

Reasons Making Newly Baptized Members Relapse into Alcoholism

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ABSTRACT:

This study focused on determining why newly baptized members relapse into alcoholism. The study examines Biblical principles of mentoring and reviews related literature to develop a strategy for recovering alcohol addicts in the church. In addition, the study investigates the reasons why they relapse to drinking after baptism. To solve the problem, the researcher used a mixed research method, which is a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. This involved digging into concepts, characteristics, symbols, and descriptions. This approach gave the researcher sufficient opportunity to delve into possible solutions to the research questions as to what reasons make newly baptized members to relapse into alcoholism. The mixed-method helped the researcher gain a more complete picture of the research than the stand-alone quantitative and qualitative methods. The addicts gave true reasons why they left the church after baptism, there is no special program for them after and before baptism, how the church members handle them was a problem to them, they also have their weaknesses, which come from the environment like the availability of alcohol, peer pressure, the unresolved issues and others. Since this problem is a global problem, there is a need to open Rehabilitation centres where the addicts can be nurtured after baptism or before they are baptized for the church to meet their needs through training them in the rehabilitation centres.

Key Terms: Newly baptized, relapse, alcoholism.

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INTRODUCTION

Alcohol affects the physical, mental, and moral aspects of a person. Its negative effects have been recorded in the Bible since the beginning of our patriarchs, such as Noah (Gen 9:22) and Lot (Gen 19:32-38). Alcohol drinking is detrimental to the health of the alcohol addicts and even an unborn child in the case of pregnant women. Mental effects include loss of memory and inappropriate behaviour, which brings shame and reproach to the addict, his family, and society. Noah, the first recorded drunkard in the Bible, brought nothing but sorrow to his family. While in a drunken stupor, he stripped naked and lost consciousness. Upon realising that his son Ham had seen him and laughed at his nakedness, he pronounced a curse on Ham and his posterity. Alcohol-impaired Noah's judgment and led him to curse his son Ham for having laughed at his nakedness. Noah was feasting with the whole of his family when a tragedy of shame struck. He disgracefully exposed his nakedness as a result of drunkenness. No doubt, up to that juncture, Noah had painted a positive character worth emulation, but that did not hinder him from falling into the trap of alcoholism. Although Henry (2006) says, "he who did not begin with God might end with the beasts," Things often go wrong even among pious people of God, as Noah's case demonstrates.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The root cause of all this is sin. It is a sin that made Adam disobey God and made him realise that he was naked (see Gen 3:6-7). However, when you compare the nakedness of Adam and that of Noah, Adam was conscious enough to seek concealment; he looked for something to cover his nakedness (Gen 3:7), but Noah sought no covering as he was destitute of thought and reasoning. This was a result of consuming alcohol. Alcohol causes people to do what they would not do when sober. The looseness of Noah led him to sexual immorality. According to Nichol (1978), the Bible says, 'wine is a mocker' (Proverbs 20:1); it may deceive you into bad practices. Bible commentary says, "drunkards

deform and degrade the temple of the Holy Spirit which we are, weaken moral principles and thus expose a man to countless evils." After one's morals are weakened, one ends up doing evil, just like Noah. Alcohol led Noah to lose his physical and mental faculties, which resulted in shame and anger. While in his drunken state, Lot had sex with his daughters, and through this, they bore him children. The daughters of Lot went against the teachings of the Bible by intoxicating their father with alcohol and having sex with him. (Gen 19:32 ASV), the Bible forbids incest, but because of alcohol, Lot unknowingly impregnated his daughters.

Although the Bible says there is no righteous man like Lot, alcohol lowered his dignity. Henry says, "... drunkenness... is not only a great sin itself, but it is the inlet of many sins; it may prove the inlet of the worst and most unnatural sins, which may be a perpetual wound and dishonour." Though he came out of Sodom, which was full of immoral behaviours, and lived with his daughters up the mountains, alcohol led him into incest. The daughters, who grew up in Sodom, copied the practices of Sodom and led their father to engage in the sinful act. The same thing happens to alcohol addicts. Most do not define their sexual boundaries, leading them to sexual immorality.

