**The Life and Calling of the Pastor (Balancing Family and Ministry)**

**Curriculum Summary**

The demands of ministry in rural areas draw pastors away from taking care of their families. This often results in extreme poverty and broken relationships. The curriculum is aimed at equipping pastors to have a balanced life, to meet the needs of their families, and to equip others to do the same.

Therefore, by the end of this curriculum the pastor has:

1. Provided a means of economic sustainment
2. Equipped church members to share the burden of ministry
3. Built a rhythm of self-care into his or her life
4. Helped church leaders to also have a balanced life

These outcomes are achieved through a series of seminars, along with activities after each seminar. The seminar provides a reflective environment for the pastor's situation to be discussed. However, each module is not complete until the participant has attended the seminar, and reflected on and practiced the things learned in the seminar over a period of three months. The next seminar begins with a reflection on what is changed the life of the pastor during the post-seminar period.

The curriculum has four modules:

1. Pastor and his or her family
2. Pastor and his or her congregation
3. Pastor and his or her life
4. Pastor as an agent of transformation

**Module Descriptions**

**A PASTOR AND HIS OR HER FAMILY**

How do pastors balance their time with their wives or husbands and children?  In this module, pastors reflect on their families.  They address the following questions:

1. How do we, as pastors serving in rural areas meet the needs of our families spiritually, emotionally, socially and financially?
2. How do we balance our time with our children, spouse and church activities?

On completion of this module, pastors will have started effectively meeting the physical, spiritual, emotional and psychosocial needs of their family by implementing plans which are meeting their needs holistically.

**A PASTOR AND HIS OR HER CONGREGATION**

How are pastors balancing their time with Church? And how are they equipping their congregants for effective ministry and wholistic transformation? Thus, on completion of this module, pastors will have started to equip people in their congregation for effective wholistic transformation by developing and implementing strategies and plans for equipping members of their Church.

**A PASTOR AND HIS OR HER LIFE**

How are pastors balancing their time with self.  How are rural pastors building a rhythm of time with family, church and self for effective ministry?  When pastors finish this module, they will have started to build a new rhythm into their lives by taking care of themselves in the areas of health and heaven (body and spirit) and delegating responsibilities to others where necessary to avoid burnout.

**A PASTOR AS AN AGENT OF TRANSFORMATION**

Pastors will have now become familiar with the ARA learning approach which has been used in each module.  *Acting-Reflecting-Acting (ARA)* learning methods are aimed at bringing transformation to the whole person in his or her situations.   ARA focuses on transforming the learner’s head, heart, hands and community.  However, a successful implementation of ARA based-learning methods depends among other things on a successful facilitator.  In this module pastors are introduced to how to become a good ARA facilitator. On completion of this module, they will have acquired basic skills to facilitate ARA modules on the life and calling of a pastor.  These skills will help pastors to become an agent of transformation who equips others to transform their situations.