Title: Developing a program for increasing the attendance at prayer meetings at the Tikala SDA Church, Manado

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Date completed: May 2005

Granting Institution: Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies

Description: Unpublished Thesis (Doctoral): 222 pages

Abstract:

Low attendance in prayer meeting has been experienced for years by the Tikala Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church, Manado, Indonesia. Of the active members of the Tikala SDA Church, only ten percent come to the mid-week prayer meetings.

The purpose of this project is to develop programs that will stimulate the increase of attendance at prayer meetings at the Tikala SDA Church of North Minahasa Conference of Seventh-day Adventist (NMCSDA). To achieve this purpose, prayer meeting programs were designed, implemented, and evaluated.

The design was made according to theories which include biblical models, theological reasons, and ways of increasing attendance.

The prayer meetings were implemented according to the theory of Southerland which include sharing the vision with the conference and the church members, and implementing the prayer meeting programs.

The prayer meetings were evaluated by using personal and group evaluation. The result shows that the prayer meeting programs had increased the attendance. The programs are seminar, visitation, prayer meeting groups, and joint groups.
Suggestions for future prayer meeting programs were the following: (1) The vision of increasing the attendance of local SDA churches needs to be constantly communicated with the NMCSDA, (2) the Tikala SDA Church should keep the vision alive among the church leaders, (3) the vision needs to be continuously communicated with the members of the Tikala SDA Church through seminars and church visitation programs, (4) attractive prayer meeting programs through small groups and joint groups need to be continuously maintained at the Tikala SDA Church, and (5) the evaluation of the prayer meeting programs should be done regularly.