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**EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR MISSION
MOBILIZATION IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY
NIGERIAN BAPTIST CONVENTION CHURCHES**

**A DEGREE ESSAY PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE
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ABSTRACT

This work is an attempt to present contemporary mobilization strategies in a form it could be adopted by the NBC to meet the rising challenges of missions ventures.

No work is done in a vacuum. Thus areas of the delimitation and methods employed in this work are specified. Attempt are made to define some concepts used recurrently in the context of this literary piece.

An historical review of mission activities from Biblical perspective is provided. The mission activities of the church through various mission era are brought under review.

The strategies of mission mobilization in NBC and non-NBC mission agencies are investigated and reviewed. This leads to presenting the writer's suggested models of missions mobilization strategies to the NBC. Added to this are various recommendations to the Global Missions Board, the Nigerian Baptist Convention and her local churches.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

In the course of carrying out the research work for this paper, there arose a number of concerns. These concerns offered new insight to an improved resource mobilization effort. For the suggested models to be easily carried out, some recommendation are made thus:

I RECOMMENDATIONS TO GMB

- a) The GMB should initiate and embark on an aggressive mission education programme to re-awaken and/or stimulate mission awareness in all levels of NBC's co-operative programmes. Opportunities should be sought at all levels to advance the cause of missions.
- b) The GMB functionaries should seek and explore opportunities to carry out mission education among NBC Youth and Students in colleges and universities. Meeting this categories of Baptist in their own World will help curtail the drifting out of these irreplaceable resources.
- c) While appreciating the newly established Missiology Department at the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary Ogbomoso, there is the need to establish a School of Missions. The focuss of this school should be the training of potential missionaries within the shortest possible time.
- d) The GMB functionaries also need to explore the partnership paradigm in mission work. These could be with local churches, Associations, Conferences, and also non-NBC Mission Agencies.
- e) There is the need for a devolution of the mobilization efforts of the GMB. Mission mobilization officers could be appointed to serve within various conferences for effective grass-root mobilization efforts.

II RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONVENTION

- a) The Convention family should endeavour to give a higher percentage of her budget allocation towards advancing the cause of missions. We Baptist believe that missions is the purpose and business of the church. The Convention should live up to expectations

- b) It behooves the policy makers in the Convention both to review and to set up new modalities as they affect sourcing personnel for mission activities. Old policies should be reviewed to meet up with the contemporary challenges.
- c) The current staff capacity of the GMB is grossly inadequate to carry out the works in the Department. Thus, the writer suggests that more staffers should be employed, especially those who specialise in resource mobilization

III RECOMMENDATIONS TO PASTORS AND LOCAL CHURCHES

- a) The average NBC Pastor should give himself/herself to vision for missions. Not only this, Pastors should take the lead in educating and mobilizing the congregation. A committed Pastor leads a mobilised congregation.
- b) The writer advocates that the leadership of the local churches and missionary organisations should avail themselves of employing more dynamic strategies in their mission mobilization efforts. There is the need to explore opportunities beyond the present structures.
- c) Missions should be prioritised in all our programmes as opposed to other ventures that have little or no eternal value.
- d) Apart from award purposes, the various Youth Missionary Organisation in the local churches should accurately and actively involve themselves in mission activities especially in going to mission fields.
- e) Each missionary organisation should be encouraged to put in their maximum into the missionary interest of the Convention. This may be done if they are mobilised to adopt mission fields.

C CONCLUSION

In the final analysis, the writer is of the opinion that all that the NBC needs to meet the challenges of the contemporary missions are available within the fold. Employing effective strategies and methods to obtain these resources is therefore a necessity.