

THE MISSIONS ENTERPRISES OF WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION IN
NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF OGBOMOSO SOUTH - EAST BAPTIST
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ABSTRACT

The research work is a response to the problem of misunderstanding or misconception about missions among Women's Missionary Society. The essence of this research is to help Christian women in general and the Baptist WMU of Nigerian Baptist Convention in particular to do missions more effectively. For the purpose of the research work, relevant literatures were searched for and revealed. In addition questionnaires were used. The WMS of twenty local churches were randomly selected out of twenty six churches in Ogbomoso South East Baptist Association and two hundred questionnaires were distributed in all. The research work revealed that the missionary motive of Baptist Women's Missionary Society of Nigeria is to meet needs. Also, it showed that Baptist Women's Missionary Society of Nigeria is doing exploits in the task of missions. The research work also revealed that WMS also cherished training as an essential pre-requisite for effective involvement in missions. However, the research work showed that the working definition of missions by WMS is faulty or inadequate. Based on the findings of the research, the followings were offered as recommendations: The Baptist WMS at Convention, Conference, Association as well as at Local Church levels should use every laudable media to teach every WMS member their basic tasks over and over again because this is what the society exist for. However, the local churches' WMS should be accorded with greater preference to teach the tasks in the local dialects of the people. Also, there is need for Baptist WMS and women that are participating in missions to re-examined their working definition of missions in the light of the Scriptures. Moreover, the local Baptist Church, other missionary organizations in the church, women of other local congregation apart from Baptist Churches must learn from the commitment of WMS to praying and giving to missions as well as their strategies for mobilizing financial and prayer support missions. They must also learn from the attitude and commitment of WMS to missionary education

5.2 CONCLUSIONS

It can be concluded from the findings of the research work that the missionary motive of Baptist Women's Missionary Society of Nigeria is to meet needs, both primary and secondary needs. Also, it can be concluded that Baptist Women's Missionary Society of Nigeria is doing exploits in the task of missions especially in the aspect of giving and mobilizing funds for missionaries and mission fields. In fact, they could be referred to as good donors and wonderful funds mobilizers for missions. They are also doing fairly well in the area of praying for missions and mobilizing prayer support for missions and missionaries. The research work also revealed that WMS also cherished training as an essential pre-requisite for effective involvement in missions. WMS don't only cherish it; they also provide laudable opportunities to provide missionary education for her members as well as other members of the church. Moreover, the WMS has contributed immensely to the missionary endeavors in Nigeria in those areas mentioned above.

However, the research work show that the working definition of missions by WMS is faulty or inadequate because of the placing of emphasis on secondary matters than the primary issue which is the proclamation of the gospel which is the core of missions. So also, it can be concluded based on the findings of the research work that the physical involvement of WMS in missions (that is doing missions) which is the core of the Great Commission is grossly inadequate.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are therefore suggested based on the findings of the research:

1. The Baptist WMS at Convention, Conference, Association as well as at Local Church levels should use every laudable media for example Mother's Day, WMS' Emphasis Sunday, WMS Missions' Study Day etc to teach every WMS member whether old or new their basic tasks over and over again because this is what the society exist for. However, the local churches' WMS should be accorded greater preference to teach the tasks in the local dalets of the people.
2. There is the need for Baptist WMS and women that are participating in missions to re-examined their working definition of missions in the light of the Scriptures- Matt.28:18-20; Act 1:8, Mark 16:15-18 -so that they will be able to give priority to primary matters as far as missions is concerned.
3. The local Baptist Church, other missionary organizations in the church, women of other local congregations apart from Baptist denomination must learn from the commitment of WMS to praying and giving to missions as well as their strategies for mobilizing financial and prayer support for missions. They must also learn from the attitude and commitment of WMS to missionary education.
4. The Baptist WMU (WMS inclusive) at convention, conference, Association and Local Church levels should desist completely from the act of just collecting the report from their missionaries from fields for collection sake or for filing only. They must develop critical mind of analyzing the reports and take appropriate actions on the reports for greater effectiveness in missions.