

NAIROBI EVANGELICAL GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

*An Investigation into the Factors that Influenced Numerical
Growth of Deliverance Church Eastleigh in Nairobi, Kenya
from 1981 to 2006*

BY
JOSHUA A KIBET LANG'AT

*A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate School in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Master
of Arts in Mission Studies*

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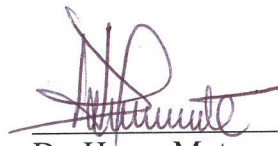
AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE FACTORS THAT INFLUENCED
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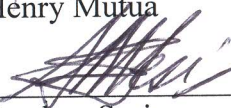
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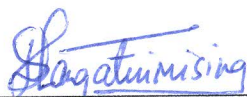
Student's Declaration

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE FACTORS THAT INFLUENCED THE
NUMERICAL GROWTH OF DELIVERANCE CHURCH EASTLEIGH FROM
1981 TO 2006.

I declare that this is my original work and has not been submitted to any other College
or University for academic credit

The views presented herein are not necessarily those of the Nairobi Evangelical
Graduate School of Theology or the Examiners

(Signed)



Joshua K. Lang'at

July, 2006

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to bring to light the factors that influenced the growth of Deliverance Church Eastleigh (DCE) from a congregation of 500 in 1981 to a congregation of 2500 in 2006. One of the main reasons that made it necessary to carry out this research is because many Churches struggle with the issue of Church growth. By making these factors aware, such Churches are able to compare their methods with the methods used at DCE and thus be able to determine which methods work for them best.

The research was carried out using qualitative method of research where 32 participants were interviewed using open ended, semi-structured questions. The findings were analysed and it was discovered that the major factors that caused growth in the Church were effective leadership, committed members, effective church activities and meetings, effective departments, evangelism, missions and follow-up and good administration. The main factor that stood out as a major influence on the other factors of growth was effective leadership.

To

The brethren and leaders of Deliverance Church Eastleigh, Nairobi, Kenya

And

My family

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to start by thanking God sincerely without whom this research would not have been possible. I would also like to thank the following persons for the support they gave me in various ways:

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May the Lord answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you. May He send you help from the sanctuary and grant you the support from Zion. May he remember all your sacrifices and accept your burnt offerings. May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

One of the Churches that has had tremendous impact in Kenya is Deliverance Church Eastleigh in Nairobi. The Church is considered as a *mother Church* to over 450 Churches that are found all over Kenya, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia (Kariuki 2005). Initially the Church had no building of its own and used to meet in rented halls right at the city centre of Nairobi. However in 1981 the Church was able to acquire a plot at Eastleigh where the Church is situated up to now. The church is considered as a *mother church* in the sense that it gave *birth* to other Deliverance Churches across the country and beyond.

The Church was initially began by Apostle Joe Kayo who begun preaching in Uganda in 1968 before coming to Kenya in 1969. However in 1978 a disagreement arose between Apostle Joe Kayo and the leadership of the Church. This disagreement caused the exit of Apostle Joe Kayo from the Church and the appointment of Bishop William Tuimising as the overseer of the Church (Manana 2005). Since then the Church has grown tremendously from a congregation of 500 to 2,500 attendants. According to the Senior Pastor, the Church congregation fluctuates between a membership of 2,500 and 3,000 attendants.

Problem Statement

It is because of this kind of background that this study focussed on the factors that influenced numerical growth of Deliverance Church Eastleigh (DCE) from 1981

to 2006.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to discover the factors that influenced the numerical growth of Deliverance Church Eastleigh during the period 1981 to 2006 and their implications to urban ministry.

Significance of the Study

A study into the numerical growth of Deliverance Church Eastleigh is important for several reasons. First, the research will be a source of valuable information to the pastors and leaders of Deliverance Church Eastleigh concerning how the Church grew from a congregation of 500 in 1981 to a congregation of 2500 in 1998. It is hoped that by carrying out this research, the pastors and leaders of DCE will use the research as a tool for enhancing growth at the Church. Second, it is hoped that the study will be a source of information for missionaries and other Church planters who may be interested with Church growth in the city. Third, the research is important for personal reasons because it will be a basis for further research by the researcher in the future. Fourth, the research will act as a source of information for other researchers who may want to compare the findings with research carried out in other contexts.

Research Questions

The following research questions were used in this study:

1. What are the major factors that influenced Church growth at Deliverance Church Eastleigh from 1981 to 2006?

2. To what extent did these factors influence Church growth at Deliverance Church Eastleigh from 1981 to 2006?
3. To what extent did the Church structure of Deliverance Church Eastleigh affect the factors that influenced the growth of DCE from 1981 to 2006?

Delimitation and Limitations

The research was confined to interviewing and observing leaders, current and former members of Deliverance Church Eastleigh and non-Christians from within the community where the Church is situated. The findings therefore only apply to the Deliverance Church Eastleigh context.

The research was confined to numerical Church growth as opposed to other types of growth such as spiritual growth.

The researcher regrets that he could not have enough time and financial resources to carry out a more comprehensive research, which could have included a bigger population and different classes of people including government officials. The findings were also limited to observations and interviews since the Church does not keep statistical records.

Definition of Terms

In this study the following terms are used as follows:

Numerical growth: Numerical growth refers to the increase of membership in a Church in terms of numbers (Pointer 1984, 26).

Eastleigh: Eastleigh is the name of the community in which the Church is situated. This community is situated in the Eastern parts of Nairobi.

Deliverance Church: The name “Deliverance Church” represents the denomination

to which the Church belongs. The Church is basically a Pentecostal Church.

Church: The word “Church” is used to mean a group of believers assembled in a local fellowship (Miller 1998).

Membership: The word “membership” is used to refer to born again Christians who are regular attendants of a particular Church and are involved in meeting all financial obligations such as tithes and offerings (Miller 1998).

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter is a review of literature related to the topic of research. The aim of this review was to shed light on the topic of research which was the factors that influenced the numerical growth of DCE from 1981 to 2006. The chapter is divided into five topics. These are: a brief overview of the Church growth movement, the church, the pastor, leaders in the Church and finally the laity. A summary is also included at the end of the Chapter.

Brief Overview of the Church Growth Movement

The term “Church growth” was first used by Donald A. McGavran. According to Pointer (1984, 12) by about 1979 very few Church leaders understood the term. The only people who understood the term were missionary scholars who understood that it meant some principles and procedures for Christian mission that had been developed by McGavran.

Donald McGavran was actually born in India of missionary parents but educated in United States before going back to India where he served as an educator and an administrator for medical work (Pointer 1984, 12).

McGavran first began his research works with the help of J. Waskom Pickett a Methodist Bishop. The two first began their research work by asking “fundamental questions and carefully analyzing the missionary enterprise” (Pointer 1984, 12). This led them to believe that there was a better way that the missionary enterprise could be

“administered and employed.” When the two published their work in the 1930s very few people in the “missionary enterprise” took interest. However this was not discouraging for McGavran who continued with further research especially on how people are converted to Christ and how Churches grow.

In 1955 this work was eventually published as “The Bridges of God: A study in the Strategy of Missions” (Pointer 1984, 12). This book was received well by people like Kenneth Scott Latourette who commented that it was “one of the most important books on missionary methods that has appeared in many years”(Pointer 1984, 12). In 1959 McGavran published another book called “How Churches grow.” The aim of this book was to challenge missionary leaders to evaluate their methods as far as missions were concerned so “as to take advantage of the tremendous opportunities for evangelism and Church planting in many parts of the world” (Pointer 1984, 12). As a mission executive in his Church, McGavran used the opportunity to carry out more research in countries such as Mexico, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Congo, Jamaica and Thailand and develop his findings into “formal principles of Church growth”(Pointer 1984, 12).

In 1970 McGavran published another book entitled “Understanding Church Growth.” Later on in 1976 after two years of research based on American growing Churches another scholar by the name C. Peter Wagner published “Your Church can grow.” “This popular book introduced ‘Seven vital signs of a healthy Church’ and offered the movement’s insights in less technical terms to a wider Christian audience” (Pointer 1984, 15).

The Definition of the Word “Church Growth”

Wagner (1976, 12) quoting McGavran says that Church growth “means all that is involved in bringing men and women who do not have a personal relationship to Jesus Christ into fellowship with Him and into responsible Church membership.” Church growth can also be said to refer to “the application of methods and strategies to further the numerical and qualitative growth of local congregations and denominations” (Smith 1984, 15).

Characteristics of a Growing Church

According to McGavran and Arn (1973, 99-107) a growing Church must have the following characteristics: a commitment to evangelism, discipleship, small group fellowship, training of leaders, meeting of people’s needs and setting of goals that are geared to growth. McGavran and Arn further say that a growing Church must be a Church that utilizes time such that every activity is well planned and the goals of each meeting are achieved. In addition to this according to Parker, a growing Church must also be a Church that has a strong commitment to worship, the possibility of change and a strong commitment to sacrifice and faithfulness such that the members of the Church are faithful as depicted in 1 Corinthians 4:2 and are always willing to sacrifice their time, money and other resources to the glory of God (1979, 62).

Dimensions of Growth

Church growth can be viewed in four different ways. It can be viewed numerically, organically, conceptually and incarnationally. However this research was mainly concerned with numerical growth.

Numerical growth

This type of growth which can be seen in Acts 2:47; 4:4; 6: 7, 9, 31, 35; and Acts 16:5 basically means the increase in terms of numbers (Pointer 1984, 26).

According to Pointer there are four ways in which the Church can experience numerical growth.

The first type of numerical growth that Pointer mentions is biological growth. Biological growth is the type of growth that takes place when a child is born into a family of believers and thus automatically becomes a member of the Church to which his/her parents belong. The second type of growth that Pointer mentions is transfer growth. Transfer growth is the type of growth that takes place when a believer moves from one Church to another due to various reasons like change of residence, change of workplace, etc. Restoration growth is the third type of growth that takes place when Christians who were once backslidden turn back to the Lord and thus rejoin the Church. Conversion growth, which is the fourth type of numerical growth, is what takes place when new believers come to the Lord. This type of growth occurs when the Church is active in evangelism.

The Complexity of Church Growth

Church growth is not as simple as may be perceived. It involves a combination of factors. One pastor may say that the reason why his Church is growing is because he is preaching the Word of God. Another pastor whose Church is not growing may say the same thing. Church growth can therefore be explained using a combination of factors (Wagner 1976, 28). Some of these factors include local Church factors, local community factors, inter-Church factors, inter-community factors, demonic opposition, and extraordinary activity of God (Pointer 1984, 31-41).

Local Church factors are those factors that influence the growth of the Church from within the Church e.g. type of sermons, prayer life of the church, etc. Local community factors are those factors which are caused by changes which affect the community e.g. when some of the members move away from the Church, when some houses are demolished, etc. Inter-Church factors are those factors that come up because the local church is related to several other Churches by denomination or ecumenical groups or organizations. Inter-community factors are those factors that affect a bigger area than a community e.g. the culture of a people, etc. Demonic opposition cannot be overemphasized because Christians should be aware that they are not fighting against flesh and blood but against powers and principalities of darkness. Extraordinary activities of God usually involves activities where the spirit of God produces rapid growth (Pointer 1984, 31-41).

