

EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE BAPTIST COOPERATIVE  
PROGRAMME AND ITS CHALLENGES TO ZION 1 BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,  
OSOGBO

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## ABSTRACT

Effective participation in the Baptist Cooperative Programme and its challenges to Zion1 Baptist Association, Osogbo of Osun Conference is the investigation of this research work. It has become worrisome on the reason why the Nigerian Baptist Convention cannot reach out enough on the work of Missions due to the lack of enough financial resources, which has been traced to the ineffective participation in the cooperative programme by the local churches. Therefore, this work titled: Effective Participation in the Baptist Cooperative Programme and its challenges to Zion 1 Baptist Association, Osogbo, examines the Baptist Cooperative Programme of the Nigerian Baptist Convention as a call for faithful steward, and the Biblical basis for the Baptist Cooperative Programme. This study is descriptive in nature and the researcher developed questionnaires to gather data for the study. This study made use of one hundred questionnaires in the ten selected local Baptist churches of the association. The study reveals that it is important for the local churches through their pastors and members to be more faithful to their commitment to the cooperative programme. On the basis of this, it was recommended that the Convention should more effort in giving publicity to her mission enterprise among the local churches for them to carried along to give them a better sense of belonging, that the Orientation and re orientation of the Baptist pastors and members on the purpose of the Baptist Cooperative Programme should be encouraged, that Baptist pastors should teach more on faithful stewardship to the members of their local churches, that the curriculum of the theological schools should be improved upon in other to equip the more the pastors for the Baptist Cooperative Programme of the Convention, and also that there is need to teach the more about autonomy of the local church to pastors and church members in order to correct the misconception on the perception of the autonomy of local churches.

## 5.2 Conclusion

Through the Baptist Cooperative Programme, the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ has been propagated in Africa and beyond. In spite of these great works, the programme is faced with serious challenges of faithful participation from the local churches that are the bedrock of the Convention. This research work has been able to clarify that the programme is been faced by many factors leading to the ineffectiveness in the participation of the local churches.

It shows that the progress of the Nigerian Baptist Convention rest on the willingness and ability of the local churches and pastors to be faithful to the discharge of their responsibilities to the umbrella body, the Convention. It highlights the need for faithful stewardship on the part of the local churches, members, pastors and the Convention in order for the effectiveness of the Baptist Cooperative Programme to manifest.

### 5.3 Recommendation

From the analysis of the research work, the researcher hereby makes the following recommendations to

#### Pastors

- a. Baptist pastors should teach more on faithful stewardship to the members of the local churches.
- b. There is need to teach the more about autonomy of the local church to pastors and church members. Whereby mutually agreed contribution be paid promptly to other bodies such as Association, Conferences and Convention. The misconception on the perception of the autonomy of local churches should be corrected it must be responsible and responsive.

#### To the Church Members

- a. Every local Baptist church members should be faithful to paying of their tithes to their churches for such church to be able to remit her agreed percentage to the Convention.
- b. Orientation and re orientation of the local members on the purpose of the Baptist Cooperative Programme should be encouraged.

#### To Local Baptist Churches

- a. Local Baptist Churches should have the proper understanding of autonomy not to be used as hindrances to their effective participation in the cooperative programme.

- b. Local Baptist Churches should also know that since they are members of the Nigerian Baptist Convention, as a body, every decision taken is binding on all, hence they should show commitment to the collective responsibility.

#### To the Theological Institution

- a. The curriculum of the theological schools should be improved upon in order to equip the pastors to promote and abide by the Baptist Cooperative Programme of the Convention.

#### The Nigerian Baptist Convention

- a. The Convention should make more effort in giving publicity to her mission enterprise among the local churches for them to be carried along and have a sense of belonging. This will lead to their faithfulness in cooperating with the Convention.
- b. The Nigerian Baptist Convention should be much more pro-active in her approach to local Baptist churches, especially when such churches are in need of the Convention's assistance.
- c. Funds contributed by the local churches should be used for the purpose of missions and evangelism as unanimously agreed upon. This will serve as a source of encouragement to the local Baptist churches.