

Full Length Research Paper

Proliferation of churches in Nigeria: Causes, impacts and likely solutions

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The study aims to estimate the effect, causes and probable solutions of church proliferation in Nigeria. The study was based on the analysis of fifty structured questionnaires that were distributed among people both in and out of Churches of different denominations using purposive sampling technique method. Statistical descriptive method was used to analyze the information collected from the respondents. The result of the study reveals that the economic downturn being experienced in the nation causing lack of job and hardship is the major cause of church proliferation in Nigeria, and that church proliferation has overall positive impact. However, the negative side of it is more acute and has covered up the good side of it which makes people to see church proliferation as a menace to the nation.

Key words: Church, church proliferation, springing up, impact, church planting, alarming rate, church growth, general overseer, business organization, livelihood, congregation, pentecostal, stomach pastors, evangelism.

INTRODUCTION

The rate at which churches are springing up in Nigeria is alarming, almost every street in the nation has at least two churches not counting (put in consideration) the rooms and parlous (sitting rooms) which are converted to churches as revealed by a study which collaborated the redeemed Christian church of God five minutes walkable distance church planting vision across the nation. But as the number of church increases so also is the crime rate which ought not to be, and these call for urgent attention.

The proliferation has no positive impact or brings negative effect on the nation which makes people doubt if

churches have not been turned into business ventures, and to the extent that the Government wants to place taxes on churches like other business companies in the nation which will confirm churches to be business organizations. The increase in the Bible Schools and Colleges without regulation in this nation also contributed to the increase at the rate churches are springing up. Most students (Christians) especially jobless graduated Bible College students see it as a license to plant/open a church after completion of the college without considering the necessity of God calling. By this act, churches have

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been turning to business ventures with different names, missions, ideas and general overseers (GOs) without any positive impact on the country.

The reason why we are having four churches sharing the same plot of land with different names and three churches occupying a two-story building thereby leading to increase in the number of churches on a street is the major concern and focus of this study.

Aim and objectives

This study aims to evaluate the impact of the proliferation of churches in Nigeria. This is to;

1. Examine the cause(s) of the proliferation of churches in this nation.
2. Find out the impacts (both negative and positive) on the People, Religion and nation as a whole.
3. Provide the likely solutions to the church proliferation.

Statement of the problem

The list and names of churches in this nation is inexhaustible and incomplete. Churches springing up at will, rooms and sitting rooms are being converted to churches more than shops or business organizations without any meaningful impact. This study aims to find answers to the following researchable questions;

1. Why do we have many churches in Nigeria?
2. What cause(s) church proliferation?
3. Are the churches turned into profit making business venture?
4. What are the aims, intentions and missions of pastors establishing churches with different names?
5. What is the impact of church proliferation on the people, religion and Nation as a whole?
6. Is church proliferation a fulfillment of God commission to all men?
7. What are the steps to take in curbing this nemesis?

Significance of the study

The rate at which churches are springing up is the same with the way crimes and corruptions are spreading all over the nation. As the number of churches and pastors increases so is the atrocities perpetrated increases in the nation, instead of the other way round. The spreading of churches all over the nation that ought to bring reduction in crime and corruption rate has no impact or to rightly put it has negative impact. This study is going to find the reason(s) why the spreading of churches has negative impact, and also aims to examine the cause(s) of church proliferation in the nation that has no effect.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Churches are noted to be springing up at an alarming and unprecedented rate in all available spaces, shops, warehouses, hotels, sitting rooms, uncompleted building, both private and public school premises to mention a few. The proliferation of churches in Nigeria today is as a result of numerical strength of churches which was a result of church growth. This rapid multiplication of churches according to Ibiyinka (2011) borne out of the understanding that there is freedom of religious worship in Nigeria. The society is witnessing proliferation of churches which has brought changes in values, created job employment, Western Education by establishing both Elementary and Tertiary Institution and Hospitals. Likewise it is a great source of solution to people's problems.

However, the negative effects brought about by the proliferation of churches are over riding the good side of it which is reflecting in the current situation in the country where corruption and moral decadence are the order of the day. It is sad and disheartening that the springing up of churches nowadays fails to stop or reduce moral decadence in the society which ought to be the major impact of churches in our society. Many people were using the spreading of churches like wild fire for means of livelihood which flicked in our society for not becoming upright and not peaceful. There have been and still are many hot and cold wars in the name of religions according to Fayomi (1993) and confirmed by Nigeria Newspoint (2015).

The present rate of church proliferation in the country is such as having a minimum of fifty different churches on a street of few kilometers long, having some or more different churches sharing the same story building in Urban Areas and Cities where there are lack of space . This situation made the columnist of the Nigeria Newspoint (2015) categorically asserted that Nigeria is a country with the largest number of churches per capital in the world" and that Nigeria has become a fertile soil for the growth of independent churches. Many greedy pastors were taking advantages of freedom of worship or religious practices to launch new churches, religious organizations and societies as a means of livelihood, encouraging robberies, stealing, corruptions and crimes by praying for members that brought or donated a huge amount of money as gifts or worship offerings without propping to ascertain the source of the money.

The negative impacts on the nation is not peculiar on the proliferation of churches alone, the spreading of the two major religions, Christianity and Islam in the nation which led to increase in churches and mosques, in turn led to increase in the number of Pastors and Muslim clerics which has a negative impacts on the leaders at the helm of affairs of the nation. According to Olagoke (2016) a Muslim cleric, the propagation of the two religions has failed the nation and has no positive influence on the national leaders which resulted to the present economy

recession, wide spread corruption, high rate of criminal activities and corrupted leaders in the nation. The national leaders are under the teachings of either Pastors or Muslim clerics which ought to have positive impact on them, and this has reflected in the governance of the nation if the pastors and the Muslim clerics perform their roles as priests of God and not priests of stomachs. The way of governance and high rate of crimes witnessing in the nation are clear evidence of negative impacts of the proliferation of both churches and mosques on the nation, Nigeria.

