

**THE PROBLEMS FACING
MODERN CHURCHES**

A CASE STUDY OF MINNA METROPOLIS

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**AS/5558
LA/5633
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Submitted to the

**DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS
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**Niger State College of Education,
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In Partial Fulfilment of the Requirement for
the Award of National Certificate in Education
(N.C.E.)

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PROJECT ON THE PROBLEMS FACING MODERN CHURCHES
(A CASE STUDY OF MINNA METROPOLIS)



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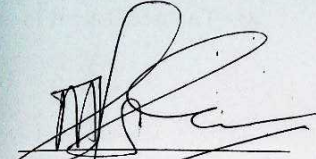
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APPROVAL PAGE

This research work has been read and certified as meeting partial requirement for the Award of Nigeria Certificate in Education in the department of Christian Religious Studies Niger State College of Education, Minna.

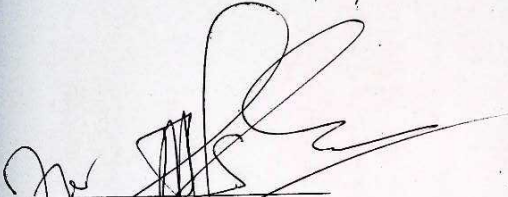


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12/9/03

Date

DEDICATION

This project work is dedicated to the Lord God Almighty and the entire church of Jesus Christ on Earth

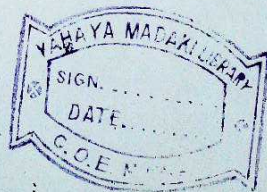
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This project is a product of three people mentioned in the previous page. We therefore Collectively show our great appreciation to the most high God who in his infinite mercy gave us the strength and ability to pursue this course of study. We know that whatever we are able to achieve, we achieve by the grace of God. To him be the glory in Jesus name.

We feel highly indebted to several people who immensely supported us in the course of our Study and in the writing of this project work. Chiefly among them are our parents and guidance. Our Supervisor Pastor Michael Tsado who always cease time to read through our work, correct and Contribute meaningful ideas that culminated to the success of this project work. Mrs Florence Tumaka The H.O.D (Head of Department) of Christian religious studies and all the lecturers of the department Of Christian Religious Studies of Niger State College of Education Minna Many thanks also goes to those that supported us in the course of this project by contributing Valuable ideas, helping us to find relevant materials and also encouraging us to work hard. Few among these people are: -

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2. Pastor Israel Ojo - The Assembly Pastor C.A.C. Shango Minna.
3. Elder J.A. Akinola - Christ Apostolic Church Shango Minna.
4. Pastor Emmanuel Kolo - Nupe Calvary Church Tunga, Minna.
5. Bro. Jacob T. Garba - Ex -President of the F.C.S., C.O.E Minna, Chapter.
6. Bro. Joshua Yisa - Ex - President of the F.C.S., C.O.E, Minna Chapter.

We cannot but remember the support and sacrifices of all those that spent their time and energy in seeing that our questionnaire is answered and also retrieved back to us immediately. God bless you all.



ABSTRACT

The study is aimed at investigating the problems facing modern churches in Minna metropolis.

Background to the study, which comprises of some subheadings such as, statement of the Problem, purpose of the study, scope and delimitation of the study, research question, Significance of the study, definition of terms and variables.

Chapter two deals with the review of related literature on the research work. While chapter three presents research methodology and it contains research design, sample and sampling Procedure, instrumentation, procedure for data analysis.

Chapter four presents the result of data obtained and analysed, as well as the summary of the finds. Finally, chapter five as the last chapter deals with the discussion of findings and recommendation of the findings.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title page	i
Approval page	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgment	iv
Abstract	v
Table of contents	vi

CHAPTER ONE.

1.1	Background of the study	1
1.2	Statement of problem	1
1.3	Purpose of the study	2
1.4	Significance of the study	3
1.5	Research questions	3
1.6	Scope and delimitation of the study	3
1.7	Definition of terms and variables	4

CHAPTER TWO

2.0	Review of related Literature	5
2.1	Sociological view of problems of modern church	5

CHAPTER THREE.

3.0	Research methodology	21
3.1	Research design	21
3.2	Sample and sampling procedure.	21

CHAPTER FOUR.

4.0	Presentation of Data	23
4.1	Data analysis and result	

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0	Discussion, conclusion and recommendation	33
5.1	Summary of findings	33
5.2	Conclusion	34
5.3	Recommendation.	34
	Bibliography	36
	Appendix	37

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION:

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY.

Minna the headquarter of Niger State was created in 1976. Minna was founded predominantly by the Gbagi and Nupes. It was formally the headquarters of the old Niger province, under both the defunct Northern Nigeria and North-Western State.

Minna is located in the middle belt. The major tribes in Minna as the headquarters of the state include the Gbagis, Nupes, Hausa, Yoruba, Igbos and other minority tribes having an estimated population of over 500,00 people (five hundred thousand people) The town, Minna has two (2) local governments. It boasts of different denominational churches grouped as orthodox and Pentecostal churches tagged "Modern churches".

The new generation churches with Pentecostal orientation will be treated as modern churches in this project under review. Some of the modern churches found in Minna include

Christ Apostolic Church, Living Faith Church, Faith Foundation, Redeemed Christian Church e.t.c (opinion sampling).

These various denominations have their different modes of worship (doctrines). The doctrines are usually agreed to by the members and in case of any disagreement; the aftermath is always a pullout leading to the formation of other denominations by the sect of the same interest, hence the daily growth of various denominations in Minna metropolis.

In this case study, we are to carry out a research work on the problems confronting the modern churches in Minna metropolis.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM.

The rate at which local churches arise and brake-up is high in recent years and has become an issue of concern to the Christian community in general. It is the

aim of the Researchers in this study to find out the causes of problems facing modern churches among our Churches in Minna town.

