

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

LOTT CAREY BAPTIST MISSION NIGERIA

Greetings



The Lord has done it again, but this time seemingly He has increased the “speed” of the year. It’s actually time for another “Lott Carey” session. This will be her 126th which will be held at Greenboro, North, Carolina.

As fast as the year has passed, it has still been full of drama.

Here in Nigeria, the latter part of 2022 and the first quarter of 2023 were electioneering periods. We had our general elections

Retrospectfully, we look back and thank God for the peace we experienced despite the campaigning rhetoric.

However, a more serious concern arose when certain financial policies were put in place that resulted in an unprecedented fiasco. During this period, the Central Bank of Nigeria made an attempt to change our currency, and actually stopped the usage of the old currency. At the same time, it did not make the new currency available.

As a result, people were left with no “money” to use”. The banks were receiving old currencies but were restricting the amount they were paying out, if at all. This resulted in long lines at the banks and some people had to wait, sometimes the whole day before being attended to.

People found themselves trading by batter, goods in exchange for food. This situation caused the cost of market commodities to surprisingly escalate causing serious hardship for the citizenry.

The conclusion of this matter was that, at the end of the day, the currency replacement program was supposedly extended to the end of this year and the old currency was reintroduced as the country’s legal tender. What a waste of resources and an inhumane exercise which allegedly was politically imposed on people to help check the monetarization of the election.

Despite all of this, the country had all of its principal officers sworn in on the 29th of May this year.

So, we give God all the glory and at the same time wish our global "Lott Carey" family a successful 126th annual session in Greensboro.

The history of Baptist in the southern part of Nigeria will not be complete without mentioning "Lott Carey", as it is known here.

Our affiliation with "Lott Carey" began in 1963 after the Missionary visit of a team of black American Baptist, led by Dr. Hairston who at the time was the president of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention, USA.

This team had come to Nigeria to explore the possibility of affiliating with the then existing Baptist Churches established by the southern Baptist convention USA fell the negotiation broke through. Knowing of another Baptist mission in the south eastern coast of Nigeria, they met with Late Rev. Charles Ebong and some of his ministers, who at the time had already established about ten Baptist Churches and a secondary school which was at the time named Saint Charles Secondary School, after Rev. Charles Ebong himself. This school was later renamed Lott Carey Baptist secondary school and was the first of school in the community of the 22 village of southern Ibiono in the then Enyong division of Eastern Nigeria.

At the time, the late Rev. Charles Ebong had been in communication with the Pastor of the Beulah Baptist Church of Washington DC, where he was ordained as a pastor a few years earlier.

THE IMPACT OF LOTT CAREY IN NIGERIA

There is no question as to the impact of Lott Carey in the different communities where it has found itself. For 60 years, Lott Carey has definitely "brightened the corner" where it has found itself by building a better world with her Christian witness and ministries.

NATURE OF THE MISSION

We have been blessed over the years with God's grace, enabling us to pursue our effort with a three-pronged ministry:

- Evangelism
- Education and
- Humanitarian Outreach

EVANGELISM

Over the years, our evangelistic thrust has been able to establish over 80 churches. They are spread out over the four states of, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, River State and Taraba State. The latter, Taraba state, is located in the north eastern geographical region of Nigeria. It is one of the few northern states that has a considerable population of Christians.

This is so because these communities welcomed missionaries from the Canadian Baptist convention and the European Lutheran church early in the 1900s, who migrated from the hostile neighbouring country of Cameroon to the more conducive environs of the Membilla Plateau of these regions.

Over the past twelve months, this church has established two additional House Fellowships of which by God's grace, will become full fledged churches before the end of the year. The Head office here in Uyo is sending a delegate of three pastors to this area in late August.

During their one-week visit, they will conduct a four days evangelist programme consisting of a Church Workers Workshop and seminar during the days, and a crusade during the evenings. We are believing God for a bountiful harvest of souls for the kingdom.