CAUSES OF CHURCH PROLIFERATION

The following are some factors responsible for church proliferation in Nigeria:

1. Unemployment: The major causes of springing up of churches in the country is unemployments, most graduates being produced in our educational institutions do not have job opportunities and our institutions are still bringing out graduates every year which increase the number of jobless graduates in the country, some of them looking for means of livelihood undergo six month courses in one of the Bible Colleges in the nation and thereafter establish church without receiving any call and there by become General Overseers and gradually get on with life, open branches, spreading nationwide and adding to the numbers of churches in the nation.
2. Love of money: Many people because of love of money are using churches or religion to dupe innocent believers of their resources such as buildings, cars, properties and money by deceiving them with fake/false prophecies. Many see churches as a good venture where "cool" money can be raked in without stress and by this move out of their churches to go and establish their own with different name in other to be in control of such money.
3. Position and power: Nobody want to serve, everybody want to be the founder, general overseer and a master having many people to serve him. For this reason, they engineer little quarrel in their present church, take few people (members) along to establish their own church.
4. Worldly materials: Many people even the so called "Men of God " want to ride a bullet proof jeep, to build castle all over the world, to have personal private jet, to own a treasury and to be in possessions of all the money in the Church and that is why according to Shionwu (2012) in an interview granted said some churches were calling their congregations "customers" and bury all sort of things including life cows in other to attract people which led to having fifteen churches on the same street bearing different names.
5. Economic recession in the country which resulted into increase in poverty levels of the citizenry have led some people to convert their living room into churches since they can quotes some verses of the Bible and there after

intensify the growth of their churches.

6. Unhealthy rivalry among churches, pastors, ministers of God and even within the church: Boasting on the number of branches, pastors and congregations in their churches is a major problem in honoring the General Overseers in the society.

Others factors as said by Falayi (1998) include rapid evangelization, beliefs and practices, genuine thirst for spiritual nourishment, theological issues, fanaticism and leader tussles. The major church proliferation was observed at the end of 1973 revivals and crusades that served as a venue by which Pentecostalism got introduced into the country. Adamolekun (2012) the resultant effect was the springing up of new churches out of the parent churches on basis of lack of divine healing, baptism of the Holy Spirit and other Pentecostal manifestation in parent churches. Some of the churches established were for genuine reason of evangelism such as deeper life church, redeem Christian church, gospel faith mission while some were established for commercial purpose which led to the birth of proliferation of churches.

IMPACT OF PROLIFERATION OF CHURCHES

The proliferation of churches in Nigeria has both merit and demerit. One of the major positive social impacts of church growth which led to church proliferation is seen in the number of churches all over the country that established Nursery and Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and Universities which provided job opportunities for many people, likewise Teaching Hospitals and Mission Hospitals are also established by these churches that provided good health care services and job opportunities to many people.

People with different kind of spirituals and physicals problems got solutions to their problems through revivals and crusades organized by these churches that brought healing, deliverance from the bondage of oppressing powers and miracles. It makes people to realize that Nigeria is very religious and that many Christian churches abound in the country (Adamolekun, 2012). Another impact is the formation of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) which stands as a pressure group and an umbrella which Christians use as a mouth-piece to fight any injustice or government politics that are against the interest of the Christians in the nation. Other merits include rapid evangelization, development of new leadership, provision of check and balance to orthodox churches, promote specialization in ministry and enhance the provision of an atmosphere in which human problems are at times solved. On the other hand, the negative impacts of Church Proliferation are as follows;

1. Noise pollution: The major problem of springing up of churches all over the nation is the noise pollution; it has

been described as an unwanted excessive harmonious sound that has undesired physiological and institutional effects on individuals. People living side by side with the church constantly experienced noise pollution emanating from blaring loud speakers at no respect to time in the day even worst during the night, which can cause noise induced hearing loss which can also lead to stress induced ailments like hypertension, diabetics and psychiatric problems. Noise can disturb sleep which can affect mental functioning and judgment.

2. Traffic congestion: Every street where churches are located always experience traffic jam during the churches special programme, for example there are always traffic jam on Lagos – Ibadan express way whenever one of the churches located along the route was having a special programme especially those conducted monthly which was always characterized with slower speed, longer trip and increase queuing which cause inconveniences to other road users. These can lead to three major environmental effects such as psychological and physiological effects due to longer time spent in the traffic jam. Secondly, there will be economic loss; some business appointment will not be met due to the hours spent in the traffic jam and also there is uncertainty and unreliability in every service of the vehicles. It can also lead to death of sick patient rushing to the hospital. The exposure to carbon monoxide by the people in the traffic jam can lead to Asthma, Bronchitis, Lung and Heart diseases and respiratory allergies. It can cause skin cancer and upset immune system.

3. Collapse of abandoned occupied building by churches due to the lack of space in the cities and urban areas: Churches occupy abandoned buildings around which can give way anytime and can cause injury or great calamity to the church or one of its congregation.

4. Improper ventilation: Air as informed by the medical experts serves as nourishment to our bodies just as much as food as drink. As mentioned earlier, churches use available space especially in urban area which will deny worshippers and people in the neighborhood to enjoy proper ventilation which can lead to the shortage of oxygen supply to the blood that can result to mental disorder. The other negative impacts mentioned by The Leader News Online (2015) are personality clashes, unhealthy competition for convert via homiletically propaganda, lack of unity, monetary crises, heresies, fanaticism and bickering. Also, the doctrinal differences that emanate as a result of split usually confuse the members of the churches.

Likewise, some churches are established for commercial purposes with the aim of enriching the founders at the expense of the congregations, Nigeria Newspoint (2015). Although churches proliferation has certain demerits as noted earlier, but Adesanya (2011) note that they are not strong enough for total commendations of the phenomenon. This is because according to him, Jesus

was reported in the bible to have said that the gospel should be preached to all nation (Mark 16:15) and Paul in Philippians 1:15 to18 support church proliferation for the expansion of the kingdom of God. This is because religion is not fossil but a living and dynamic phenomenon that will surely continue to increase.

