

**USING HOUSE-TO-HOUSE WITNESSING AS A STRATEGY  
IN CHURCH PLANTING:  
A CASE STUDY OF F.B.C, ABULE-EGBA - LAGOS**

**A DEGREE ESSAY PRESENTED  
TO THE FACULTY OF THE  
NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY,  
OGBOMOSO.**

MBTS  
M. Div  
Oye 3-4

**IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE  
MASTER OF DIVINITY**

**BY**

**EMMANUEL OLANIYI OYEWUMI**

**JUNE, 2001**

06 — 1102

## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this essay is the study of the First Baptist Church, Abule-Egba, in relation to the use of house-to-house witnessing in the history of the church.

Also, this will help to identify her development and growth. It will further help to furnish the current church members and the future generations, the history of the church using house-to-house witnessing in establishing it. This will also be useful in planting other churches.

The writer gathered information from pioneer members of the church, church minutes books, library resources coupled with the writer's experience about the church.

The essay has six chapters. Chapter one introduces the essay and defines the key terms. Chapter two further narrates the biblical models of church planting. Chapter three illustrates the contemporary models for church planting. Chapter four focuses on the history and development of the church. Chapter five spots the most favoured model that can be relied upon in church planting. Chapter six identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the church and suggests recommendation that may bring future development physically and spiritually within the Nigerian Baptist Convention.

## **B. RECOMMENDATIONS**

In spite of the economic and political upheavals in the country, First Baptist Church, Abule-Egba, happens to be one of the churches that enjoys the grace of God in terms of

spiritual and physical developments. However, there should have been improvement in the growth of the church especially in the area of spiritual development if the church has looked into such areas like the following:

i. Discipleship Programme

Some of the discipleship programmes of the church are restricted to only two books, such as Sunday School materials and Church Training programme and one of them is already dropped, that is, Church Training Programme. The church does not see the Church Training Programme as a discipleship programme. The church tends to believe like some of the churches which complain against the use of Church Training Programme as being traditional.

For the effectiveness of the spiritual growth of the church, it is believed that all tools of discipleship programmes such as Christ in dwelling Your Life, Follow the Master, Serve the Master, Master Life, You Can Be a Witness, Disciple's Guide, Experiencing God, just to mention a few of them, should be put in use.

During the writer's interview some church members, have neglected the church-in-conference meetings because the pastor does not go by the decisions of the meetings. So the attendance at the meetings is always very poor and cannot be said to have a representative percentage of the church members. It is believed by a certain number of members that the church-in-conference is the business of 'privileged people' and not for all the church members. This is not the intention of the Nigerian Baptist Convention and it is outside even the Constitution of First Baptist Church, Abule-Egba. This area should have to be looked at with a view of improving on the quality and moral implications of non-attendance of members. It is also believed that it can lead to non-cooperative attitudes of some members which can jeopardize the growth of the church physically and spiritually.

Concerning the aspect of administration, pastors should not be involved deeply in the running of the administrative affairs as it is practised now. It is the pastor who keeps the imprest and he involves in many of the repairs and purchases for the church. These in a way affect his main duties as the spiritual leader of the church. To this extent, he should leave the job to the maintenance committee appointed for the duties. This will help him to face the spiritual task of evangelism.

The church also began English worship service just barely four years ago. This happened after thirteen years of the establishment of the church. As it is to help propagating the non-speaking Yoruba people, this has not achieved so much of the desire for which the church was established. The attendance was poor and it contains some of the Yoruba speaking members who see that it is an opportunity to come to the church and leave early without waiting till the afternoon and some use to attend so as not to involve in any meetings of the church. This certainly should be considered with a view to improving in the membership of the Yoruba speaking worship.

ii. Caring Ministry

It is time that the church endeavoured to meet the needs of her members spiritually and materially. The growth of the church makes the needs of the members increasing more than the capability of the church now in terms of its leadership and resources. As a result of this, many needs are yet to be met.

First and foremost, the spiritual needs of the members suffer because it is practically impossible for a church pastor to meet the needs of above four hundred people of congregation in the areas of prayers, visitation, welfare, and social matters. To this, there is need for the associate pastor to assist the incumbent pastor in the area of spiritual needs of

members.

It is also noted that the communication services of the church needs to be improved. The improvement the church needs will be in form of decent and timely dissemination of information through handbills, literatures, letters, memorandum just to mention a few. The church also needs computer services for record keeping and dissemination of information. This will help in the area of evangelism and planting of churches.

iii. Library Service

It is to be noted that the church maintains mini-library service for the development of her members. This has not been well organised. The library service should be placed in the hands of a member other than the pastor of the church. This member will see to the borrowing of books as it will be an outlined in the policy and directive of the church. It is also to be noted that the library service should be aiding the in-training service of the members. The church should be responsible for the provision of essential books that will help the members to grow.

Audio and video tape services should be provided to assist in the understanding of the Word of God. This will help the growth of the members and help the members also to become mature. They will have confidence to propagate the Word of God to those who are yet to accept Christ.

iv. Church Building

In spite of the economic depression in the country, the church can still cope with the construction of the church building through the grace of God.

Effort should be made to complete the church building as much as possible. People want to identify themselves with a decent and comfortable place of worship. People want the

environment of their church to be better than where they live. This is another way we can evangelize to the non-believers. The environment of the church must be neat. Although God's primary concern in worship is the state of our heart (John 4:24). It is however, important that the church building should have good appearance and the surrounding always kept "neat".

Another important thing is that the pastor must see that the electrical fittings and other equipment of the church are functioning well and there is no distraction of any kind during the worship service. The microphones and the sitting arrangements must be well organized.

v. Stewardship

There must be proper management of everything the church possesses. This includes the time available for church programmes, income and expenditure of the funds of the church. There should be no waste in whatever area of the life of the church. The pastor must educate the members on how best they can become good stewards in the household of God. The members also must be educated on how best they can use their talents as giving to the glory of God.

vi. Prayer

During the writer's interview with the members, it was discovered that the church, both the pastor and the members, believe in the power of prayer. This means that prayer helps them in the spiritual growth and their physical growth. It also can be concluded with earnest prayers of the righteous people of God, they were able to plant three churches and also grow numerically in the strength of the church. It is the emphasis on prayer too that many revivals and crusades took place.

