

INSPIRE CONFERENCE 2020: AFRICA BEYOND THE HORIZON

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Background and Aims of the report.

1. How can we find the true African identity in diversity?

-Rev. Anthony Ashaye. Chief Executive Officer of Soar Rising, a U.K based company that develops unique solutions for transforming African Development Challenges. 23 years' Senior pastor Of King's family Center which is a U.K based church with over a decade mission's work in the West, east and South Africa. Years of experience in the financial and real Estate investments. Board member of Peace Alliance based in the U.K. Writer of "The Spirit of Africa".

2. How do we redefine the African mentality?

-Bishop Ngwiza Mnkandla. Presiding Bishop of Faith Ministries International; a family of churches which have grown out of Zimbabwe. Over 40 years of Church Planting and pioneering in different Cultures. Worked with international and national movements in the body of Christ as well as in the market place.

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- Africa having an average age of 19 is a very young continent.
- But do these young people across the continent have an identity?
- Do we have an identity as a continent?
- There is need for thinking in a new way.
- Black Africa as a race has been considered an underclass for such a longtime.
- As a result, many of the times we feel inferior.
- Wealth and economics is the underbelly of challenges we have therefore we need to build digital platforms that will be able to support the innovation that Africa needs.
- As Africa, in the past we saw Slavery and Neo/Colonialism.
- In the present we are having issues of leadership-personhood leadership-disrupt yourself.
- In the future, with Africa's demographic dividend, there lies the capacity and the potential to surpass China.
- With transformational leaders, you can make potential a reality.
- Identity is a distinguishing characteristic. Something that differentiates a person or a group from another and is the essence of that person's being.
- There are certain things that have tainted our identity. They have made us look at our distinguishing factor and almost underrated it.
- Part of this has been our history of slavery.

- So we believe that our identity no longer matters.
- We now borrow identity from others.
- Somebody once said “What slavery does is it robs you of your identity, your language, your name; just like most of us these days have English sounding names which were colonial names
- And that is why for the sake of understanding unity we ought to embrace our traditional names even when we are born out of Africa.
- Not only slavery, but also neo-colonization has been part of stealing away the African identity.
- And if we are not careful about that, then the 4IR will be part of buying Africa up again.
- This is why Africa must think and must tap into identity to be able to ensure that whatever we are building is built by Africans for Africa.
- No other person is interested in the growth and development of Africa
- China in 1980 or 1990 had 90% poverty rate; almost rivaling what Africa has been told it will have in the next 10 years.
- But with transformational leaders, in a period of 40 years they are knocking on the door of being the first and the richest country in the world.
- China in 1990 had the same GDP (Gross Domestic Product) that Nigeria, a small country has. At that time china had 1 billion people and had 360 billion as the GDP.
- Nigeria has 360 billion as the GDP with just 200 million people. And yet that is just one part of Africa.
- Therefore Africa as a whole can surpass China if we plug into our identity.
- The context of the 4IR that has been concluded is that there will be mass job loss.
- Forget what Covid is doing, a new normal was already being created.
- Covid has just pushed the 4IR to another level.
- The certification and cramming the way we have taught people in Africa is no longer going to be relevant, therefore let us start focusing on our identity.
- Our spirituality is our identity.
- The developed world has begun to walk away from what made them great, which was the depth of spirituality.
- Of recent, they have begun to become more secular, denying God.
- There was a prophecy of 2020 being the turning point-year after the crash of the world economy. This has become a reality.
- The prophecy in two said, there would be a challenge for the developed world but it would be an open door for Africa to tap into its spirituality. This happened at a conference in Nairobi last year. (INUKA 2019: NAIROBI).
- When God wants to do something, He reveals it in advance.
- in Genesis 18:16-21; Sodom and Gomorrah were doing business as usual and while this was going forth, God was revealing their destruction to His own; Abraham.
- God always speaks, that is one unique part that we have not tapped into.
- The 4IR is knowledge based whether we like it or not.
- Knowledge belongs to God and we cannot take that away.

- Joseph and Daniel in the Bible are examples of a spiritual intelligence that separates God's own when a NEW NORMAL is about to unfold.
- Basing on the scriptural reference; Isaiah 3, verses 9-11, we see that the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah is what will begin to divide the West and give Africa chance to elevate ahead.
- On the streets of the West, the gay pride has been the center of their pride.
- In the United Kingdom, without manifesto vote in 2013, a gay law was put into place that allowed the marriages of male and male or female and female.
- That literally began the turning point and so God began to decide that concerning Africa, He will begin to honor the covenant that He has with us.
- In 1900, less than 1% of Africans were identified as Christians.
- In 2016, over 60% of Sub-Saharan Africa was classified as Christians.
- Some nations today in Africa, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda have over 90% identifying as Christians.
- That means something because when you come onto the streets of London to pray, you will most likely get arrested for public disorder. If you go to a school in New York and pray, you will most likely get sucked as a teacher.
- If you go to the market place in Harare, Accra, Kinshasa or Kigali to pray, you will most likely have a few people join you.
- Our heritage is embedded in us.
- Cultures that have backed into their heritage in God have seen an economic transformation.
- The biblical book of Galatians, chapter 3, verses 29-29 say that there is no longer Jew or Gentile, in other words; whatever applies to our Jewish brethren also applies to us as Africans. Slave or free, our history no longer matters. We are now heirs of God and whatever belongs to Him belongs to us.
- In the Abrahamic covenant, we are heirs of God, it is a reality. It is not something we confess, it is something we walk in.
- We are joint heirs with Christ and the promise of Abraham's seed is ours-fully and not in part.

