

**PASTORAL LEADERSHIP AND ITS EFFECTS ON  
CHURCH GROWTH: A CASE STUDY OF SOME  
SELECTED BAPTIST CHURCHES IN OGBOMOSO.**

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## ABSTRACT

This research work titles Pastoral Leadership and Its Effects on Church Growth: A case study of some selected Baptist Churches in Ogbomoso. The work is organized into eight chapters. The writer is motivated by Christ's Great Commission of world evangelization and Church growth. In this respect, Churches are not growing as they ought to. The problem is basically with pastoral leadership, since Church members are not likely to grow more than their pastors. Jesus says: "Truly, I say to you a servant is not greater than he who sent him". (John 13: 16. R. S. V.) The spiritual, numerical and geographical growth of a Church depends on the leadership of its Pastor.

The introductory Chapter contains the purpose and scope of the study, review of previous literatures, methodology and research instrument, the relevance of the study and delimitation. It also deals with the definition of key terms such as leadership, pastoral leadership, Church, Church growth and types of growth.

Chapter two highlights the qualities of good leadership such as discipline, vision, wisdom, decision, courage, humility, integrity and sincerity, right attitude to duty, physical health and energy and perseverance.

Chapter three identifies the main responsibilities of leadership in relation to service, discipline, guidance, initiative, responsibility and delegation.

Chapter four deals with basic principles of Church growth. This involves knowing and obeying God, continual dependence on God for sustenance and guidance, taking the study of God's words seriously, ensuring spiritual development through prayer, effective time management, acknowledgement and utilization of spiritual gifts.

Chapter five examines some hindrances to Church growth which include economic, social, resource, moral, spiritual and service hindrances.

Efforts will be made in chapter six to identify the concepts of Church growth among some Baptist members and pastors. This chapter will examine what most Baptist pastors and members believe to be Church growth.

Chapter eight which is the concluding chapter focuses on summary, conclusion and recommendations for good pastoral leadership which would result in spiritual, numerical and geographical Church growth.

## 2. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it is crystally clear that it is the will of God that the Church should grow. This is evident in the Great Commission of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to the Church. We have also learnt through this study that the growth of a Church depends on her pastoral leadership. In most cases, our pastoral leadership priorities are mainly on things like Church building, committee meetings and other internal projects rather than on the Great Commission which can enhance Church growth. Though internal projects are good, the Great Commission should not be neglected.

Therefore, most of our Baptist Churches are not growing in a proper dimension as they ought to the major contributing factor is lack of good pastoral leadership. All efforts made so far in this paper is not to look down or embarrass any of our pastors especially in the Baptist denomination, but rather to evaluate their pastoral leadership and offer them better and appropriate ways of improving their pastoral leadership for qualitative and quantitative Church growth and be more effective in their pastoral ministries.



In order for the pastoral readership to positively affect the Church growth all the qualities and responsibilities of good leadership discussed in this research work are indispensable for every pastor. The effect of possessing these qualities and proper adherence to these responsibilities is a balanced Church growth, that is, qualitative and quantitative Church growth.

It is normal in God's economy for every living organism to grow to maturity and then reproduce. An individual Christian should grow like that, so also should a Church, an association or a convention of Churches. These are good days for Church growth in Nigeria, for there are still multitudes of lost sheep waiting to be found.<sup>1</sup>

This study of Church growth recognises growth in both quality and quantity. The quality of Christian life is enhanced as a person becomes spiritually matured. Quality refers both to an increase in the number of new Christians in a local Church and an increase in the number of new Churches planted. It should be noted that growth in number which some of our pastors pursue without qualitative growth is shallow spiritual growth. On the other hand, growth in the spiritual maturity results in the Lord adding to His Church. Every Church has real possibilities for growth but the major responsibilities rest on pastoral leadership. The Church cannot grow in the right direction without good and effective pastoral leadership.

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<sup>1</sup> Russell and Veda Locke, Evangelism and Church Growth (Ibadan: Nigerian Baptist Convention, 1990), p. iii.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the facts that most of our Baptist Churches are not growing in a proper dimension and for the fact that this is due majorly to poor or bad pastoral leadership, the writer hereby recommends that the pastor should set his priorities right. The Great Commission should be vigorously pursued. Aggressive evangelism, Church planting, Bible study and discipleship training should be handled with all seriousness. This should be the major focus of the pastor and the Church. His attention should not be concentrated majorly on other Church programmes, committee meetings and building of gigantic auditorium at the expense of the Great Commission. The writer's findings reveal that most of our Baptist Churches do not place serious emphasis on Church planting. This notion should change Churches should be planted where there is none. Effective Bible study and discipleship training will enhance spiritual growth of Church members.

It is also recommended that the pastor, as a spiritual leader, should focus his attention on affective teaching and preaching of the Word of God. He should devote more time to studying and meditation on the Words of God. The gospel should be preached raw and undiluted. For him to properly disseminate the Words of God, he must be a word major himself.

As a servant-leader, the pastor should be in the fore-front. He should lead while others should follow. For him to lead the Church to grow, he should continue to develop or grow academically through

