

NBTS
M. Div. Th.
14-21

EFFECTIVE PASTORAL LEADERSHIP:
A FACTOR FOR CHURCH GROWTH

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE
FACULTY OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES
THE NIGERIA BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, OGBOMOSO

2013 — 0509

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT
FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE OF
MASTER OF DIVINITY
IN THEOLOGY

BY

IDOWU OLABODE OLUROTIMI

UJ/08/NB/0094

JUNE, 2011

J.C. POOL LIBRARY
BAPTIST SEMINARY
OGBOMOSO NIGERIA

ABSTRACT

This project work deals with Effective Pastoral Leadership, A Factor to Church Growth, a case study of Shalom Baptist Association, Ibadan.

The introduction of the work deals with the background to the study. It gives the significant of Effective Pastoral Leadership as a factor to church growth. Meaning that churches can grow if the pastoral leadership of our churches are handled properly. Furthermore, some questions were raised in the introduction which the work endeavour to provide answers to. Questions like: Why pastoral leadership? Why is pastoral leadership not the way Jesus lays it down? What are the implications of pastoral leadership on Church growth? Also, some terms were defined for the purpose of the study. They are: Pastor, Pastoral Leadership, Leader, Leadership, Church and Church growth. The research work made use of descriptive survey to evaluate Effective Pastoral Leadership: a Factor to Church Growth with reference to Shalom Baptist Association. The sample consisted of nine (9) out of fourteen (14) churches in the association and the instrument employed for the purpose of the study was questionnaire. Simple calculation of percentage was used as the main statistical method for the analysis. From the analysis, it was discovered that the effect of pastoral leadership on church growth cannot be overlooked. Many churches in the association grow and was through the preaching and evangelism led by their pastors. The paper concluded with admonition to the pastor in the Nigerian Baptist Convention to make the vision of church growth first of their priorities and motivate members toward an aggressive evangelism. Some recommendations were also suggested for improvement.

The purpose of God for churches is to grow. This is evident in the great commission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to the church. The growth of the church depends on the leadership of the church especially the pastoral leadership. Pastors should encourage evangelism and make it first on the list of their vision for the church.

It is discovered that some churches grow through evangelism, majority grow through pastoral preaching, some grow through membership transfer, few grow through birth of new babies. This is an eye-opener to the pastor in the Nigerian Baptist Convention that preaching ministry and evangelism ministry of the church should be handled very well. A pastor should motivate church members toward an aggressive evangelism knowing that, there are some unsaved people outside the church which, when they are saved could be useful members of the church. Church growth is God's mind for His church. Members must grow numerically and must also be growing spiritually. Every pastor should accept the call to serve with the mind set of church growth and work towards actualizing it.

5.3 Recommendations

Since it has been established through this research work that Baptist churches can grow in a proper dimension due to effective pastoral leadership, the following recommendations were suggested by the researcher.

1. The vision of the church should be well understood both by the pastors and members.
2. Each church should embark on an aggressive evangelism.
3. Discipleship must be a vital program of the church and should be handled properly.
4. Pastors should place emphasis on church growth through evangelism.
5. Pastors should handle their preaching and teaching ministry well.
6. As servant-leaders, church pastors should be in the fore-front of winning soul for Christ.
7. Pastors should develop lay leaders for the purpose of ministry.
8. Cell group if well organized could be a means of growing churches. So, leaders should encourage it.