

Determinant of Church Planting in Ashanti Region of Ghana: Evidence From Ejisu

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ABSTRACT

The study adopted explanatory research design, research strategy used was cross-sectional survey, research approach was qualitative approach, population of the study were five churches, sampling size for the study were 500 samples, sampling design were the pastors, patron and a member of the congregation, source of data collection were primary and secondary sources, method method data collection were existing research and structured questionnaire, qualitative data analysis technique was used to analyzed data collected from the field. The problem statement of the study was "Determinant of church planting in Ashanti Region of Ghana: Evidence from Ejisu. The objectives of the study were achieved. With the literature review, the study considered what other writers had written concerning the topic under study. The study found out that majority of the pastors of the Pentecostal churches said God had called them to plant churches. A patron in a Orthodox Church said church planting fulfil the Scriptural mandate and a member of a Orthodox Church declared that church planting helped to win more souls and made the church to grow numerically. The study generalized that ministers of God planted churches with the motive to win souls for Christ. The study recommended that ministers of God who planted churches should study good books on church planting in order to lay the foundation of their churches on Christ Jesus. They must fast and pray so that they would be filled with the Holy Spirit.

KEY WORDS: Determinant, Church, Planting, History, Models, Reasons, Ministers, God, Factors, Prevent, Growth

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Introduction

The term "church planting" is referring to the mechanism which generate into establishment of new local Christian congregation. It differs from church advancement where new service and worship center are incorporated into already establish congregation. Before new church can be planted, it should have separate life and must be capable to function on it's own without the mother church. Church planting was the main work of apostle Paul during his missionary journeys Christianity spread to every part of the world through church planting. Christians proclaimed the gospel of Jesus and churches were planted. Church planting is the primary emphasis of Presbyterian Church in America. When the disciples of Christ focus on gospel-preaching and Bible-teaching, the end result is church planting. This helps people to understand the saving faith. A new church is established with the purpose of reaching a specific community with the gospel of Christ. Church planting is the beginning of a new congregation from a mother church . The procedure of church planting are evangelism, the discipleship of new Christians, training new leaders and organization of new church base on New Testament method. The mechanism also comprises of writing church charter, finding a place to worship and putting up new building. Church planting is the

particular concentration in the larger work of mission. Church planters are missionaries who concentrate on preaching and teaching the word of God. Some missionaries who are expert in certain skills are not regarded as church planters but minister to missionaries. These help missionaries are radio broadcasters, aviators, printers, Bible translators and medical personnel. The primary purpose of many missionaries is to glorify God in a community through establishing church. When this purpose is fulfilled, the missionaries depart from the community and go to different community to plant a church. Church planting is Scriptural.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To find out the reasons why pastors plant churches
- To find out criticisms against church planting
- To find out importance of church planting
- To find out factors that prevent church growth
- To find out factors that promote church growth

HISTORY OF CHURCH PLANTING

Ministers of God had been planting churches since twenty centuries declared by Rev. Mike Ruhi. The early church began to spread from Judea to Samaria. Christianity reached other areas of the world due to persecution which compelled early disciples to depart from Jerusalem. Apostle Paul preached the gospel to the

Gentiles but was a Pharisee and persecutor of the early church. According to Acts of the apostles Christianity spread through public preaching. During that time Christians meet together regularly in homes and in the temple at Jerusalem. This period is called Apostolic period. From the apostolic period through late second century, there was no evidence of church buildings. The apostolic period indicated that there was proved of house churches. There is scanty information about how house churches grew. After late second century, church buildings were put up. Around 380 Christianity was recognized as formal religion of the Roman Empire and convinced a lot of people to become Christians. Germanic kings defeated the areas of Roman Empire and a lot of them become Christians so that they could implement their new subject.

THESIS STATEMENT: The problem statement of the study was "Determinant of church planting in Ashanti Region of Ghana: Evidence from Ejisu". The study found out reasons why ministers of God plant churches, criticism against church planting, significance of church planting, factors that prevent to church growth and factors which promote church growth.

