

CHURCH MUSIC AS A CATALYST FOR CHURCH GROWTH:
A CASE STUDY OF PENTECOST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, LAGOS

BY

OGUNYEYE JOSHUA TAYO
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ABSTRACT

This research is to investigate Church music as a catalyst for Church growth. (A case study of Pentecost Baptist Association.) Questionnaire were used and in depth review of related literature was carried out. Five (5) Baptist Churches from Pentecost Baptist Association, Lagos west Baptist Conference were randomly selected, two from Ota, one from Suberu Oje while others are from Meiran. The data were analyzed using descriptive method. It is, therefore, recommended that all churches especially Baptist churches should pay total attention to the use of church music in mission and evangelism because it is a catalyst for church growth. During the course of this research, it was discovered that appropriate church music can enhance the growth of the church if it is well handled by the church musicians and pastor. It was also discovered that the church music is a great weapon to be adopted in Church Mission and evangelism. Since music is an essential part of the social life of any culture, music cannot be divorced from the medium to interpret the doctrine of salvation, people responsibilities and as means of prayer. In addition, for music to serve as a catalyst for church growth it must embrace audience participation, dynamism of Christian worship which has to do with socio cultural heritage such as dancing, drumming and other traditional musical practices. Church music must also embrace scriptural truth. God's love, provision, and urgent response to God's redemptive work. Furthermore, if church music will serve as catalyst for church growth, Church musicians must be saved, competent and sing Godly.

5.2 CONCLUSION

This essay investigated church music as a catalyst for church growth. (A case study of Pentecost Baptist Association, Lagos West Baptist Conference) .

During the course of this study, researcher embarked on Library work by reviewing some literature books on church music and administered questionnaire in five Baptist Churches so as to decode their views on the topic.

This study has five chapters. In view of the findings, the researcher discovered that: Church Music is a catalyst for church growth. He confirmed that a singing church is a living or growing church. Throughout the church history, it is noted that a standby propelling factor for church growth is congregational singing which gives everybody equal opportunity to participate in Church worship. Therefore, music cannot be divorced

from the Bible because it serves as a **weapon of Evangelism**, and helps in interpreting the doctrine of salvation and peoples' responsibilities that lead to church growth.

Truly, church music is a catalyst for church growth because it serves as a source of drawing inspiration from God and teaches or fosters the words of God for Christian living. In addition, church music should be technically applied to mission and evangelism since it has its Biblical basis in both Old and New Testaments.

Church Music as a Catalyst for church growth: A case study of Pentecost Baptist Association, Lagos West Baptist Conference serves as eyes opener to some relevant issues to consider in using church music as a catalyst for church growth. It includes socio-cultural Dynamism of Christian worship which has to do with socio-cultural heritage in Nigerian church worship such as drumming, dancing, audience participation and other traditional musical practices. Characteristics of Church Music for church growth embraces scriptural truth, God's love, God's provision and redemption, as well as urgent invitation to respond to God's redemptive work

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this thesis, researcher came out with the following recommendations so as to make church music remains a catalyst for church growth. Researcher recommends that church music should not be taken for granted just as mere entertainment medium in church service. Therefore worshippers should take part in music not as spectators.

However, music leaders should develop rules and regulations that will keep it pure and free from worldly association.

He added that musical gadget placement or accompaniment should be put into

special consideration in a way that will not obstruct the people. Therefore, it must facilitate the congregation to sing in a meaningful tune.

The text of the songs must draw worshippers (believers and unbelievers) to the throne of God for appreciation, dedication, repentance and commitment.

Pastor and performers (musicians) should have team spirit not as spectators. Researcher recommends that choir ensembles and instrumentalists must have given their lives to Christ in order to mobilize others to use their gifts for God.

Churches in Pentecost Baptist Association; Lagos West Baptist Conference should earmark certain amount of money for music department of the church.

Researcher also recommends that if possible musicians could be paid and purchased some attractive musical instruments that will enhance the effective use of church music for church growth.

He said, misconception about the role of music in worship should be corrected and church music should be carefully chosen to meet the needs of different categories of people in the church.

In addition ,he recommends that there should be an effective planning and training of performers without creating any threatening atmosphere for proper evaluation. He added that Church music ministers to people emotionally, spiritually, volitionally and physical. Therefore, Pastor or worship leader must supply all the necessary information that will key to the themes of upcoming programmes such as wedding, burial, naming, house-warming, revival and evangelism to mention few of them. In doing this, it will allow church music to perform its significant roles as a catalyst for church growth.

Researcher said that as a matter of fact, Song Leader (s) personalities must be

acceptable by the people. For instance, He must be properly dressed, enthusiastic in nature and be a skillful song leader.

Furthermore he said, the expression of the songs must be soaked with the word of God, and that church choirs should be disciplined, trained, and punctual and alert to their duties.

Researcher also recommended that for church music to be a catalyst for church growth, music should glorify God and edify the body of Christ and it should be taught at preschool level, so as to foster self-expression.

Finally, Nigerians like other Africans are happy singing people. Hence, Christian churches should compose hymns and songs with indigenous tune. Instruments like organs which accompany by clapping and dancing that will raise the souls of people and alleviate their problems should be introduced. Researcher said by considering these recommendations, church music will ever remain a catalyst for church growth most especially in all churches in Pentecost Baptist Association, Lagos West Baptist Conference.