

STEWARDSHIP AS A PIVOT FOR REALIZING THE
NIGERIAN BAPTIST CONVENTION KINGDOM EXPANSION VISION
A CASE STUDY OF OGBOMOSO

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BY

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ABSTRACT

This research work on “Stewardship: A Pivot for Realizing the Nigerian Baptist Convention Kingdom Expansion Vision (Case Study: Ogbomoso)” was born out of the passion to support that vision by contributing to it through research. The researcher dwelt strongly on how stewardship can be used to realize the vision of taking the gospel everywhere in the world. Every vision needs the resources to translate the vision into a mission. The key resource identified by the researcher is stewardship. If funds, time, personnel, etc are available but not properly managed, the vision may not be actualized.

The method used in this research work is questionnaire method. A questionnaire was drafted, several copies of it made, and administered to collect relevant data useful for the research. The questionnaires were then analysed and findings made from the data. The findings made include the lack of faithfulness in the commitment of local Baptist churches to paying their Convention dues. Also, most Baptist pastors do not dedicate enough of their sermon hours to teaching their church members about stewardship. Furthermore, it was discovered that many church members lack basic understanding of stewardship.

Based on the findings made, useful recommendations were suggested. These include the commitment of Baptist pastors to the teaching and preaching of stewardship sermons, leading their churches to give for missions, and encouraging them to participate in volunteer mission.

5.2 Conclusion

From the research carried out in this work, it would be discovered that the level of understanding of the concept of biblical stewardship among Christians within the Baptist denomination is still low. This may have resulted from the infiltration of teachings from the charismatic set up, especially the teachings about prosperity. While the people agree about the importance of giving, they seem to be unaware of the totality of concept.

This has led to the drive to acquire and not manage properly. Also, the commitment on their use of time, talents and influence is average. This may have resulted in our religious

drive, that is, the drive to want to attend religious programmes with the hope of receiving blessings from God. It could also be derived from the research that many Baptist churches are excellent in church planting, but the support meant to sustain the churches is less adequate.

Finally, Baptist churches have a cooperative spirit. They appreciate the value of associating to function for a common goal. The goal of reaching the world with the gospel has been described as enormous. It is beyond the capability of a single individual or church to achieve and achieve in time. The Baptist denomination understands this very much and they are seriously taking advantage of cooperation to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Interestingly, the research shows that Baptist churches do not only cooperate within their denomination; rather, they cooperate with other churches, Christian associations, and mission agents.

5.3 Recommendations

In view of the revelations unfolded in this paper, the researcher hereby wishes to make the following useful recommendations:

1. The dichotomy between responsible stewardship and prosperity theology should be understudied properly. This is because people have been incorrectly taught to give with the mind of receiving it back in thousand folds within the shortest time. They have also been misguided to think that the only shortest and fastest tract to financial prosperity is giving. Responsible stewardship teaches willingness, proportionate giving, sacrificial giving, systematic giving, attitudinal giving and personal giving all as a way of life.
2. The Baptist pastor should increase their sermons on stewardship. They should not make the annual stewardship revival the only means of expatiating on the subject of biblical stewardship; instead, seizing every opportunity to preach and teach it.
3. The Baptist denomination should continue to esteem the value inherent in cooperation for Kingdom expansion.

4. Baptist should be encouraged to be more service oriented. They should team up with Non-Governmental Organizations to take the gospel of Christ to the less privileged.
5. The care of the environment should become a priority. This is stewardship of the environment. The churches should include in their programmes to reflect environmental issues.
6. Baptist church should give adequate financial and human support for newly planted churches until they are form enough to carry out the Kingdom responsibilities by themselves. Furthermore, they should be equipped spiritually by training their leaders from time to time.
7. Qualified volunteers should be encouraged and given the necessary support to participate in volunteer mission work within and outside the geographical location of the Baptist church.