

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

CURRICULUM VITAE OF DR MEPAIYEDA S. M.

- I.**
- (a) Name: Solomon Makanjuola Mepaiyeda
 - (b) Date of Birth: 10 January, 1967
 - (c) Department: Religious Studies
 - (d) Faculty: Arts
- II.**
- (a) First Academic Appointment: Lecturer II (26 October, 2009)
 - (b) Present Post: Senior Lecturer (1 October, 2016)
 - (c) Date of Last Promotion: Senior Lecturer (1 October, 2016)
- III.** University Education (with dates)
- (1) University of Ibadan, Ibadan 1990 - 1993
 - (2) Edo State University, Ekpoma 1997 - 1999
 - (3) University of Ado-Ekiti 2002 - 2007
 - (4) University of Geneva, Switzerland 2015 - 2016
- IV.** Academic Qualifications (with dates and granting bodies)
- (1) B.A. (Hons), Religious Studies, University of Ibadan 1993
 - (2) M.A. Religious Studies, Edo State University 1999
 - (3) Ph.D. Religious Studies, University of Ado-Ekiti 2007
 - (4) PGD Ecumenical Studies, University of Geneva 2016
- V.** Professional Qualifications and Diplomas (with dates)
- (1) Certificate in Hospital Chaplaincy,
Baptist Hospital, Ogbomoso 1987
 - (2) Diploma in Theology, Archbishop Vining College of Theology,
Akure, Ondo State 1988
 - (3) Diploma in Religious Studies, Immanuel College of
Theology, Ibadan 1990
- VI.** Scholarships, Fellowships and Prizes (with dates)
- (1) Best Student in Liberation Theology, Edo State
University, Ekpoma, 1999
 - (2) Research Awardee of the Faculty of Arts' Humanities
Staff Development Grants, University of Ibadan 2015
- VII.** Honours, Distinctions and Membership of Learned Societies:
- a. Member, Nigerian Association for Biblical Studies (NABIS)

- b. Member, Society of Biblical Literature, USA.
- c. Member, International Association of Mission Studies (IAMS)
- d. Member, African Society for the Study of Sociology and Ethics of Religion

VIII. Details of Teaching/ Work Experience:

- (a) Clergyman - Ekiti Anglican Diocese, Ekiti State 1989 – 2009
- (b) Lecturer II - Department of Religious Studies 2009 – 2013
- (c) Lecturer I - Department of Religious Studies 2013 – 2016
- (d) Senior Lecturer-Department of Religious Studies 2016 – 2019

Courses Taught

Undergraduate Level

RCS 122 – The Church in the Apostolic Age

RCS 213 – History and Doctrine of the Early Church

RCS 314 – African Church Fathers

RCS 323 – The Reformation

RCS 413 – Expansion of Christianity in West Africa Up to 1914

RCS 424 – History of Indigenous Churches in West Africa

Postgraduate Level

RES 770 – The Development of Protestantism

RES 772 – History of Evangelical Reawakening and Missionary Movement

RES 774 – Controversies and the Early Church Councils

RES 775 – Charismatic and Pentecostal Movements

RES 776 – African Church Fathers

RES 783 – The Churches and Christian Unity in the Modern Period

Supervision

B. A. Long Essays

Completed: 12

Ongoing: 1

M. A. Projects

Completed: 14

Ongoing: Nil

M. Phil. Dissertations

Completed: 4

Ongoing: 2

Ph.D. Theses

Completed: 4

Ongoing: 3

Administrative Experience/Community Services

- | | | |
|-------|---|--------------|
| (i) | Academic Staff Secretary of the Department of Religious Studies | 2010 to date |
| (ii) | Member, Finance Committee, Department of Religious Studies | 2012 - 2013 |
| (iii) | Staff Adviser to Undergraduate Students | 2016 to date |

IX. Research

(a) Completed

- (i) The Roles of Indigenous Missionaries and Christians in the Expansion of Christianity in Nigeria, 1860-1969.
- (ii) Ecumenical Projects among Christian Denominations: an Essential Tool in Promoting Christianity in Post Modern Age.

