



Drug Use and Abuse: Its Effects on Missionary Kids

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Abstract: In *TELL Nigeria's Independent Weekly*, No. 19 May 13 (2013:11) notes the face of harsh social and economic conditions, many people have taken to alcohol and drugs as a means of escape from their woes. But alcohol and drugs are a mirage. They take you momentarily away from your troubles only for you to return to them as soon as the wears off. While *The Billy Graham Christian Worker's Handbook* (2002:98) stress, "Anyone can become physically and psychologically addicted to any drugs if exposed to high dosages for a sufficient period of time. Drugs users come from all works of life." Many of the roots of dependency are the great spiritual vacuum which has resulted in a breakdown of moral standards, the disintegration of the home, and the staggering availability of drugs of every kind to every age group.

The aim of this research is to see how we shall encourage ourselves as Christians to avoid habits, behaviors and attitude in life that are not helping us to develop well as human beings. Whetstone (1977:134) quotes Aristotle, "virtues must be learned and practiced over one's lifetime. For the Christian, character development is part of a lifelong, spiritually empowered effort of seeking to imitate Christ and His virtues (2Peter 1:4-9)." Drugs have become increasingly available and visible among youth. Therefore, recent research has revealed the following facts;

1. Gallup reports that "more than four million youngsters between thirteen and seventeen years of age said they have been offered illicit drugs in the last thirty days." The implication here is that, there are more half of high school seniors surveyed said that it would be "fairly easy" or "very easy" to obtain marijuana or cocaine
2. More than one in four sixteen-and seventeen-year-olds report that they have been exposed to the use and sale of drugs, McDowell (1996:401).

The research is focused on the causes, effect, biblical perspective of these drugs on Christian youth in the church and how the Christian youth can overcome drug use and abuse. The reason is that of all the problems we are facing in life today, few are more disturbing to parents than the problem of drug abuse among the young. Today we have much to be concerned about. Ndakwe (2005:5) affirms "Millions of young people are hiding behind a chemical curtain of drugs, and millions more are drowning in a sea of alcohol. Let's face it: if you a parent with a child between the ages of five and twenty, your child will be exposed to drug abuse through the school, the hangout, the radio, and television."

1. THE CAUSES OF DRUG USE BY CHRISTIAN YOUTH

In *Daily Trust, the Newspaper you can trust* (2013:14) alludes that, youth become involved in drugs for a variety of reasons. The following are among the reasons why they get involved in the use of drugs. Before then, research has revealed that one (1) in 10 teens admits to using a prescription stimulant or amphetamine to boost their performance in school, but most parents aren't aware of the scope of the problem, a new study finds. In an effort to stay alert and get better grades, students are taking so-called "study drugs," such as Adderall, Concerta, Ritalin and Vyvanse, which are intended to treat attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

1. Peer Pressure

McDowell and Hosteller (1996:401) believes, “Drugs are such a pervasive part of our culture, writes Armand M. Nicholi Jr., ‘that student now assume everyone takes drugs, and if you don’t take them you indeed are part of the minority.’” One young man explained the influence of peer pressure on his first experience with drugs: ‘I never wanted to smoke even one joint at a blast (party) by a neat chick, and I couldn’t refuse it. I’ve been smoking ever since.’ Ndakwe (2005:13) states an experience of one of the youths. He says, “I was 14 years old, and my best family’s sister invited us to their apartment one evening. Everyone started smoking marijuana. At first, I refused it, but after it came around a number of times, I eventually tried it.” That was how Dalisu, from South Africa, explained his introduction to drugs. Ndakwe (2005:14) stress that many young people turn to drugs for the sole purpose of belonging to the group. M. Narramore argues that teens desire peer-groups approval more than parent or adult approval. They are pre-occupied with being accepted by the gang, particularly since this is the age when family relationships may be strained.

According to Ndakwe (2005:14) “Any weak-willed teenager will follow the crowd, whether it leads to smoking, drinking, drugs, or immorality. The gang becomes his god; it determines his hairstyle, his mode of dressing, his friends, and his attitudes toward school, church, family and sex.” Dali (2011:107) agree with Ndakwe that “a lot of Christian youth obey their friends that introduce them to drugs than their parents. It brings problem to father and mother and in the end, it causes hardship to the whole family.” Therefore, Oderinde (2012:98) concluded, “those who use or abuse drugs have friends and peers who push or tolerate the use of drugs.”

