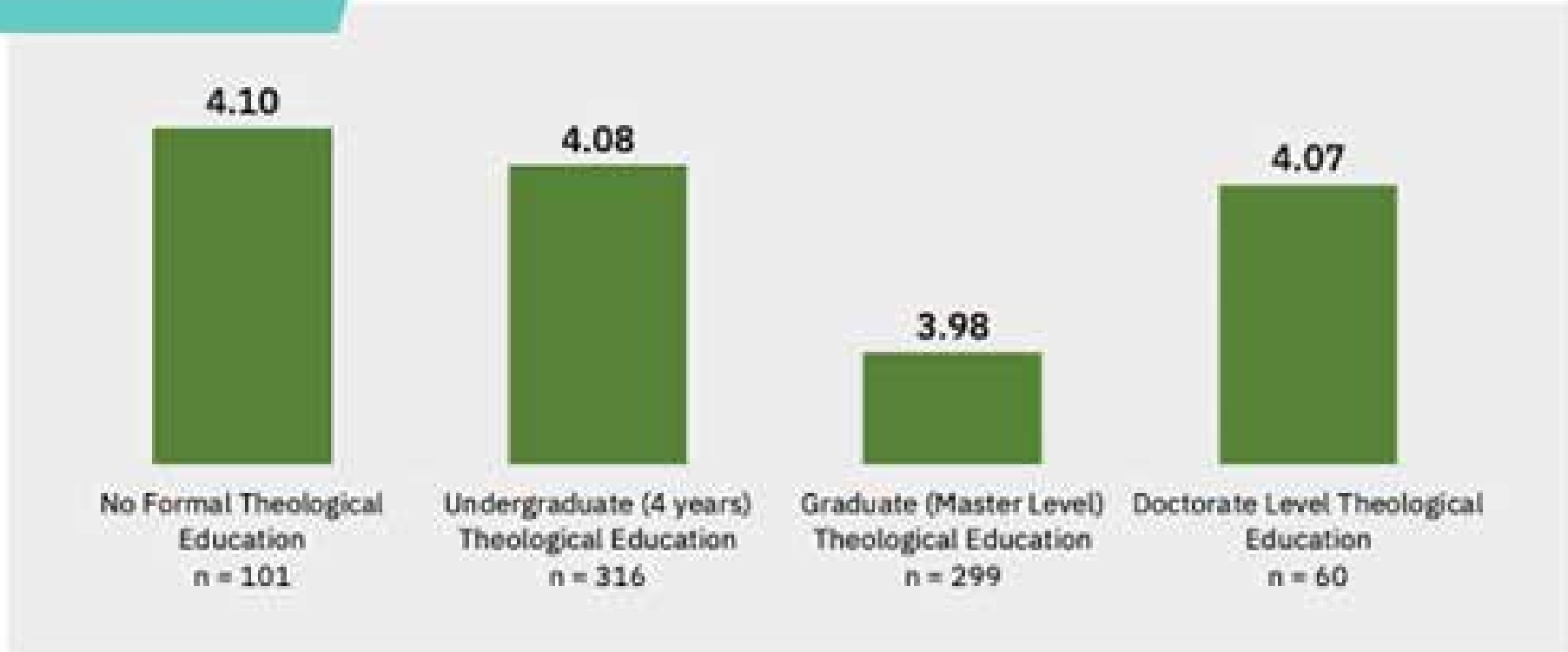
One key factor contributing to a leader's impact is the ability to effectively "lead up," influencing the leaders above them. On this aspect of leadership, pastors with no formal theological education performed better than those with formal training. Most of these pastors without formal theo-

logical education were leading Pentecostal/Charismatic churches and came from a business or professional background.

In an earlier BRC study on church growth in Indonesia, people's engagement in church ministry was strongly correlated with church growth and other signs of a healthy church. With regard to exhibiting leadership in mobilizing and engaging church members to be involved in the church's ministry, once again pastors with no formal theological education outperformed their formally trained counterparts.

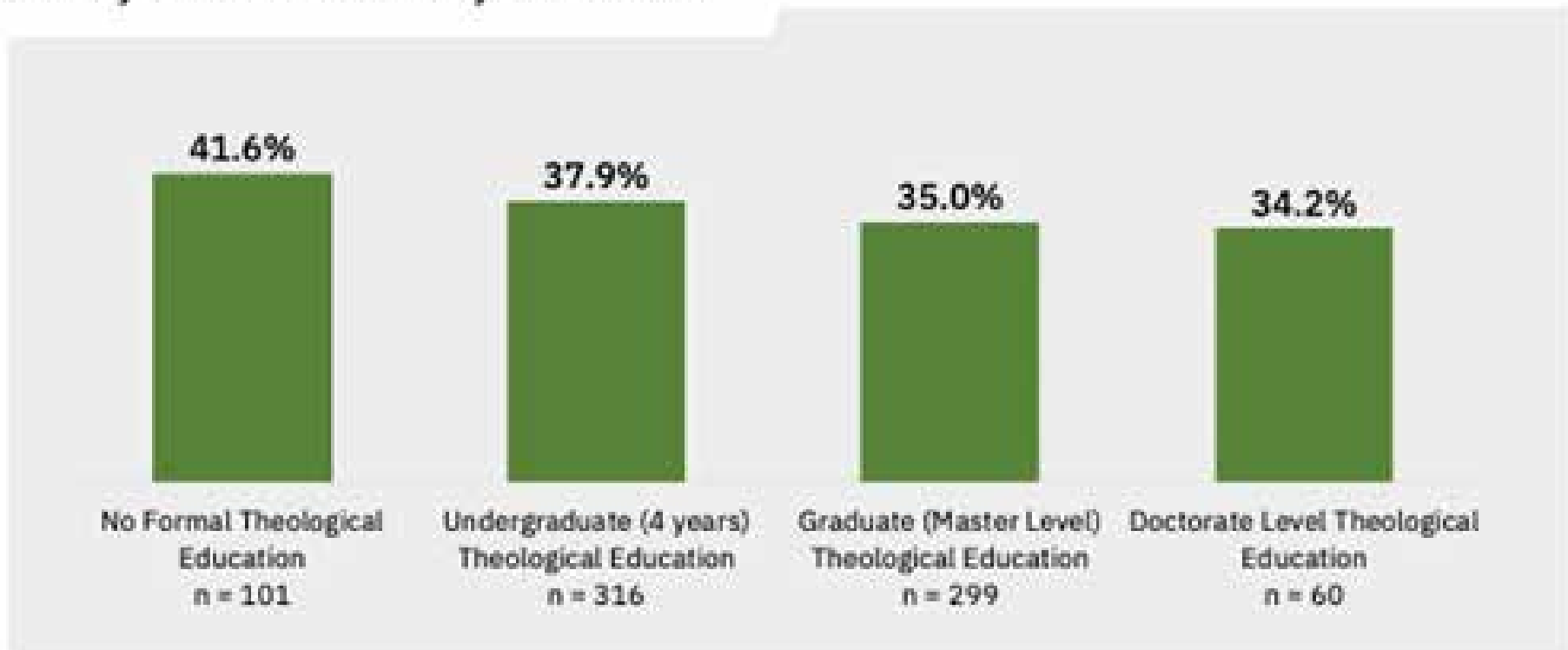
LEADING PEOPLE

LEADING UP



IMPACT

More than 40 percents of my congregation actively involved in the ministry of the church



