

AN EVALUATION OF PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AS A VIABLE  
STRATEGY FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY MISSIONS, CHURCH  
PLANTING AND GROWTH

N. B. TS  
M. Div. Miss.  
01 — 42

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A thesis in the Department of Missions and Evangelism

Submitted to the Faculty of Theological Studies,  
The Nigeria Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomoso  
In Affiliation with the University of Jos.

2013 — 0547

In partial fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award of degree of  
Master of Divinity in Missiology of the  
University of Jos.

JUNE, 2011.

## ABSTRACT

This work attempts to evaluate the use of professional skills as a viable strategy for 21<sup>st</sup> century missions, church Planting and Growth. This researcher is of the opinion that the professional skill strategy will aid the work of missions in major closed countries in the 10/40 windows.

The method of library research using theological, Historical, descriptive and interview approach was adopted in this work. Internet sources were also used where necessary. This work is limited by the fact that professional skills are a viable strategy for mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The limited time for the research and the limitation of space did not permit the details of how professional skill could be used in church growth in close nation where the professional missionary would not be permitted.

The research gave more insight into what the 21<sup>st</sup> century church could do to expand the scope of the gospel using the young skill professionals in our various churches.

An understanding of this strategy will encourage more of the skill professional we have in our denomination to be more involved in missions; it will lead to the expansion of our coverage and rural development input toward the salvation of the people in rural communities and countries where the gospel is prohibited. And finally empower the trained missionary to enter various nations of the world for missions.

In Africa, “there are some Yoruba traders in the early 70s who usually preach the Gospel as they do their trades in Northern Nigeria. They were sound believers who passionately preach the Gospel to the unbelievers that come their way. Also the impacts of professional skilled students in cross-cultural mission opportunities were established. More than 80 percent of the world is closed to conventional missionary but they welcome professional skilled workers with needed skill and professional students irrespective of their religion. The Global Missions Boards method of maximizing the volunteered skilled Professionals in doing mission in places where Christianity is disallowed should be improved.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

In conclusion, the use of Skill Professionals in mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is the visible strategy of expanding the gospel to the souls perishing in various closed nation. Professional skilled and trained missionaries have more prospects in the 21st century mission than the formal traditional method. Hence the use of professional skilled strategy in mission will lead to great revolution in the Global Mission Board of the Nigerian Baptist Convention; it will also qualify the (NBC) to penetrate the Arab nations and other unreached part of the World.

## **5.3 Recommendations**

Based on the discussion and discoveries from the research, the following will aid effective skilled professional in mission strategy of the Global Mission Board of the Nigerian Baptist Convention:

### 5.3.1 Global Mission Board (GMB)

First; The Board should seek to identify the research done by various theological institutions of the Nigerian Baptist Convention on how progress could be attained, in the mission activities.

Second, Awareness programme on the impact of professional skill in mission should be produced and propagated among the tertiary institution and churches.

Third, Recruitment strategy; the GMB should intensify effort in recruiting skilled professionals who are also trained missionaries into the local and international fields of the Convention where conventional missionary would not be accepted.

Fourth, Training policy should be reviewed. Where it is necessary to sponsor some missionaries to be professional skilled to function in a location or country, it should be done.

Fifth, The Global Mission Board should continue to evaluate the effectiveness of other strategies in comparison to that of the professional skilled approach so as to know the one to adopt for a particular field.

### 5.3.2 Theological Seminary

First, admission opportunity: preference should be given to the professional skilled student who intends to study mission in order to use his profession as a means for mission.

Second, Curriculum for Missiology course should be developed to encourage the use of the Professional skills in mission. They are not to bury their professional skills as a missionary.

Third, short-term training should be developed for the skill professional volunteer who may want to serve in a short-term mission in our various mission field.

Fourth, Annual theological Conference should be designed to enlighten the seminarians on how they could use their skilled profession especially in foreign lands.

Fifth: More research should be encouraged on the development of professional skills as a strategy for mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **5.3.3 The Local Baptist Church**

First, Awareness opportunity, the local Baptist Church should invite the Skilled Professionals who are using their professions on the field to share their testimonies during the Home and Foreign Mission Week of Emphasis in their churches.

Second, Churches should encourage and sponsor a student who is called and professionally skilled to study mission in the seminary.

Third: Churches should be ready to sponsor trained missionaries who have background in a Skill Profession to foreign countries for mission, and continue to support the missionary as their our cross-cultural missionary work.

Fourth, the local Baptist Church should maximize the availability of skilled professional members in their local mission outreaches and for the church growth and social impact in their immediate community.

Fifth: Skilled professional in a local Baptist Church could partner with the government to embark on various development projects which they can volunteer themselves to work freely in their community for example, Hospital, Educational facilities or water projects.

### **5.3.4 Nigerian Baptist Convention**

First, it is suggested that the Convention should adequately provide financial support to the Global Mission Board to aid the work of professional skilled missionaries on the field, since they are not to use it as a means of livelihood.

Second, the Convention should also recognize the missionaries labouring using their Professional skills on the field as they recognize the pastors in churches.

Third, the Convention should also mobilize prayer support for the missionaries using their professional skills in close and hostile nations.