

Free Ministers By Dag Heward Mills

Free Ministers By Dag Heward Mills

Downloaded from template-dev.mobaptist.org by Cantrell & Skinner

UNDERSTANDING FREE MINISTERS BY DAG HEWARD MILLS: A PATH TO LIBERATED MINISTRY

Ministry is a sacred calling, yet many who serve in it find themselves entangled in a web of financial dependency, institutional limitations, and personal burnout. In a world where the work of the gospel is often constrained by resources, the concept of **Free Ministers By Dag Heward Mills** emerges as a beacon of hope and a practical blueprint for those who desire to serve God without unnecessary encumbrances. This article explores the profound teachings of Dag Heward Mills on this subject, offering insights into what it truly means to be a free minister and how these principles can transform your ministry and personal life.

Who Is Dag Heward Mills?

Dag Heward Mills is a Ghanaian evangelist, author, and the founder of the United Denomination of Churches of the United Denomination (UD-UD), formerly known as the United Denomination of the Church of God. He is also the founder of the Jesus Worship Centre and the author of numerous books, including the widely acclaimed *Loyalty and Disloyalty* and the book *Free Ministers*. His teachings have inspired countless ministers across Africa and the world, emphasizing church planting, financial independence, and the liberation of ministers from the chains of financial lack and institutional control.

Heward Mills is known for his straightforward, practical, and deeply spiritual approach to ministry. His message on free ministers is not just a theoretical concept but a lived reality. He has built a network of thousands of churches through the **Denominational Church Planting Program**, which is rooted in the principles he teaches. His work challenges the traditional model of ministry that often leaves pastors struggling to make ends meet and dependent on external funding.

THE CORE MESSAGE OF FREE MINISTERS

The phrase **Free Ministers By Dag Heward Mills** refers to a paradigm shift in how ministers view their work, their finances, and their relationship with the church and the world. At its heart, the message is about breaking free from the bonds that limit the effectiveness of a minister. These bonds can be financial, structural, or even psychological. Heward Mills argues that a minister who is free can operate with greater power, vision, and sustainability.

The key principles behind this concept include:

- **Financial Independence:** Ministers should not be dependent on a single salary or tithe from a small congregation. Instead, they should develop multiple streams of income, including personal businesses, investments, and other ventures, to support their ministry work.
- **Church Planting as a Lifestyle:** A free minister is a church planter. Heward Mills emphasizes that the goal is not just to pastor one church but to raise up other ministers and establish new congregations. This requires freedom from the need to control and the willingness to release others into their own callings.
- **Breaking Free from Denominational Constraints:** While structure is important, Heward Mills teaches that ministers must be free to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit without being stifled by rigid denominational policies that inhibit growth and innovation.
- **Personal Discipline and Sacrifice:** Freedom in ministry comes at a cost. It requires a life of discipline, hard work, and a willingness to live modestly while building for the future.

The Financial Dimension of a Free Minister

One of the most discussed aspects of **Free Ministers By Dag Heward Mills** is the financial side. Many ministers around the world struggle with poverty. They rely on the offerings of a small congregation, which often forces them to focus on survival rather than on the expansion of the kingdom. Heward Mills challenges this status quo by encouraging ministers to become entrepreneurs.

He does not suggest that ministers abandon their calling to pursue secular work full-time. Instead, he advocates for a balanced approach where ministers use their talents and opportunities to create wealth that can fund their ministry. This could mean starting a small business, writing books, farming, or engaging in other legitimate enterprises. The goal is to be a blessing to others, not to amass wealth for selfish purposes.

Heward Mills himself is a model of this principle. He has built schools, hospitals, and other institutions that generate income and provide services, all while maintaining his primary identity as a preacher and church planter. His life demonstrates that a minister can be both spiritual and practical, both a preacher and a provider.

Church Planting and Multiplication

A central theme in the teaching of **Free Ministers By Dag Heward Mills** is the imperative of church planting. He believes that every minister should be involved in raising up new churches. This is not optional; it is a biblical mandate. He often references the early church, which spread rapidly through the multiplication of congregations.

To be a free minister, one must have a vision that extends beyond a single location. This requires a mindset of release. Instead of holding onto the best members and the most talented leaders, a free minister sends them out to start new works. This act of release actually strengthens the original church and causes the kingdom to grow exponentially.

Heward Mills has developed a systematic approach to church planting through his **Denominational Church Planting Program**. This program provides training, resources, and ongoing support for ministers who want to plant churches. It is a practical outworking of the free minister philosophy.