The researchers will attempt to find answers to the following questions.

1. What constitute the problems of modern churches?
 - i. Schism in the churches
 - ii. Leadership/Leadership style
 - iii. Worldliness
 - iv. Lust (Adultery and fornication)
 - v. Fraudsters in the church (Indiscipline)
 - vi. Christian time (Church time management)
 - vii. The wheelchair Christian
 - viii. Broken Home
2. What effect has it to the Christian community?
3. How does the outside world view this issue from their own perspective?
4. Has it any effect on the church as a body.

1.3 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY.

The purpose of this study is to discern the problems affecting modern churches in Minna and it's environments. The writers are attempting to find out various factors affecting modern churches, it's effect on the churches and also to proffer possible solutions to them.

The research work is also for partial fulfillment for the award of the Nigeria certificate in Education (N.C.E) in the school (college). After discovering the problems faced by modern churches, the writers shall be able to proffer possible solutions that could help to minimize the problems affecting modern Churches in Minna metropolis.

1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY.

The causes of problems in modern churches in Nigeria are very important to know. Evangelists Pastors, Sunday school teachers and the entire Christian community do not want the re-occurrence of this ugly situation facing modern churches in Minna.

It is the wish of every believer to see that the church is growing steadfastly and increasing from strength to strength. The result of the study will be of great help (importance) to the Pastors, Evangelists, Church administrators and the Church community at large.

The causes of problems in our modern Churches provide the basis for the corrective recommendations that will be given by the researchers.

1.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS.

The research questions for this study are derived from issues and problems enumerated in chapter one and two of this project work.

These questions include:

What constitute the problems of modern churches?

What causes church splitting?

Why the increase of new church denominations in Minna town?

What effect has it to the Christian community?

How does the outside world view this issue from their own perspectives?

Has it any effect on the church as a body?

1.6 SCOPE AND DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY.

The issue of the problems of modern churches today is very wide and can not be covered within the Researchers scope of study due to time and financial

constrains.

The researchers therefore delimit their investigation to Minna town. It is intended to investigate the causes of problems in modern churches.

The researchers strongly believe that the result obtained in this small geographical area of study could be relevant, if applied to some other areas of the larger Nigerian society.

1.7 DEFINITION OF TERMS AND VARIABLES

MODERN CHURCHES:- Modern churches are the new generation churches that have Pentecostal Orientation

INTERDENOMINATIONAL:- Between from one religious group to another.

CAUSES:- The ground or reasons of an actions which produces or bring about an effect.

DENOMINATION:- A religious group or sect.

SURMOUNT:- To deal with a difficulty, to overcome something.

ENUMIRATE:- To name things on a list one by one .

PERSPECTIVES:- A view, especially one stretching into the distance.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE.

2.1. INTRODUCTION.

The review of related literature in this subject matter enables the researchers to know the importance attached to the existence of modern churches, some of the causes of these problems and the effect it has on the Christians as it relates to the society (Nigeria society).

This will help the researchers to correlate earlier findings with their own findings and thereby determine the significance of their own result.

2.2 SOCIOLOGICAL VIEW OF THE PROBLEMS OF MODERN CHURCHES.

The word church is gotten from the Greek word "ecclesia" which means "a called out body" or "assembly" which can literally mean accompany of called out ones. Those whom God has called into himself by the gospel of his grace and who have accepted that gospel and the savior it presents.

Today, we also refer to the building in which Christians worship as "church". The church in consideration is the church which Jesus promised in the book of (Mathew 16:18) The church is total of all those who believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God. It is universal. The Christian church was born on the first Jewish feast of week (Pentecostal) after the ascension of Jesus Christ. It took place at about A.D34.

Today, there is much confusion and little understanding of what the church really is. We hear the names of different churches of various denominations and earnest believers (adherents) inquire as to which is the right one to belong or to be affiliated to.

Inspite of many religious bodies in Christendom, God still sees his true children on earth, as "one body in Christ" no matters the various church organizations they may belong to or how scattered and divided they may be.

The church today has lost its glory and dignity, lost its favor and the glory of the lord has departed from the church. As a result, there is distrust among brethren and the situation became like what happened in Israel when there was no king in Israel. In those days every one does what he like, brethren are no more compatible with one another and hence they always want to form new groups with identical goals. Some greedy individuals commercialize the church in a way. Now the gospel have been misunderstood by many people outside the church. With this phenomenon, how then can we reach them with the gospel of truth?

Some of the reasons for these tension which sometimes lead to splitting includes leadership struggle, doctrinal issues/practice management of church wealth (money) and so on.

2.3 SCHISM IN THE CHURCHES.

According to oxford advanced learner's dictionary fifth / special price edition, schism is a strong disagreement within, an organization especially a religious one, causing its members to divide into separate groups.

Division or splitting in the church is not a new thing. It has started long ago.

THE CATHOLIC -ORTHODOX SCHISM (1054). " Two great schisms or divisions occurred in Christianity. The first took place in 1054 when the eastern or Byzantine church in Constantinople separated from the western church in Rome.

The second took place in 1517 when the western church further divided into catholic and protestant.

The western and eastern churches were separated by distance- Rome and Constantinople were some 1,000 miles apart; they spoke Greek; and they had different authorities the west followed the Pope and the east followed the decisions of the first seven ecumenical (church-wide) councils. (John Schwarz (2000) pages (126 & 127).

