

## The Quality of Priest Services Manifested Through the Activity of Congregation Members in Evangelization

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### ABSTRACT

This study investigates the theological, pastoral, leadership and relational aspects of the pastor's ministry, which are reflected in the activeness of congregation members in the church's mission of evangelization. The descriptive literature study method was used to assess these aspects. The research results show that pastors must have a strong theological understanding, social sensitivity, the ability to build strong relationships with the congregation, and the ability to be a transformational leader. This study shows that the motivations of faith, love, and obedience to God's commands influence the activeness of congregation members in evangelistic missions. Through direct involvement in mission activities, pastors function as agents of transformation and serve as role models in building an evangelical culture in the church. This study increases our understanding of the complex relationship between the quality of pastors' ministry and congregation members' participation in church evangelism. Some practical consequences of these findings include establishing new methods to enhance the pastor's role in guiding and motivating congregations and creating an environment that supports participation in the church's evangelistic mission.

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### INTRODUCTION

As the center of church activities, the church plays an important role in carrying out and teaching the mission of evangelization. Spiritual leaders, especially pastors, are responsible for providing guidance and inspiring congregation members to become actively involved in this mission. The church service process becomes more complex due to the understanding that participation is the sole responsibility of the church institution and is a synergistic collaboration between congregation members and spiritual leaders.

According to David, spiritual leaders, especially pastors, have the responsibility to inspire and encourage congregation members to actively participate in the church's important role in organizing and guiding evangelical missions. They must also determine the spiritual direction and motivate congregation members toward the mission (Thornhill,

2023). Thriving church pastors adopt collaboration as a common leadership style and recognize that achieving the church's mission does not depend on just one party, but involves the contributions and dedication of all members. Apart from that, Asirifi emphasized that the church service process becomes more complicated because of the understanding that participation is not just the responsibility of the church institution alone. However, congregation members and spiritual leaders work together to accomplish this process (Brown, 2012). Each person makes a unique contribution to this synergistic engagement, creating harmony.

Jonar said that the active involvement of congregation members was not just carrying out ordinary church duties, but also showed a deep spirit of togetherness in spreading religious teachings (Harming, Gilbert Yasuo Imanuel, & Yogi Darmanto, 2020). Therefore, a strong foundation is created that allows for continued church growth. The study conducted by Heliyanti and Yolanda emphasized how important leadership is to motivate and encourage congregation members to do the things the church does (Kalintabu & Palar, 2022). Good leadership is key to fostering a sense of community and dedication in congregation members, leading to continued growth.

According to Imam, the importance of pastors spreading the Christian faith is related to changes in society (Nururi, 2015). This understanding shows the important role of priests as agents of transformation in conveying religious teachings that can be applied and meet the spiritual needs of society. Thus, the role of the pastor is not only limited to the spiritual field; they are also responsible for bridging and conveying religious teachings in a relevant manner to the ever-changing social context. Overall, there are three main, interrelated components that support sustainable church growth: the spirit of togetherness of congregation members, leadership that encourages active participation, and a strategic role priests in spreading religious teachings.

The quality of the pastor's service in relation to the church's mission of evangelization shows his strategic role in increasing the involvement and activeness of congregation members. The success of a church in achieving its evangelistic mission goals is not only determined by the pastor's ability to deliver sermons, but also by their ability to motivate and guide their congregation members. Good religious leaders are the main movers in guiding religion and inspiring other people to actively spread religious teachings to the wider community.

In this perspective, research conducted by Dukes emphasizes that the quality of ministerial ministry includes more than just speaking skills or spiritual rhetoric; These qualities range from technical matters to the ability to build positive relationships and motivate congregation members (Kisoza, 2014). Pastors who are able to build strong relationships with their congregation, provide emotional support, and provide relevant spiritual guidance, have the ability to build strong relationships with their congregation. In addition, Ronald pointed out that social sensitivity is very important for the quality of

pastors' services. The ability to understand and fulfill the desires and needs of others is part of this social sensitivity (Leigh, 2007). Spiritual leaders who are aware of the changes in their communities can encourage their congregation members to actively participate in evangelistic tasks appropriate to their situations.

As stated by Otoriteit and Vinna in this case, the quality of pastor service cannot be separated from transformational leadership. The ability to encourage and encourage others to achieve common goals is part of transformational leadership. Therefore, spiritual leaders who can inspire enthusiasm and guide congregation members in the church's vision and mission of evangelism create a solid foundation for active involvement. Therefore, the quality of a pastor's service does not only reflect technical abilities, but also requires social sensitivity and transformational leadership, which can motivate and guide congregation members to be actively involved in the church's mission of evangelization.

