God's Mission: our Commission

Workbook on discovering your place in God's Mission

Participant's Booklet

UNIT	TITLE	PAGE
	Introduction	2
Part 1	God's Mission	3
Part 2	Our Commission	6
Part 3	The World Today	9
Part 4	Fulfilling the Commission	13
Part 5	Next Steps	16
	Manifest Project/ TCNI	18

Introduction

So glad you have access to this workbook. You have it because you are curious about this workbook or about God's mission. This is a true indication that God is at work in you and wants you to know more about his unchanging and glorious mission. It is recommended that you participate in the workshop, so a facilitator can work you through this book. However, if this is not a possibility for you at the moment, take your time to go through the pages reflectively.

God's Mission: Our Commission workbook is designed to strengthen Biblical Worldview on Missions; enabling learners to discover their individual or corporate role and responsibilities in God's mission. It is compiled with Africa's younger leaders (Christians) in mind, however the truth contained is applicable to all generations and continents. It is designed to mobilize teens and youths to participate in God's missions, leading to massive engagement and harvest of souls especially among the peoples of the 10/40 window.

This workbook is a purposeful contribution to the ongoing missions awareness, missions education and missions recruitment among younger leaders in Africa and Nigeria in particular. Furthermore, this is a credible tool available to local Churches and ministries for intentional development and recruitment of younger leaders for missions.

As you engage with this workbook, lean on the Holy Spirit for fresh insights, inspiration and impartation that will enable you put the lessons from this workbook into fruitful practice. Together we will faithfully and fruitfully participate in God's Mission!

© 2020 Isichei Prosper F. N.

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible: King James Version, except otherwise stated. All rights reserved throughout the world.

All rights reserved. Except as may be permitted by the Copyright Act, no part of this publication may be produced in any form or by any means without prior permission from the publisher.

Published by: Threshold Christian Publications, Threshold Christian Network International (TCNI)

PART 1 - GOD'S MISSION

The Bible says:

"For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day." JOHN 6:38-40 NIV



Think:

God has a will, and I have a will. What is God's will (mission)? Has it changed over the years and seasons? Where do we find the will (mission) of God?

God's mission in literal term is what God is about from creation to present day, and to the end of the world.

🖸 Module Lessons:

1. The Bible is about God's Mission

Books, scrolls, electronic storage devices are basic means of preserving truth, values and history. God's mission is a priceless truth; precious to God and to all genuine enquirers. God has documented all about his mission in the Bible. The Bible is God's commitment to preserve and communicate his mission to all his followers. God has revealed his mission in the Bible.

We can only discover God's mission, if we discover the Bible and pay close attention until we fund its central truth. Any book must have an Author, central theme, introduction, body and conclusion. The Bible has God for its author; God inspired men and prophets who wrote as they were inspired (2 Peter 1:20-21). The Bible has 66 books, written over a period of 1,600yrs, through about 40 Servants of God, cutting across different continents and languages, yet, it has a singular theme and purpose. That singular theme is **God's Mission**!

According to Steve Hawthorne, The editor of Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, "the story of God accomplishing His mission is the plot of the entire Bible. Therefore, God's mission is the backbone upon which the Bible is built and is best understood. The way God accomplishes His mission is to reveal Himself to us by the spoken and incarnate Word and enlist us as His co-workers to bring that Word to others. Therefore, God's mission is the reason there is a Bible at all."

Quote

"The Bible is not a collection of mere stories or outline of events or rules and codes, or mystical interactions. It begins, ends and revolves around one major theme: God's missionary purpose to purchase and restore to himself a people from every nation on the earth. It relates history from God's perspective" NVISION

God's mission is the reason there is a Bible at all!

Look at the Bible with new eyes:

	 Genesis 1-11
CHAPTER 1	Genesis 12 - Malachi 4
CHAPTER 2	Matthew 1 - John 21
CHAPTER 3	Acts 1 - Jude 1
CONCLUSION	 Revelations 1 - 22

All the prophesies, promises, principles, patterns, poetry, and prayers of the Bible are centered on God's mission. It is not about you, your feelings, your wellbeing and your future. Its about God's mission from its initiation, to its execution (through invited and willing men), and to consummation (by his power and preordination).