The Church

The Definition of a Church

Ekklesia is a Greek word for “Church” and it means “the called out, the summoned”. According to Hodges (1977, 54), “the church is a select company of people called out of the masses for worship, service and witness.” In Acts 15:14, James highlights this fact when he tells the council of Jerusalem about how God has called out a people from among the Gentiles for the sake of His name. In Ephesians 1:22, 23 we are also told that Jesus is the Head and the Church is the body. The believers are members of this body. Membership in the body of Christ depends on whether one has a personal relationship with Christ. This is emphasised by Paul in Ephesians 2: 16-22.

Functions of a Church

One of the most important functions of the Church is not to meet the needs of the members but to worship God (Towns, Vaughan and Seifert 1981, 250). The Church worships God because it is a servant of God and its strength depends on its congregational worship (Cotterell 1981, 35). Another way of looking at it is that the Church is God's "house of prayer" (Isaiah 56:6-8) and God is calling upon everyone to come and worship in the "house of prayer" (Tippett 1970, 11).

Another important function of the Church is to act as a place where both old and new Christians are encouraged and equipped for good works. According to Paul in Ephesians 4:8-16 for this to take place believers first have to change to reflect the glory of God. This will then be followed by God providing men who have the potential to edify the Church (Towns, Vaughan and Seifert 1981, 248). The effect of this is that the Church is united, has a lot of knowledge of Jesus and also reflects maturity and growth.

Another function of the Church is to act as a place where Christians can discover and use their gifts. This is in line with the fact that Christians have various gifts. These gifts include apostles, prophets, teachers, miracle workers, healers, helpers, administrators and speakers in various kinds of tongues.

The Church is also a place where Christians are prepared, equipped and sent out to go for mission work. According to Pickett (1970, 12) though some of the programs and activities we have in the Church are important e.g. fighting for justice, women programs, etc., the most important thing above all is that more people get saved and become disciples of Jesus. The new disciples are not only to be committed to the Lord Jesus Christ but also to the rest of the body of Christ.

Another important function of the Church is to act as a testing ground for love. According to Cotterell (1981, 36), the Church is supposed to be a factory of love where it is produced checked and tested for its quality before it is shared with the rest of the world. This is in line with John 13:35 where Christians are told that the best way people can know that they are disciples of Jesus is when they love one another.

In addition to the functions that have been mentioned to us, Cotterell (1981, 36) also adds that the Church is also expected to be concerned about the needs of the community around it. This is in line with Galatians 6:10 where Christians are told to do good to all men as they have opportunity (Belben 1986, 8-10).

The functions of the Church can also be described using the five-fold ministry in the sense that the Church plays the role of a pastor as it seeks to minister to the needs of its members; the role of an apostle because it is always on the move establishing new churches; a teaching role as it seeks to equip its members through teaching; a prophetic role as it gives direction to its members; and finally an evangelistic role as it seeks to reach out to non-believers within its neighbourhood and other places (Harper 1988, 64-68).

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The Structure of the Church

In order for a Church to grow it must have the right structure. According to Pointer (1984, 115-141) the right Church structure must have the following four elements. The first element that must exist in the structure of a Church is that Jesus Christ must be acknowledged as the Head of the Church and this is in line with Romans 10: 9 and Ephesians 1:22. In such a Church all the activities of worship have an aim of acknowledging the lordship of Christ. Members of such a Church are usually faithful and obedient to God's Word making the Church to grow.

Another important element in such a structure is that the leadership of the Church must be organised in such a way that it leads to growth. A Church will only grow if it follows the pattern God has set for it. Leaders in such a Church must be good examples, teachers, shepherds, managers and servants with a vision to see the Church grow.

Another important element in such a structure is relationship groups that are well defined. The work of edifying the Church belongs to God who uses the Word and the Spirit for this purpose. However believers must also play their part by using the gifts that He has given and also love one another. The key to edification in the body of Christ is having good relationships. The best way of creating these good relationships is to organise different activities for different sizes of groups e.g. small groups (cell groups), the whole Church (congregation) or a bigger congregation made up of Christians from various Churches (celebration). This will ensure that there is cohesiveness and everyone is catered for right from the simplest groups to the whole Church.

The evangelization of non-believers is also another very important element as far as the Church structure is concerned. Evangelism generally contains three types of activities. These activities include presence activities, proclamation activities, and persuasion activities (Arn 1979, 138; Cotterell 1981, 59-61; Hodges 1977, 77; McGavran 1980, 162; McGavran and Arn 1973, 105; Pointer 1984, 78, 130-138).

The Pastor

The word "Pastor" was first used in sheep raising before it was adapted into Christianity. The word means a person who is accountable to God concerning His people and is required to teach, feed, encourage, unite, and help people know and use

their gifts and anything else that will encourage the people of God to grow in their faith. Words such as an elder, presbyter, overseer, and bishop are synonyms for “Pastor” (Wagner 1979, 144).

According to a research conducted in America the pastor is the most important factor as far as the growth or non-growth of a Church is concerned. While many researchers have been unable to explain what role the pastor plays in the growth of a church (Wagner 1979, 138) other people unfortunately think that a pastor must have all the gifts and thus be able to carry out any task within the Church. This is not true (Wagner 1979, 142). On the contrary Wagner gives us some examples of gifts that a pastor does not need to have. These gifts include the gift of pastor, exhortation, teaching, and evangelism. According to Wagner, the pastor should seek to encourage members of the congregation who can perform better in these gifts for the benefit of the Church.

However there are some gifts that are essential for a pastor to have. These are the gifts of faith and leadership.

The gift of faith is “the special ability that God gives to some members of the Body of Christ to discern with extraordinary confidence the will and purposes of God for the future of His work” (Wagner 1979, 142). The gift of leadership on the other hand is the

special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to set goals in accordance with God’s purpose for the future and to communicate these goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God (Wagner 1979, 159).

The Role of a Pastor

A successful pastor is a pastor who plays his role well, sets goals for his Church, and is willing to “pay the toll in order to get the job done” (Arn 1979, 94). It

is therefore important that the leadership of the Church thinks of employing a Pastor who is of the same standard as the Church (McGavran 1966, 138). If the Pastor is too educated, he may either look down upon the members/leaders of the Church or he may be too expensive for the Church in terms of salary payment and vice versa.

In order for a Church to grow, a pastor must lead by example, must help members and groups in the Church to achieve their full potential and must be ready to serve the community because some members of the community may come to him for help (Bradbury 1989, 134-137). Another way of looking at it is that a pastor is like a shepherd. The pastor should be a participant, organizer, chief planner and ruler of the people he is leading (Adams 1979, 322).

Leadership in the Church

Leadership is another very important factor as far as Church growth is concerned. This is because the leaders in the Church can either cause the Church to grow or not to grow depending on their style of leadership and generally who they are as leaders. It is therefore imperative that a Church “develops dynamic, aggressive and inspiring leaders” (Towns, Vaughan and Seifert 1981, 207-208).

Types of Leaders

According to Eddie Gibbs there are four types of leaders that can be found in the Church. These are the able teacher, the protective father, the understanding brother, and the effective manager. The following explain these types of leaders.

The able teacher is a type of leader who is good in teaching the Word of God and other sermons that require teaching. Such a leader spends a lot of time in preparing and writing sermons. One disadvantage of such a leader is that in cases

where the leader is not a people-oriented person, he/she may prefer to keep himself busy with books rather than minister or talk to people. Another type of leader that can be found in the Church as mentioned above is the protective father. The protective father is a type of leader who concentrates more in caring for his sheep just like the way a father takes care of his children. Such leaders are usually very keen to know how their flock are doing and are also very keen to pray for them individually.

The understanding brother, as the name suggests, is a type of leader who acts like a real brother. Such a leader is able to understand what a member of his flock is going through and is able also to identify with that member.

The last type of leader that Gibbs talks about is the effective manager. The effective manager is a good administrator and is thus able to manage the affairs of the organization or Church he/she is leading well.

These models are all equally important. The type of leadership that a Church adapts depends on a combination of factors. However the “personality of the leader and the nature of the situation also influences the leadership model.”

Eddie Gibbs recommends to all leaders that they should emulate the model of leadership which was depicted by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ which is that of a humble servant as shown in John 13:3-5. However Gibbs warns that leaders in the Church should not allow themselves to be misused by anybody simply because they are humble (1981, 379).

Qualities of a Good Leader

Contrary to what many people think, not all leaders are natural leaders. Some leadership qualities can be developed. According to Wren (1995, 468), anybody “who gets along with people is a potential leader, even if that person has no one reporting to

him.” The following are qualities of a good leader according to Gibbs.

1. A good leader should be gifted with perception in the sense that he is able to analyze a situation or problem from different perspectives and thus be able to solve the problem.
2. A good leader must simply lead in the sense that he must be able to strategize on what needs to be done in leadership and actually lead.
3. A good leader should inspire confidence: For a leader to do this, he must be sure of where he is going and leading the congregation. This will encourage the rest of the congregation to have confidence in him and follow.
4. A good leader should be able to influence others in the sense that he has the ability to influence his congregation to move in the direction that he wants it to move.
5. A good leader should be able to foster good relationships and build up a cohesive team. Such a team can be developed by encouraging and empowering the members to practice their gifting (1981, 385).

Harper gives us other qualities of a good leader in line with 1 Timothy 3: 1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. These are:

1. A good leader must be a person whose personal life is in good order. This is in terms of psychological health, relationship with others, good stable family, and so on.
2. A good leader should be a person who is committed to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Church. People who are committed elsewhere and not the church should not be appointed (1988, 246-247).

Limitations to Leadership

Despite the fact that one might be a strong leader there are certain situations that can limit one's performance in the Church. These include the following:

1. Cultural limitations: Unless a pastor understands the worldview of the members of his congregation, he/she is bound to fail. This is because each Church is composed of members from a particular culture and different cultures respond well to different kinds of leadership. Other Churches respond well to authoritarian leadership while others democratic and so on.
2. Socio-economic limitations: Another limitation is the socio-economic class of people being led. Different socio-economic classes of people respond to different kinds of leadership e.g. a Church consisting of top executives and top managers may respond well to the participatory kind of leadership than any other kind.
3. Denominational limitations: Another limitation is the denominational limitations. Every Church is usually subject to its denominational headquarters. This means therefore no matter how great the ideas a leader may want to implement in his Church he may not be able to implement them without the approval of the denominational leaders. Some approvals may take time while others may be rejected.
4. Local congregational limitations: These are limitations that can be found in a local Church e.g. the age of the Church, the members of the Church, the background of the Church, etc. which can either prevent or enhance the efficiency of a pastor. A good example of such a situation is when some pastors find it hard to take care of certain Churches because the members have a negative attitude towards incoming pastors.
5. Personality limitations: These are the type of limitations that are in-built in the life

of a pastor e.g. some pastors are aggressive and take charge of a congregation while others are not (Wagner 1984, 89).

The Laity

Another element that is also very important as far as Church growth is concerned is the members of a Church. A highly motivated and well-mobilized membership can lead to tremendous growth in a church.

