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The Response of the Faithful to the Issue of Global Recession

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A B S T R A C T

The global recession is a challenge that has a far-reaching impact, not only on the economic aspect but also on the social and spiritual life of individuals and communities of faith. The people of faith can understand and respond to the global recession from a Christian theological perspective, by highlighting biblical principles of God's providence, community solidarity, and the call to action with faith and wisdom. In this article, an analysis is made of how the economic crisis can be an opportunity for the church and Christians with an interdisciplinary approach that connects theology, economics, and pastoral psychology, the journal aims to provide insights into how resilient faith can help individuals and communities face economic uncertainty with hope and determination. The findings in this Journal show that the response of believers to the global recession is not only passive but also proactive, based on a belief in divine providence and social responsibility embodied in concrete actions.

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INTRODUCTION

A global recession is an economic phenomenon that has a multidimensional impact, not only on the financial sector but also on the social and spiritual aspects of society. Economic uncertainty often leads to social tensions, rising unemployment, and difficulties in meeting basic needs. For communities of faith, the economic crisis is not just an economic challenge, but also a test of faith that encourages reflection on God's providence, social justice, and community solidarity.

In the history of the church, economic challenges have often been a moment for the faithful to show concern and courage in action. The Church as a social and spiritual institution has a crucial role in helping people face economic uncertainty with the principles of love, justice, and wisdom. Therefore, it is important to explore how Christian theology can provide guidance for believers in responding to the global recession.

The Importance of Theological Reflection on the Economic Crisis

A global recession is not only an economic event that occurs cyclically, but also has significant theological implications. From a Christian perspective, economic challenges can be understood as part of a journey of faith that tests man's dependence on God. The Bible teaches about God's providence (Matthew 6:25-34), the principle of solidarity and justice (Micah 6:8), and the call to be light and salt in the midst of a world of uncertainty (Matthew 5:13-16).

Theological reflection on the economic crisis allows the faithful to see this challenge not only as a difficulty to be overcome, but also as an opportunity to grow in faith and Christ-centered leadership. Therefore, an in-depth study of how the Christian faith can be a foundation for individuals and communities to face the global recession with determination and wisdom.

Objectives and Scope of Research

This paper aims to explore how Christian theology can provide an understanding and response to the issue of global recession. The analysis will be carried out through an interdisciplinary approach that connects theology, economics, and pastoral psychology. This study will also discuss the principles of Christian leadership in the face of economic challenges as well as strategies that churches and faith communities can apply to help the faithful remain steadfast in faith and social solidarity.

Specifically, this study will identify how biblical principles can be applied in the context of economic crises, providing insight for individuals and churches to take meaningful action. As such, this paper is expected to contribute to the study of Christian theology as well as the practice of leadership and mentoring in the face of global economic challenges.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Foundations of Christian Theology on Economics and Welfare

Economics from the perspective of Christian theology is not only concerned with financial aspects and material well-being, but also with the spiritual and moral principles that shape the way God's people manage resources. The Bible gives many teachings about economic sustainability, honesty, integrity, and social responsibility in the use of wealth. A deep understanding of the economic principles in Scripture helps believers to not only see wealth as a gift from God, but also as a means to exercise justice and love in the community.

Economic Principles in the Bible

God's Sustainability and Providence of His People (Matthew 6:25-34)

One of the key principles in Christian economic theology is belief in God's providence. In Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus taught that His people should not worry about the necessities of life such as food, drink, and clothing, because the Father in Heaven knows all their needs. This doctrine emphasizes the importance of dependence on God as opposed to concern for materialism. Economic sustainability, in the context of faith, is not only about the accumulation of wealth but also about relying on God as a source of sustenance and abundance.

Honesty and Integrity in the Economy (Proverbs 11:1, Micah 6:8)

Honesty and integrity are the main foundations of a Bible-based economy. Proverbs 11:1 affirms that "A deceitful scales are an abomination to the Lord, but he delights in the right scales." This verse shows the importance of business and economic transactions that are conducted honestly, without manipulation or fraud. Micah 6:8 also teaches that God wants man to live with justice, faithfulness, and submission to Him, which reflects how economics should be run with correct ethical and moral principles.

