



A Presentation Delivered by

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During the National Executive Leadership Conference of The Apostolic Church, Nigeria held between June 4th and 5th, 2024 at the National Headquarters, Olorunda Ketu, Lagos State.

THEME:
**SEVEN-POINT
AGENDA:
A SCORECARD**

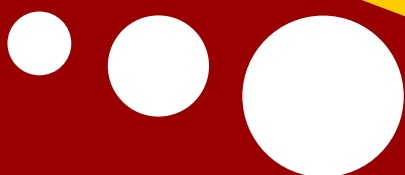
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**AGGRESSIVE
EVANGELISM:
WHERE WE ARE.**



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1 *A Short Introduction.*

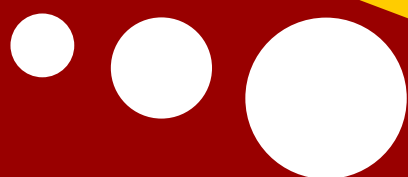
It is a faithful saying without negotiation that evangelism is the life wire of the Church. It gladdens my heart to see that the leadership of the Church decided to include the matter of evangelism - the heartbeat of God in the discussion of this conference. This is commendable and considered fulfilling.

It is important to note that; If the Church fails to evangelize the world, the world can evangelize the church and win her. Evangelism will always remain the anti-Satanism! So any Church that stands against evangelism will opt for Satanism which is the agenda of the gate of hell. It is expected that more priority be given to evangelism in all the activities of the Church because some activities may be nice but not profitable



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since no soul is won through those activities. That is why evangelism is regarded as the only manure in the farmland of the church, the more you plant in it, the more your crops. **Proverbs 14: 4** *Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox.*



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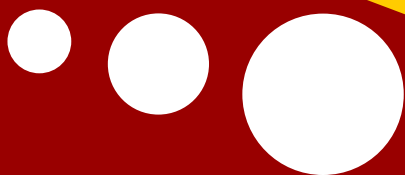


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An Appraisal. (Seven-point Agenda- Pastor (Dr) S.E Igwe, National President, TACN)

The words of encomium are not for flattering, they are harvests of one's labor. Glory be to God for raising our father, Pastor (Dr) S.E. Igwe, National President of The Apostolic Church Nigeria. When he came on board in the year 2017, among his seven-point agenda was "aggressive Evangelism". To the glory of God, the vision was supported by God, and this was demonstrated when the Lord spoke through one of our prophets on January 1st, 2018, that an open-air gospel crusade should be organized in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. Even though the Cities Crusade Gospel outreach had been on the move earlier, however, the vision of our father for aggressive



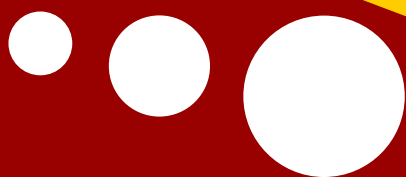
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evangelism brought Cities Crusade Outreach into the limelight. And because of his interest in evangelism, he believed the prophecy and acted upon it wholeheartedly. He quickly set up the National Evangelical team (1st of its kind in the history of the church), making Pastor M.A. Oke the leader who had been ordained earlier as National Evangelist. Lo and behold, the National Open Air Gospel Crusade was born in The Apostolic Church Nigeria.

Looking curiously at the message of our father, the president, one will agree that his message is evangelical. And I want to believe that this is where he derives his enthusiasm for evangelism. God has used him to break new grounds in The Apostolic Church in Nigeria which will remain an indelible legacy in the Church. May God's presence never depart from him praying that he will finish strong in Jesus's name.



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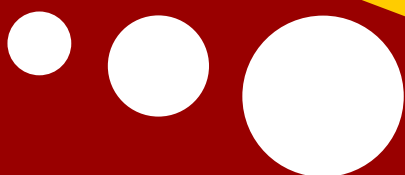


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Aggressive Evangelism: Where We Were.

In the actual sense, the methods of evangelism applied in those days in The Apostolic Church were very effective. They were very productive and fruitful. Those methods were possibly useful because that was what fit the challenges of that time. Some of the methods are highlighted below:

- ◆ **Evangelical Party** – the engagement of the youths/witnesses to propagate the gospel, planting and manning a newly established Assembly.
- ◆ **Indoor Revival** – Our evangelists then were mostly engaged with pre-convention revivals, and that was the major evangelical approach used during the time.
-Research reveals that the announcement



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of the revival was only allowed to be published in the church among members since the Church policy (then) stood against going to Radio Stations to publicize a revival service.

