

PASTORAL CARE RESPONSE TO SOCIAL MISCREANCY
IN OGBOMOSO METROPOLIS.

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ABSTRACT

Social miscreancy among the youth is a major challenge that is wasting the lives of so many youths at this contemporary time. The challenges of the problem are alarming. The realization of the problem of social miscreancy is the motivation for this study. The study examined the crisis of social miscreants also known as Area Boys in Ogbomoso Metropolis and emphasized the importance of effective pastoral care ministry to the miscreants and encourage churches to be involved actively if need be. It was targeted at finding out the prevalence of social miscreancy, economic, social, psychological, political problems being created by the miscreants, reasons for engaging in the menace and proffer Pastoral Care response in meeting the challenges and making them responsible citizen. The study is an empirical one with descriptive survey option. A researcher constructed questionnaire, structured into two sections for both the Pastors/members on one hand and another for the miscreants was used as instrument. About 180 questionnaires forms were distributed and 162 were retrieved and collated and analyzed. The sample for the study comprised 80 Pastors, 51 members and 31 miscreants totaling 162 respondents. The data collected were collated and analyzed using Statistical Packages for Social Science (SPSS). The correlation co-efficient of the study was (0.79) which is 79 percent. Findings from this study revealed that social miscreancy is prevalent in Ogbomoso Metropolis. Also, there are many reasons why people engaged in this act like joblessness, for economic reasons, political reasons, lack of adequate parental care and peer group pressure. It was also discovered that physical and spiritual needs of the miscreants were not properly taken care of by the churches being sampled. Drawing from their input, this thesis envisions and describes a responsive model for pastoral care within communities of faith which includes physical and spiritual approaches. However, there was no significant difference between the views of the church members, Pastors and the miscreants on the prevalence of social miscreancy, the problems being created, reasons for engaging and approaches to the plight of the miscreants. Also the researcher found out that pastoral care and counseling involved special care and prayer for damaged emotions and healed memories. So, based on the above findings, some recommendations were made which includes: that the church should have a new orientation about ministry to the outside world in order to meeting social needs of their environments, both church and Government should create job opportunities to reduce joblessness, concerted effort should also be made to educate people on their rights so that no one will use them for political violence. This will help to sustain a holistic ministry that the church is expected to present which is the total wellbeing of the people expected to minister to.

5.2 CONCLUSION

Based on the outcome of this study and discussions in chapter four, the following conclusions are hereby made that the activities of the miscreants (miscreancy) is prevalent in Ogbomoso Metropolis possibly because of lack of interest by young people in science which is the basic requirements for admission into Higher Institutions in Ogbomoso: Ladoke Akintola University of Technology and Bowen University Teaching Hospital, School of Nursing, Ogbomoso; these two are Science based institutions, except for the only private College of Education in the Metropolis, and many Young people of nowadays evidently prefer riches and pleasure above hard work,

From the research work, it has been discovered that the activities of the miscreants are evident from the respondents who are both male and female. The issue of prevalence has been established as a result of the identified activities in the metropolis. The issue of joblessness came up as one of the major reasons for young and vibrant people who are engaged in these activities. The Government had failed on many occasions wherein they promised the electorate especially during the electioneering campaigns where the young and leaders of tomorrow are being promised some compensation before the elections and were abandoned to fend for themselves after the politicians had been sworn in for different offices.

The problems been created by miscreancy in Ogbomoso Metropolis are double faceted, in that, both the Miscreants and the innocent populace pay for their activities directly or indirectly. The problem includes; Social, economic, psychological and political. Culturally, it is disgusting for one to introduce himself or herself as a miscreant or rogue or to be known as one. The trauma being created by miscreancy should be looked into with the view that there is no one who cannot be useful even a

worst sinner today. Political class should be aware of the fact that every citizen of any Nation has right to dignity of life and labour and as such, those rights must be adequately respected.

There are many reasons why young people engage in miscreancy in Ogbomoso Metropolis. These ranges from joblessness, monetary gain, peer group, socio-political reasons, parental factor to societal factor. Under no circumstances will any of the identified reasons be tenable, for it was discovered that lack of endurance, laziness and busy body contributed a lot to the reasons identified.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Having done the analyses, the following recommendations are hereby made in order to rehabilitate and reinvigorate miscreants into responsible citizens. The recommendations will also assist the church to effectively respond and empower miscreants in Ogbomoso Metropolis.

1. The miscreants should be aware that extortion saddens the givers hearts.
2. Miscreants should find jobs that are dignifying so that they will be able to fend for their families properly.
3. Miscreants should learn to cope with stress of economic hardship that is bitten hard on global economy and struggled to be self-employed by looking for what they can do for themselves and not what others can do for them.
4. The miscreants should be aware of the medical, psychological, social, physical and spiritual effects of smoking of weeds, drinking of alcoholic drinks so as to prevent untimely death physically and eternal death.
5. The miscreants should be aware that no man can do well on their own except one is helped by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; therefore, accepting the free gift of God through Jesus Christ will help them to live a responsible life.

6. The church should device a means of getting in contact with miscreants in Ogbomoso for the expansion of the kingdom of God. It is recommended that the church leadership should involve the church members in aggressive evangelism outside the four wall of the church as a way of responding to miscreancy in Ogbomoso Metropolis.

7. It is also recommended that the Church should provide vocational training centers within the city so that those who could not afford to go for regular learning of trades can get it at a very cheaper rate (if not completely free), and under a very good spiritual atmosphere.

8. The members should help them to rediscover their lost self-image and self-esteem by not only given them money but create jobs for them or get them employed, so that they will not be used as a readymade instrument for political violence.

9. The Church should inculcate in the parents the need for proper family attention through family enrichment programmes, here, the parents will be adequately taught on how to be a model to their children through proper home training.

10. It is recommended that each Church should have ministry to the teenagers as a matter of urgency, in other to help the incoming generations from moral decadence.

11. As the Church is praying for the miscreants, they should also be ready to rehabilitate some of them by providing accommodation for them.

12. For the Government and political class, it is highly recommended that; Political leaders must return to God and confess their sins of playing on peoples intelligence and their rights and return to God. Leadership is a gift from God that can only yield positive dividends if it is carried out within the context of wholehearted devotion to the ultimate Giver (God). It is also recommended that government should provide Jobs for the jobless.

RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER STUDIES

It is hereby further recommended that researchers should endeavour to interact with the parents of the identified miscreants in order to help them from the psychological and social trauma of having miscreant as child or children.