

**THE ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN SHAPING RELIGIOUS  
PROGRAMMES IN LIVING FAITH CHURCH (WINNERS CHAPEL) AND ITS  
ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

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**June, 2026**

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**A PROJECT WORK SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIONS  
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## CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project work was carried out by Imuetinyan Kerry AGHAHOWA with matriculation number ART2201456 in the Department of Religions, Faculty of Arts, University of Benin, Benin City under my supervision.

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## DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to God Almighty and my dear parents Mr. and Mrs. Aghahowa



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## **ABSTRACT**

This project examined the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in shaping religious programmes in Living Faith Church Worldwide and the ethical concerns connected with its use in church activities. The study aimed to examine how AI is being used in religious programs in Winners' Chapel, its effects on church activities, and the ethical issues associated with its application.

The thesis adopted a qualitative research method. Data were collected through document analysis, observation of modern technological practices, and the use of published interviews and academic materials related to AI in religion. Relevant books, journal articles, church publications, online materials, and previous studies were also reviewed to provide a broad understanding of the subject. Thematic analysis was used to examine the information collected and to identify important patterns and themes related to AI in church programs.

Findings from the research revealed that AI is gradually becoming part of modern religious practice in Winners' Chapel through television evangelism, radio broadcasting, online streaming, mobile applications, social media communication, and administrative management. The researcher found that AI improves communication, sermon preparation, translation, media production, teaching, and church administration. It also showed that AI can support children's ministry, adult Bible studies, and global outreach programs such as Shiloh. However, the thesis further revealed major ethical concerns, including privacy and data protection, algorithmic bias, overdependence on technology, reduction of human interaction, questions about spiritual authenticity, and the possibility of replacing important human roles in ministry.

# CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background to the Study

The relationship between artificial intelligence (AI) and religious practice has become one of the most interesting developments of the digital era. As technology continues to transform different aspects of society, religious institutions are also beginning to explore how new technologies can support their activities and outreach (Campbell, 2013). This study focuses on how one of the world's most technologically progressive Christian organizations, Living Faith Church (also known as Winners' Chapel), is engaging with artificial intelligence in shaping its religious programmes. It also examines the ethical considerations and questions that arise from the interaction between AI technology and spiritual practices (O'Neil, 2016; Tegmark, 2017).

Artificial intelligence refers to computer systems that can perform tasks that usually require human thinking. These include learning, decision-making, problem-solving, and understanding language (Russell and Norvig, 2021). AI is a broad field with different branches. One important part is machine learning, where computers learn from data and make decisions based on

pattern discovery. A more advanced type called deep learning uses systems similar to the human brain to process large amounts of information (Goodfellow et al., 2016).

Today, AI is already part of everyday life. It is used in navigation apps, streaming recommendations, virtual assistance, and many other tools. While these uses are common in businesses and education their use in religion brings both opportunities and challenges (Hutchings,2017). For example, AI can answer religious questions, suggest spiritual content, and improve communication between church leaders and members. However, it also raises concerns about privacy, bias, and whether machines should replace human pastoral care (Noble, 2018).

Living Faith church worldwide (Winners' Chapel) was founded by Bishop David Oyedepo. He was born on September 27, 1954 in Osogbo, Nigeria. He studied architecture at Kwara State Polytechnic but later felt called into ministry (Oyedepo,2005). Oyedepo reported experiencing a life-changing spiritual encounter on May 2, 1981, when he was 26 years old. During an 18-hour experience at a hotel in Ilesa, Nigeria, he believed he received a divine

instruction which stated: "Now the hour has come to liberate the world from all operations of the devil through the preaching of faith; and I am sending you to undertake this task"(Asamoah-Gyadu,2013, p.87). This revelation became known as the "liberation mandate". This message focused on freeing people from poverty, sickness, and spiritual problems through faith. The church is strongly influenced by Word of Faith teaching. This belief system emphasizes speaking positively, trusting God for success, and believing that faith-filled words have power. Because of this belief, the church has always been open to using technology as a tool for spreading the gospel (Gifford, 2004; Hunt, 2015).

The church formally began on December 11, 1981, in Kaduna with only a few members. However, it grew very quickly, especially after the major revival in Lagos, which increased attendance from approximately 4,000 members to about 5,000 (Kalu,2008) between 1984 and 1999. One major development occurred in 1998 when the church acquired about 560 acres of land in OTA, Ogun State. This property, known as Canaanland, later became the international headquarters of the ministry.

Within Canaanland stands the Faith Tabernacle, a massive church building that can sit over 50,000 people. It was completed in less than a year, showing the church's strong organizational and technological capacity (Gifford,2004). By 2014, the church had already established presence in about 65 countries. Over time, the church expanded globally and now has branches in many countries. It also hosts large events like Shiloh, which attracts millions of participants both online and physically (Oyedepo, 2012).

Technology and media have played a significant role in the expansion of Living Faith church. From the early years of the ministry, Bishop Oyedepo recognized the importance of communication through technologies for evangelism and global outreach. This strategic implementation of media, including the establishment of Dominion Publishing House in 1994 and the distribution of sermon recordings, has been documented as a significant factor in the church's growth (Kuponu, 2007). Today, the church uses mobile apps, social media, and live streaming to reach people worldwide (Hoover 2006; Ukah, 2008). This openness to technology has made it easier for the church to begin exploring artificial intelligence.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The rapid development and adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) across various sectors of society have also begun to influence religious institutions (Hutchings,2017). Given its history of technological innovation and its large global structure, Living Faith Church represents a significant case for examining how AI technologies could potentially be used to manage large-scale church activities, improve communication with members, personalize spiritual content, and enhance the delivery of religious teachings. However, the introduction of such technologies also raises several important concerns that have not yet been fully examined (Noble, 2018).

