

THE ROLE OF EFFECTIVE SURVEY IN CHURCH PLANTING;  
A CASE STUDY OF GLOBAL MISSION BOARD OF THE  
NIGERIAN BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## ABSTRACT

This research work; "The Role of Effective Survey in Church Planting: A case study of The Global Mission Board of The Nigerian Baptist Convention" is undertaken to emphasize the importance of survey studies in the effectiveness of church planting. There is a need to carry out the church planting exercise the way Jesus did it and continue in the way he passed it to the early disciples. From this study it is proved that effective survey is essential in church planting. Since the Great Commission can not be completed without planting of new churches, it is expected of all believers to carry out the task of church planting in fulfilling the God-given mandate. Through this exercise, the Church will experience a rapid growth.

In order to present these ideas, this work has five chapters; the first is an introduction to what the thesis is all about including definition of some terms. The second chapter deals with a review of literature about the role of effective survey in church planting. It also covers the methods used in carrying out this research, while the third chapter deals with the biblical perspectives on survey in relation with both the Old and New Testaments, including the biblical basis for church planting. This chapter was rounded up with the tools for effective church planting survey. Chapter four deals with the activity of the Global Mission Board, the history of the Board's formation and its workings, also a consideration is made on the effort of the

Church Growth Division of the Global Mission Board. The last chapter gives the summary, conclusion and recommendations of the work.

Every church planter needs a targeted audience to reach for effectiveness in reaching them with gospel message. The situation of the unreached is found out through the critical, spiritual, and physical mapping of the community. A broad understanding of the culture, norms and values, and worldview of the targeted audience will help the prospective church planters to know how to plant a growing Church in differs cultures without creating room for offence or syncretism. When the proper procedure is followed in church planting, the planter will be free from unnecessary stress in the course of carrying out his God's given mandate. Hence, taking into consideration the tools for effective church planting will help the would be church planters to have easy assess to redeemer standard of church planting.

## 5.2 CONCLUSION

Proliferation of churches in every nooks and crannies of our cities today will suggest to us that the Church is marching forward but a critical look at the settings and operational system of the Church will help us to understand that there are many Churches with less impact in the society. From the findings of this study, one can conclude that one of the reasons for dwindling impact of the Church in the society is lack of effective survey before such churches are planted.

Paul the prototype of church planting and strategic evangelism did not go to any city to establish a Church without knowing the spiritual condition of such territory. Church planters today can also experience the joy of service

as Paul and other apostles had if they follow the patterns laid down by the Lord Jesus Christ for His Church. Every Pastor is called to be a church planter, hence it is necessary that volunteers in every Church should be recruited and trained for the greater work of church planting. The Church should provide opportunities for such trained volunteers to make use of their gifts in expending the kingdom of God on earth.

From the writer's personal observation and findings of this study as tabulated and discussed earlier, the church planter has greater responsibilities in handling the challenges of church planting. Any church planter that does not seek to understand the importance of survey study in church planting will be groping in the dark as he goes about planting new churches. Starting a new Church is not as important as sustaining it to grow unto God's expectation. A church that is started upon faulty foundation due to lack of proper survey has the tendency of experiencing a redundant growth or even hitting the rock.

Every prosperous church planter will do well to pay close attention to the biblical ways of church planting and be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit, he must be ready to join the master church planter, the Holy Spirit wherever He is working, and then he can have a fulfilling service in his mission endeavour.

### 5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusion of this essay, the researcher hereby wishes to make some recommendations to the Global Mission Board, church planters and other volunteer team member in mission so that they might be more effective in carrying out the Great Commission mandate.

- Every church planter should embark on church planting exercise with a thorough survey of the targeted community.
- The vision of church planting must first be shared by the pastor with the members among whom will later emerge volunteers that will take up the assignment of church planting.
- Every church or Mission Organisation should have a standing survey group that will be committed to carrying out the survey study before embarking on church planting.
- The Mission Students on Vacation Ministry Experience can be sent by the Global Mission Board to do the survey of the targeted population, and also to mobilize the volunteers to carry out mass evangelism of the area.
- The tools of effective survey which are prayer, planning and Holy Spirit's leading should be taken with all seriousness in embarking on church planting.
- The church planting exercise should not be based only on availability of money to do the work but there is a need for the church planter to have a

vivid knowledge of the social, cultural and spiritual atmosphere of the targeted population.

- The church planting survey should be recommended for every missionary on the mission field for effectiveness in church planting.

The importance of effective survey in mission endeavour should not be over-emphasized: If our Lord Jesus Christ will not allow His disciples to abide in a community where they do not find a man of peace (Luke 10:36), church planters should make a move to plant Church only after they have sought for and found a man of peace in a targeted community. An intimate relationship with the master church planter, Jesus Christ will enhance effectiveness in church planting activities.