

DEVELOPING A CONTEMPORARY MISSION WORK STRATEGY FOR
URBAN CENTRES IN NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT

The orientation of many about missionary activities is that it is meant for rural, remote undeveloped or underdeveloped areas that are out of touch with contemporary realities. Some do not see the need for the gospel in the city. This study is conducted to present why Christians must have the big picture of what the great commission is about and to discover the need to accept, agree and approve of missions done in the city. This research attempts to present the biblical basis for urban mission, reality of the importance of cities in mission and strategic ways by which missions can be facilitated and funded in cities. The research was conducted in Lagos megacity with the use of questionnaire and the responses given by the respondents were analysed statistically. 78% of the respondents affirm the possibility of winning the megacity for Christ through different biblical contemporary evangelistic methods that could be modified to reflect the diverse contexts that are found in the megacity. The research is concluded with the fact that if a city is effectively reached particularly in Nigeria, several seeds of the gospel would have been sown into several villages without knowing it. This is because, most people reached in the city have a direct or indirect link to the surrounding villages and they will be moved to witness Christ in their villages where many are likely to have drifted to the city.

5.2 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, what is important to God is for souls to be reconciled to Him through Christ's love. Therefore Christians should be ready to speak for Christ and about Christ where people are. The opportunity for Christian and churches to fulfil the mandate placed over them is opened in the urban centres, where many people of different tribes and tongues could be reached with the gospel without necessarily

carrying the gospel to their geographical location, which could cost more. Also, urban missions avail Christians the opportunity not to necessarily abandon their life career and families either on a short term or long term basis on a mission field, their places of work, businesses and home environment could be turned to their mission field. If a city is effectively reached, several seeds of the gospel would have been sown into several villages without knowing it, thus, there will be a synergy that will drive the accomplishment of the Great Commission more than what we can imagine.

5.3 RECOMMENDATION

As Baptists who have the word, there is need for them to profit with the word in the cities, they have the resources, the messengers and the message, then it is recommended that they change their orientation of regarding the rural missions as the only mode of missions and embrace the new trend of missions in Africa by confronting the challenge of urban drift with the corresponding awakening and awareness of covering their cities with the message of Christ's love to those drifting to the cities before they are caught up in the noise, chaos and darkness of our cities.

It is also recommended that proper planning and implementation of strategies be taken into consideration before launching out to be involved in urban missions as achievable goals must be set, resources must be gathered, suitable contemporary methods must be identified and contextualized, before engaging cities with the gospel.