"The most significant religious movement in the last hundred years has been

Pentecostalism, which originated in the United States at the turn of the twentieth century. The principal distinctive is "speaking in tongues" – a language order than one known to the speaker, called 'glossalalia (glossa is the Greek word for "

"Tongue", lalia for "talk) – which Pentecostals believe is evidence of being "baptized in the spirit." (Pentecostals) are called Pentecostals because the visible sign of the spirit – speaking in tongues come on Pentecost in (A.D.30.) In Pentecostalism, religious "experiences" tends to be theology." (John Schwarz (2000), pages 142- 143)

Schism is a phenomenon which had been endemic in the Christian Africa has a multitude of major and Peculiar causes. Prominent among these causes is the desire to achieve a purer form of Christianity."

ii. **LEADERSHIP:** issue was another major cause of the earliest schism from the mission.

iii. **CULTURAL DIFFERENCES:** Is another major factor. Actually they can be found different subcultures within any organization. Some times two subcultures can become so incompatible that there will be a splits, an event that often happens in local church settings. People have witnessed quit a number of Churches fighting Over forms of worship and music, with different subcultures believing that their way is the right way.

" A large Christian organization which ministers to children recently had a major rift that came to the Surface after several years of tension. A large subculture within the organization, including some of the top Leadership, left to begin a new work with identical goals. The group that departed had become so Uncomfortable in the "host Culture" that they felt their only option was disassociation. Basic assumptions and beliefs in the two subcultures had become incompatible.

A culture audit can bring to the surface conflicts that are deep within the

organization and which are stifling all possibilities for effectiveness.” Hams Finzel (2000 page 147&148).

IV. DIFFERENCES IN DOCTRINAL PRACTICES AND BELIEFS: Can also bring about splitting of the church. Some churches in their doctrines have deviated from Christ the head of the church.

“Some churches preach, but do not practice the doctrine of new birth, some do not believe that holiness is Attainable, while several Christian doesn’t live by faith. Wealthy men of God don’t trust the lord to be their Shepherd any longer, they maintain their own physical security network. A particular church does not believe in the divinity of Jesus Christ inspite of many supporting bible evidence.” (Knowing God –vol 5, No.17, pages 9&10).

Other churches don’t believe in or practice “ Holy sprit baptism,” new birth, or divine healing by faith. “How can unbelievers take the modern church seriously? Christian organizations in Nigerja have no effect on the growth and propagation of the Christian faith. They function like trade unions and unless there is revival that lead to repentance, the church is in a crisis.

2.4 LEADERSHIP / LEADERSHIP STYLE

In the world today, people seek for leadership positions in order to be Lord and master over others. To acquire certain measure of authority and power. Most of them seek for the position or office for lust for their own selfish interest, and because they lust for power and prominence not because they really care for the People they lead.

In the church today, many want to be leaders just as the world does. They tend to forget that the church of Christ operates a different style all together. Leadership in the church demands great sacrifice and experiences of life that far out weigh the challenges facing those being led. “It must be a life that is gone ahead in what others are expected to follow him into -----.” It demands for one to give his life to God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Leadership also demands for

complete obedience not one or several acts of obedience because God is not looking for such, rather a life of continual perpetual obedience. One who would obey God in any place and at any time (moment) . The level of leadership position one occupies depends on his level of maturity in the life of obedience.

In the world system, leaders are masters and Lord over their subordinates, in Christendom the case is contrary. Here, leaders become servants of all. Today, the church of Christ is battered and divided in between as many ministers as there are just for the quest of who shall be accounted greatest among them.

Good leaders whether spiritual or secular do not seek for the position or post of leadership but will always be willing to accept responsibilities according to their capacities. Sometimes certain leadership position would bring tremendous pressure into the life of the leader, his marriage (if married) and his family or household.

People who are in leadership can on the one hand move (influence) men, women and mountains for tremendous good. At the same time, they hold in their hands the power to do irreparable damage to their followers by the mistakes they make.

The greater your sphere of leadership influence, the more your impact on the world around you. The more people you lead the greater the potential damage cause through your poor decisions and actions. This is one of the sobering realities one must face when he/she takes up the mantle of leadership.

“ Good leaders seem to be scarce commodity today. There are plenty of openings but fewer good candidates. Why is it that so many organizations, churches and schools are looking for leaders to fill empty Slots? Perhaps the problem is not really that new.”

“ I searched for a man among them who should ----- stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one (Ezek 22:30).”

It seems that more number of people fall into leadership by accident than by

design. Leadership role is the kind of role you are chosen for you usually cannot volunteer. Though leadership in the church or Christian enterprises demands spiritual qualification, there is also serious need for giving such people adequate training in organizational literacy.

In the issue of leadership, the good you do can be destroyed by the precaution you fail to take. No Matter how gifted or skillful a leader is, one or two glaring blind spots can ruin his/her influence. A few bad habits can void the effectiveness of all your talents and accomplishments. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of good leadership." Hans Finzel ---- in his book titled "Ten top mistakes leaders make" identify certain things leaders must observe not to do.

DO NOT BE DICTATORIAL: Good leaders should not practice top down autocratic leadership style rather practice democratic leadership or what some call servant leadership. It embraces all other good models of leadership and it is also built on Christ model of leadership, which is biblical model of leadership. "A servant leader must be willing to get "down and dirty" with his troops in the implementation of his objectives." For good leadership, one has to avoid being egocentric, but empowering others. He should not be a dictatorial leader but partners in the process among other things.

DO NOT JUST CONCENTRATE ON PAPER WORK: Do not only concentrate all your efforts on paperwork, crate time to listen to your co-workers. They need your attention and that is how they would be rest assured of your caring. So as a Christian leader, be a good listener.

"DO NOT LET GOOD WORK BE SECRET: Ask your managers under you to inform you of their subordinates' accomplishments. Employees are discouraged when their special efforts go unnoticed. They feel it was wasted effort or worse, think the boss is taking credit for their work. Rodgers (a certain leader) always send them a handwritten note of appreciation."

DO NOT BE ONLY TASK ORIENTED: Though it is a good thing to be task oriented but is better to be more of people oriented. For a leader to accomplish much, there must be a healthy emphasis on people. Leadership is basically a people business.

As a Christian leader, humble yourself before God and men, be obedient to the word of God and always ask God for understating and wisdom of how to govern those under your leadership.