How you view the Bible will determine how you view God's mission. How you treat the Bible will determine how you treat God's Mission.

2. What is God's mission?

"God's mission is to restore order to his world through Christ: to put an end to cancerous distortions, to break all barriers that separate and estrange, to bring together, make peace, reconcile and unite all men through, to and in Christ." Bishop J. Zhumbes

"God's mission has been clear from onset: to redeem lost humanity from the shackles and grip of sin and shame and restore the original purpose for the creation of man. On the basis of this, He gave us His best after several failed attempts by man. The Lord Jesus came, lived, suffered, died and rose again thereby fulfilling the purpose for which He was sent – the complete restoration of man." Kehinde Ojo

The Creator God is on a mission. He progressively revealed his mission from creation to his selection and intervention through Noah, Abraham and Israel, and fully revealed through Jesus Christ. The mission of Christ was beyond death, He came to restore social order, to put an end to cancerous distortions, to break all barriers that separate and estrange, to bring together, to make peace, to reconcile, to unite, to heal, to promote justice, to Quotes

"God has now revealed to us his mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill his own good pleasure. And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ everything in heaven and on earth" Ephesians 1:9-10 NLT

bring economic and other relieve to the poor, and to set a new order, culture, values and leadership in the world. All these he accomplished through teaching in the synagogues, preaching from place to place the good news of the kingdom, compassionately ministering to the physical, and material needs of the people - he healed and delivered, he was as well persecuted and slain. **His mission was God's mission!**



- What did you think the Bible was all about before now?
- 2. To what extent do you agree that the central theme of the Bible is God's Mission?

How will your understanding of the Bible and the mission of God shape your Christian walk?

Share your thoughts with your neighbour and listen to their thoughts as well.

Do not forget:

- 1. The God who created the world and you in particular is a God of purpose, plan and pursuit. He has a mission that will certainly be fulfilled.
- 2. The Bible is not a set of religious articles, it is a description of the initiation, progress and fulfilment of God's mission.
- 3. How you view the Bible will determine how you view God's mission. How you treat the Bible will determine how you treat God's Mission.



PART 2 - OUR Commission

The Bible says:

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the father has sent me, I am sending you." John 20:21 NIV

Think:

Am I included in this text (John 20:21)? Yes No. Why? How did the father send Christ?

🖪 Module Lessons:

1. Man is God's method.

By his sovereign wisdom and design, God has chosen to work with and through man in fulfilling his mission and accomplishing his interest. God's strategy for reaching man is man - from Adam to Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Israel, David, The Prophets, priests and kings, to Christ his incarnate son, to the Apostles and the new testament Church - you inclusive, God demonstrates his unequivocal pattern and principle of enlisting **ordinary** people to fulfil his mission on earth. 'Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours.'

2. Our Commission

Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8, 2Corinthians 5:18-20, 1Peter 2:9

Receiving the blessing and taking the blessing to all the peoples on earth was the commission for Abraham. Abraham was told to bless with the blessing he will receive. This is the prototype of our commission. From the beginning, God announced our commission "As I bless you uniquely, use your unique blessings in unique ways to bring the blessing to all nations and peoples.

Like Christ was commissioned, so also God has commissioned the whole Church (you inclusive) to be blessed, to bless, to evangelize, to make disciples of Jesus Christ from every nation, every people and everywhere. We are commissioned to continue God's mission. God's mission has become our mission in Christ.

The Mission of God (our commission) should be your utmost and overriding priority. You must of necessity, daily and dutifully study the Bible (the descriptive, inspiring and energizing truth about his mission) to know, embrace, be energized, pursue and fulfil God's mission together with all believers; for which we have been commissioned to bless, evangelize, disciple all peoples and nations with the blessing we have received.

Quote

The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." **Genesis 12:1-3**

3. The World not your village!

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in **Jerusalem**, and in **all Judea** and **Samaria**, and to **the ends of the earth**"

The commission is not sequential or locational; it is wholistic and global. The world is our parish and we are responsible for the ends of the earth. We must never fall into the trap of Babel (Genesis 11); men desired to live, stay and die in a particular location, until God scattered them. Rev. John Ryland, considering that they still had souls unsaved in their immediate region, said to William Carey an aspiring missionary to the unreached in many parts of world "Young man, sit down. When God wants to reach the heathen, He can do it without your help or mine!" He was wrong! Asia and Africa heard the gospel because believers from Europe and North America gave heed to their commission to go everywhere to every people even when they still had gaps in their home countries and regions.

