

AN EVALUATION OF PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AS A VIABLE STRATEGY
FOR MISSION

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ABSTRACT

This work attempts to evaluate the use of professional skills as a viable strategy for mission. The researcher is of the opinion that the professional skills strategy will aid the work of missions both locally and internationally. The method of this research is descriptive in nature, using literary research from missiology and other professions such as Medicine, Education, Agriculture, Engineering and Information Technology. Internet sources were also used where necessary. This work is limited by the fact that professional skills are a viable strategy for mission. The research shed more light on what the churches could do to expand the scope of the gospel using the skilled professionals in our various churches. The strategy if well understood will encourage the professionals in our churches to have a mindset of being involved in missions. This will eventually expand the coverage of the gospel, cause sustainable development in the rural areas and extend the gospel to areas where there is restriction to gospel. Finally the research will be an inspiration to the trained missionaries to equip themselves with a particular professional skill.

5.2 Conclusion

The use of professional skills in mission work as a feasible and viable strategy to spreading the gospel of Christ to the unreached is highly needed now. Professionals who are laymen should prepare and make themselves available to spread the good news since they have contacts with the unbelievers in their places of vocation on daily basis and are not restricted to penetrate into the closed countries especially where their profession is greatly needed. Likewise there is likely to be more success if trained missionaries could equip themselves with a vocational skill which will enable them to relate with the unbelievers and meeting their physical felt need since there is still a lot to be done. Hence, using this strategy will lead to great accomplishment in mission.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the discussion and discoveries from this project the following recommendations will aid effectiveness in the pursuit of mission enterprise:

5.3.1 The Local Baptist Church

Since the mission mandate is to all believers, the local baptist churches should sensitize members about the implication and the need for them to make themselves available for the task.

Second, Churches should design a discipleship programme which will equip members about the mission enterprise and use of their professional skills for mission.

Third, Churches should be ready to liaise with the Global Mission Board of the Nigerian Baptist Convention on their readiness for mission work on bi-vocation basis on both long term and short term.

Lastly, Churches should provide the enabling environment for the interested and volunteer professionals so as to be able to make them successful.

The Nigerian Baptist Convention.

The Convention through the Global Mission Board should make his mission move known to all churches.

Second, The Global Mission board needed to explore the mission arms of churches i.e. Men Missionary Union and Women Missionary Union more than before by requesting for professionals who will reach out to various mission fields either on a short term or long term basis since there are potential laymen who could use their professional skill to witness to the unbelievers.

Third, the Global mission Board should endeavour to partner with conferences beyond the present level by encouraging them to provide personnel and funding for a particular mission field.

Theological Institutions

In the theological institutions, curriculum should be designed to train laymen professionals who may want to serve as volunteer missionaries in the various mission fields giving them the needed information that will prepare them for the task.

Second, theological institutions can organise mission awareness, workshop and inviting Churches to participate in mission at a token cost. This will serve as a medium of information for mission minded Churches and individuals. This can help to change the orientation of some people towards mission.