

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR EVANGELISM IN SAPELE

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

N B T S  
M. Div. Th  
AN - 967

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY

THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, OGBOMOSO

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD

DEGREE OF MASTER OF DIVINITY

UNIVERSITY OF JOS

2013 - 0597

BY

MATTHEW TSONIYARODE AWINOREN

07/0016

J.C. POOL LIBRARY  
BAPTIST SEMINARY  
OGBOMOSO NIGERIA

JUNE 2012

## ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to assess youth empowerment as an instrument for evangelism in Sapele Baptist Association. The economic hardship experienced in our society has made poverty and malnutrition to deeply penetrate the youth, the active group in our society. The study is to create awareness among the Baptist Church in the association what they can do to boost the economic power of her youth and to bring in other youth into the membership of the church.

The primary data for study was collected from 29 youths and 15 churches in Sapele Baptist association through the use of structured questionnaire. The data was analysed using percentages, ratio. In some cases the Kendall's coefficient of concordance to test the congruence of the opinion of respondents was used.

It was discovered from our study that not all youth are being catered for. There is so much emphasis by churches on information communication technology training as means of empowerment, also education and scholarship, youth needed skills acquisition welding and fabrication will help the youth. We discovered that provision of video and photographic camera would help the youths. 100 percent of the youth are desperately in need of empowerment. Pastors promote youth empowerment programmes but lack adequate implementation. There is budget for empowerment in some of the churches and individuals contribute to a relief fund used as part of empowerment.

It is recommended, inter alia, the church should develop a good working relationship with youth in order to have the opportunity of ministering to their needs. The churches should have budget for empowerment in some of the churches empowerment programme no matter how small those empowered will be good instrument for evangelising other youths into the membership of the church. The church should understand the changing needs of their youths and make efforts to meet them by empowerment.

It is also recommended that churches should have those empowered in confidence not bringing into the public or congregational debate. The church should not be sentimental over empowerment programme among the youth since it is mainly for evangelism. Pastors should continue to promote empowerment funds. Churches should make efforts that those empowered should be made to serve in ministry and empowerment committee of the church.

## CONCLUSION

It is apparent from the study that large number of youths both male and female needed empowerment youths being prospective leaders of tomorrow to retain them and be what we needed them for should be empowered. Therefore, it is discovered from the study that church stands in the best position to empowered the youths and make them what God desire them to be. However, the research showed that the effort of the church in empowering the youths it has not come up to the standard. There are still very large areas to cover in youth empowerment programmes. To that end, the church has to rise to the responsibility and the challenge of empowering the youth despite her lean resources.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Base on the findings from this research, the researcher put forward the following recommendation:

1. That church should develop a good relationship with youths in order to have the opportunity of ministering to their needs encouraging them to walk in right path and self sufficiency.
2. That church, who is yet to have for proper ministering and co-coordinating. This will go a long way in bridging the gap between youths and adult in the church.
3. That churches should have budget for youths empowerment programmes no matter how small. Those empowered will be good instrument for evangelism.

4. That churches should not see whatever spend for empowerment as waste rather it should be view as evangelism or mission for Christ.
5. That churches should understand the changing needs of their youths and make every effort to meet them by empowerment.
6. That churches should have those empowered as confidant not bringing into the public or congregational debate.
7. That churches should not be sentimental over empowerment programmes this mainly for evangelism.
8. That Pastor should continue to promote and encourage individuals to contribute to empowerment funds.
9. That churches make effort that those empowered should be made to serve in ministry and empowerment committee of the church.