

AFRICA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

A HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION OF CALVIN'S CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY
IN AFRICA WITH ITS APPLICATION IN THE EVANGELICAL
CHURCH WINNING ALL (ECWA) IN NIGERIA

By

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A Thesis submitted to the University in partial fulfillment of
the requirement for the degree of Master of
Arts in Church History

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July 2020

ABSTRACT

Christian spirituality is one of the areas that has not captured the minds of scholars in the academic study of church history. This study has found Christian spirituality to provide the opportunity that contemporary evangelical Christians could grasp the relationship of the church since antiquity. In the modern practice of spirituality, John Calvin remains prominent in the understanding of Christian spirituality. However, in the 21st century, many Christians do not have explicit knowledge of what form of spirituality identifies them as evangelicals. Therefore, they clamor for new types of spirituality regardless of the right biblical foundation both in belief and practice. This study investigates the spiritual heritage that ECWA inherited up to its present condition. The study is a qualitative research method that adopted a historical-analytical methodology using the pastoral circle design. This form fulfills four significant roles: first, an examination of the present events happening within the evangelical church. Second, the study examines the social implication of Christian spirituality. This has helped the researcher to have a better understanding of the social impact of evangelical spirituality within society. Third, the study explores spirituality from a theological perspective, which looks at the biblical view of what is happening in the practices of ECWA spirituality. Finally, the study offers a pastoral reflection that suggests some models on how to respond to the situations observed. In this study, Calvin remains at the forefront in the study of Reformation spirituality and his impact on the evangelical spirituality that the Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA), practices could be overwhelming. The purpose of this study is to explore what form of spirituality gives the evangelical church (ECWA) in Nigeria, a unique identity. The study aims at identifying areas of a shift within the evangelical denomination. It also narrows the research to the spirituality of Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) in Nigeria. The study helps the evangelical denominations in Nigeria to identify their pure form of spirituality, which provides them with the opportunity to appreciate the Christian heritage as well as strive for a revitalized spirituality in an everchanging society.