One major issue is the lack of clear information about how artificial intelligence is currently being used, and may soon be used, within a large Pentecostal organization like Winners' Chapel. For instance, an AI system could potentially influence which sermons are recommended to online viewers or help analyze prayer requests submitted by congregants in order to identify individuals who may require pastoral support. Despite these

possibilities, there is still limited research on how these technologies are actually applied within church environments.

Another critical concern involves the ethical and theological implications of AI integration. Artificial intelligence systems are trained by using data, and if such data contains social or cultural biases, resulting systems may reproduce or even reinforce those biases (Noble 2018; O'Neil, 2016). In a religious setting, this could have serious consequences. For example, an AI-driven recommendation system might unintentionally prioritize certain groups of people over others or misinterpret spiritual needs expressed by members. Therefore, considering Living Faith Church's history of adopting technology in its ministry, it becomes important to critically examine how artificial intelligence may influence its religious programs and what ethical issues might arise from its use.

### **1.3 Aim and Objectives of the Study**

This study aims to critically examine the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in shaping religious programs in Living Faith Church (Winners' Chapel) and to

evaluate the ethical issues that may arise from the use of AI technologies in church activities.

## **Objectives**

- i. To identify and analyze the current applications of artificial intelligence in Living Faith Church's religious programs.
- ii. To examine how AI may be used in children's programs in Winners Chapel.
- iii. To investigate the role of AI in adults and ministerial activities within the church.
- iv. To analyze ethical concerns related to AI use
- v. To assess whether AI aligns with the church's evangelism.
- vi. To suggest ways AI can be used responsibly.

## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

This study is important for several reasons. First, it contributes to the growing academic discussion on the relationship between technology and faith. While many studies have explored media and digital communications in a religious

context, the role of artificial intelligence in shaping religious programmes is still relatively new and unexplored.

Secondly, the study will provide practical insights for religious organizations, particularly Living Faith Church, on how AI technologies can be responsibly implemented into church programs while maintaining ethical and theological integrity. Understanding both the opportunities and potential risks of AI will help religious leaders make informed decisions about its use.

Additionally, the study raises awareness about the ways technological systems may influence the spiritual life of believers. Congregants and the general public may become more informed about issues such as data privacy, the boundaries between human pastoral care and machine assistance, and the role of technology in shaping religious experiences. Finally, this research will serve as a useful reference for future scholars and researchers who are interested in studying this field.

## **1.5 Scope and Limitations of the Study**

This study focuses specifically on Living Faith Church Worldwide. It examines the role of artificial intelligence in the church's religious programs by analyzing available documents, public records, and observable technological practices within the ministry. The ethical analysis will be based on general principles of technology ethics while also considering the theological beliefs and operational values of the church. However, the study has several limitations. One limitation relates to generalizability. Since the research concentrates on a single religious organization with a unique leadership structure and charismatic theological orientation, the findings may not automatically apply to other churches or religious institutions. Another limitation concerns the theological diversity. Christianity includes many different theological traditions, and conducting a full comparative theological evaluation of AI across all Christian perspectives is beyond the scope of this study. Therefore, this analysis focuses mainly on ethical issues that relate specifically to the mission and teachings of Living Faith Church.

## **1.6 Research Methodology**

This research adopts a qualitative approach in order to explore how artificial intelligence is influencing religious programs in Living Faith Church and to examine its ethical concerns associated with its use. A qualitative method is appropriate because it allows the researcher to understand people's experiences, beliefs, and perceptions in depth rather than simply analyzing numerical data (Creswell and Poth,2018). Since the use of AI within the church environment is still relatively new, this method helps uncover detailed insights into how members and leaders perceive these technologies.

Participants include church leaders, pastors, media teams, as well as congregants who have encountered AI-related technologies in church services and online platforms. Due to the large size of the church, purposive sampling will be used to select individuals who possess relevant knowledge or experience regarding the use of technology within the church (Patton,2015). These participants may include senior leaders, technical team members responsible for digital platforms, pastors utilizing technological

tools in ministry, and ordinary members who engage with online services or digital programs.

Three major methods will be used to collect data. First, semi-structured interviews will be conducted with selected participants, which allows them to share their experience freely while ensuring important research topics are discussed. Second, document analysis will be carried out on Church publications, the official church website, sermon transcripts, books and other relevant materials related to technology use. Third, where possible, church services and programs will be observed to identify how technology is used in practice.

The collected data will be analyzed using thematic analysis, which involves carefully reviewing the data, identifying recurring patterns, and organizing them into meaningful themes (Braun and Clarke, 2021). Ethical guidelines such as informed consent and confidentiality are followed.

## **1.7 Definition of Terms**

### **Artificial Intelligence**

Artificial intelligence refers to a computer system that can perform tasks requiring human intelligence. These tasks include solving problems, reasoning, and understanding human language (Russell and Norvig, 2021).

### **Living Faith Church Worldwide (LFCWW)**

Living Faith Church Worldwide, also known as Winners' Chapel, is a global Pentecostal Church founded by David Oyedepo in 1983. The church is known for preaching the message of faith, prosperity, and the gospel of Jesus Christ across many nations (Ukah, 2008; Gifford, 2004).

### **Religious Programmes**

Religious programs refer to the organized spiritual activities and services conducted by a church for the purpose of worship, teaching, evangelism, and community building. Examples include worship services, prayer meetings, conferences such as Shiloh, teaching materials, and pastoral communication (Campbell, 2013).

## **Ethical Considerations**

This refers to the moral principles used to evaluate the impact and consequences of technology. In this context, they involve issues such as data privacy, fairness in automated systems, and preservation of meaningful human relationships in pastoral care (Tegmark,2017; O'Neil,2016).

## **Shiloh**

Shiloh is an annual church gathering organized by Living Faith Church where believers come together from different parts of the world for worship, prayer, and prophetic teachings. This event is aimed at spiritual growth, breakthrough, and divine encounter (Oyedepo, 2012).