Gerevangelical mission trip spelling is increasingly difficult due to changing cultural dynamics, changing societal values, and shifting social structures. To address this challenge, it is important to understand the ministerial function of the pastor in the context of congregation members' actions during evangelism. It is hoped that this research will increase our understanding of the important role of pastors as spiritual leaders in carrying out and implementing evangelistic missions. Very little literature written about church ministry focuses on the role of the pastor and the contribution of congregation members to the church's mission of evangelism. However, the need for more in-depth research remains. Further research is needed to explore the complex dynamics between the quality of pastors' ministry and congregation members' contributions to church evangelism (Ginting, Sianipar, Sianturi, Sitompul, & Siburian, 2023).

In the field of evangelical missions, the quality of the ministry of pastors is not only inspiring, but also a powerful force that motivates congregation members to participate actively in their work. This research aims to gain a better understanding of how the quality of pastors' ministry can be influenced by the active involvement of congregation members in church evangelism efforts. By explaining the role of pastors in guiding and motivating people, it is hoped that this research will provide a foundation for building new strategies and methods for church ministry (Takaliuang, 2012).

It is hoped that the results of this research will provide a significant contribution to addressing the complex and dynamic challenges that often characterize church evangelism efforts. By understanding more about the role of the pastor's ministry and the participation of congregation members, it is hoped that this research can form a solid basis for developing new strategies and approaches in the context of evangelistic ministry.

## **METHOD**

This research uses a descriptive literature study approach to explain the quality of a pastor's service and the activeness of congregation members in evangelism (McCombes,

2022). This method allows authors to systematically explore and evaluate information contained in relevant literature sources. The purpose of this literature study research is to explain the ideas, components, and impact of the quality of the pastor's ministry on the participation of congregation members in evangelism activities.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **A. Quality of Pastor's Servants**

#### **1. Definition of the Quality of Pastor's Servants**

Overall, the quality of a pastor's service is the extent to which they can meet and exceed the expectations and needs of their congregation in various aspects, especially in spiritual, pastoral and social matters. This quality is not just limited to providing religious teachings, but also involves personal interaction, spiritual guidance, and emotional support that helps each member of the congregation develop spiritually and personally.

In determining the quality of a pastor's ministry, it is important to explain several important aspects that differentiate this quality. The first main foundation is theological proficiency, which shows how important it is for pastors to be able to convey religious teachings with sufficient theological depth (Endang, 2021). This includes a deep understanding of church doctrine, the ability to explain religious concepts, and a relevant understanding of the daily lives of congregants. According to Endang, pastors who understand church doctrine and theology well can guide their congregation better.

Apart from that, aspects of social sensitivity and empathy are very important for the quality of pastors' services. Pastors who have social sensitivity can feel what their congregation members feel, while empathetic pastors can make pastoral decisions that are appropriate to the social context and needs of their congregation. Novianty Djafri emphasized how important emotional intelligence is for building healthy and meaningful relationships. In addition, the availability and openness of the pastor are two other characteristics that indicate the quality of pastoral care. Given the pastor's ability to speak, listen attentively, and provide needed support, it is important for congregation members to feel valued and accepted. According to Esther Rela Intarti, in her work "Introduction to Pastoral Counseling", the pastor's ability to support and guide is an important part of effective pastoral ministry (Drigas & Papoutsis, 2019).

Lastly, a pastor's leadership and pastorship depend on their ability to guide and care for their congregation. This includes providing spiritual guidance, offering assistance when making difficult decisions, and creating an environment that supports the individual's progress in faith and dedication. As explained by Philip Yonathan Yowei, Sutikto, and Daud Manno in their scientific work entitled "Principles of Christian Leadership: Theological Analysis of 1 Peter 5:1-11", a pastor who is able to lead with a healthy pastorate has the potential to shape a church atmosphere which encourages spiritual development and welfare of the congregation (Böhme, 2020).

After understanding how the quality of a pastor's ministry is defined by these dimensions, we can understand that this type of ministry not only creates a solid foundation for the spiritual growth of congregation members, but also motivates them to actively engage in the church's mission of evangelism. In response to good service quality, congregations tend to show active participation in church life and evangelism.

## **2. Aspects of the Quality of Pastor's Services**

As the center of church life, the pastor performs the important task of providing pastoral care to his congregation. This paradigm uses theological, pastoral, relational and leadership elements to assess the quality of a pastor's ministry. A deep understanding of the Bible is considered an important foundation that shapes the quality of a pastor's ministry. Furthermore, this understanding provides a solid foundation for applying the teachings in the daily life of the congregation (Prevost, 2016).