(b) In Progress

- (iii) The Interface between Sacrificial Rites in Yoruba Religion and African Indigenous Churches

This research articulates the interface between some sacrificial elements in Yoruba Religion and African indigenous churches. The identified rites include the substitutionary, ecological, foundational rites as well as the rite of passage in both religions. The aim of the project is to determine the Biblical validity of such sacrificial practices in African indigenous Churches. Data collection is in progress and the work will be completed towards the end of 2017.

- (IV) Church Policy of Inculcating Ethical Values: a Key to Change Agenda in Nigeria.

The argument of this paper is that the change agenda embarked upon by Nigerian government will remain a fluke if it does not collaborate with religious institutions in the country which historically had been promoters of ethical values such as accountability, transparency, justice, honesty and integrity etc. Therefore, the paper recommends that a synergy between the government and Church is required to check mate corruption in the society. The work is expected to be completed in 2019.

(c) Project, Dissertation and Thesis

- (1) Mepaiyeda, S.M. (1999). Evangelism and Church Growth in Anglican Communion, Nigerian (1842-1919) M.A. Project, Department of Religious

Management and Cultural Studies, Ambrose Alli University (former Edo State University), Ekpoma.

- (2) Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2007). A History and Development of the Anglican Church in Kogi and Kwara States (1854-1999) Ph.D. Thesis Department of Religious Studies, University of Ado-Ekiti.
- (3) Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2016). Ecumenical Understanding among the Early Missionaries in Nigeria: Antidote for Tension in Modern Mission. PGD Project, Bossey Ecumenical Institute (in affiliation with the University of Geneva, Switzerland).

X. Publications

(a) Books already published:

- (1) Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2013). *Church Reformation: A Historical Reflection*. Ibadan: Aflame. 185pp. ISBN: 978-978-50794-9-4. **(Nigeria)**.
- (2) Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2014). *History of the Anglican Church in North Central Nigeria, 1854-1999*. Germany: LAMBERT. 148 pp. ISBN: 978-3-659-49686-8. **(Germany)**.

(b) Chapters in Books already published:

- (3) Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2010). Ecumenism in Mission Churches as a Typology for Unity among the Contemporary Nigerian Christians. In Fatokun, S. A., Atowoju, A.A. Egbetakin, W.A.O. and Adeloje, J. (Eds.) *Ecumenism: the Nigerian Experience*. Ibadan: End-Time. 75-86 pp. ISBN 978-071-257-7. **(Nigeria)**.
- (4) Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2011). The Legacies of John Olubobokun for the Sustenance of Christianity in Ekitiland. In Jonathan, Bonk (Ed.) *Dictionary of African Christian Biography*. Connecticut: DACB. ISBN 0520066111. **(USA)**.
- (5) *Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2012). The Church and Governance in Nigeria. In Ayantayo, J. K., Dada, O.A and Labeodan, H.A. (Eds.) *Religion and Governance in Nigeria*. Ibadan: Department of Religious Studies. 30-41pp. ISBN: 978-978-923-413-4. **(Nigeria)**.
- (6) Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2013). The Emergence of African Indigenous Churches and their Contributions to the Growth of Christianity in Africa. In Fatokun, S. A. (Ed.) *Christianity and African Society*. Ibadan: BookWright. 32–42 pp. ISBN: 978-978-088-928-9. **(Nigeria)**.
- (7) *Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2014). An Appraisal of the Perspectives of the Pentecostal and Charismatic on Theological Education in Nigeria. In Ayegboyin, Deji., Appiah-Kubi, F. Addai-Mensah, P. and Samwini, N.I. (Eds.) *WAATI: West African Association of Theological Institutions*. Kumasi: University Printing Press.128-138 pp. ISBN 9988-8026-1-7. **(Ghana)**.
- (8) Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2015). Women in Christian Religion. In Ajayi, S.A., and Ayantayo, J. K. (Eds) *Women in Development: Essays in Memory of Professor Dorcas Olubanke Akintunde*. Ibadan: John Archers. 294-304 pp. ISBN: 978-978-946-899-7. **(Nigeria)**.