“There is no success without a successor”

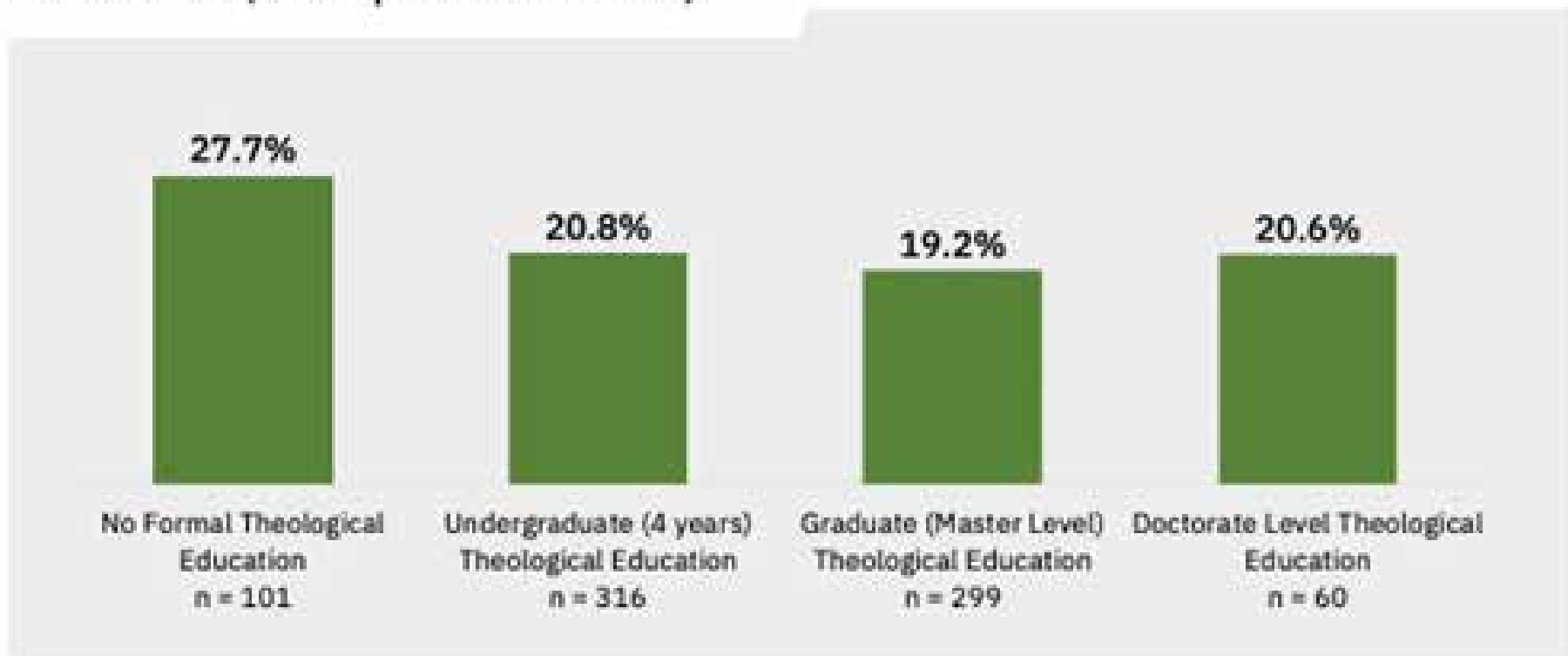
– John Maxwell

Similarly, on the question of whether they had developed or produced new and better leaders than themselves, pastors with no formal theological education gave higher responses on average.

LEADING PEOPLE



We have developed/produced new (future) leaders who are better (more capable than ourselves)



CONCLUSION

The data reported here indicate that in most cases, pastors with the highest level of formal theological education (a doctorate) were more intentional in their leadership practices and performed better in providing leadership to their congregation. Further study is needed to investigate exactly how doctoral-level education contributes toward better execution of leadership practices.

Interestingly, pastors with no formal theological education, who mostly have business and professional backgrounds,

performed better than those with formal theological education in three important areas: leading up, mobilizing church members to engage in the ministry of the church, and building better future leaders. Again, further study would be required to identify which aspects of their business and professional background have directly and indirectly contributed to their success in influencing their superiors (leading up), mobilizing the people of God to engage in the ministry of the church, and preparing, developing and producing better future leaders for the church. ■

Healthy Leaders Are Built in Community



Malcolm Webber, Ph.D.
Founder and Executive Director
of LeaderSource

An ancient African proverb says, “It takes a village to raise a child.” Similarly, it takes a spiritual community or family to build a leader. God sovereignly raises up His leaders, but we also have a responsibility in the matter. We have to work at it. It does not happen automatically. Leader development is the responsibility of the entire local church. Churches must consciously, actively and deliberately build the present and next generations of leaders. In most churches, leader development is left entirely up to chance.

A Comparison of Three Approaches

In the traditional approach to building leaders, the local church sends its emerging leaders to a specialized, independent, external entity (Bible school, seminary, non-formal training program, etc.) – the “central factory” – that takes responsibility for training them and then sending them back :



This “factory” approach has greatly hindered the work of Christian leader development in several ways¹:

- By removing the students from the contexts of life and ministry that are vital to their development as people and as leaders.
- By introducing woefully inadequate declarations of qualification, confusing diplomas with actual capability.

One of the main reasons why local churches see themselves as fundamentally incapable of building leaders is because they have been trained to view leader development as necessarily involving institutions, buildings, tenured professors with big degrees and salaries to match, accreditation, desks and dormitories, libraries containing thousands of books, etc. However, if our goal in leader development changes from scholarship alone to the development of the whole person, then immediately we recognize that not only is the local church capable of building its own leaders, it is, in fact, **the only place where it can properly occur!**

Biblically, the local church or cluster of churches is the primary unit of leader development. The church, however, has lost her ability to build and care for her leaders. This is a core reason for today’s leadership crisis around the world. The following are statistics² concerning pastors in the U.S.

- 50% feel unable to meet the needs of the job.
- 90% feel they are inadequately trained to cope with ministry demands.
- 46% say they have experienced depression or burn-out to the extent that they needed to take a leave of absence from ministry.

Why do we keep doing our training the same way, when we know it is not working well?

A second approach is when the church has its own internal “Bible school” – in effect, a “local factory” – that takes responsibility for training new leaders. This is becoming a very popular approach today with the spread of church-based theological training; in essence, the seminary is brought to the church.