2. Sexual or Physical Abuse

McDowell & Hostetler (1996:401) affirms, The AFA Journal has reported that “Among young people who have been physically or sexually abused, many turn to drugs. In a recent study of four hundred youth in a juvenile detention center in Florida, a team of researchers established a strong correlation between child abuse and later drug use.”

3. Parental Example

McDowell & Hostetler (1996:402) stresses that a report of the San Diego County Grand Jury stated, “It is difficult for children to say no to drugs and alcohol when they find that their parents and relatives are using them. Youth lecturer and author Bill Sanders quotes the sentiments of one youth who said, ‘My parents drink booze every time they go out to dinner or have friends over. So I drink and do dope.’” What’s the difference? Therefore, Oderinde (2012:98) added “individuals whose family relationships are distant, hostile or conflicted, whose parents use or abuse drugs or whose parents are permissive, ignoring or rejecting will more often abuse drugs.”

4. Trying to escape from Reality

Most people are looking for an escape from the ups and downs of everyday life. To make things other than they are-through some kind of magic-that is the way of the drug addict. Millions escape through drugs. This is why Ndakwe (2005: 17-18)believes “The youth are turning to drugs to escape the hassles of home, school, dating, and even the pressure that comes from physiological changes within them. The stresses on the adolescent who is trying to cope with anger, sexuality, and an emerging identity can lead to drugs, which offer an alternative.”It is also observed that the complexity and turbulence of adolescence and modern life cause some teens to look to drugs as a means of escape. ‘When I get high,’ one teen explained, ‘it’s like there’s no school, no zits, and no worries. It is just me and no one bugging me. It’s great.’Dali (2011:107) stress again that some use drug to cover up their problem, shame or scope reality-instead of facing the reality of worthiness of life on the earth.

5. Emptiness in Life

Dali (2011:107) added “Young people are involved in taking drugs to satisfy their emptiness instead of keeping themselves busy.”Ndakwe (2005:22) agree with Dali by simply alluding that an emptiness seems to plague mankind. The Bible calls it being bankrupt in soul. This is the reason millions stay on drugs. The actions of youth and adults today reveal this emptiness. The epidemic of drugs, the flood of immorality, the rash of suicide attempts, the increase of divorce, and the rising number of adherents to Eastern religions are all evidence of emptiness.Dali (2011:22-23) also notes “It is this kind of

aimless desperation and emptiness that has caused millions to hide behind a chemical curtain, drown in a sea of alcohol, or dive headfirst into the cesspool of fornication, adultery, and homosexuality.” It is evidently clear that an empty man is like a lion writing in pain, unable to find relief. An empty man doesn’t know who he is, why he is here, or where he is headed. With no direction or goals, a teen resembles a ship adrift without a destination. He develops the ‘I don’t-care’ attitude and a poor self-image. It is no great mystery that teens don’t care or that they are so empty in this age of affluence. Even the institutions we hold dearest—the home, the church, and the school—are crumbling in their failure to meet natural and legitimate needs.

All the glitter covers up the fact that lives are ruined and destroyed. The undisciplined, empty life can lead to the neglect of studies and of physical well-being, to promiscuity and abortions, to accidents that cripple and burry friends. If you are going to follow the crowd, you had better find out where it is headed. Another evidence of teens’ emptiness is the restlessness. Dali (2011:24) concluded “Those in the field of human behavior tell us that restlessness is a sign of inner pain and insecurity. For a truly empty teen who has adopted an ‘anything-is-better-than-this’ philosophy, drugs are a form of self-destruction.” Therefore, an empty teen is constantly searching for peace, pardon of past mistakes, purpose and power to live, and a life worth living.

6. Boredom

Dali (2011:24) still demonstrate how boredom is another reason youth turn to drugs. The book ‘The Romance of Risk-Why Teenagers Do the Things They Do,’ comments on boredom and the lack of parental supervision:

Boys and girls come home after school to empty houses. No surprise, they are lonely and don’t want to be alone. Friends join them, but even together they are often bored. They watch endless television and music videos or cruise the Internet looking for excitement. smoking, drug use, and drinking can easily become a part of this picture.

