

BAPTIST STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

OUR PHILOSOPHY

The Nigerian Baptist Convention's Christian witness and ministry in institutions of higher learning are in response to the Lord's command to make the gospel known to all persons. Because schools are engaged in the quest for knowledge and truth of which God is the Source, the Christian perspective is essential to realize the ultimate in education. The unique nature of the student life and campus community demands a specialized ministry of the church to the individual need of students for redemption and Christian nurture within that community.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To lead students to a commitment to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.
- To involve them in the study of biblical truth and Christian discipleship.
- To lead them to relate academic disciplines to their Christian faith.
- To involve them in responsible church membership and denominational understanding and participation.
- To involve them in the study and practical participation in mission for kingdom expansion.

OUR OBJECTIVES EXPLAINED

➤ SALVATION

Making a personal, private/ public confession to begin a Christian life. Regular attendance to Christian Fellowships, church programme/activities, etc. becomes meaningful and rewarding after the experience of second birth.

➤ DISCIPLESHIP

Becoming an obedient follower of Christ; guided by the Scripture and the Holy Spirit. Emphasis is placed on personal and group study as well as on being obedient to the revealed Truth.

➤ **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

Need for a balance of spiritual and secular knowledge to enhance spiritual growth.

➤ **CHURCHMANSHIP**

Total commitment to and full involvement in the programmes and activities of a local Baptist church.

OUR PURPOSE

To plan and develop materials and services acceptable for use by campus organizations, church BSF organizations, Associations, Conferences, and Convention in order to establish, strengthen and improve the ministry to students in schools of higher learning and in churches.

STUDENT MINISTRY DEFINED

Student Ministries in the local situation is the ministry to students on campus or church. The ministry is conducted primarily in the following ways:

A student organization, which is called BSF (Baptist Student Fellowship).

A Campus Minister provides leadership to a campus-based BSF. This may be a fully employed person or a volunteer. The Campus Minister serves as adviser to the BSF.

BAPTIST STUDENT FELLOWSHIP DEFINED

The BSF is an organization, a fellowship and a ministry. It is an organization of Baptist Students, a Fellowship of Christian Students, and a Ministry to all students.

OUR BSF DISTINCTIVES THE BSF LOGO

The logo of the BSF is a symbol which describes the purpose and goal of the ministry to students. Four (4) symbols are involved:

- ✓ The academic cap (mortar board) stands for academic success (Acts 26:24).
- ✓ The church building stands for the local church (Matthew 16:18)
- ✓ The open Bible stands for the revealed Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16)
- ✓ The globe stands for the vision of the whole world (Matthew 28:19-20)

The mortar board, placed in the centre of the church is the symbol of academic achievement, symbolizes the successful student.

The silhouetted church, in the centre of the open Bible illustrates the New Testament church which is today the visible expression of the Word of God. The church spiral points upward to the ultimate source of truth and wisdom.

The successful student is a part of the New Testament church pointing man to the Ultimate Source of all wisdom.

The circle shows that the ministry of the church is to the whole world.

BSF MOTTO

“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John13: 35; NIV).

The Baptist Student Fellowship motto is a reminder that the love and unity within the Christian community is the characteristic by which others will recognize the followers of Jesus Christ.

The colour of BSF is light leaf green, which stands for the physical, spiritual and intellectual growth of students. It shows that a successful student needs to grow daily and steadily in all these areas of life. The colour can be blended with other colours to bring out the beauty of the BSF colour.

BSF HYMN

Students, Rise Now 8.7.8.7.D with

1. Students, rise now, build the Kingdom,
Heed the Master's call today
Students, stand up, follow Jesus;
He's the Life and the Truth, the Way,
In the city, in the village,
In each near or distant land,
Preach the gospel, make disciples
And fulfil the Lord's command,

Refrain : Students, rise now, rise and build (2x)

2. As true students of the Scripture,
Workmen unashamed and bold,
Grow in Knowledge, deepen wisdom;
God's own truth is purest gold,
And with prayer and devotion
Seek the Master's face each day;
Let the Kingdom come within you
And among you in all ways,

Refrain : Students, rise now, rise and build (2x)

3. As the servants of the Saviour

Let God's will be done on earth
Joining hands with other Christians
Share the message of new Birth;
We're forgiven, we've been pardoned
Through the death of Jesus Christ;
God's own love gift has been offered;
Our redemption's sacrifice

Refrain : Students, rise now, rise and build (2x)

4. As the members of Christ's body,
Sharing in one common life,
Bearing burdens, sharing sorrows,
Use God's love to banish strife,
We're united in the church now,
Founded on the rock of faith;
We have gifts, now let us use them
That the Church may grow in grace

Refrain : Students, rise now, rise and build (2x)

5. Jesus calls us as disciples
To give all our lives to Him,
Bringing talents, time and money,
And our futures yet unlived.

He is building, let us join Him;

Let us answer Heaven's call;

Students, rise now, rise and follow

Follow Him as Lord of all,

Refrain: Students, rise now, rise and build (2x)

NOTE: The BSF Hymn was composed with the tune in 1993 by the Rev. (Dr.) Paul Odgen Davidson. He is the Head of the Department of Music at The Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomoso.

ZONAL OPERATION BSF

Student Ministries operate in ten zones across the country ministering to over 150 campuses. Underlisted are the key staffs providing field services to BSF groups across the country:

The Director Youth & Student Ministries

Rev'd Dr. Samuel Aderemi Olaleye (+238159990007)

Location: National Office, Baptist Building, Oke-Bola, Ibadan.

National Coordinator

Rev'd. Joshua Sunday Ibukunoluwa (+2348038263958)

Location: National Office, Baptist Building, Oke-Bola, Ibadan.

Western Zone V (Ekiti, Ondo & Kogi Conference)

Zonal Coordinator: Rev'd Adesola Adeyemi (08037608589)

Location: First Baptist Church, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State.