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THE CELL-GROUP SYSTEM AS A TOOL FOR CHURCH GROWTH:  
A CASE STUDY OF AGAPE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH, SURULERE,  
LAGOS STATE.

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## ABSTRACT

The research is titled "The Cell-Group System as a Tool for Church Growth: A Case Study of Agape Community Baptist Church, Surulere, Lagos State." It is undertaken to create awareness on the need for churches to experience growth as laid down by the Master Jesus. Many of today's churches are slow, stagnant or retarding with respect to growth. Different ideas, methods and principles of church growth have been employed but with minimal results; meaning it is time to try something different or uncommon and the Cell Group System is a tool that is yet to be annexed.

This work highlighted the different nomenclatures given to the Cell Group System, what the system is all about and what it is not. It will also deal in details with the modus operandi of the Cell Group System, with emphasis on the importance of the Cell Group System as a tool for church growth x-raying the basis for its existence i.e. biblical, sociological, historical, ecclesiastical etc. The diverse potentials of the Cell Group System as an evangelistic tool, social tool, leadership tool, welfare and hospitality tool will also be considered. The models of the Cell Group System as operated in some parts of the world, with particular attention on The Agape Community Baptist Church, Surulere, Lagos will be discussed. Leaving out the challenges and dangers on the path to the successful use of the system will not make the work complete.

The penultimate chapter of the research work will deal with the findings and analysis of results gotten from the questionnaires administered, while the last chapter will be the summary, conclusion and highlights of recommendations to the Nigerian Baptist

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Convention, Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Church pastors and leaders and the church in general.

## 5.2 CONCLUSION

Churches are all over the cities today, but the issue at hand is that there is little or no growth experienced and many of those that seems to be growing or expanding into mega churches are only getting this results by re-cycling of members from other churches and not that new members are being added like the time of the apostles. The church by her nature and essence solely exists for one reason, the one and only basis is to go into all the world and make disciples of every nation. This responsibility is usually referred to as the Great Commission – the task of discipling the nations, reconciling mankind back to God, and leading all nations to the Saviour.

The researcher's submission is that if the CGS - small group – was used by the Lord Jesus Christ in calling the twelve out of the multitude to be with Him and then sending them out to also raise others. The apostles of the early church also meet in homes and it did work. Moreover, there are men in this generation that are called father of church growth with testimonies that can be seen by all, as per the use of the CGS i.e. it is on record that Yoggi Cho has employed the use of the CGS for two decade and today the

world's largest single congregation of above 700,000 members are under is shepherding. Also Sola Aworinde of ACBC has also gone against the tide of the traditional way of churching in a typical Baptist Church to have a cell church model for growth. Then the body of Christ in general must be serious about the growth issue, with particular attention being given to the concept of CGS as a tool for church growth.

### 5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusion of this essay, the researcher hereby wishes to make some recommendations or suggestions that will be of remarkable help to the NBC, churches and pastors who intend to give the CGS a trial to achieve church growth there by fulfilling the Great Commission. The recommendations are as follows:

1. The NBC should look into the possibility of bringing technocrats like Yonggi Cho for a workshop, seminar, training etc on how the CGS works and delegates thereafter be sent abroad to understudy churches using the CGS and present a paper on how it can be used by the NBC churches.
2. That the CGS should be added as a course or seminar topic to be taught and discussed in all of the NBC theological schools, so that the pastors in training will understand the CGS and be well equipped for its use on the field.
3. That some churches should first be used for a pilot scheme to discover the problems that may arise with the use of the CGS in a multi religious and multi cultural nation like Nigeria, and also the effect on the Baptist polity, with probable solutions being proffered.
4. That the CGS be adopted, and adapted by all churches under the NBC.

5. That all churches to be planted after the teachings and training on the CGS be encouraged to start with the CGS and not the traditional system.
6. The vision of the CGS must first be shared by the pastor with the members among who will emerge later cell leaders that will take up the assignment of the CGS.
7. That the pastors of churches who intends to practice the CGS, should take time out in teaching their members. Such pastors must not be in a haste to implement the CGS because change is the most difficult thing, so there is need to wait until the members are convinced.
8. That the vision for church growth should be taught and echoed into the ears of all believers.