

THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN COMBATING HIV/AIDS MENACE AMONG
YOUTHS IN NORTH-EAST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OGBOMOSO

NBTS
M.Div. RE
Da - 218

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FACULTY OF
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OF THE NIGERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY,
OGBOMOSO

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF
THE MASTER OF DIVINITY IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2013 - 0549

BY

ABIGAIL DANIEL DARIYA

NBTS/UNIJS 08/0041

JUNE 2011

ABSTRACT

This study is titled the role of the Church in combating HIV/AIDS menace among youths in Ogbomoso North-East Baptist Association.

This study is an attempt to challenge the church on her strategic position to make a meaningful contribution in combating HIV/AIDS especially among Youths. The study was carried out in ten Churches within the North- East Baptist Association. In order to achieve the aim of this work the writer made use of the following methods: Interaction with relevant books in J.C Pool library, Internet materials, Questionnaire were sent out to collect data about the role of the Church in combating HIV/AIDS. These afforded the writer the opportunity to collect both primary and secondary sources for this work.

From the findings of this study the writer find out that all the ten churches in the association had very good information and knowledge about HIV/AIDS and the various misconceptions about the disease had reduced. But as for the issues related to the role of the Church to the HIV/AIDS victims nine out of the ten Churches organized programmes such as symposium, lectures, teachings, awareness and prevention campaign to educate her members. One out of the ten churches organized voluntary counseling and testing.

Victims of HIV/AIDS have suffered from different form of stigma and discrimination, therefore to die in silence rather than letting people to know about their HIV status. In Ogbomoso North-East Baptist Association this is not in any way different. It is therefore recommended that the Church should continue in her God

given responsibility of teaching of God's love to mankind and not to discriminate and to incorporate five minutes talk about HIV/AIDS in every of her programme.

Lobbying and advocacy, care and support of the victims etcetera. All hands must be on deck to fight this enemy of human race. There is hope HIV/AIDS can be conquered, it is also preventable.

Conclusion

The will say as Garland said in her book AIDS is Real and it's in our Church. It is no more news. But there is hope – hope found in God's Word. Hope for those who are not infected, if they follow God's pattern for life, but also hope for those who are infected as the church responds with compassion and ministers in Jesus name. The church is God's instrument to proclaim and promote life.

AIDS is the opposite of life. The description of HIV/AIDS situation in the early 21st Century Africa may be alarming, it is not hopeless. There is wisdom of hope the 5-19 year old generation is almost free from AIDS. The church can act fast with the sense of mission and urgency to rescue the world. The church could educate these innocent ones and give them positive value to life to be able to say "Yes" to life and "No" to AIDS. The church pastor/leader should be ready to live an exemplary living in sexual purity so we can help children say "No" to sex before marriage. The church can raise a new Jesus' generation to resist immorality but embrace sexual purity and be rescued from the aches and pains of agonizing life and death followed by a Christ less eternity.

Recommendation

Based on the findings of the Research, the writer wishes to make the following Recommendations:

1. HIV can be avoided or prevented by abstinence, being faithful to one sexual partner, desist from sharing needles and sharp instruments, avoid transfusions with unscreened blood or blood products.

2. The Church in North-East Baptist Association should strengthen the programme of voluntary testing and counseling. Just as Churches in the Northern part of Nigeria particularly in Kaduna State organize and invite Faith-Based organizations to come and have their members tested and counsel free.
2. The church is expected to organize health talk, and educate her members about how HIV/AIDS is contracted. And to eliminates stigmatization.
3. Churches should encourage her members to demonstrate the love of Jesus to people living with HIV/AIDS to visit and associate with them.
4. Churches should take advantage and observe World AIDS Day 1st December to educate her members about HIV/AIDS and create awareness. In another way Government and Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) should work in partnership.
5. Churches should not be judgmental but should show compassion, love, care, and support without prejudice.
6. Churches should teach and respect the right of people living with AIDS. They are human beings with dignity and worth.
7. Churches should pray. As Paul prays “that out of His (God’s) glorious riches. He may strengthen you with power through his spirit in your inner being.” (Philippians 3:14-21). Paraphrased. Prayer support for people infected and affected and prayer support for those involves in the work. And for a cure of the disease.
8. To mainstream HIV/AIDS activities into church programmes and curricula of their churches. Five minutes HIV/AIDS talk for every church programme.

9. Christian from every tradition should unite to fight this monster called HIV/AIDS killing, the past, present and future leaders of the church.