

**AN ASSESMENT OF CELL BASED STRATEGY AS A VIABLE
STRATEGY FOR CHURCH GROWTH IN SELECTED CHURCHES IN
THIKA WEST DISTRICT**

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to assess Cell Based Strategy (CBS) as a viable strategy for church growth. A cell group is the most basic unit of church congregation. Since the birth of Christianity, cell groups have been instrumental in spearheading revival and spiritual awakening thereby causing church growth. Jesus Christ himself appointed a small group of twelve men who he designated as apostles. These twelve apostles (small group) became the foundation of the Early Church. It was on this valuable contribution of a small group to church growth that this study on CBS was undertaken in eight selected churches in Thika West District. Objectives were to examine how CBS contributes to numerical church growth, to find out how CBS contributes to spiritual growth of individual believers, to examine challenges experienced in the implementation of CBS and ways of minimizing them. The study was based on two theories namely; a multi-dimensional theory of religiosity whose proponent was King (1967) and a church growth model by Mead (1993). Findings of other researchers on CBS formed the bulk of the literature reviewed. Research methodology was a mixed design of both quantitative and qualitative methods. Sampling procedures were purposive and simple random while target population comprised of Pastors, cell group leaders and church members from the eight selected churches in Thika West District. Data collection methods were questionnaires for church members and cell group leaders and in-depth interview guide for pastors. Qualitative data was analyzed through descriptive statements while quantitative data was coded and analyzed using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). The research findings were consistent with the research questions where 84.3% and 91.4% of the participants acknowledged numerical and spiritual church growth respectively emanating from CBS activities. Churches that did not have CBS were recommended to have. Similarly, regular workshops and seminars to church members on the importance of CBS were also recommended so that the entire church of Jesus Christ could experience CBS' maximum benefits.