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CHURCH GROWTH THROUGH THE SUNDAY SCHOOL IN
CONTEMPORARY TIMES: A GROWTH SPIRAL APPROACH

A THESIS
PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY
OF THE
NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OGBOMOSO, OYO STATE, NIGERIA

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF DIVINITY IN THEOLOGY

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JUNE, 2000

20416

ABSTRACT

The Growth Spiral had been reportedly used by many churches in the Southern Baptist Convention to produce balanced and sustainable growth but the question is will this same tool work in the churches of their daughter convention - the N.B.C?.

To answer the above question, I have specifically chosen a church where I pastor to be a test case for this hypothesis. The procedure is simply to present my present state of affairs and get information from the computerized growth spiral on plan for a number of specified years. The spiral will show you your current areas of weaknesses and strength and also prescribe growth actions that will ensure growth if carefully followed.

The result of my test case is very impressive as the growth spiral is been so far to be living up to its bidding. Unfortunately, we cannot have in say affirmatively that it has produced a balanced, sustained growth due to the shortness in the time of its implementation but we can say categorically that it has a tendency to do so.

I will want to recommend that pastor and leaders of churches, denominational leaders, and even the N.B.T.S. should get on the spiral. It's an approach that has utilized the access to information technology available for the now to expand and develop God's church. Why

are the churches, association, conference still waiting.
Get on the Spiral. This essay will get you more
enlightened and inspired on how your church can grow
through the sunday school using the growth Spiral
approach.

CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Idea Versus Actual.

According to George Barna (1988), for a church to be said to be growing, these ought to be growth in number, greater involvement of members, a sense of excitement about what the church is doing and the willingness of members to share responsibility with the pastor, this I really see in display in Calvary Baptist Church. The involvement of the people in winning souls and bringing prospects to Christ is highly commendable. The Sunday school attendance has been very encouraging and the growth spiral seems to be delivering the goods it has been packaged for in Calvary Baptist Church context.

4.2 Answer to Research question

The growth spiral is certainly playing its expected role but I cannot categorically confirm here that it has produced a balanced and sustainable growth since the time at my disposal for its operation and observation is very short.

4.3 Suggestions For Implementation of Growth Spiral

Anyone willing to use the growth spiral in his church first needs an absolute or thorough knowledge about it. I also think it's very essential that the Education Department of N.B.C and the N.B.T.S. needs to have the software of the

growth Spiral. Certainly when Dr. Scott, D.L. leaves we might be in a vacuum. With the software readily available, pastor and church leaders can easily send in their raw data and they will be send projected spiral plan of their church for the numbers of years requested for. This will easily solve the problem of manual procedure and encourage our churches as it is done in Souther Baptist Convention.

Secondly, the leader needs to explain only the basic weak points and what is expected of the members. This is to secure their commitment and not to scare them away with too many details.

Lastly, I believe all that will want to operate the Spiral should have the vision for growth, be committed with members to carrying out the growth actions, never to be discouraged when results are not easily seen, be hardworking consistent and to soak the plan in prayer adjusting where necessary as inspired by the Holy Spirit.

4.4 Suggestions For Future Research

If the church growth plan used in this research can be observed furthers and report evaluated with the figures projected for it for the next two years.. Then the research question can be answered affirmatively.

Also, the conception of the Southern Baptist about the contribution of Sunday school to church growth differs greatly from our local perspective. In the Nigerian context, many churches do not use the sunday school for

outreach not do they see how possible it is to reach out for prospects though phone, bus-ministry, vacation Bible School among others in our context can be. Therefore the concept of church growth through the Spiral can be researched upon from an African perspective.

For future project, the growth Spiral approach can be implemented for more than a church (for example in an Association) and tested even in a church for a longer duration.