LIKELIHOOD SOLUTION

Solutions to the negative impact brought about by church proliferation lie greatly on the effectiveness and readiness of government of the nation to enforce the laws of the land such as environmental law against noise pollution. If the enforcement of the law of environment on public noise pollution as implemented by Lagos state Government of Nigeria on June 18 and October 28, 2009 where by one of branches of Redeems Christian church of God and Mountain of fire church were shut down due to the use of Public Address System which caused disturbance to their Neighbors.

Likewise, the sunday service of Holy Life Bible Church was stopped and the door of the Church shut due to the disturbance of neighborhood with the public Address system by Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency, LASEPA (Daily Champion 2009), so if this law can be enforced nationwide the noise pollution will be reduced. Also, the agents of Government that deal with the inspection and approval of Building plans can be effective in their duties and make sure any church building plan that does not have provision for car park and well ventilated plan should not be approved and also inspecting the existing building used by churches to see that they are not occupying degenerated abandoned building that can collapse anytime.

Churches can be helpful in reducing the noise pollution by avoiding outside public address system usage during their programmes, to put themselves into the shoes of their neighbours. Also churches should try as much as possible to take full control of traffic around them during their services, to avoid traffic jam in their located areas. The teachings of General Overseers and Pastors in charge must be on Holiness and Righteousness that will be able to change moral decadence of the People in other to reduce the corruption and atrocities that are prominent in the nation which is underrating the positive impact of Church Proliferation.

DISCUSSION

Section A: Bio data result

Respondents (70%) as shown in Table 1 falls between the age range of 20 and 39 years, while other age ranges shared the remaining 30%. Male respondents were 58% while 42% were female (Table 2). Table 3 shows that 60%

Table 1. Age range.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
10-19	6	12.0	12.0	12.0
20-39	35	70.0	70.0	82.0
Valid 40- 59	6	12.0	12.0	94.0
60 and above	3	6.0	6.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

Table 2. Gender.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Male	29	58.0	58.0	58.0
Valid Female	21	42.0	42.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

Table 3. Marital status.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Single	30	60.0	60.0	60.0
Valid Married	18	36.0	36.0	96.0
Divorce	2	4.0	4.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

Table 4. Occupation.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Trader	9	18.0	18.0	18.0
Civil servant	27	54.0	54.0	72.0
Valid Applicant	4	8.0	8.0	80.0
Others	10	20.0	20.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

of the respondents were single, 36% were married while 4% were divorce. 54% of the respondents were working with government, 18% were traders, 4% were looking for job while 20% were engaging in different kind of works that were not given options to in the questionnaire distributed (Table 4). All the respondents were Christians as shown in the Table 5. Above. The Table 6 shows that 18% of the respondents were Catholic, 56% were Pentecostal, 16% attended white garment Church and 10% were Anglicans. Half of the respondents attended all weekly church services, 30% every Sunday, 6% once a month while 14% attended occasionally (Table 7). 72% of the respondents were workers in their church while 28% were just members (Table 8). As shown in the Table 9, 94% of the respondents were members of at least one group in the church while 6% did not belong to any church

group. Table10 shows that 76% of the respondents have attended at least one church before their present church while 24% have not change from their first church

Section B: Results

60% of the respondents agreed that lack of job contributed majorly to the cause of church proliferation, 12% sit on the fence while 28% disagree as shown in Table 11 and Figure 1. It was confirmed in the Table 12 and Figure 2 by respondents that different doctrines and beliefs of churches cause church proliferation while just 10% disagree and 8% did not take any decision. Likewise, 82% believed that not all pastors were called by God, only 2% disagree while 16% were indifferent.

Table 5. Religion.

Variable		Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Valid	Christianity	50	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 6. If Christianity, what denomination?

Variable		Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
	Catholic	9	18.0	18.0	18.0
	Pentecostal	28	56.0	56.0	74.0
Valid	White garment	8	16.0	16.0	90.0
	Anglican	5	10.0	10.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

Table 7. How often do you attend church service?

Variable		Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
	All weekly activities	25	50.0	50.0	50.0
	Every Sunday	15	30.0	30.0	80.0
Valid	Once a month	3	6.0	6.0	86.0
	Occasionally	7	14.0	14.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

Table 8. Are you a church worker?

Variable		Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
	Yes	36	72.0	72.0	72.0
Valid	No	14	28.0	28.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

Table 9. Which group do you belong to in the church?

Variable		Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
	Men group	10	20.0	21.3	21.3
	Women group	13	26.0	27.7	48.9
Valid	Church worker	17	34.0	36.2	85.1
	Ministers / pastorate	7	14.0	14.9	100.0
	Total	47	94.0	100.0	-
Missing	System	3	6.0	-	-
Total		50	100.0	-	-

Table 13, 14, and Figure 3 shows that 72% agreed that the love of money is the root of church proliferation, 12% disagree while 16% sit on the fence. It was shown in Table 15 and Figure 4 that 84% supported that power tussle in the churches also lead to church proliferation, 6% disagree

while 10% cannot decide. 64% of the respondents agreed that some churches of nowadays have turned to business ventures while 20% did not support the point and 16% were indifferent (Table 16 and Figure 5). 60% agree that increase in bible colleges contributed immensely to the

Table 10. How many churches have you attended before?