Once someone has become a drunkard, the mind does not function normally. Judgment is distorted, and the mind is corrupted. In the book of Isaiah, chapter twenty-eight, verse seven, the judgments of the rulers were likely to be partial due to the influence of alcohol. Henry comments that "The priest stumbled in judgment and forgot the Law Proverbs 31:5; he reeled and staggered as much in the operations of his mind as in the motions of his body. What wisdom or justice can be expected from those that sacrifice reason, virtue, and conscience, and all that is valuable to such a base lust as the love of strong drinks?" They sacrificed their ability to reason to alcohol, yet God's

intention for the priests was to always have a sound mind and be just in their judgments for the people of Israel.

Ministers and prophets who were expected to distinguish between holy and unholy things were confused because of drunkenness (see Isa 28:7). When priests and rulers drink alcohol, they cannot distinguish between holy and unholy things, the clean and unclean. Therefore, they will not rule the cases that are before them objectively but subjectively. Wine and strong drinks can so benumb the faculties that a man fails to distinguish between right and wrong, holy and unholy, clean and unclean. The use of alcohol affects all the faculties of the mind. It disrupts the orderly process of the mind making it impossible for a person to differentiate between right and wrong. Using alcohol poses a danger to one's life and even to others; it makes one a potential murderer. This is because it causes confusion, slows reflexes, and corrupts the sense of responsibility. Those who are in leadership positions should keep their minds alert to cope with the problems that might be brought to their attention.

The book of Hosea warns that drinking wine interferes with understanding (see Hos 4:11). According to the Bible, an upright man is judged by his reasoning, but wine destroys it all. As Henry (2006) opines, "Drunkenness and uncleanness are sins which besot and infatuate men, weaken and enfeeble them. They take away both understanding and the courage." Once the alcohol has corrupted a person's mental faculties, he or she can do many inappropriate things that can bring reproach and suffering to family and friends. Such a person can also neglect work for God and humanity. No constructive work can be done if the mind is intoxicated. Alcohol destroys a person's ability to distinguish between right and wrong, modesty and immodesty. This is because it weakens one's mental strength, leading to immoral behaviour.

Alcohol weakens mental power; the right judgment is lost, and one can behave the way he or she likes. Consequently, alcohol addicts have crippled their ability to discern what is good from what is bad and what is safe from what is dangerous. They crave evil and abhor good. Therefore, they will risk their lives by engaging in dangerous behaviour. Their excessive drinking is a practical error; they think they are raising their fancy by it, but they are ruining their judgment and cheating upon themselves; they think they are preserving their health by it and helping digestion, but little did they know that they are spoiling their constitution and hasten diseases and deaths. It is also the occasion of many errors in principle; their understanding is clouded and their conscience debauched by it; therefore, to support themselves in it, they espouse corrupt notions and form their minds in favour of their lusts.

Alcohol addiction is misleading because it corrupts the consumer and ends up clouding judgment. Therefore, no good judgment is expected from an alcohol addict. The rulers should abstain from drinking alcohol since their punishment will be more severe. The Seventh-day Adventist commentary says, "When the rulers become subject to the slavery of alcohol, the damage is done to them as individuals are greatly multiplied in the damage done to their subject as a result of their irresponsible rule." This means that those who drink alcohol and are in a position of making judgments err in their judgment, and their subjects may suffer because of their decisions. They will get double punishment as opposed to those whom they judged wrongly. Leaders who drink will be stripped of their power. Due to drinking, Nadab and Abiu took strange fire into the altar of God, and the same fire consumed them! Therefore, drinking alcohol will lead to one's destruction because one loses one's sense of reasoning. The rulers' position demands that they always have clear minds, but if they take alcohol, they might pervert justice. Drunkards not only destroy their lives but also the lives of

innocent people. Alcohol deprives people of their reasoning.

The Bible states that our body is the temple of God, and we are to keep it holy for the glory of God. In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul urges them to glorify God in their eating and drinking (See 1Cor10:31). This means that there are drinks such as alcohol that desecrate the temple of God. Food and drinks should be consumed as we consider our physical and spiritual health. We should drink in a way that meets the approval of God, that which does not destroy the body. In most cases, drinking alcohol leads to fighting (See Proverbs 23:29-30). Though the power is reduced by alcohol, many will still inflict physical harm and psychological damage upon their families' innocent and helpless members when they return from drinking. Their fellow drunkards also wound them due to ensuing fistfights. In verse 32, wine is likened to the poison of a snake, which produces disastrous effects in the body. It leads to death. The drunkards are wounded not because they were defending something but because they were fulfilling their lust for drunkenness. They also harm their family members by beating them. The physical destruction is not only to the drunkard but also to others. Because it affects morals, a drunkard will commit murder, rape, and assault innocent people. Under the influence of alcohol, one will do what he would not do while sober.

