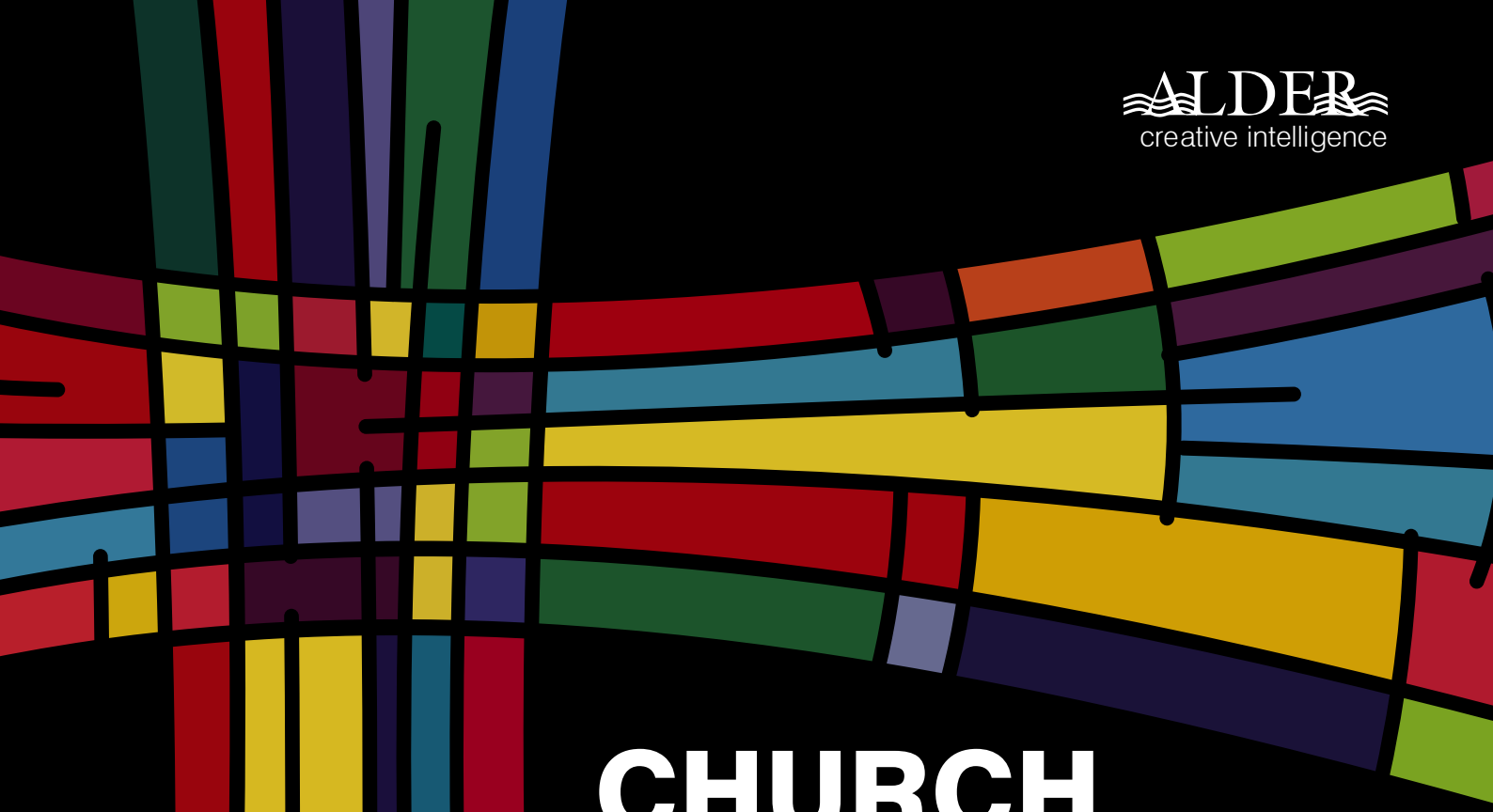
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CHURCH GOOD DEEDS

10 Case Studies of Social Responsibility Initiatives by Churches In Nigeria

A 2019 Special Report

Giving Back to Society
How much should the Church tell?
pg 05

Sexual Reformation
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About Church Good Deeds

> When you do something for someone else, don't call attention to yourself… When you help someone out, don't think about how it looks. Just do it — quietly and unobtrusively.
> Matthew 6:1,4 (MSG)

Does the preceding scripture preclude the Church from sharing information about a community outreach or good deed? It is a debatable question, though a legal mind will differentiate the individual from a Church organisation. What is not in doubt however is the question of motive. What is the motive for communication of social good? And is the Bible recommending a total black out?

The Church has increasingly come under withering attack as being irresponsive to her social context. If history is any guide, that is a prelude to something called persecution. It is the very nature of a church to do social good. It is conceptually a caring system. But the orbit of social good is wider than imagined as this report exemplifies. There's social good and now, social impact.

Social responsibility goes beyond conventional charity, such as soup kitchens and borehole donation. There is a lot that can be achieved through thought leadership, skills development and values promotion. The Good Deeds report considers a wide range of initiatives the Church in Nigeria contributes to society.

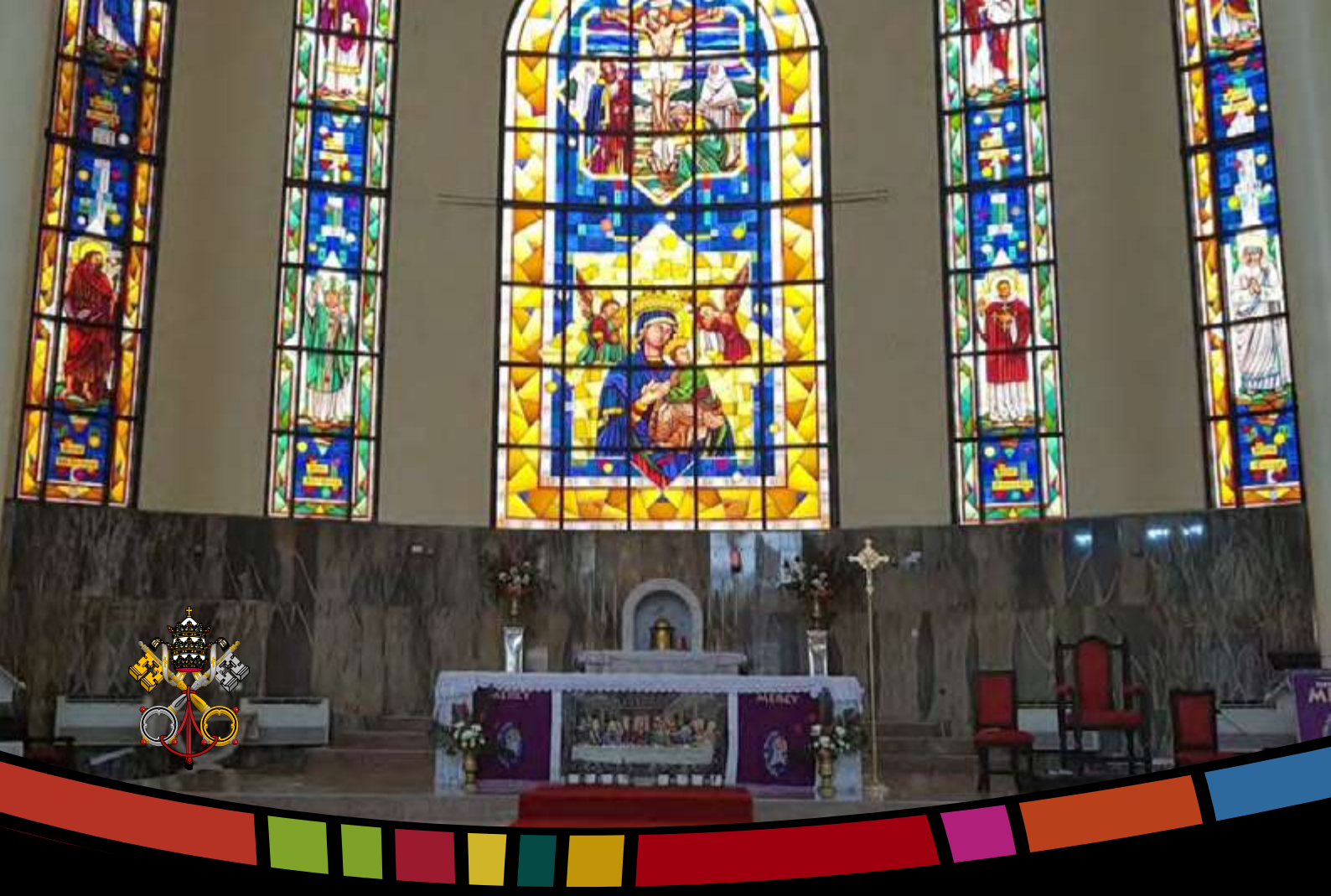
In considering the Church and social responsibility, the default route is acta non verba — actions, not words. Nevertheless, if the gap must be bridged between perception and reality, the Church Good Deeds Report is right on track.

