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EFFECTS OF PASTORAL INTEGRITY ON MINISTERIAL PERFORMANCE IN
ABUNDANT LIFE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, IKORODU, LAGOS STATE

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ABSTRACT

The effects of Pastoral Integrity on Ministerial Performance in Selected churches in Abundant Life Baptist Association, Ikorodu-Lagos is an attempt to research into the factors that enhanced the ministers' performance in their ministerial assignment.

This research used questionnaire which consist of thirty-three questions divided into three sub-sections which are Personal data, ministerial relationships and ministerial duties of a pastor. The questionnaire was distributed to ten churches out of about twenty-five churches in the Association as random sampling.

The research work revealed that for a minister to have an impactful ministry among his parishioners he must be a man of integrity, the one who relates well with his members, knows their condition and be ready to assist them in solving their problems.

The work also revealed further that for a minister to perform well he must be a man who create time to meet with the Lord daily in prayer, meditation and studying the Word of God and at the same time pour his life on the members. Preaching as the project work revealed is one of the primary assignments of a pastor. He is expected to feed the members with the Word of God from time to time. Therefore, it was recommended that the minister of the gospel must have a cordial relationship with God so as to enable him perform better in his ministerial duties.

Conclusion

In conclusion therefore, for a minister to be impactful among the parishioners, the following are deduced:

The minister's relationship with God determines his performance in the ministry. In other words, his devotional life, meditation, fasting and prayer will go a long way to sustain such a relationship with. The primary duties of local Baptist pastors is to preach and teach the word (Acts 6:2). According to the findings, majority of the respondents believed that the primary duty of the pastor is to preach. This usually reflect on how Yorubas called the shepherd "Oniwasu" i.e. the one who preaches. Pastors or ministers who handle the members well will have a good ministry among them. He sees them as God's flock and handles them so.

The ministers with diabolic powers cannot perform better in the ministry compared with ministers that are genuine in their performance and relationship with God. Therefore, the minister will always perform excellently well when such depend absolutely on God and his power for guidance.

The integrity of a pastor has great impact in the ministerial relationship of church members. Pastor without integrity will not be able to go far in the ministry. He members, his family and the people around him will always give him regard and utmost respect when he works with sound moral and etiquette.

The performance of minister does not depend alone on quality of time spend to study the Word of God but also on the application. As mentioned earlier, apart from the preaching of the word, there are other functions that are expected of the ministers to do such, as teaching the members the word of God during the service organizing the Bible study period for them. The pastor is also expected to counsel the confuse and erring members and to guide them as well in making right decision, He is to raise future leaders, through discipleship; he is expected to also conduct naming ceremony, perform burial rites, and to also handle some other administrative assignments. He is

also to lead the members to cooperate with the Association, Conference and Convention.

Recommendation

The following recommendations are made for the purpose of this research work:

1. The minister of the gospel must have good relationship with God in studying the Word of God, and praying at the same time and then create more time for his parishioners and make himself accessible for the members for counselling and visitation.
2. The man of God must be a man of his word especially in the keeping to the time while conducting worship and when booking an appointment with the members. He should be able to manage his time well. Minister should be trustworthy, plain and demonstrate high integrity among the church members and in the community he find himself. He should be ready to give account of his stewardship at anytime and also before God.
3. Since one of the primary purpose of the minister is to preach, therefore minister should always prepare well before he goes to the pulpit to preach and teach. The sermons can be prayerfully prepared and powerfully delivered.
4. Apart from preaching, the members are always friendly with the pastors that care much about their welfare; therefore, ministers should take pains in visiting their members and know the condition of his members because this will enable him to know how to guide and profer solutions to such needy members.
5. Since ministers with diabolic power cannot perform better than Godly minister as shown by the research work, pastor should always lean on God for strength, revelation, inspiration and even miracle.

6. Since discipleship programme is one of the products of ministerial performance, the ministers are advised to look more into such direction and concentrate on it for better christian growth among his members. The minister must also learn to relate well with their members because relationship is one of the key factors that cannot be ruled out if he wants to have a better performance among his members.
7. The minister is advise to take time to manage his home very well. He should be able to provide for his wife and the children and at the same time live within his means. Borrowing and begging around from the church members and the neighbours will not portray well the pastor as well as his members and God he is trying to represent, therefore, it is necessary for him to look up unto God for provision and then live by the little that comes in for him. The pastor's wife can also give a supportive hand by contributing financially to the home front and the welfare of his family.