MODELS OF CHURCH PLANTING

Conventional church: This is centered on bringing large group of people together for worship meeting at local community. It begins with a church planter who gather a launch team of people before the church worship service is opened to the public. The traditional church plant meets as a large worship gathering once in a week especially Sunday morning. The new church begins as small group in peoples' homes the whole week. The launch team represent the foundation of the church and comprises of core group of leaders. The launch team members join the team due to personal link with the lead planter. The launch team members minister in different ministry teams in the structure of the new community in accordance with mission plan.

House church planting: It starts as a small group about 5-20 people and meet in a homes. This type of church planting is known as "Simple" because it does not demand huge staffing, buildings or large budgets. The early church started as home church according Acts of the apostles. House church grow fastily since the leaders concentrate on making disciples in a particular community.

Missional communities: This type of church planting has began to take root in United States and other countries. The size of church is just like extended family

which is 20-50 people. They have a common mission and living out gospel community in a specific neighborhood.

Psar chute church planting: A church planter and his family visit a new location with the purpose to establish a new church. The planter lacks much assistance in the new area.

Mother church planting: The existing church gives leadership, church planter and resources to start a new church. The planter goes to the location with a group of people from the mother church. There is oordial relationship between the mother church and the daughter church.

REASONS WHY MINISTERS OF GOD PLANT CHURCHES

Ministers of plant are called to plant churches and not just to share the Christian faith. The Great Commission is a call to plant church but not only make followers and baptized them (Matthew 28: 18-20). As Christians, the best way to increase the number of believers is to plant churches. Apostle Paul had two-fold mission strategy. The two-fold mission strategy of apostle Paul are: 1. He moved to largest cities of a religion (Acts 16: 9, 12). 2. He established churches in every city (Acts 1: 3). New churches make followers more ingeniously than already established churches (Matthew 28: 16-20). Stuart Murray established the first accredited Univesity church planting and evangelism degree in the United State. He accepts church planting wins unchurch people into the congregation of God. He admits that church planting is the means to introduce the gospel to mankind. Education, sport options, community centers and gun laws do not solve the problem of brokenness in a community. The best way to solve this problem is to unite a community to God through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2: 13-15). When Jesus saw the crowd of people who had no Shepherd, He said to His followers that they should pray for more harvesters (Matthew 9: 35-38). God sent Jesus Christ into the world to deliver humanity from the bondage of sin. Jesis has sent His church as laborers to make disciples of all nation. Church planting helps to handle new converts in Christ. Christ has chosen the church as the medium to manifest Himself to the world. The local church is the representative of the body of Christ. According to New Testament Studies the early church expanded through planting new churches. This is the best method to extend the kingdom of God. Base on Jesus' statement in John 10: 10 Lake Hills has taken upon himself to assist people to find the abundant life in Jesus. Presently two churches are serving more than 8000 community residents. New churches must be

planted to help the work of the harvest. About 10, 000 homes ought to be built in the Castaic area in the next 10 years. When new people enter the community, new churches should be planted to address the spiritual needs of the community. Every generation of Christians preached the gospel to humanity. Through this, new churches are planted to demonstrate the love of God.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Many authors have written articles about church planting which enlightened the general public to acquire knowledge in church planting and urged other ministers of God to plant new churches. The contribution of the authors have assisted the general public to understand the concept of Christianity and drew people's attention to perceive the need to reconcile with Christ. Notwithstanding the authors' contributions, the study consider determinant of church planting in Ejjisu community. Because of this, the study regarded what other authors had written in line with the topic under study. On 1 March, 1998 Phil Ryken wrote an article entitled "What is church planting ". Ryken said new churches were born, built up but they were established. At the time of apostle Paul missionary journeys, he planted churches. Firstly he proclaimed the gospel in the Synagogue and in the marketplaces. When people accept Jesus Christ as personal savior and Lord, they were brought together in the form of church and elders were leading them. This was not just how the early church grew but how Christianity spread throughout the world. Everywhere Christians reached, they preached the gospel of Christ and planted churches. Because of the good deeds of the early disciples, church planting is the main focus of the Presbyterian church in America. The time many denominations are fallen the Presbyetrian Church is one of the fastest growing Protestant churches in America through planting new churches. Where there is gospel-preaching; Bible teaching, church would begin in a new place. If people accept the Christian faith, new church will start with a purpose to introduce the gospel to specific community. There are various methods of planting church and one of the procedure is "core group model". With this method, a lot of Christians ask God if He has called them to plant new churches. They pray, study the Scripture and win souls until they reach a standard of wprshipping in public. Kevin and Sandra Smith are practicing this method in Washington, D. C. Through evangelism and outreach, they develop Bible study into a new church. Another method of planting a new church is to establish a daughter church. This group of Christians depart from one congregation to begin a new church. About fifty to hundred people including