This has many advantages over the “central factory” approach, since the “local factory” will probably be more in touch with the church’s own culture, beliefs, values and vision. Moreover, the participant will be able to maintain his existing relationships while he goes through his learning, and he will be considerably more likely to continue his life and ministry as a part of the church when he completes his learning.



However, this approach still has significant downfalls :

- Usually this approach represents an attempt simply to “relocate the seminary” to the local church. Much of the actual content of the training remains academic and theoretical.
- It obscures and distracts us from the fact that much leader development – perhaps the most critical – does not occur formally but casually in the context of the relationships and ministry responsibilities and opportunities of the local church.³

A third, and much healthier, approach is when leader development takes place in a “learning community” that is connected immersively and pervasively to the church community. In this model there should be considerable “cross-linking” between the church community and the learning community and no “walls” between them. **Leader development is integrated into the life and ministry of the local church or cluster of churches.** Thus, the biblical model is not only “church-based,” it is “church-integrated” or “church-engaged.”

¹ This is not a wholesale criticism or rejection of theological education. Some Bible schools, seminaries and non-formal training programs are very good, some are very poor, and there are many in-between. The ones that are disconnected from the life and ministry of the local church and who are entirely academic in their focus are addressed here.

² H.B. London Jr. and Neil B. Wiseman, Pastors at Greater Risk (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2003).

³ In many nations, where do the young people learn to play soccer? The homes, local parks and streets form the organic and spontaneous environment for skill development, mentoring and practice. Why can't the church adopt a similar model? Ted Ward once asked the author, “What was the hardest thing you ever learned to do?” After some thought I replied, “To speak.” “That’s right,” he said. “The hardest thing people ever learn to do is to communicate in their first language, and they do it without going through a single course or class!”



The learning community cannot do it properly by itself. It takes a family to build a leader – a large family. Leaders are not formed in isolation but in community. If they are to be healthy, they need the nurture and support as well as the genuine accountability of the community. They need the spiritual mothers and fathers, the role models, the friends and the organic ministry opportunities that only the local church community can provide.

***Their leader will be one of their own;
their ruler will arise from among them ...
(Jeremiah 30:21)***

We must move from the “factory” approach back to the “family.” ■

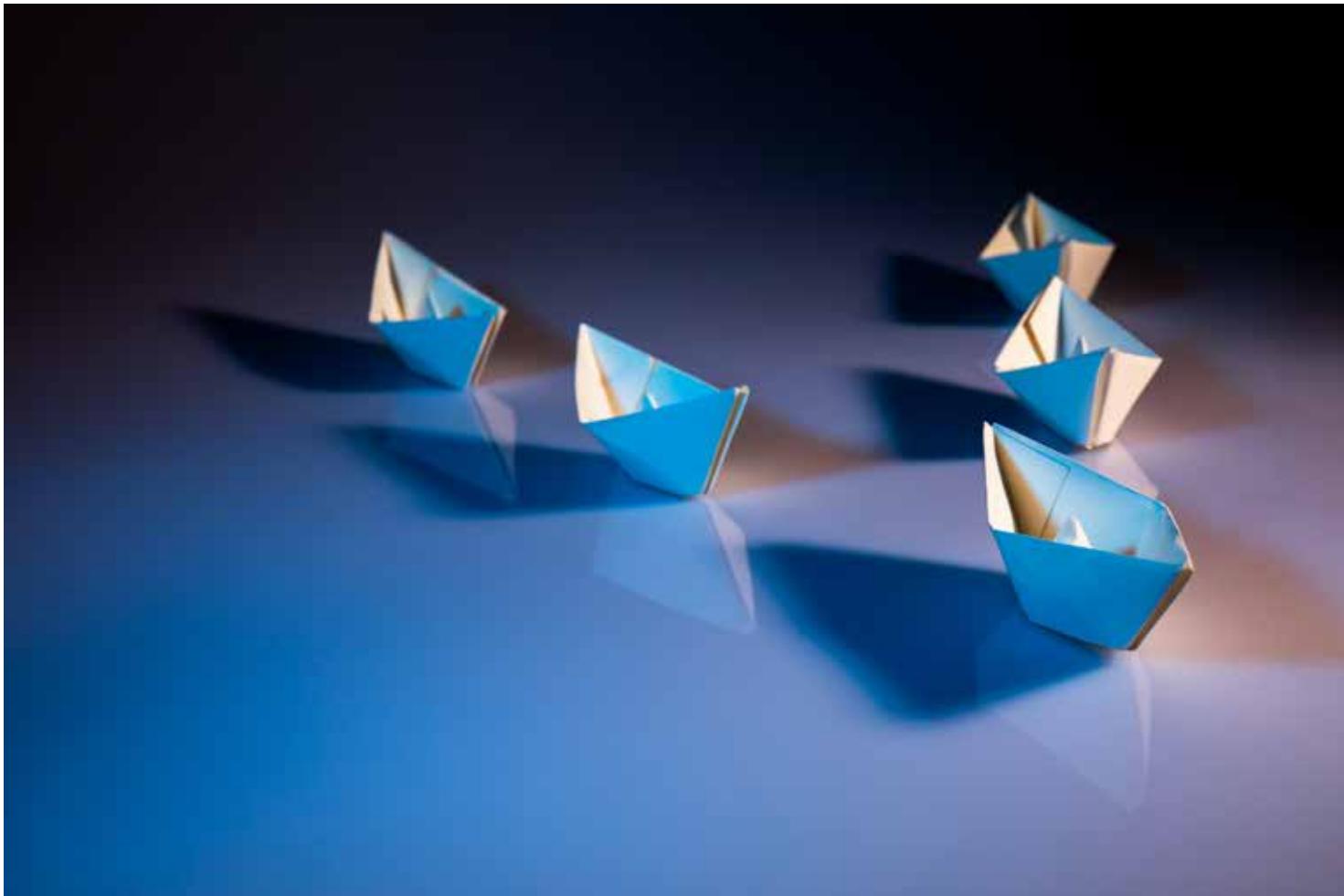


Photo by KOBU Agency on Unsplash

Leadership in The Local Church : Some Thoughts



Rev. Vijayesh Lal
General Secretary
Evangelical Fellowship of India

The importance of the local Church as the instrument of God's grace and love to the world cannot be overstated. The local Church is the means of bringing hope that is found in Jesus Christ to a world that needs it sorely. It is the local Church that God uses to realize His mission in the world and because the local Church is important for God, it should be for us as well. It is where a new Christian receives discipleship and grows in his/her faith and the local Church is the best forum for spiritual accountability and encouragement.

John Maxwell famously said, "Everything rises and falls on leadership," and the local Church is not an exception. Leadership of the local Church matters because if the leadership fails, the Body of Christ will suffer. But if leadership is godly and good, then all the parts of the Church will be able to grow and become what God intends them to be.

