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THE CONCEPT OF GIVING AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR
CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANITY

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ABSTRACT

Giving is a concept that cannot be avoided in the Christian life. Full understanding of this concept therefore ensures that Christians live God's purposeful life. God gave Jesus to the world for the world's salvation and "we are saved to save others". Giving is highly demonstrated by the church as this manifested in the Jerusalem church (First church). The church through its stewardship programmes could lead its members to a high standard of Christian giving. However, the today church has no outstanding record as giving is concerned. Hence, giving in most of our churches is said to have been approached out of Christ-like motive, sense of duty.

The fact that we are stewards of God should ensure the church a better standing of meeting her expenses through cheerful giving. Hence this research paper examines giving in our local churches in Ogbomoso Baptist Conference.

Chapter one includes Introduction Motivation for the thesis statement of problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, the scope of the study. Methodology and definition of key terms. Chapter two of the research paper examined the broad overview of Christian giving. This includes, giving in the Old Testament, uses of Tithe in Old Testament period, giving in the New Testament, Members' attitude towards giving, attitude of free choice, Members' motive for giving and Members' obligation for giving.

The significance of giving in the propagation of the gospel makes the writer of this research paper to devote the whole of chapter three of this research paper to the benefits that accrue to the giver, the church and to the Convention at large. The end result of true giving to the church which help the church to fulfill her golden purpose of her establishment. Chapter four analyses the data obtained through the interview conducted from members of our Local Baptist Churches and Convention workers. Here the writer considered some of the primary goal of the church, through which her great commission be fulfilled. The analyses showed that for outstanding giving in Baptist, sound Biblical teaching on stewardship must be apportioned a place of priority or preference.