

HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH, AJADI-
ABIDIODAN, IBADAN FROM 1997 – 2014.

An Essay Submitted to Faculty of Theological Studies, The Nigerian
Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomoso, In Partial Fulfilment
of the, Requirements for the Award of the
Degree Master of Divinity

BY
Olumide Eyitayo, OGUNDELE
11/0028

JUNE, 2016

ABSTRACT

The title of this project is “History and Development of Providence Baptist Church, Ajadi- Abidiiodan Ibadan, from 1997 to 2014”. The purpose for the choice of this study is to have a well documented History of Providence Baptist Church from inception to year 2014. It is said that history aids full documentation of events of the past and the past event documented will refresh ones memories of the past in the light of the present realities and helping in planning for the future. Records that are adequately documented and properly kept will help to overcome the challenges of distortion of historical facts. The methodology used in this work includes historical and descriptive approaches. Furthermore, analytical method was employed. Through this work, it has been discovered that Church is not only the physical building in which people gathered to worship. But it is seen as the community of all true believers of all time. True believers are those redeemed by God through the blood of Jesus Christ. Also the Church is meant to be in fellowship with Christ and to minister in His nature, to love one another, bring all men to Christ, make disciple of all nations and guide Christians in growing towards Christ likeness. It is discovered through this research that these features are seen in Providence Baptist Ajadi- Abidiiodan Ibadan, in her history considered from 1997 to 2014. Therefore the work ends with the following recommendations. That Providence Baptist Church, Ibadan should be more proactive in Planting more mission Churches for there is more ground to break. The Church should not relent in its effort to give sound biblical education to its members through teaching and preaching the undiluted word of God. The Church should be more committed to mission, evangelism and outreaches. The Church should also organize conference and seminar for members on how to effectively witness. Finally, more attention should be placed on social well being of members especially on visitation of members.

5.2 Conclusion

Church is seen as the community of all true believers of all time, and the true believers are the redeemed by God through the blood of Jesus Christ. The Church is meant to be in fellowship with Christ and to minister in His nature, to love one another, bring all men to Christ, make disciple of all nations and guide Christians in growing towards Christ likeness.

Providence Baptist Church can be said to reflect qualities in her activities by maintaining fellowship every Sundays and Wednesdays in other to nurture the members through the word of God, prayer and making them to have sense of belonging. The lord has helped and is still helping Providence Baptist Church in showing love to one another by participating in social activities of members, showing

concern to sick and old people and interceding for the members that are facing one challenges or the other.

The Church has also been into evangelism both within and outside the church environ, in fulfilling the great commission mandated the church by Christ. The Church is not a place to discriminate, not a place for tribalism. It is the gathering of all believers in respective of race, tribe and age. That is why Providence Baptist Church Ibadan is known as “Joyful Assembly” with all the members sharing the joy of the Lord no matter the background, age, status and tribe of the members. Members worship as one big family and their joy know no bound.

5.3 Recommendation

Having considered the History Providence Baptist Church Ibadan from 1997 to 2014, the discoveries made coupled with the role, and functions of the Church examined under the literature review prompted the following recommendations. Planting of more mission Churches should be embark upon. In the opinion of the writer, the church that is almost twenty years old and had just planted two churches has a long way to go. There is more ground to break and the Church should double its effort to utilize all the resources in its capacity and the opportunity gotten to achieve this.

The Church should not relent on its effort to give sound biblical education to its members through teaching and preaching the undiluted word of God. The age we are now is filled with lots of wolves in sheep clothing going about with strange doctrines to pollute the Church. The time has come for the Church to feed its sheep very well so that strange doctrine will not sway them away from the Lord.

The Church should be more committed to mission, evangelism and outreaches. More is needed to be done on our mission fields, like sponsoring the education of the missionaries children, The Church should grow beyond sending material things and money to the mission fields but to participate by paying visit to the mission fields (both home and foreign mission fields). The Church can also organize conference and seminar for members on how to effectively witness.

On social well being of members more needs to be done especially on visitation of members. This will go a long way in retaining members and giving them sense of belonging.

The Church should be prayerful and be engage in character building, in the following areas: Improved Administrative ability, unity and cooperation among the leadership and followership, integration and involvement of new members in the Church activities, helping members to discover and make use of their gifts for the progress of the Church, side talk, blackmailing and slandering should not be allowed and encouraged, appreciation should be organized for the entire officer that had served at the completion of their tenure, members should catch and align in God given vision for the Church through the Church Pastor. Better and greater future is desired for Providence Baptist Church, Ibadan may this be achieved in Jesus name. Amen