

THE IMPACT OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP IN A
LOCAL CHURCH: A CASE STUDY OF GOOD NEWS
BAPTIST CHURCH, SURULERE, LAGOS STATE.

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ABSTRACT

This essay is to show the importance of intercessory prayer group as a tool for in a local church. The topic the impact of intercessory prayer group in a local church. A case study of Good News Baptist Church has been considered by the writer as very important particularly in this end-time, when beliefs in Satanic and evil forces are increased. These indeed are wagging war against the church of God and causing people to backslid.

Chapter one addresses intercession generally and prayer through covenant relationship with Christ. Chapter two centers on the Biblical foundation for intercession. Here both the New and Old Testament has been surveyed to give a better understanding of intercession with people who are in covenant relationship with God and who released the positive hand of God to met the needs of their generation. The writer also focused on intercessors and their spiritual warfare. The work of intercessors is selfless and people-centred through the help of the Holy Spirit. Their standard must be Christ only. The focus of chapter three is the history of Good News Baptist Church and various events that took place in the church. It also covers the activities and a brief history of the prayer warriors known as Victorious Battle Axe. Chapter four is on the Questionnaire and structured interview which enabled the writer to know the opinions of people in regard to the prayer group of the church and their impact on the total life of the church. Chapter five is the conclusion and recommendations. The writer upon knowing the opinion of people made some

recommendations to Good News Baptist Church and other non-Baptist denominations.

CONCLUSION

This thesis which is the impact of prayer group in a local church: A case study of Good News Baptist Church, Surulere, Lagos State, can be seen as a relevant topic in the mind of God. The responsibility of praying to God concerning His will to be done on earth had been given to believers in Christ. Even angels are not permitted to carry out the responsibility of praying for us. We must face the assignment boldly by faith. The purpose of this thesis is to encourage churches, pastors, individuals to wake-up from their slumber to engage in offensive prayers through intercession for their family, to save the lost souls, to heal the sick, to set the oppressed free, etc.

It has been established that church growth from scriptures came through prayer and external evidence reveals that intercession is a must for God's purpose on earth to be fulfilled. Good News Baptist Church in the early days of its establishment was too western and foreign because they were using hymns and no clapping of hands and dancing. But today there is freedom of worship. This came as a result of prayer of the intercession and many other secondary factors. The writer affirms that the prayer of intercession had been widely supported by the entire church members of Good News Baptist Church, it is right to say that the prayer warriors, that is, the Victorious Battle Axe, have contributed greatly to the growth of the church both internally and externally. Other churches should follow suit.

A. Recommendations

The writer examined the Old and New Testament basis for intercession and some of the characters that God used to stand in the gap for His nation. He also discovered through the responses of respondents both in the questionnaire and structured interview that the intercessors of Good News Baptist Church has contributed greatly to the growth of the church.

The writer hereby wish to recommend to the following:

1. The Victorious Battle Axe should be trained properly by the pastors on their scope of duty. They should be made to understand that God has used them to avert dangers or attacks arranged by the church archenemy to destroy the church.
2. They should be given a sense of belonging through the pastor and other ministers.
3. There should be constant meeting between the prayer secretary and the pastor.
4. The group should have document of prayer list for the church members, society, Nigeria etc.
5. The group should be more sensitive to the problems the church is passing through now. For example unemployment, barrenness, financial breakthrough for members etc. and declare about seven to twenty one days of fasting and praying for these problems.

6. The group should take obedience to God and His servant as the first law in their ministry. The intercessors should pursue the mandate of the church through prayer with the pastor.
7. The group must have somebody to represent them in church council meeting and any other meeting where they can get information on what to pray for. The group should greatly depend on the Holy Spirit as they pray.
8. All churches who are interested in the great commission should establish a prayer group to pray on their behalf.
9. Any church that has been experiencing retrogression should embark on intercessory prayer or establish an intercessory prayer group to intercede on the behalf.
10. The Nigerian Baptist Convention through her organs; Conferences, Associations and the churches should establish intercessory prayer groups to stand in the gap for the General Secretary and other staff. They should also ensure that intercessory prayers are offered to God on behalf of the Convention during her Annual in Session.
11. Other non-Baptist denominations should also form intercessory prayer groups to stand in the gap for the total life of the church. This will cause the church to grow both internally and externally.