Drinking alcohol is one of the practices that will prevent many from inheriting the kingdom of God (Galatians 5: 21). This is because it affects a person's physical, social, and spiritual well-being. When one drinks alcohol, he will keep company with other works of darkness (see Rom 13:13). First, taking alcohol was connected to worship a God called Dionysus (Bacchus). Therefore, taking alcohol is likened to idolatry. Paul's advice to the alcoholics is that they should cast out the spirit of Dionysus with the spirit of Christ. Alcohol is detrimental to one's spiritual health as it drives away the love of God from one's heart. All the affections of

the alcoholic are removed from God and directed to the drink. An alcoholic will spend much of his time drinking, and the money, which should be spent on the cause of God's work, will be wasted on buying alcohol. Secondly, consumption of alcohol is done in the name of freedom, but it enslaves, as most alcoholics cannot do anything while sober. An addict can forego food to buy alcohol. Thirdly, the practice cannot be eradicated by law but by the spirit of Christ. The law enforcement officers will fail, but if the love for Christ comes in, the addict will be in recovery.

Paul warned the Ephesians not to be drunk but to be filled with the holy spirit of God, Eph 5:18. In the Ephesians church, the use of wine was associated with the worship of a god called Bacchanalia. To worship Bacchanalia and for prayers to be accepted by him, one had to drink wine. Drunkenness is no friend to chastity and life purity. It virtually contains all manner of extravagance and transports men into gross sensuality and vile enormities. Note that drunkenness is a sin that seldom goes alone but often involves men in other instances of guilt. One will engage in other sinful endeavours easily because he or she is drunk. Idolatry resulting from drunkenness will deny much eternal life. It is a hindrance to spiritual growth as it leads to stealing, fighting, and other spiritual misconducts. Paul counts drunkards among those who will not inherit the kingdom of God. 1Corinthian 6:10 categorically states that no thieves, coveters, drunkards, revellers, or extortionists shall inherit the kingdom of God 1Corinthian 6:10.

Kanyadhiang Seventh-day Adventist Church regularly baptizes alcohol addicts. Unfortunately, after some time, the majority of these new members stop attending church services as a result of relapsing back to their addiction. For example, in March 2017, eleven alcohol addicts were baptized, but seven of them relapsed and left the church after one month. The churches have failed to effectively disciple and establish a strong support system for such

people. This is because the church is not adequately equipped to mentor recovering alcohol addicts.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher used mixed research method, which is a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. This involved digging into concepts, characteristics, symbols, and descriptions. This approach gave the researcher sufficient opportunity to delve into possible solutions to the research questions as to what biblical-theological strategies are appropriate for an effective and viable mentorship program in the church community; what reasons make newly baptized members to relapse into alcoholism; and how old members relate to newly baptized members. The mixed method helped the researcher to gain a more complete picture of the research than the stand-alone quantitative and qualitative methods would do.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Reasons Why Alcohol Addicts Relapse

One may relapse to drinking alcohol because of different reasons; the influence of using alcohol may vary from place to place. The pressure from the peer may influence one, one may want to experience the adult behaviour, and some want to feel good if they are drunk. They feel that they are in a better situation than others who are not drinking alcohol. The parental upbringing and environment, parents and environment will persuade the young once to drink alcohol; this includes the influence of social pressure on a person. The above cause does not leave out the church, but the above factors also influence members. The researcher conducted the study by selecting the participants through random sampling; a total of 35 alcohol addicts participated in the study. Only six of them were female who divorcees because of alcohol addiction are in between the age of 18-25, and 29 of the participants were male. Out of 35 participants, only 25 participated in filling the Questionnaire, and the age was distributed as stated in the table below.