- (9) Mepaiyeda, S.M. & Morakinyo O. (2017). Gender Disparity in Church Polity among some Nigerian Pentecostal Churches. In Francis Falako and Oyeronke Olademo (et al) *Biblical Studies and Socio- Political Issues in the Nigerian Context*. Lagos: Concept Publications. 297-318 pp. ISBN 978-978-55101-7-1. **(Nigeria)**.
- (10) Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2017). Samuel Ajayi Crowther and Evangelisation in Nigeria. In Ucha I. Mbofung (ed) *Anglicanism and Citizenship Education*. Oyo: Ajayi Crowther University Centre for General Studies.35-47 pp. **ISBN 978-978-55317-1-8. (Nigeria)**.
- (11) *Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2018). Manifestation of Prophetic Movements in the Anglican Church, Nigeria in Pre-Independence Era. In Dada A.O & Ayantayo J.K. (et al) *Prophecy, Politics and Power in Ancient Israel and the Nigerian Context*. Ibadan: Zenith BookHouse Ltd. 333-342 pp. ISBN 978-978-960-213-1. **(Nigeria)**.
- (12) *Mepaiyeda, S.M. & Yetunde Bolaji Olaomo (2018). Promoting Social Transformation through Ecumenical Projects among Christian Denominations in Nigeria. In Roseline O. Opeke (et al) *The Heart of the Act: Church, Politics and Social Transformation*. Ibadan: Ibadan University Press. 355-370pp. 978-978-8529-34-7. **(Nigeria)**.
- (c) Articles that have already appeared in Refereed Conference Proceedings:
Nil
- (d) Patents:
Nil
- (e) Articles that have already appeared in learned journals:
- (13) Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2009). A Brief Survey of the Emergence and Impact of the Anglican Church in Kogi and Kwara States (1854-1999). *ORITA: Ibadan Journal of Religious Studies* Vol. XL/1 June. 194-219. **(Nigeria)**.
- (14) Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2010). The Role of Nigerian Youths in Re-branding Nigeria. *African Journal of Biblical Studies (AJBS)*, Vol. XXVIII. October. 47-57. **(Nigeria)**.
- (15) Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2010). A Critical Assessment of the Anglican Mission in Ora Land. *INSIGHT: Journal of Religious Studies*, Volume 6.84-94. **(Nigeria)**.
- (16) *Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2011). Religious Extremism and Environmental Hazards in Nigeria. *ORITA: Ibadan Journal of Religious Studies* XLIII/1 June.77-88. **(Nigeria)**.

- (17) Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2011). The Relevance of the World Council of Churches in Global Ecumenism: An African Overview. *ORITA: Ibadan Journal of Religious Studies* XLIII/2 December. 95-104. **(Nigeria)**.
- (18) Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2012). The Practical Approach of the African Apostolic Church in Contextualizing Christianity in Nigeria. *EPHA: Ekpoma Journal of Religious Studies* Vol. 9. Nos. 1&2:16-37. **(Nigeria)**.
- (19) *Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2012). A Survey of the History and Cultural Practices of some Ethnic Groups of North Central Nigeria in Pre-Christianity Era. *JORS: Journal of Religious and Cultural Studies*, Vol. 7. No.2: 98-112. **(Nigeria)**.
- (20) * Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2013). A Re-examination of the Role of Religion in Education. *Kashere Journal of Humanities, Management and Social Sciences* Vol. 1. Nos.1 & 2: 235-241. **(Nigeria)**.
- (21) *Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2013). Assessing the Hypotheses against Women Leadership in African Christianity. *Canadian Academy of Oriental and Occidental Culture* Vol.9. No. 4: 71-78. **(Canada)**.
- (22) Mepaiyeda S.M. (2013). Emerging Trends in Fostering the Concept of Community among the Pentecostal Churches in Nigeria. *ORITA: Ibadan Journal of Religious Studies* XLV/1& 2 June & December. 87-102. **(Nigeria)**.
- (23) Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2013). Materialism in Early and Modern Pentecostal Movements in Nigeria. *International Journal of Arts, Culture and Sustainable Development* Vol.3. No. 2: 75-81. **(Cameroon)**.
- (24) *Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2014). The Legacies of St. Cyprian's Leadership for Nigerian Christianity. *INSIGHT: Journal of Religious Studies*, Vol.10. 27-36. **(Nigeria)**.
- (25) *Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2014). Interrogating the Theological Argument for the Reality of God within African Religious Milieu. *Issues in Social Sciences*, Vol.2. No.1: 42-50. **(USA)**.
- (26) Oluwadoro, J.O. & Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2017). The Impact of the Social Media on the Evangelical Outreaches of the Redeemed Christian Church of God. *INSIGHT: Journal of Religious Studies*, Vol.13. 100-117. **(Nigeria)**.
- (27) Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2018). Critiquing the Motivations for Luther's Reformation. *AKUNGBA: Journal of Religion and African Culture*, Vol.6. No.1: 6-17. **(Nigeria)**.

