

## Proposal

**Title** – Strategic Planning Practices among Churches in Kibera Slum

**Program of Study** – Education

**Presentation Type** – PowerPoint

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**Category** – Applied Proposal

**Abstract:** Churches are slowly embracing strategic planning. Just like profit making organizations, strategic planning has numerous benefits for the church. The purpose of this study therefore was to explore strategic planning practices among churches in Kibera slum (Nairobi, Kenya). This research employed exploratory research design. With the population of seven hundred churches in Kibera, the researcher identified ten percent (10%) of those churches meaning a sample of seventy churches in Kibera was chosen for study. Primary data was collected using observation and semi-structured interviews to pastors in Kibera slum. Secondary data was gathered from the internet, journals and books. The following were the key findings in this study. One, although pastors in Kibera churches are familiar with strategic planning ideas and concepts, they do not practically and technically engage in strategic planning. Two, the churches face numerous challenges that stand in their way of practicing strategic planning. Three, the pastors in these churches predominantly have an upper hand in determining the strategic direction of their church. Four, the churches nonetheless, have short-term plans. Future study should investigate other factors contributing to low or lack of strategic planning in slum churches. It should also research whether the pastors' level of education, and their motivations

for getting into the church ministry, had influence on their practice of strategic planning. A grounded study would provide more details on the strategic practices of slum churches.

**Christian worldview integration:**

On a rare occasion, Jesus commended the people of the world in these words: “And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light” (Luke 16:8 New Living Translation). Jesus was not commending the dishonesty of the manager; he used the parable to teach his disciples on the importance of wisely borrowing ideas from the world for the good of the kingdom of God. One idea that has worked in the world is strategic planning.

Strategic planning involves development of goals and objectives, following a careful study of the environment and anticipated future trends, which when implemented will result in the long time survival of the organization. The bible variously teaches about planning, and provides examples of personalities who engaged in some form of strategic planning. In all of them, God usually is the author of the vision – whether directly or indirectly. God uses men and women to fulfil his mission. The major task of the church is the Great Commission, which details Christ’s command to “go and make disciples of all the nations” (Matthew 28:19). The challenge of urbanization presents the church with an opportunity to fulfil the Great Commission. As someone said, “methods change, principles don’t”, the church needs to find contemporary methods of sharing the unchanging gospel with the world. Strategic planning will aid the church to find effective ways of reaching the growing number of urban people with the gospel.

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