

**EVALUATION OF BAPTIST MEMBERS' ATTITUDE TO
EDUCATION PROGRAMMES IN THEIR CHURCHES**

NBTS
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M. Div.

A LONG ESSAY SUBMITTED TO

**THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES
OF THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OGBOMOSO**

**IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE
AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF DIVINITY IN
THEOLOGY**

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2007

07 — 0751

ABSTRACT

This study presents the findings obtained from an evaluation of Baptist member's attitude to education programmes in their churches. The research was motivated by the observations over the years that the attitude of church members in terms of attendance and participation is negative with particular reference to Bible Study. When the Bible is read, it is sometimes misinterpreted, the meanings are superficial, and sometimes it is taken to mean another thing entirely.

The objective of the study is to generate a rich data-base that would be useful to churches and pastors. The data obtained were analyzed using descriptive statistics. The result indicates that improvement in the attitude of members to Bible study will enhance the effectiveness of churches in influencing the larger community.

influence the larger community, because the spiritual development will improve,

This encouraged the researcher to continue with the research.

Using questionnaire, appendix 1 as a tool, samples were taken from seven associations and ten respondents from each sample church, Questions were asked on five things concerning whether or not the church should organize a regular Bible study; whether it is organized for church workers only; what resource Persons are use, and the response of members to the programme.

The finding shows that the attitude of members of most Baptist churches is negative to the education programmes in general and Bible study in particular. Though there is a low but positive correlation between the attitude of Baptist church members and the ability of Baptist churches to mature their members, Baptist churches can do something to improve the situation. This means that good attitude of Baptist church members to Bible study will improve their performances. If churches organize Bible study and members are motivated enough to attend and participate, the attitude of members will improve and the church will be effective in influencing the larger community.

Conclusion

This research was motivated by the observation over the years that tend to shows that the church is failing in its mission to make disciples of all nations, the Nigerian Baptist convention has taken several steps to facilitate the mission work by establishing institution where members are trained as

ministers of God, and many programmes are put in place to mature members of Baptist churches. Among these programmes the researcher has chosen Bible study as the education programme to research upon.

From the outcome of the research conducted in seven churches each from an association. These churches which are representative of the universe are located in Osun Baptist Conference. From this result it is possible for members to improve their attitude which hitherto has been a hindrance to the mission work. Organization of Bible study, motivation of members to attend and participated in Bible study, handled by competent personnels as resource persons will go a long way to improve the spiritual stand of Baptist church members,

Recommendation

From the responses of church sampled members, it is obvious that the attitude of Baptist church members do not take Bible programme seriously it is recommended to all the seven churches in particular: First Baptist Church, Erin-Osun; First Baptist Church, Ara; Iseki-Oloro Baptist Church, Ede; First Baptist Church, Ada-Owode; P. J Ladapo Memorial Baptist Church, Ikirun; First Baptist Church, Iree and Union Baptist Church, Ejigbo and all the Baptist Churches in the Convention family in general, to see Bible study programme as mandatory for the church to organize and for members to attend and participate. Members should not see Bible study programme as a necessity for pastorless churches only, members should make themselves available for Bible study programme.

Members of First Baptist Church, Erin-Osun and First Baptist Church, Iree should not see Sunday School as an alternative to Bible study programme. Members of Union Baptist Church Ejigbo should not see, the time spent for Bible study programme as a waste thereby become satisfied with the Sunday school.