

**CONTRIBUTIONS OF LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS
TO BAPTIST CONVENTION MISSIONS: A CASE
STUDY OF ZION 1 ASSOCIATION, OSUN**

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ABSTRACT

It is a known act in the management and Administrative circle that every organization owes its progress and sustenance to the positive contributions made by the units that make up the entire organization. That is, the future survival and success of such organization thus depends on the effective smooth running and the cooperation of its individual unit; and this brings about success and the total well being of the entire organization.

Against this background, this thesis intends to look at the associations under the Nigerian Baptist Conventions, with the view to ascertaining the level of their relation and contribution to the convention in the area of mission. Zion I Baptist Association is chosen as a case study. Moreover, this research intends to bring out the flaws and weaknesses inherent in associations' relation with the convention mission and that of the global mission board also in relation with the Association

Therefore, this is intended to bring awareness of responsibilities and obligations of both parties in relating to bring about a heady development. Also, it is intended to help the mission of the convention to be more effective in mobilization in order to bring about effectiveness and progress in the way they do mission.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSION

This essay has been able to achieve its set objectives by dealing with the issues pertaining to the contributions of the local Baptist associations to the missions of the Convention, that is, the missions of the Nigerian Baptist Convention. The association used as the case study is the Zion 1 Baptist Association of Osun Conference. The findings so far, as outlined in the body of this work, has revealed that the Convention mission arm has not been utilizing the potentials in the association to her full advantage. Though, there are factors that could be responsible for jaundiced or high level of contributions yet it must be clearly stated that the Convention and her mission arm, the Global Mission Board, has a lot of work to do if the mission target and plans must come to fulfillment. There must be a change in the way associations and churches are being mobilized, like someone will say in Zion 1 Association, "is it only when white missionaries come from U. S. on visitation that Global Mission Board thinks of coming to our association?"⁸⁷ This should not always be the case, there must be a systematic and consistent ways or devise to reach out from time to time.

Though as it is explained in the thesis, there are associations even individual church who will rather face their own projects and refuse to support any other 44 convention projects. They normally come up with the excuse that they have given the mandatory 20% to the Convention. And they believe that the Global Mission's 20% of 20% should be enough to cater for their needs. But all these attitudes can still

⁸⁷ Interview, Akingbade.

be contained if the Global Mission Board will rise up to its responsibility and change its attitude toward its obligation. On the other hand, association must necessarily consider the Convention Missions as their own. That is, as units that make up the entire Convention whatever is a joint programme must be embraced, encouraged and nurtured by all.

The research further discoveries throw a challenge on the way some associational leaders regard Convention Mission programmes. In their own perspective, they believe that the Convention is just an entity on its own detached from them which is not so. This is practicalize in the way they carry on their own mission enterprise with all diligence and financial backing compared to the way they regard Convention mission venture. While they never complained about their own mission enterprise's financial and personnel demand no matter how great and demanding yet they want to criticize and complain about the rationale behind or the demand of the missions of the Convention.

Moreover, it is discovered that member churches within associations many a times are mobilized towards local churches or associational missions and little efforts are made to mobilize them towards that of the Convention. Although some churches unilaterally choosed to support the missions of the Convention with or without the support of the associations they belong to. Therefore, it should be noted that as blames are being dropped at the door step of the Global Mission Board of the Nigerian Baptist Convention for not doing what they are supposed to do, so also the association should accept blames for being lackadaisical about the missions of the Convention.

Below are some of the recommendations that this researcher believes could help in many ways in bringing about much contribution to Missions of the Convention.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Redefining Of Terms And Evaluating Of Strategy:- this is imperative in the changing society become without this, Global Mission Board will continue to use old methods to achieve new things which may not work out.⁸⁸

Communication Method: it is high time, the Global Mission Board of the Convention took advantage of the modern communication methods, through web site acquisition and updating, so as to furnish the interested ones with the information regarding their operations.⁸⁹

Utilizing Denominationally Sensitive Communication To Give Mission Vision:-⁹⁰

Rev and Mr. Sojobi agreed that this is important,⁹¹ and Engineer Olayiwola even suggested medium like the Nigeria Baptist that comes out every month as a veritable tool , that G.M.B. can make use of, to give Mission vision.⁹²

Varyings Of Strategy:- Until recently the strategy for mobilizing for funds for mission has remained the same and then, the system of using mass choir to generate mission funds cropped up. But more than this, somebody has advocated varying of strategy like using Dramatic art from place to place to mobilize for funds for

⁸⁸ Steve Stele and Jim Montgomery. ' "Table 71" Creates most significant Missionological advance since 1974' *Mission Frontier* (24:6, November – December 2002). 9, 10.

⁸⁹ "A partial list of Web Sites related to USCWM" *Mission Frontier* (25:3, March – April 2000). 19.

⁹⁰ "Anticipation of the future – Opportunities abound." *Mission Frontier* (24:3 May – June 2002). 14.

⁹¹ Interview, Rev. and Mrs. Sojobi.

⁹² Interview, M. Olayiwola.

mission.⁹³ This is good but to not remain glued to one strategy there must be creativity in our mode of approach in mobilization.

Greater Accountability: - Seth Barnes has submitted in his article that until our missionary agencies learn how to account for every money they generate, then shall more financial help can come in to them.⁹⁴ Within Zion 1 Baptist association, many have said that more accountability is expected from the mission of the Nigeria Baptist convention. Mrs. Sojobi puts it thus “they do not justify the amount being invested into the work”.⁹⁵ Because she believes if other mission agencies are getting that much annually greater thing would be done, it is not therefore only publishing name of donors but given account of how such money has been spent. Obed says it might be motivating to give a brief rundown of how money was spent and what it was used to achieve.⁹⁶

Great Commission: - Donnie has right said that mission agencies should not only seek for funds for mission but part of their duties is to also mobilize their generation for Christ and his great commission.⁹⁷ The Global Mission Board of the Convention should decide more time as they are devoting for fund for mission for discipleship and maturing of believers already won on their various fields so as to prepare them for

⁹³ Rick Wood and Dave Geisler, “The Dramatic Art: Mobilizing Vission and Spreading the Gospel Cross Culturally” *Mission Frontier* (19:3, 4 March – April 1997). 5.

⁹⁴ Seth Barnes, “Ten Emerging Trends in Short Term Missions” *Missions Frontier* (22:1 Jan. 2000) 13.

⁹⁵ Interview, Mrs. Sojobi.

⁹⁶ Uzodinma Obed, *Mobilising Churches in Africa for Missions* (Lagos: Alpa Press 2001) 46.

⁹⁷ Donnie Searce, “Mobilisation on the brink of the next millennium” *Mission Frontier* (21:1,2 Jan, - Feb. 1999). 16.

