



The Role of Christian Educators in Guiding the spiritual growth of GKSI People in Sanggau West Kalimantan

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Abstract

The spiritual growth of God's people at Gereja Kristen Setia Indonesia (GKSI) Sanggau, West Kalimantan, is urgently needed. Christian educators serving at GKSI Sanggau have an important role to play in guiding the spiritual growth of the people. To realize the spiritual growth of God's people at GKSI Sanggau, Christian educators need to play a proactive role in conveying the truth of God's word, teaching the truth of God's word, conducting evangelism, carrying out counseling, and make visits to all God's people in their homes so as to share the truth of God's word. The problem posed is that some of God's people have not experienced spiritual growth, so Christian educators are needed to carry out their role well in overcoming various problems faced by God's people. The issues include doctrinal problems or teaching God's word at all, personal problems with families related to inheritance, problems of laziness to attend worship to God because they prioritize traditions or customs and traditional beliefs more, close their hearts when God's word is preached in the form of teaching, some do not have good habits in reading God's word, are less effective in praying, and may often tend to prioritize their interests rather than glorifying God's name. This study aims to interrogate the role of Christian educators in guiding the spiritual growth of God's people at GKSI Sanggau, West Kalimantan so that God's people can experience spiritual growth according to the truth of God's word. This research uses qualitative methods through data processing of interviews and relevant literature. The findings of this study are that



the more serious Christian educators are in guiding the spiritual growth of God's people, the more their spirituality will take root, grow, and experience significant life changes.

Keywords: Christian educators, guide, role-models, spiritual growth, God's people.

Introduction

The Great Commission calls upon the church of God to make disciples of all people. Disciples are not if they they do not live by and teach the disciplines of life that a Christian must adhere to in their spiritual growth. Paul taught very large crowds according to Acts 13:42- 45; 17:12-13, and he was very concerned about his flock and their spiritual growth all the time and did nothing for personal gain. Spiritual growth in all religions in the world, including in Indonesia, is very important for religious leaders to carry out continuously for their people to develop well. Christianity in Indonesia is one of the religions that is recognized by the Indonesian government, so church leaders must continue to play an active role in guiding the spiritual growth of God's people. The Christian Faithful Church of Indonesia (GKSI) Sanggau, West Kalimantan, is part of Christianity which accommodates some of God's people in the Sanggau Regency. Therefore, Christian educators need to carry out the ministry of spiritual growth for God's people and Christian educators are thus one of the most needed ministry gifts for God's people at GKSI Sanggau. One of the important tasks of Christian educators to play is to guide (Ristiono et al., 2022:2) because there is an opportunity to build up the spirituality of God's people (Kotte, 2021:112) by them. Christian educators are Christian leaders they play an important role in guiding the spiritual growth for God's people in all churches, including GKSI Sanggau, West Kalimantan, which is widely known by the people of Indonesia. A Christian educator is a component of God's 'servant staff' who plays a very important role in the spiritual ministry of the people because Christian educators are and should always be servants of Jesus Christ.

Spiritual growth is the most important part to realize human spiritual quality. Spiritual growth is inseparable from challenges because it is part of seeing one's spiritual quality. At present God's people are facing challenges of spiritual growth that come from various sides, such as the pandemic that has hit the world for ± three years and there are also many economic problems facing people (Alex, 2022:2). According to Amos, some of the problems that are the cause of slow or no spiritual growth are disputes or quarrels with fellow family members caused by inheritance (economic) problems so that it becomes a cause for distancing oneself from the true worship of God (Amos, 2023). According to Lubis, there is no spiritual growth because God's people feel lazy to be present in worshipping God, do not always have good habits in reading the Scriptures, are less effective in praying to the Creator, and even prioritize their interests rather than prioritizing God (Lubis, 2023). Some of God's people do not yet have understanding and are not committed to having faith in God. Some of God's people do not yet have serious faith in Him because they do not study the contents of the Holy Scriptures carefully so sometimes it affects their personal lives (Lubis, 2023). At present the interest in reading the Bible is increasingly being abandoned due to the very rapid development of technology, especially social media compared to having the habit of reading the Bible daily, and this adversely affects spiritual growth (Suparman, 2021:111).

