



**NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA**

**FACULTY OF ARTS**

**DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**COURSE CODE: CRS102**

**COURSE TITLE: THE MAJOR RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN  
NIGERIA**

<b>COURSE GUIDE</b>
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**CRS102****THE MAJOR RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN NIGERIA**

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## Introduction

### CRS102 Major Religious Groups in Nigeria

Major Religious Groups in Nigeria is designed for students to learn about the origin and functions of each group in Nigeria. Besides, it also teachings about the aims and objectives of each movement in the country. Furthermore, this course also examines the roles being played by each movement in Nigeria.

The following are the major religious groups in Nigeria. Christianity, Islam, traditional/Oriental. However, we shall discuss sub-groups that make up the named major religious groups in this course.

Within Christianity, we have the Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN), The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN), Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) and Young Women Christian Association (YWCA).

Furthermore, within Islam groups we have following: The Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, The Muslim Students Society of Nigeria. The Izālah Movement, The Ansar-Ud-Deen Society of Nigeria and The Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Movement, Nigeria. Within Traditional/Oriental groups we have Orunmila, Secret societies – Egungun, Eckankar, Hare Krisha, Bahai Brotherhood of the Cross and Star.

The course is available to all students who study religions in Nigeria. The course consists of sixteen (16) study units and is structured into three (3) modules of five (5) study units for the first module and the second module consists of six (6) study units. While the third module is made up of five (5) study units respectively. This course guide tells you briefly what the course is about, what you are expected to know in each study unit, what course materials you will be using and how you can work your way through these materials. It also emphasizes the need for tutor-marked assignments. There are periodic tutorial classes, among others, as shown in the table of contents of this document.

Finally, the course will be of great help to both Christian and Muslim students by providing means of religious understanding between the adherents of both faiths in Nigeria.

**What You will Learn in this Course**

The overall aim of the course: Major Religious Groups in Nigeria, is designed and produces to help students learn about Christianity, Islam, and Traditional/Oriental religious groups in Nigeria.

Also, it aims to indicate the roles played by the religious groups in the lives of humankind in Nigeria.

Accordingly, during the course, you will learn the importance of religion in the lives of Nigerians.

**Course Aims**

The aim of this course can be summarized as that of leading you to understand the origin of the three (3) major religious groups in Nigeria; why you must identify the contributions of the three (3) major religious groups towards religious harmony in Nigeria; the close link between the teachings of the three (3) religions in the country.

**Course Objectives**

To achieve the aims set out above, there is a set of objectives, both general and for each course as well as for the modules thereof. It is advisable that you pay attention to these objectives as they should assist you to assess the extent to which the materials at each stage meet the set objectives. The following are the overall objectives of the course, or what you are expected to know and do on the successful completion of the course:

- (a) State the origin of each of the major religious groups in Nigeria.
- (b) List some of the roles being played by each religious movement in the country.
- (c) Explain the aims and objectives of the three major religious groups in Nigeria.
- (d) Identify the achievements of the three (3) major religious groups in Nigeria.
- (e) Analyse the teachings of each religious groups in the country.

**Working Through This Course**

To successfully complete this course, you are required to read and carefully study all the sixteen (16) course units. Each course unit, as well as parts of thereof, has self-assessment exercise. Also at designated points in the course, you are required to complete, submit assignments for assessment purposes. At the end of the course, there

will be a final examination. The total marks will be shared between the assignments and the final examination, as explained below.

## **Course Materials**

Course Guide

Study Units

References

Assessment/Assignment Files Presentation Schedule

Tutor-Marked Assignment (TMAs)

Final Examination and Grading

Course Marking Scheme

Course Overview

How to get the most from this course

Tutors and Tutorials

Summary

References

Main

## **Study Units**

The following is the outline of the fifteen (15) study units of this course, divided into three (3) modules of five (5) study units each.

### **Module 1 Major Christian Religious groups in Nigeria**

- Unit 1            The Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN)
- Unit 2            The Bible Society of Nigeria
- Unit 3            Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN)
- Unit 4            Young Men's Christian Association
- Unit 5            Young Women Christian Association

### **Module 2 Major Religious Groups in Islam**

- Unit 1            The Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria
- Unit 2            Izālah Movement
- Unit 3            Tijaniyyah Movement
- Unit 4            Ansar-Ud-Deen Society of Nigeria
- Unit 5            Ahamadiyya Muslim Jama'at Movement Nigeria

**Module 3 Traditional/Oriental Religious Groups**

Unit 1	Orunmilia
Unit 2	Secret Societies (Egungun Group)
Unit 3	Eckankar Group
Unit 4	The Hare Krishna Movement, and Bahai Movements
Unit 5	Brotherhood of the Cross and Star or Olumba Olumba Obu Movement

**Textbooks and References**

Azees Olabiyi, The Izālah and its Dawa activities in Nigeria, 1973 –1996 seminar Paper, Ibadan.

Abun-Nasr, J. M. The Tijaniyyah: A Sufi Order in the Modern World< London Oxford University Press, 1965.

Adisa Y. A., Life of Shaylah Ibrahim Niars Long Essay, Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Ibadan, 1978.

Ahamadiyya Muslim Jama'at Nigeria, A Brief History of Ahamadiyya Muslim in Nigeria in the Ar-Risallah Islamic communication (Nig) Ltd. Oyo State.

Muslims, merit award, 2005/2006.

“Allah”, Encyclopaedia of Islam Online 4/3/2007.

Awolalu and Dopamu, West African Traditional religion, Onibonoje Press and Book Industries (Nig.) limited, Ibadan Nigeria, 1979.

abcdef Esslemont J. E., Baha'ullah and the New era 5th ed. Wilmette, Illinois USA, Bahai, Publishing Trust 1980.

Christian Responsibility in an Independent Nigeria, Ibadan CCN 1960.

Christian Council of Nigeria Constitution, Article II, New constitution Approved, November, 2004.

Chicago: Encyclopaedia Britannica

Effendi Shoghi God Passes, Wilmette Illinois USA.

Bahai Publishing Trust, 1944.



Garret, T .S. and R. M. C. Jeffery Unity in Nigeria, London, Edinburgh House Press, 1965.

Oyalana A. S., Christian Witnessing in Nigeria, Common and Divided, Daystar Press, Ibadan, 2005.

Ola-Akande S. T. “The Unity of the Faith in Christian Brotherhood, Lecture at the first Plenary Session of CAN, Ibadan 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1983.

Y. A. Quadari, The Tijaniyya in Nigeria, Ph.D. Thesis, Ahmadu Bello, University, Zaria, 1986.

Excerpted from the Internet 4/3 /2007.

“Islam”, Encyclopaedia of Religion Online 4/3/2007.

“Quran”, Encyclopaedia of Islam Online 4/3/2007.

### **Interview**

A.S. Oyalana, aged 70 years, Date: 3-3-2007, Place: Ibadan.

Mrs Hannah Haruna, aged 72 years, Date: 7-5-2004, Place: Okene.

Ahmed A.F. aged 60 years, Date: 8-5-2007, Place: Lagos.

Every unit contains a list of references and further readings. Try to get as many as possible of those textbooks and materials listed. The textbooks and materials are meant to deepen your knowledge of the course.

### **Assignment File**

In this file, you will find all the details of the assignments you must submit to your tutor for marking. The mark you obtain in these assignments will count towards the final mark for this course, in the ratio of 30:70.

### **Self –Assessment Exercise (SAE)**

Your assessment will be based in tutor-marked assignments (TMAs), seminars and written examination. You are expected to supply the information, knowledge, techniques acquired during the course. The assignments must be submitted to your tutor within the period of the deadline. These assignments will count for 30% of your total mark.

At the end of the course you will need to sit for a final written two-hour examination for the remaining 70% mark for the course.

### **Tutor-Marked-Assignments (TMAs)**

Assignment questions for the units are compiled in the Assignment File. You should be able to complete your assignment from the information and material contained in your course study units.

When you have completed each assignment, send it, together with TMA to your tutor. Make sure that each assignment reaches your tutor on or before the deadline given. If however, you cannot possibly complete your assignment on time, contact your tutor before the assignment is due, to discuss the possibility of an extension.

### **Final Examination and Grading**

The two-hour examination will consist of questions which reflect the type of self-testing practice exercise and tutor-marked problems you have come across. All areas of the course will be assessed.

### **Course Marking Grading**

The final course mark will be distributed as follows:

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Mark</b>
Tutor-Marked Assignments	Four assignments, best three marks of the four counts at 30% of course marks.
Final Examination	70%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 1: Course Mark Allocations.

### **Course Overview**

Table 2 brings together the units, the weeks to complete them and the accompanying assignments.

**Table 2: Course Organizer**

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Title of Work</b>	<b>Weeks Activity</b>	<b>Assessment (End of Unit)</b>
<b>Module 1 Major Christian Religious Groups in Nigeria</b>			
Unit 1	The Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN)	Week 1	Assignment 1

Unit 2	The Bible Society of Nigeria	Week 2	Assignments 2
Unit 3	Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN)	Week 3	Assignments 3
Unit 4	Young Men's Christian Association	Week 4	Assignment 4
Unit 5	Young Women Christian Association	Week 5	Assignment 5
<b>Module 2 Major Religious Groups in Islam</b>			
Unit 1	The Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria	Week 7	Assignment 7
Unit 2	Izālah Movement	Week 8	Assignment 8
Unit 3	Tijaniyyah Movement	Week 9	Assignment 9
Unit 4	Ansar-Ud-Deen Society of Nigeria	Week 10	Assignment 10
Unit 5	Ahamadiyya Muslim Jama'at Movement Nigeria	Week 11	Assignment 11
<b>Module 3 Traditional/Oriental Religious Groups</b>			
Unit 1	Orunmila	Week 12	Assignment 12
Unit 2	Secret Societies (Egungun Group)	Week 13	Assignment 13
Unit 3	Eckankar Group	Week 14	Assignment 14
Unit 4	The Hare Krishna Movement, and Bahai Movements	Week 15	Assignment 15
Unit 5	Brotherhood of the Cross and Star or Olumba Olumba Obu Movement	Week 16	Assignment 16
	Examination	Week 17	
Total		17 Weeks	

### How to get the most from this Course

In distance learning, the study units replace the University lecturer. This is one of the advantages of distance learning that you can read and work through specifically designed study materials at your own pace, and at a time and place that suit you best. You should see them (study unit materials) as reading lectures, instead of listening to them in the classroom. In the same way that a lecturer might set you some reading to do, the study units also tell you when to read your text materials.