(f) Books, Chapters in Books and Articles already Accepted for Publication:

- (28) Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2018) "Political Challenges of Christianity in West Africa" in S.A. Fatokun (Editor), *History of Christianity in West Africa* (ICHE), Bangalore, India, (in print).
- (29) Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2018) "Introduction to the Pentateuch" in S.O. Abogunrin (General Editor), *African Study Bible, The Bible Society of Nigeria*.
- (30) Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2018) "Inter-Testamental Period" in S.O. Abogunrin (General Editor) *African Study Bible, The Bible Society of Nigeria*.
- (31) Mepaiyeda, S.M. (2018) "The Historical Books of the Old Testament" in S.O. Abogunrin (General Editor) *African Study Bible, The Bible Society of Nigeria*.

(g) Technical Reports and Monographs: Nil

XI. Major Conferences Attended with Papers Read (in the last 5 years)

- (1) 2013 Biennial Conference of Department of Religious Studies, University of Ibadan, 14-17 April.
Paper Read: "Religious Practices and Insecurity in Nigeria."
- (2) 40th Anniversary Conference of West African Association of Theological Institutions (WAATI), Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi Ghana, 5-9 August, 2013.
Paper Read: "An Appraisal of the Perspectives of the Pentecostals and Charismatic on Theological Education in Nigeria."
- (3) 2014 BSA Sociology of Religion Study Group Annual Conference, University of Sussex, Brighton, U.K., 2-4 July, 2014.
Paper Read: "Religion and the Nigerian State."
- (4) 2015 International Women's Day Conference, Women's Research and Documentation Centre, University of Ibadan, 10 March 2015.
Paper Read: "Apartheid against Women's Participation in Church Polity in Some Nigerian Pentecostal Churches."
- (5) 2015 Biennial Conference of the Department of Religious Studies, University of Ibadan, 9-12 August 2015.
Paper Read: "The Interface between Some Sacrificial Practices in Yoruba Religion and African Indigenous Churches."
- (6) Annual International Conference on Religion and State, John Knox Centre, Geneva, Switzerland, 11th-15th October, 2015.
Paper Read: "Approaches to Counter-Radicalisation."

