

THE HISTORY OF BAPTIST MISSION WORK AMONG  
THE DISABLED PEOPLE: A CASE STUDY OF THE BLIND  
CENTRE - OGBOMOSO 1958-2002

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THESIS PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE  
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IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE MASTER OF  
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BY  
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#### 4. CONCLUSION

*I would like to conclude with the following remarks:*

On January 27, 1961, issue of Daily Times: Late Chief S. L. Akintola, while attending a week long programme of events at the centre remarked that "Dr. and Mrs. R. L. West, of the Baptist Mission Ogbomoso, should be commended, through whose Christian influence the Ogbomoso Blind Training Centre was founded"<sup>5</sup>.

On April 24, 1964, Late Chief N. D. Oyerinde, the Chairman of the management committee remarked that the centre is the realisation of the foresight and courage of an American Missionary Couple, the Rev. Dr. & Mrs R. L. West starting from very humble beginnings about five years ago on a temporary site.<sup>6</sup>

The reader should go and study the chapter where there is the statistics of blind people in the Ogbomoso Township which Mrs. West conducted with special arrangement with the Baptist Hospital, medical director, Dr. Edwards.

You are at liberty to draw your own conclusion. The researcher would rather employ the reader, by asking him to reflect back before 1958 – whether there was any record of blind centre in 1940s and early 1950s. The reader should ask, when we began to hear of the centre – who were the people always mentioned? Who actually sponsored Mr. Ganiyu Raji to Kaduna to have some training at the Blind Centre at Kaduna and even to that of Ikeja and Oshodi?

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<sup>5</sup> Daily Times, January 27, 1961.

<sup>6</sup> VF 1578 NBTS, Library, Ogbomoso

One can not rule out that the Blind Centre began with Mr. Ganiyu Raji. The Wests used the Wests, who were mission workers at the Seminary to project their social welfare work through Raji who was a teachable blind person whom they sponsored for various trainings.

The Wests now founded a Blind Centre and used Mr. Ganiyu Raji as an instructor to teach and train other people who might have suffer similar fate. The Wests were able to record success about their social welfare work among the blinds through Mr. Ganiyu Raji

Unfortunately, the Wests were unable to penetrate through Mr. Ganiyu Raji religiously. This is because he died as a committed Moslem. He used their money for his trainings and they likewise used him to project their social welfare work to those who has been forgotten by the people to one corner of the world. This is because our reaction and attitude towards people who are blind is nothing to write about. It is not encouraging. It is through this laudable social welfare work which is now a medium through which the gospel message has been carried and conveyed to the blind through Braille Bible. The trainees can read the Bible in the language they understand. The American Baptist Missionary Couple are achievers. Their names will remain indelible inthe annals of the centre.

## **5. RECOMMENDATION**

The researcher in his own little way has been trying to make a case on behalf of the trainees at the centre with anyone reading this research work to show more concern to the cause of the disabled

either **partially or totally** disabled. If the reader has any contact with the **people up there**, either at the local government level, state or at the **Federal Government** level, try to convince them to play a more **leading role** in the affairs of the disabled. This is because they are part of us. If there is any head count in this country. They would also be counted. If there is going to be any benefit to any nation the population of such a country will go along way. The government should all go out so as to help the disabled. There is nothing good in anything that is done in half.

It will go a long way if the government should have a special capital vote for all rehabilitation centres. The money which is voted must be judiciously used for what it has been voted for. There should be a proper monitoring system to see to the execution of any programme that will give human dignity to both abled and disabled people.

It is high time the government stopped white elephant projects which are avenue for siphoning of money. The government should have a re-think and think of projects which will benefits everybody in the society.

The trainees are seriously been troubled by bed-bugs due to their low level of hygiene due to their condition. The total numbers of the trainees at the centre are less than seventy in numbers if the government should employ about three sighted women to take care of the female trainees and same number of three sighted dedicated and religious men to take care of the rooms of the trainees and its

contents. They should help the trainees to put their mattresses on lawn so that direction rays of the sun will be on the mattress which will be changed as the case may be. The sighted people, employed to take care of the disabled should be ask to apply insecticide to the personal effects of the trainees. This should be done, because they also need some decency.

The government at all levels, should make it a point of duty so as to assist a trainee who has successfully finished up his training programme. Matter of finance to establish should not be a problem to them. Government should be able to encourage them by according them adequate support. It must never be in half measure.

The government at all levels have tried but there is still room for improvement. Enough money should be made available to all the disabled centres for proper maintenance. It will not be a big deal to provide an adequate means of transportation system to the trainees. It will only ease their communication system.

We should be able to take care of our disabled. Their religious life should not suffer. Those who are Christians should have a caring and a loving minister of God. And those who are disabled and not Christian should also be helped to see the light and follow the son of God. Above all, we should care and love both able and disabled equally.