Let's Join Laymen's Lib!

Laymen's lib was a movement that was started in the 1960s that emphasized the teachings on spiritual gifts. The teachings were not well considered as a cult and it took time for the teachings to be accepted. However after many struggles the teachings were finally accepted and it is considered to be one of the factors that can lead to Church growth. The discovery of gifts amongst laymen can be a hindrance or a source of enhancement for Church growth. Wagner gives us an example of a body that has five legs but has no liver or tongue or any other part of the body. Such a body cannot function properly. Every believer has been given a gift by God and needs to function in that gift. It is not upon a believer to claim a gift of his choice. The responsibility of every believer however is to discover that gift and use it to the glory of God (1976, 70).

The gift of evangelism for example is important as far as Church growth is concerned. However, it can only function well when other gifts are functioning well. All the gifts must operate at the same time for Church growth to occur (75).

The Role of Witness

The role of being a witness is a role that has been given to every Christian unlike evangelism. This role involves presence evangelism in the sense that the Christian does not use verbal communication to talk to people about God but uses actions by being a good example. Non-believers are attracted to the Lord Jesus Christ by good examples from active and practicing Christians. For the Church to grow those who have the gift of evangelism must combine their efforts with the rest of the congregation who essentially play the role of witness (76).

The Hypothesis of the Ten Percent

According to a research that was carried out by Wagner, if 10% of the Church population is mobilized for evangelism the Church can grow tremendously. This is because in most Churches in the third world and America, 10% of the congregations usually have the gift of evangelism. However the problem in many Churches is that out of this 10% only 0.5% of them are usually active. For growth to take place in the Church therefore the rest of the 9.5% have to be identified and encouraged to utilize their gift (1976, 77).

Strategies for Mobilizing the Laity

The following suggestions show how the laity can be mobilized.

1. Preserving original zeal: One of the best ways of preserving zeal in the Church is by using new converts. One advantage of using new converts is that they are usually more zealous than old converts. New converts are also closer to non-believers than old converts in the sense that they still have ties with non-Christian friends. A strategy of making these new converts grow is to allow them to have their own meetings where they can conduct the meetings themselves. They can

also be given other responsibilities according to their ability and potential (Braun 1971, 128).

2. Participation: Another strategy is to involve as many members of the Church as possible in the Church activities by forming small groups. This is important in the sense that it enables more members in the Church to be involved in leadership. This is good for the Church because it makes it grow further. As more members begin to utilize their gifts, they begin to manifest the presence of Jesus within either the Church or the community. This is because good works begin to manifest (Braun 1971, 128). John Perkins likens this to Jesus walking in the earth again (Snyder 1977, 185).
3. The technique of withdrawal: In this technique according to Braun the pastor withdraws tactfully from conducting certain activities in the Church. This gives room for other members or upcoming leaders to participate in running activities or programs in the Church. As these Christians gain more experience in coordinating the programs and activities they become better in doing the job and therefore the Pastor is able to concentrate on other important matters (1971, 132).
4. Evangelism: Another important strategy of mobilizing the laity is through evangelism. A Church, which is able to make its members participate in evangelism, is able to grow. The members can be equipped through preaching and prayer. The clergymen can also be trained on how they can equip the members for ministry (133). It is also important that the members of the Church are assured through sermons, literature produced by the Church or conversation that it is all right for them to go for evangelism and even start new churches. Members should be encouraged even if they make mistakes.

Summary

The promise that was made to Abraham in Genesis 22:17 that he will be a father of many nations and was fulfilled by God, shows very clearly that a Church can grow despite difficult circumstances (Gibbs 1981, 26). This is because God has given His Church enough tools that will enable it to grow. Some of these tools include knowledge.

Some of the literature in this Chapter that was important for the research included characteristics of a growing Church, types of numerical growth, the functions of a Church, the elements in an ideal Church structure, the role of a neighbourhood Church, the role of a pastor, qualities of a good leader and the role of the members in the growth of a Church.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

In this chapter the researcher describes how the qualitative method of research was used in the study. The rationale for choosing this method of research was based on the fact that a problem like this one which is more of a social or a human problem so to speak required the researcher to go beyond the analysis of statistical figures in order to thoroughly analyze the situation and gain a deeper understanding. Other reasons why this method was chosen over other methods are discussed later. This chapter on methodology is divided into nine sections. These are: definition of qualitative research, rationale for the choice of qualitative research method, qualitative research strategy, grounded research strategy, role of the researcher, entry, data collection procedures, data analysis procedures, strategies for validating findings.

Definition of Qualitative Research

Qualitative research according to Creswell (1998, 15) can be said to be

an inquiry process of understanding based on distinct methodological traditions of inquiry that explores a social or human problem. The researcher builds a complex, holistic picture, analyzes words, reports detailed views of informants, and conducts the study in a natural setting.

It can also be said to be a type of research method

that focuses on how individuals and groups view and understand the world and construct meaning out of their experiences. It essentially is narrative-oriented and uses content analysis methods on selected levels of communication content. Other researchers consider it simply to be research whose goal is not to estimate statistical parameters but to generate hypothesis to be treated quantitatively (Wikimedia 2003).

Uniqueness of the Qualitative Research Method

One of the reasons why qualitative method of research was preferred over other methods of research is because it enables the researcher to obtain information in a more holistic manner. This is because the data collected is written in a descriptive way thus allowing the researcher to explain the nature of the problem in a comprehensive and detailed manner.

Another reason for its selection was that since this method involves a lot of interaction with the respondents in the form of an interview the researcher was able to gain an in-depth understanding of the problem.

Qualitative research, unlike other methods of research, recognizes that every case is unique and requires “in-depth attention”. This is seen from the fact that the researcher goes to the field with an open mind ready to receive answers from the field instead of carrying questionnaires which may be a bit limiting since the questions asked may not be exhaustive.

Another reason why this type of research method was preferred by the researcher is that it is “context sensitive” in the sense that it recognizes that every situation of study has a unique context and thus cannot be compared with other situations.

Qualitative research also is not concerned with “having straightforward, right or wrong answers.” However on the contrary it accepts all answers and then filters them as the correct answers emerge (Palmquist 1993-2006).

Qualitative Research Strategy

There are five types of Qualitative Research Strategies. These are: biographical life histories, phenomenological research strategies, grounded theory

research strategies, ethnographical research strategies and case studies. However the researcher in this study chose to use the grounded theory strategy. *Give citation to this*

Grounded Theory Strategy

Grounded theory is a type of research strategy “in which the researcher attempts to derive a general abstract theory of a process, action or interaction grounded in the views of participants in a study” (Creswell 2003, 14). This type of strategy has two main features. These are “constant comparison of data with emerging categories and theoretical sampling of different groups to maximize the similarities and the differences of information” (Creswell 2003, 14).

The grounded theory strategy was chosen because it is more appropriate for the topic of research, which is factors that influenced Church growth at Deliverance Church Eastleigh. This is because the strategy was going to help the researcher to develop a theory out of the data collected from the research.

The grounded theory research strategy was first articulated by two sociologists: Barner Glaser and Anselm Strauss in 1967. The main objective of grounded theory is to describe or explain a phenomenon that exists within a social situation. Grounded theory involves collecting data from the social situation, putting the data into categories (open coding) and then trying to show the relationship between these categories (axial coding) after which the researcher develops a theory concerning these categories (Creswell 1998, 151).

Role of the Researcher

In qualitative research the perception of the researcher concerning the topic of research is very important in the sense that it can either jeopardize or make the

research to succeed. This is because the researcher is the main instrument of data collection. This researcher brings a lot of experience from Deliverance Church Eastleigh. This is because the researcher grew up in the Church until four years ago when the researcher moved to another congregation. His experience in leadership at the Church as a Young Adults Chairman helped him to understand the factors mentioned by the respondents in an in depth manner. The researcher was constantly aware that his values, assumptions, and biases would affect the outcome of the study. However all steps necessary were taken by the researcher to ensure that data collection and analysis was balanced and not biased in any way (The steps are described under the heading validation/verification). The researcher therefore approached the study with an open mind knowing very well that the outcome of the study may be different from his expectation.

Entry

In order to carry out the research about Deliverance Church Eastleigh the Researcher obtained a letter from the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs NEGST addressed to the Senior Pastor of the Church for approval. The researcher commenced after the Senior Pastor gave approval for the research to continue. Another reason for writing the letter was that the letter helped the Senior Pastor understand why the research had to be done and how the research was going to benefit the Church.

Data Collection Procedures

The selection of Deliverance Church Eastleigh was influenced by the fact that this kind of research had never been done at DCE before. The members of the church

were accommodative and willing to give their contribution.

Population

Population according to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003, 9) “refers to an entire group of individuals events or objects having a common observable characteristic.” In order to benefit maximally from the collection of data, the researcher targeted members of the Church who are literate (literate in this case meant people who are educated and are known to be full of ideas) and are thus able to understand and respond to questions of the research interview. The population consisted of four groups of people. These groups included leaders and current members of DCE, former members of DCE and lastly members of the community. This was to help the researcher obtain adequate data from various perspectives.

Sampling

In grounded theory, the selection of individuals for the study is based on whether these individuals can contribute meaningfully to the research. In grounded theory this type of sampling is called theoretical sampling (Creswell 1998, 118).

Creswell (1998, 56) recommends a theoretical sample of 20-30 individuals. However if the saturation point has been reached and no new data is being discovered the researcher is allowed to stop even if the individuals being interviewed have not reached the recommended number.

The researcher involved 32 participants in the research. The first group consisted of 6 Church leaders from various departments in the Church. The second group consisted of 12 current members of Deliverance Church Eastleigh who have been in the Church for more than one year. The third group consisted of 5 former

members of Deliverance Church Eastleigh who had been members of the Church for more than 6 months. The fourth group consisted of 9 non-Christians who live in the community where the Church is situated. The purpose of interviewing the first and the second group was to find out why these leaders and members have remained in the Church while the purpose of interviewing the third group was to discover why these members left the Church. The purpose of interviewing the fourth group was to find out why these non-believers have not joined the Church despite the fact that the Church is situated near where they stay.

One of the purposes of interviewing non-Christians is because they may have answers to why a Church is growing or not growing. According to McGavran (1980, 153) non-Christians may either admire Christians for one thing or another while some of them may also refuse Christianity because of one reason or another. Current members on the other hand were interviewed because they are rich in information and are thus able to explain what attracted them to salvation and particularly what attracted them to the Church (McGavran 1990, 111). These reasons were considered causes of growth. Other factors that were considered during sampling included gender of the respondents, their age and their department of ministry in the Church.

Types of Data Collection

Two types of data collection methods were used. These are interviews and observations.

Interviews

According to Creswell (1998, 124) there are three types of interviews: telephone interviews, focus group interviews, and one-to-one interviews. The

researcher in this study chose to use one-to-one interviews. One-to-one interviews were used because many of the participants were dispersed and it would have been difficult to meet them at one place. The interviews involved semi-structured, open-ended questions. However when clarification was needed, the questions were adjusted.