## **Algorithmic bias**

Algorithmic bias refers to unfair outcomes caused by biased data in AI systems (Noble, 2018).

## **Word of Faith Theology**

This refers to a belief system that emphasizes faith, positive confession, and prosperity. This theology strongly influences the teachings and practices of Living Faith Church (Gifford,2004; Hunt,2015).

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Concept of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is one of the biggest technological developments in the modern world. Today, AI is used in many areas of life, such as business, education, healthcare, communication, entertainment, and even religion. To understand how AI can influence religious activities, it is important to first understand what AI means, how it started, and how it works today. The idea of AI is not completely new. Long before modern computers were created, philosophers and scientists were already asking whether machines could think like humans. In 1950, a scientist named Alan Turing introduced an important idea about machine intelligence. He explained that if a machine could communicate in such a way that people could not tell whether they were talking to a human or a machine, then the machine could be considered intelligent (Turing, 1950). This idea later became known as the “Turing Test.” His work became one of the foundations of modern AI because it raised an important question: Can machines think like humans?

Another important stage in the development of AI happened in 1956 during the Dartmouth Conference. At this meeting, scholars such as John McCarthy and Marvin Minsky officially introduced the term “Artificial Intelligence.” They described AI as the ability of machines to behave intelligently in ways similar to humans (McCarthy et al., 1955). Their explanation focused mainly on intelligent behaviour. In other words, if a machine behaves intelligently, it can be described as intelligent.

Although AI started with high expectations, its growth was not smooth. There were periods known as “AI winters,” when progress became very slow because computers were not powerful enough and researchers could not achieve all the goals they promised (Russell & Norvig, 2021). However, in recent years, AI has grown very fast because of improvements in computer systems, internet access, large amounts of digital data, and advanced methods such as deep learning (Goodfellow et al., 2016).

Today, scholars define AI in different ways. Some explain AI as the ability of machines to imitate human intelligence in areas such as understanding language, recognizing images, solving problems, and making decisions.

Others describe AI as computer systems that can perform tasks that normally require human intelligence, such as learning, reasoning, creativity, and decision-making (Russell & Norvig, 2021).

One important branch of AI is Machine Learning (ML). Machine learning allows computers to learn from data and improve their performance without being directly programmed for every task (Jordan & Mitchell, 2015). Another advanced branch is Deep Learning, which uses layered neural networks that work in ways similar to the human brain (Goodfellow et al., 2016). These systems are now used in speech recognition, image processing, and online assistants. Scholars usually describe AI in two major ways. The first is the rational approach, which focuses on machines making logical decisions to achieve certain goals (Russell & Norvig, 2021). The second is the human-like approach, which focuses on how closely machines can imitate human behavior and thinking (Turing, 1950). Simply put, one focuses on smart decision-making, while the other focuses on acting like humans.

The meaning of intelligence also changes with time. What people once considered “intelligent technology” may now seem ordinary because

technology continues to improve. This shows that AI is constantly developing and expanding into new areas of life.

To better understand AI, it is important to know some of its major areas: Machine Learning (ML): Helps systems learn from data and improve over time (Jordan & Mitchell, 2015). Deep Learning: Uses advanced neural networks to solve complex problems (LeCun et al., 2015). Natural Language Processing (NLP): Allows computers to understand and generate human language (Manning & Schütze, 1999). Computer Vision: Helps machines recognize and interpret images and videos (Szeliski, 2022).

Another important development today is generative AI. This type of AI can create new content such as text, music, videos, and images. For example, AI can now write articles, prepare sermons, answer questions, and generate teaching materials. Because of this ability, many organizations, including religious institutions, are beginning to explore how AI can help improve communication and outreach (Brown et al., 2020). AI should not only be viewed as a technical invention. It is also a social tool created by humans to solve human problems. Brooks (1982) explains that technology exists to meet

human needs in practical and repeatable ways. This means AI reflects human values, ideas, and goals. In summary, AI is not simply about machines thinking like humans. It is about machines assisting people, improving communication, and transforming different parts of society, including religious life.

## **2.2 Role of AI in Religious Activities**

Religion has always used technology to spread its message. In the past, religious groups used the printing press, radio, television, and later the internet. Today, AI is becoming the newest technology being used in religious activities. Unlike older technologies, AI allows more interactive and personalized experiences.

One important area where AI is being used is religious education. Wang et al. (2025) studied how AI voice-recognition tools can help improve chanting and spiritual learning. In their study, students who used AI support performed better in tone, pitch, and emotional expression than those who used only traditional teaching methods. Many students also reported feeling calmer during practice. This shows that AI can help people improve their spiritual

learning by giving quick and accurate feedback. In simple terms, AI can work like a supportive teacher that helps learners improve faster.

Some scholars also believe AI can influence spiritual experiences. Entrekina (2025), building on the ideas of William James, explains that conversations with AI chatbots can sometimes create deep emotional or spiritual feelings. William James described mystical experiences as personal and emotional experiences that are difficult to explain (James, 1902/1985). According to Entrekina, some people feel emotionally connected to AI chatbots and even describe their experiences as spiritual. However, this raises important concerns. Can a machine truly guide people spiritually? Are these experiences genuinely spiritual, or are they simply emotional reactions to technology? These questions show that AI in religion requires careful ethical consideration.

AI is also helping churches with practical work. Tenny-Brittian (2025) explains that some churches use AI to prepare sermons, organize children's lessons, and coordinate teaching programs. For example, AI can help ensure that children's lessons match the main sermon topic for the week. This allows

families to continue discussions at home. Churches that use AI in this way save time, reduce costs, and improve teaching quality. Importantly, AI is not replacing pastors or church leaders; instead, it is helping them work more effectively.