Another problem that affects spiritual growth in GKSI Sanggau is the formation of strongholds between one of God's people and others so that there is no togetherness to worship God wholeheartedly (Edi, 2023). God's people often belittle each other and there are even certain of God's people who are not interested in delivering sermons by teaching (Edi, 2023). For them preaching is not teaching the Scriptures and teaching is not preaching the word of God. When preaching, one needs to focus on the truth of God's word being preached, thus not teaching the truth of the Scriptures. Ignoring sermons whose contents teach the truth of God's word can lead to misunderstanding of the sermon delivered. However, there are God's people who can understand the truth of God's word well if the sermon is delivered in the form of teaching. Teaching



the truth of God's word can increase everyone's spiritual growth if it opens the recipient's heart because not everyone knows how to interpret the true truth of God's word (Sitorus, 2023).

Factors that affect the spiritual growth of God's people are indifference, lack of concern among God's people, and very high self-centeredness so they distance themselves from communion with God (Edi, 2023). If God's people have continuously distanced themselves from communion with God, it will result in a lack of understanding deepening, and a lack of practice of the truth of God's words, so that hope for spiritual growth becomes futile (Lubis, 2023). The current development of few people who want to repent and have fellowship with God is not like the fellowship of God's people in the early church in Jerusalem in the past (Latif, 2017:122). Some of God's people in GKSJ Sanggau prioritize traditions or daily life habits rather than the truth of God's word (Tamonob, 2023). There are even God's people who are more concerned with traditional beliefs than the worship of God so that they ignore true worship in God, which greatly hinders their individual and communal spiritual growth (Hia, 2023). Paul expected all believers to "live a life worthy of the calling" they had received (Ephesians 4:1) and he also states. "You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

The position of one as a Christian educator and as a servant of Christ obliges one to protect and be responsible for the ministry entrusted to them. The ministry of a Christian educator must be directed and focused on serving the people. Serving is an act of spreading the Good News and teaching God's truth (cf. Matthew 28:19-20). The great mandate from Christ was entrusted to His people just before He ascended into heaven. The service of a servant of Christ (Christian educator) to God is the most important thing so that His people believe with both their mouth and heart so that they may be saved (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:21) (Riggs, 1996:71).

When God's servant teaches God's truth this is a very important teaching because it is closely related to the safety of the people. Therefore, at present Christian educators are required to pay attention to the spiritual growth of the people of God they serve. Adam and Eve played the role of Christian educators to educate and teach their children. However, Adam and Eve also failed to apply the correct teaching principles, resulting in the first murder at that time. Before the murder occurred, each of them carried out their daily duties, namely Cain as a farmer and Abel as a rancher. Cain and Abel had different faith growth. Abel had good faith growth, so he gave his whole life to God because God is the Creator who is the Educator, Protector, Preserver, or Guardian of His people including himself (Anggu, 2003:26).

At present, for the spiritual growth of God's people, Christian educators are needed as protectors to serve His people. A Christian educator acts as God's servant not because he chooses to do so himself or herself, but rather because he or she is called to be the main protector in the congregation. In carrying out their duties, a Christian educator must be a role model, loyal, and responsible for truly loving God and fellow human beings (Cowles, 2000:7). Christian educators accept true service as a divine mandate to be carried out responsibly, but not to gain material benefits nor to become powerful people in their ministry. Mimery's understanding regarding 1 Peter 5:1-4 is that a Christian educator who handles the spiritual growth of God's people should not do certain things: (1) not guide the spiritual growth of God's people by feeling forced; (2) don't guide the spiritual growth of God's people because you want to seek profit; (3) do not pretend to be the government over the lives of God's people. Meanwhile, the positive things that a Christian educator needs to do are: (1) guide God's people for spiritual growth according to God's will; (2) devote himself as a servant of Christ Jesus who does not intend to seek his advantage; (3) set an example, so that God's people can emulate it (Mimery, 1953:118).

