

AN EVALUATION OF THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST CHURCHES
PARTICIPATION IN MISSIONS: A CASE STUDY OF THE CHOSEN
GENERATION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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ABSTRACT

This work to evaluate the participation in missions of churches in the chosen Generation Baptist Association in doing this, the churches' participation in missions were evaluated in the following areas: prayer, awareness of mission, finance, mobilization and involvement on the mission fields.

The research used questionnaires which were administered among twenty churches in the Association under review. The findings reveal that the percentage of churches praying for missions is a little above 50%. On finance, it was discovered that the churches' giving to missions is abysmally low. It is evident that pastor showed apathy to missions generally and mobilization could not be done officially. The awareness and involvement in missions through the data collected were very low.

From the foregoing, missionary enterprise should be taken with every sense of responsibility. And the chosen generation Baptist Association should partner move with the Lagos Baptist Conference and the Global Missions of the Convention to map out strategies to get churches in this Association involved in missions.

Conclusion

In conclusion, active participation in missions of churches in the Chosen Generation Baptist Association should be taken with every sense of responsibility. Our missionary organisations are to take this as noble challenge for them to participate fully in missions, if they could consider some recommendations below.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made for the purpose of this work:

1. Pastors in the Chosen Generation Baptist Association should give themselves to vision for missions, they should take the lead in educating, participating and mobilising their congregations.
2. Pragmatic approach should be employed in strategising for missions by the association and churches under this association. There is need to explore opportunities beyond the present structures. Networking with missionaries' agencies abroad and within should be explored. As agencies can not do it alone without the involvement of churches.
3. Priority should be given to missions programme as opposed to other ventures that have little or no eternal value. The largest percentage of finance of our churches should be allocated to missions.
4. Missionary organisations like Women Missionary Union, Men missionary Union and the Youth Fellowship in churches within the association should be encouraged to get involved more in missions work and actively participate themselves in going to missions' fields.
5. Churches in the Association should do away with stringent paternalistic approach to church planting; the New Testament methods of allowing

members or groups within the church should be employed in our church planting.

6. The Association should cope with change as it is inevitable if she would participate actively in world evangelisation in the 21st century. The emphasis should not be on going to geographical nations as the thoughts of some leaders in the Association were, but on people groups, the unreached people groups; especially those in the 10/40 window area of the world and some European countries. It also includes the Americans.
7. The chosen Generation Baptist Association should partner with Global Missions Board of the Nigerian Baptist Convention and other Great Commission believers in any field of operation.
8. New roles for our pastors should be mobilizers, advocates for missions and facilitators. This triq as mentioned above should form part of the curriculum in our seminary and theological institutions. The pastors' conference at least in two of its session should have rooms for missions' emphasis and they are to encourage taking missions as first priority.
9. Churches should be encouraged to pray for our missions' field and missionaries every Sunday. And missions' offering should be collected at the last Sunday of every month this may be channelled to the appropriate quarters for the growth of missions.
10. Churches in the association should establish sponsorship programme for mission fields' indigenes in seminaries. Pay salaries and allowances of pastors in the mission fields.
11. The chosen Generation Baptist Association as a matter of policy adopts a mission field or churches in the mission field. Churches under her should be

encouraged to partner together to do the same or any church who may want to shoulder the responsibility alone should be given supporting hands.

Individuals' eyes should be opened to the course of missions, either as volunteer missionary or even a tent-maker missionary; Doctors, Nurses Teachers, pharmacists, Agriculturists, vet-Doctors and other professionals could spend their vacation or annual leave on the fields as short- term missionaries.

Our pastors should act proactively in the course of missions. They should see take lead as mobilizers, facilitators and advocate for missions.

Individuals should see themselves as missionaries by becoming volunteer-missionaries. All peoples' possessions should be channelled toward missions as there are brighter and greater rewards ahead.