AI is also being used in outreach and social support. Some churches use AI to create children's ministry materials, provide counseling support, and improve church security through facial recognition systems (Tenny-Brittian, 2025). There are also AI systems designed to help people struggling with emotional problems by offering encouragement and directing them to counseling or spiritual support. These examples show that AI can help churches respond to modern social challenges.

Today, AI-powered Bible chatbots can answer scriptural questions, explain Bible passages, and provide devotional materials. Although many people find these tools helpful, some religious leaders worry about authenticity (Cheong, 2023). They question whether an AI-generated sermon can have the same spiritual impact as a sermon prepared through prayer, study, and personal

reflection. These debates show that AI affects not only church activities but also religious authority and spiritual experience.

### **2.3 Historical Development and Growth of Living Faith Church (Winners' Chapel)**

Living Faith Church Worldwide, also known as Winners' Chapel, was founded in 1983 in Kaduna, Nigeria, by David Oyedepo (Gifford, 2016). The church started with only four members, but later grew into one of the largest Pentecostal churches in Africa. The church teaches messages of faith, prosperity, victory, and dominion. Members are encouraged to believe that God wants them to succeed in every area of life. Oyedepo's background in architecture also influenced the organized growth and structure of the church. Winners' Chapel is strongly connected to the Word of Faith movement, which teaches that spoken words have power and that believers can shape their future through faith and positive confession (Oyedepo, 2005). Prosperity teaching is also central in the church. Members are taught that giving offerings and paying tithes can lead to financial blessings (Oyedepo, 2004). Wealth and success are presented as part of God's promises to believers.

Another major teaching in Winners' Chapel is the importance of knowledge. Oyedepo (2003) teaches that ignorance is one of the greatest problems facing people. Because of this strong focus on knowledge and learning, the church has always supported education, media, and technology. This attitude makes the church more open to modern tools such as AI.

From a small fellowship, Winners' Chapel expanded to thousands of branches across Nigeria and many other countries (Gifford, 2016). Its headquarters, known as Canaanland, is located in Lagos State and includes Covenant University and a massive church auditorium that seats over 50,000 worshippers. The church's annual program called Shiloh, which began in 1999, attracts participants from around the world. Through books, television broadcasts, and digital media, Winners' Chapel has spread its teachings globally. Dominion Publishing House has also published many of Oyedepo's books and teachings.

The church's history of using media and technology shows that it is not new to innovation. Therefore, the use of AI in church activities can be seen as part of its ongoing effort to improve communication and outreach.

## **2.4 AI in Contemporary Church Programs: Case of Winners' Chapel**

The use of AI in Winners' Chapel can be understood as a continuation of the church's long tradition of using technology to spread the gospel. Over the years, the church has used books, television, radio, and online streaming to reach people worldwide. AI now represents another stage in this technological development.

The teachings of David Oyedepo provide a strong foundation for accepting technology. One of his major teachings is that ignorance is the enemy of progress. According to Oyedepo (2003), people often suffer because of lack of knowledge rather than spiritual attacks. If knowledge brings freedom and success, then AI can be seen as a tool that helps spread knowledge and support spiritual growth. Winners' Chapel also teaches that words are powerful. Oyedepo (2008) describes the mouth as a "destiny-moulder," meaning spoken words can shape a person's future. This idea connects well with AI systems that process and generate language. AI can help create sermons, teaching materials, devotionals, and church announcements. In this way, AI supports the church's emphasis on communication and spoken

words. Another important teaching in Winners' Chapel is dominion. Members are encouraged to succeed and stand out in every area of life, including technology (Gifford, 2016). Because of this belief, technology is not viewed as something separate from religion. Instead, mastering technology can be seen as part of Christian excellence and progress.

Children's ministry is one of the important areas where AI can be very useful. Tenny-Brittian (2025) explains that some churches already use AI to prepare children's lessons that match the main Sunday sermon. In Winners' Chapel, AI could help teachers quickly create Bible lessons, quizzes, memory verses, activity sheets, and simple explanations of church teachings. This would save time and improve teaching quality. AI can also support adult church programs such as Bible studies, Sunday services, and conferences like Shiloh. Pastors can use AI to search for Bible references, improve sermon organization, and gather background information for teaching. However, some religious leaders worry that AI-generated sermons may not have the same spiritual depth as sermons prepared through prayer and personal study (Cheong, 2023). Therefore, AI should support pastors rather than replace them. AI-powered Bible chatbots can also help church members by

answering questions about scripture, recommending devotionals, and creating personalized Bible study plans. Entrekin (2025) notes that religion-focused AI systems can encourage spiritual engagement. However, there are concerns that some people may become too emotionally attached to AI systems or mistake emotional experiences for spiritual experiences.

Winners' Chapel already has strong media systems, and AI could improve them further. For example, AI can automatically transcribe sermons, translate messages into different languages, and recommend spiritual content to online users. Since Shiloh attracts participants from different countries, AI translation tools could help international audiences understand messages in their own languages. Wang et al. (2025) also suggest that AI voice technology could improve worship experiences, especially in music and sound quality. AI could help choirs and worship teams improve vocal performance and sound coordination.

AI may also assist in pastoral care. Chatbots can provide Bible verses, prayer points, and encouragement to members who need support. However, AI cannot replace human compassion, empathy, and emotional understanding.

Real pastoral care involves personal relationships and spiritual guidance that only humans can fully provide. In administration, AI can help Winners' Chapel manage attendance records, organize events, track donations, coordinate volunteers, and improve church security. Since the church operates globally, AI could help improve organization and communication across branches.

Overall, Winners' Chapel has a history of embracing innovation and technology. This suggests that AI may become an important tool in the church's future programs. However, church leaders must ensure that AI strengthens ministry and human relationships rather than replacing them.

