THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OGBOMOSO, NIGERIA





(2020)

SYMBOLISM OF THE SEMINARY SEAL

new seal was adopted in 1970 for the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary. At the centre is a traditional Christian symbol called a triquetra, one of the most beautiful and satisfying symbols of the Holy Trinity. Eternal existence is expressed in the continuous lines, and they are interwoven to express unity. The centre forms an equilateral triangle which is itself a symbol of the Trinity. Each pair of arcs combines to form a "vesica", indicative of glory. In this simple form is expressed equality, eternity, unity and glory. In the sections of the triquetra are the initials of the Seminary, identifying the school with the belief in the Triune God – a basic element of the faith and teaching of the entire Christian Church which the Seminary serves.

This symbolism is set against a background of the map of Nigeria, placed within the outer circles of the seal representing the whole world as the goal of evangelism. Although the primary focus of the Seminary is to train persons for ministries in Nigeria, students from other African countries and from North America previously have studied here. The challenge of the Seminary to each of its students – past, present and future – is expressed in its motto to "make full proof of thy ministry" to the glory of God.

THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

P. O. BOX 30 or P.M.B. 4008 OGBOMOSO, OYO STATE

Website: www.nbts.edu.ng
E-Mail: nbtsseminary@yahoo.com

nbtspresident@gmail.com; president@nbts.edu.ng nbtsregistry@yahoo.com; registrar@nbts.edu.ng

Telephone: 09029062778 (President's Office) Telephone: 09029062773 (Registrar's Office) Telephone: 09029062777 (General Enquiry)

Established 1898

Motto: "Make full proof of thy ministry" (2 Timothy 4:5b)

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ENDORSEMENTS

NBTS is an exemplary institution in many ways including the community of encouragement and support that it gathers. Whatever the reason, NBTS has attracted support 'as it has expanded its mission from forming vocational pastors for the Nigerian Baptist Convention (NBC), to forming leaders for the broader West African Church, and to training faculty for Baptist institutions.

Mr Larry Smith,

President, ScholarLeaders International, USA

For 120 years the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary in Ogbomoso has stood as a pillar for Theological Education, Academic Integrity, and Missionary Mobilization all across Africa

and the world.

Dr. David Platt

President, International Mission Board

May the great legacy of the NBTS continue to inspire contemporary Christian pastors and leaders to uphold the distinctiveness of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and minister faithfully in an ever changing world May the Lord bless BTS and its ministries in the years.

Professor Daniel Jeyaraj,

Director of Andrew Walls Centre for the Study of African and Asian Christianity, Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool

It is a joy to contemplate the number of students who have been trained and taught through your work. Also, what a privilege to think of the churches started and ministries undertaken, all of which had a beginning in and through the work of the Seminary.

Dr. David Hardage

Executive Director, Baptist General Convention of Texas

When we at OC think about the best in theological education - what will bring transformation to students, churches, and communities - we often use the descriptors, "rooted, responsive, accessible, and sustainable." Through my interaction with NBTS for more than 35 years, I have been so pleased and impressed with the seminary's growth towards these ideals, and the evidence of the impact NBTS is making across Nigeria and West Africa.

Scott Cunningham, PhD

Interim President and CEO, Overseas Council

Our hearts are especially filled with joy that God has currently placed men and women of profound spiritual depth and character to lead the Seminary at this significant time in its history.

Larry C. Ashlock, D.Min., Ph.D.

Executive Director, Baptist Center for Global Concerns

As one of our premier member institutions, we attest without hesitation that NBTS has lived and full earned its call to offer 'world-class' theological training. As a result, NBTS graduates

serve in distinguished positions in church, institutions, and larger society.

Rev Dr Emmanuel Chemengich

ACTEA Executive Director

The NBTS is the most developed Seminary in Nigeria, in terms of curriculum, faculties, staff development and infrastructural facilities. The library is perhaps the best among West African Seminaries.

Prof. Samuel Peni Ango

Provost, TCNN, Bukuru

As a PhD graduate of NBTS Ogbomoso, I am deeply grateful for the training I received there. NBTS is obviously an excellent Theological institution that is grounded solidly on the Bible. As a foreigner (a Northern, non-Yoruba/Baptist), I was welcome and felt at home for the three years I stayed there. Please continue the good work.

Dr Nuhu Bwese Elisha, Sr.

The Provost, Veestra Theological Seminary, Donga

The Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary has served as an effective training ground for me as a music minister. This has been made possible by the calibre of experienced lecturers/facilitators who have in many ways, guided me in the due process of the acquisition, assimilation and application of the knowledge and skills in my field of study-Church Music. I have also met and interacted with many God-fearing, humble and highly-skilled music ministers-in-training who have equally inspired and ignited my zeal for excellence. I can say without a shadow of doubt that NBTS provides a conducive spiritual, ministerial and academic environment for effective ministry to which I am a living witness. For these reasons, I am forever indebted to the NBTS.

