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CONTEXTUALIZED CHURCH-CENTRED  
EVANGELISM IN AFRICA

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## ABSTRACT

This work, "Contextualized Church- Centred Evangelism in Africa," is an attempt to propose biblical evangelism for African Christians and Churches. It shows that biblical evangelism is Church-centred and to the contexts of the recipients.

The first chapter deals with general introduction to the whole study. In this chapter the writer pictures the goal of the research and how he plans to achieve it.

Chapter two discloses that contextualized church-centred evangelism stands on strong bases. These bases can be express as theological, sociological and historical. Theological basis points to God as the designer and sustainer of contextualized church-centred evangelism. Sociological basis disclosed that God purposes contextualized church-centred Evangelism to meet the total needs of people in their diverse contexts. Historical basis relates the history of contextualized church-centred evangelism as from the inception of the Church of Christ on the day of Pentecost to the present period. The whole basis is needful to direct the course of the present time contextualized church-centred evangelism in Africa.

In chapter three, the writer proposes some ways through which contextualized church-centred evangelism would be realized in Africa. He submits that it could be realized through contextualizers, message of evangelism and spiritual resources such as the Holy

Spirit and prayer. Also, its realization may come through certain medium of communication and world-view of the recipients. These modes of realizing contextualized church-centred evangelism are not exhaustive. They are only some suggestions for the African Christians and churches to start with in their bid to utilize contextualized church-centred evangelism to evangelize the remaining part of Africa and the world.

Chapter four states two major implications of contextualized church-centred evangelism in Africa. In the first place, African Christians will need to be evangelizing as contextualizers. Secondly, African churches will need to become planters of more contextualized churches.

Chapter five is the conclusion to the whole study. It contains a summary of the study and some practical suggestions to the African Christians and churches. From the whole research, it can be known that contextualized church-centred evangelism is biblical, appropriate, desirable, helpful and applicable to Africa.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### CONCLUSION

The work has shown that contextualized church-centred evangelism in Africa has the theological, sociological and historical bases. The study has demonstrated that realization of contextualized church-centred evangelism could take place through contextualizers, and message of evangelism. In addition, it has demonstrated that it might occur by the means of spiritual resources, medium of communication, and world view of the recipients. The project also disclosed the two major implications of contextualized church-centred evangelism in Africa. The first implication is that the African Christians will need to be evangelizing as contextualizers. The second implication is that the African churches will be planting more contextualized churches in Africa and beyond.

Baptist churches and churches of other denominations in Africa need to utilize this study to accomplish contextualized church centred evangelism in Africa.

They should utilize this research to develop their members until they become mature Christians, and disciplers. The Bible-based teaching, preaching, worship and fellowship can help to attain it. They should assist these members to undergo discipleship training that would disciple them until they become disciplers. At present, Nigerian Baptist Convention have adopted

programmes such as "Follow the Master," "Serve the Master" and "Master Life Discipleship Training." She has made both the "Follow the Master" and "Serve the Master", in practice, to be preliminaries to "Master Life Discipleship Training". However, only few of her churches are undergoing the Discipleship Training and utilizing the adopted materials. Therefore, other Baptist churches that are yet to accept<sup>and</sup> utilize this programme need to do so in order to develop her members. In addition, churches from other denominations in Africa are faced with the challenge of creating, adopting and utilizing their own forms of Discipleship Training courses and their materials. This will make their churches in Africa to develop their members into disciples and disciplers. These mature Christians can then participate in the task to realize contextualized church-centred evangelism in Africa.

These churches need to employ the study to plant more churches in Africa. The study will encourage the churches to sponsor and carry out all forms of biblical evangelism which will result into the planting of new churches. This is so because the work motivates the contextualizers to plant churches that are self-expressing, self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating. These contextualized churches have the characteristic of multiplying themselves from time to time. In order to achieve this, the churches in Africa may lead their members to undergo witness training courses. They will need to create, adopt and use

specific programmes and materials on it. The churches under the umbrella of the Nigeria Baptist Convention must make use of their own witness training course programme and material maximally.

Churches in Africa are obliged to influence all organizations and programmes geared towards the A.D. 2000 and Beyond Movement to utilize this research in their evangelistic enterprise. Organizations or programmes such as "Operation Reach All" of the Nigerian Baptist Convention can re-define and re-construct their task in the light of this study. Their task will then be to assist the churches in Africa to plan, sponsor and carry out evangelism that will result into the planting of new contextualized churches.

Churches in Africa are faced with the challenge of using the project in order to become involved in the planting of new contextualized churches cross-culturally. The study will afford them the opportunity of know how to realize contextualized church centred evangelism in the regions beyond Africa. In those regions, they could work to plant more contextualized churches.

Churches in Africa can employ the contextualized church-centred evangelism to solve the problems of cults and occultism among their membership. They may achieve this by employing the work for the purpose of assisting their members to understand, experience and practise the Christian faith in their own existential contexts.

Furthermore, these churches need to utilize this study to have biblical order of priority. This will focus their attention

in planting more new contextualized churches in Africa and beyond. It will guide them against majoring on minor issues. An example of such is the debate on the proper response to the shout of Halleluyah! or Praise the Lord!. Other examples include debates on night vigil and the expression, "In Jesus' name" at the beginning of prayer. Also, there is the argument on when to say "Amen". While some people argue that "Amen" could be said when every major point is made in prayer, others feel strongly that "Amen" can only be said at the end of the prayer, The study will assist these churches to lead their members to conserve the efforts they are exerting on these debates, but expend them on the planting of new contextualized churches.

In addition, churches in Africa should influence other Christian bodies in which they have membership to put this study into practice. They can influence these bodies to focus their efforts and resources in aiding the members churches to plan, sponsor and work to plant new churches. This may serve as a strategy to realize world evangelization.

Finally, if these practical suggestions are heeded by the present churches in Africa, their evangelistic participation and contribution will hasten the realization of world evangelization. From this study it could be realized that contextualized church-centred evangelism is biblical, appropriate, desirable, helpful and applicable to Africa.