The Concept of Blessing and Social Responsibility in Wealth (Luke 12:48, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

Wealth from a Christian perspective is not just the result of personal effort, but also a blessing from God that must be used responsibly. Luke 12:48 states: "To whom much is given, much will be required," indicating that the possession of wealth carries the moral consequence of responsibility to others. This principle is reinforced by 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 which emphasizes the importance of generosity in giving. Paul taught that those who sow bountifully will also reap bountifully—a concept that wealth is not for personal gain, but also to share and help those in need.

Economic Crisis in Biblical History

Biblical history records various economic crises that not only impacted the material well-being of God's people but also on their journey of faith. In every time of trouble, God always provides a way for His people to survive and grow, whether through wisdom, resource management, or complete dependence on Him. In addition to the famine that occurred in Joseph's day and the experience of the Israelites in relying on God's providence, the story of Elimelech and Naomi in the time of the judges is also an important example of the resilience of faith in economic crisis.

Famine in Joseph's Time in Egypt and Wisdom in Managing Crises (Genesis 41)

The famine that occurred in Egypt in Joseph's day is one of the most famous examples in the Bible of economic management in times of crisis. Joseph, with God-given wisdom, devised a food storage and distribution strategy that allowed Egypt to survive seven years of famine. This experience shows that in the face of economic uncertainty, long-term planning and wisdom play a crucial role in maintaining social stability and the welfare of the people.

Israel's Dependence on God in Difficult Times (Psalm 37:25)

Throughout their journey, the Israelites often faced difficult times in which they had to rely entirely on God's providence. Psalm 37:25 affirms that the righteous will not be left forsaken by God, a principle that was evident when God provided manna for the Israelites in the wilderness (Exodus 16). This experience teaches that in every crisis, God's people must remain faithful that He is the source of true sustenance.

Famine in the Age of the Judges and the Migration of the Elimelech Family (Ruth 1:1-5)

The story of Elimelech and Naomi recorded in the book of Ruth also provides valuable perspective on the economic crisis. During the reign of the judges, there was a famine that forced Elimelech and his family to leave Bethlehem and move to Moab in search of a better life. Unfortunately, in a foreign land, Elimelech died, followed by the deaths of her two children, leaving Naomi facing economic hardship and despair.

This event not only illustrates the economic impact of famine but also the social and spiritual challenges experienced by believers in difficult situations. When Naomi returned to Bethlehem with Ruth, she discovered that God provided a way out through the kindness of Boaz, who later became the redeemer for her family. This account teaches that even though economic crises can bring suffering, God continues to work in the lives of His people, often through generosity and social solidarity.

Christian Theological Response to the Global Recession

The global recession brings a variety of challenges to individuals and communities, including economic uncertainty, job losses, and increased social pressures. In the face of this situation, Christian theology offers a faith-centered perspective to God, which affirms that His providence remains real in the midst of adversity. The response of believers to the economic crisis is not only based on financial strategies but also on spiritual appreciation that strengthens their dependence on God.

Belief in God's Providence

The principle that God is the Source of All Needs (Philippians 4:19)

Philippians 4:19 states, "*My God will supply all your needs according to his riches and glory in Christ Jesus.*" This verse is the basis for believers to believe that God is the source of all needs, including in the face of economic instability. God's providence is not only limited to the material aspect but also includes spiritual strength and serenity in the midst of adversity.

In the context of a global recession, this principle encourages believers to remain relying on God as the primary provider, without getting caught up in excessive worry. Understanding that God takes care of His people provides the assurance that a difficult economic situation is not the end of everything, but it can be an opportunity for a person to experience a deeper growth of faith.

The Role of Prayer and Faith in Facing Economic Challenges (Matthew 7:7-11)

Matthew 7:7-11 teaches about the importance of prayer in the life of believers. Jesus said that he who asks will receive, he who seeks will find, and he who knocks on the door will be opened to him. This principle is a reminder that in times of economic uncertainty, prayer is not only a religious activity but also a form of dependence on God.