church officers and a pastor devote to join the new congregation. New Life Presbyterian Church in Northeast Philadelphia has established through this method. Planting new churches involve money to help the man of God who establishing the church. God favors a church that expands His kingdom. Ben Sampson wrote a paper in 2023 entitled "What is church planting " and why it matters in 2023". According to the writer church planting is beginning a new church from existing church. God's mission can be fulfill through church planting. Church planting is root in Jesus' instruction in the New Testament Scripture. Payne says that church planting informs Christians how to make disciples and gives a paradigm for reaching villages, tribes, urban enclaves and whole cities with the gospel of Christ. If church implies people of God, then where church is , Jesus Christ is in the midst of them. Great Commission cannot only fulfill church planting. Experinced church planters like Roger McNamara and Ken Davis declare that church planting is the best strategy and the best practice for fulfilling the Great Commission. The Y-B-H Handbook of church planting says church planting fulfill the guidlines and goals of the Great Commission in the sense that churches are established in every nation, disciples are made in that nation as Jesus instructed. In the Scripture local churches are established out of existing church. Base on apostle Paul's theology and practice church planting is integral to God's mission. Despite the problems in church planting, church planting grew because it was the future of Christianity. McNamara and Davis state that apostle Paul did not stop planting new churches. At long last apostle Paul ran the race and planted churches. Church planting in the Bible lay the foundation for today's followers of Christ. Because a lot of people in the world do not know Christ. Due to this, James R. Nikkel says church planting is needed. Christopher James admits that God's mission has not been vital. If His mission will be important, then ministers of God must plant new churches. With respect to the views of the above mentioned writers, the study investigated into reasons why ministers of God planted churches, criticisms against church planting, importance of church planting, factors that prevent church growth and factors which promote church growth.

CRITICISM AGANIST CHURCH PLANTING

Theological shallowness: The leaders selected to plant churches are not equiped.

Reckless evangelism: The leaders appointed to plant churches turned the gospel to prayer instead of preaching sound of God. They preach once-savef forever saved. Critics say the main purpose of wining souls to Heaven

underesteem discipleship. Thousands of short-term mission teams, mass evangelistic strategies of the Jesus film and digital evangelism win souls but they are not helped to grow in the Christian faith.

MINISTERS OF GOD PERSONAL REASONS TO PLANT CHURCHES

Sectarianism: Most men of God plant churches because they believe they are doing is the true church. This leads to cult and not church planting.

Charisma: Men of God plant churches in the sense that they believe they are charismatic leaders. They perceive that people want to follow them and plant churches through them. This creates personal cult. A church planted based on charismatic leader shall deviate from the standard of Jesus Christ.

Competition: Some men of God plant churches to portray that their ideas are better than others who have planted churches.

Pteference: A lot of men of God plant churches just to suit their personal interest.

Boredom: Most men of God plant churches because the activities of the local are boring and outmoulded.

Escapism: Some of the doctrines of the local churches are too complex and bind the free of man. This compels some of the leaders to leave and plant their own churches.

SIGNIFICANCE OF CHURCH PLANTING

Gospel is relevant: Divine purpose is to introduce the gospel to His church. Christology must concentrate on ecclesiology which result in missiology. Proclaiming the gospel in communities generates into church planting.