### **1. Theological Aspect.**

According to Elfri Sinaga, the pastor's pastoral task is to teach congregation members doctrine. Therefore, a deep understanding of the Bible is an important basis of the pastor's pastoral duties; This understanding provides a solid foundation for spiritual teaching and guidance. Immersing yourself in the original languages of the Bible, especially Hebrew and Greek, opens your eyes to the secrets of the sacred text and helps you understand its meaning. According to Rainer, gaining a good understanding of the historical and cultural context in which the Bible was written is essential to interpreting it correctly. This is important to avoid wrong interpretations and meanings.

According to Daniel Ronda, the theological aspect is also very important in the pastor's training. This goes beyond simply understanding the contents of the Bible; it also includes a deep understanding of theological concepts such as eschatology, soteriology, christology, and pneumatology. Having a deep understanding of these ideas allows the pastor to provide teaching and pastoral care that is significant and appropriate to the needs of his congregation (Hart, 1986).

A pastor's expertise lies not only in understanding theological concepts but also in the ability to apply Bible teachings in the daily life of the congregation. This includes the skills to relate theological concepts to contemporary modern, ensuring that Christian values are current and relevant in the daily lives of congregation members. According to Kresbinol Labobar, the application of Bible teachings includes theological understanding and the ability to interpret and communicate religious messages in a clear and contextual way. Pastors can be effective leaders, guiding their congregation toward deeper understanding, and applying important Christian values in daily life by combining a deep understanding of the Bible with applicable skills (Anderson, 1998).

## 2. Pastoral aspect.

A major part of a pastor's responsibilities is pastoral care, which consists of two main aspects: spiritual direction and pastoral care. In this view, spiritual direction emphasizes the important role of the pastor as a source of spiritual support and guidance for the congregation. Marthen Nainupu, said that listening with empathy is important, which means that a priest must be a listener who is aware of someone's feelings and spiritual needs. The pastor's role as a guide to the congregation on their spiritual journey is not limited to giving advice. Marthen Nainupu, emphasized the importance of helping people discover and understand their faith. The foundation of spiritual development is strengthened by the use of tested psychological principles and spiritual guidance techniques (Izotova, 2022).

In addition, Tulus Tu`u, emphasizes the importance of wise responses and moral support when facing conflicts and life's difficulties. This approach sees the pastor as not only a spiritual leader but also a moral supporter who leads the congregation through difficulties. A pastor is expected to have in-depth worship experience and understand the spiritual needs of his congregation in the context of pastoral ministry. According to (Ji & Tameifuna, 2011), in pastoral ministry, understanding the meaning of the sacrament is very important. Because sacraments are an important component of various Christian religious traditions, pastors can provide better spiritual guidance to their congregations when they have a better understanding of the meaning and significance of the sacraments.

## 3. Leadership Aspect

In the context of the church, the leader, often represented by a pastor, has an important role as manager and thinker. Program planning, financial management, and general administration are some examples of effective management needed by church leaders to manage the various activities and resources of the church. The leader's concern for the needs and desires of the congregation is very important in designing church programs. In this process, the church's core values are identified, long-term goals are established, and a strategic plan is created to direct the church's activities. A leader's success in creating relevant and meaningful programs depends on their sensitivity to both external environmental factors and the internal dynamics of the church.

Church finances are something that requires special attention from leaders. Financial wisdom in managing church funds is essential to its sustainability and growth. According to Stevanus and Kause, decisions regarding the allocation of resources to various church programs must be made carefully and in accordance with the stated goals and mission (Tagwirei, 2022).

The church's vision and mission are the basis for a pastor's leadership duties. A successful church leader must have a clear vision to guide community members

toward established goals. In situations like these, church leaders must have the ability to clearly express the church's core values and define a clear path to achieving that vision. They must also have the skills to create concrete strategic plans to realize the church's mission and regularly communicate that vision and mission effectively to the congregation (Jones, 1960).

Successful church leadership not only needs to have a clear vision, but also be able to inspire and motivate others. A leader who is able to encourage enthusiasm, support the congregation's spiritual growth, and build a strong community plays an important role in building strong bonds between the congregation and the church's goals.

#### 4. Relational Aspect.

Not only theological and pastoral, a pastor's ministry is also closely related to relational aspects. If they want to develop a well-rounded ministry, pastors must understand and integrate relational elements, such as good communication skills and building strong relationships with their congregation. By considering this framework, several critical components can be identified as essential to building good, sustainable relationships with the church community (Susila, 2022).

