

THE HISTORY AND GROWTH OF BAPTIST WORK IN ONDO STATE

BAPTIST CONFERENCE 1896-2006

BY

OLADAPO, JOHN AYO

UJ/ 05/NB/0075

NBTS

Ol 1-h

M. Div.

A THESIS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY

SUBMITTED TO THE

FACULTY OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, OGBOMOSO

IN AFFILIATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF JOS

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE

AWARD OF

MASTER OF DIVINITY

UNIVERSITY OF JOS

J. C. POOL LIBRARY
BAPTIST SEMINARY
OGBOMOSO NIGERIA

JUNE 2008

08 — 0650

5.2 Conclusion

The efforts of the Baptist founding fathers in Ondo State have bore good fruits, to the glory of God. From the content of this work, the writer has been able to deduce the successes and failure of the

Baptist work in Ondo State Baptist Conference. The impact of Baptist work in the state has been a blessing to the state and the inhabitants because several souls have been positively affected by the influence of the Baptist denomination.

Examining the church planting efforts since 1896, it is observed there is much land to conquer. In the first five decades of the denomination, only five churches were established, between 1940-1960, only 19 churches were established. This rate was somehow slow, the greatest challenge now is that with the number of churches and Associations in the Conference, it is expected that more churches should be planted but this expectation is far from reality now. Concerted efforts should be made to resolve conflict to time, whenever there are differences, this will help the body of Christ to grow unhindered, the crisis that rocked the Conference for almost a decade gave the Conference lots of set back. Leaders of the Conferences should be fair and equitable in their distribution of resources and offices. The Conference should have a good archives and information center, this will help the Conference to process data and plan for the future.

Despite the rate of the growth of the Conference, the Baptist work in Nigeria and Ondo State in particular is progressing therefore, there are reasons to give thanks to God.

5.3 Recommendations

The writer hereby make the following recommendations after a serious study of the problem and progress of the Baptist work in the state.

- i. All the Baptist churches in the Conference should by all means have the history of their churches documented for future reference. It is sad to note that only few churches have their history documented.
- ii. The churches in the Conference should see that they are faithful to the Cooperative Programme of the Conference and the Convention. The 2007 Book of Report of the Conference revealed that many churches in the Conference were not faithful to the Cooperative Programme.
- iii. That all the churches without a pastor should be encouraged to get one.
- iv. That all the churches in the Conference should be united and be one in spirit and not to give room for division or disunity.
- v. That there should be adequate record keeping in all the churches and particularly the Conference should develop the habit of good record keeping. They should have Conference Library.
- vi. Consolidated efforts should be made to plant more churches in the Conference. All the major towns without Baptist influence should be explored for church planting.
- vii. Laymen empowerment should be seen as a good thing. All the churches of the Conference should try to expose their laymen and the

Conference in particular should see that they empower the indigenous laypeople.

viii. Regular seminars be organized so as to expose members to their spiritual responsibility in the twenty-first century.

ix. That there should be strong discipleship training in all the churches so as to help the churches to grow rapidly.

x. The Conference should make effort to have a befitting secretariat and employ a full time secretary.

xi. Above all, there should be serious prayer from time to time to lift the Conference up before the Lord.