The pandemic has impacted the Church worldwide and many leaders have now gone to be with the Lord creating a leadership vacuum in the Church. In India alone, it is estimated that over 2500 influential leaders succumbed to the pandemic. The count is much higher in local Church situations. It will take a herculean effort to rebuild leadership in countries where the death toll has been severe. Leadership is, after all, not built in a day.

In the Indian and Asian Church generally, leadership was already a priority area even before the pandemic as there is much Church growth but little leadership development comparatively. Intentional discipleship and leadership development has been a felt need for long. And the pandemic has only intensified it.

It is difficult to define who or what a leader is. Different people have different definitions. It is also not easy to agree on whether leaders are born or made. Perhaps both are true – leaders are born and made. Their personality traits and gifts help them excel but experience refines them, and exposure gives them an edge.

We read a lot about leadership in the Word of God. 1 Timothy 3:1 tells us, "The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task." (ESV)

We find that the Bible is full of leaders who had different backgrounds, ethnicities, gender, ages, and personality. However, the one common thread is character, capability, and the call to be a tool in the hands of God to fulfill His plans.

Character is perhaps the most important foundation for leadership. Charm and personal charisma can only take you so far, but one cannot be a leader without character and integrity. The character of godly leaders is shaped by their faith and revealed by their integrity, their actions with respect, and their ethical behavior. When leaders treat and affirm everyone with respect, even the ones who disagree with them, they show themselves people of character. When leaders do the right things in the right way, even when it hurts or is tough, they inspire the confidence of the people they lead.

Saul was rejected by God because he lacked integrity, even though he had the talent and the abilities plus the looks. He thought it was okay to disobey God to get work done, so that he could win the hearts of the people. But

God rejected him and chose David instead who was said to be **"a man after God's own heart."** In the same way, godly leaders in the local Church must first be people after God's own heart, people who demonstrate integrity, character, indeed Christlikeness in their lives.

Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses notices the trouble and exhaustion of Moses and recommends that he appoints leaders – people with good character and integrity. Titus 1:5-9, paints the picture of elders that can be appointed to serve the Church. They are to be people who are holy, gentle, faithful to their spouse, blameless, people who show hospitality, are upright and disciplined.

This seems like a tall order but as someone has said, it is not about perfection, but direction. It takes a lifetime to walk this road but what matters is that one consistently chooses to walk it.

If local Church leadership is groomed to embrace right character and not compromise, the Church will flourish.

Capability or Competence is a combination of knowledge, skills, abilities, and experience that is applied wisely for effective leadership in a particular context. Local Church leaders must be able to study and lead others in the study of the Word of God, their lives must display the gifts of the Spirit and their relationships must exhibit Christlikeness.

People in the Church must have the confidence that their local leaders are not only the right people but also know the right way to do things. An attitude of learning and having an open mind is equally important.

Competence can always be developed; capacity can always be built, and leaders can always be equipped. A local Church must have training programs to build not only existing leaders but also the second and even the third line of leadership. This is especially a must in countries like India where many pastors who are leading congregations especially in the grassroots are pastors and shepherds simply because they were the first ones to come to faith in Christ in their village or area and thus are naturally expected to lead those who follow them in faith.

As far as Calling is concerned, every Christian has been called by God to participate in His Mission. All who belong to Christ have been endowed with spiritual gifts and have been entrusted with a marvelous duty. What we should be asking is how does God want an individual Christian to fulfill his or her calling for every believer is called to build the Kingdom of God and to participate in the life of God and His people but each one has a specific role. While the goal is the same, the roles differ.

The task of the local Church leaders then, is to guide individual Christians according to their gifts and talents to discover the specific role that they can play in the kingdom following the call of God in their lives.

Churches must develop a leadership culture so that every member of the Body of Christ is confident that they can discover their calling and truly develop themselves to serve effectively within the setting of their local Church. The leadership culture needs to be people centric rather than program centric for that is how impact is multiplied. Local Churches need to create space for volunteers for this makes way for identifying and equipping leaders.

The leadership culture of the local Church also needs to develop a leadership structure that fits the needs of the congregation and the context in which they find themselves. There is no one perfect structure, no one size fits all. But there must be a structure so that leadership can flourish and develop, and boundaries respected.

Is your local Church striving to be a leader centric Church or one that has shared responsibility among many leaders? Which is more suitable to your local context? These are questions that must be deliberated upon and answered.

The ultimate test of leadership is the kind of legacy that is left behind. If one is heavily into programs and goes from one event to another, all that will be left is a busy and hurried life with little impact. But if the leaders intentionally invest themselves into developing other leaders, the legacy that they leave will be rich and a blessing not only for the Body of Christ but for a world that truly needs God's touch. ■



Photo by Priscilla Du Preez on Unsplash

The Asia Evangelical Alliance Strategic Planning Event – Bali, Indonesia



Yoseph Tandian
AEA Capacity Development
Coordinator

The sun was about to set majestically at Kuta Beach that afternoon, when all delegates finally arrived and gathered for a welcome reception. Dr. Bambang Budijanto, the general secretary of Asia Evangelical Alliance and his office team joyfully welcomed the executive committee and the commission directors in Bali, Indonesia for The AEA Strategic Planning Meeting. This onsite event was significant for AEA, since this was the first time almost for everyone to meet face to face with each other as a ministry team and the gathering would be a great milestone as these leaders plan for the next 5 years ministry of AEA (2022-2027). The welcome reception was warm and full of joy and it kicked off the whole process of strategic planning the next two days beautifully.

This strategic planning meeting took place on May 24th to 25th at Bali Dynasty Resort, Bali – Indonesia.

The first day started through a wonderful worship together during the morning devotion. The message brought by Rev. Kade Mastra, one of the Balinese church leaders, was taken from Jeremiah 1:11-12 :

“The word of the Lord came to me : “What do you see, Jeremiah?” “I see the branch of an almond tree,” I replied. The Lord said to me, “You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled.”

The amazing reflection message from Rev. Kade allowed us to deeply contemplate whether we are looking at what God sees and doing what God wants us to do, especially through our ministry in Asia. We took a moment to ask for keenness from heaven to have the helicopter view upon Asia and surrendered the whole process to be guided by

the Holy Spirit. The morning devotion on the second day was given by Pastor Timotius Arifin from GBI Rock, one of the largest churches in Bali and he shared about the importance of sharing the true gospel of Christ.

One of the best parts of the event was the fellowship. After every morning devotion on the first and second day, each leader in the room was given the opportunity to share their life story. Each sharing deeply touched our hearts. We could feel the openness, vulnerability, and authenticity from the leaders that bonded us in deeper friendship with each other. We listened and prayed for each other, a truly precious moment among the Asian leaders. We believe that for greater collaboration, a deeper and more meaningful relationship is required. One of the leaders said : *“The relationship building was par excellence. Everyone shared from their hearts and brokenness to where they are. Truly this is the team of servants of The Most High God.”*

After every heart was satisfied with the word of God and the wonderful fellowship, we received the new energy to



move further with the process of reviewing the Core Ideology, AEA purpose statement and other related documents. Everyone was involved in the process by contributing their ideas and reviews through sticky notes and flipcharts. The discussions on every table were also vibrant, creating a great atmosphere for strategic planning.

