

Networking with Iron

When I was first appointed as Armor Bearer to my pastor, to be frank I had absolutely no earthly idea what I was doing. Truth be told, now, years later as an adjutant to my bishop I find myself asking the Lord (as well as my bishop) for direction sometimes in how to move because I am still a disciple and still learning. I hope you caught that. What I did know was the fact that I had a sincere and strong desire to directly to connect with, learn from and serve my bishop. God can work with that.

Point #1 – in these monthly encouragement pieces and in training sessions you are a part of when we visit your church we talk about things like the Order of Adjutants and your role within the National Adjutancy. We hear terms like Apostolic Succession and review the pageantry and ceremonial side of what we do. We see the need for intercession and much prayer in the service of our leaders. I am here to encourage you that we all have to start somewhere. A genuine, heart-felt desire to serve and promote our leader is the basis of requirement for this servant ministry. We have to start somewhere.

I served that bishop for three faithful, fruitful and very bumpy years and it was not until about the last 4-6 months of my service as his armor bearer that I began to understand what I was to function as his minister. How did this happen? Where did understanding suddenly occur? I will tell you that I did not wake suddenly one morning and have a revelation, “I know what I am supposed to be doing as my bishop’s armor bearer!” No. I attribute this beginning of understanding with the people I had begun to be connected with. You see, up until that time, I had been operating in a vacuum. Sure I was relying on my teacher and the Lord, however I had not been exposed to those who had “gone before” and experienced some of the exact things I was experiencing as an armor bearer and later an adjutant.

Point #2 – your present level of service is fine and God can work with that however, in order to progress in this Servant-Ministry you must connect with others outside of your “bubble”. Proverbs 27:17 states “Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.” It is imperative that we connect and network as adjutants and armor bearers so we can learn from those who have gone before. You should expect those persons to pour into you but you must first put yourself in a position to receive.

I thank God for that three year conditioning period, for it prepared me for the next stage of my ministry and service. Never take for granted what you may view as humble beginnings. Many times I thought I was “spinning my wheels” because I just didn’t know this nor had any experience in that. I encourage you today, stick with it and in the words of the Apostle Paul declared to the church at Corinth “Be ye followers of me, even as I also of Christ. (1Cor. 11:1) Everyone will not start out as Chief Adjutant for their church or Adjutant-General for the Fellowship. We must start as porters, ushers and deacons and progress as the Lord allows. If you stick with your God-appointed leader with much loyalty and humility and dig in as a true disciple, along the way you will look up and realize you are a bit more knowledgeable in practical as well as spiritual things pertaining to this ministry.