- (7) 2015 Ashura Workshop, World Council of Churches Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland, 26th October, 2015.
Paper Read: “Eradicating Violence in the Name of Religion and Violence against Religion.”
- (8) 2016 Biennial Conference of African Society for the Study of Sociology and Ethics of Religion.
Paper Read: “Inculcating Religio-Ethical Values as Key to Change Agenda in Nigeria”.
- (9) 2017 Advancing World Mission Conference on Early Church: First 600 years, Conference Centre for the Nations, Ibadan, 23rd -27th August.
Paper Read: “Ecumenical Engagements in Early Mission Churches: Template for Advancing Mission in Contemporary Christianity”.
- (10) One-Day National Conference on the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther’s 95 Theses and the Reformation, The Redeemed Christian Bible College, Lagos – Ibadan Expressway, Mowe, Ogun State, 7th November, 2017.
Paper Read: “Critiquing the Motivations for Luther’s Reformation”.
- (11) One-Day Workshop for Post Graduate Students, Department of Religious Studies, University of Ibadan on Basic Issues in Research Methods, 13 December, 2017.
Paper Read: “Methodology in Church History”.
- (12) 2018 Calvin Symposium on Religion and Spirituality in Society, Calvin College, Michigan, USA, 25th -27th January.
Paper Read: “Vital Spirituality: Harvesting Wisdom from History, Theology and Ecumenical Encounter”.
- (13) Conference of Directors of Ecumenism in the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), Ibru Centre, Agbarha-Otor, Delta State, 23rd-26th May, 2018.
Paper Read: “Historical Analysis of the Ecumenical Development in Nigeria”.
- (14) 39th Annual Conference of Nigerian Association for the Study of Religion (NASR), Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo, Oyo State, 24th-28th September, 2018.
Paper Read: “Examining the Ethical Implications of Violence in Abrahamic Religions on Nigerian Commonwealth”.
- (15) 2018 Annual Conference of the Nigerian Association for Christian Studies, Redeemer’s University, Ede, Osun State, 29th October – 1st November, 2018.

Paper Read: “Responsible Stewardship of the Environment: Ecumenical Antidote for Peace and Eco-justice in Nigeria”.

PUBLICATION ABSRACTS

1. Manifestation of Prophetic Movements in the Anglican Church in Pre-Independence Era

Abstract

The main focus of this paper is to debunk the erroneous notion that prophetic ministry first emerged within African Indigenous Churches in Nigeria by establishing the fact that there were manifestations of prophetic movements shortly after the inception of Christianity in the Church Missionary Society that later metamorphosed to the Anglican Church. Evidences abound of prophetic figures among who were Garrick Braide, Daddy Alli, a sexton at Our Saviour’s Anglican Church Ijebu-Ode, Sophia Odunlami and of course Joseph Ayo Babalola. These people exhibited prophetic gifts but due to certain reasons the Church authority excommunicated them. However the fact remains that the Anglican Church served as the incubator of their prophetic activities in later years. The paper adopts both historical and phenomenological approaches to gather necessary data in carrying out the research.

Keywords: Prophetic Movements, Anglican Church Nigeria, Braide and Babalola.

2. Promoting Social Transformation through Ecumenical Projects among Christian Denominations in Nigeria

Abstract

At the inception of Christianity in the Roman Empire, the holistic gospel practiced by Jesus Christ whereby evangelism was complemented with social action as well as the ideal of communalism practiced by the Early church seemed to have attracted many to the Christian fold. Shortly after the emergence of Christianity in Nigeria at the close of the 19th century, there were visible collaborative efforts among missionaries of the Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian denominations most especially in the areas of health, education and training of ministers. Such synergy could not be sustained for a period of time but recently the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria has made frantic effort to advance the cause of Christianity in the society through socioeconomic programs. Therefore despite the fact that there are many Christian denominations in Nigeria, this paper advocates sustenance of collaborative projects among the Churches with a view to advancing ecumenical ideals and programs of the early missionaries in order to make social transformation achievable. Historical and phenomenological methods were used in collecting data for this work.

Keywords: Social Transformation, Ecumenical Projects, Churches in Nigeria.

3. Assessing the Hypotheses against Women Leadership in African Christianity

Abstract

Despite the undisputable roles of women as home-makers and nation-builders, many hypotheses had been advanced in support of male chauvinism mostly prevalent in African society. Such discrimination is attributable to two sources: culture and religion. The prejudices, inequalities and injustices suffered by women seem to be deep-rooted. What is even more unfortunate and scandalous is that religion has been and is still being misused to reinforce the oppression and subordination of women. Equally disconcerting is the fact that among the womenfolk themselves there are quite a number who have accepted these conditions as normal and therefore have had no inclination to demand and work for a change. Such women have resigned themselves to an inferior status and sincerely believed that such is their divinely ordered fate. This paper, therefore, is aimed at evaluating the theological, cultural and philosophical hypotheses that serve as roadblocks against women leadership in order to disprove their logical veracity; and to establish that leadership in the church should transcend the factor of gender but be based on God's prerogative and infinite grace.