Table 1: Age Distribution of the Respondents

Age	Below 10yrs	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45	46-50	51-55	56-60	61+yrs
No	0	2	1	4	7	5	1	3	1	0	1	

The ages from 11 to 20 are few because this is school-going age in Kenya, so they are not free to be interviewed. However, the three the researcher interviewed said some of their fellows are afraid to be interviewed because they say they will have problems with their parents and they might be sent away from their homes. Of the 25 addicts who were interviewed, only four the addicts were not born in Adventist families. However, they were baptized by the Adventist church but relapsed into drinking alcohol. The 21 are from the Adventist family; 15 have been re-baptized

three times, and they relapsed; six were baptized once, but dropped from the church.

Peer Pressure

The youth who were interviewed relapsed because of peer pressure from their fellow schoolmates, who pressurized them that they were too young to join church membership. Therefore, the youths would begin using alcohol because they want to equal their peers, and the peers pressured them to try alcohol. They said the church is for the old

people, not the youths. Four of the youths the researcher interviewed said that they began using alcohol when they were in school one of them began in primary school; two of them began in secondary school, and one in the university. Their peers could tell them that drinking alcohol is a source of knowledge and courage when faced with challenges. After they have taken alcohol, they feel that they are self-worth, but before they take alcohol, they feel they are not worth living. This has led to dangerous behaviour that led to death. One of the youths I interviewed said his close friend committed suicide because he borrowed money from a schoolmate for alcohol, but he decided to hang himself when he was pressured to pay. They believe that drinking alcohol is part of Kanyadhiang culture to reach adulthood, and in most of the social functions they attend in the area, alcohol is served to pressure them to drink and leave the church. This has brought the window of vulnerability among peers. One of the youths, attending university church and dropping out from the university when in their third year said he was influenced to drink alcohol because of his roommates and their peers' availability of alcohol on the campus. So, social reinforcement in the Kanyadhiang region is one factor that forces the youths to drop from the church. The main reason for this is the easy access to alcohol, and there are many social meetings where alcohol is served. This makes those who were baptized leave the church.

Modelling from one another is part of peer pressure that makes them go into drinking. For example, one of the secondary school students who was a youth ministry member said, 'he was lured into drinking alcohol because a university student he was emulating to mentor him was a drunkard. He could go for advice from him or find him drinking alcohol at any time. This influenced them back to drinking alcohol by his mentor. Therefore, he was modelled back to drinking by observing the mentor he thought could positively develop him.

Lack of Employment

Lack of employment is one of the reasons why members relapse and begin drinking alcohol. Of the 25 addicts interviewed, 13 of them attribute their drinking to a lack of employment through a questionnaire. Employment is a source of income, and if there is no income, they resort to an uneasy way of living even without income. For instance, you can drink even if you do not have money because of the love that the alcohol addicts have for one another. This is difficult to find in the church. Two of the addicts who relapse testified, 'If they are normal, then it is difficult to beg for money from others, but you have the courage to beg for money and other property if you are drunk. If they join the church and they are ever normal, this makes them lose income from other sectors; those who hire them when they are drunk cannot hire them because they will charge higher. However, if they see their fellows who are still drinking enjoying, they will relapse and begin drinking gradually to be hired to be paid to meet other family expenses. Two of the addicts whom I interviewed said that they were graduates. Due to their unemployment status, they were lured to drinking alcohol because they lacked something to do for their income. When asked why they drink alcohol, they said it was because of life frustration and the uselessness of their certificates. The idleness causes them to begin drinking for them to pass the time. If they join the church, they lack what to do and fail to be occupied or have something to do, allow them to be tempted to drink.

Unfriendly conditions in the church. Among the 25 people who were interviewed, 20 of them said bitterly that they relapse, because the church was not lovely and friendly to them. The preachers' direct attack on their former lifestyle made them feel abused by the preachers. This stopped them from attending church services. Two of them left the sermon service in progress and shouted while leaving the church compound because they felt abused by the church pastor's preacher. On conversion to the Adventist faith,

alcoholics cannot cope with descent by dressing like the regular church members. This is because they could not afford decent dressing every Sabbath. Five of the respondents testified that some moved away when they entered the church and sat next to some church member. This feeling of loneliness and segregation always leads addicts' to relapse. The church workers interviewed also said that they do not have any program because it is difficult to handle them. Some members also feared sitting next to them because of addicts' past actions. They still suspect false conversion and that their attendance was suspected. The church could not involve them in church activities like church community services when the members went for community service. They were left out and felt that they were not included in the church as members.

