

NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

THE BAPTIST MEDICAL MINISTRY IN NIGERIA (1907-1975):  
A CASE STUDY OF OGBOMOSO BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTRE

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BY  
TIMOTHY ADIGUN OLUFAYO  
MATRIC NO 04/0067

OGBOMOSO, OYO STATE

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## ABSTRACT

This thesis focuses on the historical development and growth of the Baptist Medical Centre, Ogbomosho. The work is an attempt to answer the following questions:

1. When, why and how was the Baptist Medical Centre, Ogbomosho established?
2. What were the problems and challenges faced by the BMCO in the period under consideration?
3. What have been the contributions of the BMCO to the mission work of NBC, development of the immediate community and growth of the nation.

The researcher surveyed the historical development of the Baptist Medical Centre, Ogbomosho, for a critical analysis.

The Baptist Medical Centre, Ogbomosho has grown tremendously despite her little beginnings and many challenges in the course of her history. The institution has contributed immensely to the spiritual, educational, economic, social and health developments of the NBC; the immediate community, and the nation.

The study highlights the place of medical ministry in Christian enterprise and suggests the need for the Baptist Medical Centre, Ogbomosho, especially and Baptist medical ministry generally to be self-sustaining and

focus more on fulfilling the purpose for their establishment: Winning souls for Christ.

## Conclusion

The great role played by the Baptist Medical Centre, Ogbomoso in the course of her history in the mission enterprise of the Foreign Mission Board of

the Southern Baptist Convention in Nigeria greatly brought to the forefront the role of medical ministry in Christian enterprise. There is a need for the BMCO to gear up in order to maintain her past enviable position in health care delivery and efforts should be made to trail new venture as the BMCO celebrates her century of her existence in 2007.

### Recommendations

1. The NBC needs to redefine her role and assert more authority and ownership on the BMCO. The Convention should play her role as proprietor of Baptist medical institutions well by ensuring accountability in the various institutions. The BMCO should submit her annual budget, income and expenditure through the Medical Board to the Convention for examination and approval. I. A. Adedoyin posited that, "The Nigerian Baptist Convention has not firmly controlled its medical ministry. We hope it will be able to do so before long given the fact that the proprietorship of the institution has been passed on to the Convention."<sup>1</sup>
2. There is a need to streamline and standardize the management and administration of Baptist Medical Institutions in Nigeria. This will ensure greater effectiveness. There should be a uniform administrative structure in all Baptist medical institutions in Nigeria which should be under the direction and guidance of the Medical Board of the NBC.

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<sup>1</sup>I. A. Adedoyin, *A Short History of the Nigerian Baptist 1850-1973* (Ibadan: Nigerian Baptist Bookstore Ltd., 1980, 57.

3. It is high time the BMCO be run in business-like manner. The BMC should be ready to justify huge investment of human and material resources she enjoyed across the years. It is high time that the BMCO should be able to generate income for the mission enterprise of the NBC. Toward this end, at least ten percent of annual profit should be devoted specifically to NBC mission enterprises. BMCO should stop being a "charity organization." Patients must be made to pay appropriately for medical services received at BMCO.
4. There is a need to work towards securing free-hold ownership on the land occupied by the BMCO instead of the leasehold which the land now enjoys.
5. There is a need to work towards restoring the lost cordial relationship between the two great Baptist mission institutions in Ogbomoso: Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary and Baptist Medical Centre.
6. It is high time the BCMCO carry out enlightenment programme on its various services and try to educate the community on health issues.
7. There is a need to enlighten every worker in BMCO on their duties as someone working in a mission institution. They should relate well with patients, the Baptist community and the general public.
8. The BMCO should in the future be developed into a teaching hospital for the NBC owned Bowen University, Iwo. A lot of facilities are on ground in this regard so also the fact that the Centre has been offering post-graduate courses for medical doctors.

9. There is a need to do a comprehensive study of Baptist medical ministry in Nigeria. Though this work is a little effort towards the direction, but there is a need to examine the efforts of NBC in medical enterprise throughout the nation. Suggested Topic: Church in Medical Ministry: Baptist Medical Ministry in Nigeria.
10. A study into Randa Community Bank and BMC-GORAH Crisis is necessary. The study will critically look at the various issues involved in the Randa Community Bank and BMC-GORAH Crisis. The study will be an interesting one on management and leadership matters. The BMCO in the future should be wary of venturing into business enterprise. Efforts should be concentrated on rendering quality medical services and generating income from the services so rendered.