Keywords: Assessing the Hypotheses, Women Leadership, African Christianity.

4. An Appraisal of the Perspectives of the Pentecostals and Charismatic on Theological Education in Nigeria

Abstract

Though, theological education remains a veritable platform to bring enlightenment to the souls and minds of individuals about God and his activities for the singular purpose of transforming and liberating men from the bondage of ignorance to knowledge; yet, a cursory look at the happenings among the Pentecostal and Charismatic circles in Nigeria suggests that majority of them have developed apathy towards such training. Even the few who have Bible Colleges de-emphasize rigorous theological study in their curricula, hinging such stand on many factors and assumption. This paper therefore aims primarily at investigating the bases for the unfriendly attitude towards theological education. In addition, using historical antecedents as a benchmark, the paper will articulate the relevance of theological education in the expansion of God's kingdom, with a view of reducing mediocrity in religious parlance and inculcate proper orientation in the development of church leaders in Nigeria.

Keywords: Perspectives, Pentecostals, Charismatic, Theological Education.

5. Interrogating the Theological Argument for the Reality of God within African Religious Milieu

Abstract

Empirical philosophers, down the ages have argued against the existence of God, employing the use of reason as a premise for establishing their argument. This exercise resulted in atheism – the belief that there is no God. While some atheists maintain that God never existed

in the past, there are others who contend that he existed but is now dead. Hence, Anselm's theism and other arguments for God's existence pervaded the academic spectrum. This paper, therefore, establishes the manifestation of theistic arguments within the religious context in Africa. Furthermore, the paper concludes by debunking the misrepresentation of African ideas of God whom some sit-at-home writers described as *Deus absconditus* or *Deus remotus*.

Key words: Atheism, Anselm's Argument, Concept of God, African Religion.

6. The Legacies of Cyprian's Leadership Policies for Nigerian Christianity

Abstract

Leadership remains the glaring need of the contemporary church in Nigeria. It is true that there is no vacuum in the hierarchy of the church across all denominations, yet, the spiritual impact of such leaders in the world of politics, business and other endeavors seems not effective enough to give this generation the necessary direction. Church expert and statistician, George Barna, penned some sobering conclusions based on his research that the American church was dying and losing influence at a time of unprecedented opportunity and plentiful resources, due to lack of strong leadership. In 1997, the Barna Research Group reported that 95 percent of American pastors said they didn't believe they have the spiritual gift of leadership, nor do they feel they have been adequately prepared for the task of leadership. This perception resulted in all sorts of evils in American society, evidence of which is the same sex issue and other gross moral misconducts. The failure of spiritual leadership becomes the bane of ethical and moral decadence. This paper, therefore, asserts that the situation in America just mentioned seems to have been replicated in Nigeria where many Christian leaders rose to the position of authority not because they were qualified or adequately prepared for the task of leadership, but due to certain human factors. Retrospectively, the paper intends to bring to the fore the historical antecedents of leadership challenges of St. Cyprian, an African father of the early church, with a view to assessing the legacies he bequeathed to the contemporary church.

Keywords: Implication of Cyprian's Leadership, Policies, Christianity in Nigeria.

7. A Survey of the History and Cultural Practices of Some Ethnic Groups of North Central Nigeria in Pre-Christianity Era

Abstract

Any attempt to embark on writing the history of peoples and their cultural norms and practices is designed with a view to make readers have deeper understanding of the peoples, culture and politics of a particular geographical entity. Nigeria as heterogeneous state has over 250 ethnic groups with powerful ones exercising undue domination over the weaker ethnic groups.

