

AN ASSESSMENT OF STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES OF THE WOMEN
MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF SELECTED CHURCHES IN
OGBOMOSO BAPTIST CONFERENCE

DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, OGBOMOSO

2013—0777

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

ESTHER A. ADENIRAN

JUNE, 2013

ABSTRACT

This study has assessed the stewardship of resources among the selected churches in Ogbomosho Baptist Conference. Women Missionary Society has been in existence for many years and there have been teachings on stewardship going on in churches, associations, conferences and the Nigerian Baptist Convention, but the impact of this society has not been known to be assessed. For example, the facilities for teaching, qualifications of teachers, the participants and the programmes have not been assessed. The study is empirical, descriptive and evaluative in nature. The population was based on the entire Ogbomosho Baptist Conference made up of Women Missionary Society with 20 Baptist Associations. Six associations in Ogbomosho Township and fourteen associations in its environs. Questionnaire was administered to thirty two (32) randomly selected churches in Ogbomosho Baptist Conference on an assessment of stewardship of resources among the selected Women Missionary Society churches in Ogbomosho Baptist Conference. Purposive sampling was employed to select some churches from the twenty associations in the conference 158 respondents were randomly selected. Findings showed that stewardship made impact because the Women Missionary Society members are making an adequate and acceptable use of their resources to support missions with the main value of 3.51. Research revealed that the facilities for teaching stewardship, the qualifications of the teachers, the participants and the programmes are making impact as there are adequate facilities for teaching stewardship in the seminaries and other Bible Colleges. There are qualified teachers to teach Christian stewardship from the local church level to the convention level. Again, other programmes are organized such as family enrichment programme and stewardship week of emphasis that raised the expansion of stewardship to 3.45 main value. This researcher discovered from the Women Missionary Union book of report 2010 to date commending the efforts of the Women Missionary Society of Ogbomosho Baptist Conference for the acceptable use of their time and resources to promote gospel missions. Based on the findings of this study, it was recommended that Women Missionary Society should periodically assess and evaluate the impact and effectiveness of their performances on the stewardship of resources where necessary. The Biblical understanding of stewardship of resources among society members should be kept intact and improved upon. The church must be prepared to teach and practice stewardship in order to promote the objectives that drive the society. The leadership of Women Missionary Society at the local church, association, conference and the convention levels should motivate society members to be more committed to the objectives of the society. The pastors of local churches should actively support and promote Christian stewardship in their local churches.

Conclusion

An assessment of stewardship of resources of the Women Missionary Society is the focus of this study because Christian stewardship is one of the doctrines that are not properly indicated in contemporary times. Also, it is one of the Biblical teachings that is often misused, abused and misinterpreted. Women Missionary Society members of Ogbomoso Baptist Conference have a good level of understanding of stewardship of resources. They do not only understand stewardship as the ownership of God but they also have developed a beneficial attitude about stewardship of resources which promotes a significant contribution to the growth of the Women Missionary Society in local Baptist Churches, Associations and Ogbomoso Baptist Conference. This must be taken seriously among the Women Missionary Society members as one of the factors for enhancing the Kingdom growth on earth.

Stewardship is a part of worship and should be taught and promoted as scriptural stewardship ideas. The principle guiding the teaching of Christian stewardship does not condemn material possession as such, or the possessing of material things. It only condemns man when he makes an idol of his material possessions, as it is stated in (Lk. 13:13). "You cannot serve God and Mammon," It forbids making the concentration on material possession the object of life. It is necessary that a religious educator intending to teach Christian stewardship note that the Bible recognizes a place in man's life for something more than material wealth. The Bible also gives no consideration and purpose for abundance other than as a means of service.

The performance of stewardship of resources among Women Missionary Society is generally good. But there is still need to improve the quality of the

knowledge of stewardship of resources among the Women Missionary Society members for more excellent outputs. The major finding of this study was that stewardship of resources involves the whole of life of every Christian and faithfulness is the key to harness it. The attitude of the Women Missionary Society toward stewardship of resources and their impact are significantly indispensable for the growth of mission work in Ogbomoso Baptist Conference.

The relevance of this finding to local Baptist churches, associations and Ogbomoso Baptist conference is to harness the Women Missionary Society stewardship of resources to strengthen weak churches in rural areas of Ogbomoso Baptist Conference and expand the Kingdom of God on earth.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made. The researcher is of the opinion that these recommendations will be of help to the Women Missionary Society of local Baptist churches, Baptist Associations, Pastors and Ogbomoso Baptist Conference. The recommendations are:

Women Missionary Society should:

1. Periodically evaluate the effectiveness of their performance in stewardship of resources and amend where necessary.
2. Evaluate whether the understanding of stewardship of resources among their leadership is biblically and doctrinally correct or not.
3. Ensure that biblically and doctrinally correct stewardship of resources is inculcated into the members of the society.

4. Find out whether the leadership at the local church and associational level should be more committed to the practice and generous use of resources in the church, association and conference.
5. Find out how the Women Missionary Society of local Baptist churches in Ogbomoso township could cooperate with those women in the rural areas for promoting the teaching of stewardship of resources among members of other societies in the church.
6. The conference leadership of Women Missionary Union should use their stewardship of influence, possession and talents for the growth and benefits of the church including churches in rural areas.
7. The local churches, Associations and Ogbomoso Baptist Conference should harness the Women Missionary Society's stewardship of resources to expand the kingdom of God on earth.
8. The theological institutions and Christian educators should properly teach the Seminary students and local church members to know the implications and impact of stewardship of resources for the growth of the church.