In essence, Christian educators are not allowed to coerce people when guiding their spiritual growth or want to seek profit and rule as if they were the greatest of all God's people. The Christian educator should serve God's people and needs to set an example as a role model, and devote himself or herself wholeheartedly to their tasks as they shepherd God's people according to His will. If these positive principles are carried out carefully, then God will surely bless Christian educators and all of God's people according to His will. The idea of the role of the Christian educator is depicted in Scripture. However, in reality, it is not following ministry practices, because



some Christian educators neglect their role as servants in serving God's people who have been entrusted to them. As an example, the author observes that in general some Christian educators at GKSI Sanggau West Kalimantan do not play an optimal role in serving the spiritual growth of God's people because of their business in taking care of other interests. Concerning personal affairs is considered more important for some than serving God's work. According to Sunggul Sitorus, some Christian educators do not prioritize God in their ministry because they are more concerned with their personal interests (Sitorus, 2023). Usually, Christian educators may be selfish because some of God's people are not aware of the need to be supporting God's work. The support of God's people for Christian educators seems to be neglected because God's people feel that Christian educators who serve are considered economically capable, whereas the reality is that Christian educators do not yet have the economic strength for welfare service provision and have personal needs as well.

Christian educators need to play a maximum role so that all of God's people will be more faithful to worship God even though they are not yet capable of supporting Christian educators in building God's work. In essence, God's people have enthusiasm in worshiping God, but sometimes they are not enthusiastic about worshiping God for various reasons. This research and writing are useful to provide constructive motivation for all God's GKSI people in Sanggau, West Kalimantan in particular, and in other parts of the world, in general, to continue to have significant spiritual growth in God because the Owner of life wants His people to be able to worship Him as a condition for spiritual growth. While the purpose and formulation of the research problem are to achieve the spiritual growth of God's people, the role of Christian educators as servants of Christ Jesus is indispensable in responsibly guiding God's people without thinking about material gain as such.

Method

This paper used a qualitative type of methodology through the processing of interview data and relevant literature. Qualitative research is based on a scientific background as a whole and relies on sources to collect data so that it is used for the analytical process (Mau, 2023:749). The purpose of qualitative research to narrate words in writing must be scientific (Proskunatas Musaputra et al., 2022:3). Researchers collected information and data through interviews to ask several questions to informants based on a particular context or situation (Mau, 2021b:119) and interviews were conducted with a purposive sample of church members, church administrators, and God's servant GKSI Sanggau, West Kalimantan. The relevant ethical issues were considered before conducting any interviews and no participant received any incentive and was free to withdraw at any time. In addition to collecting data and information through interviews, researchers also use secondary sources through library research and the sources of literature used by the researchers were books, journal articles, mass media, and others that were directly related to the subject matter of the research presented by the researcher and they were directly correlated with the collection of data and information that was needed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Role of Christian Educators in Guiding Spiritual Growth

Understanding the Role of Christian Educators

Christian educators are pillars in society who play an important role in guiding the spiritual growth of God's people. *Sokoguru* means pillar, meaning Christian educators play a role as a support for God's people who are based on God's truth so that God's people have a strong spiritual life in God (Lubis 2023). For the spirituality of God's people to become stronger, the role of Christian educators is needed to guide and guide God's people to the right path. Philippians 2:4-8 teaches us that through God's grace we have been set apart from the worldly search of greatness. Christian educators are called to serve others with the grace and love that God has entrusted to them. A role is an act that shows constructive behavior for everyone based on their position in a system. A Christian educator needs to play his or her role to all of God's people he or she cares



for. The role of Christian educators is to aim to be involved in serving God's people for spiritual growth and to remain strong and firm in God (Lubis, 2023). So, Christian educators need to provide spiritual understanding, find out the spiritual problems facing God's people, and they need to find the right way so that the spiritual understanding conveyed to God's people can be understood properly (Silviana Lubis, 2023). Educators need to strive to live their faith in their daily lives and they must always be mindful and purposefully grow in their relationship with God and others they are serving. They need to strive to create healthy settings for people to seek God and respond to God's grace in their lives.

All of God's people are part of the wider community in a region. Therefore, Christian educators have an important role to play in guiding all of God's people, so that they can set a good example amid pluralism and multi ethnicity and diverse religions, where God's people live and work. If Christian educators can properly guide God's people, then God's people will also be able to play a positive role in the environment of the church, society, nation, and state. But if Christian educators fail to play a good role towards all members of God's people, then it is certain that God's people will experience destruction, both morally, ethically, mentally, and even their spiritually will further decline.