- Our color is NOT a barrier to this covenant.
- Tacit knowledge or spiritual intelligence should be the preserve of the Church.
- The 4th Industrial Revolution will bring an opportunity for those who can download the blueprint for the next season: LIKE JOSEPH-GENESIS 41:37-41.
- In a country like America that we call “The Great Country”, the universities there have been attributed as one of the sole factors that made America great.
- When you look at those institutions, Princeton University was founded by a church; Harvard University was named after John Harvard who was a clergy man.
- Walter Martin, the Bishop of Rochester impacted Oxford University in its creation and had an impact on Cambridge University.
- These were all the incubators of innovation. They did not come from the world, they came from the church
- Looking at a few of the Top Ten Richest people in the world on the Forbes list;
 - Jeff Bezos, the creator of Amazon went to Princeton University which was created by a pastor.
 - Bill Gates, the creator of Microsoft went to Harvard which was created by a clergy man.
 - Mark Zuckerberg, the creator of Face Book went to Harvard which has already been previously mentioned as being created by a clergy man.
 - Larry Page and Sergy Brin, the fathers of Google also went to the same, Harvard University.
- There are some churches that have more influence on their people than their governments do.
- Church leaderships need to invest in creating hubs for innovation and invest in these start-ups to create market leaders of the future.
- Bishop JB Masinde inspired the pioneers of **INSPIRE SYNERGY**; you will be surprised how much the church can back into who we are.
- You will be surprised that innovation brings the value of what you have to purchase very low.
- In Africa today, we have micro-entities; goat herding businesses, the market seller the one who sells oranges on the road.
- We call micro-entities the ones that have less than 50 employees.
- Of the top 10 big conglomerates in Africa, 70% of them are from South Africa, but black people do not run those.

- Starting an investment in black owned businesses that will grow multinational and conglomerate that rival the market capitalization of 14500 components or constituents is one of the things that we must do. It is a must.
- It is not about creating jobs, it is about creating opportunities.
- Government enables but private sectors build, therefore the church must take a leading role. We need to start creating multinationals for Africa.
- Stock exchanges in many countries are facilitators for the growth of start-ups.
- If we look at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, the only international sized exchange in Africa being \$1tn yet is still that still falls behind of what the others in the world are.
- Looking at the Nigerian Stock Exchange-Market Capitalization of about \$40bn, it is almost 25 times smaller than that of the above figure of which one company-Dangote group accounts for a large percentage-NOT LIQUID.
- For the Ugandan Stock Exchange-Market Capitalization of less than \$5bn, less than the quarterly earnings of Apple.
- Looking at all this, it is very impossible for us not to begin to invest and think about innovation.
- It is not about creating jobs, if we wait for that, we shall be employed and sucked.
- We need to start creating opportunities.
- America became great because of innovation and the Chinese went to America to learn, then went back home and built to an extent that America is fighting with them about 5G Technology.
- Africa needs INNOVATORS who will build and launch multinationals on new exchanges or partner with existing exchanges.
- OUR PLATFORM aims to be part of this solution, Africa needs us for transformation.
- It is time to stop speaking in tongues alone as a sign of the influence of the Holy Spirit and engage God for innovation, it is our right!
- The Jews know their identity. They understand where the scripture says in Deuteronomy 28-that you will be the head and not the tail. This was primarily written to the Jewish Community and to them it is not mere theory, it is not just a confession-IT IS WHAT THEY KNOW! Forget Belief.
- So from their perspective, it is no wonder that they are the leaders in innovation.
- They are the leaders in fronting the 4IR;
 - Mark Zuckerberg-Facebook (Social platform). His Father is a Jewish man.
 - Larry Ellison-Oracle (Big Data)
 - Michael Bloomberg-Bloomberg (Financial)
 - George Soros-Funds
 - Steve Ballmer- Microsoft
 - Larry Page and Sergey Brin-Google(Search Engine)
- They have backed into their identity and they know who they are!

