**SUGGESTED STANDARDS for FUTURE Provincial Superintendents**

Lord God Almighty, we stand before you to ask what standards we should set for future generations of new Provincial Superintendents (PS) to come. Under dictatorships in past generations we did what was possible. Today we celebrate freedom – we have choices to make. Enable us, we pray, to discover that which is best, set standards, make choices and attempt to help our PS to live up to those standards as much as time, health, circumstances permit.

**We will focus our thoughts on 6 standards that we perceive as necessities for future generations.**

**#1. His Relationship with the Holy Spirit, the Guide Divine**

***A man who has a close relationship with You, Lord, and regularly seeks Your wisdom—in faith that You will give it.***

**#2. Sharing the Salvation from Jesus, the Precious Lamb of God**

***A man who is concerned about souls and is active in winning people to You.***

**#3. Protector of the Young**

***A man who understands the needs of the youth, the fact that the future of the church lays in the hands of the youth and will pursue, or enable others to pursue creative ways to reach the hearts of our youth.***

**#4. Creating Spiritual Church Families**

***A man whose wife is willing to stand with him in the office of PS.***

**#5. A Focus on Healing, Unity, Financial Peace, Growth**

***Encourager of pastors, not just putting out fires, but building them up.***

**#6. Reflecting God’s Image**

***A man who raises our spiritual visions and sets new spiritual standards***

**#1a.** **His Relationship with the** **Holy Spirit, the Guide Divine**

***A man who has a close relationship with You, Lord, and regularly seeks Your wisdom—in faith that You will give it.***

What should our PS relationship be with the Holy Spirit?

Of all things in the believer’s life prayer seems to be the most difficult, so let us focus on that first.

Here are a few thoughts that might begin to direct our thinking regarding a Prayer Priority:

Most likely we will have a common conviction, an unified agreement that he should he be a man of Prayer.

But what does it really mean to be *“A Man of Prayer”*?

Perhaps we can agree that the most crucial element of prayer is time.

How much regular time spent in prayer – daily – weekly might be a realistic priority in his schedule?

Do we dare to make a suggestion to him to regularly rise one hour prior his family to spend in prayer?

Perhaps you wish to alter or add some suggestions yourself.

O Holy Spirit Divine open our hearts to believe that:

 “Much Prayer - Much Blessing”

 “Little prayer - Little Blessing”

 “No Prayer – No blessing”

As you meditate on a suggested prayer outline for your PS would you support that by having a similar lifestyle of prayer?

**#1b. PRAYER**

In prayer let us explore where our own prayer lives are at.

Let us ask for an increase in depth of prayer.

We may not know how or what – but let us ask God to bring a burden for a life of prayer to all PS candidates.

**#2a. Sharing the Salvation from Jesus, the Precious Lamb of God**

***A man who is concerned about souls and is active in winning people to You.***

Winning Souls is an important desire of all of us.

Here are a few thoughts in an attempt to direct our thinking regarding an example of winning Souls.

Many of us have a latent desire to see more MEN Born.

Jesus bled and died on the cross for the Salvation of Mankind

Jesus rose from the dead to give New Life to Unbelievers

Jesus ascended into heaven to prepare a rich Harvest of Souls

Jesus sits on the right hand of God the Father to show our PS how to rule his church.

May we envision the PS and his team members to bring at least one MAN to the Kingdom yearly.

Let us search for a PS who sets a personal example of winning Souls.

How shall we find such a Brother, or prepare him to bear much fruit?

**#2b. Prayer**

Jesus show me about my own need to increase effectiveness in bringing in Souls.

Jesus how can we – I – strengthen our new PS in harvesting MEN for you.

Jesus together with our candidates help us to become Gatherers of Souls.

If/when our new PS sets a Harvesting example enable me to join and follow his example

**#3a.** **Protector of the Young**

***A man who understands the needs of the youth, the fact that the future of the church lays in the hands of the youth and will pursue, or enable others to pursue creative ways to reach the hearts of our youth.***

A most serious and extremely tender issue is the lack of knowing how to make spiritual applications among our youth.

Before casting a vote let us prayerfully consider the situation of our youth.

Let us carefully and honestly consider how many of us are uncomfortable – yes even inflexible -- about new youthful ministry ideas.

Regarding all the PS’s pressures – what priority should young people have in his ministry?

God told Moses to focus on the young. (Deut .6)

Can we find a new PS to be our Moses?

Should our PS have a burden to protect our youth from destruction?

Should he have a priority to raise up a Burning New generation?

Do you see a need to bring new young men into our churches?

Are you looking for a PS who will encourage and stand behind those who start special worship services with our youth?

What should his focus, his time priority be regarding our youth?

Are you wiling to have an PS who will promote… freedoms, liberties, for new music, new worship styles, and other activities among our youth?

**#3b. PRAYER**

Lord, all of us need to be aware of and willing to address the needs of our youth for a “living” faith.

We pray for a man who would be understanding of the needs of youth today, committed to bringing youth into our churches (or back into our churches!)

Help me to lay down my own preferences, my own feelings, my own traditions and back-up the new Baptist worship styles that will come.

Eternal Father, your very own Son Jesus was under 30 years.