Like Abraham was instructed to enter new territories, new cultures, new places, unfamiliar spheres, so we have been commissioned to reach places, cultures and spheres within and beyond our present realities.

4. Our Commission is URGENT

"Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Matthew 9:37-38 KJV

The word 'harvest' and the phrase 'will send forth' carry strong sense of urgency, while harvest emphasises limited time, 'send forth' from its root Greek word connotes force and immediacy. This king's business requires haste.

Souls of men are at stake! The harvest is at stake! Labourers must be forcefully and immediately thrown into the harvest for effective labour and reaping, lest we lose the harvest. The stench of a decayed harvest is usually unbearable and even infectious.

Quote

A Chinese convert once said to Hudson Tailor (A missionary to China) "What! For hundreds of years you have had these glad tidings and only now have come to preach it to us? My father sought after the truth for more than twenty years, and died without finding it. Oh, why did you not come sooner?"

5. Personal not corporate ownership

Every believer, especially young people blessed with physical and spiritual energy, must personally own the commission. To own is to know it, to think it, to embrace it, to build capacity for it, and to make it concrete by meaningful work (pioneering or advancing). When our ownership of the commission is solid and visible enough, it becomes compelling and contagious enough to awaken other sleeping labourers and forcefully thrust them into the harvest.



Workshop 2:

HOW HAS GOD BLESSED ME		HOW CAN I USE IT TO BLESS PEOPLES AND NATIONS	
TIME	EXAMPLE Three Hours free time every weekday	Spend a portion of it praying for souls, sharing the gospel or volunteering in a mission related ministry.	
	EXAMPLE Cooking	Make meals monthly for the orphanage home and share Christ's love with the Children and minders as I share the meal with them.	
TALENTS			
	EXAMPLE Access to the internet	Read about global needs, find which of them I am blessed to contribute to. And share those needs with others who can make a difference.	
TREASURES			



Do not forget:

- a. God enlists **ordinary** people like you to fulfil his mission on earth. It is a **privilege** to serve in God's mission team!
- b. Every saved and sanctified believer is Commissioned! You are saved to serve the mission of God.
- c. Our commission is an urgent and non-negotiable command. Our commission is global and requires personal ownership.



Part 3 - The World Today

The Bible says:

"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Matthew 9:36-38

Think:

How do you think God views the World today? When you see, read or hear about the nations, what is your reaction.

Module Lessons:

1. Perspective

The world can be viewed from various lenses, as:

Countries - This refers to the sum total of the Sovereign states, with their people, governments, geographic boundaries and constitution. According to Worldatlas.com, there are 196 countries in the world today including Taiwan.

People Groups (Nations) - This will refer to the sum of all people groups or ethnic groups within which there is no language, cultural and geographical barrier. According to Joshua Project there are approximately 16,652 Ethno-linguistic People Groups, and approximately 7,000 Unreached People Groups (People groups that have not heard and have least or non-existent access to the gospel).

Families - We can as well view the world with the family lens; beginning from the individual to nuclear and extended families. Rebecca in the scriptures was told that "two nations are in your womb" referring to Esau and Jacob.

Domains of Influence - This refers to critical clusters of the society that define, direct and develop the society. This is becoming a

global way of categorizing national and global societies. These domains include Economy, Science and Technology/Media, Government and Security, Education, Family and Health, Culture and Belief System, Entertainment and Sports.

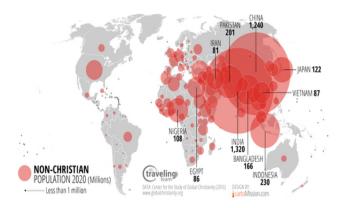
Do you think Christ is reigning as king among the people groups, countries, domains of influence and families of the world? Where is the world today?