Observations

The fact that the researcher was an active member of Deliverance Church Eastleigh for over twenty-eight years was useful because it allowed him to gain access to the site for observation. The researcher was therefore able to observe the way meetings were conducted in the Church; the content of these meetings; the way the members of the Church interact within the Church; the way the members of the Church interact with members of the community and other activities that were going to be useful to the research. The researcher was also able to meet with the respondents in their natural environment and make observations which would have otherwise either been sensitive for the respondents to discuss or forgotten in the data collection (Creswell 2003, 187-188).

Data Analysis Procedure

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003, 203) data analysis in qualitative research “is the process of bringing order, structure and meaning to the mass of information collected.” In qualitative research, the analysis of data may not have to wait until the end of data collection. It is a continuous process in the sense that it begins to take place after the initial data has been collected and even continues throughout the research.

The analysis of data involved three steps. These were open coding, axial coding and selective coding. The data collected was put into categories and a pattern established to determine how these categories were linked with each other.

Validation/Verification

Reliability and validation of data is very important as far as research is concerned. Reliability according to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003, 95) is the “measure of the degree of which a research instrument yields consistent results or data after repeated trials.” Validation or verification on the other hand “is the degree to which results obtained from the analysis of the data actually represent the phenomenon under study.”

In order to ensure the verification of data in this research, the researcher chose to use the following measures:

1. Triangulation of data: Data was obtained from both interviews and observations for comparison purposes.
2. Member checking: The researcher allowed the informants to act as data validators by allowing them to confirm to him whether his interpretation of the data was correct.
3. The study involved “rich, thick, detailed descriptions” of data. This ensured that anyone who was interested in carrying out the same research in another location would be able to compare his findings with the findings of this research (Mugenda and Mugenda 2003, 95).

In order to ensure reliability the following steps were taken:

1. The researcher begun by making the following clear: his goal of research; his role as the researcher; his basis for selecting the informants; and the context of his location of study.
2. Different types of data collection and analysis methods were used to ensure accuracy.
3. Data collection and data analysis was written down in a clear and comprehensive manner. This was to help anyone interested with the research to know what methods the researcher was using.

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS

The purpose of this study was to investigate the factors that influenced the growth of DCE from 1981 to 2006 with an aim of making Biblical recommendations to the Church leadership on how the Church can experience further growth. The research was carried out through interviews with leaders of DCE, members of DCE, former members of DCE and members of the community with the help of open ended and semi-structured questions.

Data Analysis

The interview questions were administered to 31 participants from whom 12 were members of DCE, 5 were former members, 6 were leaders, and 9 were members of the community. In order to carry out the research the following research questions were identified:

Research Questions

1. What are the major factors that influenced Church growth at Deliverance Church Eastleigh from 1981 to 2006?
2. To what extent did these factors influence Church growth at Deliverance Church Eastleigh from 1981 to 2006?
3. To what extent did the Church leadership of Deliverance Church Eastleigh affect the factors that influenced the growth of the Church from 1981 to 2006?

Response to Research Question 1. What are the Major Factors that Influenced Church Growth at Deliverance Church Eastleigh from 1981 to 2006?

In order to analyze the data collected from the field, the data was placed under different headings such as good worship, effective Church services and weekly meetings, conferences, seminars and relevant meetings, etc. The headings which are related to each other were then placed under the same category like effective Church activities and meetings, committed members and so on. These categories became the factors that influenced the growth of DCE from 1981 to 2006.

The findings indicate that the factors that were responsible for the numerical growth of DCE from 1981 to 2006 were effective Church activities and meetings, committed members, effective leadership, effective departments, evangelism, missions and follow-up and good administration. The table below gives a summary of the responses of leaders (L), members (M), former members (F.M) and members of the community (Com. M) concerning the factors that caused the growth of DCE from 1981 to 2006. From the table below, it is evident that the most prominent factor that caused growth in the Church was Church activities and meetings with 48 entries, followed by effective departments with 33, effective leadership with 29, evangelism, missions and follow-up with 28 and lastly good administration with 17.

Table 1. A summary of responses from participants concerning the factors that influenced the growth of DCE from 1981 to 2006

| | L | M | F. M | Com. M | Totals |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Church activities and meetings | | | | | |
| Good Worship | 5 | 7 | 2 | 1 | |
| Church services and weekly meetings | 2 | 2 | 2 | | |
| Conferences, seminars and relevant meetings | | 5 | 3 | | |
| Preaching of the Word | 5 | 5 | 2 | | |
| Home cell fellowships | 2 | 4 | 1 | | |
| Total | 14 | 23 | 10 | 1 | 48 |

| Committed members | | | | | |
|---|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Active members | 3 | 4 | 1 | 3 | |
| Social activities e.g. weddings | 1 | 0 | 2 | | |
| Commitment to prayer | 2 | 2 | 1 | | |
| Transfer of workplace | | 1 | | | |
| Unity of purpose | 1 | 3 | 2 | | |
| Joy of the Lord | | | | | |
| Total | 7 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 27 |
| Effective leadership | | | | | |
| Church bulletin | | 1 | | | |
| Commitment of leaders | 4 | 12 | 3 | | |
| Meeting of physical needs | 1 | 2 | | | |
| Home visitations | | 4 | | | |
| Training | | 1 | | | |
| Cultivating gifts and talents of members | 1 | 0 | | | |
| Total | 6 | 20 | 3 | 0 | 29 |
| Effective departments | | | | | |
| Sunday School ministry | 2 | 1 | | | |
| Hospitality | | 7 | 1 | 2 | |
| Counseling Team | | 1 | | | |
| youth related activities | | 6 | 2 | | |
| Hospital visitation | | 3 | | | |
| Ladies fellowship | | 3 | | | |
| Men's fellowship | | 4 | | | |
| New members | | 1 | | | |
| Total | 2 | 26 | 3 | 2 | 33 |
| Evangelism, missions and follow-up | | | | | |
| Evangelism, and follow-up | 6 | 12 | 3 | 1 | |
| Missions | 1 | 3 | 2 | | |
| Total | 7 | 15 | 5 | 1 | 28 |
| Good administration | | | | | |
| Community work | | 2 | | 5 | |
| Accommodative to foreigners | | 2 | 2 | | |
| Special projects | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | |
| Total | 2 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 17 |

Key: L represents Leaders, M represents members, F. M represents former members, Com. M represents Members of the community

Factors that led to the growth of DCE according to the leaders

The findings reveal that according to the leaders the factors that were responsible for the growth of DCE included church activities, committed members, effective leadership, effective departments, evangelism, missions and follow-up and good administration. The most prominent factor according to the leaders was effective church activities and meetings (figure1).

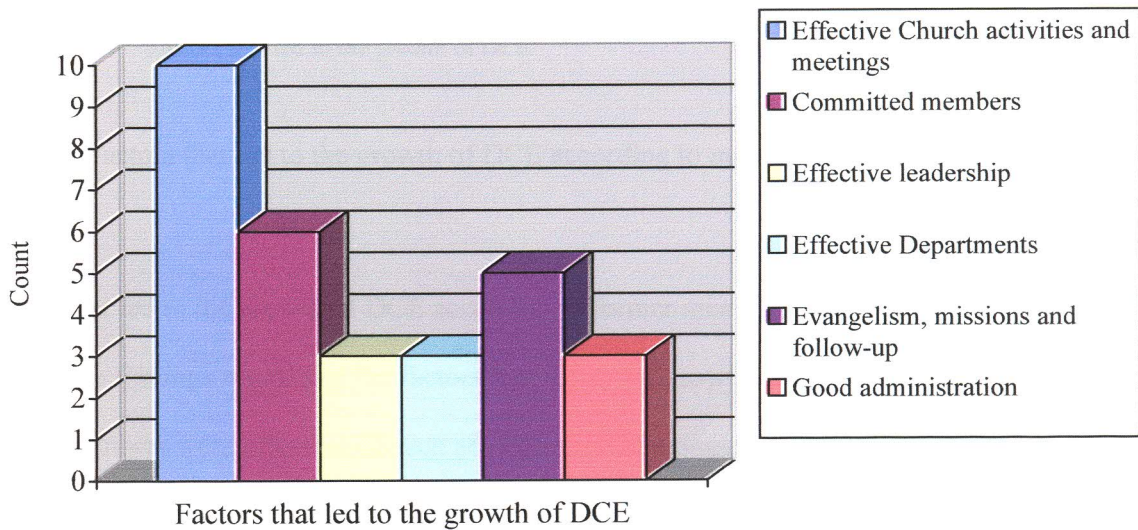


Figure 1. Factors that led to the growth of DCE according to the leaders

Factors that led to the growth of DCE according to the members

The findings reveal that according to the members the factors that were responsible for the growth of DCE included effective church activities, committed members, effective leadership, effective departments, evangelism, missions and follow-up and good administration. The most prominent factor according to the members was effective departments (figure 2).

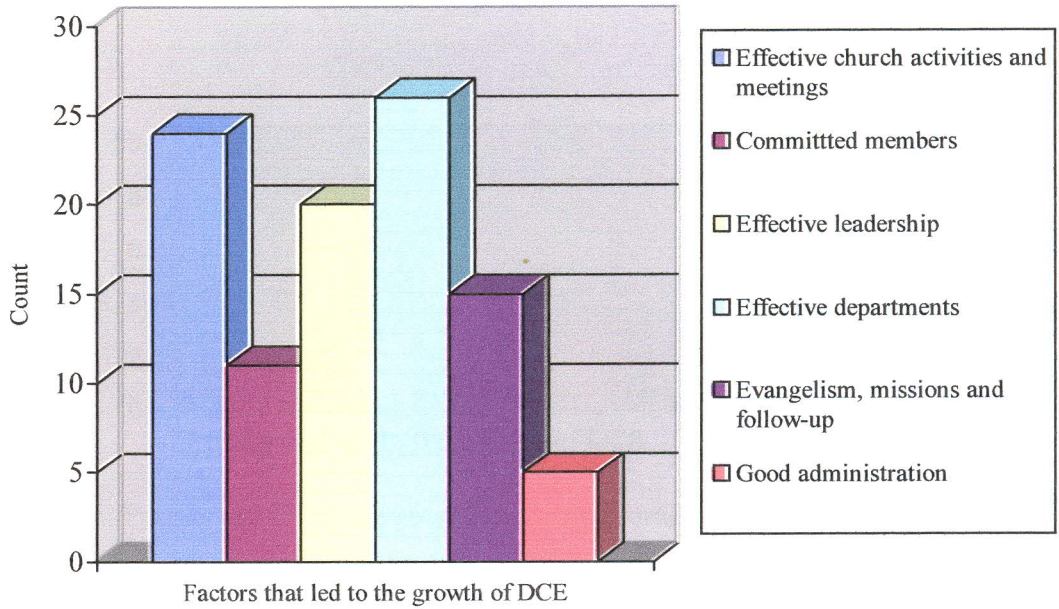


Figure 2. Factors that led to the growth of DCE according to members of DCE

Factors that led to the growth of DCE according to former members

The findings reveal that the factors that led to the growth of DCE according to former members were effective Church activities and meetings, committed members, effective leadership, effective departments, evangelism, missions and follow-up and good administration. The most prominent factor was effective Church activities and meetings (figure 3).

