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DEVELOPING A MANUAL FOR EFFECTIVE MINISTRY
THROUGH HOUSE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME IN THE FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH, OKE-ODE, KWARA STATE.

A PROJECT
SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF
NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, OGBOMOSO

2013—0781

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF
DOCTOR OF MINISTRY DEGREE

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Matric no: 09/0219

June, 2013

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this project was to encourage church members to use House Fellowship Programme for effective ministry. Through House Fellowship programme the church members should make Homes fellowship for winning souls, increase membership, nurturing souls for Christ and follow up a new convert in Christ. The manual was designed to help pastors, House Fellowship Leaders, workers and members on their roles to make House Fellowship as a tool for evangelism and to make House Fellowship Programmes to enhance church growth and Christian Ministries. The project was used pre test and post test questionnaires to find out the effectiveness of the House Fellowship programme in First Baptist Church, Oke Ode. From the results of Pre-test questionnaires, it was discovered and found out that many House Fellowship centres were not growing. Majority of House Fellowship Centres were not vibrant, no new converts, no discipleship programmes, no follow up and training of new leaders to enhance the growth of the House Fellowship centres. Majority of House Fellowship members did not take the work of evangelism seriously. Also there were five teaching sessions for pastors, deacons, co-ordinators, House Fellowship leaders, workers and members of House Fellowships. From the analysis of the pre – test and post-test questionnaires of the project had shown that 100 percent after participated in the lectures have understood the House Fellowship concept and its advantages. 98.8 percent have known that through House Fellowship Programme they could have effective ministry. 97.6 percent agreed that the lectures opened their eyes to the areas House Fellowship Programme could have effective follow up of new converts. And 97.6 percent had decided to be effective in their House Fellowship Centres to enhance House Fellowship growth and church growth. Therefore, these findings had helped the church members to have effective ministry and Christian ministries through the House Fellowship programme. Based on these findings the following are recommended to have effective ministry through House Fellowship: 1. Periodical training of House Fellowship leaders and workers should be done quarterly. 2. All the necessary officers should be chosen in House Fellowship centre for effective ministry. 3. Every Baptist Pastor should be trained to operate the House Fellowship system effectively. It would enhance an effective ministry in a local church and leads to increase church membership.

Conclusion

A manual for Effective Ministry through House Fellowship Programme in First Baptist Church, Oke-Ode Kwara State. One can draw the following conclusions from the literature review. It was concluded that the House Fellowship or home-care fellowship or small group fellowship is a place where the five purposes of the church that is, worship, evangelism, discipleship, fellowship and ministry are being taught and practiced and where greater commitment to work of God and these purposes are emphasized. The vision of the House Fellowship is to see an ever growing community connected in a healthy small group. Also, House Fellowship can be most effective when members of a church dedicate their lives and motivate others to do the same. It is important to note and conclude that House Fellowship is:

- * Infinitely expandable (homes are everywhere).
- * Unlimited geographically (you can minister to wider area).
- * Demonstration of good stewardship (free building, more money, more time for visitation, evangelism and follow up of new members and new converts).
- * Facilitate closer relationship (people are more relaxed to friendship, caring, sharing and fellowship).
- * Decentralize pastoral care (Training of House leaders and workers to become leaders or pastors of a small group of 10 to 16 members).

Furthermore, from the theological basis, it was concluded that the Bible supports the idea of House Fellowship (Acts 2:42-47, 12:1-17, Col. 4:14-48, Rom. 16:3-5). The early church met regularly at the temple, synagogues and other places for large congregation meetings. But they did not fail to meet in smaller units as in members' houses where they fellowshiped together. It was through House Fellowship that they devoted themselves to the apostles' teachings, fellowship of new

converts, caring, breaking of bread and to prayer. Also, it was pointed out that it is significant that Jesus' ministry was operated out of homes, not formal buildings. Thus, the early disciples continued the pattern of this method of House Fellowship in training, fellowshiping, follow up and discipleship of new converts.

The objective of the project is to raise the awareness of pastors and House leaders in using the House Fellowship programmes for effective ministry and Christian Ministries. This is necessary in order to provide a better understanding for church members to be dedicated and committed to the work of God through House Fellowship to enhance the church growth in areas of church membership and stewardship of service. Also, the objective has shown the church members to be effective in various methods of evangelism and how to use it for Christian ministries.

Recommendations

To have an effective House Fellowship system, the following recommendations are made:

1. This study revealed that many church members did not understand the House Fellowship concept and its advantages. It is, therefore, recommended that training of House Fellowship leaders and workers should be done quarterly, in order to equip them for the tasks ahead.
2. This study also revealed that House fellowship centers do not meet and function regularly. It is recommended that for proper functioning of the House Fellowship system, all the necessary officers should be chosen. This will allow many of the members, to participate in the fellowship, thereby, promoting personal spiritual growth and commitment to the growth of the House Fellowship.

3. This study from another perspective revealed that House Fellowship members do not participate in evangelism work. It is recommended that as a result of this knowledge to be able to promote evangelism, every Baptist Pastor could be trained to operate the House Fellowship system and thereby helping every member on how to fully participate in the evangelism work.
4. It is recommended that the church should make use of "Target Group" method of evangelism to reach different people groups. Such as: the traders, motorcycle riders, teachers, football lovers and the like, may be targeted and House Fellowship organized for them and allow them to meet at their convenience.
5. This study also revealed that House Fellowship centres do not have enough workers for House Fellowship programme. It is recommended that it will be good for pastor to have periodical seminars on church workers and House Fellowship workers on how to transform them to active workers and leaders. This will help local church to grow without lacking manpower for the work of God in the Church.
6. Furthermore, it is revealed that many House Fellowship centres are not vibrant and growing. It is recommended that a thorough training should be organized for only House Fellowship leaders and their assistants in order to move the House Fellowship forward and to help every worker and member in their duties of caring, sharing and following up of new members and new converts.