2.5 **WORLDLINESS:** There are different versions of worldliness but for the purpose of this project work, we shall be much concerned with the aspect in which it affects the modern churches in Minna metropolis. The term worldliness is a derivative from a root word "world" meaning the earth; all the people, creature, and

Many other things on it. According to Cranig, S. Keener (2000) in his book titled: Intervarsity Press (I P V) Bible background commentary of New Testament. "The world could refer to everything but God; here it means the system in competition with God."

We can deduce from the above definitions that wordiness is ravaging the modern churches of our time especially in Minna where new trend of churches are spring up daily. It is a situation where one is so much concern with earthy life or material gains.

A lot of modern churches preach prosperity to a high extent and at the expense of preaching the message of salvation. Their messages and teachings are organized in a way that will lead their members to pursue after the materials gain of this world while they have few of God's word inside them. They are not deep-rooted in the word of God, which is the substance for every Christian who wants to make heaven.

A renowned Nigerian evangelist, reverend Chidi Okoroafoh in his sermon titled "Injury time" says "----- The world become churchy and the church become worldly." The implication of this reveals the extent to which the things of

this world gain their root and is established in our modern churches today this lead to deviating from the reality of God.

“ Some years ago, the American theologian Francis Schaeffer said that the church is slowly accommodating itself to the norms and values of the world becoming more concern with being “Politically correct” (the neutral middle road) than with the commandments and teachings of the Bible and soon will have nothing precious or important to say to the world.

How can we over come this? By understanding that there is a unique, all embracing Christian world view; by developing our Christian minds through prayer and study; and by reflecting on what Jesus would do if He were confronted with decisions we face in our vocations, in our marriages and parenting, in our use of the environment, in our leisure activities and in responding to the need of the marginalized in society.” (John Schwarz (2000), page 229)

From our definition of worldliness we say “Is a system in competition with God and also a state condition whereby one is so much concerned with materials gains or not being spiritual.” In modern churches today, the true message is been manipulated to suit the hearing of the members instead of focusing on Jesus’ salvation, they focus on preaching prosperity and some other things.

To some extent even the music played in modern churches is been copied from the world so the people of the world find themselves in the church. Their purpose is not to receive salvation but to dance the same music they use to dance in parties using church to cover up. There is the effect of worldliness in the church wedding today which we need to sought God for curing it or else we will miss heaven. God is not pleased seeing us imitate the world as it operates under the influence of its master (satan).

Bro. Afam Eruchalu in his magazine titled “The Disciples Indeed” (August 2002) page 13 said there is an overriding parameter, which his stirring lust inside men. Female clothes, especially, are designed to expose as much of the body as

possible during summer when there are a lot of out door activities. This is supposed to provoke the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes. Then there is a matter of fashion following the current trend. So the clothes designers tell everyone what is fashionable and what is not.

The world lay much emphasis on the outward appearance and likes to exhibit so it is full of glamour and ostentation, yet devoid of any reality inside. The devil knows that there is an instinct in man, which lust after these things and will not allow man to rest until he get these things. There is a world version of Christianity, which is Christ-less and Cross-less.

Worldliness is master minded, run effectively and monitored by a prince called the prince of this world (St. John 14:30) who is also called Satan. Satan means adversary. He is the chief opponent of God and everything that is good. He carries out his opposition by introducing programmes, principles, institutions and many other things contrary to what God is doing. So worldliness is actually an opposite of an order set up by the almighty God. It turns many away from God and makes him operates in his godless way that does not acknowledge God. Instead of pursuing after God he keeps pursuing after material gains of this World.

In modern churches today, men pursue after all that they think splendid which is not derived from the father (God) at all, but from the world itself. The crave for sex, the ambition to purchase everything the eye sees, the desire to become a millionaire overnight, competition among members in the body of Christ, dressing half naked even going to the church service half naked, wearing clothes that does not befit a Christian have direct effect on the church especially the modern churches. Because of having more wealth and population the modern churches seems not to emphasis seriously against these things so as to retain members' even sinners in their churches.

The church, which is not meant for sinners to sit and feel comfortable rather to make them change.

This is how worldliness enters the church and defiled the holy church established by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Worldliness is a bye product of Satan "the prince of this world" Which is an opposition to God and everything that is good. (Gal. 5:16-18)

2.6 LUST (ADULTARY AND FORNICATION.) Another problem that is silently but seriously worrying the church of Christ these days is "LUST". Lust has eaten up and polluted the hearts of many that called themselves children of God (even the born again). The devil uses this instrument to get many who have given their lives to God.

Lust is adultery of the heart, hence Jesus Christ said whoever look on a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matthew 5:28). It is an uncontrolled sexual daydreaming.

It wages relentless war against you and I, not only to corrupt and pollute us, but to also ruin our fellowship with our maker and our fellow Christians if we allow it to have it's way in our lives.

This issue affects both leaders and the led in the church, married and unmarried, the male and female, young and the old. It left no one. Like every other sin, it has demons operating to influence its activities. One should not boast, whether he is strong or weak. Apostle Paul said in his letter to the Corinthians "wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall". (1 cor. 10:12)

According to V.O.A. news (voice of America), 9:00pm on the 27th of September 2003, over 44 Million people in Africa have been affected with the H.I.V/ AIDS virus. Many of them die and left their families probably with nobody to cater for them. Such families are left under great difficulties and to the mercies of God. A woman was interviewed by a correspondent of the V.O.A and she revealed that her brother happened to be a victim and died leaving many children and his wife. As a result, she has to cater for these children, a responsibility she did not initially planned for. She pleaded for governmental support to take proper care of

the children.

In another news programmed by V.O.A (African world tonight) on October 3, 2003, it is revealed that large number of truck drivers are found affected with the H.I.V/AIDS in Nigeria. A Non-governmental organization in the east of the country is said to be on their feet trying to educate and enlighten the truck drivers. Many of the drivers are said to have ladies in many places they do stop to eat or rest. There is a daily increase in the rate at which these drivers are dying.

