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**THE RELEVANCE OF CHURCH MINISTER OF M.DIV. RE.
EDUCATION IN GIDEON 1 BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
LAGOS STATE**

DEGREE ESSAY PRESENTED TO THE
FACULTY OF EDUCATION IN
THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
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**IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF DIVINITY IN
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to examine “The Relevance of church Minister of Education” and church life in Gideon 1 Baptist Association, Lagos State. It is done with an expectation that the study would help the local Baptist congregations to understand not only the importance of minister of education but also the church educational ministry and church purpose to the world. A total number of 120 questionnaires were used and validated to gather responses from the selected churches in the association. However, the information received from the questionnaires showed that indeed, for the educational ministry to fulfill its mission, there is a need for a church minister of education to lead it. Of importance is that a church minister of education is the person God calls and having been trained to specifically handle this task effectively and efficiently.

Although there is a great understanding and support for the church minister of education, there are general complains such as no finance, role conflicts, and ignorance among some members. In addition, some church ministers of education perform below expectation that leads to the assumption that there would always be volunteer members who could do the work likewise. The findings of this study therefore recommend that every pastor and local Baptist church should come to term in their understanding and be ready for growth and development by calling a minister of church education as best tool to achieve church mission at large.

of education in Gideon 1 Baptist Association is just a mere theory. It is a total paper work. There is no single church that engages the service of church minister of education as a true test of what they believe about its ministry. The only church that ever engaged the service of a church minister of education, this same minister resigned just of recent. The implication of this is that the volunteers that were not trained to be church education ministers have handled educational responsibilities of churches in this association. Nonetheless, the information further gathered revealed agitation for the service of church minister of education in the association except for the fact that there are complains such as lack of finance, role conflicts, ignorance of some members, inability of some church minister of education found around to convince neighbour churches and the more feeling that there are always alternative for it. Consequently, for a total growth and development, a church minister of education is the best tool church can use to achieve its mission and this is the relevance.

Thus, all the five hypotheses formulated were rejected due to high percentage of support for the church minister of education in the life of the church. This study showed a high regard and acceptance of church minister of educations' roles in the church educational ministry of church life.

Conclusion.

The church minister of education's place in the life of the church growth and development is important. He being the part of church ministerial staff brought about great transformation in church members' view of God, life and daily experiences. The church minister of education as an agent of change helps to organize and evaluate teaching aspect of the church life to be more relational and rewarding to both the church and its members. Hence, Ayeni (Interview December 2002) is of the opinion that church minister of education performs educational responsibilities to the church

members rightly to develop the totality of the church members. Again, that, it is a way of share ministry. The church minister of education makes division of labour possible that in the consequence allow for spiritual growth and development of the members. It is also an aid to effective outreach effort of the church.

Therefore, seeing the enormous benefits of involving church minister of education in carrying out the church missions at large should pose a big challenge to every local Baptist church. Though there could be other complains as noticed in the summary, these could not be compared to the benefit and eternal effect of affecting members' life and the world at large, and thereby, fulfilling God's mandate to the church. The church minister of education is an indispensable instrument every church should engage his service for effective and efficient results.

Recommendations:

According to the findings from this research work, the researcher recommends the following:

1. That every pastor in the Baptist Churches should create strong awareness among the members about the church minister of education.
2. That the Nigerian Baptist Convention should make it compulsory for every local church of 100 and above members to see the need for church minister of education for a share ministry of the church. This would help in effectiveness and fruitfulness of church educational programmes.
3. That pastors should see the minister of education as complementing their effort in reaching the goal set for the church and there should be no conflict in role-playing.

4. That every Baptist Seminary and Bible Colleges training educators should be more focused and design an adequate curriculum to help in the training of those that are called to be church minister of education.
5. That every church minister of education should restrict all forms of confusion and conflict of their responsibilities.
6. That every church should have a print out condition of service and job description for a church minister of education. This would help a balanced working relationship and effectiveness of the church minister of education.
7. That further study should be carried out in order to help the churches out of their various fear to call church minister of education as growth agent.

Suggestions for further studies:

As this research progresses, certain ideas come to mind that shall provide avenue for further research. These are:

1. This same study should be carried out in other associations of the Nigerian Baptist Convention with detail questionnaires and information on the reasons for the inclusion of church minister of education in the local Baptist church ministerial staff list.
2. Evaluation of the curriculum and training of students of Religious Education in the Nigerian Baptist Convention Seminaries and Bible Colleges.
3. An Experimental study of the present of church minister of education in local Baptist churches of the Nigerian Baptist Convention.