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**AN EVALUATION OF THE FUNCTION AND EFFECTS OF  
MORNING DEVOTION IN NBTS CHAPEL, OGBOMOSO.**

**A THESIS PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE NIGERIAN  
BAPTIST SEMINARY, OGBOMOSO.**

**IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIRMENTS FOR THE AWARD  
OF MASTER OF DIVINITY.**

*BY*

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# *ABSTRACT*

Personal and corporate devotion have continued to be an important aspect of daily living at both individual and corporate levels. This research aims at beaming light on the current practices of morning devotion in The Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary Chapel, Ogbomoso. The study also focuses on its relative spiritual significance in the NBTS community.

Chapter one focuses on the general introduction to the study, with rationale, methodology, scope of study, thesis statement and definition of terms.

In chapter two, the writer evaluates relevant literatures on the nature and importance of selected component of corporate worship which includes prayer and preaching in the context of congregational worship from biblical and contemporary perspectives.

Chapter three presents a brief historical background of the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary Chapel, Ogbomoso. The history and description of morning devotion in NBTS. The philosophy, purpose and goals of Chapel morning devotion.

In chapter four, the writer presents study data, its analysis and interpretation with a view to examining the current practices of Chapel morning devotion. In chapter five, there are the recommendations, summary and conclusion for an improved morning devotion in NBTS Ogbomoso.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The appointment of a chaplain is not only over due but imminent, to oversee the structure, organization and control of services in line with the purpose and function for which it was established. The chaplain will also function in the area of offering spiritual guide and counseling to students at various points of needs. These dual functions will go a long way to alleviate faculty's burden of having to cope with academic services and other assignments. Although this does not absolve them of spiritual responsibility to student and one another.
2. There is the need for re-orientation for student and community dwellers on the relevance of corporate devotion, for reasons of growth, fellowship and nurture. The idea of compulsion should be readdressed, while the necessity should be more emphasized. If people come because they have to come, then they would be spectators, evaluators and critics rather than worshipers.
3. The morning devotion planning committee, headed by the chaplain should involve student and also come out with a variety of programmes for the chapel devotion, in the recent past, Tuesday and Thursdays were designated as praise and prayer sessions in every week. This has been overtaken these days by preaching events.
4. The time allocated to morning devotion currently is in order, i.e. 8.00 A.M, but I recommend Tuesday – Friday of every week to give a day (i.e. Monday) to recuperate since Sunday is usually a busy day for all seminarians at all levels. This will also reduce the routine currently being experienced.
5. Against the background of graduation exercises, I recommend that more seasoned ministers be invited to preach at the devotion without denominational bias and more

rooms be created for faculty members while selected few from the graduating classes be involved. Already, the number of days available in a session for corporate devotion is far less than the number of graduating students. The need for Multi staff operation as raised in the 2001 Ministers Conference on Multi staff Ministry should be allowed to interplay in NBTS morning devotion.

6. The Seminary administration through the chaplaincy services should create another period of devotion for staff and ground crews that will not disrupt their activities for the day. Their services are so important for the smooth running of the Seminary and at the same time their spiritual growth, nurture and fellowship is of paramount importance to eternity.
7. More so, the idea of congratulating students' leaders after the devotion should be discouraged, it only shows that participants have come to watch a performance and the exhibitors have done excellently well. Incidentally, this does not happen when a guest speaker or a faculty member leads. These acts among the students only show a reflection of expectation. This is against the background for which the morning devotion was established. I should be fast to add that morning devotion is not a graduating rite or ceremony where by recordings in audio-video and picture takings should continue to distract attention. The Seminary has designated a day for picture taking prior to final sessional examinations. Picture takings should be restricted to such periods.
8. Studies revealed that about 10% of student stayed back during the morning devotion period in various halls of resident. In this wise, Halls of resident coordinators, student body and the chaplaincy services will do more to alleviate such unbecoming attitudes through enlightenment.

9. Leadership is best demonstrated by example, as a result of this, faculty and other senior staff should participate as fully as possible; for the dual purpose of consistent growth and guide/encouragement to students.
10. There should be a time of de-briefing between a student adviser and a student after the student has led morning devotion. This will go a long way in ministerial formation. Hence, achieving the purpose of the morning devotion.
11. I equally recommend that the morning devotion be fully contextualised. By contextualization, I mean the reception and rooting of Christian gospel in a particular culture- political, economic or social context. Hence, the church's teaching, practice and the historical circumstances.<sup>1</sup> Our morning devotion needs this, both in form, content and actualization, beginning from the format of dressing, to making messages real to our context and current situation (see John Enyinnaya's message, appendix V).
12. Finally, student should understand that the Pulpit is not a battlefield and as such struggles for best preaching award, display of syntax, grammar and other imposing structures be removed. Also, the seminary administration should note that the award for best preaching of the year only create a competitive atmosphere rather than worship enhancement.

## CONCLUSION

The morning devotion in The Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomoso is of paramount importance to the fulfillment of the NBTS vision, goals and objectives. The functions are having far reaching effects but it can still be improved. The contents and form need re-examination and the motives needs to be made clearer. The appointment of a chaplain will enhance more co-ordination and the recommendations above will bring about improved morning devotion in NBTS.