Dali (2011:25) is seen as quoting Dalisuof the result for lack of parental supervision at home “My family life was happy. Both my parents worked, though, and there was no supervision during the day. Also, our parents gave us all the latitude in the world. There was no discipline. My parents had no idea I was using drugs.” Other numerous factors contribute to increasing drug abuse. Among these are disillusionment, depression, to win the admiration, to have fun and a lack of purpose in life. Additional reasons are economic problems, unemployment, and poor parental examples. Some who have difficulty with human relationships use drugs to help them cope in social situations. They believe that drugs boost their confidence, making them feel witty and likable. Others simply find it easier to use drugs than to accept responsibility for taking control of their lives. Finally, Oderinde (2012:98) it is observed that those who are always angry, impulsive or depressed are more apt to abuse drugs.

2. THE EFFECTS OF DRUG USE AND ABUSE

Discussing the effects of drug use and abuse requires a distinction between the physiological effect produced by various substances and the long-term effects—physical, spiritual, and social—of drug use and abuse. McDowell & Hostetler (1996:403) quote Dan Korem, author of *Streetwise Parents, Foolproof Kids*, has developed a helpful idea detailing “the physiological effects of various controlled substances that affords a quick overview of the relationship between specific drugs and their basic characteristics.” The long-term effects may include physical ramifications; guilt, shame, and remorse; sexual activity; dropping out of school; problem behaviors; depression; suicide; and delinquency.

According to McDowell & Hostetler (1996:403) “Physical effects of drug use and abuse and addiction include dry skin, chronic sore throats, liver and pancreas disease, among many others. But other long-term effects of drug use are not so easily detected.” In addition to the risk of overdosed for the abuser and the tragic consequences of drug use for expectant mothers and their babies, the drug abuser faces such physical ramifications as leukemia, heart attack, infertility, tissue damage, and malnutrition. Kunhiyop (2008:363) affirms “Alcohol, nicotine and illegal drugs suppress the immune system and damage organs, raising the risk of diseases of the liver and heart, as well as of lung diseases such as lung cancer and bronchitis. They also decrease the production of male sex hormones.”

Kunhiyop (2008:363) stresses drugs interfere with the production of neurotransmitters, resulting in tremors (shaking) and confused thinking. They can also cause “distressing psychological and mental disturbances such as depression, hyperactivity, restlessness, anxiety and even hallucinations, which may be visual, auditory or tactile. Some drugs can cause permanent brain damage.” The side-effects are not only felt by the users but also by those around them, both their own families and those in the community who suffer as a person’s drug use leads to the loss of jobs, moral decadence, poverty, increased criminality and road accidents.

Ndakwe (2005:72-73) agree with Kunhiyop as saying “Cocaine makes the user feel great temporarily, before it enslaves and numbs him. It is observed that few cocaine users see themselves in reality; few can see the physical, psychological, emotional, and often familial damage crippling their lives.’ One young user confessed, ‘After one hit of coke, I felt like a new man. The only problem I have is that the first thing the new man wants is another hit of coke.’”

Ndakwe (2005:72-73) suggest several options for obtaining drug money which include: stealing from family, friends or workplaces to support the habit. Most users start out by stealing from their families because it is relatively easy, they move on to stealing from their employers. There are also many users who seek out jobs where it is easy for them to steal, or who turn down promotions so they can remain in a position where stealing is not difficult. Oderinde (2011:10) stress, the worry is that, youths, have access to narcotics or hard drugs. They have opportunities of acquiring and using narcotics drugs. These drugs are considered to be dangerous when they are used by people without specific medical prescriptions. They are considered to be dangerous drugs because they have powerful and negative impact on the health of persons who take such drugs without medical prescriptions or advise. Narcotic drugs include marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and opium. These drugs have medicinal values. Doctors use them for selected medical problems, but their effects are too strong for ordinary persons who use them freely without control. Their effects include the following: relieving pain, soothing the sense, producing a condition of wellbeing with pleasant excitement or a euphoria, sleep, deadness, unconsciousness, dizziness, drowsiness, loss of memory, dematation of mental powers, loss of neuromuscular co-ordination, loss of self-control and intoxication with its resultant stupid actions.