Leke Alder
Principal, Alder Consulting



Why This Report?

1. **There appears to be a dissonance gap between the Church's commitment to social development and public perception. The Church Good Deeds Report bridges this gap.**
2. **Social responsibility goes beyond conventional charity, such as soup kitchens and borehole donation. This report considers a wider range of initiatives the Church contributes to society.**
3. **This report encourages church financial accountability and fiduciary responsibility.**
4. **The Good Deeds publication shapes a positive narrative around Church social responsibility in Nigeria.**
5. **The report clarifies the motive for social responsibility by churches. It also justifies the need to communicate church good works via public channels.**



Case Study

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF NIGERIA

Church Name
Roman Catholic Church

Leadership
The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria

Location
Nationwide

Type of Church
Orthodox

Membership
52.6 Million (Wikipedia)

Telephone
+234 - 09-523 9413
+234 - 09-670 6717

Email
csnabuja@cbcn.org

Website
www.cbcn-ng.org

The Catholic Church of Nigeria

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) is the umbrella body for the fellowship of Roman Catholic faith in Nigeria. Within the conference, the Church and Society Department is specifically dedicated to the promotion of social development, human dignity, democracy, justice, equity, reconciliation and peace. Core work is done in the following areas:



Education

The Education unit coordinates and facilitates the work of the various dioceses and congregations in formal and informal education, including:

- Management and administration of mission-owned and vocational schools
- Educational advocacy with government institutions and agencies such as the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT) and the Nigerian Universities' Commission (NUC). In addition, the Catholic Church in Nigeria has set up or has interests in the following universities: Caritas University – Amorji-Nike, Godfrey Okoye University – Enugu, Madonna University (Ihiala) – Okija, Our Saviour Institute of Science and Technology – Enugu, VUNA, Veritas University Abuja – Lagos & Pan-Atlantic University – Lagos



Health

The Health unit coordinates and facilitates the activities of the various dioceses and parishes in hospitals, mobile clinics and AIDS prevention & care. The department also does the following:

- Draws up the Health Policy for the Catholic Church in Nigeria
- Facilitates the National Health Insurance Scheme for Catholics in Nigeria



Family & Human Life

The Family and Human Life unit cooperates with local and international agencies to co-ordinate and facilitate works regarding:

- Protection, defense and promotion of human life from conception to natural death
- Promotion of family values



Justice, Development, Peace & Caritas

The Justice, Development, Peace & Caritas department is established at the grassroots level in all the Catholic parishes in Nigeria. This unit ensures the involvement of the Catholic Church in the promotion of a peaceful, democratic and integrally developed society where human rights and dignity are upheld and respected. Geared towards this are the following activities:

- Coordination of the Church's efforts in agricultural and rural development
- Organising seminars and training workshops for capacity building in core areas such as: Socio-Economic Analysis, Environmental Issues, Good Governance, Political Awareness, Civic Education, Preparedness, Emergency & Response Techniques, Peace Building and Penal Reform
- Driving the Church's efforts in relief services, especially in emergency situations
- Providing support to humanitarian workers at both local and international levels
- Partnership with relevant agencies for social good

Caritas Nigeria

Caritas Nigeria - also known as Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria (CCFN) - is the official relief and development arm of the Catholic Church of Nigeria. Since its formal registration in 2010, it has successfully implemented several development interventions, including:

- Establishing 375 schools, mostly spread across underserved regions in Nigeria
- Establishing 1,384 health facilities nationwide
- Humanitarian services to poor, vulnerable and excluded persons

Caritas Nigeria has reached millions of direct beneficiaries with interventions in its focus areas as follows:



Emergency Response & Humanitarian Services

Caritas aims to reach internally displaced persons and refugees. The Church employs foresight to mitigate emergencies and disasters. Some approaches include:

- Investing in fast response skills to face emergencies like floods or droughts
- Focus on disaster risk reduction by taking steps to lessen the harm done by repeated natural disasters in the same area
- Forging dialogues to prevent conflicts in communities and working to transform active conflicts into peaceful settlements

There are 55 local Caritas offices spread across the 36 states of Nigeria. Through them, the Church provides:

- Food security programs in Northern Nigeria
- Flood relief activities in Southeastern Nigeria
- Humanitarian assistance (food and non-food items) to victims of conflicts in Northern Nigeria

> **As the objects of God's love, men and women become subjects of charity; they are called to make themselves instruments of grace, so as to pour forth God's charity and to weave networks of charity.**
>
> **Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Emeritus of the Catholic Church and former Sovereign of the Vatican City State (2005-2013)**



SUSTAIN - HIV Care

SUSTAIN is the acronym for Sustainable HIV Care and Treatment Action in Nigeria. It is a 5-year comprehensive HIV Care, Treatment and Prevention Program funded by Centre for Disease Control (CDC). The programme is aimed towards:

- Reducing the stigma of living with HIV and AIDS
- Preventing mother to child transmission
- Providing antiretroviral therapy for infected persons
- Reducing morbidity and mortality due to HIV infection

Caritas Nigeria currently works as a partner in the SUSTAIN project across 12 states in Nigeria, namely; Benue, Delta, Ekiti, Kaduna, Kogi, Nassarawa, Oyo, Ondo, Ogun, Osun, Plateau States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). It has crossed the following milestones:

- 77,083 adults and children provided with care
- 46,656 adults and children with HIV infection received antiretroviral therapy
- 110,180 pregnant women tested for HIV
- 7,190 HIV positive pregnant women received antiretroviral treatment to prevent transmission of HIV to their children
- 406,091 individuals received counselling and testing services for HIV
- 7,892 orphans and vulnerable children received support services
- 4,817 youths reached with HIV prevention interventions.



Agriculture & Livelihoods Support

Caritas provides food security, through agriculture and livelihood support, to vulnerable households across Nigeria.



Good Governance Programmes

Caritas participates in election observations and budget monitoring. The organisation also facilitates citizens' education for a better society.



Anti-Human Trafficking and Forced Migration

Caritas provides humanitarian services to returnees; widows and unemployed youths in hard-to-reach communities across Nigeria and overseas.



Institutional Capacity Strengthening

Caritas is credited with:

- Offering the Association of Project Managers Group (APMG) accredited Project Management for Development Professionals (PMD-Pro) training & certification
- Training thousands of health facility staff in rural communities, local partners in dioceses and over 500 development professionals in the country.
- Developing the National Data Repository (NDR) to support the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) with an archive of the performance of every health facility providing HIV services in the country.



> **True charity requires courage: let us overcome the fear of getting our hand dirty so as to help those in need.**
>
> **Pope Francis, Head of the Catholic Church and Sovereign of the Vatican City State**

Impact in Summary

- 375 schools established in underserved regions across Nigeria
- 7 catholic universities across Nigeria
- 1,384 health facilities instituted
- 7,892 orphans and vulnerable children on support services
- 77,083 adults and children received HIV care
- 46,656 HIV infected individuals provided with antiretroviral therapy
- 7,190 HIV positive pregnant women provided with antiretroviral treatment
- 406,091 beneficiaries of HIV counselling and testing services
- 55 local Emergency Response and Humanitarian Services stations nationwide

Giving Back to Society: How Much Should the Church Tell?



Leke Alder
Principal, Alder Consulting



Should churches broadcast their social responsibility initiatives? It's a big theological debate among churches because of the loss of reward conundrum. If the churches don't broadcast their good works, they're vilified by society. If they do, they run afoul of scriptures. Jesus had said, "When you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly." (Matthew 6:4 NKJV) That statement is a huge challenge for many pastors, but that's because the previous verse is ignored. Matthew 6:2 states, "When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do — blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their act of charity! I tell you the truth they have received all the reward they will get."

Here's the analysis. First, the statement made by Jesus does not rule out third party reportage. If a church does well for a neighbourhood and a spirited reporter from a newspaper chances upon the story and reports it, such reportage does not violate the statement made by Jesus. Jesus himself experienced that often. Despite telling the people to keep his kind deeds hushed, the crowd broadcast them.(Mark 7:36). If the good deeds done by Jesus had not been reported, we wouldn't know today. So reportage cannot be the issue Jesus had.

Second, the statement made by Jesus does not preclude testimonials. The receiver of

benevolence is free to express and even broadcast the benevolence. If he does not, he stands in danger of the sin of ingratitude. The Bible particularly noted that ten lepers were cleansed but only one returned to give thanks. (Luke 17:11-19) Jesus calls this giving glory to God. It's why we do thanksgiving. We do thanksgiving in church to avoid the lepers' mistake.

