

INVOLVING YOUNG ADULTS IN CHURCH LEADERSHIP POSITIONS
AS A MEANS OF REACHING NEW GENERATION CHRISTIANS IN
AMUWO ODOFIN BAPTIST CHURCH, LAGOS.

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Michael Gbadebo Fatumo
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ABSTRACT

This project work focused on involvement of young adults in church leadership positions and evangelism. The commitment of the young adults compared with the senior adults has been at a threatening and alarming state over the years. The researcher set out to find out what had been responsible for the low level of participation of the young adults in leadership positions in the church and how to get them involved. In addition to that, the researcher intends to present those involved in leadership positions as agents of reaching the new generation Christians within Amuwo Odofin Baptist Church and its environs. Two questionnaires were administered in this project as instruments for the research. These were used as pre-test and post-test questionnaire. The former was used to assess the situation on ground at the time of research. A manual was developed by the researcher that consisted of five studies. These were implemented during church services. The studies undertaken included: the biblical concepts of involving young adults in church leadership positions; qualities of an effective church workers; Jesus' Pattern of Leadership: Servant Leadership; involving young adults in leadership positions and reaching new generation of Christians. The post test questionnaire were administered after the studies to assess the response of the participants to the implemented manual. Uni variate analysis was carried out where frequency distributions were used to describe each variable. The questionnaire were analyzed. Frequency distributions were used to summarize both pre-test and post-test questionnaires. The analysis of the findings of the manual implemented showed that there is possibility of synergizing between the young and senior adults in view of the research. It was unanimously agreed by both the senior and young adults that if the young adults are empowered for leadership and evangelism; they would better reach new generation Christians in Amuwo Odofin Baptist Church and its environs. Amongst other things, a technical committee was set up to work out the modality of involving young adults in church leadership positions. In addition to that, programmes that focus on the needs of the young adults were asked to be given priority attention.

Conclusion

It was found out that a leader who does not trust his followers or unable to delegate responsibility and wants to be seen as the only player would do all the work alone. A leader who does the work alone would be exhausted. It was agreed that everybody should be involved in church leadership. Moreover, the elderly ones are advised to be more involved in praying while the younger ones should do the running

around. When asked whether leaders are born or made, it was concluded that the circumstances around a born leader make him which means that every leader is made. The element of power and authority in every Christian gives him the right to be a leader. It was rightly observed that there are various qualities that make one a credible leader. Right attitude is very fundamental to leadership. Proper training is not negotiable as well for an effective leadership. Every leader should learn to delegate responsibility with commensurate authority. A spiritual leader should be visionary and be a good model to everyone.

Young adults should be involved in church life, mission, ministry and leadership positions. Qualifications for young adults to serve include good character, spiritual growth, devotion to service, and humility among others. In view of hindrances like lack of commitment, low self esteem, intimidation and wrong mind set of some of them, the young adults should be encouraged, enlightened, oriented and mentored so that they can be fully involved in church leadership. The young adults should be involved in church leadership because of their ability to innovate, their strength, dynamism, as well as, need for continuity.

Recommendations

Considering all the findings through the related literature review, data analysis and discussions of findings, the following recommendations are hereby presented that:

1. A technical committee be put in place to work out the modality of involvement of young adults in church leadership positions. This committee is expected to find out reasons responsible for reluctance of some of the young adults in involving themselves in church leadership positions and how to get them meaningfully

involved. This committee consists of senior adult's representative, young adult's representative and deacon's representative.

2. Programmes that focus on the needs of the young adults should be emphasized. Skills-related programs should be organized, topics such as marriage, job acquisition, relational needs and others should be given more prominence by the church.
3. An intentional mentoring approach should be adopted. This could be done in two different ways. The first one is by enlisting the young adults as assistants to senior adults who are appointed as substantive officers. The second is a relational approach whereby a leader intentionally picks up a young adult in order to mentor him or her.
4. An effective discipleship programme that is young adult friendly be adopted.
5. By introducing a dynamic approach to existing church programs the young adults interest would be rekindled. The young adults could have their own men missionary union, women missionary union, Sunday school programmes etc. that are designed to suit their purpose.
6. Senior adults should be more tolerating and be loving in correcting the young adults.
7. Young adults should adopt a positive attitude to church programme.
8. Senior adults should not look down on the young adults and to always listen to their meaningful contributions.