

THE HISTORY AND GROWTH OF PRECIOUS BAPTIST CHURCH, IWO

FROM 1953-2015

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the history and growth of Precious Baptist Church Iwo, from 1953-2015. It is disheartening to note that she falls under the categories of churches that lacked written records. It could also be noted that nobody as old as the church is, had taken up the challenge of writing the history of the church even though she is blessed with learned people who could be of help in this regard. The writer really depended much of his information from oral interview of members of the church, some Baptist Missionaries and some past leaders of the church, reports, log book, minutes of the church from the church secretary. Also programme booklets and the like are consulted. As a bonafide member of the church, personal information and experiences relevant to the work would help in the getting of data and information. Books and other Literature materials were also consulted. The findings will help the church to focus on the past struggles, successes, to portray failure and plans for a better future. It will also determine the influence or effects of the struggled and activities on the physical and spiritual growth of the church. Recommendations are also made by the writer on the way forward both physically and spiritually.

After a careful study of the History and Growth of Precious Baptist Church, Iwo from January 1953- December 2015, It is evident that some areas need amendment so that the church can experience tremendous growth both physically and spiritually. Therefore, as a Researcher, I want to make these recommendations for improvement as thus;

1 The church should allow the church pastors to work as directed by the Holy Spirit. They should cooperate with them and desist from forcing pastors out of the mission with baseless accusations without the voice of God. For example, the first resident pastor was “fired” for starting prayers in the name of Jesus, for organizing vigil and for shouting Halleluyah. The man was sent away unceremoniously. The children were not given opportunity to further their secondary education at Baptist High School, Iwo. This is a curse for the church which will attract Gods wrath. The other two pastors that came after Rev. Adejuwon also went away. It was the intervention of the Holy Spirit that led the present pastor Rev. Dr. Oluwoye to go and mediate between the three pastors before there could be

breakthrough. The church became stagnated and backward for about 20 years. And so I conclude that for the church to enjoy divine blessing, increase and breakthrough, the church should keep its Pastor, and depend wholly on God

2. The church record or log book should be updated and well kept. Information between Jan 1953 to April 1986 is missing. This constitutes a vital aspect of the church. The church should harness resources to make a history book that will be accessible and bought by members.

3. Very many people are without homogenous societies in the church. This is a way of dodging their financial commitment to the church as there is nobody to monitor them.

4. Most of the powerful messages that are been preached by the church Pastor should be recorded on video and audio. The proceeds will be used to develop the church.

5. The church has many illiterate members, therefore, the church should begin Adult Literacy Education. If members know how to read and write, it will decrease the stress by the Pastor.

6. Discipleship programme that had stopped need to be resurrected. This is to increase the spiritual life of members and to train young converts into spiritual maturity

Honestly speaking, if these recommendations are followed to the letter by the church, there will be notable result.