Third, the negative standard in the narrative is those pesky Pharisees. They're the hypocrites. Pharisees were particularly noted for going on "CNN" to trumpet their charitable deeds. Jesus says not to be like them. His battle with the Pharisees was an ongoing one. They were so much into messaging and PR, and they selfishly created so many exceptions to the Law, Jesus barely recognised it. (Matthew 23:16-22)

Fourth, the whole thing boils down to motivation. Motivation is what Jesus was particular about. God is always particular about motivation. What is the motivation for giving? What is the motivation for the communication of the charitable deed? Is it for self-aggrandisement? Is it to impress the public? If so, the negative consequence Jesus warned about attaches. We must focus on the spirit of what Jesus was saying. And the essence was corrupt motivation. If we insist on going by the letter of his words and not the spirit, we will run into the Corinthian challenge. We know for certain the church in Corinth took up an offering for the saints in Jerusalem. (2 Corinthians 8:1-15) The fact was broadcast by Paul. And through Paul, we also got to know about the Macedonian initiative. Paul shared the information. Therefore, the broadcast of the giving was not the issue. The issue for Jesus was and has always been motivation.



The whole thing boils down to motivation. Motivation is what Jesus was particular about. God is always particular about motivation. What is the motivation for giving? What is the motivation for the communication of the charitable deed?

But the Corinthian challenge raises another point. It would seem churches are excluded from the law of non-broadcast of charitable giving since Paul broadcast the giving of the Macedonian and Corinthian churches. One can say, therefore, that the warning of Jesus applies to individuals and not corporate bodies like a church. In other words, churches can communicate their good deeds provided it challenges other churches to good works and is not motivated by self-aggrandisement. The Macedonians challenged the Corinthians.

But even more critical is the fact that the challenge thrown by Jesus did not in any way envisage present

socio-political circumstances. Society is now more sophisticated. Society is more open. Because churches source funds from society, the challenge of accountability naturally arises. Does the church show that the funds received are judiciously used and so enhance the credibility of the gospel, or keep mute and become branded as an unsavoury institution? If she's negatively branded, it will limit her capacity for further good deeds. Trust is eroded.

Neither does the statement made by Jesus apply to the church in the context of an alternative government. It's because the church is governmental - people turn to her when the government fails. It's also why the church is attacked when she's perceived as insensitive to the needs of the people. Where government fails, the church must step in. Non-broadcast of good deeds lays the church open to attack. The church is an accessible institution.

The very concept of social responsibility has communication inbuilt. Social responsibility is communicated. That's because it protects an institution from the rage of society, especially where there's mass poverty. Rage can be manipulated by the evil one.

A broadcasted social responsibility is another means of evangelism. It shows Jesus cares about the human condition. The more society knows the church cares, the more attractive Jesus becomes. An uncaring church is, therefore, an oxymoron in many respects.

Ultimately though, it's not the churches doing the giving. The churches are mere channels and instruments of mercy. The doer of good deeds is the good man himself, the man Christ Jesus. We must broadcast what Jesus is doing. It's another way of giving glory to God.

A broadcasted social responsibility is another means of evangelism. It shows Jesus cares about the human condition.



Leke Alder is the Principal, Alder Consulting



Case Study

COVENANT CHRISTIAN CENTRE

Church Name
Covenant Christian Centre

Leadership
Pastor Poju Oyemade
Lead Pastor

Location
Nigeria, U.K

Type of Church
Pentecostal

Membership
10,000+

Telephone
+234 818 600 0021
+234 818 841 1111

Email
enquiries@covenantchristiancentre.org

Website
www.insightsforliving.org



EDU-AID

The EDU-AID is one of the Non-Governmental Organisations of Covenant Christian Centre. The objective of EDU-AID is to "facilitate access to quality primary level education in a conducive learning environment for as many children as possible". Its programmes are currently being deployed across 10 schools in Lagos State.

These programmes include:

- Literacy and Mentoring Programme (LAMP)
- Leadership Book-Club Programme
- Arts & Design Programme
- Numeracy, Engineering, Science and Technology (NEST)
- Teacher Conferences



Now Lagos Sees (Covenant Medical Fair)

Now Lagos Sees is a social impact initiative of Covenant Christian Centre. It was launched in 2016. Its main focus is the provision of free eye care for communities in Lagos State. The initiative stems from a broader medical outreach, Covenant Medical Fair, which the Church has held since January, 2010.



Project W.R.A.P.

The Widows' Relief and Assistance Program (W.R.A.P) is an initiative that seeks to provide aid to widows and children of veterans who died in service. The W.R.A.P initiative was launched in 2011 to further the social responsibility efforts of the Church.



> **"We should focus more on creating opportunities for people to work rather than handouts, create job employment centers where the skills of people can be pushed out there."**
>
> **Poju Oyemade**
> ***Senior Pastor, Covenant Christian Centre***

The Platform Nigeria

The Platform Nigeria is a non-profit initiative of the Covenant Christian Centre established in 2007 as a contribution to social development. It involves series of annual events designed to facilitate growth in the areas of personal capacity, productivity & national development within Nigeria. Major contributions include:

- Annual conferences to facilitate corporate mentorship for youths
- Curation of solution driven conversations on national matters arising
- Channel for accountability/transparency in leadership

Impact in Summary

- 10 beneficiary schools of EDU-AID programmes in Lagos
- Mobilisation of medical professionals for free outreaches in Lagos communities
- Deployment of relief items to families of veterans who died in service
- Provision of knowledge and insight to millions via The Platform Nigeria



Case Study

THE ELEVATION CHURCH

Church Name
The Elevation Church

Membership
10,000+

Leadership
Pastor Godman Akinlabi
Lead Pastor

Telephone
+234 700 353 8283

Location
Lagos

Email
info@elevationng.org

Type of Church
Pentecostal

Website
elevationng.org

PISTIS FOUNDATION

PISTIS Foundation is the non-profit social intervention vehicle of The Elevation Church. The Foundation was registered in 2014, with the belief that 'knowledge is power'. Hence, the foundation's key focus area is education.

The goal of PISTIS Foundation is to "create wealth for the economically challenged, through formal and informal education, as well as support for their total wellbeing." To achieve this, the Foundation has outlined empowerment initiatives to provide health and shelter benefits for those covered by its grants.



Education Outreach

PISTIS Foundation partners with non-profit organisations to provide scholarships, special needs schools, as well as vocational training for the underprivileged. Through these educational interventions, The Elevation Church has been able to help hundreds of children to get better access to quality education from elementary to higher education. So far, the foundation records:

- 194 children trained in subsidised talent mining school (Wings Academy) - Programming, Robotics, Coding, Music, Performing Arts and Creative Writing
- 26 scholarship beneficiaries in primary schools and secondary schools
- School rehabilitated in Epe, Lagos








Elevate 200 Outreach Church

The “Elevate 200 Outreach Church” was established in 2010 with a goal to focus on the less privileged. After an initial soup kitchen event, the outreach grew into a weekly service point. A total of 50 children have benefited from this initiative over the past seven years. Some major impact highlights of the outreach are:

- About 1,000 children fed breakfast monthly
- Between 100 to 150 adults provided with food monthly
- 37 children sponsored through school







Medical Outreach

PISTIS Foundation organises a week long medical & surgical outreach called - *Ubomi*. So far, the team has attended to over 3,000 patients in Nigeria, with over 7,000 interventions carried out. Some of the cases include: myomectomy, lumpectomy, hysterectomy, as well as surgeries for eye and dental defects.

The objective of the outreach is to attend to Nigerians who may not have access to adequate medical facilities, given the current strain on Nigeria's health sector. PISTIS Foundation collaborates with non-profit healthcare organisations, hospitals and medical practitioners to provide state-of-the-art healthcare services for people who would otherwise not be able to afford it.

The outreach is projected to be an annual occurrence. Some impact of the outreach include:

- 7,335 total medical procedures carried out
- 3,695 total beneficiaries of the Ubomi medical outreach
- 835 dental procedures carried out
- 112 cases of eyesight successfully restored
- 17 post-op care patients successfully discharged
- 3 safe child deliveries
- 0 deaths recorded
- Estimate of 80 million Naira saved in medical costs to beneficiaries

> **Churches have a glorious gospel to preach but we also have a suffering people to serve. Preaching must go hand in hand with service. We cannot be content with preaching rousing sermons on Sundays while the world around us decays.**
>
> **Pastor Godman Akinlabi**
> *Lead Pastor, The Elevation Church*

Prison Outreach

The situation of prison services in Nigeria leaves much to be desired. As a result of congestion, the current prison system operates on overstretched infrastructure. Poor welfare and dehumanising conditions result in health problems for the inmates, with some even losing their lives during incarceration.