- ◆ **Another method was the invitation.** The Church then encouraged the members to bring friends or relatives to the Church to become members of the Church.
- ◆ **Divine Healing:** Another highly effective method was Divine Healing.
 - *This method became less effective when medical or medicinal means of healing were introduced to the world.*

An effective Evangelism approach is like weather, it is dynamic, and not static. It changes from time to time. It can even change unnoticed. Everybody knows that the structure of the world remains the same,



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but inventions have changed the outlook of the world. Our denomination suffered a setback evangelically because the denomination tarried more than necessary over the primitive methods of approach to evangelism.

Where we were in The Apostolic Church Nigeria Evangelically can be briefly summarized as follows:

- ◆ **The name of the Church was not known.**
 - *The name of The Apostolic Church Nigeria, despite being the first Pentecostal Church in the nation was not known or better say overshadowed and mistook for another denomination because of the prototype and similarity.*
- ◆ **Loss of Elites through Illiteracy in the Church.**
 - *Potential members e.g. CEO, Directors, Elites, and noble's men left the Church*



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because in those days the Church did not regard education. Then, a few ministers who struggled to be educated were tactically punished by transferring them to where education would not be valued – this promoted illiteracy in the Church which caused the great loss of potential members.

- We thank God, that, recently, this terrible virus has been dealt with, but the effect of the past harm is still the Church.

◆ **In the recent past, passion for evangelism became dead.**

- In the recent past, the Church seemed as if she was not an evangelical denomination at all because no one showed interest in Evangelism anymore. The evangelical party became dead. Rarely was the theme of our conventions captioned or centered on evangelism. No evangelical



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programmes anymore. It got to a point that evangelical choruses were buried in the Church because there were no evangelical services where such songs could be rendered. The Church became evangelically complacent thinking that we had had more than enough members. Hence, the Church started experiencing membership decline.

◆ **No prayer Programme was allowed in the Church.**

- In the past, (apart from morning and evening daily services), the Church did not allow a prayer programme where members could gather to pray over their life challenges and difficulties. So, when the leadership failed to succumb to this on time, many of our members trooped out to other denominations for prayer programmes, and the moment their



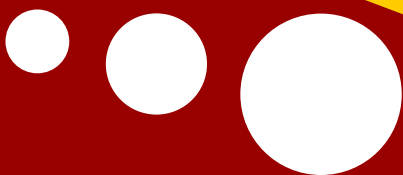
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problems were solved, they decided to join the denomination. One can imagine great numbers of our members that had left the Church through the medium of prayer programme in another denomination.

- ◆ **Youths were not considered as potential.**
 - *In the past, the Church disregarded the youths as if they were not potential. In those days, the Church stood against those who were gifted in one way or the other to exhibit the gifts in the Church as if the gifts were not given to them by God. There was no platform where they could display the gifts. The Church stood vehemently against the gifted. This made a lot of them to leave our denomination to another denomination. Many of them are now stars and their influence populates*



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the Church they are in. To mention but a few: Mister Kunle Ajayi was a TACN member, but he's now the chief saxophonist to Pastor E.A. Adeboye in RCCG. Mister Nathaniel Basse, a renowned Christian artiste was a TACN, Mister Kay Wonder was a TACN member. They all left, not because anybody hurt them but because there was no major Church programme that could serve as a platform for their rising.

The Church could have scored a high rate in Evangelism, but those factors were seen as the contributors to the low level of Evangelism in the past. Now, let's look at our current position in Evangelism.



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4 Aggressive Evangelism: Where We Are.

To God be the glory, today, in The Apostolic Church Nigeria, the work of evangelism has taken a new leaf through the efforts of the leadership of the Church. The Church has introduced some strategies to combat the challenges of mass exodus of members. Our current position of evangelism can be summarized as follows:

◆ **An Evangelist is ordained.**

- The Church has ordained an Evangelist and sitting him to oversee and shoulder the work of evangelism. This cannot but take the Church a longer way in the matter of evangelism. Even though he is more or less a pioneer since the office has never existed before, and more so, no standard structure of evangelism is met on the



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ground, however, with time, the challenges will be challenged.

◆ **Gospel Crusade has come to stay in the Church.**

- The Church has come up with an outdoor gospel campaign, and this is now publicizing the name of the denomination to the public. Through this medium, new souls are coming into the Church.

◆ **Monthly prayer programmes are now permitted in the Church.**

- The Church has now permitted prayer programmes in our Assembly, District, Area, and even at the National Headquarters. In addition, LAWNA territory has established a prayer mountain for daily prayer activities for those who need prayer help. This platform has grossly curbed the number of members going out to other



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denominations for prayer.

