

Nigeria, Europe and Christian Missions; Models of a collaboration: The Question of unequal economic abilities in relation to Partnership in Missions in the 21st Century

By

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Abstract

A change in attitudes and in human structures frequently calls accepted values into question. This is especially true of Christians in developing nations of the world such as Nigeria, who have grown impatient on more than one occasion, and tend to turn rebels in their distress. The institutions, laws, and models of thinking and feelings as handed down by the early foreign missionaries to Nigeria do not always seem to be well adapted to the contemporary state of affairs in relation to Christian missions. Hence arises an upheaval in the manner and norms of behaviour of many Nigerian Christians. Daily human interdependence grows more tightly drawn and spreads by degrees over the whole world. For this reason the common good, that is, the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively through and ready access to their own fulfilment, takes on an increasingly universal complexion and consequently involves rights and duties with respect to the entire human race. Every social group must take account of the needs and legitimate aspirations of other groups and even of the general welfare of the whole human family. In our contemporary world the bonds of mutual dependence become increasingly close between all citizens and all the peoples of the world. The universal common good needs to be intelligently pursued and more effectively achieved. For the attainment of these goals, agencies of the international community should do their part to provide for the various necessities of human beings. Christian missions have a great role to play here in the field of social life meaning, food, health, education and employment. The thrust of this paper is to assess Nigeria, Europe and Christian Missions in the light of models of collaboration between the two which is most likely to address the issue of unequal economic abilities in relation to partnership in Christian missions in the 21st Century. There is no gainsaying the fact that in as much as Nigeria requires the collaboration of Europe from the Christian perspective in order to break out from unequal economic abilities, the password to economic development and other forms of development rest on the initiative of Nigerians. The methodology used in this work is made up of the socio – historical, narrative as well as the comparative approaches. The data gathering technique shall be predominantly sources made up of books, unpublished materials, journal articles and internet materials.