

HISTORY OF EDO STATE BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE  
NIGERIAN BAPTIST CONVENTION (1993-2011)

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is tracing the History of a conference. The main interest is on the History of Edo State Baptist Conference 1993-2011. The various developments in the conference made it attract the attention for a research. Right from the inception of the Baptist Mission in Edo land, in 1921 till now, there had been no proper historical record of the Baptist Missionary activities in Edo Land. This has created a vacuum which needed to be filled, if the on coming generation will have anything to lay hands on. Without the present providing the direction for the future, the future will be directionless. Hence, the reason for this research which is the history of the conference starting from 1993, the year when the Edo State Baptist Conference was created. The methodology adopted was historical, and the research instrument used was oral interview. The people interviewed were embers of the Baptist Community in Edo State; clergy and non clergy that were involved in the Baptist Mission enterprise in the State. The finding of this study revealed that, the Baptist work in Edo land started in 1921, while the Edo State Baptist Conference was carved out of the Bendel Baptist Conference in 1993. Apart from the year of creation, a lot of developments in the conference continue to attract others within Edo State and beyond, the study recommended that; to sustain the tempo of development, the conference needs to involve more in Mission, which among other things will expand the Baptist presence in the State. Besides, performance should be tied to appreciation in order to encourage development. Both clergy and the lay people should be committed to the Baptist Mission work in the State. Finally crises in Churches should be handled on time, while the cause of the conflict be discovered and resolved amicably.

## 5.2 CONCLUSION

This research is divided into five chapter; the first chapter of the work examined the introduction, which include the background to the study that is, what led to the topic. The chapter contained the statement of problem; what problem is it going to solve? It contained the thesis statement, which is the position of the research, the scope of study, and the significance of the study that is, what makes the work important. The chapter equally contained the limitation of the study, research methodology and the definition of terms. The second chapter is the literature review Probe was made to the contributions made by scholars on the given area of study,

which is the history of Edo State Baptist Conference of the Nigeria Baptist Convention 1993-2011. Contributions that are relevant from other Baptist Scholars.

The third chapter deals with the various transitions of the history of Edo State Baptist Conference. Chapter four presents some of the difficulties experienced by the Conference at its formative stage. The chapter also focuses on challenges of inadequate manpower, the formation of four Associations, and the establishment of educational institutions. The chapter also examined some of the developments achieved since the formation of the Conference. These are developments which could be seen in the conference and could be referred to as the justification for her existence. One of such is the gigantic edifice put up by the Conference. The chapter also examined the development in the area of education. Which is the Nursery and Primary; a co-educational secondary school, and the Baptist College of Theology. The Theological Institution produced manpower for the gospel within and outside the state. The final chapter, which is chapter five sums up the research carried out by the researcher as it has the summary of the entire work done. It also has the conclusion which is followed by the recommendations made by the researcher.

### 5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Having traced the history of Edo State Baptist Conference of the Nigerian Baptist Conference 1993-2011, the following are therefore recommended.

1. Lay members with gifts should be allowed to use them for the glory of God, and the development of His kingdom. Due recognition should be given to this types of leadership in keeping with the principle of the priesthood of all believers. As the leaders harness and take care of the excesses that may arise.

2. Where conflicts are seen, a pragmatic and proactive approach should be used before it escalates since conflict is inevitable. Members of the conference should apply the principle of brotherhood rather than individualism.
3. The harmonious relationship between the Conference and the Nigeria Baptist Convention should be sustained to checkmate the onslaught of churches that may want to implement or constitute laws that are not promoting the image of Baptist denomination.
4. The Conference should invest more on manpower development as this will help to build up the image of the Baptist mission and portray it in a brighter light.
5. A forum for interaction should be created in the conference between the clergies and the lay people, to create room for robust ideas which will be instrumental to move the conference forward.
6. Churches that are experiencing conflicts within the conference should be given adequate attention and the cause of the conflict should be resolved amicably.
7. Association in the conference should be made to give stewardship of their mission involvement annually.
8. Openness in leadership should be adopted by the leadership of the conference so as not to create room for rumors and infighting, which will not contribute politely to the growth of the conference but, would rather destroy it.
9. Every institution of the church should be seen as God's property and not for individuals to lay claim on, even at a crisis point.

10. Both conference leaders and pastor of churches should take the education of their members seriously, for an uninformed mind is a deformed mind, capable of doing destructive things.
11. A conscious effort should be made to enlighten members of the Conference of what has transpired in the past, and how to curb any other occurrence. Because, not to know what transpired or took place before one was born is always to remain a child.
12. The Edo State Baptist Conference should be more involved in her mission enterprises. These enterprises abound in the mission fields presently.
13. Churches and Conference alike should give the social ministry of the Church and Conference to Deacons which is their ministry as enshrined in the Bible.