In fact, Christian educators have an important role in guiding God's people and that role is dynamic. The role is a person's real attitude or form of work shown by various activities related to common affairs (Edi, 2023). Therefore, a Christian educator needs to commit to guiding the spiritual growth of God's people all the time. This means that Christian educators must ideally be strong, willing to sacrifice for others, and not put themselves first. God says that He is the 'good shepherd', who gives life to His people; everyone who serves God faces challenges, tests, and trials occurring in daily life, and if an educator leaves the people he should be serving this is irresponsible. Christian educators who love God are certainly faithful in proclaiming God's word to God's people (Edi, 2023). In the Scriptures, it is often written about a shepherd working faithfully with their flock (cf. 1 Samuel 16:11).

In Psalm 23 it indicates that God is a shepherd whose role is to care for His people so that His people are well cared for without lacking anything (cf. Matthew 6:33) and they are His nation (Laos) a Holy People (Nicolaidis, 2010). So, the role of Christian educators is very important in a community or fellowship with God. What's more, God's people belong to God and do not belong to a servant of God or a Christian educator. Christian educators are God's ambassadors and need to fulfill the mandate entrusted to them in guiding the spiritual growth of God's people. Therefore, Christian educators should be effective and efficient in carrying out their responsibilities amid their flock because God's people need spiritual needs to be filled for their hungry and thirsty souls.

Requirements to Become a Christian Educator

When Christian educators carry out a ministry it is necessary to have certain requirements in place. The requirements are briefly discussed below.

A Christian educator believes they are called by God

Christian educators believe that they are called by God to spiritually guide all of God's people without exception. Christian educators need to see a large part of their work as cultivating habits in their students comprising of humility, service, and of course compassion. They need to make time to serve others in the community. How to become a Christian educator who believes that he or she is called to be a Christian educator to serve God's people is obtained through praying and fasting with joy. According to Oktovianus Ama Kii, God calls Christian educators to serve God's people to experience spiritual growth, and it is necessary to make visits to the congregation's homes to pray at least every month besides praying during worship at church (Kii, 2023). What is God's calling? This question needs to be answered carefully because God's calling for each person must be different. Some people are called by God to become formal teachers, national leaders, church administrators, church leaders, and all mentioned are also known as Christian



educators. Christian educators are also called 'shepherds' who are called by God to protect God's people with full responsibility (Mimery, 1953:25). God's call to be a Christian educator is important according to God's measurement. God plays the role of a true educator in nurturing His lost people and His word is expressed in John 10:1-17 for the knowledge of His followers and Christian educators who carry out the task of mentoring others.

A Christian educator needs to experience rebirth

Rebirth is very important for a Christian educator to have when he or she follows God and decides according to His call to serve God's people with joy. Rebirth is a gift from God to gain eternal life. Likewise the expression of the apostle Paul in the same sense is found in Romans 6:3-4 (Browning, 2015:185). So, the rebirth that a person receives before becoming a Christian educator is marked by baptism. But before someone is baptized, of course, they have to have been driven by the strength and power of the Holy Spirit to experience rebirth. Christian educators guide God's people by spreading the word of God so that God's people can experience rebirth. Rebirth or new birth is important for God's people so that His people can experience spiritual growth because if they experience rebirth without being guided spiritually, then their spirituality will not grow. According to Banoet (2023), God's people who have been born again as Christian educators must guide others spiritually continuously so that their spiritual growth can be enhanced.

Educated Christian educator

Education is a study that has implications for every one of God's people on an ongoing basis without stopping from one generation to the next. Christian educators who have the burden of guiding spiritual growth towards spiritual maturity need to be adequately educated, have respect for, and fear God. For Christian educators who have the fear of God, the beginning of having true knowledge is the fear of God (cf. Proverbs 1:7). Christian educators must have extensive knowledge because without extensive knowledge it will be difficult to serve according to the demands of an increasingly advanced era. A Christian educator without sufficient education will experience difficulties in serving educated and less educated people. Christian educators who prioritize education and life experience in their ministry, will be more advanced when compared to Christian educators who only rely on life experience, so it will not be easy to influence God's people to be more loyal in following God. Those with education are usually more able to minister to God's people or His nation (Laos) (Nicolaidis, 2010).

