

leadership. Paul's training of Timothy is a good example of this guideline.

⑨ *Leaders should encourage their successors.* Moses told Joshua, "Be strong and of a good courage" (Deuteronomy 31:7). A few words of praise will help a successor gain needed confidence.

⑩ *Leaders should not be jealous of their successors accomplishments.* The root of the conflict between Saul and David was jealousy in the heart of Saul over David's military success and his popularity among the people (I Samuel 18:6-9). Had Saul realized it, the success of David could have been a tremendous blessing to his rule and the kingdom.

THE COMING GENERATION

① *Successors should be loyal to their leaders.* Joshua faithfully served Moses during the forty years of wandering. Elisha "poured water on the hands of Elijah" until the older prophet was taken and Elisha was empowered with a double portion of his spirit.

② *Successors should spend time in private devotion and they should participate in public worship.* It was said of Joshua that he "departed not out of the tabernacle" during a critical moment in Israel (Exodus 33:11). This verse apparently alludes to the strength of Joshua's devotional life.

③ *Successors should not try to copy the wrong behavioral patterns of others.* Although it may appear that their unscrupulous practices do not always hinder the success of some leaders, a successor should strive to be honest and honorable in his life and ministry. In spite of the ungodly example of Eli's sons, Samuel retained his integrity and dedication to God. It is written that he "ministered unto the LORD" (I Samuel 3:1).

④ *Successors should wait for God to open doors for them.* Although David was anointed to be king at an early age, he waited many years before he was chosen to be king. He refused any temptation to take the throne by force. On the other hand, his son Absalom tried to forcefully wrestle the kingdom from David. He not only failed but also lost his life.

⑤ *Successors should recognize that God is directing their training.* A situation may not always be what a person wants, but trying to learn and develop skills from the situation is the will of God. God often allows a successor to go through trials that will equip him for later duty. (See I Samuel 16:19-23.)

⑥ *Successors should watch their behavior at all times.* It is said of David that he behaved himself wisely. Paul wrote to Timothy that he should be "an

example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (I Timothy 4:12).

⑦ *Successors should serve their leaders in every way possible.* Joshua was called Moses' minister (Exodus 24:13) and Elisha ministered to Elijah (I Kings 19:21).

⑧ *Successors should show respect for their leaders.* It is notable that David retained his respect for Saul even when Saul sought to kill him. David's attitude was, "Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm" (I Chronicles 16:22).

⑨ *When successors become the leaders, they should respect the friends and advisors of their predecessors.* Solomon profited from David's friendship with Hiram in the building of the Temple (I Kings 5). On the other hand, Rehoboam foolishly ignored the wise counselors who had served his father Solomon.

⑩ *Successors should attempt to understand the feelings of their predecessors in the transition of leadership.* The predecessor may sincerely fear that the church or business will falter or fail when he is no longer at the helm. Moreover, he may struggle with the personal adjustment of losing authority and responsibility. As a human with self-esteem and a sense of worth to the church, he will have some reluctance to being "put on the shelf." A successor can make the transition easier for himself and his predecessor if he will publicly acknowledge the contributions and achievements of his predecessor.

A smooth transition of leadership in the work of God brings a sense of harmony and progress. When a leader tries to destroy what he has built rather than relinquish the controls to another, much damage is done to the kingdom of God and to his own spiritual life. Equally tragic incidents occur when the new leader seeks to destroy the marks of his predecessor in order to enhance and secure his position. God intended that the new generation build upon the achievements of the passing generation.

Perhaps deep in the heart of every person is the dream that his accomplishments will continue beyond his lifetime. He can enhance the reality of his dream by clear perspectives, compassionate principles, and conscientious planning. □



Brother Moehlenpah is the Vice President of Gateway College of Evangelism.

If this generation is coming, it will someday be the generation passing.