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CHURCH PLANTING IN A MULTICULTURAL ENVIRONMENT
A CASE STUDY OF LIVING STONE BAPTIST CHURCH
FESTAC TOWN LAGOS

A LONG ESSAY SUBMITTED TO
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ABSTRACT

This research work on “Church Planting in a Multicultural Environment (Case Study: Living Stone Baptist Church Festac Town Lagos)” was born out the passion to support that vision by contributing to it through research. The researcher dwelt strongly on how church planting among people of different cultures can be used to realize the mandate of taking the gospel everywhere in the world. In time past it was a common practice to plant churches among people of the same culture. The reality today is that people have migrated from one part of the globe to another for so many reasons. The effect of this is multicultural societies and if the church must remain relevant in mission work, careful thought must be given by stakeholders to plant churches that allow people of different cultures to freely worship God. The method used in this research work is questionnaire. A questionnaire was drafted, several copies of it made, and administered to collect relevant data useful for the research. The questionnaire was then analyzed and findings made from the data. Based on the findings made, useful recommendations was given with the intention that the concern bodies will respond positively in appropriate ways leading to the expansion of God’s kingdom on earth.

5.2 Conclusion

This research work has been able to highlight the meaning of church planting and the various church planting methods. It has also been established that there are a number of problems militating against church planting in a multicultural environment. These problems represent the gates of Hades and a number of solutions has also been preferred to these problems.

Through this essay, it can be ascertained that church planting in a multicultural environment is historical, biblical, ecclesiastical, theological, sociological and missiological. It is an effective strategy in reaching the unsaved thereby expanding the kingdom of God.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the conclusion of this essay, the researcher hereby wishes to make some recommendations or suggestion that will be of remarkable help to the Nigerian Baptist Convention, churches, theological institutions, pastors, deacons and church leaders who are major stakeholders on mission activities. This recommendation is giving with the intention that the concern bodies will respond positively in appropriate ways thus leading to the extension of God's kingdom on earth to achieve church growth there by fulfilling the great commission. The recommendations are as follows:

1. The Nigerian Baptist Convention should intensify efforts at devoting sections during the convention in session to educate the Baptist people on the need for effective church planting in a multicultural environment in order to reach the unsaved.
2. That all of the Nigerian Baptist Convention's theological schools should make church planting in a multicultural environment a course and encourages the churches where the student pastors are observing their supervised ministry

experience to participate in planting churches in multicultural environment. This will help to prepare the student pastor before assuming full time pastorate.

3. The Nigerian Baptist Convention should encourage and where possible give financial assistance to Baptist evangelist in order to get involved in church planting in a multicultural environment.
4. Churches should properly plan before planting a church in a multicultural environment and adequately trained the church planting team
5. Churches should encourage pastors, deacons and church leaders to give sacrificially towards mission in order to expand God's kingdom
6. That various church planting method should be explored in an attempt to plant a church in a multicultural environment by the Local Church, Conference and Convention.
7. That cultural issues must first be resolved among Baptist people in the Local Church, Conference and the Convention at large before setting out to plant multicultural churches
8. That in an attempt to plant multicultural churches by the Local Church, Conference and the Convention, care must be taken in order not to give preference to a particular culture or prefer culture over the scriptures