Three significant factors necessitated the need to embark on this project. The first is the monumental and historical misplacement of Kogi and Kwara States in the North Central Nigeria, a product of colonialism and military rule in Nigeria. This argument is premised on the presence of a large population of the Yoruba in the two states which used to be part of Old Oyo kingdom.

Secondly, most scholars seem not to have taken adequate cognizance of the Yoruba stock in the two states under review. Attention had been centred on the Yoruba people and culture in south western Nigeria. Therefore, there is the need to fill the gap by documenting the history and culture of these peoples.

Furthermore, the paper articulates the implication of cultural contact with foreign religions. To an extent, moral laxity in the country is traceable to foreign influence on Nigerian peoples who abandoned their cultural heritage and fail to teach them to the succeeding generation.

The paper concludes by advocating a new orientation towards inculcating the good morals and values into the younger generation.

Keywords: History, Cultural Practices, Ethnic Groups, North- Central Nigeria.

8. A Re-Examination of the Role of Religion in Education in Nigeria

Abstract

Religion has played major roles in other facets of human endeavours, be it political, economic, medical or educational. Right from the Middle Ages when the church reached its zenith of expansion, the field of education was positively enhanced with the establishment of about eighty Universities in Western Europe. Interestingly, records showed that these universities were theologically oriented because they metamorphosed from schools attached to churches. Furthermore, the missionaries who propagated Christianity took along with the Gospel a certain kind of Education in order to enlighten their converts and train them in institutions they established.

However, in recent years, some government's policies have undermined the place of religion in education most especially in Nigeria. Religious subjects have been de-emphasized while science related courses are promoted in order to boost technological advancement. Secondly, individuals, corporate organizations and some educational institutions seem to have the notion that religion today has little or no relevance in education. No wonder the population of

students into the Department of Religious Studies in few universities that offer them is low when compared with other departments in the Faculty. Furthermore, it is saddened to note that most of the private universities especially the mission-established ones do not give the study of religion the priority it deserves. This paper, therefore, seeks to investigate the reasons adduced by the stakeholders on the neglect of religious education in academic circles with a view to determining the relevance of religion in the contemporary world.

Keywords: Re-examination, Role, Religion, Education.

9. Religious Extremism and Environmental Hazards in Nigeria

Abstract

Religion seems to be the only sphere devoid of regulatory agency in Nigeria. Even though there are religious associations such as the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN), Islamiyya, Ansar-ur-deen and Nasfat societies to mention a few, they tend to be inactive in regulating the practice of religion by the adherents. Such porosity has led to the conversion of shops and residential buildings to places of worship, thereby creating inconveniences for people through noisy environment. Therefore, the main focus of this paper is to advocate, among others, the need for the three tiers of government in Nigeria to come up with legislation to check the excesses of religious organizations, which has become a menace in this contemporary time.

Keywords: Extremism, Religion, Environmental Hazards.

10. The Church and Governance in Nigeria

Abstract

This paper argues that in the past, the church as a religious institution served as a vanguard of truth, justice and political freedom which posed a check to the secular authority; the events in recent past in Nigeria suggests that the influence wielded by the church has waned. Through ethnographic study, the paper establishes that the continued failure of governance in the country is partly traceable to some unethical standards of the church, such as unbridled rivalry among churches, the basis of which is quest for recognition from secular authority, materialism and building of empires. Besides, churches in Nigeria which should have been the torch bearer that beams its light to illuminate the dark practices in the society and governance have become a haven for cheats, fraudsters and ‘robbers’ in government. Hence the paper makes a clarion call to Christian leaders to emulate the few of their colleagues such as Bishop Bolanle Gbonigi, Pastor Tunde Bakare and Pastor E.A. Adeboye whose contributions have positively impacted the governance of this nation. In addition, the paper recommends that, appointment or election of personnel into the hierarchy of the church should be subjected to serious spiritual scrutiny since people of tested and proven impeccable characters can restore the church to its lost position of relevance in Nigeria.

Keywords: Church, Governance, Contributions