

DEVELOPING A LEADERSHIP MODEL FOR INVOLVING MEMBERS OF
VICTORYLAND BAPTIST CHURCH, ISOLO, LAGOS
IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the project was to address and correct the situation in which not all members of Victoryland Baptist Church, Isolo, Lagos were incorporated into Christian ministries in the church. The non-involvement of some members resulted in the stunted growth of the church. It was for this reason that the few hands available for the work of the church were recycled year in and year out; and this did not augur well for the health of the church. All efforts adopted in the past to get people committed proved abortive. In fact, general discipleship training programmes were ceaselessly organized, people assembled for tutelage but the effect was below expectation. The leadership model of involving members in Christian ministries that encompasses interpersonal relationship of reaching members for discipleship is yielding excellent results, which is expected to have a long term positive effect on the growth of the church. The project commenced with a thorough examination of the theological basis for the project through an extensive library research for due consultation of some authorities related to the project. Two questionnaires were designed and administered as instruments for the research. The first had twin phases: the first phase was used to measure the pre-project level of involvement of the Church Council members in developing people under their leadership influence in Christian ministries, while the second was to measure the involvement of the laity in Christian ministries to establish an objective basis for the claim that members were nonchalant to service in the church. The responses of the respondents showed that leaders were not preparing people enough for future leadership, they were not proactive, and their relationship building was below expectation. The attitude of the leaders affected the involvement of the followers in Christian ministries as they kept to themselves, they would come to the church for worship and go back home without the readiness to be a blessing to the body of Christ and the entire community. The responses revealed that people could be involved in Christian ministries when the right information was supplied and their involvement would make the task of Christian ministries less burdensome. Also the act of recycling people in the working crew of the church was seen as an act that could lead the church to plateau. The teachings were successfully executed and their impact on the congregation was evident in the changes that permeated the entire church. The administered Post-test questionnaires for the groups raised hope that many of the Respondents would henceforth be fully involved in Christian ministries. They were expected to be productive and relevant for the expansion of God's kingdom on earth. The above indicated that the leadership model for involving members in Christian ministries is relationship building. This involves an expression of love to the followers, ensuring that they have a sense of belonging, letting them see reasons why their contributions matter to the life of the church, and sharing in the joy of the group's achievements. The above would make members to be involved in Christian ministries; hence one man would no longer do the work of ten men, but ten men would do what is expected of them and give their reports at the appointed time.

Conclusion

The following conclusions could be drawn from the project:

First, the review of the literatures related to the project revealed that the subject of leadership is a topic that was well researched into by many scholars but unfortunately, there are few leaders. One can implicitly say here that there are more theoretical frameworks on the subject but the applications of the theoretical

frameworks are limited. Therefore, contextual applications are very necessary if the theoretical frameworks would be relevantly useful to people.

Second, in view of this project, it was concluded that the observation that many members of the church are not involved in church ministries may be one side of the story, but the truth was that congregations differ from one to another and this fact must be considered in selecting methods to be used in leadership. In fact, the accounts in the bible affirm that God equally used more than one method to lead his people. The book of Hebrews concluded that “In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things... (Heb.1:1-2 NIV)” If God would use different methods to achieve the same goal, mankind in leadership must also be willing to diversify methods to achieve the goal of involving people in Christian ministries.

Third, the conclusion was reached that not many people have enough information on how to meaningfully contribute to the life of the church, some others have the erroneous impression that Christian ministries is the prerogative responsibility of few people in the church, hence they fold hands to watch how the ministries are being run.

Fourth, under-productivity was glaring in the church, and this could be linked with the conservative leadership style being used before the commencement of this research work. Unit leaders in Victoryland Baptist Church, Isolo, Lagos were too conventional, and to make impact, they must be proactive, approachable, and ready to leave their comfort zone to get people on board.

Finally, this project would help the church to experience a new dawn, record a new history and achieve her maximum potential in church growth. Though the full implementation of the manual had been done and the evidence of the result is conspicuous in the church, follow up exercise will consolidate the tested manual especially with the plan of the researcher to sustain the innovation. In view of the above, the conclusion that the objective of involving members of Victoryland Baptist Church in Christian Ministries is achieved is not an understatement. Ministry unit leaders are proactively involved in leadership drive of members for ministries, members' response is commendable and the turnout is appreciable. Today, active involvement of members of Victoryland Baptist Church, Isolo, Lagos in Christian ministries to utilize their giftedness to honour their God is spreading like fire sparked in the dry season.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made in view of the observations and discoveries of the researcher in the course of carrying out the research as well as the conclusion drawn from the entire project:

1. It was observed that the time to administer the pre-test questionnaire to the time of teaching the manual and the time of administering the post-test questionnaire were too short for an empirical study. We might have achieved better results if the Seminary authorities had permitted a longer time frame of one calendar year for the research project. For example, the researcher started gathering materials immediately the project topic was approved but the