One session involved listening to various partners of AEA through Zoom. They willingly shared their ministry in Asia, goals, and window of opportunity to collaborate for God's Kingdom in Asia. We listened to the presentations and scanned the environment where AEA exists and serves. Dr. Anton Tarigan, Ruslan Maliuta, and the WEA Decade of Disciple-making (DoD) task force team shared about this movement and the success stories of some countries in implementing the DoD. David Ro shared about the vision of the Lausanne Movement. Dr. Brad Smith shared the opportunity to collaborate with The World Evangelical Alliance's Global Institute of Leadership to equip the leaders in Asia through the Asia center for development and studies, the resource development trainings, and global connections for fundraising. The commission directors and the

capacity development coordinator also shared some proposed BHAG (Big Hairy Audacious Goals) on the first day event.

Then we wrapped up with an internal deliberation process to set goals and initiatives as a new landscape for AEA ministry in Asia. We spent the second day with the discussion of the proposed plans in more detail to implement the goals. Some plans were discussed in the executive committee level, and the others were in the commission director's level. Some plans created were almost complete, but we also brought some homework to be elaborated further for a more comprehensive work plan.

"It's really a productive and fruitful meeting. I believe we're recharged with new energy to accomplish the goals that God has planned for AEA."

Grateful for the AEA Strategic Planning Meeting 2022-2027.

All the glory be to our God. ■



The Asian Church + Home : Restoring Family Health & Discipleship



Gwen De Rozario
Executive Director
AEA Children's Commission

'My eyes have been opened to so many truths I was unaware of.'

'D6 conference is really a Bible based conference, which helps us to focus on our family.'

'D6 has just confirmed what's in my heart, intentional discipleship where home and church work together raising a generation of Christ's followers who will be faithful to the great commission.'

~Participants D6 Asia 2022

These were some of the feedback participants of the inaugural D6 (Deuteronomy 6) Asia Family Conference gave at the end of the 3 days. The conference opened on 9 June 2022 with a 'Pastors and Ministry Leaders only' meeting. Over 250 leaders from across Asia gathered via Zoom to learn together. Dr Ron Hunter, co-founder of D6 and CEO of Randall House, opened the conference expounding on the foundation of Deuteronomy 6.

Dr Hunter shared that the global trend now sees up to 64% of the young people in church turning away from faith by the time they grow up. Whilst about half will eventually return, one-third never do. The young people in our Asian churches may not ask many questions out loud but that doesn't mean that they do not have any questions or doubts. At the core of his message was how it is essential for the Church and Home to work together to pass down faith.



[Picture: Dr Ron Hunter - Problems that lead to young people leaving faith]

Pastor Matthew Ling and Dr P.C. Mathew shared a Vision for the Local Church and how a well disciplined family was a missional family. Bishop T. Jeyakumar spoke on what a 'Family-Friendly Church' looks like. The panel of three then took many questions from the participants and shared practical advice on how to build up a stronger faith-filled family.



[Picture – Panel discussion, clockwise from the top: Ps Simon Say (facilitator); Bp Jeyakumar, Dr P.C..Mathew and Ps Matthew Ling]

Pastor Rob Rienow then took participants through 'The Bible on Family Ministry'. When a larger jurisdiction usurps responsibility from a lesser jurisdiction, two things happen. Number one, the crisis will not be solved. And number two, the proper jurisdiction is robbed of motivation, time, and resources to do the job.' Listen to his full message at: <https://asiaea.org/d6asia>

The next 2 days, from 10-11 June 2022, saw speakers covering practical tips for applying D6.

Kathleen Trock-Molhoek affirmed the facts that Ron shared earlier and added that of those who 'stayed' in church, according to Barna - 'These resilient disciples give us insight into why they didn't leave the church; 85% of them said "There is someone in my life who encourages me to grow spiritually." 77% said, "When growing up, I had close personal friends who were ADULTS from my church." An earlier study asked many of those who left the church why they left. They said there was no bridge between their youth programs and the adult community of their church.

How do we bring the generations together?



Kathleen went on to share [picture above] how we can move from individual to intergenerational discipleship and how we can teach our young ones to learn to hear God's voice. Listen to the powerful testimonies on how families can be impacted when children learn to wait on God.

Non-participants of D6 Asia 2022 can watch selected keynote speakers at : <https://asiaea.org/d6asia>

Drs Cheah Fung Fong and Chris Cheah gave practical training on 'Intentional Parenting' and Parenting A Skeptical Generation by Lee Wee Min had a participant credited 'helped me a lot to understand my Gen Z daughter.' Cassie Carstens from The World Needs A Father expounded on the critical need for all of us to deal with issues that affected us growing up and the critical role parents play in the faith development of the children.

Strengthening marriages is at the core of family discipleship and D6 Asia saw both the main session and workshops speakers cover this critical area. Rev Vijayesh Lal helped couples deal with Communication & Forgiveness and participants had a meaningful time of prayer following it.

This 3-day conference was organized by AEA's Children and Women Commissions. By God's grace, the 600 plus participants were able to register for free because of the generous support of partners like Newton Life Church Singapore who hosted our D6 'studio' and the many experienced speakers who contributed so willingly.