## **2.5 Ethical Considerations of AI in Religious Contexts**

Although AI provides many benefits, it also raises serious ethical concerns, especially in religion. Religion deals with faith, morality, spirituality, and human dignity, so the use of AI must be handled carefully.

## **Theological Questions**

Some scholars ask whether a machine can truly participate in spiritual life. Alkhouri (2025) discusses the problem of “spiritual confusion” in the AI age. If AI systems can create emotional or mystical feelings, people may begin to confuse technology with genuine spiritual experiences. In Winners’ Chapel, words are believed to carry spiritual power. Therefore, some people may question whether prayers or sermons created by AI can carry the same spiritual authority as those spoken by a pastor who has personal faith and spiritual conviction. Since AI has no soul, belief, or spiritual consciousness, many argue that it cannot fully replace human spiritual leadership.

## **Psychological Concerns**

Entrekin (2025) explains that some users become emotionally attached to AI chatbots. This raises fears that people could begin depending on AI for emotional or spiritual support instead of building relationships with real people and faith communities. Religion is not only about information; it is also about fellowship, care, and human connection. AI should not replace these important human relationships.

## **Privacy and Data Protection**

Privacy and data protection are also serious issues. AI systems often collect personal information like prayer requests, counseling discussions, attendance records, and financial contributions. This information is very sensitive. Churches must protect members' data carefully to prevent misuse. O'Neil (2016) warns that large data systems can sometimes harm vulnerable people if they are not properly controlled.

## **Bias and Fairness**

AI systems learn from the data they are given, and if the data contains bias, the AI may also become biased (O'Neil, 2016). Since Winners' Chapel operates in different countries and cultures, AI systems must treat all members fairly and avoid discrimination or cultural misunderstanding. Church leaders must monitor AI carefully to ensure doctrinal accuracy and fairness.

## **Authenticity of Spiritual Worship**

There is also the question of authentic worship. Traditional worship involves a personal relationship between humans and God. AI-assisted worship introduces technology into that relationship. Even if AI-generated worship feels meaningful, some people may still question whether it is spiritually authentic. AI should therefore support personal faith rather than replace it.

### **Role of Pastors and Church Workers**

If AI can prepare sermons or answer spiritual questions, some may wonder whether human ministers are still needed. Tenny-Brittian (2025) argues that AI should only assist the ministry, not replace ministers. Human pastors provide wisdom, empathy, spiritual authority, and emotional care that AI cannot fully offer.

### **Accountability**

Accountability is also important. If AI gives wrong or harmful advice, who should be responsible? Church leaders must remain accountable for all AI-generated content used in ministry. In Winners' Chapel, where leadership is centralized, church authorities can supervise how AI is used across branches.

## **Economic Concerns**

There are also economic concerns. AI may reduce costs for churches, but it could also reduce employment opportunities for media staff, writers, editors, and other workers whose tasks become automated. Churches must think carefully about how technological changes affect people's livelihoods.

## **Cultural Sensitivity**

Cultural sensitivity is also necessary because Winners' Chapel operates internationally. AI systems must respect cultural differences and avoid misunderstandings. Chewachong (2017) shows that even human missionaries face cultural challenges, so AI systems must be designed carefully to avoid creating new tensions.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **3.0 DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF LIVING FAITH CHURCH WORLDWIDE IN BENIN CITY**

#### **3.1 Origin of Living Faith Church in Two Areas in Benin City**

The establishment of Living Faith Church Worldwide in Benin City began gradually through small fellowship gatherings and evangelistic activities. The church, founded by David Oyedepo, became known for its emphasis on faith, prosperity, prayer, and spiritual growth. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, many Christians in Benin City were attracted to this style of worship, leading to the expansion of the church into different parts of the city.

One of the major branches of the church in Benin City is located at 1 Ihama Road, off Adesuwa Road, G.R.A., Benin City. According to information gathered during field interviews, the church initially operated on a small scale before experiencing gradual growth. In an interview conducted with Elder

Peter Osayi on March 15, 2026, he explained that the early members worshipped in a classroom before later moving to a rented hall as attendance increased. He further noted that the growing number of worshippers encouraged members to begin plans toward acquiring a permanent worship centre. Also, Deaconess Margaret Iyamu, interviewed on March 15, 2026, stated that members contributed financially in small amounts toward the development of the church property. She recalled that many members personally participated in clearing the land and supporting the construction process. According to her, the commitment and cooperation among members contributed greatly to the early stability of the church in the area.

Another important branch of the church is situated at 2 Boundary Road, Ekosodin, Benin City. According to an interview conducted with one of the long-standing members of Living Faith Church Worldwide, Ekosodin, Mr Bright Ehigie, on March 17, 2026, the church began at Fatima Avenue with only twenty-five members. He went further to explain that the church started in a humble environment with limited facilities, wooden chairs, and no musical instruments. Despite these challenges, members remained committed to prayer, fellowship, and evangelism.

According to an old church worker, Mr Joshua Okeke, on March 17, 2026, Pastor Bumi was the pioneer pastor who laid the spiritual and administrative foundation of the church. He stated that his leadership focused on soul-winning, discipleship, and building unity among members. He explained that the church survived its early years through sacrifice, faith, and commitment from both leaders and members. Another respondent, Mrs Grace Edokpolor, explained that the early worship atmosphere was simple but spiritually impactful. Members gathered regularly for prayers, Bible teaching, and evangelism activities, which gradually attracted more people into the church.

### **3.2 Growth**

The growth of Living Faith Church Worldwide in Benin City has been steady over the years. The increase in membership has been linked to regular evangelism, testimonies of answered prayers, and the expansion of residential areas around church locations. At the Ihama Road branch, church attendance reportedly increased significantly during the early 2000s. In an interview conducted with Mr. Frank Egharevba on March 15, 2026, he explained that many people were attracted to the church through testimonies

relating to healing, financial improvement, and personal transformation. He added that the church auditorium had to be expanded at different periods to accommodate the increasing number of worshippers. As the congregation continued to grow, church leadership introduced multiple Sunday services and additional midweek programmes to reduce overcrowding and improve organization during worship activities. These adjustments helped create a more comfortable environment for members and visitors.