You are provided exercise to do at appropriate points just as a lecturer might give you class exercises.

Each of the study units follows a common format. The first item is an introduction to the subject matter of the unit and how a particular unit is integrated with the other

units and the course as a whole. Next to this is a set of learning objectives. These objectives let you know what you should be able to do by the time you have completed the unit.

These learning objectives are meant to guide your study. The moment a unit is finished, you must go back and check whether you have achieved the stated objectives. If this is made a habit, then you will significantly improve your chance of passing the course. However, when you run into any difficulty, telephone your tutor or visit the Study centre nearest to you for assistance. Remember that your tutor's job is to help you. When you need help, therefore, don't hesitate to call and ask him to provide it.

The following is a practical strategy, for working through the course: Read the course Guide thoroughly, several times to ensure that the message gets really across to you.

- (i) Organize a study schedule. Refer to the 'course overview' for more details. Note the time you are expected to spend on each unit and how the assignments relate to the units and how the assignments relate to the units. Important information, e.g. details of your tutorials and the date of the first day of the semester, is available at the Study Centre.
- (ii) Once you have created your own study schedule, do everything you can to stick to it. The major reason why students fail is that they get behind with their course work. If you get into difficulties with your schedule, please let your tutor know before it is too late or help.
- (iii) Assemble the study material. Information about what you need for a unit is given in the overview at the beginning of each unit.
- (iv) Work through the unit. The content of the unit itself has been arranged to provide a sequence for you to follow. As you work through the units you will be instructed as to what to read from them. Keep in touch with the Study centre. Up-to-date course information will be continuously available there.
- (v) Well before the relevant due dates (about 4 weeks before due dates), check on the assignment at the Study Centre and take note of your next required assignment. Keep in mind that you will learn a lot by doing the assignments carefully and as they fall due. Do not allow backlog. They have been designed to help you meet the objectives of the course and, therefore, will help you pass the examination. Submit all assignments not later than the due date.
- (vi) Again, on the exercises/assignments, you will discover that these are placed both within (under each major section) and at the end of the unit. Some of the sectional exercises are also used as TMAs at the end. You are free to

undertake the assignment either section by section or together at the end. The assignments are however graded per unit and not section by section.

- (vii) Review the objectives for each study unit to confirm that you have achieved them. If you feel unsure about any of the objectives, review the study materials again and again and/or consult your tutor.
- (viii) When you are confident that you have achieved a unit's objectives, you can then go on to the next unit. Proceed, unit by unit, through the course and try to plan your study such that you keep yourself on schedule.
- (ix) When you have submitted an assignment to your tutor for marking, do not wait for its return before starting on the next unit. Keep to your schedule. When the assignment is returned, pay particular attention to your tutor's comments, both on the tutor marked assignment and also written on the assignment. Consult your tutor as soon as possible if you have any questions or problems.
- (x) After completing the last unit, review the course and prepare yourself for the final examination. Check that you have achieved the unit objectives (listed at the beginning of each unit) and the course objectives (listed in this course Guide).

### **Tutors and Tutorials**

There are 8 hours of tutorials provided in support of this course. You will be notified of the dates, times and location of these tutorials, together with the name and phone number of your tutor, as soon as you are allocated a tutorial group.

Your tutor will mark and comment on your assignments, keep a close watch on your progress and on any difficulties you might encounter and provide assistance to you during the course. You must mail your tutor-marked assignments to your tutor before the due date (at least two working days are required). They will be marked by your tutor and returned to you as soon as possible. Do not hesitate to contact your tutor by telephone, e-mail or by a visit to the Study Centre, if you need help. The following might be circumstances in which you would find help necessary. Contact your tutor if:

- (i) You do not understand any part of the study units or the assignment(s) readings
- (ii) You have difficulty with any exercise
- (iii) You have a question or problem with an assignment with your tutor's comments, on an assignment or with the grading of an assignment.

You should try your best to attend the tutorials. This is the only chance to have face-to-face contact with your tutor and ask questions, which are answered instantly. You can

also raise any problem encountered in the course of your Study at the tutorials. To gain the maximum benefit from course tutorials, prepare a question list before attending them. You will learn a lot from participating actively in the discussions.

We wish you success in the programme.

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**MODULE 1            Major Christian Religious Groups in Nigeria**

Unit 1 The Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN)

Unit 2 The Bible Society of Nigeria

Unit 3 Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN)

Unit 4 Young Men's Christian Association

Unit 5 Young Women Christian Association

**UNIT 1            THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF NIGERIA (CCN)****CONTENTS**

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Objectives

3.0 Main Content

3.1 The origin of CCN Group

3.2 The Formation of Regional Committees

3.3 Achievements of the Christian Council of Nigeria

4.0 Conclusion

5.0 Summary

6.0 Tutor-Marked Assignment

7.0 References/Further Readings

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This unit will introduce you to the origin of the Christian Council of Nigeria. It will further state some of the achievements of the religious group in Nigeria.

**2.0 OBJECTIVES**

After completing this unit, you should be able to:

- State the origin of the Christian Council Group
- Identify the contribution of the group towards the spread of gospel in Nigeria.

**3.0 MAIN CONTENT****3.1    The Origin of Christian Council of Nigeria**

In 1929, the Anglican, Methodists, Presbyterian, Baptist and Sudan Interior Missionaries assembled themselves at Oyo town in Oyo (now Oyo State), Nigeria, to consider an Education Law which the government was about to pass into Law. These group was chaired by the right Reverend Melville Jones of the Anglican denomination. He was Bishop of Lagos Anglican Diocese, Nigeria. The proposed law sought to separate religion from formal education in Nigeria. The religious groups that came together to consider the above mentioned issue worshipped together. They had fellowship together without denominational difference. Among these delegates from different denominations that came together under the umbrella of Bishop Jones, suggested that their fellowship must be permanent. Part of the Christian Religious Groups in Nigeria. For these reasons, the first meeting of all attended members of various denominations of the previous meeting in 1929 met and held another meeting in 1930 under the umbrella of Bishop Jones in Lagos.

However, most of the missionaries that attended such meeting were representatives of overseas churches. The meeting that was held in 1930 paved way for the members to discuss spiritual growth of the church in Nigeria. This led to the formation of what is now known and called “The Christian Council of Nigeria”.

### **3.2 The Formation of Regional Committees**

In order for the religious group to keep on monitoring the spiritual growth of the church in Nigeria, the body arrived at forming the policy of dividing the country into regional sectors in 1930. The Church Council of Nigeria set up Regional Committees for Southern Christian group. But the group left the Northern Christian members of the group to form their own committee that will look over the spiritual growth of the church in the northern Nigeria.

The Northern Christians therefore established their own committee, known as the “Northern Christian council”. The Northern Christian Council however included other groups that had joined the Christian Council in the Southern part of Nigeria in their own group. The Southern Regional Committees to pay attention to the immediate issues that might have affect the spiritual growth of the church in their areas.

#### **3.1.2 Achievements of the Christian Council of Nigeria**

The achievements of the Christian Council of Nigeria. The achievements of this council include:

- (i) The uniting of Christians as one body in Jesus Christ in Nigeria.
- (ii) The religious group had contributed to the following:

The preparation of Christian literature, Evangelistic campaigns, the training of Youth Work leaders, training chaplains at the hospital at Umuahia, appointment of representatives to federal government of Nigeria on matters that affect religious freedom, education, medical work and stability of Democratic Government in Nigeria.

- (iii) The religious body encouraged the Christian community in the University of Ibadan to build the Chapel of the Resurrection of the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.
- (iv) The group encouraged extensive evangelism of the country.
- (v) Christians were encouraged to embark on effective prayers on March 9th and 16th 1986 to attack the common opponent of Christianity in the country.
- (vi) The Group has established the Christian Council Literature Department in Nigeria. The department is engaged in book and magazine publishing. The department is registered as Daystar Press (Publishers) in 1960.
- (vii) The group educated Christian at the grassroots on the issue of organization of Islamic Countries (OIC).
- (viii) The religious group also established the Institute of church and Society at Ibadan. It serves as the Conference Centre for the Christian Council of Nigeria. The functions of this centre are to stimulate the thoughts of Christian and the citizens of Nigeria to more enlightenment of the Word of God in relation to practical life. This is done through conferences, consultations, workshops, discussion groups, retreats and various projects at the Institute. The Institute has embarked on the Leaf Protein Project and the programme for Christian – Muslim relations in Africa. The programme for Christian – Muslim relations is concerned with the fostering better understanding between Christians and Muslims. This also encourages personal relationships among the participants of the programme that is held in the Institute.

