

Igniting the Passion

It is true that African evangelical mission theology has been inadequate. Inadequate not only because of the strong Western influence, but also because it lacks the vision for world evangelisation. For change to take place regarding missions, both the churches and Bible schools need to put more emphasis on mission development in Africa. ***One of the weaknesses of the early missionaries in Africa is that they never sowed a vision for missions.*** Missionaries did not pass on their vision for missions to the churches they started. Probably missionaries felt that African Christians were incapable of doing what western missionaries were doing. As a result their vision for world missions ended with their own work.

It is high time that the Church in Africa was sensitized and mobilized for missions. We must train and prepare the local churches to send out and support cross cultural Christian workers. Experience shows that many churches in Africa do not have much knowledge on how to run mission programs. It is a big frustration to train missionaries while the sending churches remain untrained. Many young people have been frustrated by their churches because despite the fact that they have a clear call into cross cultural mission work, local churches are in no way ready to send and support them.

Giving for missions is also another serious area of concern. The Evangelical church in Africa suffers from lack of adequate resources. This is because giving for cross-cultural missions is extremely low. Therefore due to this impoverishment, ***the African church finds itself unable to be an agent of development and transformation in its own context.*** Dependence syndrome is another demon crippling the church in Africa. Due to the economic poverty on the continent, there is a tendency to depend on the patronage of those with resources abroad. But little do we realise that this leads to the inability of self-definition.

My prayer is that the African Church should have a global vision. Our missionary efforts should not just focus on our small local areas, but Africa and the whole

world. Youth as well as adults should enter into missionary endeavours.

The African Church is able to take up the mantle in bringing the whole Gospel to the whole world. As we seek to overcome self-imposed hindrances and bring missions to the forefront, we will witness an increasing harvest force of effective short-term and long-term global workers.

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