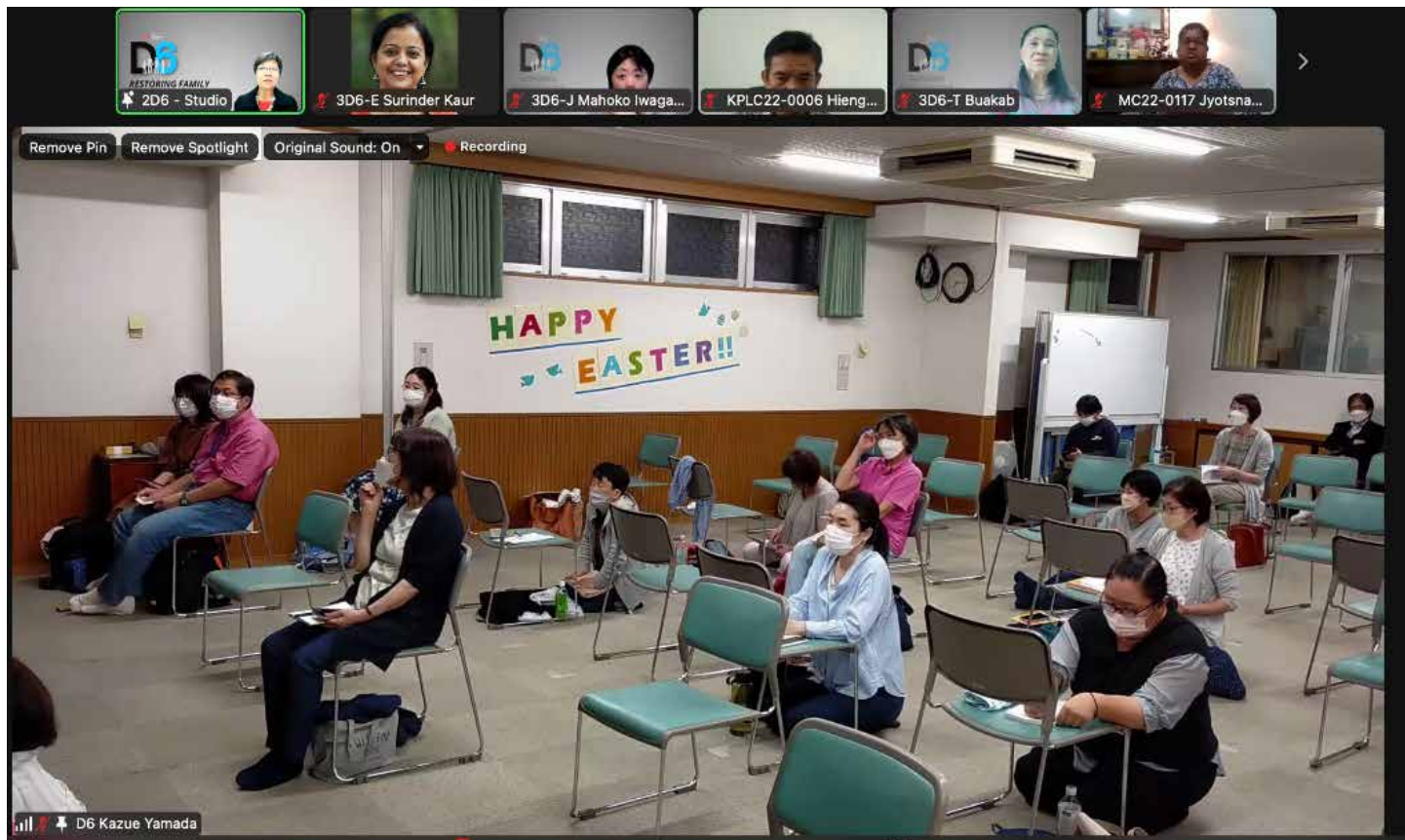
This was also made possible by the hard work and labour of love by so many volunteers and translators of Japanese, Thai, Khmer and Indonesian, who worked on the workshop scripts, recordings and did the live translation during the online conference. Because of all of them, our goal to see this movement spread in Asia is taking effect especially in Japan where more than 300 people registered.



[Pictures: D6 Asia 'Studio' at Newton Life Church, Singapore; MC David Leong speaking to father-son speakers Pastor Simon and Zach Say]

Apart from the online participants who met over Zoom, churches also gathered their people to learn about D6

together in Japan and Thailand. To date we hear reports of attendees who now plan to take the message to their churches and communities and in Thailand, our D6 Asia resources are being taken into the provinces.



[Picture: church gathered for D6 Asia in Japan]

'Am reminded that the church and the home need to work together to intentionally disciple our children and our youths. Will arrange session in my church for parents/grandparents, Church School teachers, mentors and leaders to encourage them to obey the biblical injunction to disciple in the home and to suggest practical ways to do so.' ~Participant D6 Asia 2022

We encourage you to take up the D6 Asia mantle, to spread the vision and equip both Church & Home to disciple the next generation together. Please join us also in praying for this D6 movement, that it will impact many more churches and families – It is not surprising that the team at D6 Asia 2022 faced many spiritual battles and challenges throughout our preparation and during the conference – your prayers and support is much needed and coveted for the follow-up events in 2022 and planning of D6 Asia 2023.

To be kept updated on D6 Asia 2023, simply join our mailing list today at <https://asiaea.org/d6asia> ■

Graduation of AEA-GIL Resource Development Coaching



Yoseph Tandian
AEA Capacity Development
Coordinator

The moment of joy was recorded when AEA and GIL celebrated the completion of the 16 sessions of Asia Resource Development coaching last May 20, 2022. This coaching was hosted by the partnership between Asia Evangelical Alliance's Capacity Development initiative and World Evangelical Alliance's Global Institute of Leadership (GIL).

At the graduation ceremony, 25 participants from 12 teams that came from 10 countries received their certificate of achievement level 2 in trust-building and resource development skills. Another incentive awarded to the teams that finished the course is a seed funding grant which will be given after the event. We hope that the certification and the seed funding equip each team to build the resource development capacity in their national alliances.

"Resource development is an essential process that aligns with the development of an organization." That's the message of Mr. Godfrey Yogarajah, chairman of AEA Executive Committee. *"And we need to keep this process ongoing"*, he continued.

"This is not the end of a journey. It's a graduation of the learning sessions. But we hope to meet again let's say one year from now and hear the success stories from the actual fundraising process, achievements, and collaborations that appear from this journey. I encourage not to disband the community, but to nurture and continue with collaborations." – said Dr. Bambang Budijanto, the general secretary of AEA in his closing remark speech.

Now we have a great asset in hand for Asia – The Asia Resource Development community. These resource development teams have been gathering on Fridays for about 6

months, enjoying the collaborative peer learning, private moments with coaches, sharing and praying together; creating a strong fellowship among them. The Asia Evangelical Alliance is committed to manage the journey of this community, and at the same time we encourage all the graduates to continue their learning by implementing the skills to their actual resource development process within their countries, and discipling another team through coaching or mentoring.

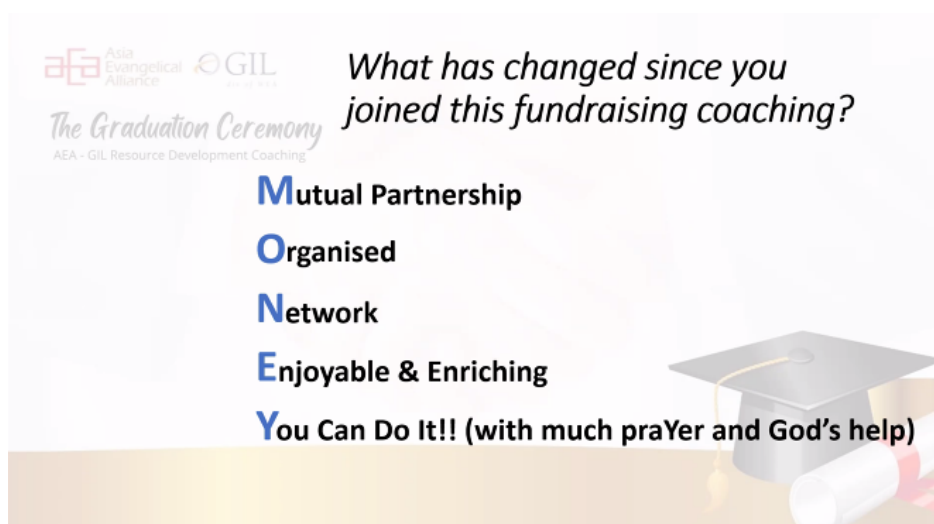
From the feedback we received, 3 out of 4 participants agreed that this coaching process helped them to see the fundraising as a process of disciple-making not begging, and also has helped them to improve their skills in fund-



raising. In areas of improvement, they hope to get more information and be more connected with the global network of fundraising. We plan to have a monthly training session to follow up the feedback and invite more partners to be a part of this community – speakers, trainers, grant-making foundations, or other like minded organizations in Asia.