The Christian Council of Churches in Nigeria has encouraged Christians to embark on the Jerusalem Pilgrimage.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

In this unit, you have learnt that the Christian Council of Churches Nigeria is a religious group which fosters spiritual well-being of all Christians in Nigeria. The body or group began with the missionary that was mentioned earlier in this unit.

#### **5.0 SUMMARY**

You have understood the following from this unit:

- The Christian Council of Churches Nigeria, has brought from all over Nigeria Christians to unite as a body in Jesus Christ.
- The group has trained many youths on evangelistic campaigns leadership and hospital visitations.
- The religious groups have established the Chapel of the Resurrection of the University of Ibadan to promote Christianity in the campus.
- The group has encouraged Christians to embark on Jerusalem Pilgrimage.

#### **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

State the origin of Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN) group.

**6.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT**

Discuss the achievements of the Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN) group.

**7.0 REFERENCES/FURTHER READINGS**

Oyalana, A.S. (2005) *Christian Witnessing in Nigeria, Common and Divided*, Daystar Press, Ibadan.

Ola-Akande, S.T. (1983), “The Unity of the Faith in Christian

Brotherhood”, Lecture at the First Plenary Session of CAN, Ibadan, 27th – 29th April, 1983.

Garret, T.S. and R.M.C. Jeffrey (1965) *Unity in Nigeria* (London: Edinburgh House Press).

*Christian Responsibility in an Independent Nigeria* (Ibadan CCN, 1960).

*Christian Council of Nigeria constitution Article II, Ibid. Article III New Constitution Approved*, November, 2004.

**UNIT 2 THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF NIGERIA****CONTENTS**

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Objectives

3.0 Main Content

3.1 A Brief History of the Bible Society of Nigeria

3.2 The aims and objectives of the Bible Society of Nigeria

3.3 Membership of the religious Group

3.4 Achievement of the Religious Group

3.5 Methods used by the Bible Society of Nigeria to achieve her aims and objectives

3.6 The roles of Church Denominations in the Bible Society of Nigeria

3.7 Types and Fees of Membership

4.0 Conclusion

5.0 Summary

6.0 Tutor-marked Assignment

7.0 References/Further Reading

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This unit discusses the inauguration of the Bible society in Nigeria. It also explains the aims of the religious group. Furthermore, the unit enables you know some of the relevant roles that have been played by the Bible Society of Nigeria to bring peace and unity to Nigerians.

**2.0 OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- State who the Bible Society of Nigeria are;
- Identify the achievements of the Bible Society of Nigeria.

**3.0 MAIN CONTENT****3.1 A Brief History of the Bible Society of Nigeria**

The Bible Society of Nigeria is a member of the 168 bodies of the United Bible Societies worldwide. The Bible Society of Nigeria was formally inaugurated on February 8, 1966 and is the main source of scriptures distribution in Nigeria.

### **3.2 The Aims and Objectives of the Bible Society of Nigeria**

Below are the stated aims and objectives of the Bible Society of Nigeria:

- (1) To promote the widest possible distribution and reading of the Holy Scripture.
- (2) To initiate and promote the translation, publication, distribution and use of the scripture in as many languages and dialects of Nigeria as may be considered necessary, in consultation and cooperation with the churches concerned.
- (3) To encourage and assist the correct and idiomatic translation and revision of the scripture and to ensure the fidelity and clarity of which it is responsible.
- (4) To publish any version of the scripture or any part thereof only after approval has been given by the National Board at Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- (5) To publish the scriptures without doctrinal notes and or comments.
- (6) To be a member of the United Bible Societies.
- (7) To work with the local churches and seek their active participation in all the activities of the society especially in translation, publication, distribution and financial support.
- (8) To provide news/information concerning the scriptures and the works of the United Bible Societies.
- (8) To solicit financial assistance from individuals, churches and other groups and to receive and retain endowment for the work of the society.
- (9) To undertake the production of the Bible as well as other Christian literature to meet local needs.
- (10) To establish a printing press.
- (11) To do all or any of the above as principles, trustees, or agents or otherwise and either alone or in conjunction with any other body or persons and either by or through agents, trustees or otherwise.

### **3.3 Membership of the Religious Group**

Membership of the Bible Society of Nigeria is open to every Christian who confesses Jesus Christ as his/her personal Saviour and accepts the Bible in its entirety as the inspired Word of God in Nigeria. He or she would obtain an application form for membership at the Bible Society of Nigeria office at Apapa, Lagos or through the internet [www.biblesocietynigeria.org](http://www.biblesocietynigeria.org).

### **3.4 Achievements of the Religious group in Nigeria**

The Bible Society of Nigeria have translated and published numerous Bibles in various Nigerian languages for both the Protestants and Roman Catholics.

### **3.5 Methods used by the Bible Society of Nigeria to Achieve**

#### **Her Aims and Objectives**

Bible Society Auxiliaries are created by the group. These auxiliaries are formed by members in group of churches in any given locality uniting to assist the Bible Society work on voluntary basis under the leadership of a Committee elected by them. All members must belong to an auxiliary for proper identification and active involvement in the activities of the society.

The National Board consists of two members from each area. The body is responsible for policy making. The National Board also created areas out of the auxiliaries that are available in a given place. Each area is managed by a committee. Members of a given area are made up of at most four (4) representatives elected from each auxiliary in that area. The group also creates zones. These zones comprise of a number of areas which elect two representatives to the National Executive Committee. The National Executive Committee directs the business activities of the Bible Society of Nigeria. In addition to this, the body makes recommendations of man policy and administrative decisions to the National Board for approval. It also ensures that the management executes all decisions through the assistance of some advisory committees set up by her.

### **3.6 The Roles of Church Denominations in the Bible Society of Nigeria**

The affiliated church denominations to the group in Nigeria do allow their local church members to celebrate the Bible Week in their locations. This enables everybody in such areas to be aware of the existence of the Bible Society in their towns, cities or villages. The annual celebration week is also used to raise funds for the Bible Society's work in Nigeria. By doing so, the affiliated denominations

promote Bible cause in Nigeria. The printed scriptures are distributed to newly converted Christians free of charge.

### **3.7 Types and Fees of Membership**

Life Membership for the Christian couple costs N1,000.00 (one thousand naira) While the Life Membership for a single Christian costs N750.00 (seven hundred and fifty naira). The Associate Membership cost N 250.00 (two hundred and fifty naira). This comprises children whose age is under 18 years in the Christendom.

The annual membership is meant for the adult and it is renewable yearly. It costs N 300.00(three hundred naira) for such a member of the group. Members' Annual Subscription minimum of N100.00 (one hundred naira) is used to support the work of the group annually the adherent of Christian religious group. Special Life Members (single) costs N5,000.00 (five thousand naira) (minimum) while couple costs N5,500.00 (five thousand five hundred naira).

## **4.0 CONCLUSION**

In this unit, you have learnt about the Bible society of Nigeria. You have also discovered the roles which the group played by making the Bible available for the people to make use of in Nigeria.



## 5.0 SUMMARY

If you have gone through this unit carefully, you should be aware of the following points:

1. The Bible Society of Nigeria have translated and published various Bibles in Nigerian Languages.
2. Membership of the Bible Society of Nigeria is open to all Christians in the country.
3. The Bible Society has distributed a lot of Bibles to many people in Nigeria. These scriptures have helped many Nigerians receive Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour in Nigeria.
4. Individual Christian needs to contribute towards the translation and publication of the Bible in Nigeria.
5. The Bible Society of Nigeria is meant for both the Protestants and the Catholics in Nigeria.

## SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

Enumerate the achievements of the Bible Society of Nigeria.

### **Solution:**

The Bible Society of Nigeria have translated and published numerous Bibles in various Nigerian languages for both the Protestants and Roman Catholics.

(10 marks)

## 6.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT

Discuss the aims and objectives of the Bible Society of Nigeria.

## 7.0 REFERENCES/FURTHER READINGS

The Bible Society of Nigeria, 40th Anniversary 1966 – 2006, Annual Report and Accounts, 2005.

The Bible Society of Nigeria, Bible A – Month Club Registration Card.

Bible Society of Nigeria, Application form for membership.

**UNIT 3 CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (CAN)****CONTENTS**

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Objectives

3.0 Main Content

3.1 The Christian association of Nigeria as one body in Christ

3.2 The Objectives of the Religious Group

3.3 Membership of the Association

3.4 The Organs of the Association

3.5 The Major Directors of the Association

3.6 The Achievements of the group in Nigeria

4.0 Conclusion

5.0 Summary

6.0 Tutor-Marked Assignment

7.0 References/Further Readings

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This unit will introduce you to the Christian Association of Nigeria. It will discuss the reasons for the establishment of the religious group in Nigeria. The unit tells you the objectives of Christian Association of Nigeria.

**2.0 OBJECTIVES**

At the end of this unit, you should be able to:-

- Explain the commitment of the group;
- Discuss the reason why Christians are united as one body in Jesus Christ.

**3.0 MAIN CONTENT****3.1 The Christian Association of Nigeria as one Body in Christ**

The Christians in Nigeria belong to different churches and denominations. However, they came together at Lagos and inaugurated the CAN on 24th February, 1980. They serve One God, Jesus Christ and enjoy the grace of God preaching through Jesus

Christ in Nigeria. The group is inspired by the Holy Spirit who directs and comforts them during persecutions in the country. The body is mainly concerned with the welfare and solidarity of Christians in Nigeria. This religious group is committed to the spread of Christianity all over Nigeria. The group also focuses its attention on the promotion of Christian love and unity in the country. By their oneness in Jesus Christ, they have fulfilled the scriptures that say: “That they all may be one”.

