

A BIBLICAL EVALUATION OF FUND RAISING IN CHURCHES:
A STUDY OF OGBOMOSO NORTH EAST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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ABSTRACT

The work, "A Biblical Evaluation of Fund Raising in Churches: A case study of Ogbomoso North East Baptist Association" highlights the biblical fund raising in churches vis-a-vis the Great Commission. The variables of interest are: principles or methods of funds raising, ethical issues in fund raising, and fund raising vis-a-vis the Great Commission. The questionnaire method was used in order to get the respondents' opinion on the variables of interest. The Statistical Package for Social and Sciences (SPSS) software was used for proper analysis. The wrong method employed in raising funds in churches has played a terrible role in history. The work is therefore, undertaken to create awareness (stimulate) that pastors, church leaders, and churches should embark on the biblical means to raise funds. Different principles or methods of fund raising have been employed, but without desired satisfaction. This calls for a biblical way that can give lasting satisfaction. From the findings, it showed that local churches have commendable knowledge of biblical fund raising. The biblical principles guiding this may not biblically and appropriately apply. Most priority is placed on methods of fund raising in churches. Second to this is the Great Commission. Churches are a little conscious of ethical issues in fund raising. The responses of the respondents were greatly influenced by their gender, age and occupation. There is need for universal church to pay more attention to and imbibe the rudiments of biblical fund raising. Pastors and churches retaining undesirable commercial methods in raising funds should resolved to methods that are biblically sound in financing God's work. Churches should not place fund raising over and above the Great Commission. They should raise men instead of specializing in fund raising. The church should depend absolutely on God and be willing to do God's work in God's way.

5.2 CONCLUSIONS

Fund raising is a critical issue in churches today. Some pastors have declined talking about it, while some who do, do it at the detriment of the souls. The church of God is indeed in need of money; but the church of God must not make their members fraudulent in order to fund God's work. The church should depend absolutely on God

and be willing to do God's work in God's way. Church must depend on God for "He owns the church and has deposited enormously all resources needed to carry out the all-inclusive ministry" (Olakunle 9).

Fund raising is a biblical based system. It was discovered that local Baptist churches have commendable knowledge of biblical fund raising. The biblical principles guiding this may not biblically and appropriately apply. There is a need for Baptist churches and churches in general to pay more attention to and imbibe the rudiments of the biblical fund raising. Failure to do this may make Baptist churches and universal church to lay a bad precedence for the coming generations.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Pastors and churches retaining undesirable commercial methods in raising funds should resolve to methods that are biblically sound in financing God's work. Churches should strictly adhere to the collection of tithes and offerings as source of fund raising in churches. They should be mindful of the kind of offering they receive and from whom they are receiving such.

Churches should not place fund raising over and above the Great Commission. They should be aware that the task ahead of them is men raising not fund raising. They should clearly state and always keep focus on their purpose and mission. This will enable them not to deviate from such. All the church programmes should be planned to reflect their nature and mission.

Churches should help the community to use biblical categories to scrutinize the cause of poverty and oppression. Pastors, church leaders and members should know that the "the principles of sincerity and ethical integrity especially apply to fund raising" (Bartle www.scn.org/cmp/modules/res-fnd.htm). They should therefore, be

ethically minded in the collection of money. They should be aware that too much of cravenness for money can lead to unbiblical way of raising fund. Pastors should embark on a worthwhile cause “for people enjoying giving if they believe they are giving to a worthwhile cause” (Brown www.churchfundraising.Idea.org).

Churches should learn of God’s ownership. If they do, they will not be content and comfortable giving few percent of their income and feel generous. Furthermore, pastors and churches should not plan in the flesh, but plan with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They should plan the church finance “in a way that will earn them a heavenly home that is full of eternal joy” (Okunlola 5). Above all, they should know that the Lord is faithful and will provide for the need of His church in a special way.