

AN INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP ON THE WEBSITE  
AS A MEANS OF SPIRITUAL RESTORATION

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## ABSTRACT

The task of God for mankind, which is summarized as "Great Commission" is a great task that must be done. It is the task of taking the 'Good News' to every soul all over the world. The nature of the task is such that it is very difficult but God has provided every resource to carry it out. The task of going to make disciples of all nations started almost two thousand years ago. Today, the question in the mouth of all serious minded messengers of God is what is happening to the 'Great Command'. People turned away from God so fast that unless necessary measure is taken, darkness may continue to cover the universe.

The rapid transformation, which had taken place in the world, with the implication of instruments of taking the message to every where, has created pollution to our known method of evangelizing and witnessing. It is becoming increasingly difficult to confirm whether those who came out when the altar calls were made really meant what it was supposed to achieve these days unlike then. For not quite days after the emotional feelings, they turned back to the world so badly that it would have been better they never came out in the first instance. The number of churches is on the increase, while the corresponding crime rate never reduced, rather it is increasing the more.

This is why this study is embarked upon to examine what modern communication system, which many considered to have done a lot of harm, can be used to redeem the image of church administrators in the area of pastoral care and counseling to the hurting and the aggrieved. Information Communication Technology (ICT) has played significant roles in fellowshiping together among the Missionaries and Messengers of God in the developed world. It is believed that similar exercise can be embarked upon to re-direct the minds and souls of the present generation away from worldly passion to Godliness.

The study has been able to reveal that members of our fellowship centres, otherwise called churches have left their God-given task due to various reasons.

## Conclusion

Fellowship on the website has been a veritable source of communicating messages to all and sundry, especially in developed countries. Developing countries like Nigeria is yet to appreciate this modern communication technology for reaching the mission field which have been left for long. The need to restore back sliders have been a thing of concern to every Christian, particularly those who have been victims at one time or the other.

It has been discovered that the administrators of the church also causes problem. apart from misunderstanding among and between members. The study has revealed that many members are aggrieved and they are left to wander away. This is contrary to why God set us apart.

The era of using crusade to call back the lost is changing ground and God's messengers must realize this and adopt alternative to meeting the spiritual needs of those concerned. It has been discovered that majority of those who came out during altar calls were never followed up to mature spiritually. ICT facilities has played significant roles in restoration process but the idea is new in Nigeria as revealed by this study.

Church administrators should be made aware that facilities provided for the church use should be geared towards the purpose for which they are provided. ICT facilities provided in the church should be used to care and counsel members and it should be made available to members.

Youths are very adventurous and they are expected to be guided into Godly ventures that will lead them to pleasing God and fulfilling the purpose for which God created them. Many of our youths today engage in ICT facilities use for not only

academic and meaningful research purpose but for other purposes that are anti-Christ in nature. Adults are not yet interested in ICT facilities. There is need to create conducive atmosphere for them to know that ICT can be used to minister to people in old age brackets. There are those who are as mobile as they used to be, they should not be abandoned in the area of spiritual matters. This is where ICT can be introduced to assist them maintain their walk with their Creator.

### **Recommendation**

This section deals with the recommendation which are meant for Christian Fellowship Centres otherwise called Church. It is particularly meant for the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary and other Bible Colleges in Nigeria.

The parochial (orthodox) method of pastoral care and counseling in taking the Good News to every one all over the world, and particularly the fallen members of our fellowship has not achieved the desired aims and objectives. Many of those who were hurt and still hurting who left one fellowship centre or the other may never return to the fold. The worse thing is that they can as a result of shame find themselves where they are not expected to be. There is need for a review of the method.

The church is today producing church goers and not disciples, it is recommended that the church educational programme should be made to reflect modern communication facilities for reaching souls for Christ and how to reconcile aggrieved members. Our Home Fellowship Centres and Cells should be integrated with other dynamic fellowship centres within and outside the country.

Result from the researcher's finding show that most of the equipment provided for evangelism are not actually utilized for the purpose, it is recommended that provision of equipment or facility should be linked with terms and conditions of use. There is abuse of such equipment and facility.

The Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary is advised to establish a Fellowship Website where all Auxiliary Fellowship can be linked. Pastors Fellowship Directory, Pastors' wives Fellowship Directory, Missionary Fellowship Directory, Men Missionary Fellowship Directory, Women Fellowship Directory, Youth Fellowship Directory, Lydia, Teenagers, Prayer Band and many other relevant areas that the Nigerian Baptist Convention has interest and has charged the Seminaries and Bible Colleges to train administrators for them. If this is made known to some of the past students of the Seminary, resources will definitely come from them.

### **Suggestions for further Studies**

This work will not be completed without making suggestion for other areas that other researchers could work, knowing fully that research is a continuous exercise. Further research on the following will enhance the findings of this study and further action to be taken in future policy decision making of the Nigerian Baptist Convention and their affiliated Seminaries and Bible Colleges.

- a) Impact of ICT facilities on Pastoral Care and Counseling for backsliders in our Nigerian Baptist Convention
- b) A comparison of the orthodox method and modern method of taking the Gospel to the whole world
- c) Deeper Study on Causes of Conflicts among members and between Pastors and members.