In an interview with Mr Bright Ehigie, on March 17, 2026, at the Ekosodin branch, the church experienced steady growth under different pastors. He explained that members increased from twenty-five worshippers during the pioneer stage to over one thousand, one hundred members under the current administration. In another interview with a church member, Mr Desmond Olusegun, on March 17, 2026, Pastor David Boye's administration marked a major period of expansion. He noted that the increase in membership created the need for a permanent worship center. This led to the acquisition of land and the commencement of the church building project at No. 2 Boundary Road, Ekosodin, Benin City. He also explained that Pastor Bode, a resident pastor at the time, completed the church auditorium and supervised the

relocation of the church from Fatima Avenue to the permanent site. He described this relocation as a major turning point in the history of the church.

Miss Sharon Olufemi, a member of the media department, in an interview on March 17, 2026, explained that the church also experienced technological and infrastructural development through the introduction of projectors, television screens, video coverage, executive chairs, altar beautification, and compound interlocking projects under successive administrations. She further explained that the church continued to grow spiritually through teachings, prayer programs, outreach activities, and consistent worship services.

### **3.3 Methods of Evangelism**

Evangelism remains one of the major activities of Living Faith Church Worldwide in Benin City. The church adopts different methods to spread its teachings and attract new members. One of the commonly used methods is street and community outreach. During an interview conducted with Evangelist Joshua Osawe on March 15, 2026, he explained that church members often organize group evangelism in markets, streets, and residential

areas. According to him, members are trained to approach individuals politely and respectfully while preaching the gospel.

Another important method used by the church is church planting. Through this strategy, new branches are established in developing communities to make worship centres more accessible to residents. This method has contributed to the spread of the church across different parts of Benin City and its surrounding areas.

The church also makes use of media evangelism. In an interview conducted on March 15, 2026, Sister Joy Edokpolor of the media department explained that radio and television broadcasts were used to reach individuals who may not attend physical services. She added that some listeners eventually visit the church after becoming familiar with its teachings through regular broadcasts. Furthermore, the church operates a follow-up system for first-time visitors and new converts. Through phone calls, text messages, and personal visits, church workers encourage new members to remain active in worship and church activities. This approach helps strengthen relationships between the church and its members.

### **3.4 Role of Youth and Women in Living Faith Church**

Youth and women contribute significantly to the activities and development of Living Faith Church Worldwide in Benin City. Their involvement can be seen in leadership support, worship activities, welfare programmes, and church administration.

During an interview conducted on March 15, 2026, Mr Daniel Osamwonyi explained that many young people actively participate in departments such as ushering, choir, media, and technical operations. He stated that the church provides opportunities for youths to develop leadership skills, discipline, and responsibility through active participation in church programmes. Similarly, Miss Felicia Obanor, interviewed on March 17, 2026, explained that involvement in church activities positively influenced her personal life and helped her avoid negative peer pressure. She also noted that youth

programmes organized by the church encourage moral discipline and spiritual growth among young members.

Women also play important roles through fellowship meetings, welfare activities, and prayer programmes. In an interview conducted with Deaconess Roseline Otote on March 15, 2026, she explained that women regularly organize prayer meetings, Bible study sessions, and support programmes for members facing personal difficulties.

Another respondent, Mrs Mercy Aimuamwonsa, interviewed on March 17, 2026, shared that the women's fellowship provided emotional and financial support to her during a difficult period in her life. According to her, the fellowship creates a sense of unity and care among members. Furthermore, Pastor Mrs. Faith Osayande stated during an interview on March 17, 2026, that the church organizes programmes aimed at improving family life and economic stability among women. She explained that seminars on parenting, marriage, and small business development are regularly organized to support women within the church community.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **4.0 IS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE REALLY BEING USED IN CHURCH?**

#### **4.1 Television Evangelism**

Television has been an important way for Living Faith Church to reach people for many years. Programs like Winning Ways and Shiloh Hour have helped spread the church's message to many viewers. Today, AI is making television evangelism faster and more effective. One major benefit is in video editing. Instead of spending many hours editing sermons manually, AI can now do much of the work automatically. It can remove silent parts, add subtitles, and highlight important moments in the message (Ogunyemi, 2022). This allows the church to prepare and send out programs more quickly. AI also helps to personalize what viewers watch. For example, when someone watches a sermon on YouTube or the church app, AI can suggest similar messages based on their viewing history (Adeyinka, 2021). This keeps people engaged and encourages them to watch more.

Another important use is language translation. AI tools can now provide subtitles in local Nigerian languages such as Yoruba, Igbo, and Hausa in real time. This helps more people understand the message without needing many translators (Okonkwo & Eze, 2023). However, there are some concerns. Many viewers may not realize that AI is deciding what content they see, which could influence their spiritual growth without them knowing (Bishop, 2020). Also, if the translation is not accurate, it may change the meaning of Bible teachings (Nwagwu, 2022).

## **4.2 Radio Evangelism**

Radio is still very useful, especially for people living in rural areas where television and internet access are limited. Living Faith Church continues to use radio to reach such audiences, and AI is now improving how radio programs are created.

For example, AI can generate audio messages using a computer voice that sounds like a real pastor. This means a full sermon can be produced without the pastor being physically present in the studio (Chukwu, 2021). It also allows the church to broadcast in different languages at the same time.

AI is also used to plan and organize radio content. It can analyse listener feedback from calls to understand what topics people are interested in (Ekwueme, 2023). If many listeners ask about a particular issue, such as finances or prayer, the system can recommend more programs on that topic. In addition, AI can monitor broadcasts to prevent errors or inappropriate content from being aired (Folarin, 2020).