OFFICIAL SUPERINTENDENT'S TOUR OF CHURCHES

This year, the superintendency has embarked on an official missionary tour of visiting our individual churches every weekend. Between January and now, we have been able to visit 26 churches and we stand to thank God for what He is doing in these congregations.

Everywhere we have been there has been extraordinary testimonies as to how God is working and blessing especially through the different prayer band groups who monthly conduct a 3-day prayer convocation which is opened to the entire communities. (6am – 12noon, 1pm – 9pm).

As we visit these churches, the Mission has made it a ministry, to donate a sizable financial gift to assist them with their operational and capital budget.

STRUCTURAL REORGANIZATION OF THE MISSION

Due to the fact that our endeavours have spread out over an area comparable to the span of South Carolina to New York, the Mission deemed it necessary to divide the Mission into nine sub-administrative areas. to enable us function more effectively and efficiently. Each of these areas have their respective Administrative Boards headed by a Field Pastor and assisted by a Chairman who is usually a deacon. Each of these areas have their own different auxiliaries (i.e. men's fellowship, women's fellowship, youth fellowship) which function under the auspices of their respective national boards.

Most of our endeavours are focused in the rural agrarian communities where petty farming and commodity training is their livelihood.

These communities, unfortunately, have not experienced any reasonable dividends of government developmental programs, if any at all. This is why the presence of non-governmental intervention agencies are so important, and Lott Carey is one of these.

The different administrative areas are as follows:

A. AKWA IBOM STATE

I. Use Abat Field

- Field Pastor – Pastor Nkereuwem Ebebe
- Field Chairman –
- No. of Churches – 6
- No. of Members – 400
- No. of Ministers – 8
- No. Of Schools – 2

II. Uyo Field

- Field Pastor – Pastor Utomobong Ibukho
- Field Chairman – Deacon Uwem Inyang
- No of Churches – 3
- No. of Members – 300
- No. of Ministers – 2

III. Ediene Field

- Field Pastor – Pastor Iboro D. Otho
- Field Chairman – Deacon Okon Edet

- No. Of Churches – 8
- No. of house Fellowship – 1
- No. of Members – 200
- No. of schools – 1

IV. Nung Ukim Field

- Field Pastor – Pastor Uwem M. Enang
- Field Chairman – Deacon Sunday Simon
- No. of Churches – 6
- No. of Members – 350
- No. of Ministers - 8

V. Etim Ekpo Field

- Field Pastor – Pastor Emmanson Udotong
- Field Chairman – Deacon Utip S. Ukpong
- No. of Churches – 6
- No. of House Fellowship - 2
- No. of Members – 600
- No. of Ministers – 8
- No. of School – One school was established in 1975 but was later taken over by the government

VI. Omum Unyam Field

- Field Pastor – Pastor Edet Thompson
- Field Chairman – Deacon Idongesit Umoren
- No. of Churches – 7
- No. of Members – 600
- No. of Ministers – 8

VII. Ika Field

- Field Pastor – Pastor Saturday V. Ntoto
- Field Chairman – Deacon Monday Okpor
- No. of Churches – 9
- No. of Members – 750
- No. of Ministers - 10

B. CROSS RIVER STATE FIELD

- Field Pastor – Pastor Wisdom S. Udoh

- Field Chairman – Deacon Otuobong Titus
 - No. of Churches – 3
 - No. of Members – 300
 - No. of Ministers – 5
 - No. of Schools – 2
- (a) Lott Carey Baptist Academy, Calabar South
- (b) Lott Carey Baptist Academy, Orida Mbiase, L.G.A

C. RIVERS STATE FIELD

- Field Pastor – Pastor Saviour Albert
- Field Chairman – Deacon Sunday
- No. of Churches – 3
- No. of Members – 395
- No. of Ministers – 5

D. TARABA STATE (NORTHERN EASTERN NIGERIA) FIELD

- Field Pastor – Rev. Genesis K. Limtin
- Field Chairman –
- No. of Churches – 1
- House Fellowships - 3
- No. of Members – 200
- No. of Ministers – 3

NATIONAL HEADQUARTER CHURCH

Afaha Obio Eno, Ibiono L.G.A

This is where the Baptist movement began in 1958. Presently, we are building a Pavilion where we will be conducting our Annual conventions and other national activities.