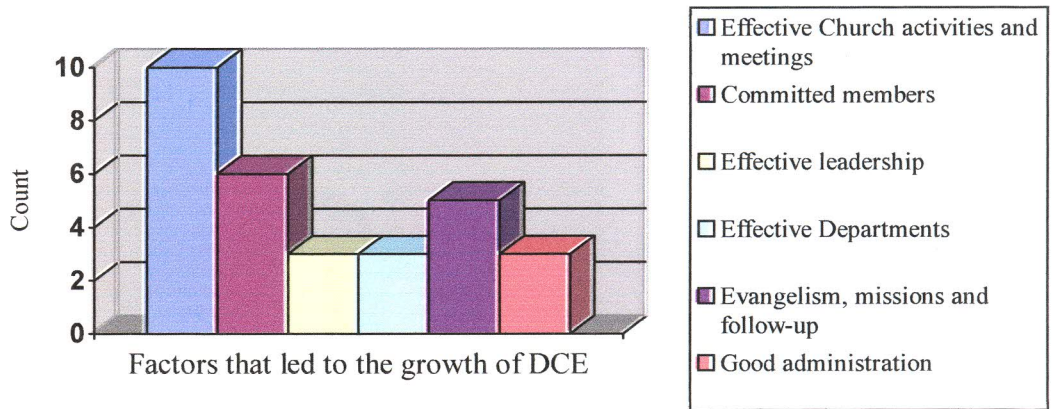


Figure 3. Factors that led to the growth of DCE according to former members

Members of the community

The findings indicate that according to the members of the community, DCE has elements that are attractive to them. These elements include special projects such as the introduction of scholarships for computer courses held within the Church compound for the community, free training on AIDs and a nursery school. The members of the community also mentioned that the members of DCE are full of integrity, love outsiders, and are hospitable. The Church also organizes free clinics and cleanliness within the community. Other elements that were mentioned by the members of the community included seminars and good music (figure 4).

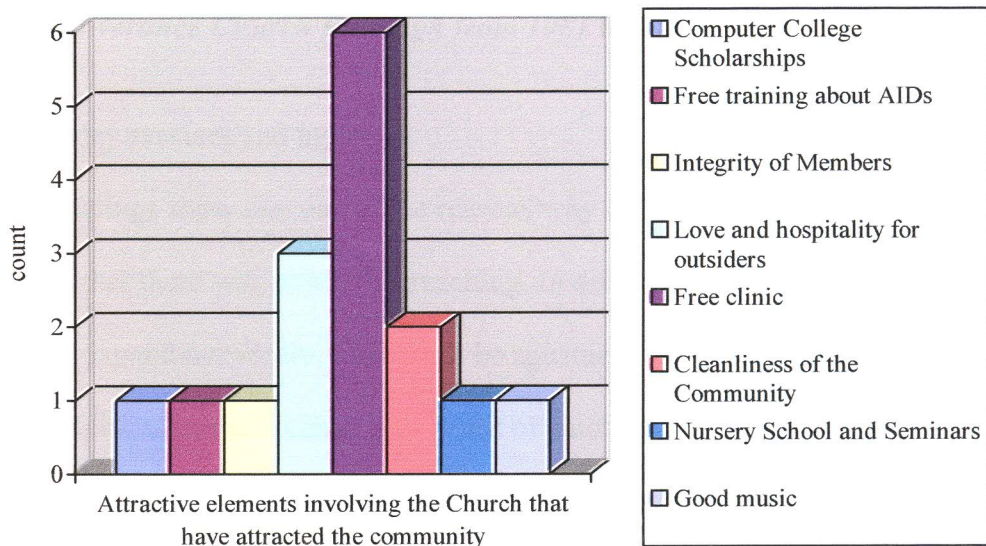


Figure 4. Elements involving DCE that have attracted the community to the Church

Summary of the findings of Research Question 1

The findings indicate that the most important factor that led to the growth of DCE from 1981 to 2006 was effective church activities and meetings (table 1). These effective Church activities and meetings were caused by good worship, well organised Church services and weekly meetings, well prepared sermons which were accompanied by signs and wonders, home cell fellowships and also the holding of conferences, seminars and other meetings.

However from the charts we see that members and outsiders do not think this way. Members think that it is effective departments that caused growth in the Church while outsiders think that it is community work such as the free clinics.

Response to Research Question 2: To what Extent did these Factors Influence the Growth of Deliverance Church Eastleigh from 1981 to 2006?

Effective Sunday services and meetings

The findings show that one of the reasons why DCE grew from 500 to 2500 members was that there was powerful preaching. In order for a Church to reach out to the world and expand outwardly, there must be spiritual growth amongst the saints in that Church. Spiritual growth comes as a result of among other things such as prayer and practice, hearing rich and well-balanced messages from the Word of God. The believer is then expected to put into practice what he has learnt thus causing growth in the Church as more and more people hear and respond to the Word of God through the ministry of the believer. This kind of strategy was used by Paul in the early Church where we see Paul expecting Timothy to share with others what he has heard him speak (II Timothy 2:2) (Arn 1979, 62). The findings of DCE indicate that as members of the Church heard the Word of God at DCE, it bore fruit in their lives thus causing them to share with their friends, relatives and others what they have heard and as a result the Church grew.

The findings also indicate that the preaching of the Word at DCE was accompanied by signs and wonders and was mostly evangelistic and thus people got saved during Sunday Services and other meetings. According to one of the leaders every Sunday an average of 5 non-Christians would get saved. Alcoholics would get saved and stay saved. The “message did not divert from the truth” and “it caused a marked change in the lives of people.” “Guest speakers and seasoned speakers made each Sunday unique.” The guest speakers were also invited to speak in seminars and revival meetings. The messages were also relevant to the congregation and mainly focused on faith, hope and love. According to another interviewee the preachers took

time to prepare themselves before speaking through prayer and meditation of the Word (*field notes*).

In such meetings also the worship was led by “anointed singers”. The choir members and other musical groups were committed to their ministry and also disciplined. According to a former member, there was “no lateness, prayerlessness, sinlessness, walking with sinners” (*field notes*). The musical instruments were played by very talented musicians. The music attracted many people from the neighborhood who came to listen who in turn got saved. These new converts in turn invited their friends to the Church. According to one of the leaders of the Church, “the Church embraced all kinds of music” because “the pastors were youthful (*field notes*).” According to Pointer (1984, 73), when music is relevant to the culture of the people of the community many of them are attracted to the meetings in that Church. During such worship also, people were filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered in line with the scripture that says “open your mouth and I will fill it (*field notes*).”

Other meetings that were responsible for the growth of the Church included home fellowships. Home fellowships were made up of people from the same neighborhood. The Home fellowships were considered to be the “first Churches” before the main Church. During these meetings people would get saved and become members of DCE. Recently however these home fellowships have become ineffective. This has mainly been because some of the leaders have relocated to other Churches of Deliverance Church that have been opened in Eastleigh (*field notes*).

Mobilized membership

The findings also indicate that another factor that caused growth at DCE was the presence of committed members. The members were committed to the Church and

even came for meetings during the rainy season. Members were also committed in meeting the needs such as the financial needs of the Church. According to the Senior Pastor, during the construction of the Church, some members and leaders committed themselves to borrow loans from their banks in order to help complete the building. This is because the members felt that DCE was their Church and therefore they could do anything to support it. Members who were out of the country supported the Church by sending their tithes and offerings to the Church. According to a former member the testimony of members from DCE attracted their friends and relatives to the Church (*field notes*).

The findings indicate that there was a lot of unity in the Church and members loved each other. This love and unity was evident when it came to weddings. Members of the Church would turn up in large numbers to support the couple that was getting married. This would be a great encouragement to the couple and they in turn would show the same love to other young couples getting married. Later on when children were born to the married couple, these children would automatically become members of the Church (*field notes*).

The findings indicate that during such functions as weddings people got saved and became members of the Church after the preaching. The Church was also lively and the members were full of joy and this attracted members of the community to join the Church. According to some members of the community who were interviewed during the research, the members of DCE are good people and full of love for the community (*field notes*).

The findings also indicate that another element that caused growth was that the members and leaders of the Church were prayerful. According to Pointer (1984, 59), prayer leads to organic growth. This is because as the members pray for one another

and pray for the leaders, a lot of love and unity exists in the fellowship. Pointer further says that prayer can change any strife in the fellowship to love, forgiveness and unity. Prayer also leads to incarnational growth. This is because as the members pray before going for any activity that involves taking Christ to the community, the Lord uses them to minister to the people in that community effectively. Prayer can bring new converts to the Church and also make them firm in their faith (Pointer 1984, 59).

According to a former member at DCE, members were committed to prayers including morning prayers which were held every morning at 6 am at the Church. The findings also indicate that the Kenya House of Prayer, which is an organization that is mainly concerned with prayers for the nations, had a significant influence in the prayer life of some members of the Church. These members after undergoing some training with the Kenya House of Prayer became committed in conducting intercessory prayers within the Church. These members had a passion for intercessions and were thus given the responsibility to lead prayer meetings and overnight prayer meetings for the Church. These intercessory prayers attracted many people from the community. One particular lady confessed that she came to DCE because she felt the Holy Spirit leading her to become a member of the Church (*field notes*).

The more people prayed the more people were attracted to the Church. The prayers also brought a revival in the Church and other members of the Church who were not prayerful became committed to prayer both personally and corporately (*field notes*).

Effective leadership

The findings indicate that another factor that was responsible for numerical growth at DCE was effective leadership. Each department would be given an opportunity to coordinate various activities in the Church. Such activities included the overnight prayer meetings. During such activities, members were encouraged to bring their friends and relatives and these people became Christians and thus members of DCE. These activities helped the members to appreciate the talents that different members had.

Another element that caused growth was time keeping at DCE. According to McGavran and Arn (1973, 102) a growing Church is usually careful in terms of using time. Every activity is well planned and the goals of the meeting are achieved. By the end of the meeting the members usually feel that they have not wasted any time. The findings indicate that another reason why the Church grew was because; the Sunday services were well organized and relevant in the sense that they were convenient time wise because of the presence of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd services. Some members would therefore come to the services and still go to work or do other things. The weekly meetings were also serious and rich. Bible Studies included Bible Expositions of various books in the Bible e.g. Exodus, Genesis, etc. (*field notes*).

The Church bulletin according to another interviewee also helped to attract more members. It advertised the Church and attracted new members who came across it. The ladies' fellowship had a wing for the widows while the men's fellowship held Men's breakfast where outsiders were invited. Training was another activity that brought in more members to the church. The training was done by the Deliverance Church Bible Training College which had its classes within the compound. However recently, the Bible School could no longer accept new students because of lack of

finances. Some of the members of the Church would be trained in the Bible School and these members became more active in the Church while others went ahead to start their own Churches (*field notes*).

The leaders were also accessible to the members. This was very motivating to the members since they could interact with the leaders and receive help whenever they needed it. The pastors and leaders of the Church were full of integrity and showed a lot of love to the members. According to one of the interviewees, when her sister passed away, the leaders were an encouragement to her and her family.