Effective communication is very important in the activities of a pastor. Trust and understanding between the pastor and his congregation is formed by their ability to communicate optimally, well through sermons, teaching, and daily interactions. According to Benyamin, spiritual leaders who can convey messages clearly and understand how their congregation communicates can increase the spiritual dimension in the life of the church community (Gunton, 2011).

The ability to build strong relationships with congregations is at the heart of a pastor's ongoing ministry. Gulo and Moimau state that this includes the ability to build strong relationships, provide emotional support, and be actively involved in the daily life activities of the congregation. A pastor functions as a spiritual leader and confidant. To promote good relationships, you also need to understand the needs and desires of individuals within the church community (Polak, 2020).

A holistic pastor ministry framework is formed by integrating these relational elements with theological, pastoral, and leadership elements. According to Gultom, this integration creates a healthy church environment, pays attention to spiritual aspects, and helps achieve the church's mission goals. Spiritual leaders who can combine these four elements will have a better ability to handle the complex challenges of church ministry in the contemporary era. The holistic role of the pastor includes management of theological, pastoral, leadership, and relational elements. This role serves as a key pioneer in shaping the culture and dynamics of the church, and can have a positive impact on the growth, well-being, and sustainability of the church as a whole.

## **B. Activeness of Congregation Members in Evangelism**

Members' participation in church life is not only limited to involvement in religious ceremonies, but also reflects their overall involvement and dedication to the mission of the church. A key indicator to measure the level of congregational involvement is through their activeness, which involves various spiritual activities and members' contributions to evangelism efforts.

### **1. Motivate Congregation Members to Get Involved in Evangelism**

Faith is the main component that encourages congregation members to participate in evangelism. A person who has a firm foundation of faith feels morally called to spread the Gospel as an important part of their spiritual responsibility based on theological foundations. The belief that the Gospel has transformational power became the main impetus. It also emphasizes that evangelism is a personal calling carried out by each member, not an institutional agenda (Nirwan Lawolo & Dyulius Thomas Bilo, 2023).

To encourage congregation members to participate in evangelism, the motivation of love is also very important. The desire to help others who do not yet know Christ is driven by love for others, with the hope that they can experience love and salvation as they experienced it themselves. For members, understanding the benefits that the Gospel message can bring creates a desire to act, driven by love. Another important factor that influences congregation members' involvement in evangelism is the motivation to obey in response to God's commands. Obedience to religious teachings encourages members to see evangelism as a divine command that must be fully fulfilled. According to this perspective, evangelism is a spiritual obligation inherent in one's religious identity, not simply a duty (Coetzee, Nel, & Knoetze, 2023).

The level of member involvement in evangelism is influenced by many other variables, although these motivations are the main factor. For example, theological education is very important to increase our understanding of the meaning of evangelism as the mission of the church. Personal experiences, especially experiences of conversion or the power of the gospel, provide powerful inspiration to share the blessings one has received. The church environment is also very influential; a culture that supports evangelism can encourage higher member participation. With support and encouragement from church leaders and fellow members, an environment can be created that helps and encourages people to be actively involved in evangelistic activities. Therefore, understanding well what drives congregation members to participate in evangelism as well as what influences them is very important for creating useful plans and programs to respond to the church's missionary call. It is possible that awareness of the diversity and complexity of these motivational factors will be the basis for building a comprehensive and targeted approach to increasing member involvement in the spread of the Gospel message (Baskoro, 2021).



### **C. The Pastor's Role in Helping Congregation Members Evangelize**

One important element in church life is the pastor's role in encouraging congregation members to participate in evangelism. The pastor's responsibility is to motivate and guide members of his congregation to actively participate in the spread of the Gospel through effective pastoral leadership effective. The following are some strategies pastors can use to encourage members of their congregation to participate in evangelism.

#### **1. Pastors are role models.**

Pastors are responsible for encouraging evangelism in the church. Not only must they teach as spiritual leaders, but they must also be examples in action. This includes direct involvement in mission activities and the use of spiritual rhetoric. The pastor's example includes active involvement in training, evangelism activities, and support of congregational initiatives. Direct involvement, such as witnessing, visiting people in need, and supporting congregational activities, shows how evangelism is an important part of Christian life. According to Gultom, the way church leaders behave shapes the behavior of the congregation. When pastors demonstrate their commitment to evangelism, congregations tend to follow their lead. This shows the important role pastors play in shaping evangelical culture in the church. To be followers of Jesus who are humble, loving, and courageous in conveying the Gospel message, pastors must demonstrate exemplary qualities. The pastor not only leads the church but also forms the character and spirit of the evangelistic mission in the congregation (Mansoor & Paul, 2022).