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
1	12	24.0	24.0	24.0
2	22	44.0	44.0	68.0
Valid 3	5	10.0	10.0	78.0
4	7	14.0	14.0	92.0
5 and above	4	8.0	8.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

Table 11. Increase in the number of jobless people is the major cause of church proliferation in this nation.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Strongly agree	6	12.0	12.0	12.0
Agree	24	48.0	48.0	60.0
Valid Indifference	6	12.0	12.0	72.0
Disagree	8	16.0	16.0	88.0
Strongly disagree	6	12.0	12.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

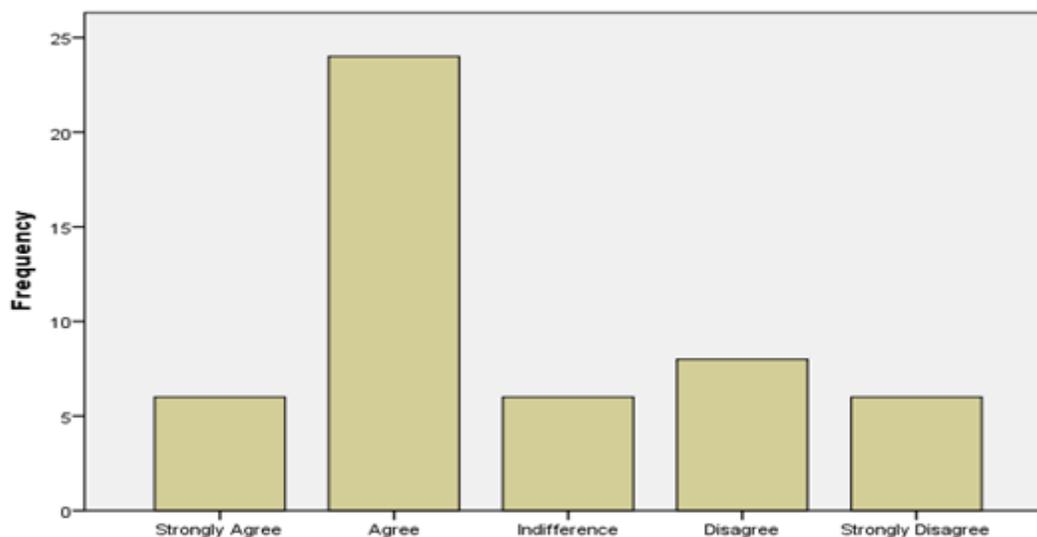


Figure 1. Increase in the number of jobless people is the major cause of church proliferation in this nation.

Table 12. Different doctrines and beliefs of churches cause increase in the number of churches springing up in this nation.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Strongly agree	19	38.0	38.0	38.0
Agree	22	44.0	44.0	82.0
Valid Indifference	4	8.0	8.0	90.0
Disagree	4	8.0	8.0	98.0
Strongly disagree	1	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

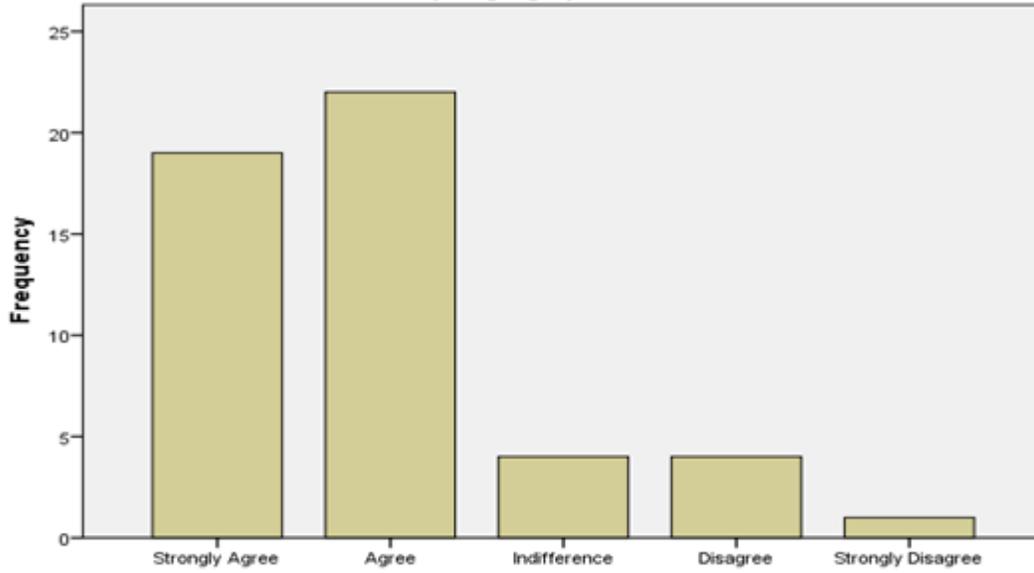


Figure 2. Different doctrines and beliefs of churches cause increase in the number of churches springing up in this nation.

Table 13. Not all founders, general overseers or pastors receive call from God.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Strongly agree	34	68.0	68.0	68.0
Agree	7	14.0	14.0	82.0
Valid Indifference	8	16.0	16.0	98.0
Strongly disagree	1	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

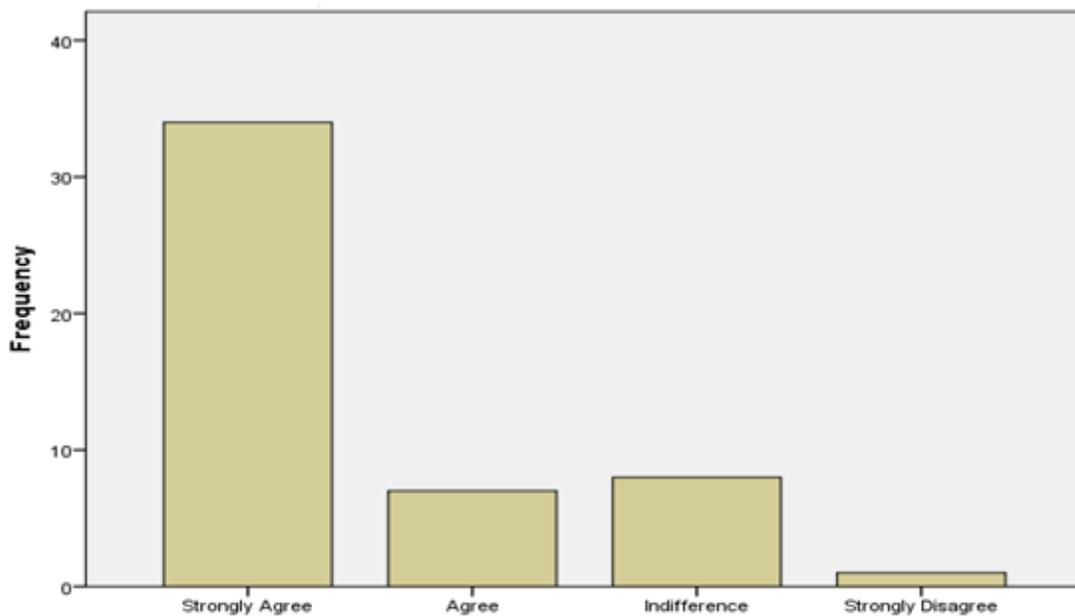


Figure 3. Not all founders, general overseers or pastors receive call from God.

