

**EQUIPPING VOLUNTEERS FOR CHURCH GROWTH:
A CASE STUDY OF GLAD-TIDINGS
BAPTIST CHURCH, OGBOMOSO**

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ABSTRACT

This work, equipping Volunteers for Church growth sheds light on the role of the Pastor as a teacher who must help his congregation to recognize their gifts and equip them for the task ahead, and empower them to lead in their various positions.

The purpose of this research work is to explore some practical principles, methods and procedures for enlisting and training volunteer workers, which will lead to Church growth. This is seen in the Glad Tidings Baptist Church, which serves as a model.

Chapter two and chapter four emphasize much on worker's training and discipleship, which is one of the means to equip volunteer workers in the Church. Also, it is the view of the writer that selection of workers will be done with all seriousness under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

The concluding part is on the recommendation by the researcher which he hopes would be of great benefit to the Church leaders and the Churches if they are imbibed.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

This chapter, which is the concluding chapter of this essay, will present some recommendation paramount to equipping volunteers for church growth. This is based on the need to train volunteer workers in the church due to the enormous work of the ministry. "Training provides for constant innovation and a dynamic infusion into the organization, a spirit of success and the direction that employees need. This helps to destroy negativism and encourages personal initiative"¹, which means that training brings productivity in terms of good results. For any growth to occur people must be enlisted and trained for the task given to them.

A. Recommendations

1. Enlisting of church workers: in enlisting volunteer workers for the church, the church should take it upon herself to teach all church members the biblical standard and qualifications required for one to be called a church worker, so that they would all be informed of their privileges and responsibilities and be opened unto God for His direction and guidance. They should also be given chance to pray before the church embarks on selection of church workers. A month can be set aside for the series of teachings on this.

Also, people should be given chance to indicate the area they want to serve God in the church and the nominating committee of the church should assist under the leadership of the Holy spirit to do the interview and the screening together with the church pastor.

¹ Engstrom, *The Making of a Christian Leader*, p. 63

2. Continuous discipleship ministry and training volunteers. Discipleship ministry should never be for a while or for a season, likewise the training of the church workers. It should be a life long ministry of the church. Any church that embarks on long term discipleship ministry will never be short of people to work with. Discipleship ministry is what the church needs to develop, build up, nurture and cultivate her members. It is also a positive way to carry out the great commission.

In addition, every member of the body has significant role to play for the church to grow and multiply. Their talents and gifts must be tapped and used. The church need not suffer manpower for growth and development. In the light of this, the church has the responsibility of cultivating, nurturing, and training her members and budget some substantial amount of money annually for the consistent training of the church workers.

3. Mission and Evangelism: This is the right time for churches to refocus their vision by setting out for mission and Evangelism. The two should be the main priority of the church. The Bible expects that all believers will acutely be involved in mission and evangelism. (Luke 24:46-49, Act 1:8 and Mathew 28:19-20).

Evangelism is the presentation or proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the people in order to believe while mission is to reach the unreached people with the gospel, plant churches and disciple them. With this the church should device means, polices and strategies in reaching the world for Christ.

Our churches in convention should be mission minded and be ready to cooperate with the Global missions board by being faithful stewards.

In summary, it is the opinion of the writer that if the above recommendations are adopted by our churches, most especially our church leaders (pastors) the church will march on to the promised land.

B. Conclusion

There is no way a church can move forward without involving the volunteer workers in the leading of the church. Having known this, a minister or a nominating committee has a big role to play in choosing the right people for each office.

There is tendency for man to choose wrongly but with the leading of the Holy Spirit, the church will succeed. The church is the family of God's people who voluntarily come together in faith and love to God, and toward one another in fellowship and in making known the full manifold of God to all the world. Which means the church is established to take the gospel to the world.

To do this, the pastor must see himself as the equipper, teacher, the encourager and motivator of his members. He must know that he has a significant role in helping the church to attain her full potential for church mission. He must be sensitive to God and to the leadership of the Holy Spirit as he gives the church an appropriate training that will help the members and the volunteers to meet the goal of the church.

The church must give themselves to prayer, teaching and commit the work unto God's hand for perfection. After this, training must be given to the chosen ones and volunteer workers must be rewarded or motivated when they are doing well. If you properly reward them after their tenure those that are not diligent or tired will be encouraged. People in charge of selecting volunteer workers should be aware that they have a big task at hand, thus, they must not fail.