

EFFECTIVE PASTORAL LEADERSHIP: A NECESSARY TOOL FOR CHURCH
EVANGELISM IN THE 21ST CENTURY

A Thesis Submitted to The Faculty of Theological Studies,
The Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary Ogbomoso.
In Partial Fulfilment of The Requirements for the
Award of Master of Divinity
in Theology.

BY

JOHN ALADE AKINLABI
MATRIC NO: 12/0083

JUNE, 2015.

ABSTRACT

This project work deals with “Effective Pastoral leadership: A necessary Tool for Church Evangelism in the 21st Century.” The introduction of the work examines ways by which effective Pastoral leadership can improve church Evangelism in the 21st Century. This means that a church can grow through Evangelism if the pastoral leadership of the churches are handled properly. The type of leader a church has determines how the church will grow. The research work made use of descriptive survey through questionnaire to evaluate “Effective Pastoral Leadership as a Tool to Church Evangelism” with reference to Chosen Generation Association, Ogbomoso. The sample consists of nine out of fourteen churches in the association and the instrument that is used for the purpose of the study was questionnaire. Simple calculation of percentage was used as the main statistical method for the analysis. From the analysis, it was discovered that effective Pastoral leadership on church evangelism cannot be overlooked. It was also discovered that many churches in the association grow as a result of good and well-equipped ministers. Those Pastors who are well versed in the word of God, who Spiritual and Sacrificial have passion for the great commission and are able to motivate people towards God’s agenda. Some recommendations were also suggested for a Pastor to be effective in the church of God and used as a tool for church evangelism. They are: the vision of the church should be well understood both by the Pastors and members, each church should embark on an aggressive evangelism, Discipleship must be a vital programme of the church and should be handled properly. Pastors should place emphasis on evangelism, they should handle their preaching and teaching ministry well as servant-leaders, church pastors should be in the fore-front of winning soul for Christ, pastors should develop lay leaders for the purpose of ministry, cell group, if well-organized, could be a means of growing churches. So, leaders should encourage it.

CONCLUSION

The purpose of God for churches was to evangelize and win souls. This was evident in the Great Commission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to the church. The evangelism process of the church depended on the leadership of the church especially the pastoral leadership. Pastors should encourage evangelism and make it first on the list of their vision for the church.

It was discovered that some churches grew through evangelism, majority grew through pastoral preaching, some grew through membership transfer, few grew through birth of new babies. This was an eye-opener to the pastor in the Nigerian Baptist Convention that preaching ministry and evangelism ministry of the church should be handled very well. A pastor should motivate church members toward an aggressive evangelism knowing that, there were some unsaved people outside the church. Evangelism was God's mind for His church. Members must grow numerically and must also be growing spiritually. Every pastor should accept the call to serve with the mind set of church evangelism and work towards actualizing it.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Since it has been established through this research work that Baptist churches could grow through evangelism in a proper dimension due to effective pastoral leadership, the following recommendations were suggested by the researcher:

1. The vision of the church should be well understood both by the pastors and members.
2. Each church should embark on an aggressive evangelism.
3. Discipleship must be a vital programme of the church and should be handled properly.
4. Pastors should place emphasis on evangelism.
5. Pastors should handle their preaching and teaching ministry well.
6. As servant-leaders, church pastors should be in the fore-front of winning soul for Christ.

7. Pastors should develop lay leaders for the purpose of ministry.
8. Cell group, if well-organized, could be a means of growing churches. So, leaders should encourage it.