“All steps are very clear and helpful. The checklist is one of the great tools to help me follow the guidance of what to do so I will not miss important steps.”
 – Mrs. Lien Nguyen, Vietnam Evangelical Alliance / Vietnam Bible Society

“I used to say I was intimidated when it comes to fundraising. I realized it is because of my mindset - lack of sound biblical stewardship theology. This coaching program, especially Rob Martin's videos and the book is an eye opener for me. I also realized now that organizational fundraising is a team work. It has to be the integral part of the top leaders' vision.” – Mr. John Thang, MECA Myanmar ■



National Churches Fellowship of Nepal's 62nd Anniversary & General Assembly



Pastor Sher Bahadur A.C.
General Secretary
National Churches Fellowship of Nepal

The time was a day in 1960, January 7, when some people were gathered together for the annual meeting of United Mission to Nepal (UMN). There were mostly the few staff of UMN, missionaries and leaders of Nepali underground churches from all over Nepal. The church history says that in the beginning days of New Year, they had spent most of the time on their own activities and discussion. The final day, January 7, they went to one of the oldest cities of Kathmandu valley, Bhaktapur. The leaders & missionaries were about 30, who had started to do the fellowship in the room of an old house, nearby Bhaktapur mission hospital. There were a handful of Nepali Christian leaders and missionaries, who knew each other personally. They were not allowed to do any Christian activity at that time. So, they chose a secret place, where they could sing songs and have fellowship secretly. On the one hand, they were very few in number and on the other side, the Christian activities were restricted by government and local people. By the grace and help of God, they had the fellowship together, and gave birth to a new institution or fellowship in the name of Nepal Christian Fellowship (NCF). The original goal of NCF was to encourage the only believers of the family, help them to walk in a Christian maturity and stand firm in their faith during the time of religious festivals. By the grace of God, the number of Christians increased

slowly, and they had started underground church fellowship too. They needed more encouragement, support and guardianship. So, NCF had made a big vision mission with different purposes, and they changed the name NCF to National Churches Fellowship of Nepal (NCFN). They registered with the government, and since then NCFN started to work as a guardian umbrella organization.

Glory be to God, this institution had completed its 62nd annual anniversary & General Assembly last April. After the two years of crisis, God allowed us to celebrate the 62 years of beginning of NCF. There were about 1,100 pastors, leaders and evangelists from all over Nepal. Even though there were many problems and difficulties to conduct the GA of NCFN, it went well by the grace of God. Rev. Hanok Tamang, the senior pastor of Aradhana Church and well-known leader of Christian society, was chosen again as the president of NCFN for another term for three years. In the same way, the provincial committee, youth and women committee, and the national youth and women commission also were chosen as the new committee for the next three years. There were some Nepali and foreigner speakers in the conference. The main attraction of this GA was the presence of Deputy Secretary General, Dr. Brian Winslade from World Evangelical Alliance. ■



Evangelical Alliance Pakistan Mission Conference Report



Rev. Shahbaz Masih Boota
General secretary
The Evangelical Alliance Pakistan

The “Pakistan Mission Conference” was conducted at the Christian Study Center in Rawalpindi by the Evangelical Alliance Pakistan on 30th April 2022. It was a great opportunity to invite different like-minded people from different backgrounds throughout Pakistan. The goals of having great fellowship, learning from one another, and sharing about Evangelical Alliance Pakistan's vision and ministry were met. Also, a report on the mission work in Pakistan was shared in this conference.

It was the dream of the board of the Evangelical Alliance in Pakistan to extend their invitation to invite more leaders from different organizations, institutes, seminaries, and churches to share the vision of the Evangelical Alliance and invite them to become partners and members of the EAP. Thank God that many pastors, organizations, and institutes were happy to learn more about the vision and ministry of the Evangelical Alliance, and they happily introduced the board members and city coordinators to them. It was also good to have different sessions on topics related to missions and evangelism, and different teachers and practitioners were invited for that. There were people from Operation Mobilization, United Council of Churches in Islamabad, Cider Fellowship of Pastors Rawalpindi, Pakistani Correspondence School Faisalabad, FGA Bible Seminary, Zarephath Bible Seminary, School of Proclamation, Evangelical Churches in Pakistan, Harvest Discipleship and Mission School, Bible Training Center, Grace Ministries in Pakistan, and Christian Study Center, and different other pastors and leaders. We are so thankful to the Lord that while we did not share the vision and ministry with these organizations, fellowships, and institutes, leaders, and churches, they have shown a great interest in fellowship, partnership, and membership. We can see different potential leaders from different organizations and church-



es, young leaders, and a great participation of women in our fellowship and partnership with the Evangelical Alliance in Pakistan. We have country-wide representations and partnerships, and we are grateful that the vision is expanding to all like minded and evangelical people throughout Pakistan. We were also happy to have the presence of Bishop William Das and his wife from the Methodist Churches in Pakistan.

During the different sessions and the open forum, many key questions were asked and answered by the leadership of the Evangelical Alliance in Pakistan and other speakers. The speakers include Rev. Aslam Nazik (Chairman EAP), Rev. Shahbaz Boota (General Secretary EAP), Ruby Naeem (Woman Commission EAP), Mr. Adeel Samuel (Youth Commission EAP), Pastor Amjad Masih (Treasurer EAP), Mr. Sharoon Sarfaraz (IT Commission EAP) and other speakers, such as the Rev. Tariq Waris

(FGA Seminary), Mr. Imran Gill (OM), Dr. Paul Lehmann (The Evangelical Alliance Mission), Rev. Samson Sohail (United Council of Churches Islamabad) Dr. Paul Lehmann (The Evangelical Alliance Mission), Dr. Adil Masih (Cider Christian Fellowship of Pastors Rawalpindi), Rev. Ashkenaz Asif (Advisor EAP) and Bishop William Das (Methodist Church Pakistan). Over 200 participants and delegations from all over Pakistan were served refreshments and lunch. ■



