

THE MISSIONARY STRATEGIES OF PAUL AND THEIR  
IMPLICATIONS FOR CHRIST-LIFE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IFO OGUN STATE

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## ABSTRACT

This project focuses on the missionary strategies of Paul and their implications for Baptist churches in Christ Life Baptist Association, Ifo, Ogun State. The researcher was motivated to carry out this work as a result of the ineptitude of the church in carrying out the dictate of the Great Commission (Teaching, baptizing, and discipling). The aim of this work is to examine the strategies used by Paul and find a meeting point with the strategies being used in our contemporary time. Some pastors of the association were interviewed base on the subject matter. They were interviewed in order to know the reaction and attitude of the contemporary ministers to mission. Again, some salient information about the way mission is done was retrieved and this helped to know the kind of mission the association is using and the relevance of their strategies to contemporary missions. The research will acquaint the churches in the association with the way to carry out mission work with considerable ease. The association will be furnished with the information on how to raise money for mission work. When the church mission activity is checked by the mission enterprises of a mission guru like Paul, who had made very good impact in mission, such a church will fulfill the mandate handed over to it by God.

## 5.2 CONCLUSION

It is imperative to mention that we need to move from an old ways of doing things to a new way – contemporary strategies- that can bring results. Christ Life Baptist Association is really mission oriented; much can still be done to improve on the current state of mission work in the association.

The fact that churches in Christ Life Baptist Association have not tried many sophisticated mission strategies, most especially as it has to do with finances (tent

making) and all other attached finance methods has made them not to expand beyond the level they are now. Many of these churches conduct open air crusade, distribute tracts, and conduct house to house evangelism, they still fail because they do not incorporate visitation (follow up) in their strategies.

The denomination as a whole (NBC) cannot afford to fail God. Baptists are known for their mission prowess. We should, therefore endeavor to emulate Paul's missionary "traits" and began to make impact in our generation. Paul, in his missionary exploits, was concerned with much more than simply evangelizing and forming the believers into churches, he wanted the converts to know and live out the truth. Until we reach this stage, we have done nothing. It may be difficult to reach this stage unless we decide to use all our resources to finance missions.

This research work therefore encourages Baptist Churches in Christ Life Association to contribute positively and consistently towards mission so as to be obedient to the clarion call in Matthew 28:18-20. Each member should be set to contribute their possessions immensely for the propagation of the gospel. Carl and Sally said that pillar churches raise money for ministry projects through a schedule of special appeals to which interested members respond (101).

### 5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Having studied Paul's missionary strategies and their implications to churches in Christ Life Baptist Association, one will be apt in making the following recommendations;

First, the association needs to call well trained pastors to all her churches because this is the only way by which sound theology can be preached.

Second, the churches should cultivate the habit of “adopting churches that are incapable of financing themselves.” There are village churches that are not at all capable of financing themselves. These churches should be helped in order for them to enjoy Christ like others.

Third, the Baptist Churches in this association should give larger percentage of their income to mission. Mission work needs money to function effectively. The pastors in this association should also learn how to raise fund for special project like mission.

Fourth, the pastors in this association should cultivate the habit of preaching “mission oriented messages.” They need to be preaching on giving and on tithing. People need to be encouraged to give to God. They need to be encouraged because not everybody understands what giving is all about.

Fifth, the association should note that mission is not the extension of the church as an institution or the reproduction of visible structures. Rather, it is the receiving of the Word by the people as they are and where they are, for the redemption of their souls. Therefore, Christian’s teaching must be tailored towards that. This is essential because the great commission is the “job description of the church” (Jackman 1).

Sixth, the churches should endeavor to participate in any social engagement of the location they are situated. Such social engagements as paying night guard fees, paying for repair of electricity, reconstruction of roads, among others.



Seventh, the newly established church should be trained not to depend absolutely on the mother church. They should be allowed to run their accounts and carry out simple projects themselves. They should also be allowed to call pastor themselves.

Eighth, they should not plant church where we have more than enough churches. Church should be established in such area if it is imperative. In the sense that such church is established because of a member of the old church who packed to his/her site. In the absence of that, the resources that could have been wasted could be used to establish *another vibrant church.*