

THE ROLE OF NIGERIAN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
CHURCHES IN MEETING THE NEEDS  
OF THE YOUTHS

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## ABSTRACT

The study attempt to examine the role of the Nigerian Baptist Convention Churches in Ogbomoso Baptist. Scholars have observed that the future of any organization rests on how is to cater for their youths today.

The Descriptive Survey method was used. The instrument used for the study was questionnaire. The researcher conducted the research in the following Associations; Iwa-Bi Olorun, Ogbomoso North West, Ogbomoso South East and Ogbomoso North East. In all, fourteen (14) Churches and seventy members were selected for the study.

The study came up with the following findings:

Churches are not taking the needs of the youth into consideration in the area of provision of recreational facilities. Churches are not supporting the youth enough in going to meetings. Churches are not exposing youth to enough spiritual experience. Pastors are expressing fear about the youth causing problems. The youth should be seen as friends rather than enemies. Pastors should have better understanding of the youth in order to determine or identify their needs with a view to making provision for them. Pastors should be aware of the challenges facing the youths in order to give them courage.

The church should provide recreational facilities to the youth to prevent them from engaging in social ills. The church should involve youth in church activities and make them lead in prayer meetings, Sunday school classes and outreach programmes of the church. The church should sponsor the youth their meetings, retreats.

The youth should also submit themselves to the control of the church through the Pastor and give due respect tot eh adults in the church.

The results of data analysis also indicate that youth were seriously involved in spiritual programmes of the church but more youth could still be utilized for active involvement in spiritual programmes.

The attitudes of the adults as contained in the opinions expressed revealed they are favourably disposed to the youth. However, there is room for further improvement in the attitude of the adults towards the youth.

### **Conclusions**

The findings revealed that the youth are very useful and are gifted and the gifts can be utilized for the edification of the church. The zeal of the youths to work for the church especially in the area of mission and evangelism could be used for the progress and advantage of the church.

Youths are always ready to work with zeal when it comes to church planting and are very useful in gathering new converts through their different outreach programmes for evangelism. Youths are very useful in making visits to preaching stations of their different churches.

The study concluded that both the church and the youths have their different roles to play in meeting the needs of each other and in making the church to achieve her goal of reaching all the world with the good news.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings from data gathered, the following recommendations are made to the church:

Baptist churches should give more opportunities to the youth to function effectively in their spiritual programmes because this will enhance better performance of the youth and encourage sense of belonging among youth.

Churches should introduce other enriching programmes that will cater for different needs of the youths. These programmes will help to prevent exodus of the youths other Pentecostal churches. In addition, talents of the youths should be adequately utilized for the progress of the church.

Also youth must be carried along in the decision making process in order to have sense of belonging and to see themselves as partners in progress and to see themselves as stakeholders in the business of the kingdom of God.

To the pastors in Baptist churches should endeavour to include varieties in the items of the order of service from time to time so that youth can continually observe desirable changes in their mode of service, that is not stereotyped.

Church pastors should desist from expressing or contemplating fear about the youth being prone to causing problems.

The youths should be seen as friends rather than enemies.

Pastors should have better understanding of the youths in order to determine or identify their needs with a view to making provision for them.

Pastors should be aware of the challenges facing the youths in order to give them courage. The youth should also submit themselves to the control of the church through the Pastor and give due respect to the adults in the church.

The youth should be ready to serve in whatever area of ministerial assignment given to them.