Despite these benefits, there are ethical issues. One concern is honesty. If listeners believe they are hearing a real pastor, but it is actually an AI-generated voice, this could be seen as misleading (Mbachu, 2022). Another issue is job loss, as automation may reduce the need for human workers in radio stations (Uzochukwu, 2021).

### **4.3 Computer**

Computers are the main tools that make AI possible in the church. Living Faith Church uses AI-powered computer systems for many activities behind the scenes.

One area is sermon preparation. Pastors can use AI tools, such as ChatGPT, to help organize their thoughts, find Bible verses, and develop sermon ideas (Olatunji, 2023). While this can save time, some people worry that it may reduce dependence on the Holy Spirit.

AI is also used to manage church data. Since the church has a large number of members worldwide, AI helps track attendance, online giving, and participation in programs (Okeke, 2022). This information helps church leaders make better decisions. For example, if fewer young people are watching a program, the church can adjust its approach. Another important use is virtual counseling. AI chatbots can respond to questions, give Bible-based answers, and even pray with users at any time of the day (Akinola & Ojo, 2023). This is helpful when no pastor is available.

However, there are concerns about privacy. Some people may feel uncomfortable knowing that their data is being collected and analysed. There is also the issue of responsibility—if an AI gives wrong advice, who should be blamed? (Idowu, 2022). In addition, relying too much on AI may make some pastors less prayerful or less spiritually sensitive (George, 2021).

#### **4.4 Other Electronic Means of Evangelism**

Apart from television, radio, and computers, Living Faith Church also uses other digital tools that involve AI. These include mobile apps, social media platforms, and smart devices.

##### **Mobile Apps**

The church has a mobile app called Winners' Chapel Worldwide. AI in the app suggests devotionals based on what a user reads or their interests (Eze, 2023). It also organizes prayer requests into categories like health, marriage, or finances, making it easier for prayer teams to respond (Nwachukwu, 2022).

##### **Social Media Bots**

On platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram, AI chatbots reply to messages automatically. People can ask simple questions or request prayers and get instant responses (Okafor, 2021). While this is convenient, it may not work well for deeper or more complex spiritual issues.

## **Smart Speakers and Streaming**

Some members use devices like voice assistants to listen to sermons. With a simple voice command, they can play messages from Bishop Oyedepo (Oyewole, 2022). Although this is easy and fast, it may reduce personal interaction.

## **Drones and Projection**

During large church programs like Shiloh, AI-controlled cameras and drones are used to record events. AI can quickly edit and share highlights online (Adebayo, 2023). Inside the church, projection systems can automatically display song lyrics and Bible verses during services. The main concern with these technologies is that they may reduce human connection. Christianity is built on fellowship and relationships, but too much dependence on AI may make worship feel less personal (Smith, 2019). There is also the issue of inequality, as not everyone can afford smartphones or internet access (Onyema, 2020). In addition, AI systems can sometimes fail, be hacked, or give incorrect information (Ugwu, 2021).

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **5.0 EVALUATION, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND CONCLUSION**

#### **5.1 Evaluation**

This project looked at how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is affecting religious programs in Living Faith Church Worldwide (Winners' Chapel). It also examined some of the moral and spiritual concerns connected to the use of AI in church activities. From the findings of this research, it is clear that AI is slowly becoming part of modern church life, especially in churches like Winners' Chapel that already make strong use of media and technology. The study showed that Winners' Chapel has always been open to using technology for evangelism and church growth. Over the years, the church has used radio, television, live streaming, social media, and mobile apps to spread the gospel to many people around the world. Because the church already values technology, it is easier for AI to become part of its programs and activities.

One major finding is that AI can help make church work easier and faster. AI tools can help edit sermon videos, organize church records, translate messages into different languages, and assist with online communication. For example, AI can automatically add subtitles to sermons, remove unnecessary pauses in videos, and help people from different language backgrounds understand church messages better. This allows the church to reach more people across different countries.

The researcher also found that AI can help in teaching and learning within the church. In children's church, AI can help teachers prepare Bible lessons, quizzes, and learning activities more quickly. For adults, pastors can use AI to search for Bible verses, organize sermon points, and prepare teaching materials. Since Winners' Chapel strongly believes in knowledge and learning, these uses of AI fit well with the church's teachings.

Another important discovery is that AI can improve church administration. Because Winners' Chapel has many branches around the world, managing church activities can sometimes be difficult. AI can help organize attendance records, coordinate events, manage volunteers, and improve communication

between church branches. During large programs like Shiloh, AI can also help with online streaming, translations, and media production.

Even though AI has many advantages, the study also discovered several concerns. One major concern is about spirituality and authenticity. Many Christians believe that preaching, prayer, counseling, and worship should come from human spiritual understanding and guidance from God. Although AI can provide information and generate messages, it does not have emotions, faith, or spiritual understanding like humans. Because of this, some people fear that depending too much on AI could reduce the spiritual depth of church activities.

The research also found concerns about privacy and personal information. AI systems usually collect data such as prayer requests, counseling discussions, and church attendance records. Since this information is personal and sensitive, there is a risk that it could be misused if it is not properly protected. Some church members may also feel uncomfortable knowing that their information is being analyzed by computer systems.

Another issue is bias in AI systems. AI learns from the information it is given, and if the information contains bias, the system may also produce unfair results. Since Winners' Chapel operates in many countries and cultures, church leaders must ensure that AI systems treat all members fairly and equally.

The researcher discovered that too much dependence on AI may reduce human relationships in the church. Christianity is based on fellowship, care, love, and personal interaction. AI may answer questions or provide information, but it cannot fully replace human compassion, encouragement, and emotional support from pastors and fellow believers. There are also concerns about employment. As AI begins to handle more tasks automatically, some media workers, editors, and technical staff may lose certain job opportunities within church organizations.

