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The Impact of Leadership Conflict on the Growth of the Christ Apostolic Church
Nigeria (1990 - 2010)

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ABSTRACT

This study, "The Impact of Leadership Conflict on the Growth of Christ Apostolic Church (1990 - 2010)" is an examination of the schism, which engulfed this evangelistic and pentecostal, truly African Church from about 1990 and which has defied permanent solution up to date. Many reconciliatory attempts made within the church and out of it have proved abortive with the two main factions holding to be the authentic.

The main thrust of the study was to find out the remote and immediate causes of the leadership conflict; attempts that have been made to resolve the two-decades old debacle; why the attempts made have failed and then make recommendations for a lasting resolution.

The methodology used was to draw from primary, secondary and tertiary sources. One-on-one interviews were held with stakeholders on both sides of the conflict while a questionnaire was designed and used to collect more information from a wider spectrum of the congregation.

Based on our findings, recommendations were made for a peaceful resolution of the conflicts. Even though present day dispensation may make litigation unavoidable, the factions were encouraged to adopt scriptural approaches in resolving the conflict. A win/win, no victor/no vanquished approach should be adopted. The CACSC should willingly and in the spirit of Christian brotherhood dissolve into the main stream CACGEC while the latter in the spirit of the kingdom should wholeheartedly and unconditionally reintegrate their brothers without loss of face. The leaders of the factions were also encouraged to take more seriously the growth and unity of the church and jettison personal ego so that permanent peace

and unity can return to the fold.

congregation are also less enthusiastic about the peace committee meetings; actually what they expect is a surrender by the Supreme Council faction which controls 5% of the congregation. One other major outcome of the research is the revelation that you only know the commencement of a conflict, it is very difficult to know the end. It is also very difficult to assume and predict the resistance of a contender in a conflict. In view of our findings, we will like to make the following recommendations.

Recommendations

Scriptural Solution

Since the Bible teaches Servant-leadership, a pragmatic solution to the conflict, in the Spirit of repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation, if the splinter group the SIC which is said to controls only 5% of the congregation and assets to dissolve and be unconditionally absorbed into the main group, the GEC faction said to now control 90% of the assets and congregation of the church. All the factional leaders should fortify themselves with scriptural teachings so that the reconciliation would be in the true Christian love of win/win and no victor/no vanquished scriptural teachings (Lev. 19: 18; Prov. 20: 3, 22; 28:13; Jer. 3:22; Joel 2:12-13; Acts 3:19; 17:30-31; Rom 12:17; 1 Cor. 3:3-4; 6:5-7; 1 Peter 3:8-17).

In line with this, all Court cases should be withdrawn and terminated (1 Cor. 6:1-7) while unconditional general amnesty should be granted to members who have found themselves on the "wrong" side of the divide (Isa. 1:18; Matt. 6: 14-15; James 4: 11-12; 1 John 4: 7, 8, 12 and 16).

Constitutional and Administrative Review

A mutually agreed independent Constitution Review Committee should be set up to prepare a draft Constitution. This will be subjected to a referendum among the

the CAC Men Association, the Good Women Society and particularly some assemblies who possess the human and material resources to establish such. While the University is good and an image booster, the primary and secondary projects will have long lasting beneficial effects on the growth of the church.

Youth Development and Evangelism

The current efforts on youth development as seen in the CACGEC should be sustained and improved upon. The Campus Ministry should be reorganized and reengineered with human and material resources deployed to enhance sense of belonging and protect the future growth of the church. The establishment of the royal Shepherds is a welcome development but our youths should not be debarred from interacting with their peers in other Christian denominations. Efforts must also be made to strengthen evangelism both within and outside the country.

Need for Prayers and Fasting

Spiritually, there is no problem that prayer and fasting cannot solve (Matt. 17:21) and since the church is noted for her prayer powers, this writer will want to challenge the leadership of the church to proclaim dedicated periods of prayers particularly at stipulated periods on Sundays to seek the face of God for lasting peace in the denomination. This arrangement should continue until the desired peace and tranquility are restored. Threats, ultimatum and judicial victory cannot bring genuine reconciliation.

It is believed that if these recommendations are followed with open mind, prayers and submissions to the fact that God owns His church, peace will prevail and the church will return to "One fold, One shepherd" (John 10: 16b).