

**THE IMPACT OF ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMME
ON CHURCH GROWTH:
A CASE STUDY OF OKE-OGUN BAPTIST CONFERENCE**

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Recommendations

To ensure effective teaching and learning of adult education programmes in our Baptist churches and in appreciation of the role adult education can play in our society, socio-political and economic development, it is recommended in the first place, that adult education programmes should be supported and encouraged by all the church leaders and policy makers in Oke-Ogun Baptist Conference.

Of all the challenges facing the church today, teaching of the Christian faith is more critical. The life and growth of the church depends greatly on teaching and learning. If pastors teach properly they will be able to build up the church and lead their congregations. Teaching of adults should be considered by pastors as an essential part of the task of being a pastor.

Through teaching and learning, the pastor will be able to change wrong orientation of his congregation and affect the totality of their lives. He will be able to train leaders and officers of the church to know their duties.

The pastor should know the challenges of the new millennium calls for more teaching than preaching, because in the new millennium, the use of advanced technologies against the gospel spells danger, if there is no adequate teaching. Pastors who are called to expand the work of Christ should take teaching and learning ministries seriously since that was the basis of the Great Commission.

Pastors will have to serve as motivators to make teaching happen and make people to respond to teaching activities in the church. Learning activities that relate to the felt needs of the learners usually become tools for motivation. Pastors will also have to serve as guides in the teaching activities of the church.

However, church members should not forget that mission of the church as given by Jesus is that of teaching (Matt. 28:19-20). Church members should not see the church as a place of social fellowship alone, but rather as a place for teaching and learning opportunities. The early Christian Church embarked seriously on religious instruction and constant teaching of the Word of God to the believers. This made new believers to increase rapidly in numbers, in the knowledge of the Word of God and in Christian faith (Acts 2:42).

Moreso, the Nigerian Baptist Convention leaders, curriculum or literature writers, should use their different spheres of influence to teach and encourage pastors of our churches to be ready to assume the responsibility of building up members through teaching and learning ministry.

It is suggested that workshops on mobilization of adult learners should be organized from time to time while necessary adult education materials such as slides, pictures, primers, maps, video should be made available in adult learning centres to facilitate better teaching and learning of adult education. Field trips and field studies should also be considered as an intrinsic part of adult education teaching and learning so that students (learners) can make observations and be able to perceive such things observed in the field. The use of pictures and symbols, for instance, can be very effective as a means of

supplementing oral teaching. It can reduce the time required for verbal explanation and can also facilitate the understanding of facts and ideas which adult students would find difficult to assimilate through verbal explanation alone.

Conclusion

When teaching as a ministry is neglected, either by the church members or by the pastors who are called to provide leadership in the church, then the vitality of such church is threatened. If the neglect of Christian teaching and learning found in the church today as described in this essay should persist, then there is definitely going to be a contamination of the Word of God with current waves of false teachings and beliefs.

The essay also went further to submit that if adults do not enroll in educational programmes or do not stay long enough, the fault is that of the designers of the programmes or those who are teaching on the programmes. Adults are known to be rational beings who judge the worth of a programme in respect of the relationship of the programme to their needs and plans for future. Adults evaluate their continuous participation in relation to the success they make daily. They were encouraged by support they received from, pastors, other learners and their facilitators. They learn best in comfortable, non-threatening or anxiety reducing environment.