People are vital: Lifeway Research indicated that in 2019 about 3000 Protestant Churches were planted in U. S but 4500 Protestant Churches were closed. In 2014 it was estimated that 4000 Protestant Churches were planted. About 3700 Protestant Churches were closed within a year. The number of churches in America is falling, America population is increasing but Americans are departing from the truth of the gospel. Existing churches should be encouraged and concentrated on planting new churches.

Great commission: Church planting is vital since community need Great Commission. Church planting is about discipleship but not just evangelism. Discipleship should be understood in the context of community. As Christians, we are called to educate the new convert in Christ to know the commandment of Jesus and to win souls for Him. Disciples make followers who should have the mindset of church planting.

The Bible is important: Church planting is not the best means to advance the gospel and achieve the Great

Commission. Church planting is vital because the ways of God are better than the ways of man. Example when the church was planted in Antioch, the gospel was introduced to a community by team from Cyprus and Cyrene and the followers were called Christians. A year after planting the church, the Holy Spirit directed the church to send disciples to plant many churches. Church planting is Scriptural and Christians should plant churches.

Because of time: Before Jesus Christ came into the world, the church was encouraging and stirring one another. The best way to this purpose is through the local church.

FACTORS THAT PREVENT CHURCH GROWTH

Church identity: This is lack of ability to create brand awareness.

Pastor burnout: The pastor is not evangelizing and nobody cares about evangelism.

Inward focus: Church leaders concentrate on internal problems of the church instead assisting others to become saved.

Growth strategy: Lack planning is acceptance to fail. Many pastors presume that their church members have gathered and enjoyed fellowship. So they believe other unbelievers will come and join the church automatically.

Preaching: Sometimes the pastor's preaching is boring, full of insult and not Scriptural.

Evangelism: This begins with the pastor lacking interest in evangelism and becomes lazy to proclaim the gospel. A church is complacent when the church does not have passion for evangelism. This makes the church leaders to concentrate on the number of the congregation.

Prayers: When the church does not meet and pray together.

Discipleship: When church members are not growing in the Christian faith and do not bring new converts into the church.

Community: When the message of the church is not addressing the needs of the people in the community.

FACTORS THAT PROMOTE CHURCH GROWTH

Spiritual dynamics: Spiritual dynamics enable a church to grow like Biblical commitment, Christ centered, passionate spirituality, regenerated membership, Holy Spirit empowered, personal prayer, corporate intercession, loving relationships, spiritual discipline and obedient lives.

Evangelism: This aspect of church growth goes with spiritual dynamics. Because churches should win souls into church, so that churches can grow. Evangelism

ought to include the following life style approach, caring for needs, desire for conversion, concentration on families, caring for new disciples, interest in church multiplication, and evangelism training.

Strategic planning: Planning and goal setting help a church to grow. Growing churches agree that what is measured improves. Many churches depend on money but growing churches plan and measure their outcome. The strategic Planning entails these: strategy, functional facilities, decision making, analysis, evaluation, take appropriate risk, set direction, objectives and established vision

Excellent leadership: The head of a church must be committed to growth, right exercise of authority, pave way for others to lead, faithful pastor, regular studies; motivating.

Productive assimilation: That is new convert coming into the church and growing churches assist new convert to know and utilize their spiritual gifts to minister to the church and those outside the church. Productive assimilation comprises of closing the back door, multiple groups, classes, ministry training, emphasis on spiritual gifts.

Inspiring worship: This entails music, pastor who loves people, passionate communication, authentic leadership; team ministry.

WHAT MINISTERS OF GOD MUST KNOW BEFORE PLANTING A CHURCH

Seek the face of the Lord: Pastors who wish to plant church should be aware that their strength cannot build the church. You must tell God build His church through you (Matthew 16: 18).

Seek confirmation: They ought to make good use of the wisdom God has placed around you. Don't take the final decision unless you have consulted your senior pastor (Proverbs 11: 14).

Knowledge: They should read books concerning church planting to acquire connection.

Connection: They must speak to successful church planters and discuss your decision to plant a new church with them. Linking with the successful planters helps to build your faith and connecting with unsuccessful church planters enable you to build your wisdom.

Pre-assessment: Pastor, if God has called you to plant churches, then finish one or more online pre-assessments on church planting. This will help you to discover if God has called you to plant churches.