Table 14. Majorly the love of money is the root of church proliferation being witnessed in this nation.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Strongly agree	28	56.0	56.0	56.0
Agree	8	16.0	16.0	72.0
Indifference	8	16.0	16.0	88.0
Agree	3	6.0	6.0	94.0
Strongly disagree	3	6.0	6.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

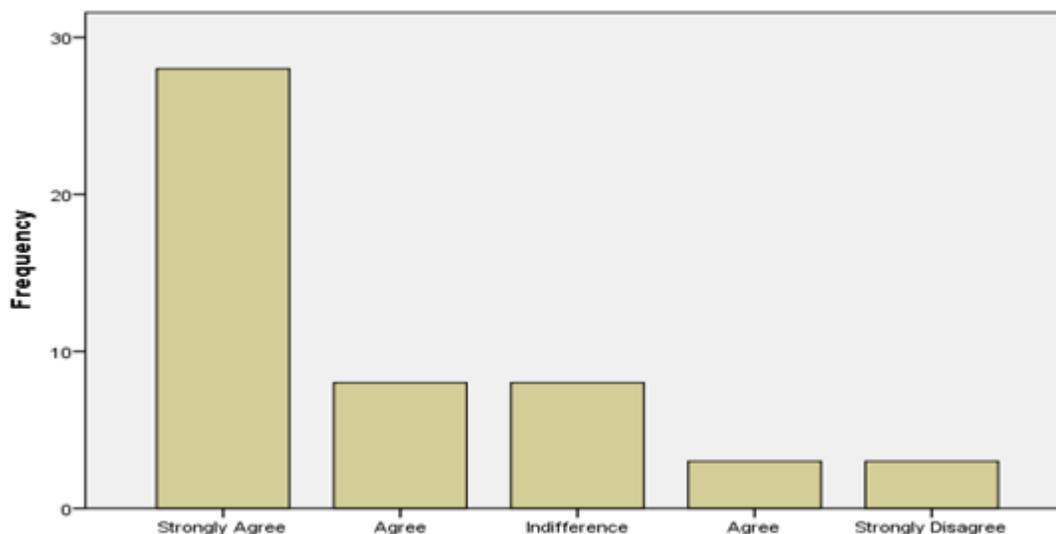


Figure 4. Majorly the love of money is the root of church proliferation being witnessed in this nation.

Table 15. Power tussle, arrogance and greediness constitute greatly to the uncontrollable rate of church proliferation.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Strongly agree	18	36.0	36.0	36.0
Agree	24	48.0	48.0	84.0
Indifference	5	10.0	10.0	94.0
Disagree	2	4.0	4.0	98.0
Strongly disagree	1	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

church proliferation in the nation while 18% say no and 22% indifferent (Table 17). Table 18 and Figure 6 shows that 62% of the respondents agreed that lack of the knowledge of the words of God is part of the causes of church proliferation, while 18% did not see it that way and 20% undecided. 36% of the respondents agreed that the God commission to churches have been abandoned as a result of church proliferation, 30% disagreed while 34% cannot decide (Table 19).

Table 20 and Figure 7 shows that 78% confirmed that church proliferation has its positive impact while 16%

undecided and did not notice. 42% support the motion that church proliferation creates job opportunities while 42% did not take note of it and 16% cannot say (Table 21). The Table 22 shows that church proliferation causes more havoc than good to this nation was supported by 58.3%, 29.2% did not support the motion, 12.5% indifferent while 2% failed to show their opinion by leaving the column blank (Table 23 and Figure 6).

80% of the respondents agreed that most churches in this nation have lost focus of eternity due to church proliferation, 12% undecided while 8% disagreed. It has

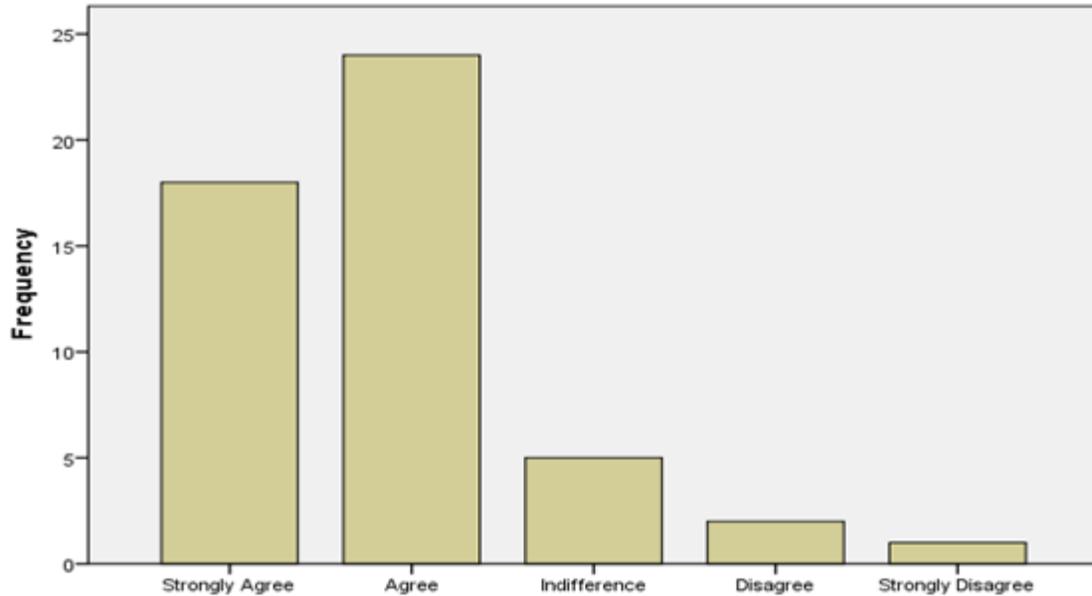


Figure 5. Power tussle, arrogance and greediness constitute greatly to the uncontrollable rate of church proliferation.