Environmental Influence

The environment where the alcohol addicts came from led to relapse into alcohol addiction. It ranged from the economic advantages, availability of alcohol, and social interaction of the recovering addicts. The availability of alcohol or alcohol outlets in the environment makes the addicts relapse. Family orientation and economic opportunities are the cause of the relapse and make the mentoring process into church life difficult. The urbanicity of the study area around Kanyadhiang church posed the opportunity for relapsing. This posed the neighbourhood as a disadvantage to the recovering addicts because urbanism allowed the recovering addicts to access alcohol. Three of the addicts who were still teens said that they relapsed because they came from a family where alcohol was one of the food items stocked. The parents sent them to the bars to buy them alcohol even after they had been baptized. Two women were influenced by their husbands, who were alcoholics. One of them was trained by the husband on how to brew alcohol.

The economic opportunities around the region influenced the addicts back into drinking alcohol, like the fishing industry, where 90 per cent of the fishermen are drunkards. If you baptize a fisherman, it is easy for them to be influenced back into drinking alcohol. Out of 25 addicts interviewed, 13 of them were influenced back by their fishermen's workmates. The easy access to the local brewers was among the factors that allowed them to relapse. The brewers hired the addicts to do some farm activities in return for alcohol as a form of payment.

Bars for alcohol sales were one of the factors that allowed for relapse. There were three bars in the Kanyadhiang region whose owners term them as investment projects. This allows for easy access to alcohol, and the bar owners give them some groundwork and pay by giving them a drink. The social promotion that the owners of the bars did persuade the recovering addicts into drinking alcohol. Social media promotion was also among the environmental factors that contribute to influencing the addicts into drinking alcohol. This kind of promotion was done on television and other platforms and persuaded addicts to take alcohol. Their relationship with the addicts who were not yet baptized and who they met daily influenced them into drinking alcohol again. They even turned to be hostile to the converted addicts, for them to relapse into drinking alcohol. If they did not become hostile, then they persuaded them amicably. The neighbourhood of the addicts influenced the recovering addicts back to taking alcohol. Bars and the sales promoters from the media were neighbouring addicts.

Emotions and Feeling

Emotions and feelings were some of the causes of relapse. Addicts joined the church; they lacked friends with whom to share their burdens. This made them feel lonely, and once they felt lonely, they would go fold old friends' homes because they could not blend well in the church. They were not enrolled in any church ministry that could occupy their

time and hence felt lonely. They also lack someone who can bring them close and a mentor them. They also get angry at what is happening to them, the segregation of the church members in the church activities. The way they are treated by the church members who do not care about them makes them angry. The threats they get from their former alcoholic friends make them feel angry and question which direction they should follow. Anger makes them look like they are emotionally affected, leading them back to their former practice. If they do not get someone to nurture them well in the church, they will relapse.

They also feel guilty about their past life; this is when the reality of life is done on them. Sometimes bitterness comes, and they are very bitter with people who may have shown them bad things. They feel guilty for the people in the church; they feel they did bad things to them. If they are not watched keenly, then they relapse. The guilt may cause them to feel shy when they are in the congregation and when they are lonely. This brings fear, and they stop attending fellowship because they fear meeting people. One of them said ‘the reason why I relapse was that when I see members of the church, I am abused, and I feel I am not in the right place because I see my enemies close to me know. This is because they have not forgiven me.

Emotionally they looked disappointed by choice. They are making the wrong choice. The church may not have met their expectations, and they feel that they should go back to their former practice. The disappointment also comes from the economic situation that they are now facing because of their choice to join the church, how they used to beg people for money and are given change nobody is giving them, but they are expected to give. They might be disappointed by the kind of life they find in the church; their expectation is not met by the church life, church members and church leaders.

They also feel bored, their routine life changes, and the church life makes them feel that their time is not well

spent. This is because they have not gotten what to replace their time with. They used to wake up and go for a drink, but now there is nothing to occupy their time, which may make them relapse. If they have negative feelings, they expect what relieves them; they resort to looking for alcohol so that they get drunk to temporarily solve the problem of negative feelings.

