PRESENCE, PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS

BY PASTOR OWEN E JACK

Church members today want their pastors to be present and to perform. They don’t care how many degrees we have behind our names or how well we can preach if we are not present and if we are not performing.

**PRESENCE**

Members want their pastors to be present in the pulpit.

Members want their pastors to be present in their homes.

Members want their pastors to be present at the Sunday, Wednesday and Sabbath Services.

Members want their pastors to be present at their church boards and business meetings.

Members want their pastors to be present at their social gatherings.

Members want their pastors to be present when they are in the hospital.

Members want their pastors to be present at their funerals.

Members want their pastors to be present and on time on Sabbath mornings for church just as they expect members to be present and on time for all services.

When we accept an assignment to a church or district that assignment must be given first priority. Many pastors are like absent land lords. They accept speaking appointments to other churches and districts frequently and the churches in their districts hardly see them. They are attending to other people’s vineyard and neglecting their own vineyard. We will have to give account of our stewardship to God one of these days for the churches assigned to our care. We will either be found faithful or unfaithful.

**PERFORMANCE**

Members expect their pastors to perform the basic duties assigned to them.

Members expect their pastors to feed the sheep and lambs with fresh, good and relevant spiritual food.

Members expect their pastors to visit them in their homes at least once a year.

Members expect their pastors to visit them when they are sick or have a death in their family.

Members expect their pastors to train them for service and evangelism.

Members want pastors who are soul winners.

Members expect their pastors to give leadership to the church and not leave it to the elders.

Members expect that their pastors will conduct church and business meetings and not leave it to the elders.

Members expect their pastors to be an example to the flock in dress, healthful living, purity, punctuality, humility and faithfulness.

Members expect their pastors to set aside at least one day a week to see them at church for counselling.

Members expect their pastors to deliver correspondence from the Conference in a timely manner.

Members expect their pastors to answer their phones and return calls.

Members expect their pastors to handle disciplinary matters when they surface and not run from it. Many pastors want to be popular with the people so they don’t touch certain people and situations. Pastors we are not in a popularity contest. When we fail to deal with certain situations we make it difficult for the next pastor following us.

PROGRESS

Members expect their praetors to help them to make progress in their spiritual lives.

Members expect their pastors to help their church to make progress spiritually, mentally, socially, physically and materially.

When pastors are present, perform and help the members and their church to make progress, the members will love them and support their ministry and God will be glorified.

May God help us to be pastors who perform and are present.