

N.B.T.S

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**THE BROKEN HOME AND ITS EFFECTS ON
THE CHURCH WITH ILAJE AS A CASE STUDY**

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CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Conclusion

The Task ahead of the writer in this chapter is to deal with the conclusion and make the necessary recommendations. In the first chapter, the researcher has dealt with the introduction to the entire thesis. The writer cited a case study of Ilaje as a race and the writer's experiences about broken homes among Ilaje people. In the following chapter he was able to give four main types of marriages: viz. church marriage, legal, traditional marriage and Islamic marriage. The advantages and disadvantages of these types of marriage were spelt out, thus helping whoever wishes to take his or her choice.

The third chapter has taken care of the causes and effects of broken homes. The writer was able to search for the physical, emotional and spiritual effects of broken homes with suggestions to how they could be solved. The preceding chapter x-rayed the father, mother and children in a nuclear and not extended family. The problems that could be seen in any broken home were finally addressed. Considerations were given to cultural, biblical and church responses to a broken home.

The concluding chapter will consider the steps that could be taken by different organisations of the Church, government and individuals to guide against breakage of homes as well as steps to assist those already suffering from this problem. The researcher is not a reservoir of knowledge on this subject

because other people could still work on it in future and come out with more recent problem solving points. But the following have been given to serve as strong foundations for further research.

B. Recommendations

Apart from death nothing is as painful and devastating as a broken home. This is because marriage is expected to help build a strong family relationship. But when divorce enters, it leaves scars upon people that make them unhappy for a very long time.

Job opportunity that is expected to bring joy and happiness to every home more often than not creates a loophole for dissolution of marriage. This happens when a married woman is employed and transferred away from her matrimonial home, thus hindering her active care of both the children and husband. Following the dictates of her work she might return home very late or even spend days outside her home. The government can help in this regard by ensuring that married women especially the newly wedded are not located far away from their husbands so that they can faithfully perform their conjugal rights.

We need to enlarge our understanding of this problem. We have been ignorant of this case before feeling that every marriage was in order especially when consummated in the Church there should be an understanding that things change on daily basis. This explains why we are shocked when there is divorce. Government and the Church must create an awareness that this problem exists everywhere.

The Church must include marriage in its teaching programmes. The Church is made up of families and therefore must be concerned about them. This education could be done through sermons, lessons, seminars, prepared talks or Bible based discussions.¹

The Church should provide a good library which will serve as a source of help. The Church must budget some amount for the project annually and ensure it is judiciously utilised.

There must be a close range between the church and the wider families. No family should be allowed to be isolated. Smaller families must be brought closer to others so that they could be encouraged.²

Job or employment. The Church has the responsibility of creating jobs for the unemployed members. "Devil finds work for the idle hands," goes the adage. Some menial jobs like cleaning, sweeping, evangelism groups, theatre groups, youth clubs, etc., should be made available for those jobless people.

On health ground the Church can organise clinic within the yard where members within this group can be taken care of. Instead of people spending N2,000.00 or more if the Church takes N200.00 it will reduce their burden. If the Church cannot employ a full time doctor, a part-time or visiting doctor with good nurses could serve a better purpose.

The children of broken homes could be brought together in a house designated for such purpose with one or two people taking care of them. This

¹Martha Boone Leavell, Christian Marriage (Nashville: Convention Press, 1956), p. 107.

²Ibid., p. 109.

would increase the membership of the Church. Mary Mitchell Slessor did same at Calabar.

The Church must discourage drinking through education and emphasize pre-marital counselling (three sessions at least) so as to listen to the areas of conflict.

Encouragement could be given by the Church to married couples to learn about intimacy in marriage and family relationship.

The government through its agencies could assist the broken homes and the children of the divorced in providing basic needs for them. If this is done, it will help to have them to live well in the society. Occasional supplies of foodstuffs by both the government and the Church to both the divorcees and their offsprings will help hasten the healing of the damaged emotions.

The present orphanages provided by the government should be increased by giving them the required attention both financially and morally. They should be encouraged to see themselves as part of the society and not a menace to it.

Cultural values should also be looked into as these can strengthen marriage.