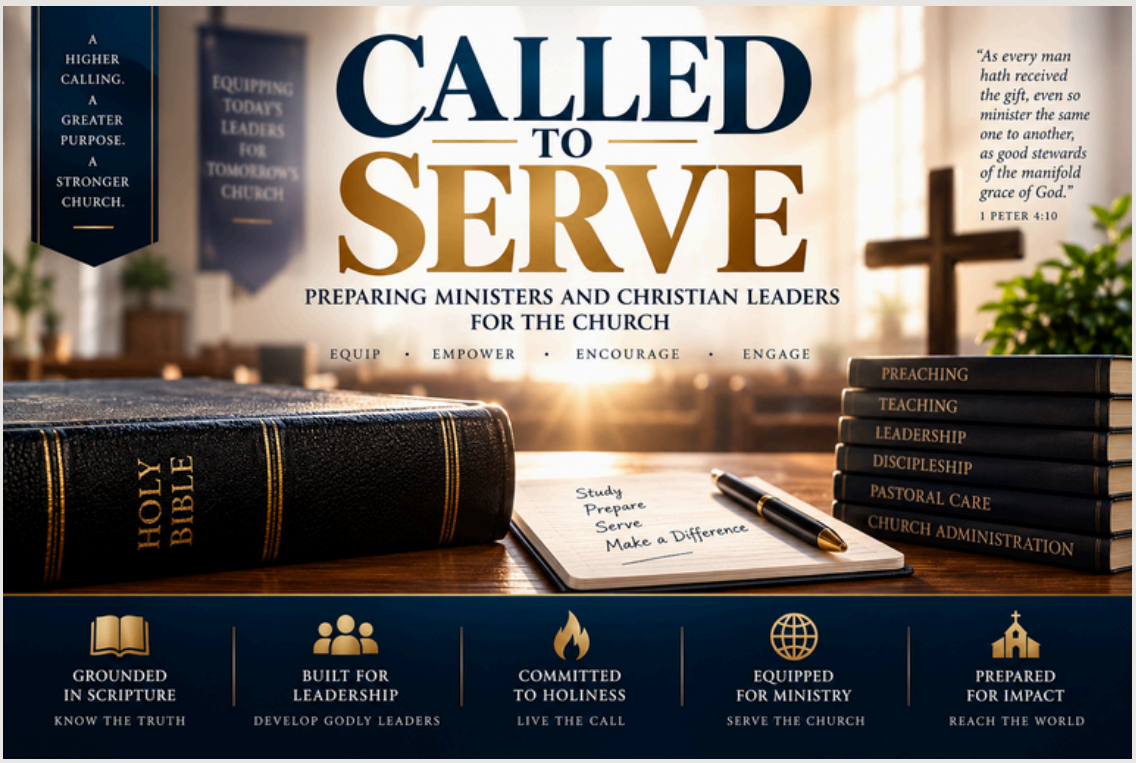
NEWSLETTER

Apostolic Connection

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CALLED TO SERVE: PREPARING MINISTERS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS FOR THE CHURCH

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FEATURE STORY

A divine calling should never become an excuse for inadequate preparation. Throughout Scripture, those entrusted with leadership were expected to grow in wisdom, knowledge, character, faithfulness, and responsibility. Calling establishes purpose, but preparation helps believers faithfully fulfill the responsibilities connected to that calling. Ministry therefore requires more than desire, gifting, or opportunity; it requires a continuing commitment to spiritual formation, biblical understanding, disciplined study, and responsible service.

Ministry preparation brings calling and competency together. Ministers must study Scripture diligently, develop effective communication skills, understand pastoral and congregational responsibilities, practice sound leadership, and cultivate the spiritual disciplines necessary for sustained ministry. Prayer, study, humility, accountability, integrity, and service are not secondary qualities. They help form the character required to carry spiritual responsibility faithfully.

ROOTED IN SCRIPTURE: WHY SOUND DOCTRINE STILL MATTERS

Preparation also requires a willingness to remain teachable. No minister reaches a point where learning is no longer necessary. Changing ministry environments, complex pastoral situations, generational differences, and emerging challenges require leaders who remain grounded in Scripture while continually developing their ability to serve effectively. Christian education provides an intentional setting in which ministers can deepen biblical knowledge, examine ministry practices, strengthen leadership competencies, and learn from others.