For the above mentioned reasons, the constitution of the group defines it thus: Christian Association of Nigeria as an Association of Christian Churches with distinct identities, recognizable church structures and a system of worship of One God in the Trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The body makes Jesus Christ the centre of all its works and promotes the glory of God, by encouraging the growth and unity of the churches, and helping them to lead the nation and her people to partake of Christ’s salvation and all its fruits.

### **3.2 The Objectives of the Religious Group**

The constitution of the group states that the objectives of Christian Association of Nigeria shall include the following:

- (a) To serve as a basis of response to the unity of the Church, especially as contained in our Lord’s pastoral prayer: “That they may be One” (John 17:21).
- (b) To promote understanding, peace and unity among the various people and strata of society in Nigeria, through the propagation of the Gospel.
- (c) To act as a liaison committee, by means of which its member- Christian can consult together and when necessary, make common statement and take common actions.
- (d) To act as watch-man of the spiritual and moral welfare of the nation.

### **3.3 Membership of the Association**

Any church that has been registered under Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990 or previous legislations of the Federal Government of Nigeria but belong to one of the five church groups mentioned below is qualified to register as a member of the group.

- (1) Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CSN)
- (2) Christian council of Nigeria (CCN)
- (3) Christian Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (COFN) / Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN)
- (4) Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC), and
- (5) Tekan and Evangelical Church of West Africa (ECWA) Fellowship.

### **3.4 The Organs of the Association**

The organs of the Christian Association of Nigeria are made up the following bodies.

- (1) The National Assembly
- (2) The National Executive Committee
- (3) The President – in – Council

- (4) Zonal Assembly
- (5) Zonal Executive
- (6) The State Assembly
- (7) The State Executive Committee
- (8) The Local Government Executive Committee.

The National Assembly is the highest policy making body of the Association in Nigeria. It comprises the following representatives:

- (1) Catholic Secretariat has 50 delegates
- (2) Christian council of Nigeria has 50 delegates
- (3) Christian Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria / Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria have 50 delegates
- (4) Organization of African Instituted Churches has 50 delegates
- (5) Tekan and Evangelical church of West Africa, Nigeria, Fellowship has 50 delegates
- (6) 1 representative from each State Branch of CAN and FCT CAN has 37 delegates
- (7) The National Officers of the Association has 10 delegates
- (8) Past Presidents and General Secretaries of the Association are honorary members
- (9) The National Chairman and Secretary of the Youth Wing of CAN and Women Wing CAN have 4 delegates.

### **3.5 The Major Directors of the Association**

The function of the major Directors of the Association is very important, therefore, you need to know them.

#### **(1) DIRECTOR OF ECUMENISM AND INTER-FAITH**

- (a) Director of Ecumenism and Inter-faith is in charge of all the ecumenical activities involving all the different church groups of the Association.
- (b) The body promotes ecumenical harmony and understanding among the various blocks and denominations of the Association.
- (c) It also mediates in all conflicts and misunderstanding that involve members' blocs and denominations.
- (d) The responsibility of the Director also includes that of making sure that member-blocs maintains and promotes the historic Christian faith and morals.

#### **(2) THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

- (i) The Director of Legal and Public Affairs takes up all legal matters concerning the Association.
- (ii) He draws up, vets and legally advice on all contractual documents, literature, paper and publication meant for the public.
- (iii) The Director gives publicly to the existence, affairs and activities of the Association and act as its Public Relation Officer.

(iv) He produces, promotes and publicizes all the publications of the Association.

### **(3) DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL ISSUES AND SOCIAL WELFARE**

- (a) The Director of National Issues and Social Welfare is in charge of the National Issues including moral, social, economic and political welfare of the nation.
- (b) He is in charge of the welfare of the members of the Association
- (c) He articulates plans, formulates, and carries out broad and benefiting welfare programme of the Association.

### **(4) DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, YOUTH AND WOMEN DEVELOPMENT**

- (a) This Director is in charge of education, youth and women development in the nation.
- (b) He plans for a well balanced Christian Education that protects the morality of Nigeria.

### **(5) DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, RESEARCH AND STRATEGY**

- (a) He is in charge of planning, research and strategic activities of the Association.
- (b) The Director maintains a data and information bank of every necessary plan and activity.
- (c) He is in charge of surveillance and intelligence.

## **3.6 The Achievements of the Group in Nigeria**

The achievements of the Christian Association of Nigeria religious group are:

- (1) The Christian Association of Nigeria urged other church groups to support the Ogoni council of churches to strengthen its ministry in the Ogoni land during crises in the land.
- (2) The Association made a public statement to release the 19 Ogoni people that were held by the Federal Government during crises in the land.
- (3) The group revived its activities in the field of peace, justice and development in Nigeria. The Association also works with existing human rights training and civic education programmes in Nigeria.
- (4) The Christian Association encourages other religious groups by convening workshops in Nigeria on the church role in every society in Nigeria during crises.
- (5) The group encourages seminaries and theological colleges in Nigeria to develop joint social justice / ethics curricula with the assistance of international ecumenical bodies of the world.
- (6) During the period of the late Head of State, General Sani Abacha, the body urged the government to release the following people: 19 Ogoni detainees and all political detainees including late Moshood K.O. Abiola, late Shehu Musa Yar'Adua, Frank Ovie Kokori and President Olusegun Obasanjo.
- (7) The Christian Association of Nigeria also urged the Federal Government to withdraw all troops from Ogoni land and disband the Rivers State Internal

Security task Force in order to allow peace to reign in Nigeria (Excerpted from the Internet).

- (8) During Christian persecution in the Northern part of Nigeria, especially in Ilorin town, the group urged Christian organizations to come together in defence of the Christian faith in the Northern areas. This makes all churches in the areas united together as one body in Jesus Christ to defend their faith without fear.
- (9) The Association has brought churches to a greater understanding, tolerance and respect for one another in Nigeria.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

In this unit, you have learnt that it was the commandment of our Lord Jesus Christ that Christians should unite together. And one of the means for them to unite as a body is through the formation of The Christian Association of Nigeria. This group is also formed in order to protect their faith in Nigeria.

#### **5.0 SUMMARY**

The following is a summary of the major points in the unit:

The Christian Association of Nigeria is one body in Jesus Christ; the Association fosters in the propagation of the gospel in Nigeria; the group also protects and promoted church interests in the country; the Association serves as the watchdog of the spiritual and moral welfare of the Christian body in the country. Membership is open to the registered churches with the Federal government of Nigeria.

#### **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

Write out the achievements of the group.

#### **6.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT**

List the objectives of the Christian Association of Nigeria.

#### **7.0 REFERENCES/FURTHER READINGS**

The Most Reverend (Dr.) Peter Akinola D.O., CON, (204). President

Constitution of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) 17th June.

Adewumi, J.B. (1986). Brief Information of Ilorin City Branch of the Christian Association of Nigeria.

A.S. Oyalana (2005). Christian Witnessing in Nigeria Commn a Divided, Daystar Press, Ibadan December.

Excerpted from the Internet, The Church council of Nigeria meeting minutes.

Mr. Samuel O. Abegunde, aged 35 years, interviewed, Date: 3rd January, 207, Place: Ilorin. He is the Secretary of Ilorin City CAN, Nigeria.

Reverend Adeyemo, aged 55 years, interviewed, Date: 2nd January, 2007, Place: Ilorin. He is the Sub-Dean of saint Barnabas Cathedral Church, Sabo-Oke Ilorin Kwara State.

**UNIT 4 YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION****CONTENTS**

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Objectives

3.0 Main Content

3.1 A Brief History of the YMCA Group

4.0 Conclusion

5.0 Summary

6.0 Tutor-Marked Assignment

7.0 References/Further Readings.

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This unit deals with the Young Men's Christian Association (YCMA) that was founded in London, England on June 6, 1844 by George Williams. You will also learn about how Williams used the Association to solve some social problems that confronted some youths who worked in the industry daily but had to contend with pick-pocketers, thugs and drunkards in the night while they were supposed to be resting for the next day's work.

Williams therefore, formed the YMCA to impact morality on those youths who indulged in immorality in the camp of the industry workers in England.

In this unit, you will also learn about how the organisation became an International Organisation that now moulds the behavioural pattern of youths in the world.

**2.0 OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- State when the Association was founded and where it began.
- State the aims for founding the Association.

**3.0 MAIN CONTENT****3.1 A Brief History of the YMCA Group**

The Young Men's Christian Association was founded in London, England, on June 6, 1844 by George Williams in response to unhealthy social conditions arising in the big cities at the end of the Industrial Revolution around 1750 to 1850. Growth of the railroads and centralization of commerce and industry brought many rural young men



who needed jobs in the cities such as London to mention but one of them. These young men worked 10 to 12 hours a day, six days a week in London. The young men often lived at the workplace. They slept crowded into rooms over the company's ship, a location thought to be safer than London's tenements and streets. But outside the ship where these young men slept, there were pickpockets, thugs, drunkards lovers for hire and abandoned children running wild by the thousands.

In order to impact morality on the young men who behave immorally on the streets, George Williams and a group of fellow drapers organized the first YMCA to substitute Bible Study and prayer for life on such streets. The YMCA members comprise various churches, races and social classes in the Christendom all over the world. By 1851 there were 24 YMCAS in Great Britain, with a combined membership of 2,700. That same year the Youngmen Association arrived in North America. It was established in Montreal on November 25, and Boston on December 29 in 1851.