International Widows Day : Rejoice with Might

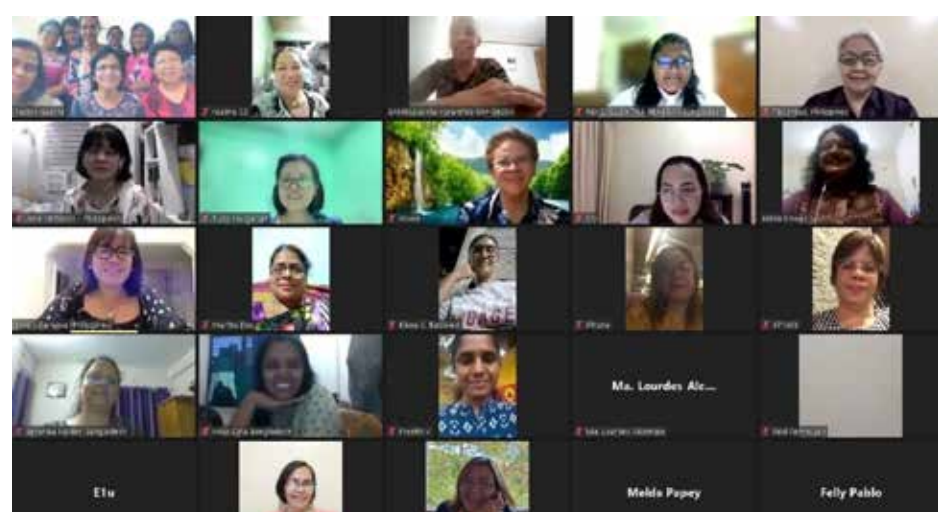


Grace Hee
Executive Director of Women Commission
Asia Evangelical Alliance

In conjunction with International Widows Day, it was a joyous event to be able to bring together widows across Asia on June 25, 2022. This is the second annual event for the Widows Connect group hosted by the AEA Women Commission in partnership with PCEC (Philippines) Women Commission.

The sharing and testimony was heart-breaking and heart-warming all at the same time. "Rejoice with Might" was the theme, knowing that God is "a father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, in His holy habitation." Rev. Suchitra Behera from Bangladesh brought an encouraging message while Mrs Zubaida Rawalpindi shared her journey through grief.

The Widows Connect 2023 will be hosted by Malaysia's "Widows With A Mission" ministry, and much excitement was expressed for a physical gathering. Sponsors will be sought for this to occur. ■



AEA Youth Commission Presents

01
OCT,
2022



Discipleship Matters!

AEA Youth Leaders Fellowship 2022



The AEA Youth Commission is excited to announce the Youth Leaders Fellowship for 2022. The event takes place on October 1st, 2022 via Zoom. Join Youth Leaders from around Asia and a very special speaker who will be sharing on Discipleship. You are invited to a networking platform that will help you grow, share, show, teach, and serve in youth ministry.

Time: 10.00 - 12.15 PM Bangkok Time (GMT+8)

Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/AEAYLF2022> ✨

More information: youth@asiaea.org



Please pray for the AEA Children Commission

- Follow-up events for D6 Asia that we are planning with the Women Commission in 2022 and 2023.
- Building up of the Children Commission team and work to reach and disciple the next generation for Jesus
- Continued efforts to raise resources and support the children ministry work in Asia ■



Photo by Joel Muniz on Unsplash



AEA Women Commission Rise in Christ



8th MissionNaga Movement 2022

The upcoming AEA Women Commission regional conference is birthed out of a desire to see a spiritual breakthrough among women in South Asia, and therefore have set the theme **"Rise in Christ"**.

Women have been oppressed for centuries in this part of the world. They feel lost and face an identity crisis. This conference will use the Bible to point them to their true identity and worth in Christ. We see them rising up in Christ as new creation. Please invite your South Asian friends to participate. ■

Registration link for Rise in Christ organized by AEA Women Commission.

<https://forms.gle/nexNtmU5ZsXXvsoE8>

Join the 8th MissionNaga Movement in 2022! Starting this year, the movement expanded from Nagaland Youth to Asian Youth. This movement will be a missionary program that mobilizes young people from Asian countries.

Co-hosted by: AEA Mission Commission, AEA Youth Commission, Eastern Bible College of Nagaland, and WiThee of Korea.

The program will be held onsite (in Nagaland) and also online on 8-11 August 2022. ■

For more information :

<https://mission174537796.wordpress.com>

In-person registration :

<https://forms.gle/q5N43iqVWyx4XCsv7>

Online registration :

<https://forms.gle/a4Qu8kqcX9vgPhGP8>


AEA Women Commission invites you

RISE IN CHRIST


An Asia Regional Women Conference

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you."
Isaiah 60:1


aea Asia Evangelical Alliance




REV. MARTHA DAS
AEA Women Commission, Bangladesh



RUBY NAEEM JOHN
AEA Women Commission, Pakistan



AASHIMA SAMUEL
AEA Women Commission, India



SURINDER KAUR LAL
AEA Women Commission, India

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
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26-27 AUGUST, 2022
5 PM - 7 PM (IST)
VIA ZOOM

aea Asia Evangelical Alliance

아시아 청년 친교동원운동

Missional Strategies for the **New Normal**

Aug. 8th-11th 2022

Hybrid Program as ON, OFF at Eastern Bible College
Please click the Registration link:
For in-person: <https://forms.gle/q5N43iqVWyx4XCsv7>
For online: <https://forms.gle/a4Qu8kqcX9vgPhGP8>
Landing Page: <https://mission174537796.wordpress.com/>

MissionNaga2022
To teach, share with and challenge the Asian Young Adult Students in order that they might experience spiritual awakening and rise up to the call of world evangelization in their generation. MissionNaga Movement will be held every two years and will be regarded as foundation stone of world missions for the Asian Church.

MissionNaga2022 the 8th Youth Mission Movement
Date: Aug. 8th-11th 2022
Co-host: WiThee International
AEA Mission Commission
AEA Youth Commission
KCCN
Missional Strategies for the New Normal
Venue: Eastern Bible College
Contact: +91-8147718060 | iset.ecc@gmail.com

MissionNaga 2022

WEBINAR

FREE

2:58

Asia
Evangelical
Alliance



Impactful Online Church

How to Maximise The Impact of Your Church Online

Thursday

September 22nd, 2022

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Bangkok Time Zone (UTC+7)



In this training, you will learn on how to utilise social media to reach new audience, engage with them for discipleship as well as building and lead an online ministry team.

Speakers



■ **Phodi**

South East Asia Manager
of CV Global



■ **Martin Wijaya**

Marketing Specialist
for CV South East Asia + Digital Guru



■ **Rejoy Thadathil**

Community Manager
for CV India



Further Information : digitalmedia.aea@gmail.com
Registration : <https://bit.ly/3Fwlvlg>



Asia
Evangelical
Alliance



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Link :

www.paypal.me/AsiaEvangelical

QR Code :



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Bangkok 10900 Thailand

Swiftcode :

TMBKTHBK

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