Through the PISTIS Foundation's prisons outreach, The Elevation Church provides medical intervention and skill-acquisition training to the incarcerated. Areas of impact include the following:

- About 1,500 bags of foodstuff and basic toiletries distributed in 2 prisons per time over the past 5 years
- Up to 500 inmates reached per time in bi-annual prison medical outreaches
- 200 inmates of Ikoyi maximum and medium prisons sponsored for O' level exams between 2015 and 2019
- About 1,500 bags of foodstuff and basic toiletries distributed in 2 prisons per time over the past 5 years
- Up to 500 inmates reached per time in bi-annual prison medical outreaches

Impact in Summary

- Provision of 80 million Naira worth of medical equipment
- 7,335 total medical procedures carried out in the Ubomi outreach
- 3,695 total beneficiaries of the Ubomi medical outreach
- 7,500 bags of foodstuff and toiletries distributed over 5 years
- About 1,250 adults and children fed monthly
- Up to 500 inmates reached per time in bi-annual prison medical outreach
- 200 inmates sponsored for O' level exams in 4 years
- 194 children trained in subsidised talent mining school
- 63 scholarship awarded



Case Study

THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE CHURCH

Church Name
The Fountain of Life Church

Membership
8,000+

Leadership
Pastor Taiwo Odukoya
Senior Pastor

Telephone
+234-8155977111

Location
Global

Email
fountain@tfolc.org

Type of Church
Pentecostal

Website
www.tfolc.org

Fountain Initiative for Social Development

Fountain Initiative for Social Development (FISD) is a not-for-profit social enterprise, established in 2014. It provides professional services to stimulate development in underprivileged communities. The church aims to bolster long-term social development and growth in Nigeria by:

- Enhancing qualitative and affordable education
- Promoting entrepreneurship and employability among the youth.



Grace Springs Rehabilitation Home

Grace Spring Rehabilitation Home (GSRH) was founded in 2002 to rescue children from hazardous street life. The Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) facilitates the church's commitment towards rehabilitation, reconciliation and intervention for street children and young adults.



The Hope Centre

The Hope Centre is a department of The Fountain of Life Church committed to assisting vulnerable members of society by providing for their basic needs. The initiative supports individuals and families who are struggling with poverty-related issues.

Lord's Kitchen

The Lord's Kitchen is an outreach of the Hope Centre which supports the underprivileged with feeding. The church also sees to the welfare of the "working poor", that is individuals with limited resources. The Kitchen aims to serve as a resource for the homeless, physically and mentally challenged, elderly, lonely and poor in Lagos by:

- Serving hot cooked meals once a day
- Providing monthly feeding baskets for families of up to four members
- Creating a sense of belonging and community among the beneficiaries.



Nidus Aquilae

Nidus Aquilae Hospital is an independent multi-specialist hospital established by The Fountain of Life Church. It provides affordable medical services and provides access to subsidised standard health care.



> **In every difficult circumstance, we will always have a choice between sorrow and joy, but sorrow only breaks the spirit and prolongs the pain. Joy raises the countenance, illuminating the entire scenario, inspiring awe in observers and giving encouragement to those in equally dire straits.**
>
> **Pastor Taiwo Odukoya**
> *Senior Pastor, TFOLC*

The Discovery Initiative

Pioneered in 1998 and led by the Senior Pastor of the Fountain of Life Church, Pastor Taiwo Odukoya, Discovery is an outreach ministry to both men and women. Discovery for Men is hinged on the Biblical scripture in Genesis 1:26 ('And God said, let us make man in our image…and let them have dominion.'). Pastor Taiwo believes that the prosperity of nations begins in the homes of its people and the prosperity of the homes depends on the prosperity of men (spirit, soul and body) as the heads of the homes. Discovery for Women is a dynamic ministry dedicated to helping women to be the best God has ordained them to be. The ministry's objective is to challenge, empower and motivate women to rise up and become who God has destined them to be in their various roles as wives, mothers and leaders.

There are rallies and conferences held every year hosting more than 5,000 men and women, with stories of life impact and empowerment coming from each meeting. Discovery for Women ministry also holds enhancement programmes and youth campus outreaches annually.



> **Leadership means compassion. It means understanding what people are going through, their differences and the reason for their actions.**
>
> **Pastor Nomthi Odukoya**
> ***Associate Senior Pastor, TFOLC***

Impact in Summary

- Feeding programme for underprivileged individuals and families
- Promoting entrepreneurship and employability through vocational training
- Rehabilitation of street children and young adults
- Subsidised healthcare services
- 5,000+ men and women impacted and empowered annually via The Discovery Initiative



Case Study

HOUSE ON THE ROCK CHURCH

Church Name
House on the Rock

Membership
10,000+

Leadership
Pastor Paul Adefarasin
Lead Pastor

Telephone
+234 1 461 4120

Location
Africa, Europe

Email
info@houseontherock.org.ng

Type of Church
Pentecostal

Website
www.houseontherock.org.ng

The Rock Foundation

The Rock Foundation is a non-profit charity organisation that provides health care, education, social reformation and relief materials to the needy.













Project Spread

Project Spread is an end-of-year empowerment programme by the Rock Foundation that facilitates the distribution of supplies such as food and medicine in poor communities. The initiative was first launched in December 2014 with beneficiaries across 4 communities. It has since clocked over 20,000 beneficiaries.



Educational Intervention

House on the Rock, through the Rock Foundation, provides educational intervention to underserved members of the society. The foundation has launched an initiative to upgrade the learning experience of public school students in Nigeria. To achieve this, local schools are being equipped with computer laboratories to aid learning. So far, 100 public schools in Lagos State have benefitted from this initiative.

> **We are complementing governments' efforts because we understand that governments alone cannot empower everybody**
>
> **Pastor Paul Adefarasin**
> *Founder and Senior Pastor, House On The Rock*

The Experience





















The Experience is an annual free musical concert held at Tafawa Balewa Square, Lagos. It is hosted by House on the Rock Church and features gospel singers from around the world. In addition to spirituality, the concert serves the social needs of Christian youths through musical expressions. The event facilitates nights of edifying enjoyment, fulfillment, unity, love and peace, and has made significant contributions to the entertainment sector. It has grown to become the largest gospel concert anywhere in the world.

The Experience musical festival is recognised as:

- The biggest Christian musical festival globally with over 3 million people reached both online & offline annually
- An integral part of the annual end of year social culture in Nigeria
- A platform for talent development & networking opportunities for local artistes on an international scale
- A prominent player in the expansion of the gospel music industry in Nigeria through international exposure and goodwill generation

The Experience event is highly anticipated among both Christians & non-Christians alike and serves as a convergence point to promote nationality among Nigerians. As a nondenominational platform, the concert goes beyond church to unify people of all nationalities, faiths, gender, social status and political biases. In addition, it contributes significantly to the economy of its host city, Lagos, and by extension, Nigeria. In the days leading up to the 24 hour concert, tourism and other associated businesses receive a boost. Some socio-economic impacts include:

- 14 years of enterprise support & promotion of entrepreneurship at the event
- Economic contribution through human capital development and opportunities in hospitality business, as well as commerce and industry.
- Transformation vehicle for “area boys” from street urchins to project partners
- Continuous collaboration with the Lagos State Governement and other institutions

Impact in Summary

- Over 500,000+ physical attendees & over 3 million online viewers of The Experience musical concert yearly
- Positive reinforcement of Nigeria’s image via The Experience concert
- 20,000+ beneficiaries of relief supplies througn The Rock Foundation
- 100 public schools in Lagos State equipped with computer laboratories
- Mobile clinic stationed in Lagos for free medical care

Should Christian Universities be Free?

Mrs. Tokunbo Alaba Kehinde
Registrar, McPherson University, Seriki Sotayo, Ogun State.



In Nigeria today, society has witnessed the growth and proliferation of faith-based universities. One underpinning reason for the emergence of these institutions is the need to provide hitch-free university education that is not disturbed by industrial actions. Another underlying justification for the popularity of faith-based universities is the appeal for moral values in undergraduates.

However, faith-based universities are not free. Tuition payment in these institutions has been a subject of debate within and outside the Church. Opinions are divided along these lines and this piece stands to evaluate arguments for and against free tuition in faith-based universities.

Argument for Free Tuition in Faith-Based Universities

The school of thought that argues for free tuition states the following reasons for this position:

- **Christian Religion**

  Certain people portend that since Christ preached, "Give as freely as you have received" (Matthew 10:8), then faith-based universities should make education free for all especially to members of their denominations. When churches that own these schools demand tuition, it is regarded as cheating the church members who have been faithful in paying tithes and offerings.

- **Benefit to Society**

  Tuition-free education provided by faith-based universities is believed to be beneficial to society. This is based on the notion that the more people have access to free education from faith-based universities, the higher the rate of employment and productivity.

