

THE IMPACT OF PASTOR'S DEVELOPMENT IN THE CHURCH GROWTH: A
CASE STUDY OF SHEPHERDHILL BAPTIST CHURCH, OBANIKORO AND
TRIUMPHANT BAPTIST CHURCH, AKOWONJO, LAGOS

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ABSTRACT

The essay "The Impact of Pastor's development on church growth: A case study of Sherperdhill Baptist Church and Triumphant Baptist Church" intends to examine who a pastor is and the importance of his overall development to the physical and spiritual well being of any church he pastors. Light is thrown on How people view the pastor (spiritually) and what the expectation of the present day church is with regards to the pastor's personality socially and academically. Emphases are laid on some areas of developments: Spiritual, physical, emotional and intellectual.

This work is purposed to explore various ways a pastor can be developed viz-a-viz the means of doing that. The role of the church in developing a pastor shall be given a vital consideration. This is because most pastors today are limited by finance and tight schedule of work in developing themselves. So, possible areas where the church may be of help to the pastor's development will be examined.. The essay is a research work which intends to use both the primary and secondary sources of data collection. There will also be the use of questionnaire and oral interviews in the course of this research. The population size is expected to be fairly large. Though two churches both belonging to the Baptist denomination, that is (i) Sherperdhill Baptist Church, Obanikoro and (ii) Triumphant Baptist Church, Akowonjo, both in Lagos will be used as case study. Also, in the course of this research work, any person who can provide a useful data to the success of this research work will be contacted or interviewed.

In testing the hypothesis or analyzing the data so collected, some statistical tools will be used. This will enable us to test the reliability or otherwise of the data so

collected. These statistical tools will also help in determine which hypothesis to accept or reject. Based on the results of all the analyses summary and recommendations will be made.

5.2 Conclusion

From the results of the analyses, we have that, pastor development plays significant roles on church growth, thus making the church to include this programme in their guiding rules and regulations without entertaining the fear that pastor may want to leave their church for another high paid church.

Hence, Church owes pastors such responsibilities without taking into consideration the size of the Church. Also, pastors should not totally rely on the church for their development. In conclusion, the impact of pastor's development on the church growth is of great significance.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the data available for this research work and the results of analysis, I hereby recommend that:

Pastors should cultivate the habit of reading wide from useful books, magazines, journals to other fields of specializations to broaden their horizons and expand their knowledge. The use of information technology should be embraced, as this makes their works easier and faster. It is not absurd to learn new ideas from intelligent members of their congregation who possesses such. Pastor should make frantic efforts to attend fellowship, seminars, training and other meetings that provide avenues for learning and as they learn they must impact it on their congregations.

Pastor's development is a responsibility the Church must do. Periodically, the church should see to it that pastors attend seminars, trainings, and workshops that will upgrade their standard of their ministry works. It then should be made mandatory for pastors to attend these programmes at specific period within the year as the case may be. Modern technological gadgets should be procured by the church and improved library be set up for the use of the pastor. More importantly, the church should ensure that the pastors' health life is helped by providing necessary medical helps and rest.

The association of the local churches must ensure that adequate fellowship sessions, seminars, trainings and retreats are planned to better the lot of the pastors in order to help the growth of the churches. However, these programmes must be subsidized to allow maximum attendance.

Similarly, the Convention should provide some financial assistance in form of loan to pastors of some financially incapacitated churches who aspire to develop themselves through further studies. Terms of repayment of such loans should be friendly. Also provision of facilitators who can help to expand the knowledge of the pastors should be deployed to various Associations from time to time.

If all these are worked upon backed up with prayers, it is certain that the growth of the churches in our denomination will be so evident.