

DISCIPLESHIP;

N.B.T.S.
O.P.I.-d
M.A.T.S.

AN EFFECTIVE TOOL IN DEVELOPING A CHURCH
AND HER MEMBERS

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CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

The entire thesis aims at giving the picture of what a disciple can do to live as a Christian. There is no doubt that the thesis has achieved its aim in one or the other.

The effectiveness of this tool, that is, discipleship in developing Christians cannot be overemphasized especially when it is used in the way of God. The place of the Holy Spirit cannot be filled by any other thing, for it will give understanding to each person that is involved in discipleship training programme.

Also, the role of the pastor as a discipler is a good gesture that this thesis has brought out. The pastor is to see this task as a must. For example, the interview that was conducted with a member by the researcher shows that it was the pastor that initiated the discipleship programme to church.

The readiness on the part of the church members is considered in this thesis. It was noted that some members are not really ready to make sacrifice in order that they may grow spiritually, therefore, it is the role of the pastor to encourage and impress it on the members mind the importance of discipleship programme.

It is also necessary that, the members know the vision of the church for it will enhance the understanding of the members.

Recommendation

The Lord told Joshua, who succeeded Moses as the Leader of the people of Israel that;

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Joshua 1:8(NIV).

The researcher therefore gives the following recommendations for anybody who lays his hand on discipleship programme or for further researchers to work upon. Let us begin with the pastor.

Pastor is an important church worker. Therefore, it is recommended that right from the training ground, all student pastors should go through at least two discipleship training courses. Also during their supervised ministry assignment they are to disciple their church members, where they serve. There is a common statement that says "practice makes perfection". If a pastor is used to discipleship programme, this will enhance his ministry. The lesser you disciple the higher you face crisis. This is vis – vasa.

At this juncture, Pastors are developed their members to spiritual maturity. He is to get and train more leaders so as to avoid unnecessary stress and ministerial hazards. The training is to cut across the entire sections of the church. That is, the Men's Missionary Union, Women Missionary Union, Children's Section, Youth organisation and other available groups in the church are encourage to participate in the programme.

Planing For Training

"Good planning is essential if growth is to take place in (the) church."¹ This statement was said by an experienced church leader, K. Stephen Combs. He said further that "planning at the general-officer level will set the

example for planning at other levels. Planning is essential at all levels by all leaders."² The Pastors are expected to take active role in the planning, by setting up some growth strategies. The growth strategies are to give an outline of each of several plans. Since each church is special and unique, it is recommended that after prayer and submitting oneself to the Holy Spirit, the pastor of a particular time. K. Stephen suggested saying further that some of the strategies to be used by a pastor "are built around continuing training, such as Add-A-Group and Youth Enlistment projects."³ There is no doubt that prior preparation prevents poor performances. The more you put efforts into planning the more it is easier to execute.

Who are to First Disciple?

This is a good question and for us to answer this question, the researcher has explained above that growth strategies are first to put in place. Before we conclude on the strategies to be used, the pastor of the church must have known the group to consider first to be disciple, The following factors are to be looked

into:

¹Roy T. Edgemon. Equipping Disciples through Church training(Tennessee: Convention Press, 1983) P.41

²Edgemon. P.42

³Edgemon.

Group readiness: It may sound funny that sometime the youth may be ready, while the adults are busy doing or engage themselves in another things. This is vis-visa. Therefore the pastor should

Concentrate on the group that is "set for the game," that is that ready to be disciplined.

Another factor top be considered is the cultural background of the people.

Janda K. Zane in his contribution to a book titled

Discipleship: A West African Perspective, he said

In the African traditions and culture, older people made all the decisions in political, social, and religious areas. They also constitute the leadership group in various communities within Africa. Together with the Kings, elders are responsible for planning and conduction every political, social, religious and economic festivals and ceremonies that affect the people. The youths only take orders from the older men or young adults and also carry out communal responsibilities affecting everyone in the community.⁴

Cultural background is very important to be considered seriously with prayer and the leadership of the Holy Spirit and there will be a meaningful and effective discipleship.

It is to be noted that the young pastors now constitute more than 80 percent of the church pastorate and most of them are very zealous and energetic. They want to perform "wonders" in a day. They want to turn the whole world around through their ministrations. With the above explanation on cultural mentality, some "older people are reluctant to attend discipleship class and the young pastor is left with an inferiority complex"⁵ which may discourage him or try to

⁴George Janvier, *Discipleship: A west African Perspective* (Nigeria: Baraka Press and Publishers Ltd.1993). P.161

⁵Janvier

avoid trying to disciple older adults. The researcher recommends at the point that young pastors should seek the face of God before embarking on any spiritual programme like discipleship programme. The Psalmist says "My heart says of you, seek his face! Your face, Lord, I will seek." Psalm 27:8 (NIV).

Lack of formal education is another factor that can affect discipleship training. Since the programme involved reading, writhing and sometimes memorization. It is therefore recommended that adult education classes be introduced to people who cannot read and write. Reading and writing will facilitate the effectiveness of discipleship programme. In this case, the church should get adult education teachers and make provision for incentives both in kind and cash. Some churches prefer free and cheap services, if in this case we still wait for free service, it will not bring up a desired goal.