

SIGNIFICANCE OF CHURCH ATTENDANCE IN ASHANTI REGION OF GHANA: EVIDENCE FROM EJISU

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ABSTRACT

The study used explanatory research design, research strategy was cross-sectional survey, population of the study were 14 churches, sample size for the study were 800 samples, sampling design were various churches and their pastors, source of data collection were primary and secondary sources, method of data collection were investigation into the existing research and development of questionnaire and method of data analysis was qualitative analysis technique. Problem statement of the study was "Significance of church attendance in Ashanti Region of Ghana: Evidence from Ejisu". Objectives of the study were achieved through data collection. With literature review, the study considered what other writers had written concerning the topic under study. The study found out factors which prevented Christians from going to church, reasons for church attendance, significance of church attendance, messages pastors preached, time pastors used to preach, problems church members face in their various churches and comments about pastors preaching. The study generalized that church attendance was significant to Christians in Ejisu Community. The study recommended that ministers must teach the public to understand the need to go to church and actors and Actress should act films to assist people to know the importance of church attendance.

KEY WORDS: Significance, Church, Attendance, Evidence, Reasons, History, Problems, Hindrance, Functions, Christian, Perception, Characteristics, Responsibilities, Church, Members, Criticize; Record.

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Introduction

The word "church" translated in English Bible is "ekklesia". The term "ekklesia" is a Greek word which is combination of two words namely "kaleo" meaning "to call" and "ek" implies "out". Hence the term "ekklesia" means "the called out ones". The English word "church" is not inferred from the Greek term "ekklesia" but from the word "kuriakon" meaning "dedicated to the Lord". The word "church" was utilized as referring to holy place or temple. During the era of Jerome's translation of the New Testament Bible from Greek to Latin, it was use a second-hand of kuriakon to translate "ekklesia". The word "church" is not well translated as "ekklesia" since it implies holy building or temple. Proper translation of the word "ekklesia" is "assembly". It is utilized as a synonym for the term "synagogue" which means "to come together". That is gathering. The word "church" could mean the body of Christ once Christians are united with Jesus through spiritual baptism (Romans 12: 4-5; 1Corinthians 12: 11-13, 18, 27; Colossians 1: 18; Ephesians 5: 30). The group of believers in the world form the physical representation of Christ on earth. It is a metaphor that portrays the relation of members in the church and shows variety from one another (Romans 12: 4; 1Corinthians 12: 14-17). The branch of theology which deals with the church is called ecclesiology. The term "ecclesiology" comes from the Greek word "ekklesia" meaning "assembly". Theologians often utilize terms like "visible", "local church" and "universal church". The visible and local church is referring to physical church in the world. The invisible and universal church consist of Christians in the world and they are one church united in Christ but not a lot of physical churches. Those who form the universal church are the true Christians.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To find out the congregation comments about pastors' preaching
- To find out the reasons why Christians go to church
- To find out things that prevent Christians from attending church
- To find out message pastors often preach in churches
- To find out importance of attending church
- To find out problems church members in churches

To find out time pastors used to preach

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE EARLY CHURCH

According to Mathets the early Christians were separated from other men neither by country nor language, customs they observed. They did not populate cities of their own and did not developed special form of speech. They live in Greek and Barbarian cities and followed the customs of the natives with regards to clothing, food and ordinary lifestyle. They marry, begot children and did not demonish their offspring. They had rampant table and not rampant bed. They were in the flesh but did not live after the flesh. The birth of the early church happened on the Pentecost Day. The Pentecost Day was the day the church's mission ministry started. Act 2 declares that the Pentecost festival ocured 50days after Jesus' ascension. The early disciples did not meet in church building but meet in homes. The first church building appeared in the early 200s. There were no denominations in the first century. The disciples of the early church dealt with issues of truth and error.