According to another interviewee the leaders were also humble in the sense that whenever there was a problem they would not fear to discuss it or even apologize when they were wrong. The leaders lived a life of holiness, thus “preaching it and living it.” The leaders were also quick to recognize talent among the members and encourage these members. Everyone who had potential was allowed to grow. Nobody was oppressed or locked out. Many people who also passed by the Church, liked the Church because it was an African Church being led by Africans (*field notes*).

The Church leaders were also determined to keep the Church united. Some of the writings on the walls of the Church show clearly that the leaders are committed to this cause. The writings on the wall read: “A Church that prays together, stays together, works together, shares together.” The leaders led by example even when it came to small activities such as washing the Church. According to a former member, many of the leaders were educated and this attracted educated people. The leaders were also prayerful and committed to reading the Word of God (*field notes*).

The Senior Pastor also has a welcoming spirit and has the gift of pastor. This has done well for the Church because the Church is known to be a hospitable Church. Whenever visitors are told to remain behind after the service, some of them open up

and say what they are going through and many of them would get saved and become members of the Church. According to another interviewee another reason why DCE grew was because whenever new people came for meetings they felt “a sense of belonging”. This is because there was no segregation and the members expressed a lot of simplicity in the way they conducted themselves (*field notes*).

Another reason that came up in the research that attracted new members was the initiation of projects by the Church or various departments within the Church. Some of the projects included the purchase of land in Kitengela by the Men’s fellowship. This project brought in new members who were interested in joining up with the men to buy land at Kitengela. According to an interviewee, people look for places where there are benefits. The project meetings were also forums where the unsaved men would be evangelized. The ladies were also responsible for decorating the Church which made the Church look attractive and thus attracted new members to the Church (*field notes*).

Another element that attracted more members into the Church was the presence of a Congolese and Ethiopian fellowship within the Church compound. Most of the members of these fellowships were refugees. Many brethren who were attracted to these fellowships became members of DCE because of the kind of hospitality they received at DCE. One of the Congolese pastors married a Kenyan lady which strengthened the bond between Kenyans and the foreigners (*field notes*).

Outsiders were also attracted to the Church because of the counseling services they would receive in the Church. According to one of the counselors, outsiders would either come alone or with their relatives or friends who had brought them to Church. Other new people came because their physical needs could be met. The announcement would be made for those who are in need to come forward after the

Service and these people would be given what they needed e.g. food, clothing according to what was available. The home visitations by the pastors and leaders of the Church also encouraged members of the Church. These members who were being visited by the pastors and the leaders of the Church would introduce their pastors to their neighbors. The neighbors in turn would be encouraged by the love and concern shown by the pastors and leaders and would decide to become members of the Church (*field notes*).

The choice by the leaders of a Church motto that talks about caring for people also attracted many people. The Church motto is “We care about you.” According to one of the interviewees many people had testified that one of the reasons that brought them to the Church was that they were attracted by the Church motto (*field notes*).

Effective departments

The findings also indicate that another factor that caused growth in the church was that various departments in the Church were active and efficient. According to a Sunday school teacher, children in the Sunday school were taught on how to win souls and also encouraged to bring their friends to the Church. According to the teacher, the children were also used by the Sunday school teachers to invite their parents to the Church (*field notes*).

The findings also indicate that the hospitality team was also responsible for causing growth within the Church. As we have mentioned earlier, DCE has been known for its uniqueness in inviting visitors. The hospitality team consists of ushers and other members of the Church who are able to identify visitors during various meetings in the Church (*field notes*).

Another department that was instrumental in causing growth at the Church

was the counseling team. As we have mentioned, outsiders would be attracted to the Church with the intention of getting counseling and eventually become members of the Church. According to one of the counselors, the type of counseling that is available at DCE includes healing and deliverance counseling (*field notes*). However according to the counselor, the Church is currently in need of marriage counselors. Many young couples who are about to get married have to look for marriage counselors in other Churches before getting married. This has sadly drawn many young couples away from the Church and thus acting as a hindrance to growth (*field notes*).

According to one of the members of the ladies fellowship the ladies have also contributed significantly to the growth of the Church. This is because apart from decorating the Church, the ladies have been instrumental in interceding for the Church. Presently the ladies fellowship has divided itself into intercessory groups where each group has a responsibility to pray for the Church and the nation on a particular week. Every Sunday after the Service, these groups meet to strategize (*field notes*).

The youth ministry. Another reason why DCE grew to such a level was because of the presence of a strong youth ministry. Generally youths are known to be more energetic than the old and are therefore able to attract more members in their ministry. This is because their activities are creative and well organized.

The findings indicate that the youth department contributed significantly to the growth of the Church. The youth ministry has a Missions department that is responsible for organizing missions to schools and other places. According to some interviewees the youth ministry was able to attract new members because of the many

exciting and attractive activities it held such as camps, picnics, hikes, sports, VBS, love zone and crazy Olympics. According to the interviewee, the youth of DCE were known to be very talented in such activities as drama and music and therefore whenever they held concerts, many youths from the community and other parts of Nairobi would attend and in the process become members of the Church (*field notes*).

The findings indicate that the youth in DCE had a passion for God and were totally devoted to the things of God. The youth leaders were also reachable and available. The youth ministry had a youth Pastor who had a burden for the youth and was full of humor which kept the youth quite interested in the youth activities. The youth ministry was also hospitable to its visitors. During youth meetings on Sundays, the youth leaders would ask everyone to pray for the person sitting next to them and this made them know each other better since every Sunday each youth member would have a different prayer partner (*field notes*).

However the youth ministry has also had set-backs which have caused many youths to leave DCE. One of these setbacks was the disbanding of a teens fellowship which caused the exit of many youths from DCE to other Churches. Another set-back which exists up to now is the presence of a generation gap between the young and the old. This generation gap has mainly been caused by the criticism of the youth ministry activities by the old in the Church and vice versa. If the Church is to experience growth in the Church, this gap has to be filled. This is because, the youth are the leaders of tomorrow, and therefore if they are oppressed in the Church in one way or another, the Church has no future (*field notes*).

Evangelism, missions and follow-up

According to Pointer (1984, 78), continuous evangelism is a sign of growth. Continuous evangelism is an activity that takes place in two levels, i.e. spontaneous evangelism and also systematic evangelism.

Spontaneous evangelism is where the members of the Church act as witnesses of Christ wherever they are. This type of evangelism takes place when Christians have good relationships with non-believers. This provides an avenue for them to easily pass on the message to them (Mathew 5:14-16). Systematic evangelism on the other hand is when the believers organize themselves into groups and deliberately plan to go out for a mission or an evangelistic outing to a particular place and evangelize to the people in that area. This type of evangelism can be seen when Jesus told the disciples to go and preach the gospel beginning from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to other parts of the world (Acts 1:8) (Pointer 1984, 78).

The findings indicate that another reason that caused the growth of DCE was that there was both spontaneous and systematic evangelism within the Church. According to one of the interviewees the church has always been outreach minded and evangelistic minded. Every October the Church held a crusade called the Great October crusade where many people would get saved and become members of the Church. One of the members of the Church whom I interviewed actually got saved in one of these crusades and is now an active member of the Church (*field notes*). Crusades however are no longer as effective as they used to be. This is because the population of Eastleigh is mostly Muslim now and very few of them take interest in Crusades. The Church needs to explore other methods of evangelism such as one-to-one evangelism.

According to the findings, the New Life Ministry was in charge of evangelism

in the Church and taught believers on how to do one-to-one evangelism. This empowered the believers in the sense that they could evangelize to their colleagues, friends, relatives and others since they had been taught how to evangelize. New members and converts were also taught in their classes how to evangelize. Another department that was responsible for evangelism was the hospital ministry. Through the ministry patients would get saved and become members of the Church together with their children.

The findings indicate that one of the reasons why there was growth in the Church was because evangelism was emphasized from the pulpit and the leadership participated in many outreaches. Missions would be organized to schools, colleges, universities, etc where students would get saved and become members of DCE. Every Sunday the evangelistic team organized a mission to Pumwani Maternity where the mothers who were giving birth would get saved and become members of the Church. In some cases the team would pay some bills for the mothers who are not able to pay. This encouraged these mothers to come and join the Church (*field notes*).

According to the research, the crusades were very lively with powerful singing, good instrumentalists and counselors who were relevant to the culture at Eastleigh which attracted many souls to come to the Lord. When people saw the Christians in the crusades, they admired the message. Members were also encouraged to give their tithes and offerings and as they got blessed and testified in the Church non-Christians were encouraged to get saved. The evangelistic team leader involved the whole Church by giving a report of what the Lord was doing as far as evangelism was concerned (*field notes*).

Good administration

The findings also indicate that good administration of the Church also led to the growth of the church. The presence of permanent offices within the Church and a strong team of workers made it possible for all the matters concerning the Church and the members to be sorted out within the Church. Whenever a member came to the Church his need would be met because the Pastors were available in their offices to meet that need (*field notes*).

Some projects such as the Joy Nursery School, Deliverance Church Bible School and the Shining boys' project meant for orphans brought in more members to the Church. Recently a computer college was started within the Church compound. This college has attracted many people from the community who are not Christians especially because of the scholarships it provides. This can be a very good avenue to preach the gospel to the non-Christians in the community. Recently also a project called the Passover project has been initiated by the men's fellowship (*field notes*). The project is meant to create some income generating activities amongst the men. Such a project can also attract other men to the Church who are seeking to benefit from the project.

The findings also revealed that the Church members were involved with community clean-ups. These clean-ups according to an interviewee brought in new members because it advertised the Church. According to the interviewee, some members of the community would ask where the Church was situated because the members of the Church would wear T-shirts with some writings about the Church. Such people later on became members of DCE. Some members of the community agree that one way the Church has shown that it cares about the community is by cleaning up the community (*field notes*).

Summary of the findings of Research Question 2

The findings indicate that effective leadership was an important factor that influenced the other factors of growth. The findings further indicate that because of effective leadership, the Church activities and meetings were well organized, the members were highly motivated and were thus committed to the Church, the departments were effective, evangelism, missions and follow-up was effective and there was good administration (figure 5).