In 1853, the first YMCA for African-Americans was founded in Washington D.C. by Anthony Boren, a freed slave. The next year, the first International Convention was held in Paris. YMCAS are for all people of all faiths, ages and abilities. Their financial assistance policies ensure that no one is turned away for reasons of inability to pay probably evangelicals, such as Mr. E.P. Lang Charles Waddell, and Bingham introduced the YMCA in Nigeria around 1902. They took care of the less privileged people of Nupe Kingdom in Nigeria. They also cared for pupils, Sick, and poor people in Nigeria.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

Now that you have gone through this unit, you should be motivated to care for the less privileged people in your environment. The Youngmen Christian Association members through their selfless and sacrificed living bequeathed to your generation, the history of selfless service to mankind in the world. Therefore, your life must have positive impact on other people that will lead them to God and worship both in spirit and truth.

#### **5.0 SUMMARY**

The main points in this unit are as follows:

- (1) The Youngmen's Christian Association was founded in London England on June 6, 1841 by George Williams.
- (2) The Association took care of the less privileged people physically and spiritually in England, America and Africa.
- (3) Membership is made up of male and female, young and old people in the Christendom.
- (4) Volunteers lead the Youngmen's Christian Association in various countries in the world.
- (5) The Association work with primary schools, middle schools, high schools, hospitals and churches in various countries to impact the Word of God on Adults and Youths. They also aid them with material things in time of needs.

**SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

State the aims of the Young men's Association in Nigeria.

**6.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT**

Discuss the life and achievement of George Williams?

**7.0 REFERENCES/FURTHER READINGS**

Tommie Titcombe (1971) trend upon the Lion, Canada Ontario, Sudan Interior Mission, Sheppard E, Agincort.

Moody and Mott, Frequently asked Questions about the YMCA, extracted from the Internet on April 10, 2007.

Play the YMCA, Trivia Game.

Highlights and Accomplishments of the YMCA Movement, extracted from the Internet on April 10, 2007.

The American Way – YMCAS' influence on society, extracted from the Internet on April 10, 2007.

Ed Rose and Abe Olman (1918) Keming of YMCA, extracted from the Internet on April 10, 2007.

**UNIT 5 YOUNG WOMEN CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION (YWCA)****CONTENTS**

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Objectives

3.0 Main Content

3.1 Young Women Christian Association

4.0 Conclusion

5.0 Summary

6.0 Tutor-Marked Assignment

7.0 References/Further Readings

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This unit enables you to understand the roles of the Young Women Christian Association in the Christendom.

**2.0 OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the study of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the roles of Christian women in the Christendom.

**3.0 MAIN CONTENT****3.1 Young Women Christian Association**

The Young women Christian Association is the oldest and largest multicultural women's organization in the world. Across the globe, there are more than 25 million members in 122 countries, Nigeria inclusive. The mission of the Association is to eliminate racism and empower women in the Christendom. The Young Women Association world-wide provides safe places for women and girls, build strong women readers and advocate for women's right and civil rights in congress. In times of crisis, the Association cares for women who go to them for refuge. The Association also provides job opportunities, train and counsel women.

The body also teach married women about childcare. The Association also renders health and fitness assistance to women in the Christendom. Besides, the Young women Association is a means for women to renew their spirit and obtain new skills for their various jobs. The Association also encourages women to have stronger lives as they teach the Word of God to their members.

**4.0 CONCLUSION**

Without any controversy you have discovered for yourself the roles of the Young Women Christian Association in the world. The leaders were women of great intellect who knew what to do and they performed well by leading other women in spiritual aspects of lives in the Christendom. They trained other women to obtain skills in their works. The Association members are united in Jesus Christ. They are engaged in charity work in the world.

## **5.0 SUMMARY**

If you have gone through this unit conscientiously, you should be aware of the following points:

- (1) The Young Women Association is the oldest and largest multicultural women association in the world.
- (2) The mission of the Association is to eliminate racism and empower women in the world.
- (3) The association provides safe places for women and girls.
- (4) The Association build strong women leaders in the world.
- (5) The Young Women Christian Association advocate for women's right and civil rights in congress.

## **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

List some of the roles being played by the Young women Christian Association World-Wide.

## **6.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT**

Comment on the roles of Young Women Christian Association World-Wide

## **7.0 REFERENCES/FURTHER READINGS**

Mrs Hannah Haruna, aged 65 years interviewed: date: 7-5-2004, Place: Okene.

A.S. Oyalana aged, 70 years, interviewed, date: 3-3-2007. Place: Ibadan.

.Excerpts from the internet on April 12, 2007.

## **MODULE 2            Major Religious Groups in Islam**

Unit 1 Muslim Students Society of Nigeria

Unit 2 Izālah

Unit 3 Tijaniyyah Movement

Unit 4 Ansar-Ud-Deen Society of Nigeria

Unit 5 Ahamadiyya Muslim Jama'at Movement Nigeria

### **UNIT 1 THE MUSLIM STUDENTS' SOCIETY OF NIGERIA**

#### **CONTENTS**

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Objectives

3.0 Main Content

3.1 The Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria

3.2 The Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria Organizational

3.3 Board of Trustees (BOT)

3.4 The National Offices of the Society

3.5 Unity among Members of the Society

4.0 Conclusion

5.0 Summary

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment

7.0 References/Further Readings

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This unit will introduce you to the aims and objectives of the Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria.

#### **2.0 OBJECTIVES**

At the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- Explain the aims and objectives of the society.
- Describe the unity that existed in the Muslim Students' Society.

### **3.0 MAIN CONTENT**

#### **3.1 The Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria**

The Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria comprises students of Secondary Schools and the Tertiary Institutions Learners in Nigeria who are Muslims. In each of the institution programmes and activities of the society are designed and implemented to achieve the objectives of the union. The aims and objectives of the society contained in the constitution of the organization are as follows:

- To bring all Muslims in closer union and inculcate in them the true Islamic spirit of brotherhood and accept Allah as the only basis for the achievement of peace among mankind.
- To establish an Islamic Ummah governed by the principles and rules of SHAR'IAH.
- To encourage the study of the Glorious Quran as a Holy Book and Arabic language as the lingual Franca in the world. - To promote the general welfare of Muslims and safeguard their fundamental rights in any community.
- To constitute a strong force for the propagation and strengthening of Islam in Nigeria and throughout the world.
- To champion the cause of the oppressed in any community.

#### **3.2 The Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria Organizational Structure**

The Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria Organizational Structure has five levels. The first level which is the highest one is the Headquarters that is located at the National Mosques at Abuja. It has the national Amir (President). The president is rotated every year between the two zones.

The second level is the two co-ordinating zones. A zone comprising of the three geo-political zones in the Northern part of the country (East, North Central, and North West), and B zone made up of the three geopolitical zones of South West, South East and South South. The Muslim Students' Society zonal structure is independent and indeed predated the geo-political arrangement of the country.

The third level has Area units. Area Units are defined around the various States of Nigeria. Each Area Unit has Area Council. The fourth level is the branches where individual members are identify substantial membership of the society. The individual comes from various school/higher institutions branches.

The fifth level is some working class members who have passed out from schools and higher institutions but organized themselves as members of the society.

#### **3.3 Board of Trustees (BOT)**

At the apex of Muslims Students' Society of Nigeria Organizational Structure is the Board of Trustees. It comprises of eminent Muslim personalities. Apart from their functions as advisories, Muslim Students'

Society members benefits from their wealth of experience and goodwill. The Board of Trustees comprise of the following:

National Executive Council The day-to-day administration of the society is carried out by the National Officers under the leadership of National Amir (President), zonal co-ordinators and Area Unit chairmen, the National constitute of the National Executive Council who meet regularly to direct the organization. The National conference body is the highest decision making of the society.

### **3.4 The National Offices of the Society**

The following are National Offices of Muslim Students Society of Nigeria.

- National Amir (President)
- Naibul-Amir (National) zonal Amir (2)
- Naibul-Amir (International)
- Secretary-General
- Assistant Secretary-General (Administration)
- Assistant Secretary-General (Scholarship)
- IVC Organizer/National Islamic Affairs Officers / Zonal NaibulAmir
- Financial Secretary / Treasure
- Public Relations Officer
- Assistant Public Relations Office
- Auditor
- Assets Maintenance officer
- Chairman, Business Committee

(Extracted from MSSN ONLINE.ORG dated 4/30/2007).

### **3.5 Unity among Members of the Society**

Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria is united in (God) Allah. They teach members the teachings of prophets Muhammad. They believed that Allah revealed the Quran to the Prophet Muhammad and that Muhammad is God'' final prophet. These they teach to members.

Members of the society encourage themselves to observe the five pillars of Islam, which unite Muslim Students' Society into Muslim community in Nigeria.

The Society has encouraged Islam adherents in Nigeria to promote Islamic Law (Shariah, that is a tradition of rulings that touch on virtually all aspects of life and society in the country.

The body has encouraged its members to belief in Angels. Belief in Angels is central to the religion of Islam, because according to tradition the Quran was dictated to Muhammad by the Chief of all angels, Gabriel. Members of the society see them as the ministers of God and in some cases the agents of revelation.

Muslim Students' Society also teaches their members to belief in the "Day of Resurrection" also known as "Day of Judgement" or "The Last Hour". They teach that resurrection will be followed by the gathering of all mankind, Muslim and non-Muslim, culminating in their judgment by God.

Muslim Students' Society also teaches their members that God has full knowledge and decree over all that occurs in the Universe. This is explained by Quranic verses such as "Say: Nothing will happen to us except what Allah has decreed for us. He is our Protector. Members of the Society believe that nothing in the world can happen, good or evil, unless it has been preordained and permitted by God. They also teach Muslims that although God has decreed all things, the evils and calamities, yet they could be seen as trials or they may lead to a later benefit not yet apparent due to mankind's lack of comprehension.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

In this unit, you have learnt the aims and objectives of the Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria. You have also learnt the Organizational Structure of the Society, Unity of the body in Allah and their belief and teachings.