THE ROLE THE CHURCH PLAY IN THE WORLD

Jesus Christ commands His church to proclaim the gospel of salvation to the world. The most important gift God gives to mankind is the gift of the gospel of Christ. The gospel fulfills the hidden plan of God, predicted and prefiquared in the Old Testament, to deliver man from the bondage of sin. So that every individual can obtain eternal life through Jesus Christ. The church speaks and listens to the world but does not follow the principples of the world. The church educates the world how to be sincere to the gospel and how to go to Heaven. Proclaiming the gospel of Christ to the world should be done by congregation The congregation must be holy and accept the church as the way, the truth and preach about Christ to the world. The laity acts as the mediator between the church and the world. The priest is the mediator between God and man. The church should be met spiritual, emotional and physical needs of people. The church provides services, counseling and advice people.

THESIS STATEMENT: The problem statement of the study was "Significance of church attendance in Ashanti Region of Ghana: Evidence from Ejisu". The study found out reasons why Christians go to church, factors that prevent Christians from attending church, messages pastors often preach in churches, problems church members face in churches , comment about pastors' preaching ; time pastors used to preach.

REASONS WHY CHRISTIANS ATTEND CHURCH

Preaching: The word of God is quick, powerful and sharper than a sword (Hebrews 4: 12), listening to His word contributes to our spiritual well-being. Without fellowshipping with people, we cannot experince the help and hope Christ gives to His bride. This could be possible through involving in the activities of the local church.

Corporate worship: If we worship God alone, it is wonderful. It is great when we come together to worship Him.

Iron sharpens Iron: If Christians meet regularly to worship God, we are encouraged and receive strength (Proverbs 27: 17).

Exercise gifts: God equips His servants and children with spiritual gifts. During church service, we exercise our spiritual gifts for the progress of His ministry (1Corinthians 12; Romans 12: 6). According to statistics in many churches 20percent of the people do 80percent of the work.

Encouragement: When we go to church, we become partners with our pastor in ministry. This gladens his heart (Philippians 1: 3-7).

Godly mentor: In the church there are spiritual men of God who can help us to grow in the Lord.

Love: If we go to church with our children , it enables them to know how to love God.

The regulars: Many people go to church due to sheer force of habit. They attend church because that is what they have been doing.

The responsibles: Some go to church since they are involved in the activities of the church. This group of people is known as "responsibles". They involve in church activities like teaching, ushering, deacons; singing.

The respectables: Others attend church because they admit church assists them and their children to advance and develop moral instinct.

The reachers: Many people go to church with the motive to seek for the truth. These people have the mindset of seeking for the truth but not committed to the faith.

The resolute: These people are established and determined in the faith. They are church goers and their lives bear witness that they belong to Christ.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There are countless articles that have been written in favor of church significance. These papers have enabled the general public to understand the nature of the Christian church and perceive the need to go to church. However, regardless of the countless articles the study investigated into "Significance of church attendance in Ejisu community". Because of this, the study considered what other authors have written with respect to the topic under study. Reference to (Wikipedia, n. d) an article written entitled "church attendance" confirms that church attendance is the main religious practice for a lot of Christians and other Christian denominations like Catholic Church demands that church service should be conducted on Sunday but Westminster Confession of faith educates first-day Sabbatarianism (Sunday Sabbatarians). That is, declaring the essence of public worship in connection with the ten commandments. Methodist Church rules calls for observing all the ordinances of God. Lutheran Christian Theologian, Balthasar Munter stated that church attendance laid the foundation for the Christian life since Christian Bible and sacraments give the structure for the faith. He declares that it is vital for Christians to go to church because it hinders backsliding and encourages believers to meet together. In 1791 Great Britain Kingdom requested church of England to go to church twice in a year. A lot of believers go to church on Christmas Day. Base on the ten commandments significance of church attendance is mentioned in Hebrews 10: 25. Early Christians Saints stressed on the need to go to church which enabled Christians to abide in the faith. According to Saints John Climacus not willing to go to church is a sign of a dying soul. On 7th April, 2024 Michael Graham and Ryan Burge wrote a paper entitled "Why church attendance is important than ever". The paper declared that 40 million adult Americans left churches for the past 25 years. This decline was serious and was in opposite direction as compared to what occurred at the time of the First Great Awakening, Second Great Awakening and Billy Graham Crusades. It is occurring 25 percent faster than 25 year period in U.S. With respect to the views of the above mentioned authors, the study investigated into factors which hinder Christians from going to church, reasons for church attendance, problems church members face in churches, comments about pastors' preaching, significance of church attendance; time pastors used to preach