Get to know yourself

Christian educators need to recognize themselves for their strengths and weaknesses. When Christian educators know that weaknesses dominate them, they need to try to minimize them so they don't hinder them in guiding God's people who have not experienced spiritual growth. Meanwhile, the strengths possessed by Christian educators must be improved so that they remain confident in serving God's people. In addition, Christian educators who know themselves well, usually have humility in serving God's people spiritually and with full responsibility. Everyone should value himself or herself just as God values and loves him or her. He created man in the image of God (cf. Genesis 1:27). Some people say, "God created me and God doesn't make junk" (Ingouf 2001:52–53). A Christian educator must accept and appreciate himself as he or she is without comparing himself or herself to others. Because Christian educators are part of humanity, in carrying out their duties as Christian educators they must respect all of God's people well, just as Christ Jesus valued and loved humanity universally.

Recognize the needs of others

Christian educators need to guide all of God's people to their fullest when they already know their individual needs. God's people have different struggles and contexts offering challenges, therefore Christian educators must know the struggles facing God's people and immediately take real action



to mitigate these. Christian educators thus need to make efforts to properly recognize the needs of God's people. If Christian educators do not know the needs of His people, it will be difficult for them to take action which is meaningful quickly. For example, if Christian educators know God's people well, it will make it easier for them to serve their spiritual needs without hesitation (cf. John 10:14; Luke 12:42). Paying attention to the needs of other people or His people is a sign that Christian educators appreciate them. Christian educators must regard others as valuable human beings and relate to them in love and trust (Ingouf, 2001:53). Love and trust increase the enthusiasm of a Christian educator to serve Christ Jesus and fellow human beings. So, the message of God's word to Christian educators is to accept one another, just as Christ has accepted God's people and for the glory of God's name (cf. Romans 15:7).

The characteristics of Christian educators

In their calling to be a Christian educator, one needs to have clear characteristics or signs so that they can carry out their ministry duties with certainty. Therefore, the author would like to describe the desired characteristics of Christian educators as stated in the following section.

First, a Christian educator must have the capability to serve God's people and need to carry out their duties and responsibilities in spiritual ministry properly. The capability of Christian educators comes from: (1) spiritual gifts which are solely gifts from God; (2) the natural talent possessed by Christian educators is also a gift from God; (3) knowledge and skills obtained by Christian educators following the education and experience achieved (Ingouf, 2001:176). Someone who becomes a Christian educator may have a natural talent given to him or her by God and of course, the Christian educator is also given a spiritual gift by God and then equipped again through the study of theology to gain theological knowledge, have the attitude of a servant, and solid skills for service improvement. People such as these stated above generally tend to have high loyalty in service even though they don't get material reward from their higher superiors but still have a high fighting spirit in serving for the rest of their lives.

Second, a Christian educator needs to be committed to the service they offer. They are committed to Christ, the church, and the Kingdom of God, meaning that Christian educators who are called to serve must be committed to following His teaching pattern, His attitude in life, His personality, His suffering, and other aspects, according to what is written in the Holy Scriptures. A Christian educator while serving spiritually for God's people that only wants to live comfortably but does not wish to experience suffering, is not worthy of being a spiritual servant.

Christian educators need to commit to the church or congregation they serve. The point is that Christian educators thus need to be loyal in guiding the spiritual growth of God's people who are entrusted to them, both God's people who are few in number and God's people who are in large numbers. If Christian educators have loyalty in guiding God's people even though God's people are small in number, then gradually the Great Shepherd may add a large number of God's people for the educator's attention (cf. Luke 16:10).

Christian educators need to be committed to preaching the Kingdom of God to all members of God's people they serve because the Kingdom of God is the territory of God's government that Christ established while on earth before returning to Heaven (Anon, 2011:374). The territory of God's government is heaven and earth because the owner of human life is God in Jesus Christ. The presence of Christ Jesus while in the world, was offered as proof that the Kingdom of God has come into the world (cf. Matthew 4:17) and lives among mankind (cf. Luke 17:21). Christ preached the Message from Heaven for three and a half years in the world (cf. Luke 4:43) therefore His disciples received the mandate to proclaim the Word (cf. Luke 9:2) (Anon, 2011:374). The preaching about the Kingdom of God is actually what is preached by the Person of the Living God, who has ever been present in the world and will even come again. Therefore, Christian educators should continue to proclaim the Name of the Lord Jesus to all God's people or all mankind on this earth, as implied by Christ's apostles during the New Testament period. The 'people of God' are the full body of the church, or the congregation of God's people (Nicolaidis, 2010) and When the Word of God (*Logos*) appeared, and established a new promise with God's



people, which came to include, especially in the New Covenant, including all races and all persons, and educators need to impart this spirit in their teaching to their target audiences (Nicolaidis, 2010).