Show us the response he received from his church leaders.

Show us how we can avoid making the same mistakes.

Show us how many young people we have in our churches.

Show us how many young people have left in the last 5 years.

Show us how many unbelieving youth could be reached.

Show us how our youth attendance could double.

Lord – our youth have a deep need to discover you in new ways.

Open us up to give them freedom to experiment with faith, grace, and personal intimate expressions of endearment to you.

In the bosom of our new PS put new liberties to give new freedoms for our youth explore unheard of horizons.

Give us faith, give us vision, we pray. Give us honesty to say we can’t reach those under 30.

Provide us with a PS who has the Wisdom from Proverbs to deal with this.

Give me a willing heart to say “YES” to youthful initiatives he launches.

**#4a. Creating Spiritual Church Families**

***A man whose wife is willing to stand with him in the office of PS.***

Long before the church our Creator designed that mankind should live in families.

The very first thing the Trinity designed for mankind was a family.

What family lifestyle do you wish our future PS should display?

Do you exhibit a desire that the PS’s wife who is spiritual agreement for her husband to serve as PS?

Is your interest to have a family team to serve us as PS? (Like the ТРОЦЬfamily in Volin)

Would you like to have a PS who humbly and submissively will seek counsel, prayer, and intimate support from his wife to fulfill his spiritual role?

Which of our candidates displays a true marital oneness. A oneness physically, a oneness spiritually, a oneness of heart, a oneness of soul, a oneness of mind, a oneness of emotions, a oneness of priority a oneness of spiritual relationship with the Divine?

**#4b. PRAYER**

O heavenly Family leader you designed the intricate mysteries of marriage as a token of what the Church should be like. Eph. 5

Lord God provide us with a new PS who will be an example to pastors and to the whole church of a healthy family and a united marriage.

Lord, I want to humbly approach my wife to pray with me weekly regarding my own ministry.

Help me to build-up my PS and his family.

**#5a.** **A Focus on Healing, Unity, Financial Peace, Growth**

***Encourager of pastors, not just putting out fires, but building them up.***

The 7 churches in Revelation show us their strengths, victories as well as their needs and struggles.

We realize that our PS will be limited in many areas of ministry, his time, his energy, his personal life.

We know that difficulties will always be with us because we live in a broken world.

We know that his participation in such areas will only lead to ineffectiveness, discouragement, and diminish his reputation.

A PS needs to focus on progress, on expansion. He needs to heal, create unity, bring peace and growth.

A PS needs Divine enablement to discover where God is working and become powerfully endowed to make things happen.

Every PS needs to learn to build and execute practical visions.

**#5b.** **PRAYER**

Lord protect our PS from becoming a ‘fireman’, wasting his time with non-productive church struggles.

Help him have Your vision for the church and keep him from becoming just a bureaucratic administrator.

You Jesus focused on creating new spiritual lifestyles.

Help him to move in unity with your Spirit and focus on the spiritual advances you want for Your kingdom.

Help us to stand behind him when he shares his vision and not to make constant demands on him when maybe we should be taking these things to You.

**#6a.** **Reflecting God’s Image**

***A man who raises our spiritual visions and sets new spiritual standards***

Our Gracious Redeemer knows that we have many considerations before us.

Let us apply the prayer “Lead us not into temptation”.

Should we select one just like ourselves?

Should we select on one below us, just someone to fill the office?

Should we select one who will not rock our boat, so we can continue to quietly float along as we have?

Should we select one whom we can adore, one we can esteem, one we can wholeheartedly follow?

Should we select one with whom we do not agree, because in truth, he is better than we are?

Often we ask “Deliver us from evil”.

 We know your standards Lord, but do our brains really want to follow your prescription for a leader?

Open our brains as we look into your standards.

*Eze 3:17  Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. (also Eze 33:7)*

*Mat 5:8  Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*

*Mar 12:30  And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind /understanding, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. Mark. 12.33*

*Luk 6:45  A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth that which is good;*

*Luk 12:34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

*2Ch 16:9  For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.*

**#6b. PRAYER**

*Spirit Divine we need spiritual leaders in our oblast.*

*We need spiritual youth who will renew our churches.*

*We need Brothers that are known as your friends.*

*We need Brothers that are after your heart.*

*We need Brothers that you greatly love.*

*We – I – want to be part of them, submit myself to them, support them, and carry-out their initiatives.*

 **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

*Once we have chosen, make us trust that it was done out of pure motives.*

*Make us trust that this brother was to be our Divine leader for us, our Divine tool.*

*Prohibit that we should feel resentment or laxity in following him, obeying him.*

*Make our hearts conducive to support him strongly in new unknown ventures.*

*Make me a Praying person. Make me a personal Harvester of Souls.*

*I want to be your clay. Mold me into the image of Jesus.*

**FOR A BRIEF INDIVIDUAL CLOSING PRAYER LET US KNEEL DOWN.**

Should the new PS be one that I did not choose and that is not one with whom I am comfortable, how shall I relate to him?

Lord Jesus, I do not wish to be rebellious in some form – like ignoring him – not following him – not cooperating with him?

Show me how I may support and cooperate with a PS who is not of my choice.