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

- The Christian church is doxological. That is the church is initiated to the glory of God.
- The church is based on the incarnate word and inspired word. The incarnate word is Christ Jesus and the inspired word is the Bible.
- The church proclaim sound teachings about her beliefs in God, Christ and the Holy Spirit.
- The church must be spiritual activated. The church ought to be created, gifted, united and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- The church acts in covenantal relationship with God and the members dwell in covenantal relationship with one another.
- The church members personally confess faith in Jesus Christ as their savior and Lord.
- The church declares faith in the Trinity
- The church is obedient to the word of God (1John 2: 5).
- The church members serve the Lord out of free will and the members willingly serve one another (Philippians 2: 3-4).
- The church sacrifice to the work of God (1John 3: 16-18).

PERCEPTIONS ABOUT THE CHURCH

- The church is not regarded as spiritual
- In the past the church was anchored, had power but lost control.
- The church and the Christians lack honesty
- The church is tyrannical
- Christianity and the church are not considered as important
- Many Christians are crackpot
- The church is after money
- Some Christians do awesome good

COMMON PROBLEMS IN CHURCHES

Vision and strategy: Failure to develop vision creates division. Division and confusion come into the church due to lack of vision. Vision generates clarity, direction and destination. Vision must be prophetic in nature. This implies that vision ought to be forward-looking and should come from God. The strategy of the church must be in line with its vision.

Culture: When church vision is clear, it enables us to understand what we are doing. Some aspect of culture can hinder the progress of church vision. Vision statement does not change people hearts and mind but culture can change people minds and hearts.

Structure: The structure of the church should be integral but lack of structure prevents church growth. Structure ought not to be the main unit of the church but must be the conservatory, promoting the growth of the culture which serves the vision.

HINDRANCES TO CHURCH ATTENDANCE

- people refusing to attend church do not depend on the level of their faith. About 30 percent of people who find it hard to go to church base their reason on preferential problems.
- The percentage of people who find it difficult to go to church is 11 percent. They do not go to church because of recreational activities. During weekends, they spend enough time on hobbies, outings, contests and travel.
- Many Christians feel it not easy to go to church that shares her values and beliefs. They are homeless since they go to default church and not desired church
- About 4 percent of believers stop going to church because of disappointment and personal experiences with ministers of God.
- Other Christians refuse to go to church because some pastors deliver shallow and boring sermon

SIGNIFICANCE OF ATTENDING CHURCH

As man we go to church, so that sin will not harden our hearts (Hebrews 3: 12-13). When we go to church, we are fulfilling Scripture (Hebrews 10: 25a). Going to church enables us to receive encouragement through preaching the word of God (Hebrews 10: 25b). If we attend church, we have access to hear the word of God (Hebrews 4: 12). We attend church to demonstrate that we are part of Christ (Romans 12: 5). We go to church to portray our partnership in the gospel of Christ (Philippians 1: 5).

FUNCTIONS OF A PASTOR

A pastor acts as a spiritual leader of the members of a church. He prepares weekly sermons, preaches and conducts worship service. He has to interpret Biblical passages to the congregation, cares, counseling church members and assists them in times of difficulties. He officiates special services like confirmation, baptism, weddings and funerals. He must cooperate with choir leaders to integrate music into church service. He ought to help church financial issues and controls all aspects of congregation's ministry. He should hold meetings to organize ministries.

NEGATIVE EFFECT OF SITTING FOR LONG HOURS

When people sit for long hours, they are liable to get heart disease. Those who sit for long hours can die early. People who sit for long hours their brains look like those with the problem of dementia. Too much of sitting rises the danger of diabetes, stroke, high blood pressure and high cholesterol. Sitting for long hours restricts one from doing exercise.

Those who sit for long hours develops deep vein thrombosis. Sitting for long hours makes blood to pool in the leg and develops cancer (Webmd, 2024). Sitting uses less energy than standing. Sitting for long time goes with health related problems such as obesity, high blood sugar, excess fat around the waist. Prolong sitting increases the danger of death from cardiovascular disease.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHURCH MEMBERS

Assemble together: If church members fail to meet together, then there is no church. Meeting together in Jesus' name is what makes it a church.

