

ENTREPRENEURSHIP, CAREER, INVESTMENT & INNOVATIONS BY MEANS OF
INFORMATION, EMPOWERMENT & EDUCATION OF THE MARSHALLAN
– SUMMIT 2015

“PURPOSEFUL & PRODUCTIVE LIVING”

JUNIOR MARSHALLAN CAREER SUMMIT
HOLY SPIRIT CATHEDRAL, ACCRA

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OUTLINE

- ☐ Who is the Young Marshallan?
 - ☐ What is s/he composed of?
 - ☐ What are her/ his dreams, wishes, ambitions?
 - ☐ Realities in the World
 - ☐ Realities in the Nation
 - ☐ Realities in the Church
 - ☐ Therefore, what should the Young Marshallan do/ not do?
 - ☐ Conclusion
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WHO IS THE YOUNG MARSHALLAN?

- ☐ Youthful
 - ☐ Energetic
 - ☐ Attractive
 - ☐ Ambitious
 - ☐ Optimistic
 - ☐ Believer/ Faith-filled
 - ☐ Catholic
 - ☐ Marshallan
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HOW HAS S/HE BEEN PREPARED?/ WHAT IS S/HE COMPOSED OF?

- ☐ Home
 - Parents
 - Size (Extended?)
 - Environment
 - ☐ Basic & Secondary Schooling
 - The Nature of the Schools/ Quality/ Influence?
 - ☐ Church
 - Vibrant? / Ordinary? /Dying? / “Cafeteria”?/
 - ☐ Tertiary / Trade Preparation
 - ☐ Workplace
 - ☐ Marshallan
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WHAT ARE HIS/HER DREAMS, WISHES, AMBITIONS?

- ☐ Respectable Profession
 - ☐ Prestigious, well-paying Job
 - ☐ Promotions at Rapid Rates
 - ☐ Amazing Spouse
 - ☐ Kind and Generous In-Laws
 - ☐ Travel Outside
 - ☐ Lovely Children
 - ☐ Great Residential Address
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WHAT ARE THE DREAMS, WISHES, AMBITIONS? (CONTD)

- ☐ Good Health
 - ☐ Prosperity/ Wealth
 - ☐ Financial Security
 - ☐ Secured Circle of Friends and Colleagues
 - ☐ The best of Societies or Fraternities
 - ☐ Great Parish, with wonderful Priests
 - ☐ Long Life
 - ☐ Heaven
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REALITIES IN THE WORLD

- ❑ The World becoming a Global Village
 - ❑ Highly sophisticated
 - ❑ Technologically most advanced
 - ❑ Global warming
 - ❑ Environmental degradation
 - ❑ Economic hardships
 - ❑ Open and subtle discrimination of Africa and other poor nations
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REALITIES IN THE WORLD (CONT'D)

- ❑ Migration from poor nations into Europe & the Americas for better life
 - ❑ Threats and occasions of Battles & Wars
 - ❑ Suicide bombings, ISIS activities spreading
 - ❑ Continued unrests in the Middle East
 - ❑ Fast Spread of Islam
 - ❑ Spread and Legalization of Homosexuality
 - ❑ Dwindling impact of the Church's moral and social teachings
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REALITIES IN THE NATION

- ❑ Ghana not immuned from global economic hardships
 - ❑ Power fluctuations, affecting industries
 - ❑ Growing unemployment, freeze on employment
 - ❑ Industrial agitations
 - ❑ Continuing fast pace of rural-urban migration
 - ❑ Continuing congestions in urban centres
 - ❑ Unprecedented continuing environmental degradation, even in rural Ghana
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REALITIES IN THE NATION (cont'd)

- ❑ Growing rate of criminal activities nationwide
 - ❑ Growing rate of alcohol use
 - ❑ Deteriorating health of Ghanaians
 - ❑ Increasing incidences of sophisticated illnesses
 - ❑ Growth of hospitality industry
 - ❑ Greater mobility nationwide
 - ❑ Challenges in educational sector – eg, dwindling government support of tertiary education
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REALITIES IN THE NATION (cont'd)

- ❑ Concerns over quality of products
 - ❑ Fast pace of Islamic growth, building larger mosques and schools, in cities and villages
 - ❑ Increasing number of Islamic holidays on national calendar
 - ❑ High polarization of the populace
 - ❑ Politicization of almost every local, regional, or national issue
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REALITIES IN THE CHURCH