The medical world on the other hand made it known that majority of the affected people usually contact it through sexual intercourse and up till this day it's cure has not been found though there are drugs now discovered to minimize its effects and probably help to prolong their life span. However, the drugs are very expensive that the poor cannot afford buying to treat themselves or their patients.

“Lust has wrecked testimonies and ruined successes. Strongmen and women of God have stumbled and else while godly families have thrown into strange rhapsodies over it. Its power over its slave is both terrifying and frightening. It crushes and devours its victims, and tramples its prey underfoot. It has tarnished reputations, ruined career and dashed ministerial calling to pieces. Facts and mysteries surrounding lust have caused serious furore, whirlwind and storms down the ages that even Sigmund Freud the great psychosexual analyst, could not unravel what is wrong with the species called Homo sapien.” (Matthias Echidna (1997)-page 24 and 25)

FRAUDSTERS IN THE CHURCH (INDISCIPLINE).

In today's Nigeria, the church has become a moneymaking option that has attracted uncalled Pastors and undisciplined general-overseers. (Knowing God, volume 5, number 17-page 9)

“Defrauding is not a new game, it is as old as the Old Testament and it's sophistication and practice came in as early as Genesis the book of beginning. Jacob

introduced it into the world when he collected a blessing that was not his. Papa Isaac was to bestow a blessing on Esau his first-born. But before Esau would get it, he needed to obey his father's last prayer request in life; he asked Esau to go hunting for a game with which Esau would prepare a savoury meal he (Isaac) would eat before he would release his last blessings upon the son."

This implies that Esau would go hunting and catch a game which he will prepare for his father to eat before being bless. This blessing was not going to come by chance Esau must work for it. It is unfortunate that his mother Rebecca and his younger brother Jacob connived together to steal his blessing. This is because Jacob wanted a shortcut to prosperity. Genesis 27:15-16, 27:21-23, 27:26-27a, 27:30, 27:41.

Several modern preachers also climb the pulpit to deceive and play on the intelligence of an innocent congregation in order to empty them of their hard earned financial and material possessions. A genuine blessing would require hard work and patience.

Such deceitful preachers take advantage of the innocent believers and make fake prophesies and lying on of empty evil hands with mechanical shaking of their head as if they are under a genuine move of God. God has a divine calendar for everything. If one waits for God's time he will be particularly bless because God will work it out. God gives wealth and His gifts come without difficulties such as Jacob's. They come peacefully and without repentance.

2.8 CHRISTAIN TIME (CHURCH TIME MANAGEMENT).

According to Pastor Idowu Akintola of Zion Baptist church Minna "Time is a moment, a sequence of event, intervals between happenings". Also according to Pastor Godwin Agbanyim of freedom chapel international, kubwa-Abuja "Time is a period between events.

The quest for "Christian time" propelled Evan.Michael Ezenor into writing a

book "Christian time".

Many people in our society including the serious Christian have been observe to be so careless about time management. For Christian to improve on time management, we must join hands together to achieve these.

Many Christians do not take time seriously; both the preachers coordinators, chorus leaders and members alike mismanage time.

The worst thing is that we attend church programmes and services lately most of the time and it is a sin. The Bible says every disobedience is sin and this we all know that shall not go unpublished. "All wrong doing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death". 1John 5:17(NIV).

If you know what to do and refuse to do it, to you it is a sin. The author tries to bring out the picture of what the church is facing because of this singular fact.

"It is displeasing and appallingly discouraging too, to note the traumatic bitterness the church is passing through in our days due to ignorance and a careless attitude towards the appropriate use of time (Time management). This attitude and lack of understanding in the usage of time has affected the church in many ways and in great magnitude.

We are all-aware that every disobedience is sin and shall not go unpunished. To buttress the point once more, the Bible say in Ecclesiastes 3:17. "God shall judge the righteous and the wicked; for there is a time for every purpose and every work". (KJV). The church has refused this naked truth as portrayed in the word of God and has arrogantly stuck to the doctrine of baalam (the doctrine of error). These errors have adversely affected the church in no small measure, people are complaining and murmuring in our churches today. This is due to non Compliance to good time management.

Truly, the church is suffering deep pains unexpressed, members are groaning for this indiscriminate use of time. Imagine this case:

Recently, a lady shared with me the ordeal her church has caused her at

home. Because the group she belong to does not dismiss on time, the parents decided to give her time to return from church activities.

This has made her not to have freedom of spirit while in the service. The group now know that they have thrown this young lady into more trouble than before. Timing does not mean and will not mean limiting the Holy Ghost. God happened to create time and also used time but effectively. He had time for everything He made in heaven and under heaven.

Infact, our Lord Jesus Christ is worth emulating even in the area of time management Evang. Michael Ezenor has this to say. "To be candid, the issue of time management should not be over emphasized.

Jesus time management is worth emulating. His prayer period was timely. He never do a thing without being at the appropriate time. Remember in John chapter two, Mary the mother of Jesus wanted him to do Something, but because it was not yet the time, he told her that his time had not yet come. Even concerning His resurrection, Jesus said after three days He will arise. Habakkuk 2:3 says "for the vision is yet for an Appointed time -----wait for it". Here, the prophet is talking about time".

For time to be well managed, we must plan properly on how to use the time effectively. An Excellent planning brings about effective time management and failure to plan means planning to fail.

"People complain of stress in their work, sometimes it is not because the work is stressfull, but because they fail to plan their work properly.

If you plan your doings in the church properly and you work strictly to achieve that if you are effective and efficient, you will have more time for yourself, work and family. The stress may not be there any longer!" If time management is not properly taken care of by the church of God it will continue to be a problem of it's own drawing the hand of the clock backward.