Therefore, in *The Billy Graham Christian Worker’s Handbook* (2002:98) it is observed that drug dependency is a problem of the whole person-spiritual, physical, emotional, and social. Once addicted, the dependent lives in an illusory world characterized by paralyzed feelings and emotional responses, mental denials and delusions. For many it is a helpless state. Withdrawal from a drug addiction can be very painful, both physically and psychologically. Unmonitored withdrawal can be dangerous. Getting free from dependency, and the subsequent necessary rehabilitation, is usually a long-term process. A strong support system involving the spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical is needed. Oderinde (2012:97) affirms “It is noted that drug abuse shakes the very foundations of the society by negatively influencing homes, our schools, political and law enforcement systems, and the economy.” It was reported in *TELL Nigeria’s Independent Weekly*, No. 19 March 25 (2013:14):

Some students from the Redeemer’s University were expelled because they were in possession of hard drugs. Nature of the Drugs-Cannabis, mephedrone. Cannabis goes by a variety of terms including bhang, black, blast, blow, bush, dope, draw, ganja, grass, hash, herb, pot, puff, marijuana, skunk, smoke, weed, soap and shit. Cannabis can cause health problems both physical and mental, including things like anxiety and paranoia. Cannabis is illegal in most countries around the world including Nigeria. In the United Kingdom, there is evidence of it being smuggled in the belly of mutts (dogs). Cannabis is a class B drug in the UK and you can get up to five (5) years in jail for possessing it and fourteen (14) years for supplying it. With long term or heavy use, smoking cannabis can cause lung disease and possibly cancer, especially when mixed with tobacco. It has been linked with mental health problems. Regular cannabis use, especially when young, can lead to an increased risk of later developing a psychotic illness like schizophrenia. When they are ‘stoned’, people feel anxious or paranoid. They may also experience memory loss or panic attacks. It can send some people into an immediate, acute or paranoid or psychotic state. They might hallucinate, hear voices, have delusions (believe things that are not true) or behave very strangely.

More effects of signs are evident in *TELL Nigeria’s Independent Weekly*, No. 19 March 25 (2013:14) “The most obvious sign of usage is bloodshot eyes and a dry mouth. The user becomes withdrawn or

he loses interest in personal hygiene and appearances. Other risks are reduced inhibitions, drowsiness, excited or paranoid state, coma, seizures and death.”Also *TEEL Nigeria’s Independent Weekly*, No. 19 May 13 (2013:11) stress that “if you are a slave to the bottle or drugs, think again for the use and abuse can weaken the immune system, damage vital body organs or lead to dependence. Finally, here is a survey made on people that were arrested and prosecuted because of drug paddling.

The result of the survey is detailed in *TELL Nigeria’s Independent Weekly*, No. 16 April 22 (2013:23-25), Mr. Ejike Martins was arrested for smuggling 1.2 kilogram’s, kg, of cocaine. He was sentenced for two (2) and half years in prison. In 2005, about 101 persons were convicted. Mr. Okele Frank Emeka got one (1) year jail for exporting 5.3 kg of cocaine. Also, Mr. Chukwuloka Chidi was asked to spend eight (8) months in jail for being in possession of 5.5 kg of cocaine. In 2006 also, 96 people were again convicted of smuggling the products. Mr. Frank Obidimalor was sentenced to one (1) year behind bars for being in possession of 8.5 kg of heroin. Record also shows that in 2007, Mrs. Akinwande Taiwo (popular actress also known as Yetunde Wumi). She was arrested on September 23, 2006 with 1.2kg of cocaine. She was made to excrete 92 wraps of cocaine (condom size). In the end, she was sentenced to go to jail for three (3) years.

More additional report in *TELL Nigeria’s Independent Weekly*, No. 16 April 22(2013: 23-25) are evident. In 2012, there were one thousand seven hundred and nineteen (1, 719) people that were arrested nationwide smuggling the products. Mr. Jide Mike was convicted for nine (9) months imprisonment in 30/3/2012. He was caught with 4 grammes of cocaine. Finally, Mr. Kehinde Fag bohun was convicted on 3/3/2012; he was slammed with eight (8) months for being in possession of three (3) grammes of Cannabis.