Not worth. When one begins using alcohol, they feel self-worth, as they have all it takes in life. The addicts feel that they are not worth it in the community of believers. They have the guilt that they are still sinners without forgiveness. They are worth it when they are in the company of alcohol addicts. The kind of communal life that they used to live may make them feel that they are not worth in the church. Self-worth is a feeling that one develops for him or herself. You give value to yourself. They do not feel that they should be treated with respect like other members of the church or the community. They do not value themselves, and they do not think that church members or the community they belong to loves them. When they consider their appearance, like clothing, and the attention they receive from church members, they say they are not worth being in the church and should move back to where they are worthy and are accepted, like being in the company of drunkards. Their social circle narrows when they come to church; they lose friends they know well since they get different social lives. They also look at the achievement of others who were in the church, and they say they have lost it all and got back into drinking. They have misunderstandings and misperceptions of their self-worth.

They are negative about themselves. They feel they are not worth being where church members are because of their drinking habits. One of the addicts says he even fears meeting some of his friends who are not alcohol addicts. They feel inferior; their physical appearance is not appealing to them; those are their personal judgment

towards themselves, not the church members. This kind of low self-worth leads them to depression and relapse to taking alcohol, leading some alcohol addicts to commit suicide. They feel too shy to be where people are, and sometimes when they attend church, they sit in a segregated place. The segregation they get from church members makes them feel that they are not worth in the church; hence, they resort to drinking again. They feel that their relationship is in trouble with the church members; hence, they start missing to attend church services. They feel that they are inferior to the church members and their former alcohol addicts who abuse them and influence them back to taking alcohol.

Incompetency is one factor that makes them relapse from the church. They feel that without taking alcohol, they are not competent in what they do. When they were drinking, they believed that alcohol instils competency and courage, but when they have joined the church, they feel that they have lost it, and so they drink alcohol to gain courage and competency. The alcoholics think that they are not worth it because of what they think the church members are thinking about them; two of them told the researcher that how the Church members receive them makes them feel that they are not worth being in the church. Some church members do not wear welcoming faces; hence, they relapse into drinking and stop coming to church. Once they feel that they are not worth their relationship with church members, they begin to stop. Three of them said they become hostile to the church members just for the members to keep away from them. Lack of life satisfaction also makes them feel that they are not worth being in the church; they feel that they are not fulfilling some requirements of life to their body; hence, they should relapse for them to satisfy the body by fulfilling the craving power. They may also not be satisfied with the church's life, and this is not the right place to be.

Unresolved Issues

The alcohol addicts relapse because of some issues that are not resolved by their fellow friends who are still addicts, the family members, church members, and local brewers. For example, their fellow addicts might be having some problems with one another and physically harm one another; if the recovering addict does not go for forgiveness with the one he fought; this might cause him to have some guilt; hence he might resort to drinking alcohol thinking that alcohol will help him to forget what happened between him and the addicts. The addicts also use this to blackmail them into coming back to the drinking alcohol. For example, five of them who joined the church could not be in the church because their former friends were threatening them that they would kill them if they did not stop going to church and resolve their problems first.

When they were still taking alcohol at the family level, they had problems with the family members and some community members. If they do not come to the point of forgiving one another, they feel guilty when they meet with them, and they will go for what makes them forget what they did to the family members in the past and resort to drinking alcohol. This calls for reconciliation with the family members and the process of forgiveness with family members and members of the community. This forgiveness should begin with the addicts feeling sorry first because they may feel that they made some things that hinder recovery; hence, they relapse to taking alcohol. For example, one of the addicts said he lost his hand because of alcohol, so when he relived it, he was pained and therefore should continue to drink alcohol. So he should feel sorry for himself first. When they do not drink, they feel ashamed of what they did to their lives, and the bitterness comes. When bitterness comes, it is easy for them to relapse to drinking alcohol.