Overall, this study found that AI has both benefits and challenges in religious settings. AI can help improve evangelism, communication, teaching, and church administration when used carefully. However, if it is not properly

managed, it may create ethical problems and weaken the personal and spiritual aspects of church life.

## **5.2 Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this thesis, the following recommendations are suggested for Living Faith Church Worldwide and other churches that may want to use AI in their programs:

- i. **AI Should Assist, not replace human ministers:** AI should be used as a tool to support pastors and church workers, not to replace them. Important activities such as counseling, prayer, preaching, and spiritual guidance should still involve human pastors because AI cannot fully understand human emotions or spiritual needs.
- ii. **Churches Should Create Clear Rules for AI Use:** Living Faith Church should develop proper guidelines on how AI should be used in church activities. These rules will help ensure that AI is used in ways that agree with Christian values and church teachings.

- iii. **Members' Information Should Be Protected:** The church should make sure that personal information, such as prayer requests, counseling discussions, and financial records, is kept safe and confidential. Church members should also know how their information is being used.
- iv. **Human Supervision Is Necessary:** Church leaders should always check AI-generated materials before they are used. This is important because AI can sometimes give wrong information or produce messages that may not agree with church doctrine.
- v. **Church Workers Should Be Trained:** Pastors, media workers, and technical teams should be trained on how to use AI responsibly. Church members should also be educated about both the benefits and dangers of AI so that they do not depend on technology too much.
- vi. **Fellowship and Human Relationships Should Continue:** Even though technology is helpful, the church should continue encouraging physical gatherings, prayer meetings, counseling

sessions, and personal relationships among members. Christianity is built on love, fellowship, and human connection.

- vii. **AI Should Respect Different Cultures and Languages:** Since Winners' Chapel has branches in many countries, AI systems used by the church should respect different cultures and languages. Translation tools should also be checked carefully to avoid misunderstandings.
- viii. **More Research Should Be Encouraged:** More studies should be carried out on the relationship between AI and religion, especially in African churches. Since technology keeps changing, future researchers should continue studying how AI affects worship, church leadership, and spiritual life.
- ix. **Churches Should Be Honest About AI Usage:** Church members should know when they are interacting with AI systems instead of real people. This honesty will help build trust and prevent confusion.
- x. **AI Should Be Used to Help More People:** AI should be used in ways that make church activities easier for everyone, including people

with disabilities or language barriers. Tools such as subtitles, voice assistance, and translation systems can help more people participate in church programs.

### **5.3 Conclusion**

This project examined how Artificial Intelligence is influencing religious programs in Living Faith Church Worldwide (Winners' Chapel) and discussed the ethical concerns connected with its use. The research showed that AI is already becoming part of modern church activities through television programs, radio broadcasts, social media, online streaming, mobile apps, and church administration. The study also showed that Winners' Chapel has always accepted technology as an important tool for spreading the gospel. Because of this, AI can be seen as another step in the church's use of modern communication systems. AI offers many advantages, including faster communication, better organization, easier access to information, improved translations, and wider evangelism outreach.

However, the researcher also discovered that AI raises important spiritual and ethical concerns. Issues such as privacy, spiritual authenticity, bias, accountability, and overdependence on technology must be handled carefully. AI can provide information, but it cannot replace human compassion, emotional understanding, or spiritual guidance.

The project therefore, concludes that AI should be used carefully and responsibly in church activities. It should support the work of pastors and church leaders rather than replace the human and spiritual aspects of ministry. When used wisely, AI can help improve church programs and evangelism. But if it is not properly controlled, it may reduce personal relationships and affect the spiritual quality of worship.

Finally, churches must learn how to balance technology with spirituality. While AI can improve communication and organization, the church must continue to protect the human relationships, faith, and spiritual values that remain the foundation of Christianity.

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## List of Oral Interview Respondents

<b>SN</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position/ Description</b>	<b>Place Interviewed</b>	<b>Date Interviewed</b>
1	ELDER PETER OSAYI	ELDER	LFC, IHAMA ROAD BRANCH	15 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026
2	DEACONESS MARGARET IYAMU	DEACONESS	LFC, IHAMA ROAD BRANCH	15 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026
3	MR. BRIGHT EHIGIE	MEMBER	LFC, EKOSODIN BRANCH	17 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026
4	MR. JOSHUA OKEKE	MEMBER	LFC, EKOSODIN BRANCH	17 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026
5	MRS. GRACE EDOKPOLOR	MEMBER	LFC, EKOSODIN BRANCH	17 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026
6	MR. FRANK EGHAREVBA	MEMBER	LFC, IHAMA ROAD BRANCH	15 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026
7	MR. DESMOND OLUSEGUN	MEMBER	LFC, EKOSODIN BRANCH	17 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026
8	MRS. SHARON OLUFEMI	MEDIA	LFC, EKOSODIN BRANCH	17 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026
9	EVANG. JOSHUA OSAWE	EVANGELIS M	LFC, IHAMA BRANCH	15 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026
10	MRS. JOY EDOKPOLOR	MEDIA	LFC, IHAMA BRANCH	15 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026

11	MR. DANIEL OSAMWONYI	YOUTH MEMBER	LFC, IHAMA BRANCH	15 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026
12	MISS. FELICIA OBANOR	YOUTH MEMBER	LFC, EKOSODIN BRANCH	17 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026
13	DEACONESS ROSELINE OTOTE	WOMEN FELLOWSHI P	LFC, IHAMA BRANCH	15 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026
14	MRS. MERCY AIMUAMWONSA	WOMEN FELLOWSHI P	LFC, EKOSODIN BRANCH	17 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026
15	PST. MRS. FAITH OSAYANDE	PASTORATE	LFC, EKOSODIN BRANCH	17 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026