- ❑ Church often perceived as boring and its activities having little or no impact on people's daily fears & cries
 - ❑ Growing Syncretism among many Christians
 - ❑ Apparent popularity of Penteco-Charismatic-Healing-Prosperity-emphasized Churches
 - ❑ Lack of growth of the Catholic Church and other Christian denominations
 - ❑ Lessening of Church's influence on national life (Bishops Conference, Communiqués, Catholic Standard, loss of Mission Schools)
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REALITIES IN THE CHURCH (cont'd)

- ☐ Loss of confidence in Church leadership in some local areas, leading to lack of support of church programmes
 - ☐ Scandals, even if foreign, impacting Church's life negatively to some extent
 - ☐ Lack of co-operation among clergy and lay leadership
 - ☐ Loss of mission schools to Government – implications for the future of the Church
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DOES THE YOUNG MARSHALLAN'S COMPOSITION MATCH HIS/HER DREAMS?

- ☐ The answer to this question cannot be that simple, since there are a number of other factors that play into the scenario
- ☐ Realities in the World
- ☐ Realities in the Nation
- ☐ Realities in the Church
- ☐ Current Realities in the Workplace
- ☐ Prevailing Personal Circumstances
- ☐ On the whole, my answer is NO

THEREFORE, WHAT SHOULD THE YOUNG MARSHALLAN DO/ NOT DO?

□ *In view of the situation in which the Young Marshallan finds her/himself, and, keeping in view our theme, I make the following recommendations:*

1. SERVICE/ WORK/ ENTREPRENEURSHIP: You must ensure that you are truly contributing to the development of the establishment in which you work/ render service, and from which you earn your living. If you are an employee, you must, as if this were your own business, continually ask yourself : “How productive am I”
- As if this is not enough, I propose that you endeavour to have a “Private Business”. One reason for this addition is for additional financial strength. Naturally, you will have to be quite passionate about it so as to reap the fruits to enable you do the things you love doing. The salary of your “main job” may not be enough to keep you in a decent living, even as a Christian!

THEREFORE, WHAT SHOULD THE YOUNG MARSHALLAN DO/ NOT DO? (CONTD)

2. EDUCATION

SELF

MAKE UP

CATCH UP

CHANGE IS PROGRESS

GROWTH IN SPIRITUALITY THROUGH SELF-EDUCATION

FURTHER

EQUIPPING FOR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

FOR PROMOTION / PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT

CAREER ENHANCEMENT

KEEPING PACE WITH CHANGING REALITIES IN ONE'S WORK

BRINGING GOD INTO THE WORK I DO, FOR DEEPER MEANING

THEREFORE, WHAT SHOULD THE YOUNG MARSHALLAN DO/ NOT DO? (CONTD)

3.THE NEED FOR A MENTOR IN THE PROFESSION

- It is critical that you take time, even if months, or a few years, to land yourself a mentor for your Professional Career. This is not optional, if you wish to excel
 - This mentor would be someone who has distinguished her/himself in the chosen profession, and who would, formally and/ or informally, support you on your journey to excellence
 - This is not a Spiritual Director, and not necessarily a relative. This is a professional mentor
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THEREFORE, WHAT SHOULD THE YOUNG MARSHALLAN DO/ NOT DO? (CONTD)

4. SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

- From my experience as Priest, I find this an uncommon, yet critically invaluable resource among Catholic lay faithful.
 - For us priests and religious, since it was part of our training, almost everyone of us still maintains a good and faithful practice of having a Spiritual Director.
 - Just as we need to have a Professional Mentor in our secular life, so do we need a Spiritual Director to guide our spiritual, Christian life.
 - We are free to select; does not have to be our Parish Priest
 - Also, I prefer a Priest, because of the Confession that usually accompanies a good spiritual direction
 - It is an opportunity, usually monthly, to meet with an experienced religious to share your spiritual journey with
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THEREFORE, WHAT SHOULD THE YOUNG MARSHALLAN DO/ NOT DO? (CONTD)

5.SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The young Marshallan, like any other conscientious Christian, should seek to grow. Remaining static is dangerous for any life. The following are key areas that have will prove helpful to the Marshallan

- CHURCH
 - K & L M
 - OTHERS
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CONCLUSION

- ❑ We live in challenging times; in a world which is sophisticated; we are dealing with events never before encountered.
 - ❑ The demands on us are unlike ever before, and so we cannot simply be average; we must ensure that we utilize as much of our energies and potentials as possible, though properly.
 - ❑ Since we are in the world, we must be fully engaged in the great things the world offers us.
 - ❑ Yet we must also be mindful that we are not of the world, and as children of God, endeavour to seek Him in all things, through maximizing the great gifts of the many opportunities and mentors around us, in Church and in the world
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THANK YOU!
