

**The ABCD'S of Character  
Development for Faith Based  
Ministries**

**By**

**Deryl G. Hunt, Ph.D.**

# **Building the Character of Christ**

## **Outline**

**The ABCD's of Character Development 36 hours  
Certificate Training focuses on developing the  
Character of Christ in Faith Based Ministries.**

**The training series begins with a non-descript main character named GOMA. GOMA has experienced issues of love and marriage, work life, and moral and ethical dilemmas as he matured into the Christ like character.**

# GOMA

- **Goal** of the training is to empower each trainee with community building and economic development knowledge toward building the character of Christ in their hearts, thus enabling them to become community builders unto others.
- **Objective** of the training is to bring trainees into a cohesive group of community builders, speaking the language of Goma and having the same mind and judgment as Goma.
- **Method** of the training is scenario in nature allowing trainees to learn from Goma as he faces different life changing situations. The intent is to show how Goma respects the rights and ways of life others in his dealings even though he does not agree with many of the things others do.
- **Attitude** of the training is honour. It comes last in GOMA's name as the "A" stands for attitude. Attitude is actually primary in character development. It is used in this training to denote an inward disposition of the heart where inclusive community building sees value in all members of the group.

# Faith Based Book Series

- The training is based on a series of booklets developed for Faith Based Ministries. The first book introduces the non-descript character GOMAS and the values he represents.
- Following this exposition, each subsequent book in the series shows progressive steps in Goma's character development, which is a mirror of his spiritual growth.
- The first book is an experience where his *Attitude* had to be adjusted. In the next book on *Behavior*, Goma falls back on what he has been taught to get through a situation, demonstrating proper conduct. In the following book on *Communication*, this demonstrated spiritual growth allows Goma to become the mentor and counselor to others, particularly on the art of effective communication.
- Finally, the last book in the series shows that unless we have the Discipline to live by those spiritual values and lessons, all is for naught. Having internalized those Biblical lessons, Goma can then become the mentor and teaches others how to apply lessons of discipline to holy living.

# MEET GOMA

## 30 Minute Group Exercise

- GOMA's name sums up the whole of character development. **G** stands for Goodness, **O** for Obedience, **M** for Maturity and **A** for Assurance.
- Who is good? When the question is asked: How are you? "I'm good" is the general response of people today.
  - **Critique this response**
- Obedience is the fount from which multitude of blessing flow.
  - **What hinders blessings?**
- Maturity is equated with adulthood.
  - Is adulthood the measure of maturity in character development?
- Assurance is a word given unto another to do something.
  - **How does a man's word fall short of assurance?**

# None Good but God

- If the character of Christ is to be developed in Faith Based Ministries, GOMA's name is the starting point.
- The names of God reveals his Character. To do anything in His name is to do it under His authority and in His likeness
- There is none good but God. When men and women declare themselves to be "good", not considering that there is none good but God, they commit a gross error (See EZ: 28:1-9).

# Essence of Character Development

- Obedience to the word of God is not optional for the child of God; it is the very essence of character development.
- Obedience is not an outward act of compliance alone, but rather an inward disposition of the heart where agreement with God is established followed by outward compliance.
- Jesus tells us that he always obeyed his Father (JO: 5: 19-20).

# Maturity

- Maturity is the hallmark of character development. To be mature is to be steadfast in the face of odds against you.
- Nehemiah was a mature child of God as God was able to call upon him to build the walls of Jerusalem.
- In the process of building the wall, Nehemiah was faced with trials even threats on his life, but he refused to come down from his building work (NE: 6: 1-9).

# Resting on God's Promises

- Assurance in the unbroken, unfailing promises of God's word demonstrates the development of the full blown Christ character in the hearts of believers.
- The manifestation of assurance is seen in a walk of faith. When God called Abraham to slay his only begotten son of promise, Isaac, in whom his seed was called, Abraham did not stagger.
- Rather by faith "when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, 'In Isaac your seed shall be called,' Concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense (He: 11: 17-19).

Part # 2

ABCD's of Character Development  
for Faith Based Ministries

GOMA:

The 7- Step Process to the  
Character of Christ

# THE 7-STEP PROCESS

from  
to

PACE  
CEAP

**G**  
GOAL

**O**  
OBJECTIVE

**M**  
METHOD

**A**  
ATTITUDE



**B**  
BEHAVIOR

**C**  
COMMUNICATION

**D**  
DISCIPLINE

CHARACTER EDUCATION

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

# Seven Step Process

G-O-M-A-B-C-D is an acronym, which stands for Goal—Objective Method—Attitude—Behavior—Communication—Discipline referred to as the 7-Step Process

- G= Goal = Citizen Empowerment or CEAP
- O= Objective = Poverty Alleviation or PACE
- M= Method = A Mentoring Government
- A= Attitude = A Fish Today, Tomorrow, Fishermen
- B= Behavior = Deeds of the Mentoring Government
- C= Communication = Message to the Citizens by Mentoring Government & Mentoring government by citizens
- D= Discipline = Patience to see the work through by Mentoring Government

# 7 Step Process

- The Seven-Step Process of Character Development and Community Building connects GOMA and ABCD's at the junction of Attitude.
- Look at the process as a traveler on a journey.
- When the traveler comes to a crossroads, the right decision will produce the desired result which, in this case, is right character and a sense of community within the traveler.

# The Essence of Character Development

- Character development in the spirit, like all spiritual works, requires God's Goodness toward the creature.
- The walk of the believer overtime can be seen as a mature walk as he follows on to know the Lord.
- Faith is made strong by the trials the child of God experiences. Overtime, faith produces assurance in God's word
- Obedience, however, is the very essence of character development because it is the vehicle to move from faith to faith.
- We will focus on this aspect of GOMA's name.

# Purifying Filter

- To obey is to carry out the wishes of one in a position of authority indicating agreement with his/her wishes.
- Obedience, as used in this context, shows respect to the person with authority, but does not blindly carry out their wishes without a purifying filter.
- Obedience, guided by the Seven-Step Process of Character Development and Community Building, is a purifying filter.
- As is the case with natural purifiers that clean the air or water of pollutants, the 7-Step Process of Character Development filter does a cleansing work in the person's heart.

# ABCD's of Obedience

- The ABCD's of Obedience approaches the topic from the moral high grounds where the attitude, behavior, communication and discipline are above reproach. As we have indicated in other GOMA booklets, GOMA is an acronym where G stands for goal, O stands for objective, M stands for method and A stands for attitude.
- GOMA's goal is community or a shared vision by members of a group where inclusion is valued and each member of the group treats all other members in a caring, sharing and loving manner.
- To reach community, the group agrees with its goal. The method to reach community is respect for the rights and ways of life of all member of the group. Finally, all members of the group display an attitude of honor toward all other members of the group.
- GOMA, therefore is a hedge against blind obedience where a person carries out an order without regards to its ethical or moral consequences.



**Training Short Story**  
**The Naïve Traveler meets**  
**GOMA**