In *Daily Trust, trust is a burden Tuesday*, April 16 Vol. 31 No. 92 (2013:38) believes “In 2013, a 27-year driver was sentenced to six (6) months imprisonment by an Abuja Magistrate’s Court for smoking Indian hemp.”*Daily Sun Voice of the Nation*, Wednesday, May 15, Vol. 10 No. 2625 (2013:14) notes, Justice S. Seidu of the Federal High Court, Lagos on the May 14, 2013 sentenced a veteran guitarist, Fatoke Abiodun to three (3) years imprisonment for drug trafficking. The convict pleaded guilty to one count charge of unlawful exportation of 1. 575kg of cocaine on February 26, 2013, his integrity was affected.

3. THE BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE OF DRUG USE AND ABUSE

McDowell & Hostetler (1996:407) observed that the Bible does not specifically address drug use and abuse. It is silent, of course, on the subject of all drugs other than alcohol, primarily because most modern drugs were unknown or uncommon in the biblical era. Such silence, however, does not mean that God’s Word leaves us without direction. On the contrary, the Bible offers several very clear perspectives on the subject of drug abuse. The Bible is familiar with the use of drugs for medicinal purposes. For example, Kunhiyop (2008:362) in describing the restored Jerusalem, Ezekiel states: “Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing” (Ezekiel 47: 12; cp. Rev. 22:2).

Kunhiyop (2008:362) stress using the Scriptures that the famous balm of Gilead to which Jeremiah refers when he asks, ‘Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there’ (Jer. 8:22) was a drug used for healing wounds (Jer. 46: 11; 51: 8). The Bible was also aware that drugs had less beneficent uses. Thus when Paul includes ‘sorcery’ in his list of evils in Galatians 5:20, “the Greek word he uses is *pharmakeia*, from which we get the modern word ‘pharmacy’. In the New Testament times this word could refer to drugs used for medical purposes but also to their use in prisons and witchcraft.”

The Bible warns of the dangers of drinking alcohol (Prov. 20: 1; Isaiah 5:15-16), and, by implication, the dangers of taking other kinds of drugs. Oderinde (2012:100) alludes “We are aware that drugs were an integral part of many ancients Near East societies. For example, the pagan cultures surrounding the nation of Israel, drugs as part of their religious ceremonies.” Lee (2007:144) agree with Kunhiyop, “Drugs and alcoholism brings on woe, sorrow, and wounds that will be very difficult for recover.” In addition, here are clear **biblical perspectives** on the subject of drug abuse;

1. The Bible Explicitly Condemns Substance Abuse

Drunkenness is condemned in no uncertain terms (Prov. 20:1; 23: 20) and is listed as evidence of the sinful nature (Gal. 5: 21). Paul writes that drunkards will not inherit the kingdom of God and issues

the straightforward command, “Do not get drunk with wine” (Eph. 5: 18). McDowell & Hostetler (1996:407) notes “substance abuse-whether the substance is wine or crack, whiskey or smack-is contrary to scriptural principles.”

2. The Bible’s Commands are Incompatible with Drug Abuse

McDowell & Hostetler (1996:407) affirm “God’s Word clearly commands attitudes and behaviors that are compromised or negated by drug use and abuse.” For example, Paul’s letter to the Corinthian church records his determination that ‘I will not be mastered by anything’ (1 Cor. 6:12); yet the person who abuses drugs will invariably be mastered by them. Drug abuse is likewise incompatible with scriptural commands to avoid excess (Eph. 5:18), practice self-control (1 Peter 5: 8), obey the law (Rom. 13:1-5), and honor God with the body, which is His temple (1 Cor. 6: 15-20).

3. The Bible Makes it Clear that Comfort is Found only in Christ

McDowell & Hostetler (1996:407) further stress “Many young people turn to drugs in an effort to escape their problems, but drugs are not an escape, they’re a trap. ‘Come to me,’ Jesus says to the person who seeks relief through drugs, “and I will give you rest (Matt. 11: 28; cp. Jer. 6: 16; Isa. 55: 1-3).

