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AN EVALUATION OF SOCIAL SERVICES AS MEANS TO REACH  
THE UNREACHED: A CASE OF OSUN BAPTIST CONFERENCE

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION  
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## **ABSTRACT**

This essay is titled “An Evaluation of Social Services as Means to Reach the Unreached.” Discoveries have been made from both the New and Old Testaments that social services play a significant role in showing the love of God to his mankind and especially, it took a permanent position in the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. During the apostolic age, social services were not relegated to the background. The missionaries who brought the gospel to Nigeria complemented their mission efforts with the introduction of social services, which eventually made a remarkable impact on reaching the people for Christ.

The five chapters of this study emphasized and established the inevitable contribution of social services to the ministering of the gospel of Christ to the unreached people group. It attempted to encourage all the segments of the Nigerian Baptist Convention to incorporate the provision of social services into their mission efforts so that the total man will profit from the complete gospel.

## CONCLUSION

The role of social services as means of reaching the unreached cannot be under estimated. It has been identified from the research conducted that it is an effective tool which the early missionaries to Nigeria used to establish the Baptist Mission in Nigeria. Recognizing the workability of these services, churches in Osun Baptist Conference have embarked in the establishment of schools at different levels. The convention has maintained the status quo by the establishment of Bowen University at Iwo. The expectation is that the University will be used as a channel through which the Muslim dominated ancient city would be penetrated with the gospel of Christ.

Also it must be stated here that while we have various form of social services that any church or Christian organization can employ to reach the unreached for Christ, educational and medical services are noteworthy. But many Christian bodies today see them as a complex social services that should be left for the government to provide. This research has shown that it was the Christian organization who first introduced them as a means of preaching the message of Christ to the people. The expansion of Baptist Mission in Nigeria and particularly in Osun Baptist Conference is a function of educational as well as medical services. Mean while the establishment of schools in recent times by the Baptist bodies and the Baptist Medical Centre at Igbajo by Osun Baptist Conference is an affirmation that these two services are mostly needed to preach the gospel message to the unreached.

A part from the Biblical evidences from both testaments of the scripture, the responses from the respondents also confirmed that social services are helpful in evangelizing the unreached. With these reasons and others that have been early stated, we must come to conclusion that each segment of Nigerian Baptist Convention

(NBC) must see it as a point of duty to reach the unreached in their environment with provision of social services.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings in the study, the following recommendations are made:

- (1) That all churches should include in her evangelistic programme the provision of social services.
- (2) That the larger body like convention or conference should educate their churches on the necessity for the provision of social services to the immediate community.
- (3) That churches should be orientated that the provision of social services should not be seen as means of raising funds for the church. The primary assignment of the church is evangelism and any programme put into place to help the people should be effectively used to draw people to Christ and not to make money to the cover of the church.
- (4) That more educational and medical institutions should be established to cater for the needs of the people, which can in turn be used to preach the gospel message to the students and the patients in the hospitals.
- (5) That the government of Nigeria should return the mission schools to the original proprietor so that the schools can be operated for the primary purposes which they are meant to achieve.