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THE RELEVANCE OF CHURCH ADMINISTRATION TO A
SUCCESSFUL PASTORAL MINISTRY

KOLAWOLE SEUN SANGOKUNLE
B.A. (Hon.) German Language
UJ/05/NB/0098

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ABSTRACT

The research titled "The relevance of Church Administration to a successful pastoral ministry" evolved out of the researchers' great burden for the observed failure in church administration. Many reasons have been adduced for this failure. The very important ones are poor reading habit and lack of readiness or interest to learn and re-learn. Also, lack of inclusion of church administration in the curriculum of the Seminary and Bible Schools is another reason adduced for the failure. This research aimed at appraising the use of the basic skills of church administration in enhancing administrative success.

The researcher reviewed some related materials which showed that mastery of some basic administrative skills is non-negotiable. These skills include planning, initiating, organizing, directing, delegating, controlling, promoting, evaluating, motivating, supervising, performing, influencing, representing and communicating. The research also discussed the nature of the church as God's instrument. What the role of administration in the church should be was also examined. This study discussed the application of the skills of administration and the proper application of these skills will be of great benefit to the pastor and ministry.

5.2. CONCLUSION

This research will be concluded by creating consciousness in the mind of pastors that they should beware of blunders in church administration. There are some church administrative blunders that are capable of destroying the church of God. They include: The beginning of everything in life matters much. What a pastor does within the first year of his ministry is seen as laying of foundation of his ministry. With that this members will begin to guess who he is, either a good pastor or a bad one. A pastor's success and failure in any local church largely depends on his initial period. It is advisable that a pastor begins from the out set to teach the people the right thing no matter how hard the teaching might be. He should not for any reason let pass what he should let the people know that is expected of them, as their responsibility.

To be selfish is to be concerned with one's own advantage without care for others. When there is selfishness in church administration the church may face some problems. Administration in the church needs to be shared among qualified personnel to make it easy and effective. There should be delegated authority or division of labour in church administration. For example in a church, you see the senior pastor, pastors in - charge of outreach, music, education youth, children, all striving in their own department for the growth that no pastor succeeds without the support and cooperation of their members. In conclusion, for the church to be called church, it must be a fellowship or redeemed and redemptive fellowship. For the church to live and accomplish her mission, the work must not be left in the hands of one person or group of people, but all must contribute to empower the church to fulfill its tasks.

5.3. RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of the research include the need for our Seminary and Bible Schools to attach much importance to the study of church administration. Church administration should be included in the seminary curriculum. Also, pastors should inculcate the habit of reading wide and not just reading but reading of inspired church administration books. It also includes the need for pastoral learning and re-learning, training and retraining. Pastor should always endeavor to attend seminars, conferences and convention organized in order to enrich their administrative skills. The study also recommended that pastors should make use of the learned skills. Pastors should be more pragmatic rather than dogmatic in their approach to administrative issues. The research could not but recommend to pastors that they should always seek the face of God in all they plan to do and lean on God for the execution of their plans.