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DISCIPLESHIP, THE NEGLECTED CORNERSTONE
A CASE STUDY OF MUSHIN BAPTIST CHURCH,
MUSHIN, LAGOS 1990 - 2001.

An Essay

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ABSTRACT

Discipleship, The neglected cornerstone. A case Study of Mushin Baptist Church, Musin, Lagos. This research study is an attempt to make obvious the importance of discipling converts and the effects of undisciplined converts in Mushin Baptist Church, Musin, Lagos from 1990 till 2001. The study examined the biblical basis for discipleship in which selected verses were examined. The study also presents a short history of Mushin Baptist Church, the formal beginning of discipleship and its impact on the church. Moreso, in the study ten members of the church including the pastor were interviewed. Figures on the number of marriages conducted in the church, the number of people baptised in the church, the average of total attendance in the morning and evening Sunday worship services were computed, as well the statistical data from questionnaires were applied in order to measure the impact of the discipleship training on the church.

The major finding in this research study indicated that, discipleship is truly a cornerstone. Unfortunately, it was neglected by Mushin Baptist Church for more than forty years, but by 1996 the church realized that "we are called to make disciples".¹

Fryling Alice and others Disciple Makers Handbook, (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity press, 1984), p.28

CONCLUSION

Discipleship in Mushin Baptist Church, Lagos has shed light on the important role discipleship is playing in the life of individual Christians and that of the body of Christ, the church. The comments on selected texts from the Old and New Testaments has made obvious the necessity of discipling children of God from generation to generation. These texts also presented the biblical basis for discipleship in the church.

However, discipleship in Mushin Baptist Church has shown different ways that Christians can live if they are disciplined or when they are not disciplined. Moreover, from the Bible and the realities presented about how members of Mushin Baptist Church responded well to living right when they were disciplined is a clear indication that discipleship is fundamental to perpetuating ideal Christian living. The findings also show that disciplined Christians mature faster, while undisciplined Christians often slip never quickly and become a threat to the integrity of the body of Christ.

Therefore, discipling Christians remains a cornerstone of the church. ✓ Jesus emphasized this by His life example and by His commandment. Although there are hindrances that Satan will be using some individuals to place on the course of discipleship, but by the power of God and the leadership of the holy spirit those hindrances shall be overcome. In spite of this, Christians every where and in all ages must be willing and ready to disciple men and women, young and old inside and outside the church. The dividend is high if Christians are disciplined. It is definite that discipleship will assist in building and ideal Christians living in converts as well as assisting the body of Christ the church to maintain her integrity and influence this perverse generation positively. Obviously, the dividend is high if Christians are disciplined accordingly.