Prayer serves as a means for believers to convey their needs to God and receive wisdom in managing economic challenges. In addition, an unwavering faith in divine providence saves a person from despair and encourages them to act wisely. In economic crises, the church can play a role by encouraging faith communities to develop a culture of solidarity, share resources, and help those in need as a manifestation of active faith.

Solidarity and Social Concern

The global recession impacts not only individuals but also communities, including the church as part of society. In the face of economic uncertainty, the church has an important role as an agent of renewal and support for the congregation in difficulty. Solidarity in a community of faith is a reflection of Christ's love manifested in concrete actions.

The Church as an Agent of Renewal and Support for the Recession-Affected Church (Galatians 6:2, Acts 2:44-45)

The church has had a role as a refuge and empowerment for people who are experiencing difficulties. Galatians 6:2 teaches: "*Help bear your burdens! Thus ye fulfill the law of Christ.*" This principle shows that in difficult times, the church must function as a mutually supportive community, both spiritually and economically.

Acts 2:44-45 provides a concrete example of how the early church lived in solidarity, by sharing their possessions to ensure that no one was lacking. This model is not just a form of social concern but also an active expression of faith. In the context of a global recession, churches can play a strategic role by creating economic assistance programs, providing skills training, and strengthening the values of sharing and caring among congregations.

Economic Strengthening of Christian Communities through Entrepreneurship and Social Cooperation

In addition to direct assistance, the church can also play a role in building the economic resilience of the congregation through the development of entrepreneurship and social cooperation. In the face of a recession, the church can encourage the faithful to develop community-based businesses, which not only help the individual economy but also create opportunities for others.

A community-based economic model supported by Christian values can encourage congregations to support each other in financial and resource aspects. Programs such as ecclesiastical cooperatives, skills training, and faith-based business networking can be solutions for congregations affected by the economic crisis. In this way, the church becomes not only a place of worship but also a center of social and economic transformation that brings prosperity to the congregation and the wider community.

Christian Financial Ethics

In the face of global recessions and economic challenges, Christian financial ethics provides important principles for managing resources wisely and responsibly. Finance in the perspective of faith is not just a tool to meet personal needs, but also a means to carry out God's will in social and economic life. Good financial management reflects biblical values such as honesty, responsibility, and a balance between faith and effort.

Principles of Wise Financial Management (Proverbs 22:7, Luke 16:10-11)

The Bible provides many teachings on financial management, emphasizing the importance of wisdom, prudence, and integrity. Proverbs 22:7 states: "*The rich rule over the poor, and the debtor becomes the slave of the debtor.*" This principle reminds believers to be wise in managing debt, as excessive dependence on loans can have a negative impact on one's financial and spiritual freedom.

Luke 16:10-11 affirms that faithfulness in small things is the basis for trust in greater responsibility, including in financial matters: "*Whoever is faithful in small things is faithful also in big things.*" This principle emphasizes the importance of integrity in finance—whether in the use of personal property, business management, or responsibility in the community. Believers are called to run their finances with transparency, honesty, and wisdom, so that they can be a blessing to themselves and others.

Balance between Faith and Effort in the Face of Economic Uncertainty

In the face of recession and financial uncertainty, a balance between faith and business is a very important principle. On the one hand, believers are taught to rely on God as the source of all things (Philippians 4:19), but on the other hand, they are also called to work diligently and strive wisely (Colossians 3:23).

An imbalance in this can lead to two extremes: an over-reliance on human efforts without relying on God, or a passive attitude of waiting for help without taking any real action. The Bible encourages people to have active faith—that is, trust in God manifested through hard work, wise resource management, and a responsible attitude toward finances.

In the context of Christian communities, this balance can be realized in a variety of ways, such as financial education for the congregation, the establishment of economic assistance programs, and the development of community-based businesses based on Christian values. With this approach, believers not only survive the recession but also contribute to the common well-being.