Asomdwee Walton (Ghana)

Doctor of Musical Arts Candidate

NBTS is committed to her academic policies and spiritual nurture through intentional weekly discipleship, mandatory for every student. The Administration and Faculty give a listening ear to students' complaints. NBTS is indeed a place to be for academic pursuit and excellence.

Clifford Yiwong Fanfon

Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary, Ndu

After spending four years in pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy degree in New Testament studies at the Nigeria Baptist Theological Seminary, I can truly testify without any reservation that NBTS is a world-class theological institution which trains God-called men and women to contribute to the transformation of society. NBTS has developed me to be a more critical, analytical, and reflective scholar and minister of the gospel. If you have a

high view of Scripture and want to spend time diving deep into scripture and theology, then the Nigeria Baptist Theological Seminary can equip you for scholarship and ministry better than any other institution out there. The environment both provides a home base for expectations, but it allows room to breathe, question, and seek truth to people from all kinds of Christian backgrounds from evangelicals and mainline protestants to Pentecostal and Catholic believers who desire to know the scripture. The chapel services are the best I have ever experienced.

Prof. Momolu A. Massaquoi

President, Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary, Paynesville City, Monrovia-Liberia.

NBTS is an unrivaled milestone in my journey of fulfilling divine purpose for life and ministry. I have not remained the same in competence, understanding and spirituality through the training provided at different levels in this institution. The staff, the curriculum and the context have greatly challenged and encouraged me towards excellence in various areas as a person and as a minister for which I am grateful. Because of the grace of God I have experienced at NBTS, I can boldly and confidently pursue my mandate as a minister with relevance in this 21st century.

With a heart of gratitude.

Ndzi Talla Addison (Cameroon)

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Make full proof of your ministry." (2 Timothy 4:5b)
The Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomoso is a supermarket (the Nigerian name for a shopping mall).
I have been privileged to window shop in a number of big shopping malls all over the world. There is one in Texas in America that is so big that I lost my way and fellow shoppers.
The hall offers a variety of imaginable products – food, cosmetics, wears, electronics, books, furniture, even automobiles (motor



bike and car)! I said to myself, is this hall not a good picture of the training programmes offered by the NBTS!

NBTS shopping malls (main campus in Ogbomoso, extension centre in Abuja, mission centre in Guffanti) offer a very wide range of spiritual, professional and academic training programmes at all levels (as presented in this catalogue): Certificate, Diploma, Bachelor, Postgraduate Diploma, Masters and Doctorate. These training programmes are offered in three faculties (church music, education, theological studies) and postgraduate school. The four major areas of specialization are theology, missions/missiology, education and church music.

What is special and distinct about NBTS? An average theological school in Africa has about twenty teachers, about two hundred students occupying about 10 acres of land. In the 2019/20 academic session NBTS had a total of 1,367 students, sixty residential faculty members with facilities occupying 96 acres of land (main campus). Established by Rev. C. E. Smith, a missionary of the Southern Baptist Convention, USA in 1898, the programmes are accredited by SACS, ACTEA and BACTSIN, affiliated with SBTS, Louisville, Kentucky (1948-1999) and various Nigerian Universities (Ibadan, Jos, Bowen). The curriculum of the institution is biblical, balanced, student-entered, vocational – sensitive, church-related and society-friendly.

Curriculum development is a dynamic process and so NBTS is an innovative organization. In this Catalogue, old programmes have been subjected to critical review for greater contemporary relevance. Postgraduate diploma degrees have been restored (in Church Music, Religious Education, and Theology/Ministry). Perhaps the most significant development recently in our curriculum review is the upgrade of Master of Divinity programme from postbaccalaureate to postgraduate status with ten specializations. Some other new programmes that are introduced, namely, M.Div. Chaplaincy, MA Missiology, MA Bible Translation and Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Worship. Moreover, based on the renewal of our institutional mission, the scope of our programmes has been widened to include equipping and leadership formation of laypersons and professionals for service in the larger society.

The great thing about NBTS is neither the age nor the size but its indigenous authenticity; the institution is being engineered and contemporized to function for postgraduate research. A distance learning centre has been newly established and the entire educational paradigm is being enhanced by technology. Yes, the services we provide reflect the richness of our evangelical, Baptist heritage, the dimensions of our social and cultural engagements, and the dynamics of African Christianity. Welcome to

the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, a top-tier African, evangelical theological institution where we integrate and balance vibrant spirituality, sound academics and competent ministry.

Rev. Prof. Ezekiel Emiola Nihinlola

President, The Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomoso. Director, International Council for Higher Education, West Africa Network Chair, Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa

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