

**THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

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**AN EVALUATION  
OF BAPTIST STUDENT FELLOWSHIP  
ACTIVITIES IN LAGOS STATE BAPTIST CONFERENCE**

**AN ESSAY PRESENTED TO  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY OF  
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## ABSTRACT

The essay "An Evaluation of Baptist Student Fellowship Activities in Lagos Baptist Conference" is an attempt to evaluate the programme and activities of Baptist Student Fellowship in Lagos State Baptist Conference. A careful effort is made to consider the objectives and roles of the Student Ministries Division in relations to its impacts on Lagos State Baptist Student Fellowship.

Student Ministries Division or BSF is a denominational fellowship of the Baptist Students. This is compared to student organizations of other churches or denominations like Redeemed Christian Church of God, Methodist Church, Anglican Church, Assemblies of God, Catholic Church to mention but few. Besides, the essay explores the impacts of the BSF on her denomination in evangelism, discipleship and missions.

To achieve this task, the histories of Student Ministries Division, Lagos State Baptist Conference and Lagos State Baptist Student Fellowship were looked into. Here it was discovered that LSBSF was pioneered by students who knew little or had flimsy orientation about the workings of the Student Ministries. This affected the progress of the work as a denominational fellowship, particularly when they were required to submit to constituted authorities.

The literature review championed various opinions on the objectives of the Student Ministries. Indigenous student ministries materials /literatures is scarce or limited as result there were less views as regards literatures. Yet the few available ones justified the existence.

In another effort to ensure proper evaluation, interviews and questionnaires are administered on the past Lagos BSF Leaders, current leaders/students and serving pastors in Lagos State Baptist Conference. The findings reflected so many things, for example the undefined policy of Lagos State Baptist Conference on the coordination of students. This gave the student an opportunity to be insubordinate to constituted authority.

Further research revealed the positive changes that took place after 2003 stakeholders meetings. Student leaders were called to order and are now prepared to work with the Student Ministries Advisory Committee, appointed by the Lagos State Baptist Conference, and the Student Ministries of the Nigerian Baptist Convention. The Student Ministries materials are now being put into use.

After a careful analysis of the Lagos Baptist Conference BSF structures, it becomes necessary for the Conference to certain responsibilities like funding, organisation of leadership training and establish defined communication flow with the students. Similarly, the Nigerian Baptist Convention should see the students as vessels of Church planting and growth.

## B. Conclusion

Observations from various findings reflect that the situations was not too critical to prevent positive developments in Lagos State Baptist Student Fellowship. Example of such is the increase in the numerical strength of the

student participation. Several of the students became pastors and were trained in Baptist Seminary and some are currently pastoring Baptist churches across the country. Also, students now participate more in local church programmes as a result of growing cordial relationships with their Pastors. In the light of BSF objectives, the increase or growth experienced by Lagos BSF fulfilled the salvation objective of Student Ministries. It shows that more students have actually given their lives to Jesus Christ and more than 70% of them are now active church members thus, are indirectly responsible church members (churchmanship).

Besides, Lagos State has many higher institutions of learning, these are University of Lagos, Akoka, (Unilag), Yaba College of Technology, Yaba, (Yabatech), Lagos State University, Ojo (LASU), Lagos State Polytechnic Isolo and Ikorodu Campuses (LASPOTECH) to mention but a few. BSF is making positive impacts on these campuses. This is a fulfillment of the BSF objectives on relating their academic discipline in relation to Christian Faith.

### C. Recommendations

Based on the findings of this writer, the following recommendations are hereby presented. First, adequate and regular leadership training conference for the Lagos State Baptist Conference BSF should be put in place. Besides this should be a partnership programme between the Convention Student Ministries, Lagos State Baptist Conference and the Lagos State Baptist Student Fellowship. This will again address the issue of recognition of constituted authority and tension.

Secondly, development of communication channels. The conference should maintain an unhindered flow of information and interaction with the students.

Also, the students should be ready to reciprocate, to this gesture particularly with the Student Ministries of the Convention who is a major stakeholder. Churches and Pastor should not see BSF as rivals, rather as partners and church members who likewise is pursuing the great goal of soul winning. In the process if crisis occurs, it should not be seen as a 'do or die' affair. Discipline should be employed as a corrective measure and not destructive over the students. As Paul Tourner writes:-

It is not possible for people to work together at a common task without there being differences of opinion, conflicts, jealousy and bitterness. And in a religious organization they are less willing to bring these differences out into the open. They feel quite sincerely that as Christians they ought to be showing a spirit of forgiveness, charity and mutual support the aggressiveness is repressed, taking the form of anxiety.<sup>1</sup>

Thus differences with students should be settled amicably and the spirit of Christian reconciliation.

Thirdly, the Nigerian Baptist Convention and Lagos State Baptist Conference should encourage a Church-Student relationship. That is, churches should be encouraged to assist students in their churches, particularly the ones in higher institutions of learning (campuses.). This will prevent losing them to other denominations like Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), Christ Embassy, and Christ Apostolic Church. For instance, Winners Chapel has standing policies on how to assist their students on campuses in the area of worship centers,, evangelism bus, musical instruments, and other supports to mention but a few.

Fourthly, all our theological institutions should include in their curriculum a course on Student Ministries and its dynamics, also on pastors and students

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<sup>1</sup> Robert Mapes Anderson, Pentecostal ad Charismatic Christianity," *The Encyclopedia of Religion*, 11, 1987 ed., 231.