4. The Bible Prescribes an Alternative to Substance Abuse

McDowell & Hostetler (1996:407) added “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery,” Paul wrote. ‘Instead, be filled with the Spirit’ (Eph. 5: 18). The young man or woman who is living by the Spirit will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature (Gal. 5:16).” While drug addiction is a complex and challenging problem, it can be best prevented-and overcome-with the power of God through life in the Spirit.

5. The Bible Commands a Compassionate but Firm Approach to the Addict

McDowell & Hostetler (1996:407) conclude with the Scriptures “Be merciful to those who doubt,” Jude wrote; ‘snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear” (Jude 22-23). Christians are called to gently restore those who have stumbled and are struggling (Gal. 6:1), a charge that certainly includes the young man or woman who has fallen into addiction.

4. HOW CHRISTIANS CAN OVERCOME DRUG USE AND ABUSE

Ndakwe (2005:169) notes that the contemporary drug scene presents us with a paradox; weekend users are doing all they can to get into the scene, while those in the scene would like to be out. Teens especially don’t need to be told that they never should have started on the road to drug abuse. *The Billy Graham Christian Worker’s Handbook* (2002:98) agree with Ndakwe, “In order to be helped spiritually, the drug dependent person must desire to be helped and must take some initial steps to seek such help.” This is where the Christian helper comes in. We should seek his or her commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. This initial step of faith should lead to a new perspective and motivation for the drug user, which will lead, hopefully, to rehabilitation and a life of wholeness.

The Billy Graham Christian Worker’s Handbook(2002:98) further stated “Even after commitment to Christ, however, there is often a need to work on the personal issues that led to the addiction, such as a poor self-image, insecurity, incest, homosexuality, immorality, fear, or guilt.” In addition, it is the responsibility for the church to still help people on drug use and abuse on the following areas. This is an effort to help correct and develop such people back to the purpose why God created each one of them.

1. According to Ndakwe (2005:171) “Help the individual spiritually, by seeking his or her commitment to Christ.” Ndakwe (2005:171) stress the individual need to admit that they are sinners. The reason why they are restless, bored, and confused is because they have not acknowledged Christ into their lives. They need to know that, sin will rob and ruin them. “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). “The wages of sin are death. . .” (Rom. 6: 23). This sin reveals itself either in active rebellion or in passive indifference.
2. Put him or her in touch with a local drug rehabilitation centre, where withdrawal and recovery may begin.

3. *The Billy Graham Christian Worker's Handbook* (2002: 99) advises as the way forward, stay with the person in order to offer support and encouragement until he or she has a deeper understanding of what it means to make a commitment to Christ. Ndakwe (2005:171) affirm "He or she need to know that the Creator can give them real life. The real life is exciting; Jesus came to give life in all of its fullness (John 10:10). It is everlasting, ' . . . Whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life'" (John 3:16).
4. Do not moralize about the evils of drugs or the person's addiction. Use the Scriptures on sin naturally in your presentation of the Gospel.
5. Be cordial. Be compassionate. Encourage him or her by saying that you are sympathetic and willing to listen and offer help.
6. Hear the person out, giving ample opportunity for the expression of feelings and opinions. Offer reassurance of God's love. God's grace is sufficient to meet any need in the person's life.
7. The inquirer will need to be faced with his or her responsibility for the addiction. At some point, he or she made a conscious choice to take drugs. He or she has moral responsibility for the behavior which led to the addiction. If there is an effort to lay the blame for the problem at the feet of circumstances, other people, society, etc., always bring the discussion gently back to the issue of personal and moral responsibility: "But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed" (James 1: 14, NIV).
8. At the opportune moment, present "Steps to Peace with God".
9. Continue to "Follow-Up Steps," if indicated: Start reading and studying God's Word. Learn to pray. Begin to fellowship with a Bible-teaching church
10. The drug-dependent person must abandon the people and surroundings that have tied him or her to drugs. The person must stop all use of addictive, mind-altering drugs. This will probably mean treatment at a drug rehabilitation centre where withdrawal and early rehabilitation can be properly monitored. Around-the-clock supervision is often needed.
11. Finally, *The Billy Graham Christian Worker's Handbook* (2002:99-100)suggests that "Christians should pray with the drug-dependent person for courage, for commitment, and for the power of the Holy Spirit to be released. All these are necessary in the redemptive process: 'For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind' (2 Timothy 1: 7)."Assure the person that he or she can be delivered forever. Ndakwe (2005:171-172)believe "God is ' . . . not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance'(2 Peter 3: 9; Rom. 5: 8; 1 John 15: 13). By His death on the cross, our sins have already been paid for and can be forgiven. Because of His resurrection, He is alive to give you new life."

