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**AN EVALUATION OF THE CONTEMPORARY OUTDOOR  
CRUSADES AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE CHURCH**

**AN ESSAY SUBMITTED**

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## ABSTRACT

This research was done towards the evaluation of the contemporary outdoor crusades and its effects on the church. The researcher has done some study in related subjects before settling down to work on the topic. He equally read books, many unpublished materials and relevant passages in the Bible. He also drew a questionnaire, many more than a hundred copies and took them to about five churches in Ibadan land so as to be able to work with sufficient facts on this research. He conducted interviews with certain Christian leaders who spoke out their minds (though not recorded on tape) and shared their burdens with him on this very interesting research topic.

Inclusive in this work are following:

In this first chapter, there is the introduction into the entire research, one can clearly understand the background and thrust of the work. Coming to the second chapter, there is a good work on the literature review of the entire work. The Bible is a quick contact with many other materials (books, unpublished articles) to be able to truly carry along every one that will come in contact with this work.

Also in chapter three, one will find the procedures, the sources and methods of getting data and the instruments of analysis. The fourth chapter is inclusive of the presentation of data, the analysis of such data and the findings of the researcher about the results from the data. The discussion, implication and conclusion are in the fifth chapter. With all these the research is able to evaluate the effect of contemporary outdoor crusades on the church.

when compared with those of the apostolic days is good meanwhile 78.4% of the respondents disagree with the results of the contemporary outreaches meaning that they are not yielding as it was in the days of the Apostles. This could be responsible for the greater percentage of leaders (62.2%) not fully releasing themselves to support the outreaches anymore. And because the support of workers and leaders are poor to the tune of 37.8%, the converts yield too is poor which is in the response of just 36.5% while 63.5% of the respondents confirm that the converts of these crusades are not more spiritual than other evangelistic programmes of the churches.

## CONCLUSION

According to Micheal Green, "within ten years of the death of Jesus, the gospel about Him had reached Alexandria and Antioch, the greatest cities in Africa and Asia respectively<sup>35</sup>. If only the churches can recognize that they are one and they work hand in hand for outdoor crusade the churches would have gotten more lands for Christ. Crusade outreach should not to be a denominational affair, its should be an interdenominational programme. As it was in the early church when the church was one.

Jesus simply commanded the church to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Church planting

<sup>35</sup>Reinhard Bonnke, Evangelism by fire (Eastbourne, Esussex great Britain, Kingsway Publication, Lt, 1995), 11.

should be the purpose of outdoor crusades. With church planting in mind, it will be possible for the organizers of crusades to recognize, appreciate and encourage the gifts in other leaders who must be involved or used in course of achieving the purpose of the crusade. There will be effective division of labour. All the leaders can find fulfillment as they are engaged in many aspects of the outreach wanting to obey the command of Jesus in preaching the gospel to every creature. The task of preaching to the unchurched is enormous "you can't communicate with people until you find something you have in common with them.<sup>36</sup> Be tactful with those who are not Christian ...Talk to them agreeably and with a flavour of wit, and try to fit your answers to the needs of each one, "(speak) only what is help for building others up according to their needs that it may benefit those who listen (Eph.4:21)"<sup>37</sup>

Church planting is the fruit of outdoor crusade and it will always experience untold frustrations, hazards and disappointment when it is not empowered by the Holy Spirit. Church planting is the ministry of the Holy Spirit, it always requires an extra-ordinary "force of the Holy Spirit. All Pastor and Leaders should learn on Him"<sup>38</sup>. Outdoor crusade

<sup>36</sup>Mission Frontiers (January-February 2006) (The Bulletin of the U. S. Centre for world Mission Vol. 28, No 1.), 9.

<sup>37</sup>Rick Warren, The purpose Driveb Chruuch (Evangel Publication Kaduna Nigeria as permitted by Zodervan,1995), 293-294.

<sup>38</sup>Segun Adeleke, Lift up your Eyes, Dynamics Church Planting (Globec Glorious Printers and Publishers, Warri, Delta state Nigeria, 2006), 2.

is incomplete until discipleship and Church planting and then it is a ministry.

Also, right from the beginning of this work, it has been acknowledged that every outdoor crusade features an evangelist. People normally expect much from this evangelist, hence he must be a large hearted leader who can carry others along. He is the man of the hour but he is only an instrument of God. Bonnke said "the man must not be an "unannounced professional", it is the anointing that makes the difference on the man of the message"<sup>39</sup>. This man must seek God's face very well for a message that will reconcile the people to God.

Finally, Jesus only should remain the message of the outdoor crusade. Infact, tracts, magazines and materials that speak about and exalt Jesus only should be freely distributed to every person attending the crusade. According to Gshwend "Jesus is the answer to all questions of man. There is no salvation in any other name but in the Name of Jesus, Act 4:12, only Jesus can save, Jesus is the truth who sets all free".<sup>40</sup> the message on Jesus can be adopted to any line of thought. All crusade messages should focus on the salvation of the souls of members of the audience. "Also evangelization at any point is spiritual warfare, without a weapon of powerful prayer, there is no way people could be

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<sup>39</sup> Reinhard Bonnke, *Evangelism by fire* (Kingsways Pyblications, Estbourne, E, Sussex BN 23 6 NT, 1993), 150-151.

<sup>40</sup> J.R. Gshwerd, *who will Deliverance?* (All Nations Gospel Publishers, Pretoria, 0001 RSA, A gospel Literature and Tract), 2-3.