#### **5.0 SUMMARY**

The following is a summary of the major points in the unit:

- Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria comprises learners from schools, and higher institutions in Nigeria.
- The Society comprises of five levels of Organizational Structure in Nigeria.
- The Headquarters of the Society is located at Abuja and it is headed by Amir (President of the organization).

The Society has encouraged Islam adherents in Nigeria to promote Islamic Law (Shariah, that is a tradition of rulings that touch on virtually all aspects of life and society in the country.



The body has encouraged its members to belief in Angels. Belief in Angels is central to the religion of Islam, because according to tradition the Quran was dictated to Muhammad by the Chief of all angels, Gabriel. Members of the society see them as the ministers of God and in some cases the agents of revelation.

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In this unit, you have learnt the aims and objectives of the Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria. You have also learnt the Organizational Structure of the Society, Unity of the body in Allah and their belief and teachings.

#### **5.0 SUMMARY**

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- Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria comprises learners from schools, and higher institutions in Nigeria.
- The Society comprises of five levels of Organizational Structure in Nigeria.
- The Headquarters of the Society is located at Abuja and it is headed by Amir (President of the organization).

**UNIT 2      IZĀLAH MOVEMENT****CONTENTS**

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Objectives

3.0 Main Content

3.1 Izālah Movement

3.2 The Composition of the Membership of the Movement

3.3 Organizational Structure of Izālah Militants

3.4 The Duties of Izālah Militants in Nigeria

3.5 Methods used by Izālah Movement to achieve its goal in Nigeria.

4.0 Conclusion

5.0 Summary

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment

7.0 Reference and Further Reading

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

In this Unit, you will be introduced to Izālah Movement.

**2.0 OBJECTIVES**

After this unit, you should be able to:

- Narrate the origin of the movement
- Identify the contribution of the movement towards the spread of Islam in Nigeria.
- State the objectives of Izālah Movement.

**3.0 MAIN CONTENT****3.1 Izālah Movement**

Izālah Movement originated from the teachings, preaching and writings of Shaykh Gumi. It is known as Izalatu'l-Bid'ah Wa Iqamati's-Sunnah. The aim of the adherents of Izālah Movement is to propagate Islam in its pristine purity as contained in the Quran and the hadith. Besides, the adherents were out to wage war against all forms of ignorance and evil innovations in Islam

**3.2 The Composition of the Membership of the Movement**

The composition of the membership of the Izālah Movement is mostly youths who are learned in both Western and Islamic education. This can be one of the factors why they are militant and fanatical in their reformation approach. They use to arm themselves with sound knowledge of Quran, Sunnah of the Prophets, Principles and teachings of Islam. The members of the Movement usually preach in towns, villages, inside and outside mosque. They also travel from one place to another and establish branches in virtually all-big toms and villages in the Northern Nigeria. They sell recorded cassettes that contain their teachings at give away prices. The Izālah also resolved to force all members of either Qadriyyah or the Tijaniyyah to renounce their Tariqah affiliation.

### **3.3 Organizational Structure of Izālah Militants**

The Izālah Movement comprises of many Councils or Committees. Each Council has its own committees, sub-committee in which each member of the committee is charged with specific duties and functions.

### **3.4 The Duties of Izālah Militants in Nigeria**

- (1) The duty of Izālah adherents is to return the adherents of Islam (the Muslims) to the Quran and authentic traditions of Prophet Muhammad and understanding the two on the guiding principles of the companions (May Allah be pleased with them) in the area of creed, worships and interpersonal relationship in all aspects of life.
- (2) To educate the Muslims about their true religion and invite them to practice its teachings and uphold its rules and regulations, inculcate its virtues and etiquettes which will ensure their success and glory.
- (3) To warn Muslims against associating partners with Allah in all its different forms and against innovations and external ideologies which cause anxiety in the minds of Muslim youths, most especially ideological thoughts of communism, socialism and atheism.
- (4) To unite the Muslims under one doctrine or ideology and single noble path in order to facilitate the establishment of a single community (of Muslims) under common teachings and one leader.
- (5) To purify Islamic Society from associating partners with Allah, innovations and superstitions, shameless and promiscuous conducts, (in order) to create a clean environment for the upbringing of Muslim generations.
- (6) To establish a spiritual minded Muslim (morally and intellectually) monotheistic in faith, far away from associating partners with Allah and from tribalism and evil superstitious.
- (7) To clear the Islamic World from evil machinations of enemies of Islam who wage wars on Islamic towns and causes divisions among Islamic Communities in order to make the Muslims losses their single community and glorious nations.

(8) To caution Muslim Community from sectarianism, partisanship, rejected and falsified traditions of the Prophet, which disfigure the beauty of Islam and debar the progress of the Muslims

(9) To purify and educate adherents of Islam.

(10) To work towards restoration of ideal Islamic life, establishment of ideal Islamic Society and implementation of Allah's rule on the earth.

### **3.5 Methods Used by Izālah Movement**

There are ten methods adopted by this organization to realize the above stated duties. These are as follows:

(1) Establishment of Quranic Schools for children both males and females where preference is to be given to the science of recitation of the Holy Quran and Islamic jurisprudence over any other subject.

(2) Establishment of Da'wah Training Schools for Preachers, propagators, Instructors and Teachers of the religion.

(3) Establishment of Islamic Training Centres in many towns and cities.

(4) Organization of Training Circles for the old and adult Muslims both male and females in the Mosques.

(5) Establishment of Schools for the married and single Muslim ladies, because they believe that women share equal rights with men in Islamic education.

(6) Establishment of Orphanage Centres in some States in Nigeria to care for the orphans

(7) Establishment of Hospitals, Clinics, Maternities and Dispensaries in Nigeria.

(8) Caring for the newly converted Islam adherents in Nigeria.

(9) Setting up of Vocational Centers for able bodied Muslims who are jobless in the country.

(10) Giving free educational scholarship to deserving students who lack financial means.

### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

Izālah Militant was founded by Shaykh Gumi. The emergence of the Movement in Nigeria introduced a new dimension to the Islamic religion scene in the country.

### **5.0 SUMMARY**

In this unit, you have understood the following facts:

- Izālah Militants originated from the teachings, preaching, and writings of Shaykh Gumi. The aim of the Movement is to propagate Islam as it contained in the Quran and the traditions of the Prophet
- The movement aims at educating the adherents of Islam about their true religion and invites them to practice its teachings and uphold its rules and regulations, inculcate its virtues and etiquettes which will ensure their success and glory.
- The Body is out to warn Muslims against associating partners with Allah in Nigeria.
- The Movement also united the Muslim under one doctrine or ideology in order to facilitate the establishment of a single community in the country.
- The Militant is founded to clear the Islamic world from evil and kick against enemies of Islam who cause division among Muslims in Nigeria.
- The Movement has established institutions such as schools, hospitals, clinics and maternities to promote its doctrine, practices and faith in Nigeria.

### **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

State the benefits for members Izālah Movement in Nigeria.

### **6.0 TUTOR- MARKED ASSIGNMENT**

State the duties of Izālah Movement in Nigeria.

### **7.0 REFERENCES/FURTHER READINGS**

Y.A. Qudari, (1986) the Tijaniyyah in Nigeria, Ph.D. Thesis.

Azees Olabiyi, The Izala and Dawa Activities in Nigeria 1973 – 1996.

Seminar Paper

A.F. Ahmed, Interviewed, Dated 7/5/2007 place Lagos.

**UNIT 3      TIJANIYYAH MOVEMENT****CONTENTS**

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Objectives

3.0 Main Content

3.1 Tijaniyyah

3.2 The Visitation of Ahmad Al-Tijani to Mecca

3.3 The Spread of Tijaniyyah (1840 – 1850)

3.4 The Departure of Alami from kano in 1926

4.0 Conclusion

5.0 Summary

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment

7.0 References/Further Readings

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

In this unit, you will be introduced to Tijaniyyah Movement in Nigeria.

**2.0 OBJECTIVES**

It is expected that by the time you finish studying this unit, you should be able to:

- Define Tijaniyyah Movement
- Identify the Source of the Movement

**3.0 MAIN CONTENT****3.1 Tijaniyyah**

C.W. Michie in his work “Islamic Brotherhoods in Nigeria” named Ahmad al-Tijani as the founder of the Tijaniyyah Movement in Nigeria. He made Kano and Borno Centres for the movement. Michie further said that Ahmad al-Tijani made his converts within the circle of the ruling class in the Northern Nigeria. Shaykh ‘Umar Sa’id al-Fútí initiated the spread of the movement in the Northern Nigeria.

**3.2 The Visitation of Ahmad Al-Tijani to Mecca**

Ahmad al-Tijani was appointed Khalifah of the Tijaniyyah in Mecca for the Western Sudan by Muhammad `Umar Khalifah al-Ghali, Wakil of the Tijaniyyah in Mecca. When he returned from Mecca, he made Sokoto his headquarters for the Movement. There he stayed for eight years (14830 – 1838) and sought for proselytes for his new order. He made converts at Kukawa in Borno. The converts were Shuwa Arabs.

Umar was one of his disciples. At Zaria, Umar did establish a Zawiyah for the movement. AT Zaria, tijaniyyah Movement was accepted by the heads of the Mallawa, one of the four ruling Fulani clans in Zaria. He also made converts in Hausa Wards in Zaria.