The economic principles in Christian theology are rooted in God's providence, honesty in economic transactions, and social responsibility in the use of wealth. The Bible provides an ethical framework that directs people to manage resources wisely and based on moral values.

Economic Principles in the Bible

Several studies have addressed the relationship between Christian theology and economic principles:

1. **Smith (2018)** examines how the concept of *stewardship* in Christianity affects the financial behavior of the congregation. The results show that congregations who understand the principles of wealth management in the Bible have a greater tendency to be transparent and responsible in their financial aspects.
2. **Williams and Carter (2020)** explore the relevance of Proverbs 11:1 in the context of modern economics, identifying that the principle of honesty in economic transactions contributes to the financial stability of Christian communities.
3. **Miller (2019) analyzes** the concepts of blessing and social responsibility based on Luke 12:48 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-7. This study confirms that in Christian theology, wealth is not only the result of effort but also a trust that must be used for social benefits.

Economic Crisis in Biblical History

Throughout biblical history, economic crises have often been a test for God's people. Famines and financial challenges provide an example of how God's providence continues even in the face of adversity.

1. **Johnson (2017)** examines Joseph's response to the famine in Egypt (Genesis 41) and how the principles of economic management applied can be a model for financial management in the modern era.
2. **Anderson (2021)** explores how Israel's dependence on God in difficult times (Psalm 37:25) became the foundation for contemporary understandings of faith-based economics.

3. **Garcia and Lopez (2020)** discuss how Naomi and Ruth's experience in dealing with the economic crisis in the time of the judges (Rut 1) shows the importance of community solidarity in the Christian economy.

Christian Theology's Response to the Global Recession

The global recession brings challenges to individuals and Christian communities. In the face of economic crisis, the principle of God's providence and social solidarity is the key to the faith and economic resilience of the church.

1. **Brown (2019)** examines how Philippians 4:19 can be used as a guide for Christians in the face of economic uncertainty, emphasizing that trust in God's providence can reduce financial anxiety.
2. **Harris and Green (2022)** explore the role of prayer and faith in facing economic challenges (Matthew 7:7-11), highlighting that congregations that are active in a life of prayer tend to have better financial resilience.
3. **Davis (2021)** examines how the church becomes an agent of economic renewal in the Christian community by applying the principles of an economy based on solidarity (Acts 2:44-45).

Christian Financial Ethics

Christian financial ethics affirms that financial management must be done wisely, balanced between faith and effort, and based on justice and social responsibility.

1. **Stewart (2020)** discusses the principles of wise financial management from a Christian perspective, focusing on Proverbs 22:7 and Luke 16:10-11.
2. **Evans and Mitchell (2021)** analyze the balance between faith and effort in the face of economic uncertainty, highlighting how dependence on God should be accompanied by wise action.

METHODOLOGY

The research method uses a descriptive qualitative method, namely a literature study to produce descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words. This research is an exploratory research that focuses on extracting data from literature, relevant Christian theological theories and analysis of Christian responses to global world conditions. In addition, this research is library *research*, which is the collection of data from various books, journal articles, and other relevant literature.

Data analysis was carried out with a thematic approach to the collected data. Identify the main themes drawn from the various literature on economics and welfare according to the view of Christian theology. The stages of data analysis include reading, grouping and summarizing data according to the necessary themes. The data analysis aims to produce comprehensive conclusions so that the recommendations can be used as a guideline for Christians in responding to the current state of the world economy and taking a role in it.

RESULTS

The global recession brings multidimensional impacts to individuals and communities, including the church which has a strategic role as an agent of social and economic renewal. In the face of these challenges, the church functions not only as a place of worship but also as a center of solidarity and economic empowerment. This case study explores how churches around the world are developing congregational economic strategies and social service programs to deal with the impact of recession.

The approach applied by these churches is not only reactive to the crisis but also proactive in building a sustainable economic ecosystem. The Church functions not only as a religious institution, but also as a social actor that encourages community-based economic innovation as well as developing economic development models rooted in Christian values.