- **Equality**

  Tuition-free faith-based universities can be a platform for members of society to enjoy equal education opportunities, thereby bridging the gap between the rich and the poor.

- **Education is a Merit Good**

  Proponents of free education in Christian universities believe that since education is regarded as a merit good, people may underestimate its benefit as they view the payment of tuition as a profit-making strategy. Thus, providing free education will motivate people to undertake different courses as freely offered in faith-based universities.

To evaluate the above points, we could ask ourselves - Is free tuition what breeds a productive workforce in a polity? Does free tuition encourage people to be educated?

To give a cursory response to the above questions, the answer is an emphatic 'No' as evidenced by the sheer number of the uneducated among previous generations, who had access to free education. A productive workforce is not a by-product of tuition-free education. It is rather an outcome of ingenuity and a conducive environment that enables individuals to contribute to society's advancement.



We could ask ourselves - Is free tuition what breeds a productive workforce in a polity? Does free tuition encourage people to be educated?

Argument against Free Tuition in Faith-Based Universities

The chief argument against free tuition in faith-based universities has to do with funding. The need for funding has been argued by members of this school of thought for the following reasons:

- **Top-notch Education System**

  Those who hold this school of thought believe that quality education is costly. Education involves the acquisition of equipment, buildings, hostels, emolument for teaching and non-teaching staff, etc. These items don't come cheap.

- **Remuneration of Academic and Non-Academic Workforce**

  In the first place, it is widely acknowledged that for a university to run, professionals in diverse fields will be employed and remunerated commensurately with their levels of qualification. University lecturers and non-academic staff are not trained to work pro bono. They exist to offer services in exchange for the sustenance of their livelihood. Funding, therefore, becomes essential for this set of people to cater to their personal needs.

- **Trans-generational Existence**

  Funds are required by every tertiary institution to remain in the mission of providing quality education. A trans-generational existence, being the hallmark of universities, is only possible when funding is available.



To evaluate the above, will a well-funded university provide quality education to people? The answer is yes.

Conclusion

Conclusively, it is important to state that funding is germane for the existence of faith-based universities, which receive no support from the government. This piece, therefore, opines that as much as funding is needed, faith-based universities should create systems that ease the financial pressure for Nigerian parents enrolling their children. For instance, Christian universities should offer more scholarships for indigent students.



Mrs. Tokunbo Alaba Kehinde is the registrar of McPherson University, Seriki Sotayo, Ogun State.



Case Study

LIVING FAITH CHURCH WORLDWIDE (aka Winners Chapel)

Church Name
Living Faith Church

Leadership
Bishop David Oyedepo
Presiding Bishop

Location
65 Countries

Type of Church
Pentecostal

Membership
5 million+

Email
info@lfcww.org

Telephone
+234 701 062 9350
+234 703 917 2772

Website
faithtabernacle.org.ng

David Oyedepo Foundation

The David Oyedepo Foundation is a Christian non-profit organisation aimed at propagating development in Africa, and by extension, the world. It is invested in educational support and the development of sustainable support systems for individuals, organisations and communities. The foundation focuses on the following areas:



Educational Support

The David Oyedepo Foundation increases access to quality education for the poor through the following:

- Skills development training in schools
- Provision of educational learning aids in vocational and formal schools
- Establishment of libraries
- Award of research grants in the field of education
- Partnerships with Non-Governmental Organisations
- Scholarships



Health Intervention

The David Oyedepo Foundation works on delivering quality primary healthcare to poor individuals and underserved communities. Its goal is to promote the availability of "adequate and quality" health care in all parts of Africa and the world. Some key areas of support are:

- Providing easy access to basic medical facilities and maternity services in rural communities
- Providing financial aid for major surgeries in emergency health crises
- Awarding grants to indigenous organisations and individuals focused on specific areas of disease research
- Supporting health campaigns and enlightenment programmes
- Providing health care infrastructure and equipment especially in rural areas

The foundation partners with other organisations for some of its health intervention programmes.



Social Welfare Initiatives

The foundation's welfare programme focuses on marginalised children. These include children living with disabilities and those subject to adverse social and economic conditions, as a result of civil unrest. The foundation operates an 'Adoption' system of partnership. It partners with individuals and organisations to provide continuous monthly support to beneficiaries. Through such collaborations, the foundation facilitates the following:

- Creating suitable and sustainable living conditions for children
- Establishing scholarship and financial aid platforms that would grant them easy access to quality education
- Providing counseling, infrastructural, IT and vocational training support



Youth Leadership

The David Oyedepo Foundation creates a platform to nurture entrepreneurial, social, political and economic skills, as well as innovative leadership. Some channels of support include:

- Implementing skills development and empowerment initiatives
- Organising leadership development programmes
- Supporting youth development programmes
- Facilitating mentorship platforms between highly ranked & distinguished African leaders and youth leaders.
- Awarding scholarships, fellowships and grants.

Education Support & Infrastructure Development











The Living Faith Church believes that the development of Africa is directly linked to quality of education. It is affiliated with several educational institutions in Nigeria, including:

- Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State
- Landmark University, Omu-Aran, Kwara State
- The nationwide Faith Academy school network for secondary education
- The Kingdom Heritage Model Schools for primary education across Nigeria
- Covenant University Secondary School for the Covenant University community, Ota, Ogun State

Covenant University was the most sought-after private university in 2014 (Wikipedia). In addition, its graduates were adjudged "most employable" in Nigeria in a 2017 collaborative study by Stutern, Jobberman and BudgIT.

In 2018, it was the highest ranked Nigerian university in the world universities ranking of the Times Higher Education (THE).

Over 80,000 students have graduated from the university in the last 17 years.

> **God will not bless anyone beyond his commitment to impacting his world.**
>
> **David Oyedepo**
> ***Founder and Presiding Bishop, Living Faith Church Worldwide***

Impact in Summary

- Partnership with 7 organisations within Lagos and Ogun States in its Adoption Support Programme
- Establishment of 150 elementary schools
- Establishment of 21 secondary schools
- Establishment of 2 universities (Covenant University and Landmark University)
- Improvement of thousands of lives via educational, social welfare & health intervention initiatives
- Provision of scholarships to students across Africa to attend Covenant and Landmark Universities
- Estimate of 80,000 graduates from Covenant University in 17 years



Case Study

NIGERIAN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Church Name
Nigerian Baptist Convention

Membership
7,000,000 (Wikipedia)

Leadership
Rev. Dr. Samson Olasupo Adeniyi Ayokunle
President

Telephone
+234 815 9990 096

Location
Nigeria

Email
info@nigerianbaptist.org

Type of Church
Orthodox

Website
www.nigeriabaptist.com

Nigerian Baptist Convention



Social Ministries

In the Nigerian Baptist Convention, the Social Ministries Department is responsible for church benevolence. The aim is to express the mission of Christ to mankind through sacrificial giving. The areas of focus are:

- Social Welfare Centre
- Prisons Ministries
- Hospital Ministry
- Home and Family Care Ministry
- Relief Ministry
- Ministry to Addicts
- Aged Ministry
- Rehabilitation and Vocational Advancement Ministry
- Orphanage Ministry



Healthcare

The Nigerian Baptist Convention operates several hospitals and medical training institutions across the country. The most notable among them are:

- The Baptist Medical Centre (Bowen University Teaching Hospital), Ogbomoso, Oyo
- Schools of Nursing and Midwifery, Eku, Delta
- Schools of Nursing and Midwifery, Saki, Oyo



Education

The Nigerian Baptist Convention has founded and operated thousands of primary and secondary schools in Nigeria. Many of these schools were later turned into public institutions during the military era. The Church also founded Baptist College, a teacher-training institution in Iwo, Osun State. In 2002, Bowen University was established to help "combine academic excellence with love of humanity, borne out of a God-fearing attitude." Over 17,000 students have graduated since its inception.

It was conceived as a centre of learning and research distinction, borne out of the Baptist tradition of ethical behaviour, social responsibility and democratic ethos.



> **Our aim is to express the mission of Christ to mankind through sacrificial giving.**
>
> Nigerian Baptist Convention

Impact in Summary

3 major medical training institutions established

1,000 primary and secondary schools contributed to the Nigerian education system

17,000+ students have graduated since Bowen University was founded in 2002

Sexual Reformation: A Case Study in Ajegunle



Praise Fowowe
Founder, Institute of Family Engineering and Development Africa











The year was 2001. I was taking a walk around Baale Street, Ajegunle when I noticed a group of young girls in front of a hotel soliciting for customers. They couldn't have been more than 16 years of age. I quickly walked past and went home. Like everyone else, I started complaining about the problems in the country and how the government was irresponsible. But as I knelt to pray, I had a strong impression within my spirit and a voice said to me, "You can do something about it". When I heard this, I started to calculate how impossible it was to rehabilitate prostitutes when all I had was a new job paying N15,000 monthly. Then the voice calmly told me, "Remember how you used to brag about how you could toast any girl and get her in bed the same day before you were saved. That same skill can get girls out of prostitution".

