

CHALLENGES OF EVANGELISM: A STUDY OF GBAGYI PEOPLE OF FEDERAL  
CAPITAL TERRITORY (FCT) ABUJA

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## ABSTRACT

In this research work, concerted effort was made to examine the challenges of evangelism; a study of Gbagyi people of Federal Capital Territory (Abuja). To do this effectively, the researcher established the introductive aspects, review of related literatures, identified the people called Gbagyi; their general worldview, advent of Baptist work among the Gbagyi of the (FCT) Abuja, Baptist work in Abuja, how it is a challenge to witness among this people and the result of the Christian church, especially the Baptist denomination in the (FCT) Abuja. What motivated the researcher was the attitude of the indigenes of this area in embracing the gospel message, having the great opportunity to be in the Federal Capital of Nigeria, which is the heart of the nation. The researcher is of the opinion that this people are not far from development, and should have grabbed this gospel message with both hands. But instead, always discuss about how their land was taken by the government, and the compensation said to have given to them did not commensurate with their land. In order for the researcher to have the details of this people group, a sample research questions was given to selected Gbagyi people in the (6) Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja. Also an oral interview was also conducted in some selected towns of the (6) Area Councils. The visit by this researcher to this area, afforded him to have a fill of those towns and meet face-to-face with the interviewees. The visit by this researcher afforded him to see the development of these areas; the one provided by the government and that of the missionaries as provided by denominations that has done something in the area visited. The researcher also communicate some of the indigenes who were privilege to be educated as a result of establishment of schools either in the area visited or that is not far from the place. This field research adds to the knowledge of this researcher. It shows knowledge about a group of people did not end in the four corners of an institution; in fact, knowledge can acquire anywhere. This researcher also leant that a person may not be educated, but his memory may not be lost completely; or should be counted as an unimportant person because he is not literate. Having stated how this research was carried out and the knowledge acquired by this researcher in the field visited; this researcher recommends that, Christians should wake up. Evangelism is more than building the church to be a mega church, or doing revival within the church. It calls for reaching out to the unreached. If Christians of north-east Nigeria of the northern part of Nigeria have reached out with the gospel message all these years, maybe we may not have "Boko Haram," killing people without remorse today. To be effective in evangelism, the church needs to recognize that the proclamation of the redemptive power of God to a lost and dying world is the heart and soul of the church ministry. Therefore, the time to wake up is NOW.

## Conclusion

From what has been said so far in this research, one is bound to make some conclusive remark. This remark will lean on the subject addressed in this research namely: the challenges of evangelism: a study of "Gbagyi" people of the FCT Abuja.

From this research carried out, it was observed that the level of understanding of the concept of evangelism among this people group is still low. This may have resulted from the teachings of some "half baked theologians" spread across the world today. The only thing they know is about prosperity, (all in the name of spreading the gospel). This has led to the drive of establishing "mush room churches" and a new convert may not know which one is the real Christian church.

It has also been observed by this researcher that, many churches are excellent in church planting, but the support meant to sustain the churches that was established is inadequate. People of God should invest heavily in the expansion of God's kingdom on earth.

Some people disguise today to be Christian, so as to put their whole financial responsibility on the people that brought the message of Christ to them. Whosoever want to accept the gospel message should not do so with pure mind and not to amass wealth, but should allow the new found faith drive them to do the will of Christ.

Finally, churches that are Christ-centered should always be on the lookout to where a new church would be established, and the message of Christ is preached vigorously. The goal of reaching the world with the gospel has been described as enormous. It is beyond the capability of a single individual or church to achieve in time.

#### Recommendations

In view of the revelations unfolded in this research, the researcher wishes to offer the following recommendations:

1. There should be more full time missionaries in places where there are few trained leaders. The message of God should be preached to all people, tribe and culture. Any missionary who is willing to work among the "Gbagyi" villages of FCT should be ready to learn their language as soon as he gets there. In the alternative, such a person should learn the Hausa language, which is the lingua Franca of all the States in the Middle Belt. The skill in Hausa language of this researcher helps him to be able to work among this people group.



2. Our members in the organized and bigger churches; any where they belong; should intensify their effort in planting more churches among the unreached people group of their area; and call a pastor for the church immediately. This will enhance the growth of the church, instead of having a lay person that may not have the experience of leading people of God.
3. Our bigger churches and mission minded Christian individual should vote more fund for missions. The Gbagyi people in the FCT are still babes in the Lord, and cannot be compared in terms of growth like the Yoruba from south-west Nigeria; just as the Nigerian Baptist Convention cannot be compared with the Southern Baptist Convention of the United State of America.
4. All Christian denominations should disciple their new converts properly and not accept this faith to amass wealth or on trusting in riches of other Christians; rather their faith should be in than in Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world to make wealth. Once a person lives his our lives for God of mission, such a person shall be fulfilled.
5. The commitment to make disciple has been wasted down in our contemporary time. That which makes a church stronger has become a week point, because the church has settled to provide worship for believers and new converts on the pew Sunday after Sunday. This researcher is recommending that all churches should have a strong discipleship class for all its members so as to have strong members in our churches.
6. The command of Jesus to make disciples of all nations is no longer relevant in some churches today. Hence the church is not as strong, virile and forceful as it should be in a changing world for God; this researcher is recommending that all our churches should make it mandatory to go out on door-to-door evangelism, at

least once in every month and should also have a solid follow-up group that will re-visit the one won for the Lord for prayers or counseling.

7. The Church of God exist only for missions and all hands should be on deck until Christ give His people the power to overcome all challenges that may want to hinder the expansion of God's kingdom here on earth.