

**MINISTERING TO THE AGED IN THE CONTEMPORARY
BAPTIST CHURCH**

305.12
L 12-m
NBTS
M.A.T.S.

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO

**THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES
OF THE NIGERIA BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY OGBOMOSO, NIGERIA.**

**IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF
ARTS IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**

BY

KOLAWOLE OLAKUNLE LADIRIN

JUNE, 2005

**J.C. POOL LIBRARY
BAPTIST SEMINARY
OGBOMOSO NIGERIA**

06-0594

ABSTRACT

The concern of this study is to bring to light what our contemporary Baptist churches need to know about ministering effectively to the aged in their congregations. An adequate ministry to both the physical and the spiritual needs of the aged will help them cope with the demands of life. The areas of the needs (ministry) are social, economic, shelter, spiritual and health. Ministering to the aged in these areas of their need will give them meaningful life.

This thesis is divided into five chapters. Chapter one serves as an introduction to the whole work. It gives the background to the study, statement of the problem, significance of the study, methodology, definitions of the operative terms used in this thesis. In addition, the chapter gives an overall picture of the study.

Chapter two is the review of the available literature on the aged. This is done to be able to understand the aged, their needs and interests. The review focused on the needs that were formerly mentioned. It is believed that the study will help the contemporary Baptist church to develop better ministry to the aged.

Chapter three evaluate what the church, pastors and officers are doing to minister to the aged in the area of their needs, and what they are supposed to do for them as effective ministry.

Chapter four analyzed and discussed the result of the findings of the research. Some of them are:

1. Generally, children are not responding to the needs of their aged parents, they care less about their welfare.
2. Some aged parents are coming to meet their needs, but, there will be great improvement if the children, relatives and the church could rise up to their help.

3. Few churches are also paying attention to the needs of the aged in their congregations. They have much to do to minister to them effectively.

The findings are used as implications for effective ministry to the needs of the aged.

The fifth and the final chapter gives suggestions and recommendations for improved ministry to the needs of the aged. Some of the suggestions and recommendations are that;

1. The church pastor and the leadership should organize special programmes for them, such as Bible study at homes, church group visitations and counseling. They should be involved in programme with the youths where they can share with them their wealth of experience.
2. The Conferences and Associations can also plan to visit old men and women who have served them before in their Conferences and Associations occasionally for encouragement and sense of belonging. They can invite them as guest speakers in some programmes. It is suggested that the Conferences and Associations occasionally raise funds to support some of their retired old workers to avoid begging.
3. The children and relatives should be more responsible for the welfare of their aged people because they would reap whatever they sow. They should try all their best possible to restore the extended family system that is fast fading away in Nigeria.
4. The Nigerian Baptist Convention should consider having the aged in mind and plan the Conferences, the Associations and the churches can help to promote and implement.