

IMPACT OF LOCAL CHURCH MISSIONS MOBILIZATION STRATEGIES ON
MISSION ENTERPRISE IN OGBOMOSO BAPTIST CONFERENCE

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ABSTRACT

This essay, "Impact of Local Church Missions Mobilization Strategies on Mission Enterprise in Ogbomosho Baptist Conference" investigates the impacts of the mission mobilization strategies employed by local Churches, in Ogbomosho Baptist Conference, in fulfilling the mandate of world evangelization, and evaluates the impacts of such strategies in meeting the rising challenges of mission ventures. The motivation to work on this topic was due to experiences on personal encounter with some non Baptist missions' agencies and mission mobilizers. The mission awareness and mobilization strategies employed by these agencies yielded obvious positive results. Hence, the needs to evaluate the Baptist strategies of mobilizing people for mission work and the effectiveness of it on Great Commission. The study also aims to review the impacts of the various strategies of mission mobilization. The methodology employed was observation and interview of Thirty (30) selected Baptist local Churches within the Conference. Having surveyed the different mission mobilization strategies employed by the selected Churches, the following observation were deduced; strategies were observed as practiced, massive evangelism and discipleship, awareness and involvement levels of mission task, church planting, church growth, recruitment and training, church ministry/service and financing missions are seen as the impact. The research also affirmed that lack of proper understanding of the purpose of the church and negligence on the part of the church leadership to give sound biblical teachings on the need for participation in mission is responsible for hindrances to effective mobilization strategies. As a result of the findings in this study, recommendations were raised on the strategies the local Baptist churches, church leadership and membership can use to mobilize people for mission enterprises.

5.2 CONCLUSION

The impact of mission mobilization strategies on the mission's enterprise of a local church cannot be over-emphasized. It is seen that without doubt, mission mobilization and participation is the core essence and purpose of the Church. In mobilization, the church leadership has the task of awakening, sensitizing, enlightening and educating the body of Christ, to be involved in missions. As the Church gets mobilized for missions and also participate in giving, praying, and going the outcome will becomes evident. Every local church must be inspired by God's Word to be involved in missions else, such a church would 'expire'.

If a goal is to be achieved and a vision fulfilled, you must take action. If you work only with plans and programs, you have an organization. If you mobilize people, you have an organism and each person in the organism becomes part of the achievement of the vision. Outward mobilization is the result of inward motivation. Everyone is motivated to do something. An important key in effective ministry is to motivate and mobilize God's people for the work of the ministry. The relevance of a church lies in her involvement in Missions. This is the continuing necessity for mission and mission mobilization strategies.

5.3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Having undertaken a diligent study on mission mobilization strategies, the following recommendations are necessary for any local Baptist church in the Ogbomoso Baptist Conference:

Clear Vision for Missions: The average NBC Pastor should give himself/herself to vision for missions. The Pastor must be totally committed to world evangelization

and involve his congregation to follow his leading. Pastors should take the lead in educating and mobilizing the congregation. A committed Pastor leads a mobilized congregation. Every member should be fully aware of the motivating vision of his or her church. It must be communicated often and often to everyone, because clear vision gives direction, motivation and commitment to all involved.

Prayer Mobilization: prayer should be prioritized and organized for effective mission mobilization. This is because it is an inevitable and insurmountable weapon for kingdom exploit. Churches may organize weekly, monthly or quarterly prayer retreat as avenue for Mission mobilization. Missions Mobilizers affirm that intellectual prowess methods and strategies without prayer will achieve little or nothing in missions endeavours (Reapsome 117). Paul, the missionary in one of his corpus writes "*and prays for us too, that God may open a door for our message...*" (Colossians 4:3). This establishes a biblical basis for praying for missions and missionaries.

Mission Education: Missionary interest is not spontaneous. It needs to be sparked. The purpose of mission education is to spark up missionary interest and to sustain its commitment (Lovering 8). This is not a once- and-for-all attempt because without consistent renewal, visions for missions will die. The education must be year round (Burthwick 273). Churches should engage in mission education programmes that will focus on mobilizing human, material and financial resources for mission activities. A local Church can organize Seminars, workshops, Conferences and series of training for general awareness of mission.

Mass Media: The Pastor can use Church Bulletins, Mission Magazines, notice board, House Fellowships and Tracts as strategies for mobilizing people for missions.

Churches and their leader should make good use of mass media as means of mission mobilization to boost their missions effort. This is one of the effective means of mission mobilization.

Mission Ministers: Minister of Mission should be appointed or call to serve within various local churches in the conference for effective mobilization efforts. This can enable involvement of all the department or organization in the local church to be mobilized for mission activities. It was glaring that churches that operate such, are really doing exploit in mission task.

Mission Mobilization Officers: There is the need for decentralization of the mobilization efforts of the Global Mission Board of NBC. Mission mobilization officers could be appointed to serve within various conferences and associations for effective grass-root mobilization efforts.

Partnership in Mission: The local churches need to explore the partnership paradigm in mission work. These could be with Associations, Conferences, Global Mission Board and also non-NBC Mission Agencies. Synergy in mission enterprises of local churches in Ogbomoso Baptist Conference will go a long way. The Partnership strategy entails a church, an Association, a Conference, or a missionary organization, entering into a working relationship with the Global Mission Board to sponsor particular fields. The writer believes that the partnership strategy is biblical and is the most effective one for contemporary mission ventures (Reesor 38).

Mission Banquet/Dinner: This is a strategy that could be used both by a local church Pastor and the missions' personnel of the church and even the Conference. Some people are not easily reached through normal church programmes. Banquet and Dinners could be organized for such classes of people like Christian Business Men and

Professionals (Loving 17). At such Banquet, a seasoned missionary or an efficient mission mobilizer could be invited to give talks on missions or may share his experiences on the mission field and the attendant needs.

Mission Fair and Exhibitions: This can be organized by a local Church, Associations, or a Conference and by inviting all the churches within the vicinity to the fair. At the fair, banners giving information about missions and various mission fields will be displayed. Information about unreached people groups and ministry opportunities will be provided. The fair must also provide addresses of the locations of such fields. Film shows can be provided to give information about the lives of the people (11). This will serve as motivators to the people.