

**THE MOTIVE OF THE CROWD ON EVANGELISTIC
GATHERINGS IN MODERN TIME**

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**BY
SAMUEL JONATHAN GALI**

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ABSTRACT

The motive of the crowd on evangelistic gatherings in our contemporary times is a topic that attracts the mind as the church today is being crowded by people with different motives, making it difficult for pastors and evangelist to reach them for Christ. The essay was written to find out those things that motive the crowd and how the pastors and evangelist could effectively preach the messages that will lead people to accept Christ as saviour. For the research to be successful, a questionnaire was distributed which gave the respondents to express themselves on the topic. Church denominations that are in the Sardauna Local Government were used as sample. It was discovered that among the 100 respondents who returned the questionnaire 40 of them said they were converted during crusade gathering while 50 of them were converted during revival services that were organized by their church.

With this result it could be suggested that crusade and revivals should be organized by the church. They are effective ways to bring people to Christ. The church must replace some of their elaborate programme which may not lead the unbelievers to Christ. To overcome this, the church has to make concerted efforts on teaching her members on the principles of personal evangelism. When all the members take

evangelism as a priority, the church will not only involve them in evangelism but the church will witness the increase in membership.

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human need. Their eyes seemed to see people that the rest of their society either ignored or exploited. As the hands and feet of Jesus, they reached out and ministered to these people, meeting spiritual and physical needs alike."¹⁰⁸ When we see the needs of the people and help them out, we will be doing just what Christ did during His ministry on earth.

Recommendations

For the pastors to adequately address the motives and desires of the people that join the church, the church must know her driving force, which will determine how or where they will put more of their strength or effort. These recommendations are made to help the church to carry out this work.

1. The crusade should be given enough time for preparation and awareness. Let the people being targeted with the gospel be reached before the commencement of the program.
2. Follow-up with those that decided or yet to decide should be done without delay.
3. Discipleship is the sure way to knowing and enlisting membership into the church. Much time must be given to it as the quality of the members of the church depends on the discipleship that is done.
4. Preachers and all the Christians that will get involved in bringing people to the Lord must be committed and dedicated.

¹⁰⁸ Esther Byle Bruland, Stephen Charles Mott, A Passion for Jesus a Passion for Justice (Volley Forge: Judson Press, 1983), 63.

5. Revival services which were one means, by which many of the respondents accepted Christ, should be organized quarterly and covering topics like Evangelism, Christian living, Christian giving and other subjects that will build the church.
6. Bible studies should be emphasized in all the churches as there is the lack of the knowledge of the word of God in the members.
7. Prayer and the commitment to the leadership of the Holy Spirit will help the church to break grounds in reaching areas that are considered difficult.

Conclusion

The conclusion is that both pastors and the Christians need to make concerted efforts as to the role they play in the salvation of soul. Preachers should do their work effectively and faithfully while the members must be true to what they receive from the word of God and then pass them on to faithful people who will do same. This research was carried out to establish as reasons why crowds have so much interest in the evangelistic gatherings. When the pastors know the different motives of their people, such an understanding will help them to motivate their audience to accept Christ in the process. It will also help them in the preparation of their messages.

When a person's desire or motive is identified, methods of helping the person will be realized also. But when you do not know the motives that

people come with, you will be beating about the bush in an attempt to finding how to meet them at the points of their need.