

EVANGELISM IN IJUMULAND: A CASE STUDY OF
SELECTED BAPTIST CHURCHES IN IJUMU I
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF KOGI
BAPTIST CONFERENCE

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ABSTRACT

This work is organized into five chapters which are summarized below: Chapter one is the introduction and overview of the study. It includes among others, background to the study, the statement of problem, the purpose of the study, the significance of the study, limitation of the study and definition of terms.

Chapter two is review of relevant literature on the theological perspectives of evangelism. While chapter three deals with methodology and research procedure.

The Fourth chapter centred on presentation and data analysis. This include members' Questionnaire in view of evangelism in Ijumuland: A case study of selected Baptist Churches in Ijumu I Baptist Association. Chapter five deals with summary, conclusion and recommendation.

CONCLUSION

Having examined the following enlisted Church: First Baptist Church, Ekinrin – Adde; Ebenezer Baptist Church, Ekinrin-Adde; Emmanuel Baptist Church, Ekinrin-Adde; First Baptist Church, Iyamoye and First Baptist Church, Iyara: based upon the research conducted on the church's state of Evangelism, I have discovered the reason why evangelism did not thrive or produce the desired result inspite of the efforts of the church to propagate the gospel message by a way of evangelism.

There are two perspectives to it: the first perspective has to do with the audience those people that needed the gospel that is the non-Christians (or unbelievers). While the second perspective has to do with the believers (that is the Christians).

The first group of people that fall into the following category: Indifference and lethargy of sinners; Unbelief, Delay; Carnal Security; Despair and Love of sin. People has various differences, the level in which different people operate differs. Among the people hearing the gospel, those who have harden heart were the harden sinners. They do not see the need to believe the gospel and repent, and give their life to Jesus Christ. And sometimes we see others the easy going individual who might

have knowledge about the spiritual things before coming to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. And because of their experience they thought that they are better than others.

It is recorded in the Bible how Jesus went to Nazareth his home town and he could not do much miracle because of the unbelief of the people. (Mk. 6:5-6). Delay is another factor people who are supposed to respond to the gospel message by faith were only procrastinate and using delay tactics.

Another reason why evangelism did not thrive is carnal security. Many men often thought that they are quite safe; that they have power or position that can protect them from falling or from being harmed. People that fall under this category are always full of themselves. They are not ready to hear the gospel message because of their pride. Further reason is Despair there are thousands who have heard the gospel, and yet live in a kind of despair of its power being ever exerted upon them. Another reason why evangelism was not growing is the love of sin. I John 5:19 says that the whole world lieth under the wickedness. Evils and wickedness abound everywhere and love of sin has been on increased and the love of God and the gospel message has grown diminished.

The second group of people shared the following in common: lack of prayer: no relationship building; not having the right outcome in mind and, our lifestyle and the mind set.

According to Leonard Ravenhill's why Revival Tarries affirms that prayer grasps eternity. Also prayer moved the hand of God and anytime Christians (believers) prayed Holy Spirit would be made available for an effective evangelism. But unfortunately, the reverse is the case it becomes difficult for believers to prepare with

earnest prayer before embarking on the church evangelism. The Church could no longer persevere in prayer and receive instruction from God again. Whenever Christians failed to persevere in prayer that would hinder evangelism.

There should be Christian loving relationship to be established among the Christians and the same relationship to be extended to the non-Christians. But when Christian loving relationship is lacking it would become a problem on evangelism.

Not having the right outcome in the mind of Christians would affect the work of evangelism of the church. In a situation where Christians has no zeal for evangelism and passion for the lost souls again this would hinder evangelism.

Our lifestyle and the mind set is very important. Christians mode of dressing would also be better for evangelism. As important as the Christian life style and their mind set is, it is unfortunate that Christians did not bother about their life style any longer, they do not live in accordance with the gospel message that they were preaching ; some of them tolerate transparent dress especially women. This type of life-style hinders evangelism.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following recommendations would go along way to help the church to have effective evangelism, and then discover the right method to use for evangelism.

1. The best method so far that is left for the contemporary church is to follow Jesus and the Early Apostle's practice on evangelism. (Mat. 9:35, Mk. 1:14-15, Mat. 10:5, 7-8).
2. The church is encouraged to set up a strong prayer ministry for the purpose of an effective evangelism (Lk. 6:12-13, Acts 6:4). The Church

leaders can also set up prayer missionary who would be praying and interceed for sinners and the lost souls. The church leaders can guide the prayer missionary when to meet for prayer meeting. They can also be encouraged to pray and fast occasionally for mission and evangelism. The prayer missionary would employed prayer to demolish the kingdom of the devil, and their prayer would enhance the church's evangelism to the unreached people to be effective.

Jesus specifically asked his disciples to pray to the Lord of the harvest, to send out workers into his harvest field because the harvest are plenty and workers are few. (Mat. 9:36-38).

3. The church should depend on the power of the Holy Spirit to carry out the work of evangelism. (Acts. 1 :8, 6 :3, Eph. 5 :18; A cts 1 3:2-4). It is high time for the church leaders to refocus on the Kingdom principles and priorities. Both the church members and the church leaders should have the right attitude, or the right outcome in their mindset on evangelism. They have got to have zeal for evangelism and passion for the lost souls (Mat. 28:19-20).
4. The Church should embrace living faith as they are considering the work of evangelism. The Christians are expected to be full of faith (Acts 6:3,5).
5. The church's should remember to give themselves to fasting, they are expected to prepare for evangelism through fasting (Acts. 13:2-3).
6. The Christians who is an instrument of evangelism, ought to be holy like God (2 Cor. 5:17, I Pet. 1:15-16, Heb. 12:14)..

7. The Church can sponsor young missionaries and evangelists, and send them to the mission field. The church leaders should encourage the youths in B.S.F. to go to the mission field on a regular basis.

8. In church history each time the church witnesses a period of complacency, we have some leaders who sponsored a lone missionary/evangelist, and sent them out to the unreached group of their time.