Table 16. Churches nowadays have become or turned to Business centers or ventures.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Strongly agree	18	36.0	36.0	36.0
Agree	14	28.0	28.0	64.0
Indifference	8	16.0	16.0	80.0
Disagree	7	14.0	14.0	94.0
Strongly disagree	3	6.0	6.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

Table 17. Increase in bible colleges or schools contribute immensely to the springing up of churches in this country.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Strongly agree	18	36.0	36.0	36.0
Agree	12	24.0	24.0	60.0
Indifference	11	22.0	22.0	82.0
Agree	6	12.0	12.0	94.0
Strongly disagree	3	6.0	6.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

Table 18. Church proliferation is as a result of lack of knowledge of the words of God by the masses or people.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Strongly agree	9	18.0	18.0	18.0
Agree	22	44.0	44.0	62.0
Indifference	10	20.0	20.0	82.0
Agree	6	12.0	12.0	94.0
Strongly disagree	3	6.0	6.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

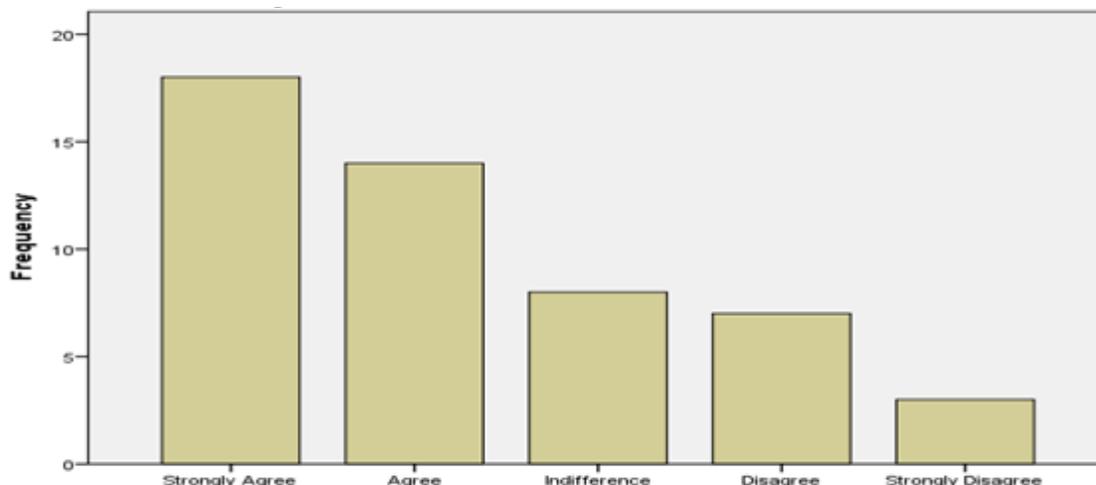


Figure 6. Churches nowadays have become or turned to business centers or ventures.

Table 19. God commission to churches are been jettisoned by church proliferation.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Strongly agree	3	6.0	6.0	6.0
Agree	15	30.0	30.0	36.0
Indifference	17	34.0	34.0	70.0
Disagree	12	24.0	24.0	94.0
Strongly disagree	3	6.0	6.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

Table 20. Missionary schools, universities and hospitals are example of positive impact of church proliferation.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Strongly agree	22	44.0	44.0	44.0
Agree	17	34.0	34.0	78.0
Indifference	8	16.0	16.0	94.0
Disagree	3	6.0	6.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

been shown in Table 24 that church proliferation has led to the increase in both air and noise pollution in this nation was confirmed by 56%, while 22% disagreed and 22% also indifferent.

42% agreed that church proliferation also causes increase in deaf and hypertensive patients of the nation, 18% undecided while 40% disagreed (Table 25). 66% of the respondents confirmed that the crime rate in the nation increases as churches increases while just 16% disagreed and 18% cannot express their view (Table 26).

Table 27 and Figure 7 shows that righteousness and holiness have been neglected by churches nowadays, 16% disagreed while 10% undecided. 58% strongly disagreed that churches should be paying taxes, 18% undecided while 24% wanted churches to be paying taxes

in other to control the church proliferation (Table 28). Banning of public address system during the church services was strongly against by 66.7% of the respondents, 12.5% indifferent while 20.8% agreed to the opinion (Table 29, 30 and Figure 8). Stopping of establishment of churches in residential area was opposed by 62% while 16% supported it and 12% undecided.

From the Table 31 and Figure 9, it was clearly seen that 62% confirmed that the negative impact of church proliferation is more pronounced than that of its positive side while 24% did not see it the same way and 14% were indifferent. It has been confirmed that Christian Associations have failed in their supervisory duties as supported by 54% of the respondents while 26% did not support and 20% undecided.

