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AN EVALUATION OF DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAMME IN
J. C. POOL II BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, OGBOMOSO.

An Essay Presented
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ABSTRACT

The epitome of this essay consists of making discipleship programme a panacea for carrying out the Great Commission in J.C. Pool II Baptist Association, in particular.

Against the backdrop of general background information given in Chapter One, questionnaires were drawn up. This is to elicit information on the nature of the discipleship in this association in terms of leadership, materials use and programme awareness and involvement on the part of the church leaders and members. This is the concern of Chapter Two.

An evaluation of the discipleship programme in this association is done in Chapter Three. Seven evaluation indices were used, to analyse the trend of discipleship programme with the aid of seven corresponding charts and graphs. The percentage increases from 1993 to 1999 in all the twenty one churches making up the association, were plotted on the graphs. Only the Sunday school and Church training programme showed upward trends. The other five indices viz. Sunday morning service, Sunday evening Service, Bible Study, Witnessing and Prayer meeting indicate a downward trends. The effects of

these situation have impacts on the spirituality and commitment to service, personal morality of the people and personal witnessing.

Hence in Chapter Four while concluding, recommendations were given to the pastors, churches, association, conference and Convention based on the findings in this essay as touching on aggressive discipleship programme as we all carry out the Great Commission more effectively and efficiently.

A. Conclusion

The evaluation of discipleship programme in J.C. Pool II Baptist Association has brought into limelight the fact that people need be followed up after evangelism. In the words of Archibald, he said, "Evangelism is not enough" he continued: "We have become so enamored of numbers that we have lost sight of our responsibility for training the converts whom we have received into our fellowship".¹

It can be inferred here that the seemingly elusive spiritual awakening in our various associations or fellowships is contingent upon the way we have been handling the converts in our hands.

Seven major indices were used to evaluate the discipleship programme in this association and this coincides with the works of Roland Q. Leavell,² P.E. Burroughs,³ D. Stuart Briscoe,⁴ and John H.

¹ Arthur C. Archibald, Establishing the Converts, Philadelphia: The Judson Press, 1952, p.15.

² Archibald, quoting Roland Q. Leavell, p.16.

³ P.E. Burroughs, Growing a Church, Nashville: The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1936, p.9.

⁴ D. Stuart Briscoes, Getting Into God, Grand Rapids: The Zondervan Corporation, 1975, p.7.

McClanahan.⁵

Except for the indices of Sunday School and Church Training Programme, all other indices showed a downward trend. This implies that Discipleship programme is not viable in the association and where it operates, it is done haphazardly, because the personelles are either non-resident or where they are resident, not aware of the practice of the discipleship programme.

The following section will make some recommendations for the pastors, churches, association, Conference and the Convention in that order.

B. Recommendations

These recommendations are made with a view that they will be considered for a way forward in discipleship programme in this association.

1. The Pastors:

Since most of the pastors are students and do not stay around during the week, it is recommended that they sacrifice their time on Wednesday evening to endeavour to be in the church and spend some time with the leaders, discipling them. Agreement should be feached between such pastor and the church as touching on his transportation that day. Furthermore,

⁵John H. McClanahan, A Call to Contemporary Discipleship, Nashville: Convention Press, 1969, pp.222-223.

pastors should get more involved in other materials concerning discipleship.

In the case of the resident pastors, it is recommended that they should attend workshops and seminar organised for discipleship programme at Conference or Convention level.

Finally, the pastors should encourage the churches to have resident pastor or at worst provide a "Joshua" for the church for the purpose of continuity, in case the church is not viable to get a resident pastor. In the same vein, some contagious small churches can form alliance to get a resident pastor.

2. The Churches:

The comments made by the Pastors and leaders reveal that majority of the church members are illiterate. It is therefore recommended that all churches encourage adult literacy classes to increase the literacy level of the members.

Secondly, let the church extend the tentacles of their influence on the community around them so as to bring more prospects into the church, first as new converts and then to be disciplined.

Furthermore, let the churches provide more space for teaching purpose and also materials for discipleship, so that those participating in the programme will be given the materials free or at a subsidised rate.