2. Contemporary realities

I have earlier summarized God's mission as his revealed plan to restore order to his world through Christ: to put an end to cancerous distortions, to break all barriers that separate and estrange, to bring together, make peace, reconcile and unite all through and in Christ.

Quote

"Why did God scatter the people at the tower of Babel? It was an act of judgment but also of marvelous mercy and strategy. They resisted God as a whole, so God would win them piecemeal. God divided the race for His purpose. He would reach them person by person, family by family, clan by clan, people by people, nation by nation. He then chose Abraham to begin a nation that would bless all the others. His choice of Abraham was then a beach head, not a barrier. It was a beginning, not the closing of His universal purpose." -Steve Hawthorne

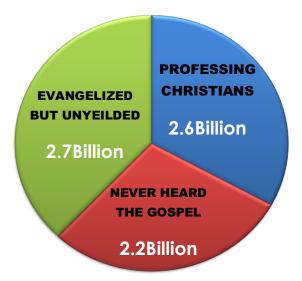


Largest concentration of non-Christians

Countries like China, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Japan, Nigeria top the list of countries with over 100 million non-Christians. The rectangular area with the most of nonchristians is refered to as 10/40 Window; with approximately 2.91 billion people considered unsaved and unreached. This rectangle is home to four of the world's dominant religious blocs Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Non-Religious.

Global Evangelism

Over 4.9 Billion people across the world have wilfully or ignorantly rejected the Lordship of Christ over their lives. It will be high generosity to say the 50% of the 2.6 Billion professing Christians are mere impostors who have no personal relationship with Christ. Research has shown that only 3% of missionaries with 1% of the total Christian giving towards missions are deployed towards the evangelization of 2.2 Billion people who have never heard the Gospel. According to Global church Planting Network, in Nigeria alone, we will need 55,000 New Churches planted among Unreached People Groups (UPGs)



The Church



With over 6 Million Local Churches globally and about 1.8 Million evangelical Christians, we are still unable to release the needed 30,000 missionaries to evangelize the Unreached People groups globally. It is estimated (GMI Missiographic 2.0) that Christian globally earn approximately \$45.6 Trillion annually, out of which about \$800 Billion is given to Christian causes (about 1.8% of their earnings). Another source says only about \$2 Billion annually is given towards missions to the unreached people groups. The church currently has the manpower (numbers) and the financial power

to massively and meaningfully engage in God's mission. Unfortunately, we are nowhere near our capabilities.

3. What do you see?

When Jesus saw the state of the fraction of his world in his time, he was moved with compassion, his compassion produced the action that made and still makes the difference.

"A passion for souls, as a former generation termed the compassion believers should have for their fellows, is rare in our day. The great mass of Christian people appears to feel not the slightest responsibility for the eternal welfare of their fellow-men. The thought that they are their brother's keeper never seems to cross their minds. If they can ensure their own future, that is the extent of their concern." J. Oswald Sanders. He Further said, that this apathy is caused by lack of conviction for man's 'lostness' and lack of conception of the value of a human life.

What do you see? What do you have? What can you do?

Quote

"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd." Matthew 9:36 KJV

Workshop 3:

How much of your resources (Time, Treasure, Talents) do you commit to God's mission? What percentage do you give of all your income to God's Global mission to the nations?	
Where are you willing to go to in obedience to The Great Commission?	1. 2. 3.
	T T H
List the Thumb and make a note of what you know about them?	U
	M

Do not forget:

- a. The world today is in need! Jesus sees the need and he wants us to see his world the way he sees it.
- b. We are uniquely positioned in family, domains, countries and people groups for the purpose of God's Mission
- c. Christ is placing a demand on the collective physical, financial, and material commitment of believers to reach his world today.



Part 4 – Fulfilling God's Mission



The Bible says:

"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." John 9:4 KJV

Think:

How are you working the works of God?

🖪 Module Lessons:

The Bible, history and contemporary realities are all replete with men participating in the fulfilment of God's mission. Businessmen, Warriors, Kings, Priests, Artisans and all kinds of people, from diverse backgrounds and culture have been greatly used by God in fulfilling His Mission. As we look at how others have participated in the fulfilment of God's mission, we are hopeful you will find the courage and inspiration to enlist or advance in your partnership with God for the fulfilment of his mission.