Third, a Christian educator needs to have competence i.e. ability or skill. The skills possessed by a Christian educator through education and training to carry out ministry to all of God's people he or she serves is imperative. Christian educators need to have spiritual competence which is the ability to have a good relationship with God through spiritual appreciation of Him (Mau, 2016:65). Spiritual competence is considered to be a skill bestowed by God through study so that educators know how they could be able to communicate with all God's people, fellow God's servants, other God's workers between church denominations, and the surrounding community with all their lives and in a range of contexts.

Thus, Christian educators as people who deserve to be trusted must be competent to carry out the tasks to which God and the church have called them. Competence is an imperative or an order because everyone serves spiritually at the location of his or her service.

Fourth, Christian educators who are God's servants should have character, morals, manners, and personalities that are in harmony with His personality in carrying out their ministerial duties. Christian educators with character are Christian educators who hate sin because this is a characteristic that is most often referred to as the fundamental characteristic of a servant of God. Because people are more impressed with the life of a preacher than his sermons they may at times listen more to the person than the sermon. Servants of good character seek to incarnate the Spirit of Christ in their lives but this is not an easy task (Carter 2014:177). The four characteristics that the author above describes apply to the general public when serving Christ. Whatever the function of a person in the ranks of God's servants he or she should have the positive traits or characters that have been described in this section.

Duties of Christian Educators

Christian educators not only have an important role in guiding the spiritual growth of God's people but also have a very important task of protecting the group of God's people and to guide and govern them (cf. 1 Peter 5:2a, 3a) (Wuwungan, 2011:81). The expression 'rule' in this statement refers to the task of Christian educators to serve all of God's people by leading them with love and not violence in any form or shape. The guardianship task was once conveyed by the Lord Jesus to Peter with the expression that he needed to serve or protect His people (cf. John 21:15-17). The task of Christian educators is thus to call God's people, lead God's people out, walk in front of God's people, and what Jesus said three times, to give his life for them (John 10:3-4, 11, 15, 17) (Wuwungan, 2011:81–82).

As a Christian educator guiding the spiritual growth of God's people so that they grow is not an easy task, but a job that requires various aspects of life including facing various false teachers who teach the same students that the Christian educator is enlightening. If one dares to be a servant of Christ, then one should guide all of God's people with full responsibility, so that all of God's people can be served optimally. Christian educators as servants of Christ Jesus need to serve as servants who look after, care for, and protect all of God's people they serve. A good Christian educator means a Christian educator who knows God's people both personally because the Christian educator has cared for His people from the beginning of their connection.

The Role of Christian Educators in Guiding the Spiritual Growth of God's People in Sanggau, West Kalimantan

Preaching

Preaching is a very important part of being carried out by Christian educators toward all of God's people whom they nurture. According to Wijaya and Meigia, preaching means speaking spiritually based on the truth of the Scriptures (Sherany, 2015:17). Preaching is the same as preaching the



Gospel of Christ (Mau, 2021a:83). Preaching is the main way of communicating the gospel of Jesus Christ to all of God's people. Preaching needs to be adapted to the understanding of His people on the main points conveyed but not reducing the essence of the contents of the Holy Scriptures and examples given in everyday life (Silviana Lubis, 2023). Preaching is conveying the contents of the Scriptures to God's people in simple language so that they are easy to understand, which is adapted to the length of the Scripture verses prepared by the preacher (Sitorus, 2023).

Preaching the contents of the Scriptures today is very important for all of God's people. It teaches people to listen to the word of God. In public worship, namely in places of worship, preaching the word of God is the most important component where God's people are educated to hear God's word and pay attention to the contents of the truth conveyed, both in terms of admonishing, advising, encouraging, and directing God's people to experience change. Because only the word of God is capable of changing human life, one should not take the word that is being preached lightly. So, if God's people ignore the word that is being conveyed, then the devil will take the word and make God's people who don't listen to the word not to be blessed and they will be further removed from God and his grace.