I was back the following day to start the process of 'toasting my sisters trapped behind the bars of prostitution'. I did that across several brothels with a simple strategy - 'toast' them out of prostitution and bring them to God's Kingdom. This approach worked so well until I observed that the more they left, the more new girls replaced them.

In 2003, we kicked off the Gold in the Slum project in Ajegunle, focusing on putting an end to prostitution. It wasn't an easy job to pull off as it required lots of research and strategy. A little more on that below:

1. **Divine Instructions**: I was at work in 2003 when that same voice that sent me to brothels, came back to instruct me about saving a generation from sexual promiscuity. I knew the work ahead was great but it was a mission I was willing to undertake.

2. **Research** – To get into any community, you need to understand it. We engaged in intense research to better understand the Ajegunle community because we had observed some trends in our survey;

   - 6 out of every 10 men over the age of 45 years were broke, with their wives being the breadwinners.
   - 5 out of every 10 girls from ages 13 to19 had lost their virginity and 4 out of every 10 had experienced abortion.
   - The fastest-growing businesses were strip clubs, night clubs and hotels with short term sex as the major service.
   - Ajegunle translates to 'the base of wealth'. The local government area is called Ajeromi – Ifelodun, which means 'wealth comes with ease – love is sweet'. Ironically, the lives of the people in the city contradicted the names of the vicinity.

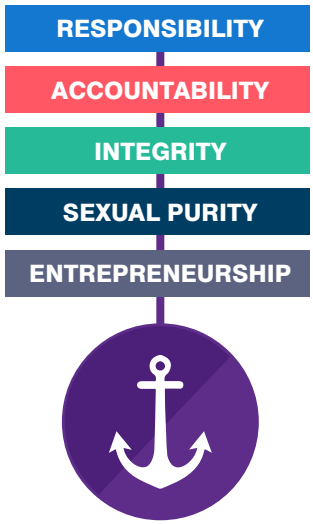
> **We created the 'Andrew principle' which says: When you don't have funds for publicity, impact the person whose siblings would be so inspired by their transformation to follow them to where you are.**

3. **Strategy** – I remember visiting Canaan Land to try and meet the founder of Living Faith Worldwide, Bishop Oyedepo, for support. While I couldn't meet him, his PA delivered a message from him that said, "The strategy of Canaan Land can never deliver the people in Ajegunle. If God has truly sent you, go to him for the right strategy"

   From our research, we knew the most difficult time to get young people in Ajegunle together was Sunday evenings because that was the peak period of their 'runs' and also when most beer parlours made a lot of sales. As we prayed, the Holy Spirit said to us, "Except what you are doing is in vogue they'll not buy into it". We knew immediately that we must not

start another church. Since we wanted to address sexuality issues, we needed a model that could accommodate everyone irrespective of their faith, so we designed a covertly spiritual intervention with a party-like structure. Nobody saw us pray in public and every meeting started like a party which was a masterstroke because, with limited funds, we did the impossible with the available. That was when we created the 'Andrew principle' which says: When you don't have funds for publicity, impact the person whose siblings would be so inspired by their transformation to follow them to where you are.

We built a model anchored on 5 core values



4. **Content and curriculum** – We knew that the best transformational model is one that subtly disciples people. Therefore, we built a model anchored on 5 core values: **Responsibility — Accountability — Integrity — Sexual Purity — Entrepreneurship** We created an atmosphere where everyone could fully express themselves to become the gold from the slum whose destination is in the palace. We deployed our curriculum intentionally, giving room for activities that channelled the energy for sex into creating innovations in their community. As a result, participants cleaned the streets and partnered with one another to create fast-food joints at different locations to earn money, thereby reducing their sexual temptations. We also created an accountability platform called 'SEX-PURE-CENTRIC friendship centres' where participants in the scheme could openly talk about their sexual challenges and get help. This was spearheaded by Ufuorma, who used to be a major sex addict in the community.

5. **Structure and leadership** – We leveraged on Daystar Christian Centre's '5 by 5 cell structure' to create a leadership style that could spread our values and make everyone want to buy into what we were doing. Therefore, we created the Refinery where we trained people to experience life outside

Ajegunle. The moment they started going out and noticed people that inspired them, many of them returned to school.

6. **Impact assessment** – We did not celebrate the success of every event we did because we knew that wasn't the impact. We gave ourselves 8 years to start tracking the impact of the project on the participants. What we discovered was mind-blowing! In 8 years, we engaged up to 5,000 young people through our outreaches in the Gold in Slum project. Today, many of them have become professionals across the globe breaking new frontiers. Young people who used to be hooked on sex have become ambassadors of sexual purity and role models functioning across several sectors of the economy. Gani Bamgbose, who was one of the Muslims in our team, became the first of them to bag his Ph.D. at the age of 32, early this year. We now have medical doctors, clinical psychologists, ICT professionals, lawyers and all sorts of professionals who have emerged from the program.





In 8 years, we engaged up to 5,000 young people through our outreaches in the Gold in Slum project. Today, many of them have become professionals across the globe breaking new frontiers.

Like we always say, **'Gold is found in the slum but its destination is in the palace'**. We will never forget Pastor Victor Okogbemu of Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) who gave us his auditorium to use for our meetings. We also thank Pastor Wilson who built a hall specifically for the project where we engaged young people every Sunday evening. Our sound system was provided by Pastor Tokunbo Johnson. We remember and appreciate the inspiring personalities who came to visit the youths: Fela Durotoye, Godman Akinlabi, Adesuwa Onyenokwe, Soni Irabor, Niyi Adesanya, Adebola Williams, Adeolu Akinyemi, Chris Williams among others.



Praise Fowowe is the founder, Institute of Family Engineering and Development Africa.



Case Study

THIS PRESENT HOUSE

Church Name
This Present House Church

Leadership
Dr Tony Rapu
Lead Pastor

Location
Lagos

Type of Church
Pentecostal

Membership
5,000+

Telephone
+234 809 040 3266

Email
info@thispresenthouse.org

Website
www.thispresenthouse.org

Freedom Foundation

Freedom Foundation was established with the vision to reach out, give hope, rehabilitate, educate and empower impoverished persons in order to achieve individual and community transformation.

The foundation contributes in the following areas:



Genesis House

Genesis House provides safety and protection for young women who have been victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Programmes are carried out to re-orient, rehabilitate and empower young women who have been sexually abused and exploited, as well as those rescued from sex trafficking.

- 76 women who graduated from Genesis House have been empowered with vocational skills and business start-up kits



Freedom Empowerment

This initiative empowers young people with long term solutions to the challenges of poverty, unemployment, lack of marketable skills and illiteracy. Freedom Empowerment is anchored on the belief that a renewed mind will easily attain its potential for greatness.

- 1,477 SMEs have been empowered through King Solomon Fund
- 306 beneficiaries have been equipped with vocational skills through the Freedom Empowerment Project
- 268 communities have been impacted through various community advocacy and outreach programmes
- 174 girls have been provided with shelter, education and rehabilitation



House of Refuge Programme

House of Refuge is a residential rehabilitatory programme for substance abusers. Victims of substance abuse equipped with life skills, are required to assume personal responsibility for their future.

- 655 persons have received treatment at the House of Refuge Drop-in Centre project (in partnership with UNODC)
- 284 problematic drug users have been rehabilitated at House of Refuge



> **Many leaders lack the confidence to address sexual abuse because they do not feel adequately equipped to handle the complexities involved… We need to understand how the issue of sexual abuse can be addressed in the light of the Gospel.**
>
> **Dr Tony Rapu**
> *Senior Pastor, TPH*

House of Freedom

The House of Freedom (HOF) is a network of Faith based-initiatives which includes the ministerial expressions and non-governmental organisations. The shared vision for these initiatives include governance, leadership, empowerment, social reformation and excellence, with each expression catering to a specific affinity group. The House of Freedom comprises the 6 expressions including This Present House, Lagos (TPH) and God Bless Nigeria (GBN).



