

## **Testimonial for World Christian University Doctorate Degree – Tadios M Msipa**

I am an alumnus of World Christian University where I successfully completed my Doctorate in Theological Studies in the month of October 2021.

May I submit to you that the University is an amazing institution with an amazing curricular for the aforementioned programme. The qualification was based on making research for three key areas which define great leaders. These being Leadership, Management and Communication Skills. I had to submit a book on each of the three core fundamentals of leadership.

The institution enabled me to have a solid basis of why leadership is crucial, not only did I get to understand why it is indispensable, but I also had the privilege of studying in detail the foundational leadership work of great Greek philosophers. This helped me to have a thorough understanding of how leadership has evolved ever since those ancient years of the trait theory. I also had an in-depth assimilation of various leadership works and why they were relevant in their dispensation. The shift from technical and mechanical leadership till the age of human relations in leadership to the most recent true leadership theories. It has been an absorbing journey of looking at the world with a leadership bias. I have also been careful enough to put a demarcation line in terms of leaders who succeed and those who fail. Throughout my studies, the differences between successful leaders came through. I got to understand what made Mandela a leadership benchmark of success in contrast to the deteriorating and decaying power of Robert Mugabe as a leader. I appreciated why Martin Luther King Jr was a massive leader and how Mahatma Gandhi was able to inspire a revolution without firing a single gun bullet. I learnt further insights on how Mother Theresa became an inspirational leader in a selfish and dying world.

I am in awe of the curriculum at WCU, it was both academically balanced, spiritually inspiring and practically transforming. The greatest lesson possibly I learnt in the Doctorate program is how to understand and define myself as a practical leader who is not a positional leader but a transformational leader who is willing to break barriers of comfort so as to achieve what I have not achieved before. It was articulated to me that leadership is not a position but it is a disposition which helps contemporary society to function better through the effective solving of prevailing challenges. The program caused a paradigm shift in my life forever, I will never be able to see the world with lens of defeat and helplessness but I will view it with the greatest hope knowing that as a leader God is counting on me to be an effective leader.

The program is of immense value to those in leadership of churches, Non-Governmental Organisations and even the corporate world. However, when I consider it in light of my current vocation, which is being a church founder and Senior Pastor, it is of tremendous impact and helps transform my leadership approach for the church. I ought to put systems which will enable it to operate as a business model. The way I also learnt from the Management model is very important, management is one of the vital tools in a leader's tool box because God will never trust you with what you cannot manage. So, in order to be trusted with more I have learnt the importance of becoming more.

The issue of management is so crucial, especially from a management perspective. The reason why Africa is the richest continent resource wise, yet her people continue to wallow in stinking poverty is lack of Management acumen. Our leaders are failing to manage what God has entrusted the continent with, instead they are mismanaging and plundering economies to the point that some presidents are richer than the countries which they lead. This skill called Management is the difference between prosperity and poverty in many nations. In Africa where it has been exercised, the economies of Botswana under Khama

and Rwanda under Kagame have shown like bacons of hope. Management is very crucial for me as a senior pastor because I oversee a reasonable level of resources so I ought to optimise their usage as a good steward who is also exemplary.

The program has also shown me the power of a listening and communicating leader. It also explained for me the finer details of what makes an effective Communicator. It exposed me to the reality that I was a pathetic communicator over the years without even realising it because I was sinking in ignorance. Communication and listening are vital tools in the life of a leader and should be given prominence of position in senior executives' lives.

I am greatly humble to submit that the WCU Doctorate stretched me as a leader and showed me that there are three key things I will never succeed without as a leader, these being leadership skills, management skills and Communication and listening skills. Any leader who masters these will become a transgenerational leader who is able to add value to any constituency. I hope and trust this program can become available to other countries and other continents so as to add tremendous value in the lives of those in leadership, whether political, religious or otherwise.

It is a true assertion that all things rise and fall with leadership. Leadership is not something but it is everything. We salute the great work being done at World Christian University by Professor Lloyd Zulu and the academic staff.

**Dr. Tadios M Msipa, Doctor of Arts in Theology (Kingdom Leadership) Maseru, Lesotho**