

AN APPRAISAL OF THE LEVEL OF MISSIONS INVOLVEMENT IN
E.C.W.A. CHURCHES: LAGOS DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL A CASE
STUDY.

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed at carrying out a crucial appraisal of the level of mission involvement of the SIM/ECWA. The study was carried out in Lagos District Church Council (L.D.C.C.) of SIM/ECWA as a case study. The study posed some research questions/hypothesis.

The answers to the research questions and the result of the hypothesis when tested revealed the true level of missions involvement. Though the denomination was born out of missionary activities, the Churches are no more very active in the work of missions. From the study it was discovered that most ministers are trained in seminary and have full knowledge of mission. However, most ministers have failed to make missions their priority or focus in their respective Churches. As a result of this the Church members of E.C.W.A. are not enthusiastic about the work of missions, as they ought to be. To bring a radical change ministers should embark on teaching, preaching, seminar and other programmes that sensitize the members to the work of missions.

The present total number of missionaries in the mission field being sponsored by all the Churches in the district is very small compared with the number of missionaries sponsored in 30, 40, or 50 years ago. Many local church boards (almost all the local Church boards) do not have a missionary of their own. Whereas any local church that is up to three hundred members are expected to have at least a missionary while Churches with about six hundred members are expected to have at least two missionaries they take care of in the field.

The tested hypothesis showed that less number of Churches are being planted than expected which supported the fact that missions are not taken as priority. If missions are taken seriously it will result into planting of more and more Churches. It is true that there are activities of missions. It is not totally dead. However, there is a big room for improvement and an urgent need for positive charge toward missions.

A. Conclusion

This study is very interesting. The twelve assumptions of the study were stated in chapter one. It is pertinent to see whether these assumptions have been confirmed or not.

The findings from this study. After careful analysis and discussion in chapter three reveal that the level of mission involvement in ECWA Local Churches is very low. Generally, one can infer from this study that the work of missions is suffering at all levels (in L.C.B., L.C.C. and D.C.C.) of the district under consideration.

Some major findings of the study include the followings:

1. The majority of the Church Elders and members do not have concern for missions.
2. The study shows that there is a need for the committee writing Sunday school and other literatures to focus on mission related materials.
3. The study reveals lack of proper supervision and encouragement of mission work by the D.C.C leaders.
4. The most members of ECWA are not enthusiastic about the work of missions.
5. The research reveals lack of information about missionaries or missions from the D.C.C. to the Pastors and Churches.
6. The study also reveals that very small number of churches was established through the activities of missions.

B. Suggestions and Recommendations

Before any recommendations or suggestions are made, the researcher appreciates the present level of mission involvement of ECWA. He as well appreciates the efforts of the leaders in various level of ECWA polity- L.C.B., L.C.C., and D.C.C. Generally speaking E.C.W.A. Churches need to have a change of altitude towards missions or missionary activities. While appreciating their level and efforts, the researcher wishes to make the following recommendations and suggestions.

1. Prayer: Let there be more emphasis on praying for missions. There is nothing disturbing the whole E.C.W.A. from having a day twice a year to hold special prayer for missions. It is very good if each L.C.C. or L.C.B. can include this in her calendar.
2. Seminar: Our leaders regularly should organize seminars both for the Pastors and the Elders either at D.C.C. level or L.C.C level, on importance of missions, how to get involved in missions, how to improve our vision for missions etc.
3. Information about Missions: Sending the latest news concerning mission will surely keep missionary programme fresh in people's mind and they will not normally forget it.
4. Preaching on Missions: The Pastors should always preach on missions at least 12 times a year or set aside a period to preach series of messages on missions. This will open the eyes of the Church members to missions as the priority of the Church.
5. Missions emphasis week: If possible for an institution to organize a programme like this it is quite possible for D.C.C. or L.C.C. or L.C.B. to have mission emphasis week and round it up with a free will donation. Let there be mission week twice a year just like the men and women fellowship do normally have Women's fellowship week.

6. Launching: At D.C.C. level or even L.C.C. level, launching for mission could be organized. If building of a Church and school, repair of an office, inauguration of L.C.C. can attract launching there is no rule against it if the D.C.C. can organized a very big launching for missions, say once in two years. Money can be realized in such a way that the missionary programmes will expand and grow and supplement the E.M.S. collections.
7. Special Committee for Missions: Let there be a special monitoring committee (or whatever name they will give it) set up by the D.C.C. to always monitor E.M.S. contributions so that each D.C.C. will not misuse the money, to make sure the money really goes to missionary work.
8. Better Treatment For Missionaries: Let both their salaries and allowances be increased. There could be allowances for their children and wives too. This will encourage the missionaries already in the field and others to join the mission work.
9. Budgeting For Missions Program: The G.C.C. should make it compulsory for the L.C.C. according to their strength, to have a number of missionaries sent out and that they budget the cost of sending out such missionaries along with their L.C.C. budget. This will enhance a good relationship and attachment with the missionaries.
10. Visitation To Mission Field: The D.C.C. executives along with few local Overseer should pay a visit once in a while to the missionaries in their mission field. This will in no small way encourage the missionaries and at same time brightens the mind of the executives concerning mission.
11. Curricula of the groups in the Church: Let those who are in charge of writing Sunday school manual, men's fellowship manual, women's fellowship manual, youth fellowship manual and