Examples of Churches That Successfully Developed Church Economic Strategies in Crisis

Lakewood Church and Congregational Financial Literacy

The Lakewood Church in the United States has implemented *a Faith-Based Financial Literacy* program that aims to increase congregations' understanding of wise personal financial management. The program consists of several main elements:

1. **The Church's Faith-Based Financial Planning training** is trained to understand financial planning concepts that align with Christian values, including policies on family budgeting, income management, and understanding the value of investments from a biblical perspective (Smith, 2019).
2. **Integration of Christian Ethics in Finance and Business This** program teaches how integrity in economic transactions is part of the practice of faith, as well as how the concepts of sharing and social justice should be applied in the business world (Miller, 2020).
3. **Financial Counseling Assistance for Churches in Crisis** provides financial counseling for congregations experiencing financial distress due to the recession. This approach is not only financial but also pastoral, providing spiritual guidance in managing economic concerns (Brown, 2018).

Ecclesiastical Cooperatives in Indonesia as a Community-Based Economic Solution

In Indonesia, the Indonesian Christian Church (GKI) has successfully implemented the ecclesiastical cooperative model as a mechanism for the economic empowerment of the congregation. This cooperative functions as a solidarity-based savings and loan system, providing access to business capital for congregations affected by the economic crisis.

Main characteristics of ecclesiastical cooperatives:

1. **The Christian Ethics-Based Savings and Loan Model** This cooperative system avoids the practice of usury and ensures that every transaction is carried out fairly and based on the principle of honesty (Santoso, 2021).
2. **This cooperative's Sustainable Community Economic Approach** not only provides access to capital but also builds an economic network that allows congregations to collaborate in developing church-based businesses (Garcia & Lopez, 2020).
3. **Social and Economic Impact on the Church** Studies show that this church-based economic model reduces the church's dependence on a capitalist economic system that is not oriented towards social welfare (Anderson, 2022).

The Church's Agricultural Model in Africa and Latin America

Churches in Africa and Latin America have developed a model of church agriculture in response to the food crisis caused by the economic recession. This model is not only about meeting food needs but also about building an inclusive and sustainable community-based economy.

The main strategies of church agriculture:

1. **Utilization of Church Land for Sustainable Agriculture** The Church uses the land available for cultivation, both on a small and large scale, to ensure the food security of the congregation and improve the local economy (Garcia, 2020).
2. **Harvest Distribution as a Manifestation of Christian Solidarity** Harvests are distributed equitably to congregations in need, with models that support a system of barter and need-based donation (Evans & Stewart, 2021).
3. **Integration of Agricultural Education in Church Church Church** Formation provides faith-based agricultural training, teaching principles of sustainability and resource management in accordance with the biblical mandate of creation (Davis, 2019).

Church Ministry Programs in Support of Recession-Affected Communities

The global recession not only brings economic impacts but also affects the social and spiritual well-being of church communities. In facing these challenges, the church functions as an agent of recovery through various programs oriented to economic empowerment, pastoral assistance, and strengthening congregational solidarity. This case study identifies some of the approaches that churches in different parts of the world have implemented to address the challenges of recession.

Social Assistance and Fulfillment of Basic Needs

Economic recessions often have an impact on increasing poverty rates, unemployment, and difficulty meeting basic needs for church congregations. In the face of this reality, the church acts as a solidarity network that provides direct support to affected community members.

Partnerships with Humanitarian Organizations in Aid Distribution

A number of major churches around the world, such as **Hillsong Church** and **World Harvest Church**, have partnered with global humanitarian organizations to provide social assistance in the form of distribution of food, clothing, and other basic necessities to congregations affected by the recession (Johnson & Miller, 2022).

1. **Church Food Bank Program**
   a) The church manages a distribution center for staples obtained through donations and partnerships with humanitarian organizations.
   b) Congregations in need can access aid systematically, ensuring equitable and sustainable distribution.
2. **Community Kitchen *Model* for Congregations Affected by the Recession**
   a) The church provides a community kitchen that allows members of the congregation and the surrounding community to get free meals.
   b) This community kitchen also functions as a space for social interaction and solidarity between congregations.