Pastor in-charge - Pastor Emmanuel P. Nduohoanie

Assistant Pastor - Evang. Eunke Basse

No. of Members - 250

ii. EDUCATION

Quality education is a pertinent tool for enhancing the quality of life, creating awareness and capability, increasing freedom and improving overall holistic human development for a people.

All of our educational pursuits are focused in the rural areas to help build a better world for the children of these communities. Over the years, we have been privileged to have established six schools of which they were the first of their kind in their respective communities.

The schools are:

1. The Lott Carey Baptist Secondary School, Afaha Obio Eno, Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State.
 - Established - 1964
 - Grades - 6 – 12
 - No. of Students - 750
 - No. of Staff - 30

2. The Lott Carey Baptist Secondary-Commercial School Etuk, Uruk Eshiet, Etim Ekpo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State
 - Established - 1975
 - Grades - 6 – 12
 - No. of Students - 750
 - No. of Staff - 30

3. The Lott Carey Baptist Secondary - Commercial School, Ikot Efre Itak, Ikono Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State
 - Established - 1987
 - Grades - Kindergarten - 12
 - No. of Students - 280
 - No. of Staff - 22

4. The Lott Carey Baptist Academy, Ikot Ebom Itam, Itu Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State
 - Established - 1988
 - Grades - Kindergarten -
 - Grade – Pre nursery - 12
 - No. of Students - 390
 - No. of Staff - 22

5. The Lott Carey Baptist Academy, Calabar Cross River State
 - Established - 1996
 - Grades – Kindergarten - 12
 - No. of Students - 650
 - No. of Staff - 20

6. The Lott Carey Baptist Academy, Orida Mbiase L. G, A. Cross River State
- Established - 2013
 - Grades – Kindergarten - 10
 - No. of Students - 200
 - No. of Staff - 16

N/B: Because of this school, a fresh water well was dug for this community by the Mission. The entire community had no source of drinking water prior to this.

TEACHERS CONTINUOUS EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS/ WORKSHOPS

During the first semester of the school year, the Association of Christian Private Schools organized a 4-days refresher training programme for teachers. This exposed the teachers to new teaching techniques and classroom management.

HUMANITARIAN MINISTRIES

Christian ministry is nothing but our ability to make people feel and practically experience the goodness, love and power of God in their lives.

In other words Christian ministry is the manifestation of God's goodness, mercy, love and power here on earth so as to make a life changing, difference in a persons life.

With this in mind Lott Carey – Nigeria has embarked on the following:

COMMUNITY WIDOWS OUTREACH PROGRAMME

We have been extending a helping hand for the past two years to four elderly or should we say aged widows who live in our offices neighborhood. It's a petty to see them still having to go and work in their small farms, in the heat of the sun with each their fail bodies. Supposedly, they have been forgotten or abandoned by their distance relations. So, they labor to sustain themselves the best way they can, and that keeping up with their vegetable farm.

However, we here have decided to continue supporting them with palliatives including clothes, food stuff and medical assistance when necessary.

SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

The mission has and is still ensuring that all children of school age in our school environs are in school. Hence our school fees are kept very friendly and our policy of "3 children – 1 free" is still in place. In general, 40% of all school fees are subsidized by the mission.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Medical bills here in Nigeria are very high and as a result, many sick people in these rural areas can't afford to seek medical attention. Now and then, when there is a credible need, we do offer financial assistance to enable such to be hospitalized especially when it involves surgery.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

The Women-in-Service:- Everywhere grant is still enabling us to continue the micro-revolving loan scheme project. Since the loan is interest free, most beneficiaries have been able to not only redeem the loan but also improve themselves in helping them stand on their own financially. By God's grace, another batch of twenty women are scheduled to participate in the scheme by the end of this July.