2.9 THE WHEELCHAIR CHRISTIAN

Many Christians in the church today are spiritually sick and therefore become pitiable because they are Incapacitated. A lot of Christians in the church today are waiting to be push about. They are pushed about before they go to the church or before they participate in any activity in the church. The wheelchairs Christian have some of these characteristics:

- i. They are spiritually deformed.
- ii. They rely on wheelchair for help

“Do you know that there are some Christians without legs and hands to perform in the church of God? A Story was told of a child that the parent denied because the child could not walk for twelve (12) years, rather the child was making constant demand for several kinds of food yet remain unproductive. Some found themselves in that condition because they are so careless of what they should do and at the right time.

The church today is filled with such Christians that does not take seriously their prayer life even their Evangelism life is nothing to write home about. These have become an endemic to the church. In his word of exhortation, Evang. Michael Ezenor says if you happen to belong to such group, you should quickly jump out of the wheelchair and God will bring healing to your state of being. When this happen, you can now do much spiritual exercises and also be productive.

2.10 BROKEN HOME.

Looking around us, we will find many Christian homes that have been broken and shattered into Pieces. Christian marriages suppose to be the happiest marriage. A home where love is demonstrated very highly. There are many causes of broken homes today. Some happened because the two couple involve did not follow the proper channel in their marriage. That is to say they did not follow God's pattern and lay good Foundation. Such marriage is bound to fail (brake).

Other people lay good foundation but does not make Christ the head of their family (home).

By making Christ the head of their family they will create family altar and pray together, study the scripture together and show love to each other.

Even Christian homes that begin well may be shattered if care is not taken. There are many others things that destroy relationship in the Christian homes. One of the prominent factors is self. Self is the Primary killer of relationships. If we do not handle self very well it will lead to great problems. "Self Can be describe as the way of life we inherited by nature". (Funmi Odeyemi, knowing God – vol5, No.17). This implies that self is found present even in the life of a Christian. It manifests, as self-will, Self-pleasing, self-independence, self-confidence e.t.c.

"As long as you keep allowing yourself to be yourself, just know that you are gradually killing your marriage relationship." This implies that both couple need to be filled with the spirit and not to allow/make provision for the flesh. They should let the spirit of God control and direct them in everything and at every time.

Some other factors include pride, unfaithfulness in marriage, quarrelsome spirit, and issue of finance, Disrespect, disobedience ingratitude and many other things. Some families are still leaving under the Same roof yet they are shattered. The husband decides on his own and the wife and children also decide on their own.

It has become one of the problems facing the modern church because it affects many families even the families of the priests and church elders.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 RESEACH METHODOLOGY

3.1. RESEACH DESIGN

This chapter presents the method used in carrying out the research. This chapter discussed the research design, the sample and sampling procedure and method of data collection.

3.2 SAMPLE AND SAMPLING PROCEDURE

There are many modern churches located in Bosso and Minna local government area (L.G.A.) of Niger state. It is not possible due to financial implications for the researchers to use these entire modern Churches. Hence, about four (4) churches were randomly selected as the sampled population.

However, purposeful sampling procedure had to be used because the targeted people sampled were those from the modern churches.

A total of one hundred (100) people were sampled at random from the modern churches. The churches used for these purposeful sampling include the Redeemed Christian Church, Living Faith Church, Christ Apostolic Church and Faith foundation.

The first two (2) churches are in Bosso Local Government area while the other two (2) are in Minna Local Government area. In all, one hundred (100) questionnaires were distributed to modern churches one questionnaires per a person for the benefit of the researchers.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION.

The main instrument used in collecting data and information for the purpose of this research work is Questionnaire. The researchers gave out copies of the questionnaire to one hundred (100) people of which all are Christian brethren within Minna metropolis. The researchers used the investigative interview method in preparing the questionnaire because it afford the respondents the freedom of

Opinion and expression. The result become very useful information gathered from it for the purpose of this research work.

As it can be seen from the distributing opinions and feelings in the researchers proves to be effective especially in the area of eliciting frank and point blank responses by the various respondents that may not some times be willing to answer some of the questions as relating to the problems facing modern churches.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF DATA

4.1 The statistical techniques applied in this study to analyze data is in percentages.

The responses of the respondents are statistically analyzed and expressed in percentages.

4.2 For the purpose of clarity and logical presentation therefore, the data collected and considered very imperative for the research are presented in tables and analyzed in statistical percentages for easy comprehension.

THE RESULTS.

TABLE I. QUESTION I.

Are you living in Minna?

RESPONSE	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGES
YES	89	93%
NO	6	6%
NEUTRAL	1	1%
TOTAL	96	100%

Table above indicate that 89 respondents representing 93% said Yes, 6 respondents representing 6% said No while 1 respondent representing 1% is Neutral.

TABLE 2 QUESTIONS 2:

Are you a Christian?

RESPONSE	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGES
YES	96	100%
NO	0	0%
NEUTRAL	0	0%
TOTAL	96	100%

Table 2 above indicate that 96 respondents representing 100% said Yes while none Respondent said No and none respondent is Neutral.

TABLE 3 QUESTIONS 3:

Have you ever attended or worship in any modern church ?

RESPONSE.	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGES
YES	92	96%
NO	4	4%
NEUTRAL	0	0%
TOTAL	96	100%

Table 3 above indicates that 92 respondents representing 96% said Yes, 4 respondents representing 4% say No. while no respondent is Neutral.

TABLE 4 QUESTIONS 4:

Do you agree that modernization is the new way of doing things or new Innovation?

RESPONSE	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGES
YES	85	89%
NO	9	9%
NEUTRAL	2	2%
TOTAL	96	100%

Table 4 above indicates that 85 respondents representing 89% said Yes, 9 respondents 9% said No while 2 respondents representing 2% are Neutral.

TABLE 5 QUESTIONS 5:

Modern churches are the new generation churches that have Pentecostal orientation.
Do you agree?