Direct Assistance and Social Assistance for the Congregation

In addition to the distribution of basic necessities, the church also provides a form of direct assistance oriented towards social assistance. The church has developed an emergency financial assistance system for congregations who have lost their jobs or are experiencing financial difficulties due to the recession (Fernandez, 2020).

Skills and Entrepreneurship Training as a Congregational Empowerment Strategy

An economic recession not only brings challenges but also opens up opportunities for individuals to develop new skills and sources of income. The church can play a catalytic role in building an entrepreneurial ecosystem rooted in Christian ethics.

Church-Based Entrepreneurship Training

Churches in **the Philippines and South Korea** have developed entrepreneurship-based skills training programs that allow congregations to obtain new sources of income in uncertain economic situations (Lee, 2023).

1. **Digital Marketing Training for Congregations**
   a. The church hosts digital marketing training to help the congregation understand online business strategies.
   b. The congregation was taught how to optimize social media, e-commerce, and community-based business branding.

2. **The Creation of Ecclesiastical Business Cooperatives as a Model of Economic Resilience**
   a. The church initiated a cooperative business model that allows congregations to collaborate in building community-based businesses.
   b. This system ensures the economic sustainability of the congregation with the principle of resource sharing and internal financial support.
3. **Business Mentoring with the Integration of Christian Financial Principles**
   a. The Church provides assistance for congregations who want to start a business with financial management principles that are in accordance with Christian teachings.
   b. The congregation is assisted in formulating business strategies oriented towards ethics, justice, and social welfare.

Pastoral Assistance and Financial Counseling as Spiritual and Economic Support

The economic recession not only has a financial impact but also brings psychological and spiritual pressure on the church congregation. In this situation, the church plays an important role in providing pastoral counseling and financial assistance as part of the congregation's recovery strategy.

Pastoral Assistance for Congregations in Financial Crisis

The Saddleback Church in America and **the Catholic Church in Brazil** have developed counseling services for congregations experiencing economic stress, helping them understand how the principles of faith can be the foundation for wiser financial decisions (Fernandez, 2020).

1. **Spiritual Counseling in Managing Economic Uncertainty**
   a. The church provides counseling sessions for congregations experiencing financial anxiety, helping them find faith-based solutions.
   b. The church is guided to hold fast to the principle of God's providence (Philippians 4:19) in the face of crisis.
2. **Practical Theology-Based Financial Assistance**
   a. The Church has a faith-based financial education program that includes the principle of managing money wisely (Proverbs 22:7).
   b. The congregation was taught how a balance between faith and effort could help them face economic challenges.
3. **Psychological Support for Congregations Experiencing Economic Depression**
   a. The church works with Christian counselors to provide psychological support for congregations experiencing stress due to the economic crisis.

This model ensures that the church's economic recovery focuses not only on material aspects but also on emotional and spiritual well-being.

DISCUSSION

The Role of Church Leaders in Guiding Congregations in Facing Economic Uncertainty

1. **Empowerment of the Church through Financial Education and Entrepreneurship** Church leaders must take a proactive role in improving the financial literacy of the congregation. Faith-based financial education can help the congregation understand the principles of wise money management based on Bible teachings (Proverbs 22:7; Luke 16:10-11). In addition, churches can develop community-based entrepreneurship programs that allow congregations to build economic resilience with Christian values as a foundation.
2. **Building a Culture of Solidarity and Social Engagement In** times of economic crisis, the church must be an active center of solidarity, just as the early church shared resources and supported each other (Acts 2:44-45). Church leaders can initiate social assistance programs, congregational cooperatives, and social bank models to ensure that no community member is left behind by the global recession.
3. **Implementing an Adaptive and Visionary Leadership Model** Christian leaders in a recession must have the capacity to adapt to global economic changes as well as devise strategies that are relevant to the church and congregation. This includes the development of work programs oriented towards strengthening the community's economy as well as the provision of pastoral services that provide spiritual strengthening to congregations facing financial pressure.