Protect the gospel: Every church member should hold and affirm the gospel of Christ (Galatians 1: 26). Church members must articulate and defend the gospel.

Defined church members: Church members receive and dismiss members (Matthew 18: 15-20; 1Corinthians 5: 4-5). They define members by receiving new converts through baptism.

Love one another: Church members ought to love one another (John 13: 35). Demonstrating love for the people of God portrays our identity in Christ (1John 4: 7).

Submission to elders: Church members must obey Jesus Christ by submitting to their elders (Hebrews 13: 7; 1Timothy 3: 1-7).

Evangelize the souls: The Great Commission is not only for pastors and International missionaries but church members are included.

REASONS WHY CHURCH MEMBERS CRITICIZE PASTORS

Many church members criticize pastors because they accept it as part of Christian life. Healthy criticisms help them to be humble. Pastors make changes in the church to fit the modern lifestyle. This makes some members to think the church is deviating from it's original standard. Some church members feel that their opinions are not respected. Other church members are prone to change while some are not. Change creates uncertainty. Sometimes criticisms are good and pastors should bear it.

RECORD ABOUT CHURCH ATTENDANCE

The World Value Survey declares that two-thirds of Latin American Christians and 90 percent of African Christians such as Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda and Zimbabwe go to church regularly. A study conducted by Pew Research Center confirmed that African Christians, Latin American Christians and U.S Christians possessed high level of commitment to their faith. Base on European Social Survey in 2012 a third of European Christians attend church service once in month. Gallup International Survey in 2013 proved that 37 percent of Americans attend religious services weekly. According to Pew Research Center during Christmas and Easter Holidays church attendance increase sharply. Lifeway Research indicates that six out of 10 Americans go to church. A study conducted in 2005 published in the Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion proved that 22 percent of Americans appear at church services weekly. Percentages of other countries who go to church services weekly are French citizens - 15percent, British citizens -10 percent, Australian citizens -8. 8 percent and Dutch citizens -5.6 percent.

METHODOLOGY

Introduction

This chapter deals with research design, approach, strategy, population of the study, source of data collection, method of data collection, sampling design, sampling size and method of data analysis. The study used explanatory research design because it the best procedure to gives reasons for collecting data. The strategy for the study was cross-sectional survey where a number of authors were chosen asa case study. The approach to the study was qualitative since the study was interested in significance of church attendance. The population of the study, source of data collection, method of data collection, sampling design, sampling size and method of data analysis were thoroughly examined.

SAMPLING DESIGN: The various churches and their pastors were considered. The pastors and their churches were 14 in number.

SAMPLING SIZE: The sampling size for the study was 800 samples.

POPULATION OF THE STUDY: The population of the study were Freeword Church International, Pentecost church, Apostolic Church, Assemblies of God Church, Roman Catholic Church, C.I.C Church, Jesus Power Church, Mercy Baptist Church, Second Chance Church, A.B.C Church, S.D.A Church, The Power of God International Ministry, Presbyterian Church and Church of Christ.

SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION: The source of collecting data to write this paper were primary and secondary sources. Questionnaire were used as data collection instrument. The questionnaire were shared to the church leaders, read to the congregation and answers were given.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION: The mechanism utilized to collect data were investigation into the existing research and development of questionnaire.

METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS: The study utilized qualitative data analysis technique.

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Introduction

This chapter dealt with analysis of data collected from the field. Qualitative data analysis technique was utilized to analyze the data collected from the field and results were as follows:

RESPONSE FROM CONGREGATION

Church Name: A. B. C Church

Denomination: Non denominational

Category of Respondent: Children

Gender: Female

Age: 9years

Response on hinderance to church attendance

"It is because of disobedience": She accepted that she did not go church because she could not obey her church doctrines.

Response on the reasons for church attendance

"Because I want to go to Heaven": She accepted that she preferred to occupy a place God's abode.

Response on significance of church attendance

"It assists me to stop committing sin": She agreed that going to church helped her to become holy.

