

INVOLVEMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN  
MINISTERIAL WORK IN SOME SELECTED BAPTIST CHURCHES  
IN OGBOMOSO

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## **ABSTRACTS**

Involvement of PWDs in most churches is not existent; rather they are seen as burden or at best, a group of people not to be bothered. This study was carried out to assess the level of involvement of persons with disability in ministerial work of some selected Baptist churches. The research was conducted on PWDs 18 selected churches in Ogbomoso land. Twenty-four pastors were selected so also twenty-three persons with disability from those churches. Both the pastors and PWDs were randomly selected. The data were collected through the administered questionnaires and was analysed using simple percentile. The analysis of the results of the findings shows that visual and mobile types of disabilities are the commonest. As affirmed by pastors and some PWDs, there are natural causes of disability but the result also shows that evil forces are also responsible for certain cases and that there are treatable cases of disabilities that are not attended to. The findings also show that more of the PWDs studied were already involved at least in one ministerial work or the other. Furthermore, there was strong indication that the church auditorium will need some modification to accommodate the PWDs to function in the Church. There is also a need of proper teaching of the Word of God to enlighten the church that PWD are essential part of the Church. The need for creating special fora or avenues for PWD to minister like in hospital, village, prison outreaches, with choir, providing braille Bible for the visually disabled etc. was also recommended, without which the PWDs may be rendered idle in the Church.

## **Conclusion**

The analysis results of this study indicated that there are cases of disabilities amongst Baptist churches which manifest particularly as mobile and visual disabilities, though there are other types. The noted forms of disabilities cut across all ages and both sexes. According to the findings, the causes of disabilities are attributed to economic problems, social problems, lack of fund for proper medical attention, and even evil forces.

In addition, the researcher discovered that in order to improve the involvement of the PWDs in church ministries, the pastors (or church leaders) should take the lead in knowing

the PWDs within their flock and doing their possible best to see to the welfare of this group of people in providing finances and transportation. Most of the PWDs contacted during the course of this research mentioned people's encouragement as a way to improve their involvement. The pastor or church leader should be the one to champion this cause.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the findings from this study, the researcher recommends the following:

1. Proper care should be given to pregnant women by well-trained medical doctors or nurses/midwives in order to avoid congenital causes of disability. The Church can create awareness about this.
2. The Church should get engaged in spiritual warfare because, according to the findings, there are evident cases of disability beyond social or economical problem but which can only be traced to diabolical forces. Evil spiritual forces can only be dealt with by God's power.
3. There is need anointed and well-informed teaching of the Word of God to straighten out the attitude of the church people to imbibe the mind of Christ, and PWDs to see themselves as Christ sees them.
4. The church can encourage the involvement of PWDs first by pastors being well-informed and having proper orientation about PWDS, giving PWDs ministry opportunities, modification of auditoriums where necessary/possible to grant access and participation in ministry, and provision of transportation and financial support for treatable cases.