



NATIONAL PRAYER CONFERENCE OF CESM 2012 COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE CHURCH

PREAMBLE: A break out strategy session was held during the conference to brainstorm and identify key actions points on various areas further to the key issue that we needed to add actions to our prayers if we will see our desired transformation in our nation.

Each group was expected to:

- Identify the problems of the sector
- Attempt to discuss the root causes of the problems
- Offer suggestions of possible solutions and Recommendations on way forward.

Our group consisted of about sixteen (16) members mainly Pastors and Ministers in local churches.

A. PROBLEMS.

- That whereas the numbers of churches are multiplying all over the country with increasing church attendance, there is hardly any impact on the society.
- Our churches are full but only few are living as true believers.
- Even as ministers, we do not live out what we preach. Even Ministers of the Gospel have not shown very good examples and in some cases have been very bad examples e.g Pastors convicted of various offences such as immorality, fraud, criminal offences etc. Pastors have divorced their partners etc.
- There is apparent disunity in the church. The Church has not been able to speak with one voice.
- Ministers have not operated with a kingdom mentality but have rather sought to build individual empires. Hence focus has never been community transformation but rather just building the church alone.

B.ROOT CAUSES.

- Deeply foundational. There is deep crisis in theology today. Many so called Christians believe strange things through which they justify ungodly and unrighteous living.
- There is still a serious dichotomy between secular and church life which ought not to be so.
- Great love of mammon in church hence people are ready to do anything for money. The church therefore cannot even take a bold stand against evils of the society
- The home front which is the cell unit of the church has not been properly secured. Hence many are in church but have dysfunctional home fronts.

B. SUGGESTIONS

- The church is the strategic organ for National transformation and hence should lead the way in the following way:
- The Government has hinged its transformation agenda on total reorientation of the masses. The church should lead the way through :
 - Proper Discipleship that will help raise change agents who are true examples



to their immediate community. Many of those driving various sectors today are church goers but it is quite apparent that they have not been effectively influenced by the church.

- Modeling /Mentoring aimed at raising believers with a mindset for National Transformation.
- Emphasis but also be placed on preaching practical Gospel that will touch issues like Ethics and Integrity and encourage social revolution against common vices.
- Sensitize Church leaders in the light of these.
- The Nigerian church ought to follow the global trend of taking the church out of the Box to sending forth missionaries into the seven mountains of society. Through this, believers will be at the very fore front of driving the transformation in various sectors of the society.
- While acknowledging the great challenges facing the nation such as poverty, juvenile delinquency and such like, the Church is strategically positioned with the Gospel to reach out and win the society drop out and effectively mobilize them towards societal transformation as has been demonstrated in Ukraine.
- The Church ought to speak with one voice. This way we will be able to positively influence vital decisions and resist political decisions that do not argue well for the society, Eg. Many well-known scandals like the Otedola/ Farouk cases are swept under carpet and no one cares and nothing may ever be heard but the Church speaking with one voice can compel decisive actions.
- The Church can actually provide a rallying point to Pressure groups.
- Above all things and having done all, PRAY.