Response on the message pastor often preach

"My pastor often preaches about salvation": She agreed that her pastor was Christ-centered.

Response on the time pastor used to preach

"I don't know ": She accepted that she had not observed the time her pastor used to preach.

Response on problems church members face in the church

"I have not faced any problem": She had experienced peace in the church.

Response on pastor's preaching

"My pastor is found of insulting": She accepted that her pastor's preaching was bad.

Church Name: Pentecost Church

Denomination: Pentecostal

Category of Respondent: Child

Gender: Female

Age: 8years

Response on hindrance to church attendance

"Pastor has offended me": She admitted that her pastor talked against her during preaching.

Response on reasons for church attendance

"To hear the word of God": She agreed she attended church because she wanted to hear from God.

Response on significance of church attendance

"It helps me to become good child": She agreed going to church would build her nature to become godly.

Response on message pastor often preach

"My pastor preaches about the love of God": She accepted that her pastor preaching directed the congregation to the word of God.

Response on time pastor used to preach

"I don't know": She agreed that she had not observed the time her pastor utilized to preach.

Response on problems church members face in churches

"I have not encountered any problem in the church ": She accepted that she experienced peace in the church.

Response on pastor's preaching

"There is nothing wrong with my pastor's preaching": She agreed that her pastor preached well.

Church Name: Jesus Power

Gender: Female

Age: 5years

Response on hindrance to church attendance

"By nature some people don't like to go to church": She agreed that some people were not interested in religion.

Response on reasons for church attendance

"To pray to God": She admitted that through church attendance she could communicate to God.

Response on significance of church attendance

"My pastor will intercede for me": She accepted that if she went to church her pastor would assist her spiritually.

Response on message pastor often preach

"My pastor preaches against stealing": She admitted her pastor preached righteousness.

Response on problems church members face in churches

"I have faced any problem in my church": She had been experiencing peace in the church.

Response on pastor's preaching

"I find no fault about my pastor's preaching": She accepted that her pastor knew how to preach.

Church Name: Second Chance

Denomination: Non denominational

Gender: Female

Age: 9years

Response on hindrance to church attendance

"Because of personal work": She accepted that she had focused on work at expense of work.

Response on reasons for church attendance

"I love God that is why I go to church ": She agreed that she obeyed God.

Response on significance of church attendance

"I get chance to read the Bible": She admitted that through church attendance she got time to read the Bible.

Response on message pastor often preach

"My pastor preaches about stealing": She accepted that her pastor preached righteousness.

Response on time pastor use to preach

"15hours": She was certain about the time her pastor used to preach.

Response on problems church members face in churches

"Some of the church members look at my face and seems they want to insult me": She accepted that some of the members' action toward her was bad.

Response on pastor's preaching

"My pastor often preach against prostitution": She admitted her pastor's message to the church was "one-way message".

Church Name: Assemblies of God

Gender: Female

Age: 8years

Response on hindrance to church attendance

"Fornication": She accepted that she had sex while unmarried.

Response on reasons for church attendance

"It helps me to grow in the Lord": She agreed that going to church enabled her to advance spiritually.

Response on message pastor often preach

"My pastor preaches against fornication": She admitted her preached righteousness.

Response on time pastor used to preach

"2hours": She agreed that her utilized 2 hours for preaching.

Response on problems church members face in churches

"I have not faced any problem": She accepted that she experienced peace in the church.

Response on pastor's preaching

"My pastor's preaching is good": She admitted that her pastor preached well.

Church Name: Presbyterian Church

Denomination: Orthodox

Category of Respondent: Children

Gender: Female

Age: 9years

Response on hindrance to church attendance

"Longerhead with church member": She agreed that church member misbehaved to her.

Response on reasons for church attendance

"To worship God": She accepted that it was her responsibility to serve God.

Response on significance of church attendance

"To listen to the word of God so that I can become good child": She agreed that church attendance built her moral life.

Response on message pastor often preach

"My pastor preaches about salvation": She admitted that her pastor was concern about the final salvation of the congregation.

Response on the time pastor used to preach

"My pastor used 3 hours".

Response on problems church members face in churches

"I have not faced any problem in the church": She accepted that she experienced peace in the church.

