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CHOSEN SEMINARY

COLLEGE OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES, RESEARCH & CHAPLAINCY

Formally Known As: Chosen Christian Theological Seminary

(AN AFFILIATE OF TRIUMPHANT CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA & LPMV

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COURSE: PASTORAL MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP - BTP104

COURSE OUTLINE

Module 1 – Answering THE CALL
Module 2 – Who is a PASTOR? Know Your Identity!
Module 3 – Protecting Your INNER FIRE
Module 4 – The Power of the MICROPHONE (Preaching)
Module 5 – Leading God's Family in WORSHIP
Module 6 – The Ministry of TEARS and PRESENCE (Pastoral Care)
Module 7 – Leading PEOPLE, Not Just Programs
Module 8 – Managing the HOUSE (Administration)
Module 9 – Building a TEAM, Not an Audience
Module 10 – The WALLS of YOUR LIFE (Boundaries)
Module 11 – Facing the STORM (Challenges & Resilience)

THIS IS THE OFFICIAL HANDOUT PRODUCED BY CHOSEN SEMINARY

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This Copy of Handout belongs to:

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PASTORAL MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP

Introduction – The Journey Begins

This book you are holding is not just for reading. It is a tool for your life's work. Pastoral ministry in our world today is a beautiful battle. It is a calling that will bring you the greatest joy and face you with the deepest challenges.

Many start this race with fire, but along the way, pressure, tiredness, and confusion can quench that fire. This handbook is here to help you keep your fire burning. We will talk about your heart, your head, and your hands—who you must be, what you must know, and what you must do.

Forget complex grammar. Let us speak truth plainly. Let us prepare you not just to start well, but to finish strong.

Key Verse: *"Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart." – 2 Corinthians 4:1*

Module 1 – Answering THE CALL

Before you lead anyone, you must be sure of one thing: Did God call you?

A call is not just a feeling. It is a divine invitation confirmed in many ways.

· **The Inner Witness:** That deep, quiet knowing in your spirit that will not let you go. It says, "This work is for you."

· **The Biblical Pattern:** A strong pull towards the work of shepherding, preaching, and caring for God's people, as seen in Scriptures.

· **The Church's Confirmation:** Your local church and spiritual leaders see the gift and grace of God upon you for this work. They agree, "Yes, we see it too."

· **The Open Door:** God provides opportunities to serve and prove this calling. The way opens, not by your power, but by His providence.

Stop and Think: If you remove the title "Pastor," the salary, or the crowd, would you still feel compelled to do this work? Write down your own "Call Story."

Module 2 – Who is a PASTOR? Know Your Identity!

If you get your identity wrong, the work will break you. You are not a Managing Director or a Chief Executive. First and foremost, you are a **SHEPHERD**.

Biblical Pictures:

· **The Shepherd (John 10):** You know your sheep. You feed them, guide them, protect them. You are not a hired worker who runs from wolves.

· **The Servant (Mark 10:45):** Your greatness is measured by your service, not by the number of people who serve you.

· **The Steward (1 Corinthians 4:2):** Everything—the church, the money, the people—belongs to God. You are only a manager. A steward must be found faithful.

The Great Danger: Do not let the crowd's applause make you a Celebrity. Do not let the church's problems make you a Cynic. Hold tightly to your true name: Shepherd-Servant-Steward.

Module 3 – Protecting Your INNER FIRE

This is the most important module. If your soul is dry, everything you do will be empty.

You cannot give what you do not have. If your spiritual tank is empty, you will run on fumes and soon crash. You must guard your private time with God jealously.

Your Survival Kit:

1. Prayer That is Not Preaching: Talk to God about you, not just about your sermon points.

2. Sabbath is Not Laziness: God commanded rest. Even He rested! Take a full day weekly to do nothing "ministry-related." If you don't, your body will force a rest on you through sickness.

3. Have a Spiritual Father/Mother: You too need someone to guide and correct you. You cannot be an island.

4. Feed Your Own Soul: Read books for your joy, not just for your next sermon.

The Warning Signs: Constant irritation, secret jealousy, lack of joy in worship, tiredness that sleep cannot cure. These mean your inner fire is dying. STOP. TEND TO YOUR SOUL.

Module 4 – The Power of the MICROPHONE (Preaching)

In Nigeria, the pulpit is powerful. But with great power comes great responsibility.

Your preaching must do two things: Explain God's Word and Apply it to People's Lives.

The Process:

1. Dig Deep (Exegesis): What did the text mean to the original hearers? Do not twist Scripture to say what you want.

2. Find the Big Idea: What is the one main truth God is saying?

3. Connect to Life: How does this truth touch our lives here? Address the market woman, the unemployed graduate, the struggling couple.

4. Call for Action: Don't just leave people with information. Give them a "so what?" What should they do, believe, or change because of this Word?

Remember: Your life is the first sermon your congregation will read. If your life and your lips disagree, people will ignore your lips.

Module 5 – Leading God's Family in WORSHIP

Sunday morning is not a concert. It is the family gathering to meet with our Father.