Family Relationship

Five of the addicts who divorced relapsed because the moment they thought of their family, the wife and children,

they say it is bitter for them to forget all the pains they go through; they conclude that alcohol makes them forget all the pains they go through about their families. Therefore, they drink alcohol, thinking it is going to solve their problems. Some did not make it in education because of taking alcohol, and if they think of that and the harsh life they go through, they resort to taking alcohol. Respect for the family, authority, and the community is part of the unresolved issues. Three of the addicts said that they have been in bad books with the family, local law enforcers, and the community, they do not know how to solve the problem, and they relapse. Local brewers can also cause alcohol addicts to relapse. If the recovering addict owed the local brewer some money, the brewer would threaten that they should pay immediately; this causes some pressure on the recovering addict and always relapses. The local brewers will use the drinking addicts to threaten the recovering addicts and engage in fights.

Alcohol as a Source of Medication

There is a belief among alcohol addicts that alcohol can be used as medicine to treat some diseases. This is confirmed by ten of the addicts who were interviewed; they said that alcohol treats stomach related diseases and is very effective when they are sick. This belief has been there throughout the life of the addicts. When the addicts are baptized into the church, they will begin having complications. Their former friends advise them that the solution is drinking alcohol, so they resort to using alcohol again. Once it is in the system, they relapse. When they are sick, they go for herbal medicine, and one of the medications used by the herbalist is alcohol; this is one of the causes of the relapse in the recovering addicts. The medication is not scientifically proven, but the herbalist predicts it treats. They believe it is therapeutic for the body and the mind, treating the body and the mind. Once used, it boosts the function of the mind; it is a source of pleasure to them. Once they drink, they feel the joy of life. They say 'alcohol help to comfort the heart heal the head.' It

facilitates digestion, increases appetite, and promotes courage among the addicts. One of them, a medical student, argues that alcohol is not bad because it is used in the hospital during surgery. They say medically, it keeps them having a good memory of what they need to keep in mind; in other words, it boosts the work of the brain.

Control of Stress

Stress is a situation that challenges the ability of a person to perform normally or as usual; stress is one of the challenges of human beings; it also affects alcohol addicts since they also have what is disturbing them in life. Their social, moral, and economic problems lead them to have stress. They feel that if they take alcohol, it will control their stress. It is a source of stress management. Alcohol, being a sedative and depressant, affects the central nervous system, reducing the fear that comes with stress. It takes your mind off your problems, but it does not solve the problem. The shyness that comes with stress is reduced, alcohol boosts their mood, and they relax. When they are stressed, they develop insomnia; they resort to drinking alcohol that makes them sleep at night, which is a gateway to relapse, so alcohol will mask their worries. Using alcohol as a solution to the problem may not be a permanent solution, but a temporary one and can lead to permanent destruction.

Bewitched by Somebody

Witchcraft is one of the beliefs that the addict and their family members have that someone in the village has bewitched them. Since they have the belief that once they are baptized, they feel that if they stop drinking, the person who bewitches them may end up killing them by witchcraft. One of the parents whose child dropped out from the church maintained university said that he quarrelled with a neighbour who told him that he must bewitch one of his sons and when the son began drinking alcohol while at the university, the family believed that it is as a result of bewitching from the neighbour. This is a

cognitive belief by the relatives of the boy. They believe that an evil spirit possesses the drunkard and the only person who can deliver him from this is the person who bewitched him to drinking alcohol. They drink because they are outcast to the family. One of the addicts testifies and has a belief that in a big family, one must be an outcast, so he is the outcast in the family who carries the bad omen in the family of four children. Another addict believes that he stole maize from the neighbour's farm so the neighbour performed some witchcraft on the farms. That is why he is drinking alcohol, and he will only be relieved when the neighbour dies, or the parents do some rituals for him for deliverance. The parents of the addicts confirm this belief and decide to take them to witch doctors far and near for deliverance. This is a common belief among addicts.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Conclusion: The addicts gave true reasons why they left the church after baptism, there is no special program for them

after and before baptism, how the church members handle them was a problem to them, they also have their weaknesses, which come from the environment like the availability of alcohol, peer pressure, the unresolved issues and others. The relapsing of the alcohol addicts is church members need to take church members to take the ministry seriously for the church to fulfil its mission of preparing this social group for better ministry in the church.

Recommendation: Every church faces the problem of alcohol addicts joining the church and relapsing; there is a need to train those who can mentor the addicts for retention in the church. Since this problem is a global issue, there is a need to open Rehabilitation centres where the addicts can be nurtured after baptism or before they are baptized for the church to meet their needs through training them in the rehabilitation centres.

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