### **3.3 The Spread of Tijaniyyah (1840 – 1850)**

Tijaniyyah Movemnt spread widely in the late 1840s and 1850 in Gwabda, Kano, and Zaria. In Gwandu, Muhammad Raji B. Ali who was the deputy to Emir Khalilu accepted the movements. In 1850 he embarked on the spread of the movements to other parts of the kingdom. Muhammad was accompanied by the following scholars Sa`db Muhammad Amin, `Umar B. Ahmad to spread the new movement. The Tijaniyyah defeated 10,000 Tokolor bands during the reign of Abd alRahman of Sokoto (1891 – 1902) in Nigeria. In 1923, Shaykh `Alami, a Maghrib Mallam, paid a visit to Kano and he was welcomed by the Tijaniyyah and had a group worship together. There they were united together. More people were trained as Tijaniyyah followers in Kano and other parts of Hausaland for the Spread of the movement in Nigeria. In 1923, the society built the first Tijaniyyah Sawiyah in Kano in the Kawarin Maguga area of Koki ward. The brotherhood spread in Kano and its surrounding areas and many people embraced it.

### **3.4 The Departure of Alami from Kano in 1926**

In 1926 Alami left Kano to Marrakish to continue the spread of the Tijaniyyah Movement in Nigeria. He trained pupils and novices for the spread of Tijaniyyah. He died in 1938. Another significant episode in the spread of Tijaniyyah in Northeren Nigeria was the conversion tour conducted by Shaykh b`Umar, a direct descendant of Shaykh Ahmad al-Tijani who later became the Imam of the Tijaniyyah Zawaiyah at Ayn Madin in Algeria. Between 1948 and 1949 Ben `Umar spread the movement in Northern Nigeria by visiting the following towns: Kano, Kaduna, Zaria, Katsina, Gusau and Adamawa. He made several converts in the named towns for the movement. The emergence of the late Shaykh Ibrahim Mias and his dynamic leadership also contributed greatly to the spread of the Tijaniyyah in Nigeria.

## **4.0 CONCLUSION**

The founder of Tijaniyyah Movement was Ahmad al-Tijani in Nigeria. He established centres for the movement in Kano, Borno, Zaria. He trained many scholars to spread the movement in the Northern Nigeria.

## **5.0 SUMMARY**

Tijaniyyah Movement began with Ahmad al-Tijani in Nigeria he used Emirates as the Headquarters for the conversion of his followers. He died in 1938. However, his followers have taken over the movement since his death. The spread of the group seems to be rapid in the Northern parts of Nigeria than other parts of the country.

### **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

Discuss the Tijaniyyah Movement in Nigeria.

### **6.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT**

Account for the spread of Tijaniyyah in Nigeria.

### **7.0 REFERENCES/FURTHER READINGS**

Abun-Nasr J.M., *The Tijaniyyah: A Suti Order in the Modern World*, London Oxford University Press, 1965.

Adisa Y.A. *Life of Shaykh Ibrahim Niars long easy*, Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Ibandan, 1978 p.61, Padem.

Muqaddam Ali Jabata and Al-hajj Múrs Hakim, both of Ilorin use their houses as Zawayah for the Tijaniyyah rites.

Ahmed A.F. Interviewed Place: Lagos Dated 8-5-2007.



**UNIT 4      ANSAR-UD-DEEN SOCIETY OF NIGERIA****CONTENTS**

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Objectives

3.0 Main Content

3.1 The History of Ansar-Ud-Deen Movement in Nigeria

3.2 The Objectives of the Movement

4.0 Conclusion

5.0 Summary

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment

7.0 References/Further Readings

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

In this unit, you will be introduced to Ansar-Ud-Deen Society of Nigeria.

**2.0 OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this study, you should be able to:

- State the roles of Ansar-Ud-Deen movement in Nigeria.
- List the achievements of the Movement in Nigeria.

**3.0 MAIN CONTENT****3.1 The History of Ansar-Ud-Deen Movement in Nigeria**

Ansar-Ud-Deen Movement of Nigeria was founded on 21st December, 1923 in Lagos. The founding fathers were 42 devoted Young Nigerian Muslims. The movement was first named “Young Ansar-Ud-Deen Society and later renamed Ansar-Ud-Deen Society of Nigeria. It has branches in the old western Region of Nigeria (Now Ogun, Oyo, Osun, Ondo, Edo, and Delta States). The Society has over 500 branches in major towns and villages in Nigeria. Each branch has mosque and educational institutions that are named “Ansar-Ud-Deen Society”.

**3.2 The Objectives of the Movement**

The Movement is out to spread Islam religion in Nigeria through the following means:

- Assisting the sick financially to recover from illness. Assisting the depressed financially in order to improve economically.

- Taking care of orphans by paying visits to the motherless homes and thereby presenting foods and money for them.
- The Movement also presents gifts in cash and kind to disabled people.
- The Movement also propagated the religion of Islam through Radio and Television.
- The Movement also established schools and colleges for training the children of Muslims.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

Ansar-Ud-Deen Movement of Nigeria was founded on 21st December 1923 in Lagos. It has branches mainly in the Western parts of Nigeria. The Movement promotes Islam, Education and Social Welfare of its adherent.

#### **5.0 SUMMARY**

The aim of founding Ansar-Ud-Deen Movement in Nigeria is to enlighten the adherents of Islam in Nigeria. The Movement also built hospitals to care for the sick among the adherents of Islam. Also it provides schools and colleges to educate the children of the Movement in Nigeria. In addition to the above mentioned institutions that the movement provides for, it also care for the orphans.

#### **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

State the achievements of Ansar-Ud-Deen in Nigeria.

#### **6.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT**

Describe the functions of the Ansar-Ud-Deen group in Nigeria.

#### **7.0 REFERENCES/FURTHER READINGS**

Sulaiman O. Totoola, A Short Biography of Ansar-Ud-Deen Society of Nigeria, Ibadan Brach in the AR-RISALLAH

COMMUNICATIONS pp.30-31

Islamic is our pride, Numaray International Nig. Ltd. Rashed Adesokan, Ibadan.

**UNIT 5 AHAMADIYYA MUSLIM JAMA'AT MOVEMENT, NIGERIA****CONTENTS**

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Objectives

3.0 Main Content

3.1 The History of Ahamadiyya Muslim Jama'at Movement

3.2 Teaching on Leadership by the Group

3.3 Achievements of Jama'at in Nigeria

4.0 Conclusion

5.0 Summary

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment

7.0 References/Further Readings

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This is one of the most important units you will study to gain insight into a divine worldwide organization of Islam.

**2.0 OBJECTIVES**

It is expected that by the time you finish studying this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the achievements of the organization in Nigeria
- State the beliefs of the movement.

**3.0 MAIN CONTENT****3.1 The History of Ahamadiyya Muslim Jamaat Movement Nigeria**

Ahmadiyya Muslim Jammat Movement is a worldwide organization founded on March 23rd 1889 by Hazrat Mirza Gihulam Ahmad (A.S.). It was founded to fulfill the prophecy of the Holy prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) regarding the advent of a promised Messiah and Mahdi, for the purposes of reforming the adulterated practice of Islam then in vogue and restoring of true religion (Islam) and true Gracious Supreme Lord of all creation (Maa Salam 2006 p.32) The Movement has spread to over one hundred and seventy countries. However, Ahamadiyya Muslim Jama'at gained its footing in Nigeria in 1916 at Lagos. Since the year the Movement was founded in Nigeria, it engages in championing the cause of Islam in Nigeria. The

Movement also engages in humanitarian activities in Nigeria. The Movement is established in almost all parts of Nigeria.

### **3.2 The Messages of the Movement**

The message of the group is the practical form of the Ten Commandments of God through Moses (ASW) and the two fundamental laws spelt out by Jesus Christ as universal declaration of God that the Almighty Allah is one, sublime and Holy unto whom mankind must totally submit in thoughts, acts and deeds and worship. The other one is love thy neighbour as thyself, which represents our activities and sustenance essence in life. All these are the theories which need to be translated into physical forms of the five pillars of Islam:

- (1) Oneness of God and His Holiness.
- (2) Observance of five times daily prayer solat to worship Allah.
- (3) Zarat: Obligation for the empowerment needs of neighbour.
- (4) Observance of Ramadan fast for soul purification and spiritual rejuvenation.
- (5) Going on holy pilgrimage to Mecca for verification of the authenticity of the Holy Quran and reaffirmation of the need to be upright Muslims for true Islam practice. (Maa Salam 2006 p.33)

### **3.3 Teachings on Leadership by the Group**

The group believes that all adherents of the Movement are leaders in their rights and jurisdictions. However, they are answerable and accountable to Allah. The Movement teaches that in every facet of human system (i.e. Family, unit, company, village and government) there must be leaders and followers set for task accomplishment to satisfy people expectation. (Maa Salam 2006 p.33). Furthermore, the Group teaches the following on two kinds of leaders:

- Good leaders and good followers have excellent system running.
- Good leader and bad followers have experience drags in development.
- Bad leader and good followers retard system progress.
- Bad leader and bad followers throw the system in chaos.
- Good leader must possess the right credentials relevant to the job hand for credibility. He must be transparent and honest in his deal and he must be tolerant of his subordinates.
- The leader must be able to commend and further motivate the committed class of workers. He must be sensitized and motivated the indifferent class. He must be able to tame the wilderness of the opposition class to identify themselves with the system development. The Holy Prophet is an epitome of focus, dedication, truth, transparency, honesty, perseverance, tolerance, good character and good leadership and wholesome spirituality with untruncated divine alignment with his Creator. (Maa Salam 2006 p.34).

