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**EVANGELISM AS AN EFFECTIVE TOOL IN CHURCH  
PLANTING: A CASE STUDY OF SALEM GOSPEL  
MISSION INTERNATIONAL**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This research work attempts to critically, look at the work of evangelism and church planting of Salem Gospel Mission International (SAGOMINT). What has prompted this work mostly is the present position of the church on there two issues.

It is evident that without an effective evangelism there will not be church growth. This work, hence, is to investigate bonus reasons for the Salem Gospel Mission International members' and ministers' in efficient and ineffective work of evangelism, and church planting. Unlike before, when there was aggressive and purposeful evangelism, the trend had changed for lookwarm, with wrong methods and people in place.

When the above is considered in line with the historical dimension of the ministry, one would see that it has resulted into quench of zeal, absence of church growth and non-commitment of men and women to carry on with the work of the church. Some problems that are confronting the evangelistic efforts of the church are enumerated in this work.

However, this work will intimate the reader with the Salem Gospel Mission International and her ministerial exploits. It will also inculcate the bits of information made available in oral and written reports of church meetings and Conferences. The work relies on resource person (for interview), and other materials available as a means of achieving its goal.

**CONCLUSION**

With all the above recommendations and the other internal problems that must be dealt with by the leadership of this church, surely SAGOMINT will certainly grow steadily and move towards progress. This will make the work of evangelism and church planting more meaningful, and a step worth taking.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Having considered various ways, methods, practices, problems of the church (SAGOMINT) as regard evangelism and church planting, and having pointed out roles which the church ought to have played, some steps have to be taken very urgently.

1. Tradition must be a thing of the past in this church and the traditionalists must be seriously warned. They are old bottles containing a new wine; to clean them is to break them into pieces and never to gather them any longer. Therefore, the church must organize a regular seminar on the importance of evangelism and church planting from the convention level to the districts and local churches.
2. The administrative aspect must not be handled with a levity hand any more. There must be a change in administrative structure. A church that has no good administration will not grow talk less of church planting and evangelism.
3. As it has been discovered that one of the greatest challenges facing SAGOMINT today is lack of sufficient fund. The church needs much money to finance her programmes. The book of Ecclesiastes 10:19 says, "A feast is made for laughter, and wine makes life merry, but money is the answer for everything." Personal donations should be encouraged among members and they must also be faithful in the payment of their tithes and offerings. Adequate financial resources should be generated by the convention to meet the needs of undetached people, groups and challenges of reaching them for Christ Jesus.<sup>1</sup>
4. In order to eradicate low performances of pastors on churches as regards evangelism and church planting, the minister's condition of

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<sup>1</sup>Stephen Adeyemi Adekunle, *Church Planting During Operation Reach All Era*. (Ibadan: Baptist Press Ltd., 2000), 9.

service must be reviewed immediately. It is very important because the ministers of God and other workers in the nation patronize the same market. There is nowhere in the scriptures where Levites are said to have been called to suffer.

5. People use to say that a prayerless church is a powerless church thus, before SAGOMINT can have a total victory and success in the work of missions, evangelism and church planting, prayer must handled with all seriousness. Prayer makes the power of the Holy Spirit available to the evangelist. Prayer is also the spiritual weapon that must be used to demolish the stronghold of the devil in the life of a potential covert before the Gospel can enter such life.

The ministry of intercession has a very large place in connection with carrying the gospel to a lost world. Far more is accomplished in secret than Christian generally realize. The preachers who have been most widely used have been men of prayer. Not only have they prayed themselves, but also others prayed for them and their work; and never been brought to public notice. Theirs are not the gifts that attract the attention of the throngs, but they are mighty men and women of prayer prevailing against the unseen enemy in the heavenlies, and, by their intercession, bringing down power from heaven and blessing upon the public ministry of others.<sup>2</sup>

The modern evangelistic movement or missionary movement was also born in a revival of prayer. The words of Justinian Welz attest to this assertion:

Whoever will be used in the worthy activity of spreading the evangelical faith must be diligent in prayer in all his doings. If he wishes to undertake this office he must begin with prayer. If he wishes to accomplish anything glorious,

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<sup>2</sup>H. A. Ironside, *Praying in the Holy Spirit* (Danville: Grace & Truth, Inc. 1991), 33.

