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NAOMI-RUTH RELATIONSHIP: MODEL FOR  
MENTORING LYDIA MEMBERS  
IN OGBOMOSO NORTH-EAST  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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## ABSTRACT

This research focused on Naomi-Ruth relationship for mentoring Lydia members in Ogbomoso North-East Baptist Association. The aim of this project is examine how effective the mentoring relation is among the Lydia members and their advisors. The relevant literature review on the Naomi-Ruth mentoring relationship had been discussed by some scholars who proved that mentorship has a great impact on the life of two people or group of people involved in relationship. Scholars have reasons why mentoring is a good tool in discipleship. A great example from the Bible showed that mentoring had long been in existence. This will enhance the training of Lydia advisers in the association. The sample used for the study consisted of 180 respondents from eighteen churches (Lydia members and advisers) in the association. Data was collected using a self-developed questionnaire with six sections. The sections raised questions on personal data for the respondents to answer. The data collected were analyzed using simple percentages. The results of the study have shown that Lydia leadership lack the following qualities: organizational skills- that is ability to effectively organize workshop, seminars, prayer meetings; lack of reinforcement in relating with Lydia. It was discovered that home condition of most Lydia and their advisers serves as discouraging elements to community. Home are work pressure place on both the Lydia and adviser psychological impediments to their loyalty to group solidarity. As a means of enhance growth and attainment of the objectives of the Lydia Auxiliary, the following recommendations were made: In order for the Lydia members to sense of affinity to a parent- body, there is the need to have more frequent programmes that will bring the members in the association together, utilizing able resource persons and materials. There is the need for breaching the gap between the Lydia members and they would see that they are not a group on

their own. A revitalization of the mission – objection of the Lydia Auxillary is imperative through proactive church- involvement in the Lydia mission –projects. These could be achieved though integration of all mission-projects by various groups in the church. Leadership-education is needed in the church so as to correct the wrong notion of many that see leadership as a mean of enhancing social status. This education will correct leadership tussle that often comes up in choosing leaders for the Lydia group. There is need for annual appreciation of faithful workers within the Lydia Auxiliary in the churches and associations.

## Conclusion

From the findings of this research, it is discovered that some churches have great potentials in the quality of the Lydia advisors they have; however, these potentials need to be properly educated and guided toward fulfilling the vision for the Lydia auxiliary.

The use of mentoring as a model will change a lot in the Lydia members' life style. If this group of people can be tutored, then greater will be the results of the growth of the body of Christ in homes, churches, and society. The Lydia auxiliary is an organization of young adults centered in ministry; lives of these individuals must never be toiled with.

Anyone who will be an adviser to the Lydia Auxiliary is expected to have the following qualities: Must be born-again; Free from any questionable character; Be exemplary in personal comportment, moral uprightness; Mature enough so as to command respect, have genuine love and interest for the group. She must be a woman of faith and prayer.

All mentoring is to shape the Life of the Lydia prepared for Kingdom work. The most important goal is raising individuals up to maturity. They can now be equipped to spread the gospel message to multiply a Christ-Like Testimony (2 Tim 2:2, 1Thess 1:6-8 ).The Lydia Adviser is the life wire of the Lydia Auxiliary, she determines what to do using the WMU materials, where to go and how to do it.

A great responsibility is laid on the Advisers. An adviser therefore, guides, instructs and trains. She must not be a novice in the system, but a woman of knowledge about the system. The work of the Lydia adviser should not be handled with levity but much zeal.

## Recommendations

1. In order for the Lydia members to sense of affinity to a parent-body, there is the need to have more frequent programmes that will bring the members in the association together, utilizing able resource persons and materials.
2. There is the need for breaching the gap between the Lydia members and the pastorate through frequent interaction with the Lydia-group; by this, the Lydia members would see that they are not a group on their own.
3. A revitalization of the mission-objective of the Lydia Auxiliary is imperative through proactive church-involvement in the Lydia mission-projects. These could be achieved through integration of all mission-projects by various groups in the church.
4. Leadership-education is needed in the church so as to correct the wrong notion of many that see leadership as a mean of enhancing social status. This education will correct leadership tussle that often comes up in choosing leaders for the Lydia-group.
5. There is need for annual appreciation of faithful workers within the Lydia Auxiliary in churches and associations.