Spousal support: Church planting needs the help of your partner and children. When you are planting a church, you must involve your partner and children in the decision-making process.

Formal assessment: You should involve in a multi day formal assessment. Many church planting organizations demand form of formal assessment such as behavioral interviews and written evaluation. This assists to refine your vision, confirm your calling and enables you to know your strengths and weakness.

MYTHS ABOUT CHURCH PLANTING

1 Myth: Church planting battered the parent church.

Fact: God respects the giving, that creates new leaders and trains people who looking for chance to serve.

2 Myth: Planting battered existing churches

Fact: New churches formulate new standards and promote the quality of ministry in a particular community.

3 Myth: planting does not create room for another church in a particular community

Fact: New churches planted preach the gospel to the those who do not attend church and do not convince souls to leave their churches.

4 Myth: Planting fails

Fact: New churches succeed by giving herself to training and coaching from experinced church planters.

5 Myth: A church is too small to plant new church

Fact: A lot of small churches have succeeded in helping to plant new churches.

6 Myth: Planting makes churches to break apart

Fact: This occurs in unhealthy churches that are about to divide.

GOOD QUALITIES OF CHURCH PLANTER

Vision: church planter should have a clear vision of God upon his life. The vision comprises of God's design for the church, the name, logo, location, mission and purpose of the church.

Launch team: John Maxwell says a person who thinks he is leading but has no disciples is just walking. Getting people who follow you during church planting is vital. Church planting cannot be a solo project. The mechanism of developing from church dreamer to church planter begins with getting more people.

Faith: Without faith, no can please God. So church planter ought to exercise faith in Christ. Unweaving faith reveals the glory of God.

Prayer: Church planter must be a man of prayer and not just praying but act after prayers. If he does not pray, he cannot plant the church with his wisdom.

METHODOLOGY

Introduction

This chapel deals with research design, approach, strategy, population of the study, sampling design,

sample size, source of data collection, method of data collection; method of data analysis. The study used explanatory research design because it was the best procedure to examine and explain the data collected from the field. The research strategy used was cross sectional survey since a group of churches were chosen as case study. The approach to the study was qualitative because the study investigated into the reasons why ministers of God planted churches. The population of the study, sample size, source of data collection, method of data collection, analysis and sampling design were thoroughly examined.

SAMPLE SIZE: The sample size for the study were 500 samples.

SAMPLE DESIGN: The patrons, a patron and a member of the congregation were considered.

POPULATION OF THE STUDY: Five churches were the target population of the study consisting of Orthodox and Pentecostal Churches. The names of the churches were The Hand of God Ministry, Ebenezer Methodist, Combination of the body of Christ, Jesus Christ International Ministry and Methodist Church of Ghana

SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION: The source of collecting data to write this paper were primary and secondary sources.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION: The procedure used to collect data to write this paper were research and structure questionnaire. Structured questionnaire were used as data collection instrument. The questionnaire were distributed to the church leaders, read to the congregation and solutions were provided.

METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS: Qualitative data analysis technique was used to analysis the data collected from the field.

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

Introduction

This chapter covers the analysis of data gathered from the field. Qualitative analysis technique was utilized to analyze the data and the outcome were as follows:

RESPONSE FROM THE CONGREGATION

Religious denomination: Pentecostal

Position in church: Pastor

Sex: Male

Congregation's on the reasons why pastors plant churches

"To save souls, also teaches the life how to conduct yourselves in the society": He accepted that church planting helped to deliver sinners from their sinful state of being. It enabled man to know how to behave properly in the society.

Congregation's views on Pastor's perceptions about church planting

"They are apostles of God and also teachers who lead us to heaven": He accepted God had called him to plant churches so that he could educate God's people to know the way to reach Heaven.

Congregation's views on significance of church planting

"To save lost souls to God"

"To teach the community to know God and to leave well life": He believed church planting helped sinners to establish relationship with God and enabled a community to live good life.

Congregation's views on factors that prevent church growth

"Like of commienment of the pastor, money aubusement, not taking good care of the sheep, not praying for the": He admitted that living selfish, careless life hinder church growth.