◆ **Increase in the Church planting exercise.**

- Church planting exercise has increased. Churches were/are planted in most of our national crusades. Likewise, at the territorial level, Area level, District level, and Assembly level.

◆ **The youths are now given recognition.**

- The current leadership administration nationally has approved conventions for the youths. Also, a youth week has been approved for them in all Assemblies. So many activities have been permitted for the youths to hold in the Church. The resultant effect of this is that it reduces the number of those leaving the Church.

To sum up, there is an obvious difference in the state of evangelism in the Church in comparison to the past. Even though, many

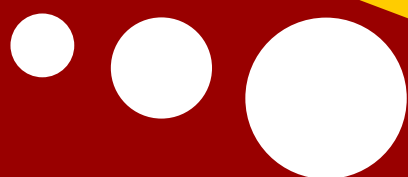


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things are yet to be done. There are lots of vacuums to be filled. So many lands are yet to be covered. Therefore, if more efforts can be put in place, assuredly, the Church will be taken to where she can be in evangelism.



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Aggressive Evangelism: Where We Can Be.

The challenges the Church is encountering (loss of membership) is a warning from the Lord that the Church should rise seriously to evangelism. The leadership should not be complacent thinking the Church is already populated. If anyone should develop such a notion, it should be regarded as heretical because there is nowhere in the bible that if a Church has a certain number of members, such a Church should not be bothered about evangelism anymore. Let's take the following illustration as a guiding principle:

“Amazon is always searching for better and faster ways to deliver products to customers. Never satisfied with the status quo, Amazon has tried several alternatives to UPS and FedEx. The company has asked



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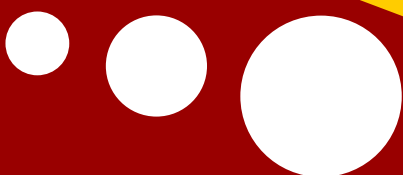
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the Federal Aviation Administration for permission to deliver packages via aerial drones. In November 2014, they tested cab drivers for delivery in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Believers could learn from Amazon's dedication. We need to continually look for new and different ways to make the greatest delivery of all: the gospel. Like Paul, we should have no bounds on the matter of evangelism."

The leadership of the Church should note that history reveals that when the fire of evangelism was burning in The Apostolic Church Nigeria in those days, especially during the time of divine healing, numerous people left Orthodox Churches to The Apostolic Church. The leadership in Orthodox Churches failed to rise to the challenges thinking that those who left would come back. Lo and behold, it was not so!



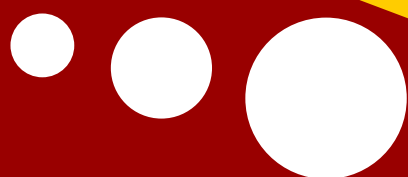
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It is necessary to note that there are many Pentecostal Churches in the nation now. Many of them are trading members by giving them care, hospitality, free education, charity, and so on. All is a bid to divert their attention.

If the leadership in The Apostolic Church can consider giving 65 percent attention to evangelism, I can assure you that the Church can meet and overtake those who are taking the lead now. Our denomination is graciously given a sound doctrine, but the Church is not known - this is like a company that invested much to have the best products, but the company fails to spend on advertisement.

My findings show one of the reasons why the Church should turn evangelical as clearly illustrated below:

“In a 2008 religious landscape survey, the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life interviewed 35,000 Americans and



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mapped American beliefs state by state. One interesting discovery is that 44 percent of people had switched their religion at some point in life.

This is good news to those who take the Lord's command to evangelize seriously. It means people are not as firm in their religious commitment as perhaps was previously thought. If 44 percent will switch, this is a good avenue through evangelism to get as many to switch toward Christ as possible”

As the first Pentecostal Church in Nigeria, the Church can be the citadel of evangelism. The Church can become a model for others. The Church can be a gigantic denomination in the nation. Therefore, the recommendations highlighted in the next sub-topic could be considered potent and useful.

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Aggressive Evangelism: **Potent Recommendations.**

In the real sense, the leadership of the Church (the past and the present) is appreciated for their rigorous labour to sustain the standard of the Church despite all the challenges in the Christian world generally. However, it is expected that more efforts should be put in place to win more souls to the Church and the kingdom of Heaven.

One thing is sure, the members who have left may not return or a few percentage returns, but our efforts can bring in new and fresh members. Therefore, the following recommendations may be considered.

◆ **Evangelism Orientation to Members.**

- *The Church needs to educate and orient our members on the effective approach to evangelism in this present world.*



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Therefore, each territory can hold a seminar or a convention in which the caption or theme will be centered on EVANGELISM.

