

TOWARDS AN ENDURING PASTORAL SUPPORT FOR THE COOPERATIVE  
PROGRAMME OF THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST CONVENTION

By  
OLUWABUKUNMI POPOOLA  
UJ/05/NB/0097

A thesis in the Department of THEOLOGY  
Submitted to the faculty of Theological studies  
THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
OGBOMOSO

In partial fulfillment of the Requirements for the award of

MASTER OF DIVINITY

UNIVERSITY OF JOS

**J.C. POOL LIBRARY**  
**BAPTIST SEMINARY**  
**OGBOMOSO NIGERIA**

June, 2008.

## ABSTRACT

The research evolved out of the researcher's great burden for the observed unfaithfulness of churches to the Cooperative Programme of the Nigerian Baptist Convention and it examined what can be done to enhance Pastoral support for the Cooperative Programme. The Cooperative Programme in its present form started among Southern Baptist Convention churches in 1925 at Memphis, USA and in Nigeria, it began in 1949 and has continued till date. An exegetical study of Ecclesiastes 4:7-12 was done. Solomon in that passage showed the folly of individualism and proved the non-negotiability of cooperation to human existence. About 110 Pastors who attended the 2007 Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary Ministers' Conference were sampled while only 67 returned their questionnaires. The Lagos Conference Executive Secretary was also interviewed. The respondents were from different parts of the country and most of them (87%) have been in the Pastorate for over four years.

It was established by the study that the rate of support for the Cooperative Programme by Pastors will drastically improve if the Convention will show concern for Pastors placement in various places of service, retraining of Pastors on a regular basis as well as rapidly responding to issues bordering on Pastoral discipline. Most Pastors are reluctant to throw their full weight behind the Cooperative Programme of Nigerian Baptist Convention because of lack of job security. The study affirmed that if the Convention empowers the Associations and their Moderators to become her liaison base through Constitutional amendments, the execution of concern on these three cardinal areas will be feasible and support for the corporate life rejuvenated. An improvement in informal relationship between denominational leaders and Nigerian

Baptist Convention Pastors was equally recommended because such will improve Pastoral support for the Cooperative Programme. Further research on the evaluation of Nigerian Baptist Convention annual worker's seminar and its implication on Pastoral support for the Cooperative Programme was recommended.

annual worker's seminar and its implication on Pastoral support for the Cooperative Programme.

## 5.2 Conclusion

It is gratifying to note that this research which sets out to deliver the ace that will facilitate improved Pastoral support for the CP has achieved its aim. Much has been said in this report about the importance of the CP to the continued survival of the Convention. The bible enjoins humankind to cooperate together. The Church, Pastors and the Convention need one another to pursue the great commission. It is high time for the Convention to pay close attention to the results of this study and execute the various recommendations contained therein. The Convention has done it before in the area of inculcating the CP into the curriculum of theological schools as a direct implementation of previous research effort. The Convention can do it again by executing the recommendations of this humble study. Let the Associations be transformed from the present undefined status to constitutionally recognized base of the Convention and let them be authorized to liaise with Churches on these three cardinal issues of Pastoral call, retraining and discipline.

Since it has been recognized that Pastors are key to the survival of the CP, the Convention shouldn't drag her feet to act on this empirically verified fact that the major reason most Pastors are not passionate about the CP is because of lack of job security. The Convention should act now. If the Convention can do this, the problem of unfaithfulness to the CP shall be reduced to the barest minimum if not eliminated.

Certainly, when the CP enjoins robust patronage, the work of the Kingdom shall be well funded, the work of the Kingdom shall be advanced and the name of the LORD shall be glorified.



### 5.3 Recommendations

To improve Pastoral support for the Cooperative Programme, the Convention is hereby called upon to do the following:

- Empower Associations as the liaison base of the Convention and authorize them to consult with churches on the three cardinal issues of Pastoral call, Retraining and Discipline.
- Set in motion machineries that will enhance constitutional amendment which will facilitate explicit definition of the roles of NBC Associations and involve the Convention in the appointment of Associational Moderators.
- Sustain the current effort aimed at inculcating the CP into the curriculum of all NBC theological schools.
- Initiate campaigns that will reorientate Pastors towards “System – Thinking”
- De – Emphasise the proposal to de – ordain Pastors on account of unfaithfulness of Churches under them to the CP.
- Improve informal relationship between denominational leaders and NBC Pastors

To NBC Pastors

- There is need for a change of attitude from what the Convention can do for Pastors to what the Pastors can do for the Convention.
- Support for the CP should become voluntarily compulsory as members of one big family.
- Let there be a shift from individualism to “System – Thinking”.

To NBC Churches

- Be open to consultations with Denominational leaders on the issue of Pastoral placement, Retraining and Discipline

- Support NBC Pastors as they promote regular and faithful contributions to the CP.

### Further Research

The researcher was hampered by time and money to evaluate the impact of the NBC annual workers seminar on the rate of support for the CP. Further research on the evaluation of NBC annual worker's seminar and its implication on Pastoral support for the Cooperative Programme is hereby recommended.