

TOWARD DEVELOPING A NEW APPROACH
TO EVANGELISM IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The declaration of the Islamic Legal System (Shariah law) in twelve out of the nineteen states in Northern Nigeria, and the current trend towards the revival of African Traditional Religion has made it imperative for the church of God in Northern Nigeria to develop a new approach to evangelism.

The new approach is Biblical, applicable practicable and non-offensive to the Muslim community. It is a silent and non-confrontational approach that is based on Agape love, with particular emphasis on one-to-one discipleship evangelism.

Adoption of this approach by the Church of God in Northern Nigeria, consequently mobilizing just one thousand believers in each of the nineteen Northern states in Nigeria to actualize this God given vision, will greatly be used of God to win and disciple more than nineteen million new believers for God in Northern Nigeria, within the next ten years. This will accelerate the making of the kingdom of the Muslim dominated Northern Nigeria, the kingdom of God and of His Christ.

C. Conclusion

Taking a look of retrospect, inspect and prospect into the evangelism of the church in Northern Nigeria in light of the declaration of the Islamic legal system in twelve out of the nineteen states of Northern Nigeria and the current trend toward the revival of African Traditional Religion, one cannot but exercise serious fear on the future of Christian witness and evangelistic effort in Northern Nigeria. As children of God however, God has not given us the spirit of fear. We must be assured that God Himself will do it. On the part of the Church, she must go back to evangelizing the Biblical way. This will require a great sacrifice on the part of the Church. However, the Church must always remember that Jesus Christ, Peter, Paul, Stephen and the early Apostles, disciples and Christians made greater sacrifices than what God is even expecting her to make today for the sake of the Gospel. The church

must emphasize and prioritize discipleship. All her efforts must be tailored towards discipleship.

The new approach will only succeed if the Church is willing to make the necessary sacrifice for the Lord. God is expecting the Church to do this. It is also hoped that this paper will elicit more researches, critical views, ideas, methods and approaches to evangelism by scholars, missionaries, field workers and all Great Commission Christians.