When Christian educators preach, the essence of what is preached is the teaching of His word. Therefore, God's people should always have the desire to listen to, keep in mind, and study His Word so that they will be increasingly blessed by God. Sutanto commented that in the church, preaching can be done in services and preaching is closer to making a 'fiery' speech. (Sutanto, 2004:29–30). In worship services or places of worship, preaching about the essence of God's Word should not be completely ignored because preaching a blazing Word, can change the hearts of God's people when they hear His Word delivered with passion.

Teaching

Teaching is giving teachings about God's word to His people so that they can experience continuous spiritual growth. The teachings conveyed to God's people go straight to the core of the teaching so that it is easy to understand and practice in everyday life (Silviana Lubis, 2023). Christian educators must continue to teach God's truth and have determination in teaching (Tuju, 2021:33). For God's people to experience spiritual growth that is getting better through God's teachings that are continuously notified, Christian educators are needed who focus on ministry without leaving the place of service for a long time (Samuel 2023). If God's people understand the teachings of God's word taught by Christian educators, then God's people will continuously abide in Christ (cf. John 15:5-10).

The implementation of teaching to God's people in a written or oral manner is generally in accordance with the gifts that God has given an educator. In a written manner, it means using teaching materials that have been prepared by Christian educators, while in an oral way, it means without using teaching materials, but the basis is the Scriptures. According to Browning, Jesus taught orally (cf. John 3:2), so did the apostle Paul (Acts 18:4-7). Teaching is called one of the gifts in the life of the church (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:28) (Browning, 2015:328). So, in the past, both Jesus Christ and the apostles taught His followers without using teaching materials as such and just used the oral word.

When Christian educators teach His people, teaching materials should be based on the Scriptures, so that God's people who are taught can grow in spiritual maturity. This is in line with Sutanto's statement that the purpose of teaching is to help God's people become more spiritually mature. Teaching must be done in an atmosphere of learning (Sutanto, 2004:29–30). It is best when Christian educators teach using the lecture method. Teaching is after all one of the goals of Christian ministry. According to Osei-Mensah, "The purpose of Christian service is to enforce the divinity of Jesus Christ and build up the body of Christ through witnessing" (Osei-Mensah, 2006:60). So, Christian educators need to carry out their duties properly so that God's church will mature in all aspects of its life (cf. 1 Timothy 4:12).



Evangelism

One of the most important components that need to be carried out by Christian educators in serving people is evangelism. Evangelism is an act of proclaiming the news of Christ as centralistic faith to God's people (Tong, 2007:8). Evangelism is a responsibility carried out by Christian individuals or communities who believe in Christ so that they have the capability to give true witness to others to believe in Jesus. Everyone who has had good spiritual growth in the Lord Jesus must evangelize God's people who have not heard the gospel message. Moreover, most Christian educators have studied evangelism theology in order to carry out effective evangelism. Effective evangelism must be carried out by Christian educators at GKSI Sanggau and laziness in worshipping God is not acceptable, because it is through evangelism that Christian educators convey God's true teachings so that God's people may become faithful and diligent in worshipping God (Dellis, 2023).

Theological wisdom is contained in the Scriptures, therefore Christian educators need to study them and enrich their knowledge of theology to evangelize people who are still bound by satanic power so that they are free and return to the right path. The movement of God's people is increasingly evangelized with God's truth so that they will love God more throughout their lives. So, having theological insights also means that God's people continue to glorify the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christian educators are not only tasked with preaching Christ Jesus but must also convert His people. In other words, evangelism must not only be faithful but also successful, namely bringing God's people who are not yet active and do not believe in Jesus Christ to him. The concept of evangelism that must be applied is to spread the truth of God's word to God's people effectively and efficiently.

Counseling God's People

Counseling God's people is a very important part of ministry. Because counseling God's people aims to explore the strength of the faith of God's people (Silviana Lubis, 2023). Visiting and counseling God's people is a form of spiritual growth for God's people because sometimes God's people have weaknesses in following God. Therefore, God's people need to be visited by Christian educators to find out the root causes of unfaithfulness in worshipping God (Sitorus, 2023). Usually, this element of counseling is carried out when God's people experience life problems in the household. God's people who have problems need to bring problems to their ministers to get counseling and personal attention.

