**GCCHM Leadership Certification**

**Level IX, Course #8**

**THE POWER OF PARENT’S/LEADER’S APOLOGY TOWARDS A CHILD**

**Saustin Sampson Mfune, GC Associate CHM Director**

**(Presenter’s Notes)**

**What is Apology?**

It is a written or spoken expression of one`s regret, remorse or sorrow for having insulted, failed, injured or wronged another.

**What I Learned from My Parents**

Illustration: It was one of the evenings in 1971. Israel, my younger brother did something which infuriated my father. In his state of rage and getting a nod from Proverbs 13:24, my father generously applied the instructions as stipulated in the Bible text. And it was the full extent
of the word generous. Later in the night, my father was bothered with what he had done. He had a hard time sleeping. Around three o’clock in the morning, I heard a knock on our bedroom door. When I went to check, it was my father. He asked that I wake up Israel and come to the sitting room which doubled as a dining room.

When we entered the dining room, we could not believe our eyes when we saw appetizing food loaded on the table. Israel and I exchanged glances wondering if this was a trap. Mom told us to sit around the table. After prayer, we hesitantly began to enjoy the food because we were very suspicious. But dad did what had not entered our minds. Like Jesus in the upper room washing the feet of his disciples, he knelt down. His voice quivering as someone who has been in the cold, dad said, “Israel and Saustin, I would like to ask for your forgiveness. I over reacted. I should not have gone to that extent.” Tears streaming down his face, he stood up, hugged Israel, then me and then he hugged my mother. There was no dry eye in the room. We did not expect this from our father. What dad did that early morning empowered him more than he will ever know.

**What We Learn from God: Numbers 14:11-20**

In dealing with the Israelites who time and time again disobeyed God, He was patient and longsuffering. When Moses interceded for the Israelites before God, asking Him not to send them pestilences and disinherit them, God forgave them.

**What Does A Parent’s Apology Do to A Child?**

1. It erases bottled bitterness, pain and anger which has been built in a child towards the parent/leader.
2. It communicates to the child the message that you as a parent/leader recognizes the child’s feelings and consequently it builds the child’s self-esteem when it dawns on the child’s mind that you as a parent value their feelings.
3. It demonstrates to the child that the parent recognizes that each one of us makes mistakes in life and as such, we own and correct them.
4. It reveals to the child what mature Christians ought to do.
5. It helps children learn that it is possible to recover from error.
6. It communicates that you view the child as an individual who is also made in the image of God.
7. It heals a broken bond between the parent/leader and the child.
8. It will help children in the future to be honest in admitting when they have made a mistake.
9. It helps kids not to fear attempting things because they realize that when they fail, they will receive encouragement from you and not condemnation. This in turn builds resilience in children.
10. It demonstrates to the child that we are all humans who have sinned and have fallen short of God’s glory and we all need His grace on daily basis.
11. It helps remove the thinking of perfectionism from children helping them to know that making mistakes is not shameful.

**2 Main Advantages for the Parent/Leader Who Apologize to a Child**

1. It frees the parent’s/leader’s conscience from a guilty trip.
2. It helps the parent earn respect in the eyes of the child.

**Advice from the Bible**

James 5:16:  “Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be

healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.”

Ephesians 4:32: “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

**THE END: GOD BLESS YOU**