Conclusion

- We can find the true African Identity in diversity by uniting identity by Covenant despite diversity. We do this by looking into what unites us despite our diversity.
- One of the things that pull us together is our spiritual identity. For example a large number of people attend the Inspire Conferences NOT as pertaining to Ugandan conferences BUT AFRICAN Conferences that have their roots in Spirituality.
- We need to understand that our Spiritual Heritage pulls us together.
- If the European countries despite their different languages managed to form the European Union to unite and find their identity and develop economically, then we can do the same not just for economic reasons but our diversity can be united in our identity.
- We need to stop reciting scripture and start living it. That is how we become the transformational leaders that Africa needs.
- It all goes back to our spirituality. Leadership from the church is required to build a brighter future.
- We must appreciate that our Demographic dividend, we can innovate, create solutions (not just jobs), take over industries and become the continent and people of ENVY.

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- The way to do it would be to talk about the seven mountains.
- In 1975, Bill Bright of “Campus Crusade” and Lauren Cunningham of “You to the mission” started talking about the concept of the seven mountains of societal influence. In other words- the seven pillars that influence society.
- **Seven pillars** are the ways most of us spend our time.
- **Religion** is one of the seven pillars of society.
- Every society has got to ask three questions and if you do not get these answers right then all your answers about everything else are going to be wrong. Whatever other theory that you come up with will still leave you in trouble if you do not answer these questions right.
- Question number one is: Who is God?
- Question number two is: Where did I come from?
- The third question is: Why am I here?
- If you do not answer question number one correctly then you will not get question number two right. And if you do not get question number two correctly then you will not get question number three right.
- John Stott put it differently; he talked about men having three quests: the quest for significance, the quest for community and the quest for transcendence.
- These are things that are constantly knowing at the heart of mankind and Africa is no exception.

- Another important question to ask is; why are we not growing at the same rate that countries like the U.K growing?
- Why is it that in Africa the gospel is not producing the same results as it made in the development of the Western World?
- Why are we not seeing the same transformation?
- What kind of gospel did we receive? This is where we need to begin asking serious questions if we are going to move forward into the future and if we are going to transform the continent.
- The gospel we had in the past that taught us to completely take money as a dirty thing and to take pastors in suit in tie as the only ones preaching the right doctrine was a gospel with a bus stop mentality.
- Consequently we were not able to impact our society.
- If we are going to transform Africa we really need to revisit the area of religion and the gospel.
- Instead of being producers, we are consumers.
- Why is it that these days some Christian leaders are happy to build a palace in the middle of a slum?
- We need to go into the word of God with a different mentality all together because we might get to find out that the gospel which we were given by the missionaries was wrapped up in western Culture and that was used to control us, that is NOT THE REAL GOSPEL.
- Perhaps if we go into the Gospel for ourselves we realize that the son of God became flesh dwelt amongst us.
- We might realize that He was here with us He would eat locally and be very comfortable speaking Swahili.
- We might realize that He would perhaps wear “kitenge” and He would not be frightened by our African drums or offended by our dance.
- We might realize that he would comfortably dispense some of our medicines that the colonial missionaries dismissed as being part of the black culture.
- There is a term called the Stockholm syndrome, where the people that are captured begin to identify with their captors. This is something that has happened to Africa. We identified with those who have oppressed us and instead of being able to interpret the scriptures for ourselves, we decided to interpret the scriptures from a western Mentality.
- When the western missionaries came to Africa, they did not bring God. God was already here. We had African names for God and there was richness behind the names we had for God. The names we had translated back to English as God being the Almighty and the sovereign. Those names portrayed a deep understanding for God.
- Back in the day we did not have African atheists. You did not have to convince the African that there was God.
- We might not have known the name of His Son, but we knew God. And so when the Gospel came to Africa, it was coming home.
- The place of government going forward into the future by thinking that democracy is the best thing needs to first realize that the concept of democracy is coming apart and coming into the gap of development.

- **Education** is another pillar we have to critically pay close attention to.
- What kind of education are we going into as we go into the future?
- Your time in the University is to teach you how to think and ask the right questions. Information is about everywhere today. You can teach yourself more and more from anywhere. We can even give the doctors a challenge.
- We have a lot of Harvard graduates that come back and do not have an idea on how to solve African problems.
- Therefore going into the future we have to start asking about relevant Education.
- **Business** is an important pillar as well.
- We need to ask about who owns the minerals.
- What are we trading?
- And why are we not using our combined powers?
- Why is 40% of African wealth hidden in western banks?
- Africa needs to wake up-we are a rich Continent.
- As Africa, let us rethink.
- How do we grow the tree before we begin taking the fruits from it?
- Africa is a power house, if only we can get our priorities right.
- Another pillar we need to attentively focus on is **Family and Health**.
- When the morals degenerate, God comes and destroys society.
- Africa needs to be different from its counterparts.
- Let the fathers and mothers play their roles.
- In Africa we grew up with boundaries; every adult was your brother and your father. When they found you misbehaving, they got the cane and disciplined you. It takes a village to raise a child.
- Who is promoting African Art and Values?
- We are leaving money on the table by not realizing the African Art.

Conclusion

- If we are going to change the African Mentality, it is important that we begin to go out to God for ourselves and begin to interpret the scriptures from a different lens all together and not the western lenses that we have been forced to wear throughout the years.