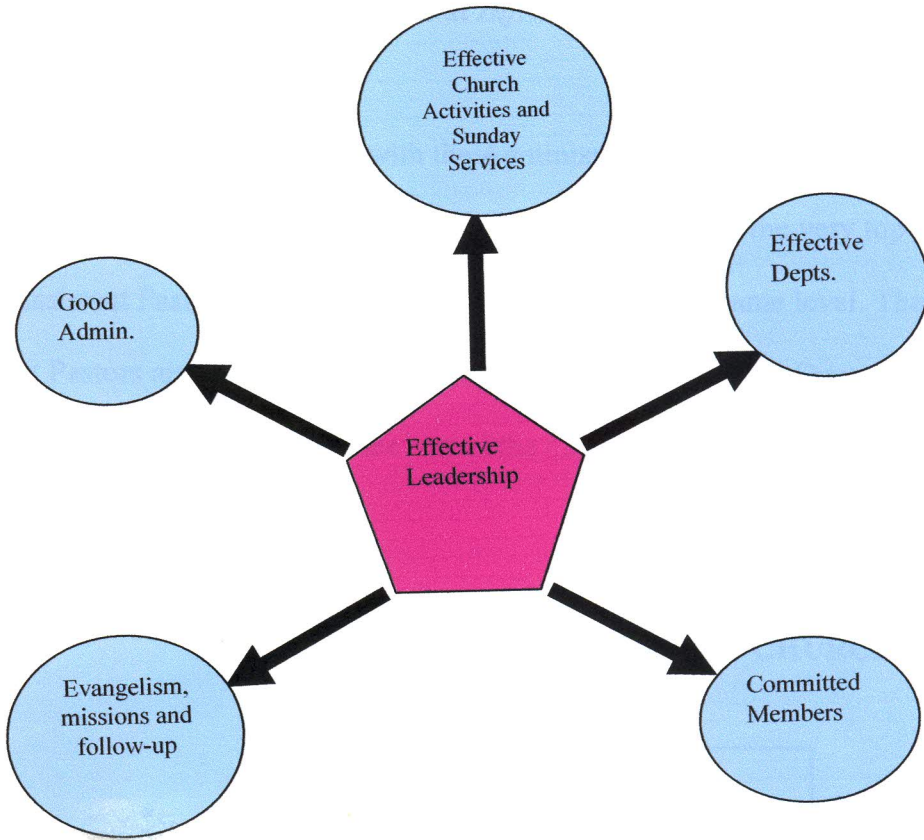


Figure 5. Diagram showing how effective leadership affected factors influencing the growth of DCE

Response to Question 3: To What Extent Did the Church Structure of Deliverance Church Eastleigh Affect the Factors that Influenced the Growth of the Church from 1981 to 2006

According to an interview with the Administrative Pastor, the Church structure of DCE consists of the following: the Senior Pastor at the very top followed by the Assistant Pastors and the Local Church council on the same level. The Assistant Pastors and the LCC are then followed by the Elders, the Deacons, the Heads of Departments, and lastly the rest of the members of the Church consecutively (figure 6).

STRUCTURE OF DELIVERANCE CHURCH

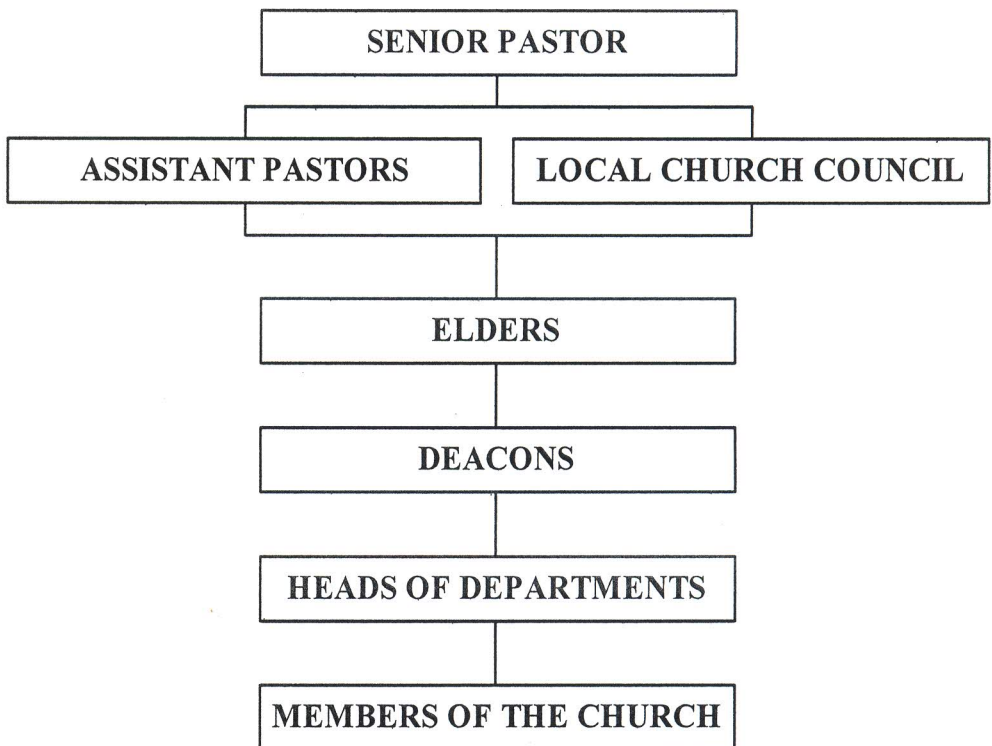


Figure 6. Church structure of DCE

The findings indicate that the Church Structure of DCE had a great influence on the factors that caused the growth of DCE from 1981 to 2006. To begin with, the Senior Pastor as we have mentioned earlier had a welcoming spirit, loved people and had a gift of pastor. This caused the Church to be very friendly to visitors. Visitors would come to DCE and would decide to settle and become members (*field notes*).

The findings also indicate that the leaders of DCE were creative and effective in terms of organization. This can be seen from the fact that the Church activities and meetings were well organized and attracted many people. The findings further indicate that the organization of Church activities and meetings was effective because the meetings had powerful worship, the preaching of the Word was exciting and conferences, seminars and other meetings were well attended because of good organization. Guest Speakers would be invited for these meetings which caused them to be lively and exciting to attend. The home fellowships were also well organized and thus effective in causing growth in the Church (*field notes*).

The findings also indicate that the leaders of the Church were creative and were thus able to initiate activities and projects that benefited the Church and caused growth. Some of these projects included the Joy nursery School, the Shining boys' project, and also the Deliverance Church Bible Training School, which attracted many people to the Church. The findings indicate that, the leadership of the Church was able to influence the growth of the Church because they were humble, transparent, and full of integrity. This was a good example to the members who would emulate the leaders and thus bring more people to the Church. The leaders also provided a good environment for the members to utilize their giftings which was very motivating to them.

The leaders of the church were also friendly to foreigners and allowed them to

hold their fellowships within the Church compound. These fellowships as we have seen included the Ethiopian and the Congolese Church which attracted more people to the Church (*field notes*).

Another element of leadership that influenced growth was that the departments in the Church were effective. As we have seen various departments in the Church had a part to play in the growth of the Church. This effectiveness would not have been possible if it were not for a strong leadership team. The youth ministry for example had a youth Pastor who had a burden for the youth and was loved by the youth because he was full of humor (*field notes*).

According to the findings, DCE was evangelistic and outreach minded. This is because the leaders encouraged and supported evangelistic efforts such as missions and other activities. This shows clearly that the leadership of DCE had a vision for the growth of DCE. This was a very important ingredient to the growth of the Church.

Another element in the Church structure that influenced growth is the membership. It is quite clear from the findings that the membership of the Church had respect for the authority of the Church and that is why the Church grew. One of the reasons why the members of the Church were committed to the Church was because they felt that the Church belonged to them. This is because the Church was led by African Pastors and leaders and was self-supporting and thus it motivated them to go to great lengths to ensure that the Church succeeded in every way (*field notes*). The members of the Church in other words had a vision for growth just as the leaders had a vision for growth. The members were also committed because they understood the responsibility they had in the body of Christ and were willing to carry out that responsibility.

Summary of findings of Research Question 3

In summary we can see that the Church structure in DCE was made up of the leaders and the members of DCE. The leadership of DCE was made up of the Senior Pastor, the Assistant Pastors, the Elders, the Deacons, and the Heads of various Departments. These two elements (the leadership and the membership) had a significant influence on the growth of the Church. This is because the leaders and the members provided a good environment where the rest of the factors could be active in bringing growth to the Church. While the leaders provided the administrative part the members were ready to be led. In other words, everybody in DCE had a part to play in line with 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 where we are told:

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

The relationship between the church structure and the factors that influenced growth at DCE is shown in the diagram below (figure 7).

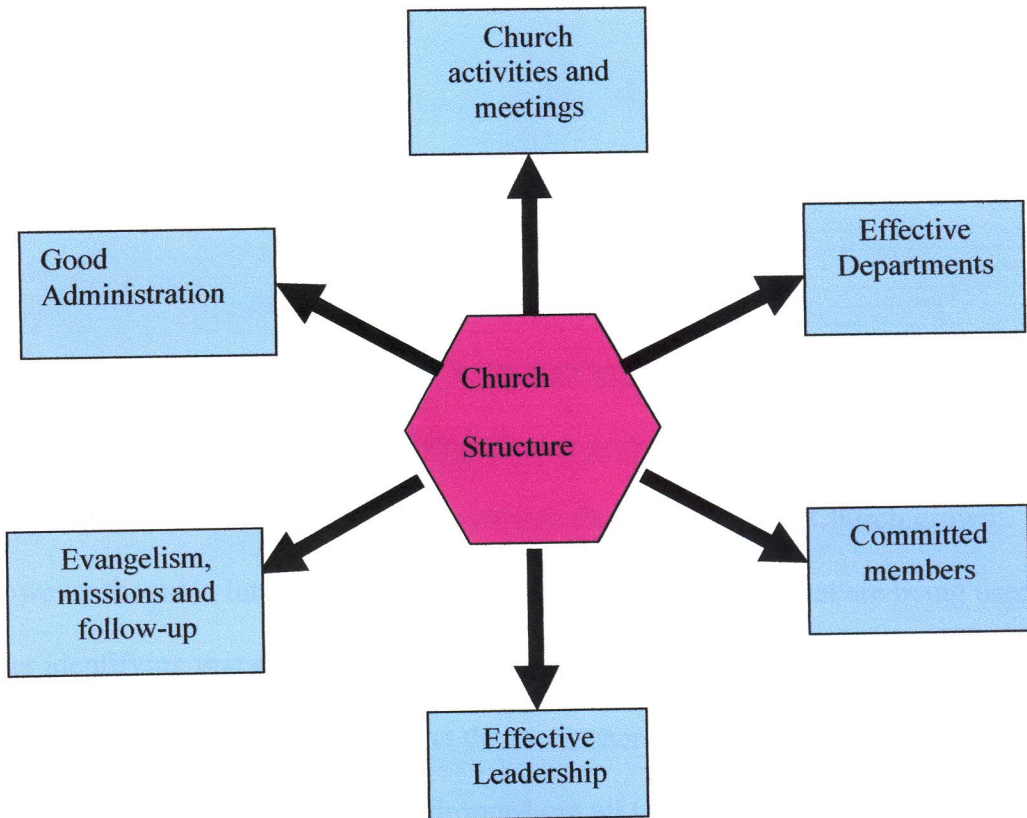


Figure 7. Diagram showing how Church structure affected the factors influencing the growth of DCE

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The main intention of studying Church growth is not to pick out mistakes or condemn the Church concerning the methods they are using for Church growth. However the main intention should be to identify the methods that are being used. If after identifying that some of the methods are not working or need few changes for them to be effective it is prudent that the researcher makes recommendations on how these methods can be improved or dropped out all together. Ebbie Smith (1984, 77) further says that ignoring the facts that can cause growth in the Church is unfaithfulness to God.

