

## **REPORT ON MISSION SURVEY IN BOGORO AND TAFAWA BALEWA L.G.A.s BAUCHI STATE**

**TAFAWA BALEWA:** This is a Local Government Area in the Southern part of Bauchi State in northern Nigeria. The area is known for religious conflicts over the years. The major ethnic group is Saye tribe.

Saye tribe is basically non Muslim and majorities are Christians, either by profession or deed. Although there is a loose life-style among the people, many among them are Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN) members. They seem to be very religious as they are ready to sacrifice their earnings and at times their lives for the gospel.

There is a strong abhorrence of Pentecostalism among the local people. However, some of them do not seem to care whether Pentecostal or evangelical movements are in the area, so long it is not Islam dominating the area. They are bordered on the north and west by the Afizere tribe spreading across Bauchi and Plateau States. Saye tribe is a friendly tribe and is not aggressive to strangers. As such there many other tribes dwelling in the area.

The major migrant tribes are Hausa and Fulani. The Hausas carry out their commercial activities peacefully in the area. While the Fulani's are in various camps in the interior parts of the area. As a result of close proximity of the area to Plateau State, any time there is a conflict in neighboring Plateau State there is always an influx of refugees to this area. This gives an opportunity for the gospel to be shared among the Muslim refugees in their camps.

Due to religious-political reasons, the area is denied a tentative traditional ruler. There is presently a serious misunderstanding between the Muslim dominated state government and Tafawa Balewa people because of this issue. Lack of a chief for the area is somehow portraying the area as lawless before the state government. The presence of various mission activities will help foreclose continuous scheming against the area by the Muslim dominated state government.

### **BENEFIT OF THIS MISSION**

The migrant Fulani tribe seems to be a security threat to the area, as the Fulani's are being accused of robbing people of the area at gun point on high ways. Reaching the Fulani's in their camps with the gospel will help them know the love of God. This will in turn make them less attractive to criminal tendencies.

Moreover, reaching out to the migrant Hausas will help in making the Muslim Hausas know that Christianity is all about love and that not all who fight them are genuine Christians.

For the indigenous Saye tribe, repeating the message of the gospel will make them more spiritual and will make them more patient with the tyrant state government. It should be noted at this point that the Muslim dominated state government discriminates against

Christians in their domains. It is not an isolated case for Bauchi State in northern Nigeria.

**BOGORO:**

This Local Government Area shares boundaries with Tafawa Balewa and Plateau State. The major indigenous tribe is also Saye. The indigenous people are actually kindred of the people of neighboring Tafawa Balewa. This is the only local area with 100% non-Muslim influenced leadership. Muslims are not usually in-charge in the local government. There is a strong presence of migrant Fulani's in the area. There has been a strong Christian missionary activity among this people by some indigenous Christians led by one Shelk Peter Galadima. Many converts among them have been relocated to other towns and cities in Nigeria.

A more proactive approach is needed to reach out to this group. As it is usually found among the Muslims, many want to get converted but for fear of retaliation and for their future.

Tafawa Balewa and Bogoro L.G.A. are twin local governments in Bauchi State with the same cultures and religions. Therefore, the same missionary approach can be applied to both local governments.

**BENEFITS:**

The migrant Fulani's in this area are not as aggressive as their kindreds in Tafawa Balewa. Their closeness to Jos East Local Government in Plateau State, makes them more friendly to gospel preaching than the ones in Tafawa Balewa. Missionary work among them will consolidate their gradual understanding of Christianity.

The migrant Hausa group is into commercial activities in the area, but spiritual understanding of this group will help in boasting human interrelations in the area. The indigenous Saye group exhibits same human attitude towards the gospel as their kindred's in Tafawa Balewa do.

**OBSERVATIONS**

There are fewer Pentecostal centers in both Tafawa Balewa and Bogoro Local Government Areas.

- \* There is a strong attitude of drinking in both areas.
- \* There is less concern for the souls of migrant tribes by churches in the area.
- \* There is strong apprehension between the Christian and Muslims in the area.
- \* A town called Gital in Tafawa Balewa is regarded as the center of indigenous Saye Muslims. These are among the educated elites in the local government and they manipulate local government leadership from state level to their advantage. As such this town seems to be a thorn in the flesh in the area.

**SUGGESTIONS:**

- \* An intensive missionary work is needed to be carried out in the area with immediate effect.

- An office accommodation is needed for this mission.
- \* Strong support is needed in all areas form the personnel assigned to these fields, so as to avoid compromise due to lack.
- \* An arrangement should be made to rehabilitate any Muslim convert in Jos.
- \* A mobility (Motor Cycle) is to be provided for the personnel on field, if possible.
- \* An establishment of a worship center may not be needed for now.

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