

THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

N.B.T.S.
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FISHING IN A DRYING POND:
A MISSIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF
THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST CONVENTION
URBAN MISSION EFFORTS.

M.T.H.

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ABSTRACT

The astronomical growth of the urban centers in Nigeria is alarming. It was observed that Nigerian urban growth rate is one of the highest and fastest in the world. Besides this, it is further observed that the larger percentage of language and ethnic groups now reside in the cities. The missiological challenges of witnessing and ministering to the urban population in the 21st century in Nigeria, and the Nigerian Baptist Convention urban mission thrust, especially, is the main focus of this thesis. The study examined the effectiveness or otherwise of the Nigerian Baptist Convention, mission efforts in the urban areas from 1953 to 2003.

This research adopted the historical approach. First, records from archives were consulted. Secondly, articles in learned journals, books and current newspapers were also consulted. Lastly, interviews were conducted with those concerned with the subject of the thesis to find out the Convention's Urban Mission efforts.

Findings from the research indicate that the NBC had been involved in what is termed as the "Inner City Mission" since mid 1960s. However, this was in collaboration with Southern Baptist Convention (USA) missionaries who are

based in the cities. Also, from the research it could be deduced that the major problem in urban mission effort in the Convention was as a result of lack of specialists.

The implication of the above findings is that the 21st century Christian church must be prepared to face these challenges. One of the ways to prepare is through training. The Convention should create a center for the studies of urban missions. Further more, churches in the cities should be empowered and encouraged to go for specialized ministries. Concerted prayer meetings for the Nigerian urban centers should be encouraged. This could be done through what has been termed as “prayer walk.”