It is with this kind of understanding that the following conclusions and recommendations are made concerning the growth of DCE. Apart from the conclusions and recommendations on the growth of DCE, this chapter also contains recommendations for further research.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that the factors that influenced the growth of DCE from 1981 to 2006 include effective leadership, effective Church activities and meetings, committed members, effective departments, evangelism, missions and follow-up and good administration. The most influential factor that emerged is effective leadership. This is because in each of these factors the leadership of the Church was mostly mentioned. However the most prominent factor that influenced growth in the Church

according to the summary of findings according to the statistics in table 1 was effective church activities and meetings. In other words if DCE is to sustain its growth, these two factors must be taken into consideration.

Effective leadership meant that the Church activities and meetings were well organized, the members were well organized and motivated to play their role in the Church, the various departments in the Church were effective, the whole Church was mobilized for evangelism, missions and follow-up and finally their was good administration of the Church resources. It is because of this kind of leadership that DCE was able to grow from 500 to 2500 members.

The church activities and meetings on the other hand had a major part to play in the numerical growth of the Church. This is because they were well organized and effective in the sense that they accomplished the role they were supposed to play. The revival meetings for example brought in revival to the Church, people got saved in Sunday Services while Christians were encouraged while others received healing. In other words each meeting had a major impact on the lives of people. This is not something strange to happen in our Churches today. If leaders in every Church could take time to prepare and pray well for their meetings, such occurrences can be a common occurrence in every congregation.

Recommendations Concerning Further Numerical Growth at DCE

According to Robert Schuller of the Garden Grove Community Church, for a Church to grow, leadership must be “dynamic, aggressive and inspiring”. Robert Schuller further says that,

Leadership is thinking ahead, planning for the future, exhausting all possibilities, envisioning problems and dreaming up solutions to them, and then communicating the possibilities and the problem-solving ideas to the decision-makers. This is leadership (Elmer L. Towns, John N. Vaughan and

David J. Seifert 1981, 207-208).

If the Church at DCE is to experience further growth, the leaders of the Church must not rely on passed victories but must look ahead and look for new strategies of making the Church to grow.

As we read the Old Testament we see that God had an intention for the Church to grow. This we see very clearly as God makes a promise to Abraham in Genesis 15:5 and also Genesis 22:17 where God promises Abraham that

I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.

This promise was not only fulfilled in the emerging and expansion of Israel but also in the body of Christ (Gibbs 1981, 26). What these scriptures imply is that a Church can grow even under very difficult circumstances. This comes out clearly when we see Abraham and Sarah who had no children becoming a father of many nations. A Church should therefore not have an excuse of not growing.

The community at Eastleigh is changing and more and more Muslims are displacing non-Muslims. If DCE is to experience further growth, the Church must look for ways and means of winning these Muslims to Christ. According to some of the interviewees, crusades are no longer as effective. This is because most people in Eastleigh and the whole of Nairobi have heard the gospel and need someone who can talk to them and reason with them on a one-to-one basis.

Another area of potential that the Church needs to explore is in the area of giftings and talents. Many Christians in the Church today are gifted in various ways. However because of the kind of leadership that is existing in many Churches they are unable to utilize these giftings. If DCE is to grow further the members of the Church

must be led in an exercise where they are helped to identify their giftings and encouraged to utilize these giftings.

Another area of potential that the Church needs to tap from is in the youth ministry. The youth ministry is a very sensitive ministry in the sense that a small misunderstanding between the Church and the youth can cause an exit of many youths to other Churches. The youth ministry needs to be strengthened by all means because its members are the leaders of tomorrow. According to Barna (1991, 124) “a church that does little to foster mature leaders will be a Church void of capable leadership in the future.”

Another area of potential that the Church needs to explore is on the training of Pastors and leaders. The generation of today is changing and people are becoming more knowledgeable. It is therefore becoming imperative that Pastors are appointed on the basis of their education. Pastors who have not yet been trained need to be sponsored for training. This will ensure that the Pastors of DCE are relevant to their congregation.

Recommendations for Further Study

The researcher would like to make a recommendation on the following topics for further study:

1. A study on other types of growth based on DCE such as spiritual growth.
2. A study on the effectiveness of the youth ministry at DCE.
3. An evaluation of the evangelistic methods used by DCE to the Eastleigh community.
4. A study on the attitude of DCE members to Muslim evangelism.

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APPENDIX A

Interview questions meant for leaders

Time of Interview

Name of interviewee:

Date of interview:

Place of interview

Position of Interviewee in the church:

Introduction

The main aim of this interview is to discover the factors that influenced the growth of Deliverance Church Eastleigh from 1981 to 2006. It is the hope of the researcher that this research will go along way in assisting the leaders of Deliverance Church Eastleigh and other parties discover which factors were responsible for the growth of Deliverance Church Eastleigh from 500 in 1981 to 2500 in 2006 and why these factors should be enhanced.

QUESTIONS

1. Can you please tell me how you got saved and become a leader in Deliverance Church Eastleigh?
2. What are some of the challenges that you have faced in leadership and how have you been able to overcome these challenges?
3. Can you please explain to me some of the factors that have caused Deliverance Church to grow to such a level?
4. What are some of the suggestions that you would give that would cause this Church to grow more?
5. Are there ideas that the Church leadership is pursuing in order to cause this Church to grow?

APPENDIX B

Questions meant for members in the church

Time of Interview

Name of interviewee:

Date of interview:

Place of interview

Position of Interview in the church:

Introduction

The main aim of this interview is to discover the factors that influenced the growth of Deliverance Church Eastleigh from 1981 to 2006. It is the hope of the Researcher that this research will go along way in assisting the leaders of Deliverance Church Eastleigh and other parties discover which factors were responsible for the growth of Deliverance Church Eastleigh from 500 in 1981 to 2500 in 2006 and why these factors should be enhanced.

QUESTIONS

1. Can you please tell me how you got saved and become a member of Deliverance Church Eastleigh?
2. What are some of the factors that you think may have caused the growth of Deliverance Church Eastleigh?
3. What are some of the suggestions that you would give to the leadership of Deliverance Church Eastleigh that may lead to the growth of the Church?

APPENDIX C

Questions meant for former members of Deliverance Church Eastleigh

Time of Interview

Name of interviewee:

Date of interview:

Place of interview

Introduction

The main aim of this interview is to discover the factors that influenced the growth of Deliverance Church Eastleigh from 1981 to 2006. It is the hope of the Researcher that this research will go along way in assisting the leaders of Deliverance Church Eastleigh and other parties discover which factors were responsible for the growth of Deliverance Church Eastleigh from 500 in 1981 to 2500 in 2006 and why these factors should be enhanced.

QUESTIONS

1. Can you please give me a testimony of how you got saved and how you found your experience at Deliverance Church Eastleigh as a member?
2. Can you please explain to me why you had to relocate to another Church?
3. What are some of the factors that you think may have led to the growth of Deliverance Church to the level it is today?
4. What are some of the suggestions that you would give to the leadership of Deliverance Church Eastleigh that may cause the Church to grow more?

APPENDIX D

Questions meant for non-Christians within the community

Time of Interview

Name of interviewee:

Date of interview:

Place of interview

Introduction

The main aim of this interview is to discover the factors that influenced the growth of Deliverance Church Eastleigh from 1981 to 2006. It is the hope of the Researcher that this research will go along way in assisting the leaders of Deliverance Church Eastleigh and other parties discover which factors were responsible for the growth of Deliverance Church Eastleigh from 500 in 1981 to 2500 in 2006 and why these factors should be enhanced.

QUESTIONS

1. Can you please explain to me how long you have lived in this community?
2. Has any member of Deliverance Church Eastleigh (DCE) ever told about salvation?
3. Has any born again Christian ever told you about salvation?
4. How did you respond?
5. What are some of the reasons that may have prevented you from being a Christian?
6. In your opinion are there any reasons related to DCE that hinder you from becoming a Christian?
7. In your opinion are the leadership and members of DCE concerned about this community and how?
8. Do you know anybody who is a member of DCE, and what is your relationship with him or her?

APPENDIX E

Frequency Tables

| INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Church Leaders | 6 | 18.8 | 18.8 |
| Members of the Church | 12 | 37.5 | 56.3 |
| Former members of the Church | 5 | 15.6 | 71.9 |
| Members of the community | 9 | 28.1 | 100.0 |
| Totals | 32 | 100.0 | |

| FACTORS THAT INFLUENCED GROWTH ACCORDING TO LEADERS | | | |
|--|-----------|------------|-----------------------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Effective Church activities and meetings | 14 | 36.8 | 36.8 |
| Committed members | 7 | 18.4 | 55.3 |
| Effective Leadership | 6 | 15.8 | 71.1 |
| Effective Departments | 2 | 5.3 | 76.3 |
| Evangelism, missions and follow-up | 7 | 18.4 | 94.7 |
| Good administration | 2 | 5.3 | 100.0 |
| Totals | | 100 | |

| FACTORS THAT INFLUENCED GROWTH ACCORDING TO MEMBERS | | | |
|--|-----------|--------------|-----------------------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Effective Church activities and meetings | 23 | 23.2 | 23.2 |
| Committed members | 10 | 10.1 | 33.3 |
| Effective Leadership | 20 | 20.2 | 53.5 |
| Effective Departments | 26 | 26.3 | 79.8 |
| Evangelism, missions and follow-up | 15 | 15.2 | 94.9 |
| Good administration | 5 | 5.1 | 100.0 |
| Totals | | 100.0 | |

| FACTORS THAT INFLUENCED GROWTH ACCORDING TO FORMER MEMBERS | | | |
|---|-----------|---------|-----------------------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Effective Church activities and meetings | 10 | 33.3 | 33.3 |
| Committed members | 6 | 20.0 | 53.3 |
| Effective Leadership | 3 | 10.0 | 63.3 |
| Effective Departments | 3 | 10.0 | 73.3 |
| Evangelism, missions and follow-up | 5 | 16.7 | 90.0 |
| Good administration | 3 | 10.0 | 100.0 |
| Totals | | 100.0 | |

| AREAS THAT SHOWED THAT THE CHURCH WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE COMMUNITY | | | |
|--|-----------|---------|-----------------------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Computer college scholarships | 1 | 6.3 | 6.3 |
| Free training on AIDS | 1 | 6.3 | 12.5 |
| Integrity of Members | 1 | 6.3 | 18.8 |
| Love and hospitality for outsiders | 3 | 18.8 | 37.5 |
| Free clinic | 6 | 37.5 | 75.0 |
| Community clean-ups | 2 | 12.5 | 87.5 |
| Nursery school and seminars | 1 | 6.3 | 93.8 |
| Good music | 1 | 6.3 | 100.0 |
| | | 100.0 | |



December 21, 200

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: RESEARCH WORK

The bearer of this letter, Mr. Joshua K. Lang'at is a student at Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (NEGST) and is doing research towards the completion of Master of Arts in (Mission Studies). The research is on “ **Factors that influence the growth of Deliverance Church: Eastleigh**”.

Any assistance that you can give to Mr. Lang'at will be much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dwight Jessup
Ag. DVCAA