THE CHURCH OF PENTECOST-
EVANGELISM MINISTRY

PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR NEW CONVERT CARE

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The Church of Pentecost

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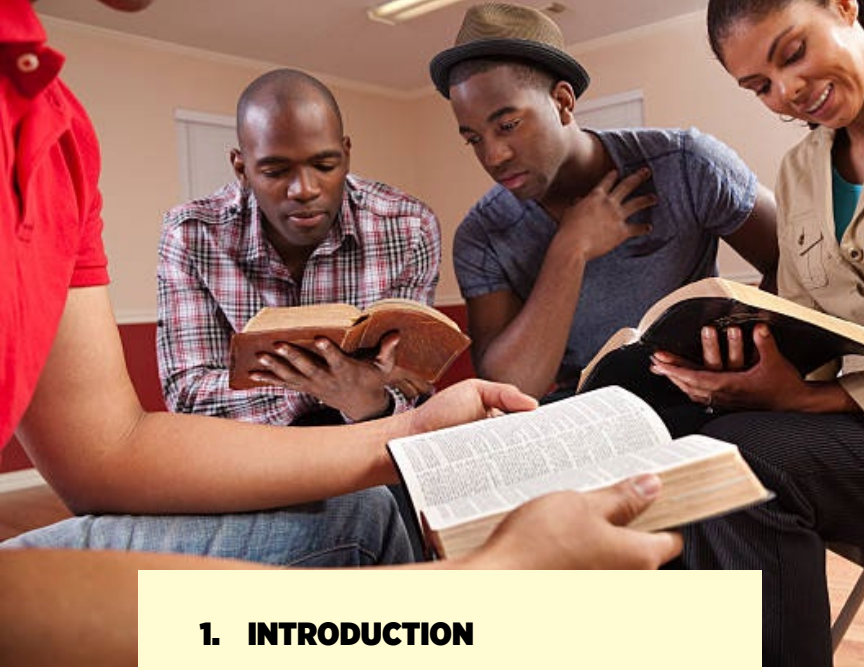

1. INTRODUCTION

The theme for vision 2023 is, "Possessing the Nations: Equipping the Church to Transform Every Sphere of Society with Values and Principles of the Kingdom of God." To achieve the above vision demands aggressive Evangelism, effective follow-up and an intentional New Convert Care (Matt. 28:18-20). This means that the goal of Vision 2023, as stated above, may not be accomplished if the New Converts classes are taken for granted.

2. WHY NEW CONVERTS CLASS

The Constitution of the Church of Pentecost states under Article 24 on Church Membership that an adult member is one who has accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as Personal Saviour and is baptized into the Church. It further states that, Children Membership begins from dedication but such a person cannot be a communicant until baptized in water at the age of thirteen (13). This constitutional provision indicates that once individuals confess Christ as Lord and Personal Saviour and are baptized (by immersion), they are seen as full members of the church regardless of their spiritual and moral maturity.

What this means is that Ministers and Presiding Elders of the Church are not under any obligation to organize New Converts Classes and, as a result, failure by any won soul or a Sunday School Child attaining age thirteen (13) to attend New Converts Class in any Assembly of the Church of Pentecost does not put any prohibition on him / her from becoming a full member of the church. The New Convert in the Church of Pentecost, therefore, is classified as a soul who is recently won for Christ, baptised and accepted to worship with the Church or a Sunday School Child who attained age thirteen (13) and is baptised.

3. THE NATURE AND GOALS OF THE NEW CONVERTS CLASS

The New Converts Class is to aid the new believer to understand their conversion and help them with the initial steps towards their growth in Christ. It is strategically designed and aimed to create in the new convert the desire for things essential for his / her spiritual growth.

Secondly, The New Converts class is to provide a systematic programme to assimilate the new soul into the church. Additionally, the New Converts Class is to help guide patiently the New Convert to know the reasons for believing what we believe.

4. THE STRUCTURE OR ORGANISATION OF THE NEW CONVERT CLASS

1. Every New Convert must be followed-up within 24 hours by the Evangelism Ministry team.
2. All District / Local Evangelism Ministry Leaders and Presiding Elders shall be trained on effective ways of leading New Converts Class (with the Evangelism Ministry manual on Follow-up and New Converts.)
3. Ministers and Presiding Elders must ensure that New Converts Classes are formed in all the Local Assemblies.
4. The New Converts Class should preferably be organized on Sunday mornings during the Bible study period.

5. Evangelism Ministry manual on New Converts and follow-up should be used as the study material for the New Converts Class.

6. The size of the class should not exceed 15 members.

7. The class should be a closed class. Thus, the class will not admit any new member after two (2) meetings.

8. In order to enhance effectiveness, a three (3) member New Converts Class Team could be formed by the Presiding Elders at the local level to handle the class. The local Assembly Team can be led by the Evangelism Ministry Leader under the supervision of the Presiding Elder while the District Team can also be led by the District Evangelism Ministry Leader under the supervision of the District Pastor.

9. The period of the class should not exceed three (3) months.

10. New Convert Class is a discussion class, not lectures.

11. New Converts Class leaders/facilitators should talk less and encourage everyone to share equally.

12. The meetings should be brief and straight to the point, approximately 40-50 minutes per session.

13. The New Converts shall be introduced to the Local Assembly on the first Sunday morning after conversion and their names should be written in the church register.

14. It is recommended that every New Convert would be given to a Home Cell to facilitate follow-up, effective discipleship and assimilation.

15. Where practicable, monthly New Converts District joint classes would be organised to offer the District Ministers opportunity to engage the New Converts and as well ask questions on issues for which they need further classification.

16. By-monthly reports on the activities of the New Converts classes should be submitted to the District Pastor through the Presiding Elders by the New Converts Class Teachers.

17. District Ministers are entreated to communicate effectively on the New Converts class with the local Assemblies, especially on the Speakers' Plan.

18. The local Assembly could consider some light refreshment for the class members on the first meeting day.

5. PRACTICAL WAYS OF ORGANISING NEW CONVERTS CLASSES

1. The New Converts Class Team (NCCT) should set up the venue for the class ahead of time.
2. The NCCT should arrive early and welcome the new members as they arrive.
3. The class could begin with a brief prayer and worship session, for about 10 minutes.
4. The NCCT could briefly introduce themselves as well as the class participants.
5. Each class session will handle an aspect of the lessons outlined in the Evangelism Ministry Follow-up and New Convert Manual.
6. The NCCT should show concern and pray with new converts over issues and concerns that may have come up from the various interactions.
7. Ask them to join the main church when the class is over.

6. CONCLUSION

The New Converts Class in the Church of Pentecost under the auspices of the Evangelism Ministry is very critical element in building a church that can possess nations. It is part of the Great Commission commanded by God. It behoves us to accomplish it.

All Ministers, Presiding Elders and officers are requested to be passionate about this class, get involved and help to handle our New Convert classes excellently so as to increase the discipleship and assimilation rate.