God Bless Nigeria (GBN)

The God Bless Nigeria Church (GBN) extends outreach programmes to communities across Lagos State to give hope to the hopeless, uplift the down trodden, rehabilitate the destitute, drug addicts, area boys, street urchins and prostitutes. This ministry and outreach vehicle has a mission to transform individuals, communities and thereby affect the nation in general. God Bless Nigeria Church reaches out to the underserved with messages of hope and love through outreach centres in the following strategic areas:

- Ajegunle ("AJ CITY")
- Ijora
- Lagos Island
- Mushin
- Surulere
- Yaba

> **Let's face it, drug addiction in Nigeria is real and far more common than we think. So, how do we find a lasting solution? Opinions differ but our experience shows that a holistic, multi-pronged approach that touches all levels of society is needed.**
>
> Dr Tony Rapu
> *Senior Pastor, TPH*

Bethseda Child Support Agency

Bethesda Child Support Agency (Bethesda) is a non-profit organisation established in 2001 by Mrs. Nkoyo Rapu. The primary focus of the initiative is to mobilise efforts of government, private sector and other development agencies towards securing educational opportunities for children in poor communities.

Bethseda has a vision to create an enabling environment for the healthy development of underprivileged and disadvantaged children. This is achieved through the provision of free education, school supplies, nutrition and healthcare to orphans & vulnerable children. In its 18 years of establishment, the agency has impacted the lives of 5,000 orphans and vulnerable children. The foundation carries out its vision through the following initiatives:



Scholarship Programme

This initiative was introduced in 2001 as the first intervention of Bethseda Child Support Agency. The programme connects children with sponsors - educational institutions, individuals or corporate organisations - for their academic pursuits. The following have been achieved:

- 5,000 children sponsored in 18 years
- Over 200 Bethesda Secondary School Alumni
- 40 secondary school graduates placed on internship
- Nine university graduates supported



Schools in Poor Communities

Schools are established in poor communities to ensure free access to quality education for orphans and vulnerable children. Since the inception of this program in 2004, the following have been accomplished:

- Over 800 beneficiaries in communities across Lagos
- Establishment of four tuition-free schools in Lagos and Ogun States
- Establishment of two secondary schools



Project BE!

Project BE! was initiated in commemoration of the National Children's Day of May, 2012. It was established as an interactive platform where beneficiaries are mentored by resource persons from diverse fields. During the programme, children are engaged in creative activities that help them to discover their strengths and hone their imaginative abilities. Bethesda Agency has:

- Worked with organisations like Google Nigeria, First City Monument Bank, Lafarge Cement Limited etc., to implement this project
- Given young secondary school graduates (Bethesda Alumni Club members) and university undergraduates the opportunity to learn and imbibe valuable life skills



Health24

The Health 24 Project is a community health initiative through which free medical services and nutritional support are provided to children and caregivers. This program focuses on sustainable development and community ownership of projects.

- Over 30,000 people have been reached in Lagos and Ogun States
- 8 underserved communities have been impacted in Lagos and Ogun States including: Akodo, Epe, Igbokushu, Ijaiye-Ojokoro, Ikota, Ilaje-Bariga, Magbon Alade and Makoko
- Communities have been sensitised on health habits
- Mosquito nets have been distributed to families for the prevention of malaria

Stakeholders, including public health practitioners are usually involved in staging these health care interventions.

Impact in Summary

- 30,000+ beneficiaries of the Health 24 programme in Lagos & Ogun States
- 5,000 children sponsored through school in 18 years
- 1,477 SMEs empowered through King Solomon Fund
- 800+ beneficiaries of educational interventions in Lagos
- 655 persons received treatment at the House of Refuge Drop-in Centre project (in partnership with UNODC)
- 306 beneficiaries of vocational skill empowerment through the Freedom Empowerment Project
- 284 problematic drug users rehabilitated at House of Refuge
- 268 communities impacted through various community advocacy and outreach programmes
- 200+ Bethesda Secondary School Alumni
- 174 girls provided with shelter, formal/informal education and rehabilitation
- 76 women from Genesis House empowered with vocational skills and business start-up kits
- 40 Secondary School graduates placed on internship
- Nine university graduates supported
- Six primary/secondary schools established



Case Study

THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

Church Name
The Redeemed Christian Church of God

Membership
5 million+

Leadership
Pastor E.A. Adeboye
General Overseer

Telephone
+234 1 844 7340
+234 709 821 3112

Location
198 Countries

Email
info@rccg.org

Type of Church
Pentecostal

Website
rccg.org

SHEMBAGS

The CSR initiatives of the Redeemed Christian Church of God are sub-divided into eight distinct segments distilled into the acronym, 'SHEMBAGS'. The acronym stands for Social, Health, Education, Business, Arts & Culture, Government and Sports. Each of these sections target active areas common to people and societies globally.



Social

RCCG is actively tackling poverty in all its forms by strategically creating opportunities and empowering people across all nations. Its focus areas are food security, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture.



Education

One of RCCG's major CSR endeavours is to facilitate access to quality education in underserved communities. To achieve this, initiatives are launched to support existing schools with new classroom buildings and to improve teaching facilities. New schools are constructed where necessary. The church organises trainings for applied and technical skills.



Arts and Culture

RCCG recognises the unification potential of culture and entertainment. Hence, recreation centres are established and regional talent competitions are organised. Documentaries, TV shows and drama skits are developed to propagate wholesome content across the world.



Sports

The church explores the collaborative nature of sports to promote emotional, mental and physical wellness. RCCG organises and participates in sporting events across various communities.



Health

CSR initiatives are deployed to improve primary healthcare, increase accessibility of doctors in rural areas, reduce treatment costs and facilitate regular health checks. The church also builds and manages clinics in underserved regions of the world.



Media

RCCG establishes print & audio-visual media platforms to educate, inform and edify.



Business

The church organises empowerment and business education programmes to support business at various stages. Relevant initiatives are set up to aid business advocacy and skills acquisition. In addition, cooperative societies are established to facilitate business development.



Government

RCCG engages government bodies to facilitate progressive policies for an improved society. The church has a dedicated government relations department that handles collaborative ventures with the government.

His Love Foundation

His Love Foundation
The RCCG Charity

His Love Foundation is the global charity arm of the Redeemed Christian Church of God. It is a foundation established on a fourfold mission to provide:



Help to the helpless



Hope to the hopeless



Strength to the weak



Food to the hungry

It is an independently established organisation with a vision to be the global leader in charity, accountability and compassion. The foundation's works extend into the following areas: **Education, Health, Hunger, Prisons, Rehabilitation** and **Social Enterprise.**

Education

His Love Foundation carries out numerous educational interventions including:

- Educational scholarships
- Building and renovation of school buildings
- Building of dormitories and administrative offices
- Feeding of pupils in selected schools
- Provision of writing materials to students
- Organising career and counselling programmes

His Love Foundation has granted 100,613 educational scholarships so far.

Hunger

The foundation runs a free meals initiative through established feeding centers in Nigeria. RCCG parishes also serve as free feeding centers every Sunday. Thus far, this initiative has fed a total of 6,925,589 people.



Health

RCCG's social responsibility endeavours have resulted in 252,500 free healthcare beneficiaries. Through its foundation, the church has built and equipped two ICU centres at Lagos State University Teaching Hospital and Plateau State University Teaching Hospital, Jos. Other landmarks include:

- 100,370 beneficiaries of a cancer screening centre, Surulere, Lagos
- 8,669 completed dialysis sessions between March and November, 2018
- 222 beneficiaries of the Intensive Care Unit at the LASUTH
- 9 successful kidney transplants in partnership with medical institutions abroad

> **Christians are the light of the world — we should be a shining light, not just the salt of the earth which is only of use if it is applied — so I think we should be doing more than what we are doing now**
>
> **Pastor E. A. Adeboye**
> ***General Overseer, The Redeemed Christian Church of God.***

Prisons

The prison ministry of the Redeemed Christian Church of God is a longstanding one. It has impacted 98,684 prison inmates. Some accomplishments include:

- Refurbishment and equipping of Kirikiri Maximum Security Prison Reference Hospital
- Donation of ambulances to Kirikiri Maximum Prison and Agodi Prison, Ibadan
- Refurbishment of the meeting hall at Kirikiri Maximum Prison
- Donation of generators to both Kirikiri and Ikoyi Maximum Prisons
- Enrolment of prison inmates for GCE/O'Levels
- Installation of over 40 solar-powered street lights for the Kirikiri Community
- Renovation of Christ the Light Chapel building at Kirikiri Maximum Prison
- Equipping of the Kirikiri Maximum Prison ICT centre/computer laboratory
- Provision of food.

> **The economic situation and social problems that we face in Nigeria have been a good catalyst in bringing people to Christ**
>
> **Pastor E. A. Adeboye**
>
> ***General Overseer, The Redeemed Christian Church of God.***

Social Enterprise

The foundation launched "New to Me Charity Shops" where items are sold at cheap prices or even bought for free. Funds raised from these sales are employed in support of HLF's mini-projects such as:

- Construction of public toilets and boreholes in rural communities
- Erection of traffic lights and streetlights
- Refurbishment of police stations
- Donation of computer systems to Lagos State Police Command

Rehabilitation

His Love Foundation is actively involved in social reformation and community development. The foundation carries out holistic outreaches targeted at stranded teenagers & youth, commercial sex workers and vulnerable children, particularly women.

