

EXPECTATIONS AND ASSESSMENT OF BAPTIST PASTORS BY
THEIR CHURCH MEMBERS. A CASE STUDY OF OGBOMOSO
SOUTH WEST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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BY
TAIWO AKINYELE AKINTOLA
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ABSTRACT

The study is borne out of the desire of the investigator to establish what expectations the Baptist members have of their pastors. The study also intended to establish how the Baptist members rate their pastors' performance.

To establish these, a questionnaire was drawn and administered in ten selected churches within Ogbomosho South West Baptist Association. Consequently, seventy-five (75) respondents were involved in the study.

Thus, from the expectation and assessment of the Baptist pastors by their church members the following are evident in their lives;

- a. All the pastors have at least degree in theological education.
- b. All the pastors are married with good home worthy of emulation.
- c. The pastors have good relationship with their church members, church paid workers, church key officers, and outsiders.
- d. Most of the pastors did not have love for money nor seek their selfish end at the expense of others.
- e. All the pastors messages are balanced and sufficient to meet the needs of their members.
- f. The pastors participated effectively in all church and departmental programmes.
- g. The pastors functioned effectively in discharging their roles as intercessor, preacher, teacher, shepherd, counselor, Christ representative, and servant leader in their respective churches

Based on these findings, it was concluded that Baptist pastors are greatly commendation by their members. Therefore, the investigator was able to conclude

also that Baptist pastors on the field are doing laudable job in the vineyard of God, as true ministers. From this study, despite that the pastor have high attainment of what their members expected. The researcher views that pastors on the field should be helped the more by the Convention through organized seminars and workshops that will enhance their ethical behaviours as ministers. Furthermore, the church members also are required to do all things that will help their pastors to be effective ministers of God.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study the following conclusions were reached. Members expect their pastors to possess at least bachelor degree from theological institution. This explained why pastors go for further studies in order to be sound theologically and be able to meet the contemporary challenges.

In addition, the study concluded that pastors should be highly effective and efficient in playing their roles in the church as this will help in building the church of God and thus bringing them to maturity. Thus, the pastors assessed can be seen to playing these roles effectively as intercessors, preachers, Christ representatives, counselors, shepherds, teachers, and servant leaders in their respective churches.

Furthermore, the study concluded that pastor's personal life, family and their relationship with people are vital instruments for the fulfillment of their calling. As the Baptist, pastors are highly rated by their church members as worthy examples in their areas.

Finally, the study has clearly shown that Baptist pastors are highly effective and efficient. Thus, from this work it can be justified that Baptist pastors will be rated higher by other denominations if given opportunity to assess them.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings from this study, the following recommendations are made to the pastors, to the members, and the Nigerian Baptist Convention.

All pastors must strive as hard as possible to improve their theological education training, to be relevant in the discharge of their duties. In addition, they should work to make their lives, families and ministry worthy examples in all ways. They also must try to stay clear away from all that may mar their testimony such as

money and women. They must try to improve on their relationship with other people, as this counts much in pastoral ministry' success. Lastly, they should try to work with the Youth, BSF, and MMU where their participation is lower than expected.

Also, the church members must try to support their pastors by praying for them, sponsoring their continuing education programmes, providing necessary books and other materials needed by their pastors that will enhance their ministerial work. Likewise, if they notice any flaw in the life of a pastor, they should try to help him overcome such, through prayer and counseling.

Lastly, the Nigerian Baptist Convention should create special programmes such as seminars and workshops for pastors to refresh their knowledge while on the field especially, on ministerial ethics and Baptists distinctive. They should also organized relevant programmes that will motivate the youthful groups to be interested in Baptists practices and programmes. The Convention also should set up special committee in each Conference that will help pastors solve problems that can hinder them to perform effectively in discharging their duties.

AREAS FOR FURTHER STUDIES

1. Assessment of Baptist pastors by members of other denominations
2. Comparative evaluation of Baptist pastors and pastors of other denominations.

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