

THE IMPACT OF BAPTIST WORK IN GBEDELAND AND  
ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE GROWTH OF  
BAPTIST DENOMINATION

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## ABSTRACT

This research endeavour to study the impact of Baptist Work in Gbedeland and how it helped in the expansion of gospel message, educational establishment and health center.

The task before this research is to study the beginning of Baptist work in the land, its development, and its impact on the environment; to make research on physical development like schools, hospitals and establishment of churches, to give suggestions on the future impact of Baptist work in Gbedeland.

The researcher is currently pastoring in the area and will like to put Baptist work into record for future reference. This work will make the Local churches in the area, and Baptist association to know their beginning and how far they have gone in mission work. It will also help to improve in some areas.

The research is to suggest how more impacts could be made for the future growth of Baptist Denominations through:

- Planting more Baptist churches, Calling Baptist trained pastors to the existing churches that has no pastors, establishment of Baptist private schools, since government had taken over Baptist schools in the area and no move to return them and to sensitize Global mission of the Convention to come into the area for church growth and Evangelism enlightenment.

## Conclusion

Baptist work in Gbedeland had made a lot of impact to the communities. The impact of the work has multi-dimensions, such as physical impact in form of structures, schools and health clinic. The impact physically and spiritually cannot be over emphasized. Gospel truth brought unity to Gbede people which made them pack to new settlements. Baptist work in Gbedeland has come to grow and the need to grow is paramount now than ever. The faith and labours of

the pioneer missionaries should not be left where we meet them. Some of the churches need to plant more churches. It is high time to make more impact among the youths that live crooked life.

The remaining old Christian converts in Gbedeland need to organize seminars, and embark on writing books so that the new generation may know what it cost them to bring Christianity to Gbedeland. This is necessary because the door of the churches in Gbede land are opened like other places, to all sort of unchristian attitude like political thugry and the nonchalant attitude of youth to church fellowships.

God's intention is that men should come to his knowledge through Jesus Christ. It is a mandate that every Christian should serve. The focus of this research is to make the past influence the present, and the present positively affect the future. The future of the progress of Baptist work in Gbedeland is in the hands of the existing churches, the Association, Kogi Baptist Conference and the Nigerian Baptist Convention.

### Recommendations

Baptist work in Gbedeland made undeniable impact on physical, spiritual and economic life of Gbede people. Notwithstanding, these are some recommendations from the findings of this research work and interviews.

To revitalize Baptist work in Gbedeland there is need to know that vision and mission will help. The present Pastors and Church

leaders are to be both visionary and missionary minded. For the fact that this generation in the twenty-first century need this generation to tell them the salvation message, Gbede Baptist must work on these recommendations and use them for the progress of Baptist denomination.

Prayer is the key to open every Christian way to success. The church needs prayer and fasting. Prayer at the church level and collectively that God might help Gbede Baptists make exploit in Evangelism and planting of churches as our fathers in faith had done. The power of the Holy Spirit is the only source of success.

The local churches in Gbede should put their strength together to plant more Baptist churches in Gbedeland.

Revival services both open air, and church based revival services, should be organized in Baptist churches in Gbedeland and led by Baptist trained evangelists. This will stop the drift of the youth to other denominations.

The idea of “no money slogan” should be stopped. Two churches can make effort to call a pastor to be leading them. If the financial responsibility of having a full time pastor would be too heavy for a church.

Gbede Christians should work on having a Baptist health center in Gbedeland. Educational establishments like the primary schools, and the secondary school should be revisited with the gospel of Christ to maintain the goal and aim on which they were established.

Again, Baptist in Gbede should put more effort to establish more educational institutions which will be controlled and administered by both the Nigerian Baptist Convention and Kogi Baptist Conference.

Pastorless churches should be considered by both the Convention and Kogi Conference to have Baptist trained pastors. For adequate ministry and maintaining the Baptist faith and practices.

Baptist should give support in establishing vocational centers in the area to help those who cannot further their education.

Gbedeland Baptist should organize seminars for Christian converts and embark on writing books so that the new generation may know how to embrace their father's faith and Baptist heritage in general.

Interior mission should be Baptist focus in Gbedeland so that other towns and villages without Baptist church can be reached and churches planted in them.

Kogi Baptist Conference should lay more emphasis on strengthening youth ministry. This will check youths not to be used as thugs as it is been done in some parts of the Conference now.

Baptist churches in Gbedeland should call associate pastors either male or female to handle youth, Education, Children and Music ministries. This will make Baptist work grow and expand rapidly.

Baptist churches in Gbedeland should use pastors' wives who are trained in Pastoral ministry to conduct leadership and discipleship

seminars for the spiritual growth of Women in Gbede Baptist Churches.

Baptist churches that are buoyant should arrange with the Nigerian Baptist Bookstore to have a closeby bookstore that will supply Baptist literatures regularly. This will help in upholding all Baptist programmes and will update Baptists in Gbede current issues in the Convention.

Children ministry should be seriously embraced among Baptist churches in Gbedeland, so that children will be raised in the knowledge of Christ.

If these recommendations are considered it will help in the growth of Baptist denomination in Gbedeland.