Response on pastor's preaching

"There is nothing wrong with my pastor's preaching": She agreed that her pastor knew how to preach.

Gender: Female

Age: 7years

Response on hindrance to church attendance

"When I go to church, I don't feel happy": She admitted church service was boring".

Response on reasons for church attendance

"To listen to the word of God": She accepted her taught the word of God.

Response on significance of church attendance

"When I am sick, my pastor interceed for me": She agreed that her pastor helped her in times of trouble.

Response on message pastor often preach

"Insulting": She accepted her pastor taught the congregation to stop insulting people.

Response on time pastor use to preach

"4hours": She was certain that her pastor used 4 hours to preach.

Response on problems church members in churches

"Yes": She agreed that she had problems in the church but did not mention the problem.

Response on pastor's preaching

"My pastor is good at preaching": She accepted her pastor preached well.

Church Name: Roman Catholic

Gender: Female

Age: 9years

Response on hindrance to church attendance

"Sleeping": She used to sleep at church.

Response on reasons for church attendance

"To learn the word of God": She agreed that her church taught the word of God.

Response on significance of church attendance

"My pastor will intercede for me": She accepted that pastor assisted her spiritually.

Response on message pastor often preach

"My pastor preaching against insulting": She agreed that her preached justice.

Response on time pastor use to preach

"4hours": She was certain about time her pastor utilized to preach the word of God.

Response on problems church members face in churches

I have not encountered any problem in the church": She accepted she experienced peace in the church.

Response on pastor' preaching

"Insulting": She agreed that her did not preach well.

Church Name: Apostolic Church

Denomination: Pentecostal

Category of Respondent: Child

Gender: Female

Age: 12years

Response on hindrance to church attendance

"Witches cannot go to church because the fire of God tormented them": She accepted that some people did not feel happy to attend church since they had unclean spirit.

Response on reasons for church attendance

"To worship God": She accepted the need to worship her creator.

Response on significance of church attendance

"It educates me to know what God likes and dislikes": She agreed that the church taught about the nature of God.

Response on message pastor often preach in the church

"My pastor often informs the congregation to stop committing sin and stop telling lies": She admitted that her pastor's preaching was based on holiness.

Response on time pastor use to preach

"2 hours": She was certain of the time her pastor used to preach.

Response on problems church members in churches

"I have not faced any problem in the church": She agreed that she experienced peace in her church.

Response on pastor's preaching

"There is nothing wrong with my pastor's preaching": She admitted that her pastor was good at preaching.

Church Name: Church of Christ

Denomination: Orthodox

Category of Respondent: Child

Gender: Female

Age: 8years

Response on hindrance to church attendance

"Because of fornication": She agreed that she practiced what God disliked.

Response on reasons for church attendance

"To listen to the word of God": She confirmed that she went to church because of preaching

Response on significance of church attendance

"It helps me to hear God's word and to commit into memory": She accepted that going to church assisted her to draw near to God.

Response on message pastor often preach

"My pastor often preach against fornication": She agreed that her preached righteousness.

Response on time pastor use to preach

"3 hours": She admitted that she was certain about the time her pastor used to preach.

Response on problems church members face in churches

"I have not faced any problem in the church": She declared that she experienced peace in the church.

Response on pastor's preaching

"There is nothing wrong with my pastor's preaching": She said that her pastor was good at preaching.

Church Name: S.D. A Church

Denomination: Orthodox

Category of Respondent: Adult

Gender: Male

Response on hindrance to church attendance

"Being born into idolatry": He accepted that he was interested in idol worship.

Response on reasons for church attendance

"It is God who created me so I have worship Him": He agreed that it was his responsibility to serve God.

Response on significance of church attendance

"Going to church makes me look unique among others": He admitted church attendance changed his life.

Response on message pastor often preach

"Doctrines of Jesus Christ": He accepted that his pastor's message was Christ-centered.

Response on time pastor use to preach

"3hours": He was certain that his pastor used 3 hours to preach the word of God.

Response on problems church members face in churches

"I have not faced any problem in the church": He agreed that he experienced peace in the church.

Response on pastor preaching

"Long preaching": He accepted his pastor's preaching made him boring.