Congregation's on factors that promote church growth

"Committent, prayer for the soul growth, using money for project it given to": He accepted that church could grow if the pastor sacrificed for the spiritual and physical well-being of the congregation.

Congregation's views on how years a new becomes established

"Jesus Christ used 3 years to establish apostles. There is no clear years in the Bible I know": He admitted a church could be establish within three years or more than three years. To be specific there was no date for a church establishment.

Congregatuon's views on problems in church planting

"Finance, place to stetle influence of the world and problem in society": He accepted poverty, accomodation and cultural problems in a particular society.

Church Name: Combination of the body of Christ

Religious Denomination: Pentecostal

Sex: Male

Position in Church: Associate Pastor

Congregation's on reasons for church planting

"To fulfill the purpose of their being or mission of their calling": He believed that pastors were ordained to plant churches.

Congregation views on pastors' perception about church planting

"They are spreading the kingdom of Yahweh Elohim": He accepted that God wanted pastors to plant church in order to make gospel known to people.

Congregation's views on significance of church planting

"It prevent pastors from being guilty in the final judgement": He admitted that pastors who failed to plant churches would be condemned on the judgement day.

Congregation's on factors that prevent church growth

"Being selfish in ministry, going by dogmatism instead of doctrine": He believed pastors interested in their own well-being and rejected teaching sound doctrines hinder church growth.

Congregation's on factors that promote church growth

"Avoid tradition or doctrine and move on with the main doctrine which is Christ": He believed a church could grow if pastors rejected the tradition of men. They should teach the doctrines of Christ.

Congregation's views on years a new church become established

"Seven years but the earlier depends on the senior minister": He accepted that a church could be established within seven years and the fast growth of the church depended on the head pastor.

Congregation's on problems in church planting

"Condemnation or stress": He admitted that church planters were judged by people that they were not genuine men of God. Not getting church members put them under stress.

Church Name: The Hand of God Ministry

Religious Denomination: Pentecostal

Sex: Male

Position in Church: Pastor

Congregation' views on reasons for church planting

"Pastors plant churches because the Lord Jesus Christ gave us commandment to do so. According to Matthew 28: 19-20; 16: 18-19: He believed God had instructed pastors to plant churches so failure to do so was a sin.

Congregation's views on pastors' perception about plant churches

"I see pastors who plant churches, they are really doing the purpose of and the will of God other than those who preach without plant churches ": He accepted that pastors who planted were fulfilling Scripture.

Congregation's views on significance of Church planting

"Church planting kills the worship of idols, saves souls from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of God and does powered God to move": He admitted church planting discourage the people from worshipping idols, helped sinners to become children of God and enabled people to experience divine power.

Congregation's views on factors that prevent church growth

"Sin can hinder church growth, rejecting the holy spirit hinder church growth and not using the gift of the holy spirit ": He accepted that living below the standard of God, failure to follow the voice of the Holy Spirit and not applying the gifts of the Spirit prevented church growth.

Congregation's view on factors that promote church growth

"Teaching vividly, using the gift of the holy Spirit in the church, evangelism at all times and praying at all times": He believed prayers, depending on the Holy Spirit and proclaiming the gospel of Christ promote church growth.

Congregation's views on years a new church become established

"There is no year that has been ordered for new church to grow, it is the work of the holy spirit and depend on the grace that is upon the church ": He admitted there was no fixed date but depended on the favor of God.

Congregation's views on problems in church planting

"Financial problem hindered church planting, soul reapers who will devote themselves to help the church is difficult find them": He believed had retarded the progress of church planting and there was lack of committed soul winners to help plant the church.

Church Name: Ebenezer Methodist

Religious Denomination: Orthodox

Sex: Male

Position in church: Patron

Congregation's views on reasons for church planting

"To be true to the biblical mandate": He believed that the Bible has instructed pastors to plant churches.

Congregation's views on pastors' perceptions about church planting

"True followers of Christ ": He accepted that planted churches to show that they were the footsteps of Christ.