RESPONSE	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGES
YES	70	73%
NO	21	22%
NEUTRAL	5	5%
TOTAL	96	100%

Table 5 above indicates that 70 respondents representing 73% said yes, 12 respondents representing 22% said No while 5 respondents representing 5% were Neutral.

TABLE 6 QUESTIONS 6:

Does modernization improve the spiritual life of the people?

RESPONSE	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGES
YES	46	48%
NO	36	37.5%
NEUTRAL	14	14.5%
TOTAL	96	100%

Table 6 above indicates that 46 respondents representing 48% Said yes, 36 respondents representing 37.5% said No while 14 respondents representing 14.5% were Neutral.

TABLE 7 QUESTIONS 7.

Are you satisfied with the social life of the people in the Pentecostal churches in Minna?

RESPONSE	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGES
YES	40	41.5%
NO	40	41.5%
NEUTRAL	16	17%
TOTAL	96	100%

Table 7 above indicates that 40 respondents representing 41.5% said Yes, 40 respondents representing 41.5% said No while 16 respondents representing 17% were Neutral.

TABLE 8 QUESTIONS 8

In your own opinion, can you say that modern churches in Minna Have improved the propagation of the gospel within Minna?

RESPONSE	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGES
YES	56	58.5%
NO	29	30%
NEUTRAL	11	11.5%
TOTAL	96	100%

Table 8 above indicates that 56 respondents representing 58.5% Said Yes, 29 respondents representing 30% said No while 11 respondents representing 11.5% were Neutral

TABLE 9 QUESTIONS 9:

As a Christian, can you say you are fed up with the problems facing churches in Minna?

RESPONSE	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGES
YES	34	35.5%
NO	51	53%
NEUTRAL	11	11.5%
TOTAL	96	100%

Table 9 above indicates that 34 respondents representing 35.5% Said Yes, 51 respondents representing 53% said No while 11 respondents representing 11.5% were Neutral.

TABLE 10 QUESTIONS 10:

Without fear or favor, can you say that the modern churches in Minna Have positively affected other churches?

RESPONSE	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGES
YES	66	69%
NO	15	15.5%
NEUTRAL	15	15.5%
TOTAL	96	100%

Table 10 above indicates that 66 respondents representing 69% said Yes, 15 respondents representing 15.5% said No while 15 respondents representing 15.5% were Neutral.

TABLE 11 QUESTIONS 11.

If yes, in what way do they affect other churches?

RESPONSE	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGES
Spirituality	46	23%
Morality	23	24%
Socially	23	24%
Nautical	17	18%
Total	109	107%

Table 11 question 11 indicates that 46 respondents representing 23% view the impact as spiritual, 23 respondents representing 24% view the impact as moral impact while another 23 respondents representing 24% view the impact as social. Also 17 respondents representing 18% were Neutral

TABLE 12 QUESTION 12:

Does the daily increase of modern churches in Minna reduce the high level Of immorality among our youth in Minna metropolis?

RESPONSE	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGES
YES	31	32%
NO	54	56%
NEUTRAL	11	12%
TOTAL	96	100%

Table 12 above indicates that 31 respondents representing 32% said Yes, 54 respondents representing 56% said No while 11 respondents representing 12% were Neutral.

TABLE 13 QUESTIONS 13:

Can leadership problem be the major factor bringing about church splitting among modern churches in Minna town?

RESPONSE	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGES
YES	30	31%
NO	53	55.5%
NEUTRAL	13	13.5%
TOTAL	96	100%

Table 13 above indicates that 30 respondents representing 31% said Yes, 53 respondents representing 55.5% said No while 13 respondents representing 13.5% were neutral.

TABLE 14 QUESTIONS 14:

Can the problems facing modern churches in Minna town be attributed to the love of money among the leaders?

RESPONSE	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGES
YES	41	42.5%
NO	37	38.5%
NEUTRAL	18	19%
TOTAL	96	100%

Total 14 above indicates that 41 respondents representing 42.5% said Yes, 37 respondents representing 38.5% said No while 18 respondents representing 19% were neutral.

TABLE 15 QUESTION 15:

Are you one of those who believe that church and money cannot be separated?

Table 15 above indicates that 33 respondents representing 34% said Yes, 47 respondents representing 49% said No while 16 respondents representing 17% were Neutral.

TABLE 16 QUESTIONS 16:

Can money be the number one problem that tops other issues in the church discussion?

RESPONSE	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGES
YES	21	22%
NO	59	61%
NEUTRAL	16	17%
TOTAL	96	100%

Table 16 above indicates that 21 respondents representing 22% said yes, 59 respondents representing 61% said no while 16 respondents representing 17% were neutral.

TABLE 17 QUESTION 17:

Doctrine has been seen to be the way which people worship and practice their religion. In your own opinion are you satisfied with the doctrines of modern churches in Minna?

RESPONSE	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGES
YES	35	36%
NO	40	42%
NEUTRAL	21	22%
TOTAL	96	100%

Table 17 above indicates that 35 respondents representing 36% said Yes, 40 respondents representing 42% said No while 21 respondent representing 22% were Neutral.

TABLE 18 QUESTIONS 18:

Tribalism can cause church splitting. Do you agree?

RESPONSE	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGES
YES	69	72%
NO	22	23%
NEUTRAL	5	5%
TOTAL	96	100%

Table 18 above indicates that 69 respondents representing 72% said Yes, 22 respondents representing 23% said No while 5 respondents representing 5% were Neutral.

TABLE 19 QUESTION 19:

Tribalism brings disunity in the church today. Do you agree?

RESPONSE	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGES
YES	85	89%
NO	8	8%
NEUTRAL	3	3%
TOTAL	96	100%

Table 19 above indicates that 85 respondents representing 89% said Yes, 8 respondents representing 8% said No while 3 respondents representing 3% were Neutral.