1. Examples

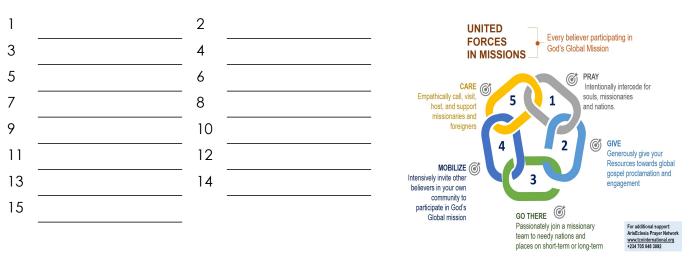
S/N	NAME	VOCATION	PARTICIPATION THRUST
Old 1	estament Examples		
1	Abraham Genesis 18:17-19	Businessman	
2	Moses Hebrews 11:24-27	Scholar and Shepherd	
	Nehemiah Nehemiah 6:15-16	Cupbearer	
New	Testament Examples		
	The Apostles Mark 16:15-21	Fishermen, Taxcollectors, Artisans	
	Paul Romans 15:14-20	Lawyer & Tent Maker	

		God S WISSION - WORKDOOK
Macedonian Church 2 Corinthians 8:1-5	n Diverse Team	
Historical Examples		
William CarreyBritish Missionary1761 - 1834SamuelAjaCrowtherNigerian Missionary1809 - 1891	Baptist Minister, Missionary, Anthropologist yi Linguist, Teacher, Minister	
Mary Slessor Scottish Missionary 1848 - 1915 Foursquare Gosp Church Nigeria Barley Harvest Omega 2 Project	Jute Factory Worker, Teacher, Missionary el Professionals and clergy &	

2. Participating in the fulfilment of God's Mission

It will always be a privilege to be invited to join a winning team with the trophy already assured. The end of this mission is certain - God Wins! Then we will reign with him together with the multitude we have reconciled to God.

You can be a fruitful and faithful part of God's mission today. Below are 15 possible ways you can participate in fulfilling God's mission.



15 WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

We can help you with prayer resources for your personal or corporate use, or visit: www.joshuaproject.net



From the listed 15 ways of participating in God's mission:

Make a list of the current way you are participating in God's Mission	Make a list of additional ways you have capacity to, or you are interested to engage.	What and who can help/support you to move into action?



Do not forget:

- a. God has used so many willing and available men of old from diverse works of life in the execution of his mission.
- b. You have multiple ways of working with God in his Mission, you can start with one and if possible, engage in all.
- c. Do not watch history, make history by being useful in God's mission today.



Part 5 - Next Steps - Lessons from Genesis 12:1-4

The Bible says:

"Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?" John 6:28 KJV

Think:

Do you remember the sons of Sceva (Acts 19:14-16)? What makes men disqualified to serve in God's Mission?



Module Lessons:

- A. Authentic Encounter with God like Abraham the journey begins from a personal first-hand encounter with God. Genuine salvation is the entry point today, otherwise you may engage zealously, but you will only succeed in doing the wrong things the wrong way. Matt 7:21-23, Acts 2:37-39; 3:19-26, Rom 10:13-16
- B. Walk away from everything else this was the demand God placed on Abraham which is applicable for anyone desiring to be a world changer with God. To walk away from all you must see clearly and persuasively the alternative God is presenting you. All the glories of this world fade away as we catch a glimpse of his glorious eternal plan and the privilege of participating in it. What do you see? Matt 13:44-46; 19:21-29, Acts 9:6, Heb 11:26-27; 12:2-3
- C. Walk with God this simply put is unswerving loyalty and obedience to God. It is all-time listening, beholding and responding to God. This is training in

Quote

"If you live without a vision of the glory of God filling the whole earth, you are in danger of serving your own dreams of greatness, as you wait to do the 'next thing' that God tells you. There are too many over-fed, under-motivated Christians hiding behind the excuse that God has not spoken to them. They are waiting to hear voices or see dreams all the while living to make money, to provide for their future, to dress well and have fun." **Floyd McClung**

godliness; it is a narrow path, where travelers may stumble, fall and rise as they seek to obey God in their pilgrimage. This is a heart issue from which corresponding actions flow. Gen 17:1-2, 1Kings 2:4, Isaiah 38:3, Rom 12:2