As the pastor, you are the service leader. You guide the family through a meaningful conversation with God.

- **Praise:** We call out who God is.
- **Confession:** We get honest about who we are.
- **Hearing the Word:** We listen to what He says.
- **Response & Thanksgiving:** We answer Him with our lives and gifts.
- **Benediction:** He blesses us as we go back into the world.

Your Role: Be a thoughtful guide. Choose songs that match the sermon theme. Pray prayers that are real, not just beautiful words. Lead the sacraments (Baptism & Holy Communion) with great reverence—they are holy moments.

Module 6 – The Ministry of TEARS and PRESENCE (Pastoral Care)

People will forget your sermons, but they will never forget that you were there when they were in the valley.

<u>Pastoral Care is Love with Its Boots On.</u>

- At the hospital bed.
- At the funeral.
- In the marital crisis.

· In the shame of failure.

Key Skills:

· **Listen More, Talk Less:** Let people pour out their pain. Your presence is often more powerful than your advice.

· **Don't Pretend to Have All Answers:** It is okay to say, "This is very hard. I don't know why this happened, but I know God is with us."

· **Know Your Limits:** You are a pastor, not a psychiatrist. Learn when to refer people to professional counselors.

· **Keep Confidentiality:** What is shared in pain must not become a story in your next sermon.

Module 7 – Leading PEOPLE, Not Just Programs

Leadership is about moving people from where they are to where God wants them to be.

You Will Face:

· **Conflict:** People will disagree. Don't fear it; manage it with wisdom and grace. Listen to all sides.

· **Change:** Introducing new things is hard. "We've always done it this way" is the loudest hymn. Explain the why before the what.

· **Criticism:** Some will be valid—learn from it. Some will be cruel—pray for them and let it go.

The Golden Rule: Lead with your EARS. Listen to God. Listen to your people. Then, speak and act.

Module 8 – Managing the HOUSE (Administration)

A disorganized house frustrates the Spirit. God is a God of order.

· **Plan Your Year:** Know your key seasons (Outreach, Harvest, Conventions).

· **Handle Money with Holy Fear:** Be transparent. Have an accountability committee. Never, ever mix church money with your personal account. It is a trap!

· **Meetings Must Matter:** Have a clear agenda. Start and end on time. Make decisions and write them down.

· **Empower Others:** You are not the only gifted person. Delegate tasks. Trust people to help you.

Module 9 – Building a TEAM, Not an Audience

Your goal is not to have many followers. Your goal is to raise many **leaders**.

The Ephesians 4 Model: Christ gave pastors and teachers "...to equip his people for works of service..." (Ephesians 4:12).

Your New Job Description: EQUIPPER.

· Identify the gifts in that young brother, that sister.

· Train them. Give them small tasks first.

· Release them to do the work. Cheer them on.

· Create a leadership pipeline so the church does not die when you are gone.

Module 10 – The WALLS of YOUR LIFE (Boundaries)

If you have no walls, your house will be destroyed. Boundaries are not selfish; they are wise.

· **Time Boundaries:** Protect your family time. Turn off your phone during meals. Have a day off.

· **Financial Boundaries:** Have a clear, open salary. Do not use church projects as your personal business.

· **Emotional Boundaries:** You cannot carry every person's burden. Give it to God.

· **The Greatest Wall – Sexual Purity:** Never, ever counsel a person of the opposite sex alone behind closed doors. Have your wife or a deaconess present. The devil is a liar. Protect your marriage, protect your integrity. It only takes one moment of foolishness to destroy a lifetime of work.

Module 11 – Facing the STORM (Challenges & Resilience)

The storm will come. A trusted member will betray you. Finances will dwindle. False accusations will rise. You will feel like quitting.

How to Stand:

1. Remember Your Call: Go back to Page 3. Re-read your "Call Story."

2. Find Your People: Have 2-3 fellow pastors you can call and be raw with. Do not suffer in silence.

3. Look Up: Your security is not in your position, but in your posture—on your knees before God.

4. Take a Break: If you are burning out, it is not a sin to rest. A tired carpenter makes a weak table. A tired pastor makes poor decisions.

Your Action Plan – The Path Forward

Do not just read and close this book. ACT.

- **This Week:** Write your "Call Narrative." Tell the story of how God called you.
- **This Month:** Implement one new soul-care habit (e.g., a real Sabbath, a 15-minute daily prayer not for sermon prep).
- **This Quarter:** Identify 2 potential leaders in your church. Start meeting with them. Pour into them.
- **This Year:** Review your financial and relational boundaries. Are they strong? Fix one weak spot.

Your Legacy: It will not be the size of your church building. It will be the faithfulness of your walk, the health of your family, and the leaders you raised who will continue the work.

Final Blessing

My dear colleague in this great work,

The road is long. The work is hard. The reward is not always here. But our reward is sure. He who called you is faithful.

Go forth.

Shepherd with the heart of Christ.

Lead with the wisdom of heaven.

Live with the integrity that silences the enemy.

Finish your race with joy.

We are praying for you. The cloud of witnesses is cheering for you.

Go, and build God's house well.

Amen.

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