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**THE EFFECTS OF THE NEW WAVE OF PENTECOSTALISM
ON THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST CONVENTION CHURCHES:
A CASE STUDY OF OGBOMOSO BAPTIST CONFERENCE**

**A Thesis Presented to
The Faculty of the
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ABSTRACT

The central focus of this research work is "The Effects of the New Wave of Pentecostalism on the Nigerian Baptist Convention Churches: A Case Study of Ogbomoso Baptist Conference."

The Baptists as a denomination over the years have their own distinctive pattern of worship and doctrine. But as a result of the increasing wave of pentecostalism, charismatic and faith movement, these charitable doctrinal expressions are being influenced. Therefore the study examined the root of the Nigerian Baptist in history, the importance of Baptist traditions, beliefs and practices in line with the Scriptures. Also, help in suggesting various ways in handling the incursion of the new wave of Pentecostalism in the Baptist Churches.

This research work is divided into five chapters. Chapter one presents the general introductory materials and clearly states the statement of the problem. This is followed by the background and significance of the study, motivation for the study, thesis statement, method of the study and its delimitations. Chapter two focuses on the background study of the Pentecostals and chapter three deals with the effects of Pentecostalism on the Nigerian Baptist Convention Churches. This enables the writer to use interview techniques and participants' observation in carrying out the study.

The chapter four is concerned with the evaluation of the effects of the new wave of Pentecostalism and the findings, analyses, discussions and interview conducted while chapter five contains the summary, conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is an undeniable fact that the Nigerian Baptist Convention Churches are being influenced by pentecostal doctrines and practices. The old historic Baptist faith and heritage is now finding new expressions in new pentecostal practices.¹ This can be seen as a blessing of God in our local environment. The impact of Pentecostalism has been seen in dynamic worship, warm fellowship, enriching ministries, prayer life and aggressive evangelism. This wind of change has come along with controversies, misunderstandings, errors, manipulations, deceits, confusion and chaos.

In Baptist Institutions Forum Seminar at Ede on October 17 and 18, 1997, the conferees pointed out that God's Spirit is at work in the world; individual Christians are to manifest God's Spirit. On the other hand, Pentecostalism seeks and encourages second baptism of the Holy Spirit. It claims that the only evidence is speaking in tongues and this has become worldwide phenomenon.² The distinguishing mark of a Baptist is sound doctrine based and guided by biblical faith with practical effect on daily living.³

In the face of these effects on Pentecostalism on the Nigerian Baptist Convention Churches, Emiola Nihinlola's advice is that we should not ignore the experiences that have affected many churches and denominations. The

¹Emiola Nihinlola and Deji Ayegboin, "The Impact of Pentecostalism on Nigerian Baptist Convention Churches: The Way Forward," Baptist Institutions Forum (Ibadan: Baptist Press (Nig.) Ltd., 1999, p. 65.

²Conferees' comments on the impact of Pentecostalism on Nigerian Baptist Convention Churches: The Way Forward, Baptist Institutions Forum, pp. 69-70.

³Baptist Institutions Forum, p. 70.

problem is not solved by running away from it. We should not reject it totally. To reject it may be opposing a programme of God (Acts 5:38, 39). Youths, students and adults who yearn for it should not adopt it hook, line and sinker, for while some aspects of the new wave of pentecostalism are positive and healthy some other aspects are negative and divisive. It is okay to adopt the new practices that we find to be in line with the teaching of the Word of God.⁴ There is a call for us to study the new wave of Pentecostalism from diverse perspectives, from church history, theology, psychology and Scriptures. A Serious study will confront us with reality and lastly, as we study it and come to a better understanding of Pentecostalism we should moderate pentecostalism with sound preaching, and teaching of the Word of God. Pentecostalism is an authentic move of the Spirit of the Almighty God. It is not a man-made religious phenomenon we should endeavour to experience it he concluded..⁵

The new wave of Pentecostalism has posed series of challenges to us as a denomination. Its presence in many Baptist Churches in Ogbomosho Baptist Conference will give ample evidence of the infiltration of the abuse of the pentecostal movement among the youths and young adults who in their desire to build a vibrant and dynamic community of faith have absorbed all the false manifestations in pentecostal style of worship. This has led to errors, inaccuracies, excesses and falsehood. This is an unconscious perpetuation of heretic teachings and practices in the Nigerian Baptist Convention.

The new names that some Baptist Churches adopt today calls us as a denomination to readjust our stand. These new names like "Fountain of Life,"

⁴Emiola Nihinlola, A Biblical Evaluation of Pentecostism (Ibadan Sssceptre Prints Limited 1998) pp. 20-21

“Gand Tidings Baptist Church,” “New Era Baptist Church,” suggest the desire to be free, desire for change and acceptance to the world to address the felt needs of many Nigerians.⁶

Another challenge is the issue of division in the local Baptist Churches which have been existing before the new pentecostal movement sprang up. With the infiltration of the new wave practices, the membership of local Baptist Churches has been dichotomized. The so-called orthodox groups whose orthodoxy is mainly based on their anti-pentecostal stance and the pro-pentecostal groups with their pentecostalism only evidenced, in dancing clapping and public display of tongue speaking with or without interpretation. Each group antagonizes the other and the unity of the Baptist is faced with a threat of extinction and division. This threat has given way for mushroom ministries and many of these new ministries grow by “sheep stealing” from protestant and evangelical churches.

In line with Emiola Nihinlola’s advice, the writer therefore recommends that:

Baptist pastors have a vital role to play in offering guidelines to the members regarding Baptist beliefs and practices. Baptist pastors who are clearly marked out in the area of integrity, sound biblical doctrine and yieldness to the Lord will meet up with the challenges posed by the new wave of pentecostalism.

It is also necessary for the Nigerian Baptist Convention to take an active role in educating and guiding its churches in doctrinal issues and

⁵Nihinlola, p. 22.

⁶See Matthew A. Ojo, “The Contextual Significance of the charismatic Movements in Independent Nigeria,” in *Africa*, 58 (2), pp. 175-192.