NEEDS REQUIRED FOR MINISTRY TO THRIVE

Education

During the Ministry of Education's annual school inspection earlier this year, we were asked to ensure the following were put in before the beginning of the 2023/2024 academic year in September:-

- **Science laboratory apparatus**
The schools are in dire need of laboratory apparatus (i.e. ₦3000 per school)
- Laptops and/or table top computers for our ICT laboratories which is now compulsory for every school.
- Completion of the ICT laboratory building at Ikot Ebom school (₦8000)
- **Re-roofing of mission building**
Three week ago, unfortunately, the roof of one of our important building was completely blown off by one of the most powerful and destructive storms we have ever experienced in this area. The roofing sheets were completely mangled, rendering them completely unusable.

Our budgetary capacity is not elastic enough to enable us embark on this most needed yet capital intensive project.

CHALLENGING CONCERNS THAT NEED PRAYER

Nigeria is now living in the post election period and we are very grateful, because we had a relatively peaceful election. This has probably been the most peaceful election we have experienced in the past twelve years.

However, there are still some persistent concerns that need prayers.

Here lately, the president abolished the petroleum subsidy program that was draining 400 billions naira a month into the pockets of just a few at the expense of the entire country. This has resulted in an unprecedented like in the cost of gasoline, before now it cost ₦200 per litre but its costing ₦700 per litre today.

With this in mind, we are appealing that you partner with us in prayer considering the following concerns:-

- ❖ Pray that the new president and his new government employ the grace needed to govern this country in a way that will improve the lives of the Nigerian citizenry.
- ❖ Pray that the government will put in place intervention programs that will tackle the present state of insecurity in the country.
- ❖ Pray that God with His bountiful mercy, intervene through our government so as to cushion the present economic hardship being experienced because of the abolition of the gasoline subsidy program.
- ❖ Pray that God will protect our schools from the incessant attacks and kidnapping of students and staff.
- ❖ Pray that our students continue to have the zeal for learning and our teaching staff to fulfil their obligations.
- ❖ Pray for the safety of our ministers as they move around to fulfill their ministerial duties.
- ❖ Pray that God will continue to open up new fields for His kingdom and give us a bountiful harvest as we continue to embark on our evangelist outreach programs in the areas.
- ❖ Pray that God will set aside and prepare young women and men for our most needed personal pool for the future of this ministry.
- ❖ Pray that God will reveal to us the right people to occupy offices of responsibilities in the Mission, in regards to the different board member replacement, and ministerial positions.

- ❖ Pray for the Nigeria Mission leadership team, that God continue to lead them in the way they should go to ensure more growth in all areas of the Mission so as to give God the glory.
- ❖ Pray for all Christendom in Nigeria, especially those in the Northern parts of Nigeria. Pray that God give them the grace to continue to stand in the midst of the present persecution by extremist.
- ❖ And finally, pray for the entire Lott Carey family, that God continue to work His great commission through us so as to fulfil His will

APPRECIATION

It would be unthoughtful and ungrateful for us to conclude this report without extending our heartfelt appreciation for the love that our Home Mission and contributing partners have towards this great commission. As our people usually ask, "who are these people who are extending their helping hand to us, without even knowing us". We say thank you so much, and may God bless you with the blessings of Exodus 23:25.

We are not ignorant of the economic challenges around you, yet you still stretching out your helping hands.

Once again, thank you and may God bless you all.

Finally, we are praying that we all have a wonderful time in the Lord as we celebrate our 126th annual session, tagged "Go".

May God bless Lott Carey in Jesus name.. Amen.