TABLE 20 QUESTION 20:

Tradition and culture interfere with the mode of worship in modern churches. Do you agree?

RESPONSE	RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGES
YES	69	72%
NO	16	17%
NEUTRAL	11	11%
TOTAL	96	100%

Table 20 above indicates that 69 respondents representing 72% said Yes, 16

respondents representing 17% said No while 11 Respondents representing 11% were Neutral.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This concluding chapter discusses the findings of the research work. Conclusions are drawn on the basis of the results obtained. Recommendations are given to avert the problems of modern churches in Minna. Also recommendations are made on possible ways of resolving the issue of denomination in the church of God.

5.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This research work investigated the causes of problems in modern churches as it affects the spiritual growth of the people. The findings of this research revealed that there were one hundred (100) people sampled at random from the modern churches. The researchers gave out copies of the Questionnaire to these one hundred (100) people of which all are Christian brethren within Minna metropolis. It was discovered from the findings in table 1 that most of the people are living in Minna.

The findings in table 7 agrees that people are not satisfied with the social life of the people in Pentecostal church. This also agrees with the observation of the people in table 8 that modern churches have improved the propagation of the gospel. The findings in table 10 agrees that modern Churches have affected other churches spiritually. Also in their point of view in table 13 shows that leadership is not the major factor bringing about church splitting among modern churches. Table 15 show that money and church cannot be separated. This is also show in table 16 that money is not the number one problems that top other issues in the church.

Finally, from the findings in the last table, which is table 20, shows that tradition and culture interfere with the mode of worship in modern churches in Minna metropolis.

CONCLUSION.

5.2 Modern churches have gained much ground among the youth and wealthy people today, because leaders and founders of these churches have created an atmosphere that they will never be sick and that Christian will never suffer, but live in abundance.

This write up is meant to create awareness among the Christendom to be able to unite, not separation in the body of Christ, Christian should love one another with the commandment of God. When there is unity, everything would be peaceful but without love there would be problems Paul in his letter to the Ephesians talk about unity. He gave a reason for this unity or oneness. There is one God, one spirit, one faith. There is one body of all the Christians and that is the church, which is known as the body of Christ (Ephesians 4: 1-7, 28)

Finally, let all genuine worshippers pray for a revival in the church, particularly in our country and also act to make it come to pass. There is a need for all Christians to learn to trust in the Holy Spirit for directive and guidance

RECOMMENDATION

5.3 The church should wake up to its enviable role as an agent in which moral values, norms, and proper ethics are inculcated in the citizens of its immediate society. It should realize that no matter how difficult it is for it to operate in certain society, it must make its presence relevant by being the salt of that earth.

The church should not relent in its efforts to reintroduce itself to the society. More so, the church should be careful not to destroy itself. It must stay united and formidable, she must see the springing up of new church organization as a means of added strength and not division or segregations. It should learn to hold on her own rather than joining forces with exterminators to quench the force of love and power.

Therefore, the following recommendation is to arrest the cause of problem in modern churches and to restore and reconcile the body of Christ together.

--- Preaching prosperity:- The church should be careful not to preach prosperity at the detriment (expense) of preaching salvation and holiness to mankind for this is the number one priority in God's agenda for the church.

---- Lust (Adultery & fornication):- It is the responsibility of every Pastor to preach against adultery & fornication in the body Christ. The government should also intensify the campaign against HIV/AIDS and also bringing it to the grass root level. This is to allow the message sink into every heart especially the youth. Religion bodies should also try as much as they could to encourage the single men and single ladies find partners and Marry. The people should learn to remain only with their spouses.

To the Christian, you should remember that the bible says that your body is the temple of the living God. (Romans 12:1,2) "I beseech you therefore to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service"

--- Time management: - Many Christians have been observed to be so careless about time management. For Christian to improve on time management, we have to wake up from our slumbering. This attitude has affected churches in many ways, if time management is not properly taken care of by the church of God, it will continue to be a problem of it's own drawing the hand of the clock backward.

--- Leadership style: - Good leaders should not practice top-down autocratic leadership style rather practice democratic leadership. A leader should not be a dictatorial leader, but partner in the church.

--- Money: - If God has particularly assigned us to manage much earthly wealth in this life, we must be extra careful to avoid being ensnared by it. You cannot afford to take things for granted. Riches have a tendency of bloating a man's heart. Do not permit riches to deceitfully blow you up into the size of a camel.

Finally, As a Christian humble yourself before God and men, be obedient to the word of God and always ask God for understanding and wisdom on how to live a holy life .

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APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Are you living in Minna?
2. Are you a Christian?
3. Have you ever attended worship in any modern church?
4. Do you agree that modernization is the new way of doing things or new innovation?
5. Modern churches are the new generation churches that have Pentecostal orientation. Do you agree?
6. Does modernization improve the spiritual life of the people?
7. Are you satisfied with the social life of the people in the Pentecostal churches in Minna?
8. In your own opinion, can you say that modern churches in Minna have improved the propagation of gospel within Minna?
9. As a Christian, can you say you are fed up with the problems facing churches in Minna?
10. Without fear or favor, can you say that the modern churches in Minna have positively affected other churches?
11. If yes, in what way do they affect other churches?
12. Does the daily increase of modern churches in Minna reduce the high level of immorality in Minna metropolis?
13. Can leadership problem be the major factor bringing about church Splitting among churches in Minna town?
14. Can the problems facing modern churches in Minna town be attributed to the love of money among the leaders?
15. Are you of those who believe that church and money cannot be separated?
16. Can money be the number one problem that tops other issue in the church discussion?

17. Doctrine has been seen to be the way which people worship and practice their religion. In your own opinion; are you satisfy with the doctrine of modern churches in Minna.
18. Tribalism can cause church splitting. Do you agree?
19. Tribalism brings disunity in the church today. Do you agree?
20. Tradition and culture interfere with the mode of worship in modern churches. Do you agree?