**SOME FINDINGS OF INVESTICATIONS MADE REGARDING HOW THE CHURCHES ASSIGNED TO ME PAY THEIR MINISTERS**

I interviewed two Anglican priests, one in the rural area of Ideato Dioceses and another an Archdeacon in the urban Dioceses

In all, Anglican church has three level of ministers-group C. B and A. Group C earns some N8,000; ‘B’ earns N12,000 and ‘A’ about N20,000 while the rules are not strictly in place as a minister may lose some part of his remunerations if the church he serves couldn’t pay, some earn higher than the stipulated.

There are however benefits and entitlements the church (local) is expected to offer their priests-in the areas of farming, children’s schooling and Medicare. Like in AG, some of these are not strictly binding on members to do.

The station priest at Ideato however pointed out that the priests are clamoring for some review which will soon be done.

The story is not quite the same in the urban city of Owerri where I interviewed the Arch-Deacon of Christ Church. I gathered that new entrants into priesthood are paid N30,000. They are called deacons and cannot perform certain functions till after a probation period. The canons are paid N50,000 while the Arch-deacon earns N70,000 like in the first case, these exclude certain benefits early stated. In other words, they have a graduated scale of salary for their priests.

They also have what they call non- stipaidentiary priests, those that are gainfully employed and earn full salaries from other sources. To these group, they pay only N8,000 allowance

My enquiry at the Overcomers Christian Mission also reveals similar categorizations of ministers and allowances. The station pastor earns N20,000; the district pastor earns N30,000, while the state pastor earns N50,000. This also depends on the environment where one is posted, but the stated amounts are basic and cannot be reduced.

There are, like in the first church, several benefits. The pastors’ first four children enjoy free education and medical services from the church, as well the pastor and his wife.

Overcomers Church mission’s pastors pay only some 10% of the church income to the central body and after removing the pastors’ allowance by the church board, the rest of ploughed back to the church projects. All these are in one way or the other similar to what we

have. However we can borrow some practices and drop some as we have here. Let me therefore recommend that the following for discussion.

1. Reduce the percentages our pastors pay to the section, District and General council as well as those paid to various Departments. Let these hierarchies think of alternative means of getting funds like embarking on mini-businesses.
2. That those of our pastors who are qualified be encouraged to take up part time jobs. This already in practice; but the general council should recommend the types to and not to
3. That our ministers wives be paid some stipend, at least from the church W.M Department purse. This should depend on what the Department can sincerely pay.
4. Let consider of fixing a minimum and maximum our pastors should earn so as to see the possibility of using the funds from “the haves “to beef up the “have nots” allowance.
5. Let us borrow a leaf from the churches that extend care to minister’s families by contributing to their educational and health needs.
6. If we must implement these properly, we should employ a central system of payment.

**Rev Bc Nwachkwu**

**SALARY STRUCTURE FOR STAFFS (MINISTERIAL OF OTHERS) IN THE APOSTLE CHURCH, EKET FIELD AKS.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Salary | Vehicle allowance |
| Field superintendent | 35,000 | 15,000 |
| Deputy “ | 20,000 | 10,000 |
| Area “ | 15,000 | 6,000 |
| Apostles | 12,000 | 6,000 |
| District pastor | 1970-2000 10,000 | 3,000 |
| Newly called | 2000-2007 7,000 | 3,000 |
|  | 6,000 |  |
| Assembly Pastor |  |  |
| Worker | 4,000 |  |
| Typist | 5,000 |  |
| Compound/ security | 5,000 |  |
| Apostles drivers | 6,000 |  |
| Pastors drivers | 3,000 |  |

***Note***: **vehicle allowances differs on the kind of mobility =**

**Cars for every shift =N3,000**

**Motorcycle =N2,000**

1. It is compulsory that tithe is subtracted from every monthly salary at hand as would be recorded in the pastor sheet returned to the church council
2. It must be returned also in the sheet all the travelling expenditure incurred by the council member (deducted) as approved by the chairman