

The two-day gathering in Livingstone brought together participants from various backgrounds, each contributing to a rich tapestry of discussions centred around the church's role in addressing crises. At the end of the gathering, we asked the participants to share a question they had as a 'takeaway' from the gathering for further personal reflection as well as potential discussion with others.

Here is a summary of the questions asked by participants for further reflection, along with an overview for the facilitation team:

Participant Questions:

1. How will I impact the next generation to be positive influencers in life?
2. How can the business community partner with the church to increase its financial capacity?
3. How will the church become relevant in this generation?
4. How is this research going to help the church?
5. How can leaders be intentional in growing the next leaders who will be able to do more than they are doing?
6. What should be done for the church to be impactful in the community during a crisis?
7. What can we do as leaders or pastors to influence others to facilitate collaboration among men and women of God?
8. What measures can be put in place to enhance leadership in the church and potential leaders?
9. Despite different denominations, how is it possible for the body of Christ in Zambia to come together and work towards the mission of God?
10. What can the church in Zambia do to help address the current issue of pastors and church leaders who are not teaching members about their real identity in Christ?
11. What board or organisation is there to help pastors stay in check?



Overview and Key Takeaways:

The questions posed by the participants reflect a deep and nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the church in Zambia. Several key themes emerge from these reflections, which are crucial for further exploration by the facilitation team:

- 1. Intergenerational Impact:** The focus on influencing the next generation highlights the need for strategic mentorship and leadership development within the church. Encouraging positive influence and empowerment among the youth is vital for long-term sustainability and growth.
- 2. Partnership with the Business Community:** Participants recognise the importance of financial stability and the potential for collaboration between the church and the business sector. Exploring mutually beneficial partnerships can enhance the church's capacity to serve and engage the community effectively.
- 3. Relevance in Modern Society:** The concern for the church's relevance underscores the necessity for the church to adapt and respond to contemporary societal issues while staying true to its core values and mission. Innovation and flexibility in approach are essential.
- 4. Leadership and Identity:** There is a significant emphasis on the need for intentional leadership development and a deeper understanding of identity in Christ. Empowering current and future leaders to embrace these aspects can lead to a more robust and effective ministry.
- 5. Unity Among Denominations:** The desire for unity and collaboration among different denominations points to the need for dialogue and cooperation. This can foster a collective effort to address societal challenges and promote the church's mission.
- 6. Accountability and Oversight:** Questions regarding the accountability of pastors and church leaders indicate a demand for systems that ensure ethical and effective leadership. Establishing boards or organisations for oversight could provide the necessary guidance and support.
- 7. Research and Practical Application:** The inquiry about how research can aid the church reflects a recognition of the importance of evidence-based practices. Leveraging research findings to inform strategies and decision-making can enhance the church's impact.

Conclusion:

The questions and reflections from the Livingstone gathering present a comprehensive view of the challenges and opportunities facing the church in Zambia. These insights provide a foundation for further discussion and action, emphasising the need for collaboration, innovation, and intentionality in addressing crises. The facilitation team is encouraged to consider these themes as they continue to engage with church leaders and communities, fostering a resilient and responsive church that effectively meets the needs of its people.