A Christian educator as a servant of Christ Jesus must always be ready to counsel God's people who are in trouble, and while counseling God's servant can answer questions, listen to the concerns of God's people, be a friend, strengthen, or give encouragement and such counseling is called pastoral dialogue (Carter, 2014:141). Christian educators must note that counseling is not just a dialogue but there are follow-up actions required until God's people who are in trouble get solutions to the problems they face.

However, in carrying out counseling a Christian educator needs to be aware of himself when counseling God's people of different sexes. Providing counseling to the opposite sex is also an ethical issue. There is no mistake in ministry that is more frequent and injurious than sexual relations that occur because of cross-gender pastoral care. Servants of God who fall in love with unscrupulous people of God and result in an affair or divorce (Carter, 2014:141). Christian educators who are not introspective when carrying out counseling, may result in a spiritual crisis in other members of God's people because they see God's servant having an affair with the member of God's people he is supposed to be counseling.

Therefore, Noyce cited in Carter (2014) proposes some criteria as a guideline for protecting Christian educators, namely: (1) if a person of God of a different sex asks for help and pastoral



time, which is not as usual repeatedly and continuously, one should be aware of the possibility of the occurrence of romance; (2) counseling with the opposite sex must be supervised extra strictly; (3) while maintaining privacy, counseling with the opposite sex should be done in the presence of other church staff or members of God's people (Carter, 2014:142). It can be concluded from this presentation that involving church staff, members of God's people, or husband/wife when counseling members of God's people who have problems is very important so that the Christian counselor or educator in counseling maintains the holiness of life in ministry.

Conducting Visits

Personal visits or pastoral vocations have long been seen as the primary responsibility of a minister of Christ. Visits to the homes of God's people are of course directed to the homes of God's people in a gradual system, meaning that the way of visiting them alternates from one house to another (Edi, 2023). Service visits to the homes of God's people are carried out for God's people who are active in worshiping and members of God's people who are less active in worshiping, both in places of worship and in other service settings so that all members of God's people are active in worshiping Christ Jesus (Sikinius Pangestu, 2023).

When making visits to the homes of God's people, of course, there is a goal to be achieved. The purpose of a home visit means calling someone special to talk to him or her (Riemer, 2000:13). It means calling separately, that is, coming out of God's people, a special members to speak to him as a private person, to ask something from him, to strengthen, comfort, invite, and advise, just as Jesus did, when he spoke to Nicodemus at night (Riemer, 2000:13). When visiting, the aim is to increase the awareness and diligence of members of God's people so that they come to worship God, both to places of worship and other important services held in the church for the spiritual growth of God's people (Lubis, 2023).

So, Christian educators should visit in order to communicate with God's people so that they can experience life changes according to God's word like Nicodemus who wanted the right way to get life transformations happening so that one day they will receive eternal life in God's Kingdom. Likewise, all God's people at GKSI Sanggau, West Kalimantan who are served by Christian educators (servants of Christ Jesus) need to experience rebirth, namely being born from the Spirit and Truth to be able to demonstrate better spiritual growth. God's people who have experienced rebirth will be motivated to work together with Christian educators in the congregation, which aims to invite other God's people who have not been faithful to worship God so that there will be annual routine activities in the form of retreats or field services so that they can help God's people to advance in spiritual growth step by step, leading to significant spiritual growth in general terms (Rakimin, 2023).

Conclusion

Christian educators need to play an important role in guiding the spiritual growth of God's people at the Indonesian Faithful Christian Church (GKSI) Sanggau, West Kalimantan. In order for the spiritual growth of God's people to be enhanced, Christian educators need to play a role in preaching, teaching, evangelizing, advising God's people, and making visits to the homes of God's people to share the truth of God's word. To carry out the role of Christian educators properly, educators must have spiritual competence and qualifications in service, so that when there are obstacles that arise in service they do not experience setbacks in spreading the message of the Holy Scriptures. The Scriptures are the main source capable of changing the lives and perspectives of God's people that are contrary to His will. Thus, if Christian educators are more serious about guiding the spiritual growth of God's people, then their spirituality will be more rooted, grow, and produce fruit of repentance in daily life. God calls every Christian educator to serve him and others. Each one of them has gifts given to them by God to enhance the work of the Church and these should be used towards that end.



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