Church Name: Roman Catholic

Gender: Female

Response on hindrance to church attendance

"To receive salvation": She agreed that the teachings of the church gave salvation.

Response on significance of church attendance

To get assistance from believers in times of need": She admitted church attendance made brethren in the Lord to help physically.

Response on message pastor often preach

"Forgiveness": She accepted his pastor preached justice"

Response on time pastor use to preach

"3hours": She certain about the time his pastor used to preach the word of God.

Response on problems church members face in churches

"I have not faced any problem in the church": She experienced peace in the church.

Response on pastor's preaching

"My pastor's preaching touches my heart": She admitted that her pastor always preach against her short-comings.

Response on hindrance to church attendance

"It is because of sin": She accepted it was sin that prevented her from going to church.

Response on reasons for church attendance

"To receive salvation and protection from God": She agreed that the teachings of her church gave salvation and protection.

Response on significance of church attendance

"God should help you so that my children will prosper": She accepted that church attendance enabled her children to receive material blessings.

Response on message pastor often preach

"My pastor preach that we must not be longerhead with one another": She agreed that her preached about peace.

Response on time pastor use to preach

"2hours": She was certain about the time used to preach the word of God.

Response on problems church members face in churches

"A lot of people say Roman Catholic is idole worship": She became confused because many people said Roman Catholic Church was not from God.

Response on pastor's preaching

"My pastor preach the sin I always commit": She accepted she was not feeling happy in the church.

Response on hindrance to church attendance

"Offering": She accepted that her pastor collected too much offering.

Response on reasons for church attendance

"To go to Heaven last and able to stop committing sin": She agreed that her church teachings helped her to go to Heaven and stopped committing sin.

Response on significance of church attendance

"To listen to the word of God and to live by His word ": She agreed that her taught the word of God and loved to obey Him

Response on message pastor often preach

"Resurrection": She accepted that her pastor helped the congregation to know that Jesus had conquered death and hell.

Response on time pastor use to preach

"1 hour, 30 minus": She was certain about the time her pastor used to preach the word of God.

Response on problems church members face in churches

*I have not faced any problem ": She agreed that she experinced peace in the church.

Response on pastor's preaching

"There is nothing wrong with my pastor's preaching": She agreed that her pastor was good at preaching.

Church Name: Pentecost Church

Denomination: Pentecostal

Gender: Female

Response on hindrance to church attendance

"How the person dress (worldly style): She accepted that her dressing was bad so she did not feeling happy to go to church.

Reasons for church attendance

"God will perform my heart desire for me": She accepted that going to church helped her to receive the favor of God.

Response on significance of church attendance

"It helps me to rest while I suppose to work on Sunday": She agreed that she was able to observe the Sabbath through church attendance.

Response on message pastor often preach

"My pastor often preach on deliverance": She accepted that her pastor pastor focused on peace of the congregation.

Response on time pastor used to preach

"3hours": She was certain about the time her pastor used to preach.

Response on problems church members face in churches

"I have not encountered any problem in the church": She admitted that she experinced peace in the church.

Response on pastor's preaching

"My pastor is found of insulting the congregation before he preach: She accepted that her pastor provoked the congregation before he delivered the word of God.

Church Name: The power of God International Ministry

Denomination: Chrismatic

Gender: Male

Position: Pastor

Response on church attendance

"The fellow is not a Christian": He accepted that the person was a pagan.

Response on reasons for church attendance

"To worship God and to listen to His word: He agreed that he was responsible to service God.

Response on significance of church attendance

"Through church attendance, we are able to hear His word": He admitted that church attendance helped them to communicate to God.

Response on message pastors preach

"I often preach about salvation": He accepted that his preaching assisted the congregation to accept Christ as their personal savior and Lord.

Response on time pastors used to preach

"4 hours base on the leading of the Holy Spirit ": He agreed that the Holy Spirit controlled his preaching.

Response on problems church members face in church

"Poor church attendance and interruption during preaching": He accepted that church member did not come to church often and raised questions at the time of preaching.

Response on pastors preaching

"Delaying in preaching and preaching that hint on the sins of members": He admitted that he did not preach on time and often rebuked the congregation.