#### **2. Encourage Involvement Through Evangelism Activities**

Encouraging involvement through evangelism activities is an important component in developing the spirituality and mission of the church. The pastor really helps congregation members to participate actively in the work of evangelism. Pastors have the authority to initiate and supervise evangelistic activities. This can produce an environment that supports and supports the congregation's efforts to spread religious teachings. Pastors can use methods such as holding seminars or special training to gain an in-depth understanding of effective evangelism methods. Speaking skills and a deep understanding of social and theological contexts are some examples of this type of training (Djuwansah Suhendro P. Stephanus, 2021).

Darmawan, Mardin, and Urbanus emphasize the important role of a pastor in providing theological and practical guidance for congregation members with the aim of integrating beliefs into daily life and diffusing these teachings to others. It is possible to implement this approach through various means, such as delivering sermons, providing pastoral care, and holding training or seminars that provide an in-depth understanding of effective evangelistic approaches (Panda et al., 2020).

The theological and practical guidance provided by a pastor is very important to increase congregation members' understanding of religious teachings, encourage them to apply these principles in their daily lives, and become witnesses of Christ who fulfill the call

of service to others. In general, congregation members who gain a better theological understanding will become more confident and ready to participate in evangelistic activities. Congregation members may feel more motivated and more confident to share their faith with others. To increase the involvement of congregation members in evangelism is pastor preaching training. This training is also spiritually empowering, empowers congregation members, and improves communication skills, mastery of material, and context adaptation. As a result, congregation members not only become more skilled speakers, but they are also motivated to actively participate in evangelism, which has a positive impact on the overall goals of the church (Riwu, 2021).

### **C. The Impact of Active Congregation Members on Evangelism**

Evangelism, considered an important part of the church's mission, has received significant attention in modern Christian literature. Research conducted by Janes Sinaga and colleagues shows a strong relationship between the level of activeness of congregation members in evangelism activities and the growth of the church community quantitatively and qualitatively. The results showed that the number of congregation members increased along with the number of people experiencing inner change, indicating the positive impact of active involvement in evangelism efforts.

In his journal entitled "The Role of Evangelism in the Growth of Faith in the Indonesian Evangelical Church (Gemindo) in the Sulawesi Region", Bobby Rumondor emphasized that the involvement of congregation members is not only focused on spreading Christian teachings, but also increasing their faith personally through sharing their beliefs with other people. These experiences not only help spread the faith, but also help those involved in them grow spiritually and personally.

According to this research, Matanari and Sianipar said that church unity is strengthened by the active participation of congregation members in evangelism activities. Congregation members can strengthen the relation them if they are intensively involved in evangelism efforts. Additionally, working together on this mission improves congregational relationships and reduces the possibility of internal conflict. For the growth and stability of a church congregation, the unity formed from active participation in evangelism is considered a solid foundation ("Bible-carrying Christians: conservative Protestants and social power," 2002).

Combining these results, one comes to the conclusion that an important part of a church's growth strategy is involving congregation members in evangelism. As theologians and church leaders ponder the meaning of this literature review, the expansion and development of holistic evangelism programs could be a milestone for the modern church. The Church can respond to the demands of the times in a relevant way, make positive changes, and continue to witness the values of the Gospel in a rapidly changing world through this strong empirical foundation.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the level of service of a pastor greatly influences the level of active participation of congregation members in the church's evangelistic mission. This quality is not only limited to theological or pastoral aspects, but also includes relational, leadership and example aspects shown by a pastor to his congregation. Some important qualities in a pastor's ministry are deep theological expertise, the ability to provide spiritual guidance appropriate to the situation, visionary leadership, and the ability to build strong relationships with his congregation. On the other hand, many things influence congregation members' participation in evangelism. This includes strong personal motivation, encouragement of love for others, and a church environment that supports and encourages participation. The spirit of evangelism within the church community is greatly influenced by the pastor's role in guiding, motivating, and being an example for their congregation members.

Scholarly research is critical in this dynamic environment to expand our understanding of the dynamics involved in the quality of pastors' ministry and congregation members' participation in the church's mission of evangelization. Further research is needed to dig deeper into how these elements are interrelated and how practical strategies can be created to improve the quality of pastors' ministry and the participation of congregation members in the church's mission of evangelization. Thus, a better understanding of the role of pastors as effective spiritual leaders, as well as how they can guide and motivate congregation members, will form the basis for new strategies and approaches in the context of evangelistic ministry. Hopefully this effort can make a meaningful contribution in facing complex and dynamic challenges in church evangelism efforts.

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