5. CONCLUSION

Strategies to curtail drug abuse generally focus on limiting supply or demand. It is popular to wage supply-side war on the sale and distribution of illegal drugs. However, strategies that focus on the demands of users are more promising. Oderinde (2012:101-102) notes "If we consider the factors that put people at risk for drug abuse, these are several logical strategies. For example, as we raise an individual's self-esteem, promote meaningful achievement, improve family life and provide safer alternatives for gratification, escape or relief, will help to mitigate drug abuse. Also, prevention is definitely preferable to intervention."

Kunhiyop (2008:371-372) observes that drug abuse and addiction destroy their victims and harm their families and society as a whole. Therefore, they are not only morally unjustifiable but also destructive, disruptive and unprofitable. Communities where these problems are rampant earn a bad name locally and even internationally. Christians who are tempted to use or abuse drugs and alcohol should pause to think about them from a spiritual perspective. These substances have a direct spiritual effect on our bodies, which are the spiritual abode of the Holy Spirit and so should be treated as holy (1 Cor. 3: 16-17). In a real sense, it is not the drugs and alcohol that are abused, but our bodies.

This is an advice that under no circumstances should a parent or youth leader attempt to lead an addict through recovery without professional help. McDowell & Hostetler (1996:409) notes that “At the earliest opportunity, get the young person involved with a professional in the field of addiction. There is a wide variety of organizations (like Narcotics Anonymous) and treatment programs that can help, and an informed physician or psychologist can help the youth and the leader connect with such resources.” The pastor and the parents to this young Christian Brother need to take initiative to help the dependent find a center for treatment and check in, or perhaps assist the addict’s family in doing this. *The Billy Graham Christian Worker’s Handbook* (2002:99-100) suggests a way forward “We need to visit frequently and start the recovering addict in the reading and study of God’s Word and prayer. We need to also assist in finding a support group of ex-addicts who are Christians, if such is available.” Get the person involved in the life of a caring, Bible-teaching church. Get him or her in touch with a Christian professional counselor or group experienced in the treatment of addicts. He or she will need ongoing help with those personal problems which led to addiction in the first place.

The young people involved in drugs, Davis says, “. . . medications taken without prescription, that they are taking a serious risk with their health.” *Daily Trust, the Newspaper you can trust*, Monday, June 3, Vol. 32 No. 26, (2013:14) affirm “Taking these medications when they are not prescribed for you can lead to acute exhaustion, abnormal heart rhythms and even confusion and psychosis if the teens get addicted and go into withdrawal,” he said. Former Director General of the National Agency for Food, Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) Prof. Dora Akunyili said that fake and counterfeit drugs have remained an issue in Nigeria due to lack of Drug Marts manned by pharmacists for the sale and distribution of wholesome pharmaceutical products. She added by saying that Drug Mart creates an orderly network and conducive environment for the sale and distribution of wholesome pharmaceutical products under the supervision of pharmacists. *Daily Trust, the Newspaper you can trust*, Wednesday, June 5, Vol. 32 No. 28 (2013:15) notes “the major source of fake and counterfeit drugs in Nigeria is the unregulated and chaotic drug markets which she noted have existed since 1960s, adding that government’s efforts at eliminating the drug markets have been unsuccessful owing to lack of alternative structure like drug mart to replace the markets.” Now if the government cannot correct the ills of our society, it then means that the church need to do something urgently before it gets out of hand. A lot of children and young believers have been destroyed by the devil because of alcohol and drug abuse.

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