So far, this initiative has recorded significant impact in various interventions:

- 4,000 people impacted by Christ Against Drug Abuse Ministry (CADAM)
- 1,003 people reached through holistic outreaches (rehabilitation of prostitutes and young girls)
- 518 beneficiaries of Wellsprings Rehabilitation Centre
- 420 beneficiaries of House of Joy Rehabilitation Centre
- 6,976 beneficiaries of Habitation of Hope initiative
- 41 beneficiaries of Virtuous Woman Initiative (rehabilitation of commercial sex workers).



RCCG's Education Support

The Redeemed Christian Church of God plays an active role in providing quality education across all levels (primary, secondary and tertiary) in Nigeria. The church is heavily invested in creating better education spaces for its members and non-members. The RCCG is affiliated with a number of schools in Nigeria, including:

- Redeemer's University
- Redeemer's High School
- The RiverBank Schools
- The nationwide network of Christ The Redeemer's Schools, for secondary school education
- The network of Redeemer's Nursery and Primary schools across Nigeria

Redeemer's University was established by the Redeemed Christian Church of God in 2005. In 2013, the university won a World Bank Grant to fund the establishment of the African Centre of Excellence for Genomics of Infectious Diseases (ACEGID). To win the grant, Redeemer's University emerged the best-rated university among 15 prestigious universities selected from West Africa and Central Africa.

Impact in Summary

- 100,613 educational scholarships awarded
- 99,684 prison inmates impacted by rehabilitation programme
- 12,000+ people rehabilitated in drugs & holistic outreaches
- 194,264 beneficiaries of free healthcare services in 2018 alone
- Total of 6,925,589 people fed in soup kitchen initiatives.



Case Study

THE REDEEMED EVANGELICAL MISSION

Church Name
The Redeemed Evangelical Mission

Membership
5,000+

Leadership
Dr. Mike Okonkwo
Presiding Bishop

Telephone
+234 1 773 8584

Location
160 Branches in 10 Countries

Email
trem@trem.org

Type of Church
Pentecostal

Website
trem.org

We Care Ministry

We Care Ministry is the the helps arm of The Redeemed Evangelical Mission (TREM). It was established in 1989 to provide support to the less privileged. Through the ministry, the church facilitates support for indigent individuals and organises outreaches in underserved communities.



Relief

Since its inception, the We Care ministry has distributed relief materials such as clothing, shoes, food materials, household items and used books where needed. The ministry has also contributed borehole water projects to underserved communities. The general categories of beneficiaries include: individuals, families, disaster victims and rural dwellers.



Vocational Support

The church organises skill acquisition programmes to create self-employment opportunities for beneficiaries. Afterwards, the ministry procures the required machinery and appliances to set them up in business.



Educational Support

We Care helps with the procurement of books and other school materials, as well as with the payment of school fees. The ministry provides skill acquisition platforms for student beneficiaries to generate personal income.



Medical Support

The We Care Clinic was set up to attend to patients during church services, including special weekday programmes. Advanced medical cases are referred to hospitals. In addition to paying the bills for indigent patients, the ministry provides for the supply of periodic medication. Volunteer medical officers also give free medical care at community outreaches in different parts of Lagos.



> **By now churches should be looking beyond preaching the gospel by thinking about innovations that will be of benefit to the people.**
>
> **Dr. Mike Okonkwo**
> *Presiding Bishop, TREM*

Impact in Summary

- Individual & community support from church offerings and individual donations
- Multi-million Naira water project installed at Oke-Oriya, Ikorodu, Lagos

Drug Addiction & Social Development: The Way Forward

The God Bless Nigeria Church (GBN)



Sustainable social development is the pathway to the future we want for all. It offers a framework to generate economic growth, achieve social justice, exercise environmental stewardship and strengthen governance. — Ban Ki-moon

Drug addiction or substance abuse is a universal challenge with devastating consequences on social development. It refers to the harmful or hazardous use of psychoactive substances, including alcohol and illicit drugs. It has become one of the fastest-growing menaces, causing mental illness, crime, life imbalance and even death especially among the young productive age of the population.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), 31 million persons have drug use disorders. Almost 11 million people inject drugs, of which 1.3 million are living with HIV, 5.5 million with hepatitis C, and 1 million with both HIV and hepatitis C. In Nigeria, according to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the prevalence of any drug use is estimated at 14.4 per cent. In other words, 14.3 million people aged between 15 and 64 years have used a psychoactive substance in the past year for non-medical purposes. The extent of drug use in Nigeria is comparatively high when compared with the 2016 global annual prevalence of any drug use of 5.6 per cent among the adult population.

From these numbers, it can be deduced that drug addiction is hazardous with erratic consequences. While some are scientifically proven, the causes of drug addiction range from family's belief and attitude; exposure to a peer group that encourages drug use (peer pressure); depression; low self-esteem; lack of social support structure; childhood trauma; amongst others. The effects of drug addiction in society is enormous as it affects social development.

The concept of social development can be found not only in Christianity but across all sectors of a nation's economy. Social development is the bane of any nation's development. It is the pathway to generate economic growth and achieve social justice. According to the World Bank, social development focuses on the need to "put people first" in development processes. It promotes social inclusion of the poor and vulnerable by empowering people, building cohesive and resilient societies, and making institutions accessible and accountable to citizens.



Neither global strategy nor government alone can put an end to the menace of drug addiction. The citizenry must also put their best foot forward to support and halt this global issue.

The relationship between drug addiction and social development cannot be overemphasised. It's proven and expedient to say that only a normal and right-thinking member of the society can foster the social development of any nation. While drug addiction is becoming a cankerworm in our society today, its effects are evident in diverse occurrences. These include drug peddling, petty crimes, road accidents committed under the influence of alcohol, domestic violence, draining of family resources, shrinking from responsibilities, sickness, extramarital relations, distortion of interpersonal family relationships, and violence. The presence of these occurrences will not



only put members of the society at risk but also hinder social development.

Neither global strategy nor government alone can put an end to the menace of drug addiction. The citizenry must also put their best foot forward to support and halt this global issue. Speaking up and lending support will go a long way in providing the necessary ambience to stop substance abuse in our society and ensure social development.

At God Bless Nigeria (GBN), we are transforming individuals, communities and the nation as a whole. This is achieved through our outreach programmes to communities across Lagos State to give hope to the hopeless, uplift the downtrodden, rehabilitate the destitute, drug addicts, area boys, street urchins, prostitutes etc. We strongly believe that all, irrespective of their economic status, deserve to live a decent life.

In 2012, God Bless Nigeria launched a non-fee paying rehabilitation centre and about 70 people were rehabilitated in two years of its operation. One of the focus areas of GBN is to reintegrate the lost with their family and friends.

Currently, we have our base at Iponri while our outreach centres are located in the heart of some local government areas within Lagos. Those areas include Ajegunle (popularly known as "AJ City", Ijora, Lagos Island, Mushin, Surulere and Yaba.

In addition to ensuring and safeguarding social development, God Bless Nigeria has also engaged in various community projects such as building boreholes, cleaning drainages, medical outreach programs, vocational training and setting up small businesses.

In conclusion, more churches are encouraged to join the global fight against drug addiction. It is public menace that should be dealt with. Society needs all the help it can get to successfully arrest the issue.

THE
"GOD BLESS NIGERIA"
CHURCH

The God Bless Nigeria Church, a member of the House of Freedom, is the vibrant home of practical Christianity. We are committed to building lives and changing communities. We reach out to everyone with the message of love and encourage them to change their lives by taking advantage of the various opportunities we offer. You can find some of our works on our Instagram page: **@mygbnchurch**. For more information, kindly reach us via +234 808 700 7000.

If your church has been profiled in this report and you would like to provide additional information or if you would like your church to be part of the next edition, please contact:

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About Alder Consullting

Alder Consulting is Nigeria's foremost creative intelligence firm. In 2001, we introduced the consulting model for branding in Nigeria, with the release of the industry's first research-based brand report, The Alder Brand Report. We also presented Nigeria's first social media report in February 2014, The Alder Social Media Report.

In 2016, we released the first research-based report on the Church in Nigeria — The Alder Church Report. A second edition was released in 2019.

Our client list spans government, manufacturing, finance, oil & gas, professional services and NGOs.

What we do

- We develop business & brand strategies for corporates and institutions
- We provide design, marketing, social media & PR solutions
- We optimize brand experience
- We provide insight into how the market thinks

What we do for churches

- We help churches to develop long term strategic plans & programmes, and we facilitate visioning sessions
- We provide branding, design and communication services
- We provide research to help churches to navigate socio-cultural trends
- We develop social media strategies and content for churches

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