PRACTICAL STEPS TO BECOMING A FREE MINISTER

If you are a minister or a ministry leader, you may be wondering how to apply these principles in your own life. The journey to becoming a free minister is not a quick fix but a gradual process of growth and change. Here are some practical steps based on the teachings of Dag Heward Mills:

1. **Develop a Personal Vision:** Write down what God has called you to do. This vision should include not just preaching but also how you will support yourself and how you will multiply your ministry.
2. **Get Rid of Debt:** Financial freedom starts with being debt-free. Create a plan to pay off any personal or ministry debts. This will free up resources for future growth.
3. **Learn a Skill or Start a Business:** Identify a legitimate way to generate income outside of the offering plate. This could be anything from farming to consulting to digital services. Use this income to fund your ministry work.
4. **Train Others:** A free minister does not work alone. Invest in training other ministers. Teach them what you know and release them to do the work of the ministry.
5. **Embrace a Simple Lifestyle:** Avoid the trap of luxury and materialism. Live modestly so that you can save and invest for the future of your ministry.
6. **Stay Accountable:** While you are free from certain constraints, you are not free from accountability. Surround yourself with trusted advisors who can speak into your life and ministry.

The Role of Loyalty in Freedom

It may seem paradoxical, but Heward Mills emphasizes that true freedom in ministry is built on a foundation of loyalty. In his book *Loyalty and Disloyalty*, he explains that a minister who is loyal to God, to their leader, and to their vision is actually free to operate with confidence and authority. Disloyalty, on the other hand, leads to isolation and instability.

In the context of **Free Ministers By Dag Heward Mills**, loyalty does not mean blind obedience or staying in a situation that is unhealthy. Rather, it means being faithful to your commitments and true to your word. A loyal minister builds trust, and trust opens doors for greater freedom and responsibility.

This principle is especially important when it comes to planting churches. A free minister who is loyal to the vision of the overall network can plant churches that are aligned and supported. They are not rogue operators; they are part of a team. This combination of loyalty and freedom creates a powerful dynamic for kingdom expansion.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT FREE MINISTERS

Like any powerful teaching, the message of **Free Ministers By Dag Heward Mills** has sometimes been misunderstood. It is important to clarify what it does not mean:

- **It is not a license for independence from God:** Being free does not mean being self-reliant. On the contrary, a free minister is more dependent on God, not less. The freedom is from human limitations, not from divine guidance.
- **It is not about getting rich:** While financial freedom is part of the message, the goal is not personal wealth. The goal is to have resources to fulfill the Great Commission. Heward Mills himself lives a relatively modest lifestyle despite the reach of his ministry.
- **It is not an excuse to avoid church authority:** Freedom does not mean rebellion. Every minister needs covering and accountability. The free minister concept works best within a structure of healthy relationships and mutual submission.

- **It is not a quick fix:** Becoming a free minister requires years of discipline, hard work, and sacrifice. There are no shortcuts.

Testimonies and Real-Life Impact

Across Africa and beyond, countless ministers have been transformed by the message of **Free Ministers By Dag Heward Mills**. Pastors who once struggled to feed their families are now running successful businesses that fund their ministry work. Church planters who were stuck in one location are now overseeing networks of congregations. The impact is tangible.

One common testimony is that of a pastor in a rural area who started a small farm after attending a conference by Heward Mills. Within a few years, the farm was generating enough income not only to support his family but also to build a church building and support other ministers in his region. This is a practical example of what it means to be a free minister.

Another testimony is that of a minister who was trapped in a denominational system that limited his ability to innovate. After embracing the principles of freedom and loyalty, he was able to plant new churches while remaining connected to his network. His ministry grew, and he became a blessing to many.

CHALLENGES ON THE PATH TO FREEDOM

The journey to becoming a free minister is not without its challenges. It is important to be aware of these so that you can prepare for them:

- **Resistance from traditional structures:** Not everyone will understand or support your vision. You may face opposition from those who are comfortable with the status quo.
- **The temptation to compromise:** When you start generating income through secular work, there is a risk of losing focus on your primary calling. You must maintain a clear priority on ministry.
- **Burnout:** Juggling ministry, business, and family can be exhausting. You need to build a team and learn to delegate.
- **Financial setbacks:** Not every business venture will succeed. You need resilience and a long-term perspective.

Despite these challenges, the rewards of being a free minister are immense. You gain the ability to say yes to God's call without being limited by financial lack. You become a source of blessing to others. You leave a legacy of multiplication.

CONCLUSION: EMBRACING THE CALL TO BE FREE

The message of **Free Ministers By Dag Heward Mills** is a timely and powerful word for the body of Christ. In an era where the church is expanding rapidly, especially in the Global South, the need for ministers who are not bound by poverty, institutional control, or personal limitations is greater than ever. This teaching offers a biblical, practical, and reproducible model for ministry that can transform individuals, churches, and entire nations.

Becoming a free minister is a journey of faith, discipline, and vision. It requires a willingness to step out of the boat, to embrace new ways of thinking, and to work hard. But the end result is a life of greater impact, greater joy, and greater freedom in serving the Lord. If you are a minister or aspiring minister, I encourage you to study this message, apply its principles, and join the growing movement of free ministers who are changing the world for the glory of God.