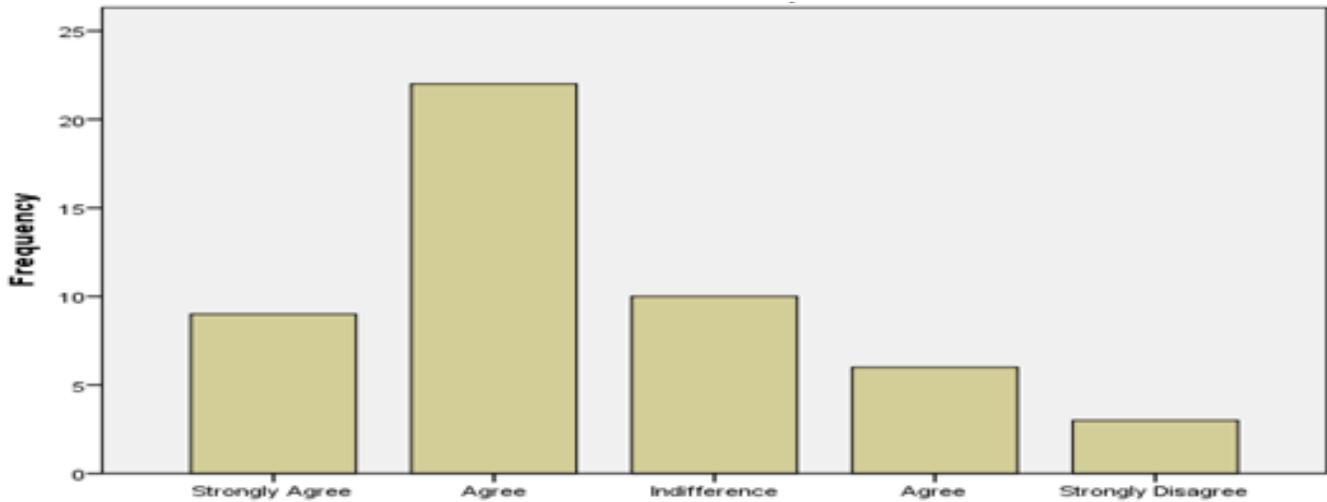


Figure 7. Church proliferation is as a result of lack of knowledge of the words of God by the masses or people.

Table 21. Church proliferation creates job opportunities for applicants of this nation.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Strongly agree	6	12.0	12.0	12.0
Agree	15	30.0	30.0	42.0
Indifference	8	16.0	16.0	58.0
Disagree	11	22.0	22.0	80.0
Strongly disagree	10	20.0	20.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

Table 22. Church proliferation causes more havoc than remedy in this nation.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Strongly agree	15	30.0	31.3	31.3
Agree	13	26.0	27.1	58.3
Indifference	6	12.0	12.5	70.8
Disagree	11	22.0	22.9	93.8
Strongly disagree	3	6.0	6.3	100.0
Total	48	96.0	100.0	-
Missing System	2	4.0	-	-
Total	50	100.0	-	-

Table 23. Due to the uncontrollable springing up of churches in the country most churches have lost focus of eternity.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Strongly agree	29	58.0	58.0	58.0
Agree	11	22.0	22.0	80.0
Indifference	6	12.0	12.0	92.0
Disagree	3	6.0	6.0	98.0
Strongly disagree	1	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

Table 24. Proliferation of churches has led to the increase in both air and noise pollution in the country.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Strongly agree	12	24.0	24.0	24.0
Agree	16	32.0	32.0	56.0
Indifference	11	22.0	22.0	78.0
Agree	7	14.0	14.0	92.0
Strongly disagree	4	8.0	8.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

Table 25. It has also caused increase in deaf and hypertensive patient.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Strongly agree	2	4.0	4.0	4.0
Agree	19	38.0	38.0	42.0
Indifference	9	18.0	18.0	60.0
Disagree	8	16.0	16.0	76.0
Strongly disagree	12	24.0	24.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

Table 26. As churches increase the crime rate in the nation increases.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Strongly agree	17	34.0	34.0	34.0
Agree	16	32.0	32.0	66.0
Indifference	9	18.0	18.0	84.0
Disagree	5	10.0	10.0	94.0
Strongly disagree	3	6.0	6.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

Table 27. As churches springing up uncontrollably, righteousness and holiness have reduced drastically and have no place among churches of today.

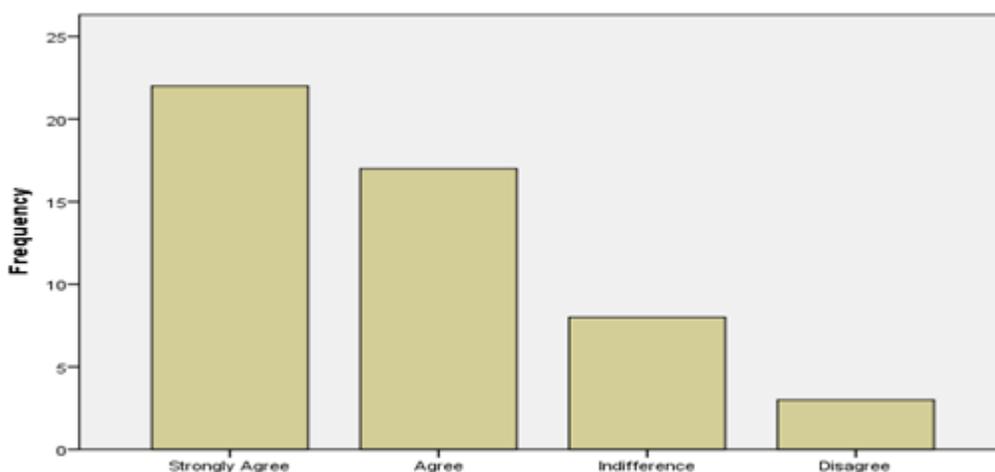
Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Strongly agree	16	32.0	32.0	32.0
Agree	21	42.0	42.0	74.0
Indifference	5	10.0	10.0	84.0
Disagree	8	16.0	16.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

Table 28. To reduce the rate of church proliferation in this country churches should be ordered to be paying taxes on every branch opened like other business companies.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Strongly agree	5	10.0	10.0	10.0
Agree	7	14.0	14.0	24.0
Indifference	9	18.0	18.0	42.0
Disagree	8	16.0	16.0	58.0
Strongly disagree	21	42.0	42.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	-

Table 29. Law should be promulgated and enforced to stop churches from using public address system during service.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Valid	Strongly agree	4	8.0	8.3
	Agree	6	12.0	20.8
	Indifference	6	12.0	33.3
	Disagree	14	28.0	62.5
	Strongly disagree	18	36.0	37.5
	Total	48	96.0	100.0
Missing	System	2	4.0	-
Total		50	100.0	-