Why This Matters

Effective ministry cannot be measured solely by preaching ability, titles, visibility, or organizational position. Christian leadership begins with character: integrity, humility, accountability, discipline, compassion, sound judgment, and a willingness to serve.

Competency without character can weaken ministry credibility. Likewise, sincere character without adequate preparation can limit a leader's effectiveness. Healthy ministry requires both. The goal is to develop servants who know the Word of God, live consistently with what they teach, understand those they serve, and exercise responsibility with wisdom and humility.

For apostolic leaders, preparation also includes a firm grounding in biblical doctrine and the ability to communicate that truth faithfully. Ministers should be prepared to proclaim Jesus Christ, teach the Apostolic faith, disciple believers, provide spiritual guidance, strengthen congregations, and represent the gospel through both word and conduct.

NEWSLETTER FOCUS

Ministry Leadership Principle: The goal is not simply to become qualified to occupy a position but prepared to serve people.

Leadership in the Church is ultimately stewardship. Positions may identify responsibility, but service demonstrates ministry. The prepared leader understands that people are not instruments for building a ministry; ministry exists to serve people according to the purposes of God.

Institute Reflection

This issue invites students, faculty, alumni, church leaders, and friends of the Institute to consider the relationship between calling, preparation, character, and service.

The enduring task of theological education is to unite faithful study with faithful service so that knowledge becomes wisdom, preparation becomes ministry, and calling is supported by competency and Christian character.

Scripture Focus: 1 Timothy 4:12–16

Paul's counsel to Timothy demonstrates that ministry development involves both doctrine and life. Timothy was instructed to give attention to reading, exhortation, doctrine, personal conduct, and continued spiritual development. Ministry preparation is therefore not limited to what a leader knows; it also concerns the kind of person that leader is becoming.

From Learning to Ministry

Students preparing for ministry should continually ask: What kind of servant am I becoming? Does my private character support my public ministry? Am I becoming more teachable? Can others trust me with responsibility?

Education provides knowledge, but spiritual formation influences how that knowledge will be used. The classroom can strengthen interpretation, theology, communication, leadership, and ministry practice, but these competencies must operate alongside humility, prayer, holiness, compassion, and accountability.

The transition from learning to ministry occurs when students intentionally apply what they study to real responsibilities—preaching more carefully, teaching more clearly, leading more wisely, listening more attentively, and serving more faithfully.

Putting the Theme into Practice

Students can identify one area of ministry preparation requiring greater attention. Teachers can evaluate whether their instruction develops both knowledge and ministry competency. Ministry leaders can examine their current responsibilities in light of Scripture, Apostolic doctrine, Christian character, accountability, and servant leadership.

The Institute's educational work is strengthened when learning produces measurable growth: clearer biblical understanding, stronger teaching, wiser leadership, greater spiritual discipline, mature character, and more faithful service. These outcomes should become visible not only in academic work but also in congregational life, relationships, decision-making, and ministry practice.

ACTION POINT

Choose one area of ministry preparation to strengthen this month—biblical knowledge, communication, leadership, spiritual discipline, character, or service. Establish one practical action, complete it consistently, and record what was learned, how it affected your ministry, and what improvement should follow.

A Word to the JDWSRBI Community

Every member of the JDWSRBI community contributes to a culture of ministry excellence. Together, we strengthen an educational environment grounded in Scripture, Apostolic truth, preparation,

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Christian character, accountability, servant leadership, and continual growth.

As the Institute continues its work, the purpose remains clear: to equip believers to understand the Word of God and serve effectively in the Church and wider community. Every course, lesson, assignment, conversation, and ministry opportunity can contribute to developing leaders who are both spiritually grounded and practically prepared.
The Church needs leaders whose preparation reflects the seriousness of their calling. As we invest in biblical education and spiritual formation, may we develop ministers who do more than occupy positions—leaders who faithfully teach the Word, demonstrate Christlike character, strengthen the Church, care for people, and serve the Kingdom of God with wisdom, humility, and excellence.

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Dean