- D. Walk into his world places, cultures and spheres. Abraham was instructed to enter new territories, new cultures, new places, unfamiliar spheres. In the same way world changers today must intentionally move from their comfort zones and 'wonderlands' to where the God has placed the harvest. Over 6,000 people groups (nations), the 10/40 window, the THUMB, over 4.8 billion people, and all spheres of influence are in need of world changers who will walk in and work in their context and lives. A lot of sacrifices and adjustments, rewards and fruits await those who dare to be world changers. Acts 10:9-16 1Cor 9:18-22
- E. Your unique 'blessing' is enough. Abraham was told to bless with the blessings he will receive. We are each uniquely gifted for the unique ways we are to bring blessing to the nations. So, do not dare to do it in competition or comparism. Some are uniquely gifted as mobilizers, intercessors, treasure donors, cross cultural evangelist, care givers for labourers, or as professional support givers. Our limited giftedness helps us appreciate and partner with many others in fulfilling the same mission to the nations. 1 Cor 12:12-27

If you don't go by choice, you may go by force. He scatters us by migration or for survival just to save us from building and dwelling in our comfort zone or ghettos; we are uniquely or circumstantially placed to so we can spread the gospel in fulfilment of God's Mission.

Workshop 5:

Think about all you have heard, learnt and experienced in this workshop. Are you willing to abandon your mission in exchange for God's Mission?

Kindly sign the commitment below:

By the grace of God, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and for the glory of God I

_____ commit all that I am and all that I have to the faithful fulfilment of my Commission (God's Mission) every time, everywhere and in every condition, giving priority to the Unreached and unengaged People Groups.

Sign



Do not forget:

- a. The call and engagement of Abraham is an example and encouragement to us, as we obey the call to God's Mission.
- b. I do not need something extra to start my journey with God in his Mission; I have been blessed already, so I can bless the nations.
- c. I need to confront the barriers, including my comfort zone.



MANIFEST PROJECT

MANIFEST project is a four-circle strategic initiative to develop and deploy young Christian Leaders for wholistic missions engagement starting from their immediate location to the hidden lands of Unreached Peoples Group.

Cycle 2 - Frontier Missions	Cycle 1 - Evangelism
Discovering the remaining Task: strategic engagement	Rediscovering the Gospel and contemporary ways of proclaiming it.
Cycle 3 - Community Transformation	Cycle 4 - National Transformation
Beyond the walls of the Church - the whole gospel to our communities.	Shinning lights and witnesses - Enforcing his Lordship over the domains of influence.

Target Group:

Young Christian Leaders (15 - 40)

MANIFEST 3 is focusing on partnership with churches and ministries who will send in their key younger leaders to participate, and in turn, they will return to their sending structures to contextualize and implement. We also hope to undertake a pilot project for each cycle and issue in focus, with the entire project participants. We are driving for multiplication of viable strategies and initiatives: leading to a movement of young people serving in Christ in the nations.



Threshold Christian Network International (TCNI) is a nondenominational Not-for-profit (Christian) organization, Registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria. TCNI has over 11 years' experience in leadership development of young people across Africa. Our established collaboration with Leadership training

Companies and organizations in Africa, Europe and North America uniquely provides the required validated resources and adaptable processes for youth and leadership development. We have directly engaged over 10,000 young people across Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia and Cote D'Ivoire. Out of which new initiatives transforming communities across Africa have been pioneered by some of these young leaders. We have gained mastery through Christ to contribute meaningfully to the development of Africa's young people.

Get Involved Today

Host

You can collaborate with us to mobilize for missions and/or train young leaders in your community or organization. We need your invitation today.

Volunteer

We invite you to volunteer your time and talents; and be a part of equipping the young generations of Africa.

Donate:

We invite you to generously give your treasures and resources towards equipping Africa's Young People. Make your cash or cheque donations to:

Threshold Christian Network International First Bank PLC 2011273633 (Naira), 2020590484 (Dollar)