**Figure 8.** Missionary schools, universities and hospitals are example of positive impact of church proliferation.**Table 30.** Government should not allow the establishment of churches in a residential area.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Valid	Strongly agree	6	12.0	12.0
	Agree	2	4.0	16.0
	Indifference	6	12.0	28.0
	Disagree	12	24.0	52.0
	Strongly disagree	24	48.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0

Table 31. The negative impact of church proliferation is more pronounced than its positive impact.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Valid	Strongly agree	6	12.0	12.0
	Agree	25	50.0	62.0
	Indifference	7	14.0	76.0
	Disagree	3	6.0	82.0
	Strongly disagree	9	18.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0

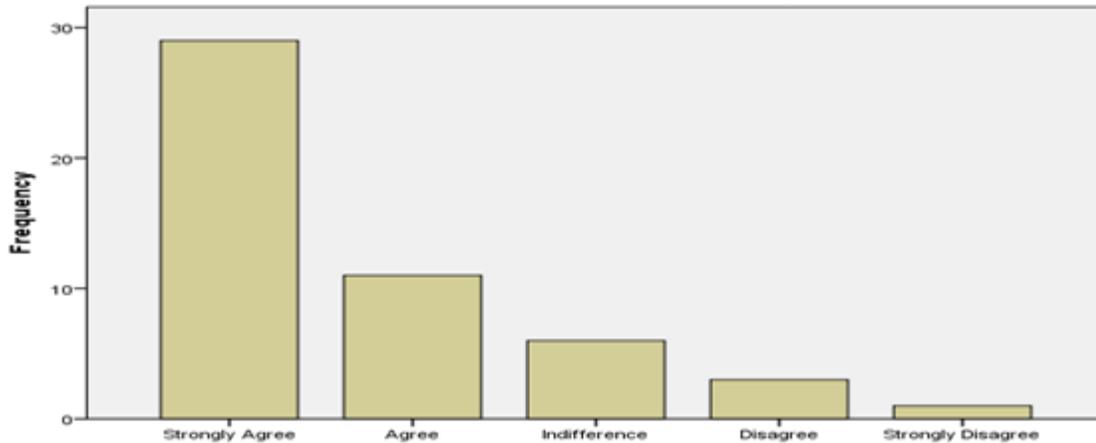


Figure 9. Due to the uncontrollable springing up of churches in the country most churches have lost focus of eternity.

Conclusion

This research work revealed that the wild fire springing up of churches in this country is not as a result of yielding to the commission given by God to human kind to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations but lack of job, love of money, power and position, people taking corners to become general overseers of churches in other to acquire worldly materials at the expense of their congregation.

By obeying their stomach call instead of calling from God, the so call stomach calling pastors are many in the nation there by causing the uncontrollable springing up of churches. This is the major reason why church proliferation does not have positive impact in this nation, as the number of churches, general overseers and pastors increases so also the crime rate. This has overshadowed the positive impact such as Missionary Schools, Universities, Hospital and etc. that come along with church proliferation. The health problem such as hearing And hypertensive ailments affecting people living in an environment where churches are located through the air and noise pollution caused by the use of public addresses system and carbon monoxides emitted from the generators and their congregation cars contributed a lot to the health hazard of the nation population.

The different Christian associations such as CAN, PF and others are not of help to the problem rather contributing to the negative impact of church proliferation, instead of them to be in control and regulate the growth of churches in the nation, their executives have derailed or failed in this spiritual work God has called them to rather pursuing after worldly materials.

In general, church proliferation would have been a great benefit unto this nation if this so called General Overseers and Pastors are really called by God and waited for God instructions/directions on the establishment of churches because, not all Pastors called by God are directed to

establish a church but due to the calling of stomach and hand work of men, churches are springing up uncontrollably without Spiritual impact which bring about the negative impact being experienced in the nation presently. Church proliferation has positive impact but the negative part of it is more and has covered up the good side of it which makes people to see church proliferation as menace to the nation.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the outcome of the survey conducted and points raised in the concluding part of this study, the study will like to humbly recommend the following:

1. To all people attending churches, they should seek for God and know the living God. They should have the true knowledge of God and his ways and always put him above all their problems, by doing these they will not fall into the hand of stomach calling and fake miracle pastors. This will reduce the patronage of these fake miracle churches and force them to wind up in the nation. Likewise, the bible says we should test all spirits, if we know God and have the spirit of God in us, we will not enter or worship in any of these money oriented churches that are spread all over the nation.
2. To all stomach called fake miracle performing Pastors and General Overseers, God said "I know my sheep and my sheep know me "definitely you know you are not of God, the bible says "no liars, adulteress, thieves, wicked and evil doers will enter the kingdom of God. This means you are all aware of what will become of you at the end of the world if you do not desist from deceiving people. For you to enter the kingdom of God, stop your evil ways immediately and this will reduce greatly the negative impact Church Proliferation has on this nation.

3. To the real men of God, they need to stop preaching prosperity only in their churches but to preach on righteousness and holiness and the true word of God to their congregation which will prevent their congregation from being deceived from fake miracles performing pastors that full the nation. By hearing the true words of God the congregation will be able to withstand any attempt or invitations in any form of the so called stomach called Pastors either to form a church or attending their church. Likewise, the real men of God should not mix up with the world and stop going after material things which can lead to misleading of their congregation and make them to fall into wrong hands which can lead to the spreading of fake churches.

4. The Christian association should wake up to their responsibilities of controlling, regulating and punishing ill churches that contravene the set goals to the association, they should forget about worldly pollution and face the work of God committed on their hands.

5. Government should enforce the law banning the use of outside public addresses system by churches located within residential areas. Government should monitor and close down churches that are not registered their names with the Corporate Affairs Commission in order to reduce those fake mushroom churches having negative impact in church Proliferation.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The author has not declared any conflict of interests.

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