

# **Developing Growing Evangelistic Churches: A Case Study of the Three Growing Churches in East Africa**

*Reverend Barnabas Mtokambali*

## **ABSTRACT**

This project will attempt to provide insights into how to develop growing evangelistic churches, insights that are needed to help reverse the stagnation that over half the churches of the Assemblies of God in Tanzania, East Africa, are experiencing. The key to successful church growth is to provide effective principles of evangelistic growing churches that will motivate pastors/leaders to raise up growing churches. The stated purpose of this project is to identify characteristics that contribute to church growth by conducting a case study of three vibrant growing churches in East Africa and apply them first to Bethel Revival Temple in Morogoro, and then to other churches in Tanzania.

The first major phase of this project will present a biblical and theological basis for developing evangelistic growing churches in Tanzania and all of East Africa. The development of growing evangelistic churches must be based on good theology; and good biblical theology should lead to evangelistic church growth. First, a careful study will be made of biblical characteristics of the Church with an emphasis on New Testament characteristics of evangelistic growing churches. Most characteristics of growing evangelistic churches which will be presented in this section will be derived from the Book of Acts.

The second phase will review the literature concerning evangelistic growing churches. This is necessary in order to understand evangelistic church growth factors, church health, leadership and laity participation, effective change process, and discipleship and assimilation. This section will identify evangelistic church growth factors from an enormous range of

possibilities that exist so as to motivate and aid pastors in Tanzania and East Africa to adopt the salient specifics for their own congregations.

The third phase of the project delineates the procedure and methodology that will be employed in discovering the characteristics of evangelistic growing churches. The methods for data collection will be interviews, document analysis, and direct observation. The main objective of this section will be to ascertain the distinctives of growing evangelistic churches through a case study of three growing churches in East Africa. The over-arching goal will be to present characteristics and common denominators of dynamic evangelistic growing churches that will extend the kingdom of God in Tanzania and East Africa.

In the last phase the evaluation, analysis, and synthesis of the progressive report of evangelistic church growth principles as implemented by Bethel Revival Temple will be reported. The main purpose of evaluation is to find ways to increase evangelistic church growth in Tanzania.