◆ **Soul-Winning as a Prerequisite For a Minister's Promotion.**

-The leadership should prioritize soul-winning as the prerequisite for the promotion of ministers of God. My findings show that many ministers of God nowadays are after promotion. A lot of the ministers who joined the ministry without winning one soul are now apostles.

◆ **Introduction of the School of Discipleship.**

-A school of Discipleship should be introduced to our service like Sunday School class probably at the end of the service. This will go a long way to establishing the new converts to the Church.

◆ **Correction of Wrong Notion Among Ministers.**

-The leadership should consider working



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seriously to correct the notion that the work of evangelism is for only the evangelists. This is the reason why many of our ministers fail to show concern for evangelism, hence members are not increasing in their Assembly.

◆ **The Need to Train Ministers on Evangelical Sermon Delivery.**

- The ministers should be well trained in evangelical sermon delivery and the effective ways to become soul winners.

◆ **Adequate Investment in Evangelism.**

- The leadership should consider investing heavily in evangelism more than any other nice but not profitable programme. If the Church does not invest adequately in evangelism, the little investment will be like throwing a needle in an ocean.

◆ **Invention of Advertisement Devices.**

-The Church should consider a strong advertisement as a bid to publicize the name of our denomination.



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- The leadership should consider procuring customized billboards for the Church which will be erected across the nation. Each territory may handle its covering states. Likewise, Areas may handle their jurisdictions.

- Our Television station should be adequately financed so as to be on the platform of DSTV decoder for accessibility of the masses.

◆ **Radio Evangelism.**

- The Church should consider spending on radio Evangelism – this is not expensive.

◆ **A Standard Monthly Prayer Programme.**

- The leadership should consider organizing a standard territorial Monthly programme (this could be on zones) with the full support of the leaders where the members can be gathered monthly for prayers that will center on meeting their needs, challenges, and problems – without doubt, this will curb going out to another



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denomination, and even other members from other denomination will join the Church through the medium. This is necessary at such a territorial level because, in Evangelism, the crowd is a motivation! (Holy Ghost night Programme at RCCG gathers at the national level. The prayer programme at Area or District level may be a supplement.

- Introduction of Community Crusade and More of Cities Crusade.

- The leadership should encourage the Church to start a community crusade. A Community crusade does not require much. A little gathering at the nook and cranny of the locality of people. It is very effective because it is like preaching the gospel at people's doorstep. Then, more and more should be done on the Cities Crusade.

◆ Encouragement for our Evangelists.



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-The leadership should consider encouraging the few evangelists in the Church.

-One can look at the number of Apostles in the Church; is it true that no evangelist exists among them? They decided not to be ordained as evangelists because of the ridicule, molestation, attack, discouragement, and even administrative limitations/relegations facing the evangelists in the Church.

◆ **Engaging our members in various Evangelism Groups.**

-The Church should introduce various evangelism groups to the members to win souls. For examples:

▣ ***The Gospel Tract Writers Group.***

▣ ***The Gospel Tract Distributors Group.***

▣ ***Hotel and Public Places Evangelism Group.***

▣ ***The Correctional Evangelism Centers Group.***

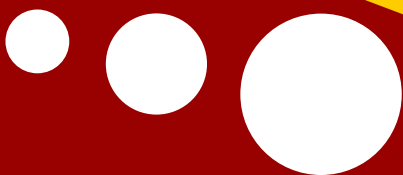


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- ▣ **Hospital and the Sick Evangelism Group,**
- ▣ **Prison Ministry Group.**
- ▣ **Church Planters Group (Home Mission).**
- ▣ **The Soul-Winning Foundation.**
- ▣ **Church Planters in Diaspora,**
- ▣ **Primary & Secondary School Evangelism Group,**
- ▣ **University Campus Crusade/Community Crusade/Cities Crusade Group etc.**



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Conclusion

In Mark 16:15, the Bible says; “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” This is the mandate to achieve the purpose of our call/calling, and also, to access the rewards of our stewardship whenever we resort to the city of our Father in Heaven.

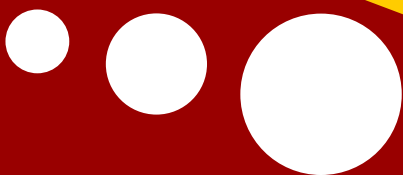
We should know that evangelism is a mandate, and a mandate is a 'Must' and not 'an Option'. We should be conscious that our Lord Jesus Christ can never be pleased with anyone who sits in his comfort zone to serve the tables. Acts 6: 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

Therefore, let's rise unanimously and corporately to rescue souls that are heading toward perdition every day. May the Lord help us.



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Thanks for Reading



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