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DEVELOPING A MANUAL FOR DISCIPLÉ'S LIFESTYLE TRAINING
PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF LYDIAS OF
AJOGUN KRISTI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, OGBOMOSO

A Project Submitted to the FACULTY OF the Nigerian
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ABSTRACT

This study was centered on the spirituality of Lydias in Ajogun Kristi Baptist Association of Ogbomoso Baptist Conference, Ogbomoso. It was discovered that some of the Lydias of the association are spiritually weak through the administration of questionnaire. In view of this, a manual was drawn and five different lectures were organized and delivered to address this. Lydias of 13 churches from the association attended the organized teachings. The researcher discovered that, there were eighty seven registered Lydias from the 13 churches. Two kinds of questionnaire were designed. The first is tagged pre-test questionnaire to assess the level of awareness of Lydias and their understanding on the issues of spiritual performances. The second; post-test questionnaire was to determine the post-project understanding of the Lydias as far as the influence of living in the suburb could be on their lives spiritually. The environment is a contributor, in that some parents themselves were not spiritually inclined. Some churches have no pastor and are manned by leaders who have no testimony of salvation. Even churches that engaged pastors could not pay the pastors enough, so some of the pastors took to farming as supplements to their meager salary. Much of their energy are dissipated on hard labour therefore, spiritual aspect of their ministries are neglected. Lydias are not left out on the effect of this, on church members and church ministries. What could the younger ones learn from drunkard, fornicators and adulterers? From the project, it was also discovered that, female children are neglected in some quarters in the suburb by their parents. Some of them could not complete their secondary school education due to lack of interest in school. They engaged in premarital sex and ended up in teenage pregnancy. Their spiritual life is not only affected by parents that are polygamists but also by their peer groups. Christian virtue means nothing to them because some of them are promiscuous. Through the teaching of the manual administered, the pastors, parents and Lydias from various churches who were in attendance have gained more knowledge about the extent to which living in the district is negatively affecting or influencing Lydias spiritually. This study revealed that life in the district has negative influence on the spiritual life of Lydias living there. It is therefore, recommended that Christians should face the fact that the environment where they are living could have impact on their spiritual being. The study also revealed that living in the suburb promotes negativism against Christian virtues and values, it is therefore, recommended that Lydias living in the suburb should endeavour to be the light and the salt of the world becoming a model to be emulated by others. This study from another perspective revealed that living in the suburb does greatly discourage education of female children. It is hereby recommended that as a result of these findings, Christian parents in the district should be careful not to join others who do not value education of female children. It was discovered from this study that seminars, workshops and other spiritually enrichment programmes are not always organized in the suburb and when they are organized elsewhere, Lydias are not mobilized to attend. It is therefore, recommended that churches in the district start to organize these programmes and encourage Lydias to attend them as frequently as possible.

Conclusion

The researcher made a discovery on Lydias of Ajogun Kristi Baptist Association in the area of their academic and spiritual weaknesses. This was what was addressed throughout this work. From this project therefore, one can draw the following conclusions:

From the related literature review, it was concluded that Lydias, young girls of Baptist denomination whose lives are open to various attacks, should be given qualitative education and build them up spiritually to overcome these challenges. They are part of the society and any attack on them is an attack on the society. If our families, the church and the society will celebrate success, female education and their spiritual life should be given the desired attention.

Furthermore, from the theological basis for this study, it was concluded that the Bible has flare for young girls and women because almost in every page of the Bible, a reflection of women interest is seen. The Bible says that Christian marriage is entered to honourably, and sex before marriage is sin against God. Premarital sex carries a lot of danger for those who engage in it, their family, the church and the society. Young ladies

played prominent roles in the Bible, even when Apostle Peter was denying Jesus the Christ, there was a young lady who spoke to identify Peter with Jesus Christ.

From the study, it is clear that a number of Lydias residing in the suburb are academically weak and that they are aware that many of them are not living up to God's expectation and standard as far as spirituality is concerned. It is also clear that, life in the district is hostile to very many people and particularly to girls, they usually fall victims of rapists, sugar daddies and a host of others. Dropping out of school, marriage with unbelievers or becoming a second wife and carrying around fatherless children were aimed at to be reduced or given a total eradication.

One of the objectives of the project was to raise the awareness of pastors to the need to provide pastoral care and counselling to these Lydias living in the district. This is necessary in order to provide an understanding of the influence that living in the suburb has on education of female children and even Christian homes. Pastors are expected to see this negative influence as a challenge to pastoral care and ministry. It is also meant to sensitize Christians generally who are living in the district, its impacts on the community and on the dwellers. This will help them to live exemplary life among unbelievers.

From the analysis of the pre-test and post-test questionnaires of the project, it was clear that the objectives of this project were met. For instance, through the teaching of the manual, the pastors, parents and Lydias from various churches have become more knowledgeable about the extent to which living in the district is negatively affecting or influencing Lydias academically and spiritually. After the teaching of the manual, the Lydias decided to be committed and stand to the challenge of their education and

spirituality. In addition, parents also saw the need to invest on their children's education. They all agreed at the end to make themselves available to spiritual enrichment programmes as well as availing themselves to the opportunity of premarital counselling measures to enhancing a meaningful future. The most important thing is that the problems militating against Lydias in the suburb were exposed and the ways to arrest them were expressed in the teachings. These young girls came in agreement to embrace the ministries of their pastors, accept their presentations and ready to work together with them to overcome these challenges. There is no doubt that with this, there is a hope for today and a better tomorrow for the Lydias of the association.

Recommendations

From this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. This study revealed that life in the district has negative influence on the education and spiritual life of Lydias living there. It is therefore, recommended that Christians should face the fact that the environment where they are living may have impact on their being, including academic and spiritual.
2. This study also revealed that living in the district promotes negative Christian values. It is therefore recommended that Christian Lydias living in the suburb should be the light and the salt of the world, by the way of not being promiscuous and thus become models to be emulated by others.
3. This study from another perspective revealed that, living in the suburb do greatly discourage education of female children. It is therefore recommended that as a

