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**AN ETHICAL EVALUATION OF  
ISSUES ARISING DURING  
THE GHANA BAPTIST MISSION-CONVENTION  
CONFLICT: 1986 - 1992**

Submitted to the  
Faculty of the  
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## ABSTRACT

The Thesis is an investigative work on the Baptist Mission policies as the major cause of a six-year conflict between the nationals and missionaries in Ghana (1986-1992). The purpose of the study was three-fold. First, it sought to investigate the thesis by a case study of the conflict between the Ghana Baptist convention and the Ghana Baptist Mission, a foreign mission, agency of the Southern Baptist Convention of the United States of America between the period 1986 and 1992.

Secondly, the study sought to address some of the ethical issues that emerged during the conflict from a Christian perspective. And last, the study sought to bring out the mistakes both parties committed and how the future generations can learn from them.

The above purpose was realized by dividing the study into five chapters. The first chapter focused on introduction, where issues like statement of the problem, the thesis statement, the purpose and significance of the study and definitions of operative terms were discussed. In chapter two, the principles of conflict management were considered while chapter three dealt with the historical development of the two bodies. In that same chapter, the causes and effects of the conflict were discussed. Chapter four focused on ethical issues that emerged during the conflict and also that were addressed from the Christian perspective. In chapters four and five, the study investigated how the conflict was resolved and recommendations offered for consideration.

At the end of the study, it was found that the thesis of the study was true. It was found out that the conflicts often surround the financial and structural relationship policies. Again the study revealed that conflicts are inevitable, but manageable. In view of that, the writer wants to

suggest that Christians must always attempt to resolve any conflict they might confront by applying the ethical principles of Jesus.

Finally, the thesis sought to challenge both the nationals and the missionaries that, since they have a common goal, they must endeavour to partnership based on biblical principles as they seek to work together.

If the above suggestion is adhered to, then both must be involved in the policy drawing so that both will be effective in their implementation.

cannot undertake foreign mission must be rejected since money is not the only need in missions.

Finally, the challenge to see missionaries as co-workers is very important. The call for moratorium is not necessary. What is needed is for nationals also to send missionaries to other parts of the world.

### C. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSIDERATION

The writer wants to suggest the following recommendations for consideration.

1. Since conflicts are inevitable in human relationships, the ethics of Jesus the Head of the Church need to be re-discovered as a resource for conflict resolutions.
2. Since mission policies are the major causes of conflict, there is the need of both missions and national conventions/unions to get policy drawing committees made up of both nationals and missionaries, so that this occurrence will not happen in their mission efforts.
3. Mission boards should always be ready to make their policies available to any nationals they want to work with, and must take time to explain what to work with, and must take time to explain what those policies imply to avoid conflict in the negative form.
4. The national conventions/unions must rise up to their responsibilities of self-government, self-propagation and self-support to avoid relying on the mission boards at all times.
5. The national conventions/unions must always use a less confrontational approach to resolve issues between them and the missionaries.

6. Furthermore, both mission boards and national conventions must take turn over principles seriously as they seek to work as partners.

Finally, the writer wants to recommend that the concept of "sending and funding" must be put together and be called unique standard missions if realistic partnership is to be achieved. This means where the nationals have personnel as their resource especially in the poor countries, the mission boards can help those personnel financially until the work grows and becomes self-supporting.

There are some places in West Africa, like Nigeria and Ghana, where cross-culture missionaries are not needed. What they need is funding. The lack of technological tools and money due to poor economy is what is hampering the work and not lack of missionaries. Where people are needed, they must send it. This is the synthesis of "sending and funding" concept.

The fitting response to modern missions must be followed. In the book of Acts there were times money was sent while at other times people were sent. This was done in response to needs not standard procedure.