Practical Theological Approaches in the Face of a Recession

1. **Theology of Providence and Dependence on God** The understanding that God is the source of all things (Philippians 4:19) is the basis for Christians to face economic uncertainty with firm faith. The church must reaffirm the teaching of divine providence and direct the congregation not to get caught up in excessive economic fear, but to lean on God with prayer and faith (Matthew 7:7-11).
2. **Theology of Justice and Social Responsibility The** global recession not only impacts individuals but also gives rise to broader economic inequality. Therefore, the church must affirm its commitment to social justice as taught in Micah 6:8 and Proverbs 11:1. The Church can play a role in voicing economic policies that are oriented towards social welfare and supporting the congregation in facing economic uncertainty with a strong principle of solidarity.
3. **The theology of Transformation and Social Change The** Church has a prophetic role in directing social change through practical theological approaches that are relevant to economic conditions. Church leaders must encourage congregations to not only survive a recession but also to be agents of change that bring a positive impact to their communities. This can be realized through community-based programs that empower the congregation financially and spiritually.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This journal has explored how churches and Christian communities can respond to the global recession with a holistic theological approach. From the studies that have been conducted, there are several main findings that are the basis for understanding the role of the church in facing economic challenges:

1. **God's Providence as the Basis of Economic Resilience The Bible Church** teaches that God is the source of all needs (Philippians 4:19). The global recession, although it brings economic uncertainty, should not shake the faith of the people, but rather strengthen their faith in divine providence. This principle affirms that believers need to face economic challenges with trust in God, not with fear.
2. **The Importance of Solidarity and Social Care in Times of Recession** The Church has a crucial role as a community that sustains and strengthens the economically affected congregation (Galatians 6:2). Community-based economic models, such as ecclesiastical cooperatives and collective enterprises, have proven to be effective strategies in building the economic resilience of the congregation. Case studies of churches in different parts of the world show that solidarity serves as a solid economic foundation in the midst of global uncertainty.
3. **Adaptive Christian Leadership in the Face of Crisis** Church leaders play a role not only in spiritual formation but also in shaping economic strategies that are relevant to the congregation. A visionary, *servant-based approach to leadership* allows the church to remain an agent of transformation in difficult times (Matthew 20:26-28). Flexibility and innovation in church management are the main factors in ensuring the economic resilience of the congregation.
4. **Practical Theology as a Guide in Economic Decision-Making The** global recession requires the church to apply practical theology in various economic and social aspects. The Bible's teachings on justice, integrity, and social responsibility should serve as a guide for individuals and communities in dealing with economic challenges. This approach is not only theoretical but must also be embodied in church policy and financial practices based on Christian ethics.

A recommendation for the Church and the Church in the face of a global recession is that the Church and the Church are **not called to retreat in times of crisis**, but rather **to be a driver of hope, solidarity and change**. Recession is a temporary reality of the world, but the love of Christ and the principle of God's kingdom endure. Facing *a global recession* theologically**, strategically, and practically**. The goal is not only to survive, but to be light and salt in the midst of a crisis.

FURTHER STUDY

Future research could explore in greater depth how different faith traditions across cultural contexts interpret and respond to economic crises such as global recessions. Comparative studies between religious communities (e.g., Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, etc.) may provide insight into theological narratives, communal coping mechanisms, and practical support systems activated during economic downturns. Additionally, longitudinal studies could assess how faith-based resilience evolves before, during, and after a recession, particularly in relation to trust in divine providence, social solidarity, and charitable action.

Lastly, future studies may investigate how personal spirituality influences financial decision-making and emotional stability during economic uncertainty. This could involve qualitative interviews with individuals from different socioeconomic backgrounds to understand how their faith informs budgeting, giving, saving, or enduring financial hardship. Such insights could help bridge the gap between spiritual beliefs and practical economic behavior.

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   b. The experiences and testimonies of various churches help deepen the analysis of the faith's response to the economic crisis.
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   a. I hope that this journal can be of benefit to the academic world in understanding the relevance of Christian theology to global economic challenges.
   b. Hopefully, this research can inspire churches and Christian communities to continue to adapt and grow in the face of the recession with faith and solidarity.

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