Church Name: C. I. C

Denomination: Non denominational

Gender: Female

Response on church attendance

"Gossiping, longerhead and selfishness": She agreed that bad behavior of the church members prevented her from going to church.

Response on reasons for church attendance

"To go to Heaven": She accepted that the doctrines of the church would help her to go to Heaven.

Response on importance of church attendance

"To hear the word of God": She admitted that the church taught the word of God.

Response on message pastors preach in churches

"Forgiveness and don't be longerhead": She accepted her pastor preached about peace.

Response on time pastors used to preach

"2 hours": She was certain about the time her pastor used to preach

Response on problems church members face in churches

"I have not encountered any problem": She experinced peace in the church.

Response on pastors preaching

"Nothing is wrong with my pastor's preaching": She admitted her pastor preached well.

Church Name: Mercy Baptist

Denomination: Non denominational

Gender: Female

Response on church attendance

"It is sin which prevents people from going to church": She accepted some people were not prepared to humble themselves to God.

Response on reasons for church attendance

"So that I can go to Heaven last": She admitted there was a city called Heaven, not built by man.

Response on significance of church attendance

"Going to church helps believers to meet together, mediate upon the word of God": She agreed going to church helped to fellowship with other Christians.

Response on messages pastors preach

"Stop committing sin and able to deny ourselves from worldliness": She accepted her pastor preached against sin and following the ways of the unbelievers.

Response on time pastors used to preach

"2hours, 30 mins": She was certain of the time her pastor used to preach.

Response on problems church members face in churches

"Lack of unity among believers": She accepted the church members were not in good terms with one another.

Response on pastors preaching

"Pastor preaches for long hours": She admitted her pastor often stressed the congregation.

Church Name: Freeword Chapel International

Denomination: Non denominational

Gender: Female

Response on church attendance

"Lack of trust": She admitted the masses had lost hope in the church.

Response on reasons for church attendance

"To seek the kingdom of God or for everlasting life": She accepted that she wanted to be free from the second death.

Response on significance of church attendance

"It helps you to become spiritually strong, To be part of god children": She admitted church attendance built her spiritual life.

Response on message pastors preach

"He preach about the death of Christ": She accepted that her pastor proclaimed Jesus as the savior of the world.

Response on time pastors used to preach

"3hours": She was certain about the time her pastor used to preach.

Response on problems church members face in churches

"Lack of communication": She accepted the church members did not feel free to share ideas among themselves.

Response on pastors preaching

"I see nothing bad about his preaching": She admitted her pastor was good at preaching.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Introduction

This chapter covered summary of findings from the analysis, conclusion and recommendation. The study found out that female children in Pentecostal churches mentioned what prevented them from going to church, reasons for church attendance, importance of church attendance, messages pastors preached, time pastors used to preach, non faced problems in their various churches and majority confessed that there were nothing wrong with their pastors preaching. Both adult and children from non denominational churches declared causes of refusing to attend church, reasons for church attendance, significance of church attendance, time pastors used to preach, messages pastors preached, majority faced no problems in their churches, a few mentioned problems like lack of communication ; unity, half of the church members found nothing wrong with their pastors' preaching and half of them discovered problems such as insulting, long preaching. Female children from orthodox churches stated what hindered them from going to church, reasons for church attendance, importance of church attendance, messages pastors preached, time pastors used to preach, many declared no problems in their churches ; a few comment bad about their pastors preaching.

CONCLUSION

The study discovered that the various religious denominations expressed their views on significance of church attendance like to hear the word of God, pastors interceded for the congregation, helped to get material assistance from other believers, make Christians to prosper and help to stop committing sin. The various religious denominations stated their reasons for church attendance such as the desire to go to Heaven, love towards God, to communicate to Him and to search for the kingdom of God. Base on the above mentioned factors the study generalized that church attendance was important to Christians in Ejisu community.

RECOMMENDATION

Education: Ministers of God should preach the public to understanding the significance of church attendance.

Church: The leaders in the church must take time and educates the church members to know the side-effect of refusing to attend church.

Films: Actors and Actress should act films to educate Christians and non Christians to understand the need to go to church.

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