Congregation's views on significance of church planting

"Helps to build ourselves on the word of God": He admitted that church planting helped people to acquire knowledge about God.

Congregation's views on factors that prevent church growth

"Poor leadership": He accepted that if the leadership style was poor it hindered church growth.

"Ignorance about the importance of attending church": He admitted that when people did not value the need to go church.

Congregation's views on factors that promote church growth

"Prayer, effective evangelism": He admitted that praying for the progress of the church members and proclaiming the gospel of Christ.

Congregation's views on years a new church becomes established

"It depends on how you invest physically and spiritually": He believed a new church become established base on pastors' spiritual and physical preparation.

Congregation's views on problems in church planting

"Spiritual warfare, money, developing team": He accepted spiritual forces, money and lack of team work were problems faced by new church.

Church Name: Methodist Church of Ghana

Religious Denomination: Orthodox

Sex: Male

Position in Church: None

Congregation's views on reasons for church planting

"To win more souls and help the church grow in numbers": He believed assisted to draw sinners to Christ.

Congregation's views on pastors' perceptions about church planting

"They help to send or spread the message of God to all comers: He believed that through church planting the gospel will spread to the other part of the world.

Congregation's views on significance church planting

"Spreading God's word, building the church members, winning souls" He accepted that church planting helped people to hear the gospel, built the spiritual life of the congregation and drew sinners into the congregation.

Congregation's views on factors that prevent church growth

"Over monetization of the church, discrimination, not adhering to time": He admitted that favoring some of the church members than others and lack of proper time management hinder church growth.

Congregation's views on factors that promote church growth

"Good doctrines, putting up welfare plans for church members": He admitted that sound doctrines and replacing structures that would help the welfare of the congregation.

Congregation's views on years a new become established

"It depends on several factors including the area the church is being planted ": He believed before a new church becomes established it depended on cultural situation of the area the church was planted.

Congregation's views on problems in church planting

"Lack of funds, lack of commitment, finding a good location, convincing people to join the church": He accepted that poverty, lack of zeal to help the work of God and people were not willing to attend church.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The study discovered that the term "church planting" was referring to procedure that generated into establishment of new local Christian Congregation. Christianity reached the other parts of world due to persecution which compelled the early disciples of Christ to depart from Jerusalem. Models of church planting were conventional church planting, house church planting, missional communities, psrachute church planting and mother church planting. God had called His ministers to plant churches and not just to share the Christian faith. The leaders selected to plant churches were not equiped. Many men of God plant churches in the sense that they believed they were charismatic leaders. Divine purpose of church planting was to introduced the gospel of Christ to His church. Church leaders fooused internal problems in the church instead helping other to become saved. Evangelism promoted church growth and goes with spiritual dynamics. Ministers of God who wanted to plant new churches must understand that they could not plant new churches through their own knowledge and wisdom. Various myths about church planting were found and facts were provided. Church planters should have clear divine vision upon their lives. . Base on the data collected from the field the study investigated into two denominations namely, Pentecostal and Orthodox. Majority of the Pentecostal churches' pastors said God had called them to plant churches. It was one pastor who declared that church planting saved sinners and taught them how they could conduct themselves in the society. With respect to importance of church planting the pastors stated various views like church planting helped them not to be guilty on the judgement day, to deliver lost souls to God and church planting collapsed idol worship. A patron in a Orthodox Church stated his reason behind church planting as to be sincere to Scriptural mandate. One member of the Orthodox Church said church planting assisted to win more souls and made the church to grow numerically Concerning the importance of church planting the patron said it assisted to build ourselves on the word of God. The member of the Orthodox Church declared that church planting helped to spread God's word, built the church numerically and won souls.

CONCLUSION: The study found out that the main reason ministers of God planted churches was to win souls for Christ. Due to the above mentioned factor, the study generalized that ministers of God planted churches with the intention to win souls for Christ.

RECOMMENDATION

Study: Minister of God who are called to plant churches should study good books on church planting so that they can lay the foundation of their churches on Christ.

Prayer and fasting: Ministers of God who are church planters must pray and fast in order to be fulfilled the Holy Spirit

AUTHOR'S PROFILE

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