

## ABSTRACT

The question about the member care among members led me to study, “What is the meaning of member care among the Manobo tribe in the Southern Baptist Churches in Davao province?”

The purpose of this study was to research the meaning of member care and to propose the cell group church concept and structure for member care in the local church. This thesis is a descriptive-survey research. The sample of the subjects was taken from the Manobo believers of HASBC. The researcher employed the questionnaire, one-on-one interviews, and the personal observation as the instruments of the study.

Through the study, I could find the following results: 1) Member care is to meet the basic needs of the members of the body of Christ. 2) The characteristics of the Manobo believers of HASBC were very dependent on the outside help, industrious, and very hospitable. 3) Caring activities of the Manobo believers begin with the prayer and keep on caring by asking and listening directly or by waiting until the members tell their problem. 4) Most of the subjects (91%) are not familiar with the cell group church model.

On the ground of these conclusions, I have drawn some recommendations: First, church leaders must realize that members are partners of the pastor for the ministry. Second, member care is the duty of every member, not just pastors only. Third, the Manobo church leaders focus on helping the members to discover the gifts, talents, and skills that the members have and develop those things in order to equip the members for the ministry. Lastly, I employed a structure and administration system of the cell group church model from the book of Ralph W. Neighbour, *Where do we go from here?*