### 3.4 Achievements of Jama'at in Nigeria

The movement is the first Champion Muslim Educationists to establish primary school in 1922 in Nigeria. Presently the movement has established primary and post primary schools in almost every state in Nigeria. Jama'at Society has established Madrasatul Tahizul Quran whereby Quran memorizations are taught to students. Students or pupils are also trained to commit the whole Quran to memory. Besides, the Society has also established Jama'at Missionaries whom it trained and turned out on yearly basis.

Jama'at Movement has established Health Centres, hospitals and clinics in many towns in almost all the states in Nigeria. The Society is also engage in humanitarian services, such as presenting materials and fiancé to prisoners, motherless children and patients in hospitals. Jama'at Movement also engage in religious dialogues by making useful and commendable representations to panels/committees that are set up by the Government to promote religious tolerance in Nigeria. To further strengthen its missionary's activities, the Jama'at has embarked on Muslim television transmitting in Nigeria to promote the preaching of the Quran and the spreading of its faith in the country. The Jama'at Society has also embarked on the translation of Holy Quran into main languages of Nigeria.

### 4.0 CONCLUSION

Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Movement was established in Nigeria in 1916 at Lagos. It has spread to almost every state in Nigeria. The Movement promotes Islam in the country by embarking on programmes such as education, preaching, Transmitting of Muslim programmes in the Television and rendering humanitarian services for the sick and the needy.

### 5.0 SUMMARY

- Jama'at Movement believes in oneness of God and His Holiness observance of five time daily prayer solat to worship Allah,
- Zakat: - Obligation for the empowerment needs of neighbours,
- Observance of Ramadan fast for soul purification and spiritual rejuvenation,
- Going on pilgrimage to Mecca.

The movement also believes that all adherents are leaders in their rights and jurisdictions. Jama'at adherents teach that in every facet of human systems, there must be leaders and followers set for task accomplishment to satisfy people's expectation.

### SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

State the teachings of Ahamadiyya Muslim Jama'at in Nigeria.

### 6.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT

State the achievements of the Jama'at Movement in Nigeria.

**7.0 REFERENCES/FURTHER READING**

Ahamadiyya Muslim Jama'at Nigeria, A brief History of Ahmadiyya Muslim in Nigeria in the Ar-Risallah Islamic Communication (Nig) Ltd., Oyo State Muslims Merit award, 2005/2006, pp.32 – 33, Extracted from Internet 6/5/2007.

Olagoke S.A. Leadership and Peoples' expectation in the Ar-Risallah Communications Islamic is our pride P.33.

A.F. Ahmad, Private Interview at Lagos, dated 8/5/2007.

**MODULE 3            Traditional/Oriental Religious Groups**

Unit 1 Orunmilia

Unit 2 Secret Societies i.e. (Egungun Group)

Unit 3 Eckankar Group

Unit 4 The Hare Krishna Movement and Bahai Movements

Unit 5: The Brotherhood of the Cross and Star or Olumba Olumba Obu Movement.

**UNIT 1 ORUNMILIA****CONTENTS**

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Objectives

3.0 Main Content

3.1 The Meaning of Ifa

3.2 The Role of Ifa

3.3 The Creed of Orunmilaism

4.0 Conclusion

5.0 Summary

6.0 Tutor-Marked Assignment

7.0 References/Further Readings

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This unit will introduce you to the meaning of Ifa. It will discuss the role of Ifa to mankind. This unit is very important because it sets the pace for other subsequent units of this course. Therefore the specific objectives and outline below are what you should expect to learn from this unit.

**2.0 OBJECTIVES**

At the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- Explain the origin of Ifa
- Analyse the roles of Ifa to mankind.

### **3.0 MAIN CONTENT**

#### **3.1 The Meaning of Ifa**

Ifa could be said to be the religion or divinity brought into the Cosmos by Orunmila. Ayo Salami says Ifa is the custodian of the deity, moral, economic, language, origin and metaphysical orders of the Yoruba culture, and of its believers throughout the world. The basics involve the priest or the mediator called Babalawo. Babalawo is the elder in the priesthood order who is consulted by clients for solutions to life's numerous problems. Ekundayo also mentioned that Ifa is an ancient monument where the culture of the Yoruba people is encapsulated enthroned and entombed.

It is much more than Geomancy in that it is not only divinatory. It also embodies the Beliefs, Religion, History, Sociology and Ecology of the people. It therefore diagnoses, treats, adjudicates, arbitrates, guides, advises, instructs, teaches, explains as well attempts to unravel the mystery of existence in this world.

#### **3.2 The Roles of Ifa**

Ifa is an instrument of information, attached to that which is asked of him. He is the solicitude of the Creator for his creation. Ifa is the Creator, knowledge and destiny of the laws imposed for the resolution of the divine powers of the tri-monogenic universal law, which are Olorun, Eleda, and Olodumare, the ones who by mutual agreement created in concert its perfect work that is the creation of the universe. Within this vast interstellar space with its perfect work and supreme architecture, is the planet that is called earth. It is a given that the perfect creation does not have errors to measure that they were making the mysterious transformation. This began the birth of IFA. That was his creation, his laws his destiny and finally a conjunction of historical knowledge and a foundation of these deities, which in turn began the scientific work of creating what he call nature, a compendium of all that which breathes, moves, feels, grows, animals and vegetables or minerals. That is Ifa. Ifa is the mysterious work of the deities. Where each time that they "touched" or created something, it was written or recorded in the mysterious diary of the deities.

Albert Surgy says Ifa is the unified assembly of all the dead initiates separated from their descendants by a great number of generations, speaking with one voice. They have acquired the greatest detachment vis-à-vis from this world and consequently the capacity to watch the general interest of their group. (Excerpted from Kekere Awo Ifayemi Internet 13/4/2007).

Ifa is the Divine Message of Olodumare (Almighty) to mankind. Ifa is the word of Olodumare. Ifa transcends all the cultures and traditions of all things – man, animals, plants, rocks, water, wind and fire. Ifa explains the basis for the existence of things past, present and future. Ifa prescribes the spiritual / physical solutions to all problems. Ifa is the first, oldest and truest religion of mankind. Orunmila, harbinger of divine message of Olodumare. (Ifa, is thus the first and truest guardian of Universal secrets of existence. Orunmila, in all things spiritual and esoteric is the deputy of Olodumare.



All Orisa worship and veneration are acceptable, provided they are subservient to the worship of Olodumare as outlined by Ifa religion. No guidelines or signposts to salvation can lead to the path of divine truth except that outlined by Orunmila.

### **3.3 The Creed of Orunmilaism**

Ifayemi says, Orunmilaism believes in God. Orunmilaism believes in the greatness and the Almightyness of God. It believes in the descending of God into the world as Orunmila. Orunmilaism worships Orisa. Orunmila sets down doctrines and precepts for mankind. It believes in the creative force of God in the creation of the world and mankind and in Him as Orunmila witnessing Himself. It believes in Godliness and good deeds. It believes in sacrifice and propitiation. It believes in the eternity of the soul. It believes the soul is accountable to God for its deeds. It believes the flesh will receive blessing or punishments here on earth for all deeds. It believes in honour and due regard and respects and humble submission for parents and elders. It believes in the Catechism of the Creed.

Babalawo is the high priest of Orisa, which the Orunmilarinas worship. He is versed in the rituals, the love and history of the Yoruba Tradition Religion called Ifa. Babalawo is a craftsman who has acquired the fine skills of the preparation of medications (Curative, calming and preventing for mankind). He is a redeemer from the (Ajogun) evil forces of things material and spiritual systems. In many Ifa verse, the client is full of praise for his and her Babalawo after the feat has been performed. The Babalawo in turn then praises Ifa who then in turn sings the praises of Olodumare the Almighty. (Excerpted from Ifayemi Internet 13/4/20070).

### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

Having gone through this unit, you would have noticed that Ifa is a religion that was brought into the world by Orunmila. You might have also observed that Orunmilaism believes in God. It believes in the assumption of Attributes and names of God to fulfil His Will.

### **5.0 SUMMARY**

You are now better informed of the following points from your study of this unit:

Ifa is the Divine message of Olodumare (Almighty) to mankind. Ifa transcends all the cultures and traditions of all things including man, animals, rocks, water, wind and fire. Orunmila in all things spiritual and esoteric is the deputy of Olodumare.

### **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

What are the functions of Orunmila to mankind in the world?

### **6.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENTS**

State the Creed of Orunmilaism?

### **7.0 REFERENCES/FURTHER READING**

Excerpts: Ifayemi 123 p @ net scape. Net . “Kekere” Awo Ifayemi a servant and priest of Ifa Internet 3/4/2007.

Excerpts: Dr. Jose Acosta Santos, Ifaism and Christianity: possible common Origin and their synthesis in Cuba 1996 International

Anthropology Workshop Anthropology Workshop Anthropology

Centre Academy of Sciences of Cuba Oral Presentation, Havana

Internet 13/4/2007.

**UNIT 2      SECRET SOCIETIES****CONTENTS**

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Objectives

3.0 Main Content

3.1 Secret Societies in Nigeria

3.2 The Egungun Group

4.0 Conclusion

5.0 Summary

6.0 Tutor-Marked Assignment

7.0 References/Further Readings

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The most prominent groups among the traditional groups are the secret societies.

In this unit, we shall discuss the purpose of having secret societies and their functions in Nigeria. In the unit, we shall consider the Egungun group only hence it has religious background in Nigeria.

**2.0 OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- State the importance of the secret societies in Nigeria
- Identify some of the societies
- List category and functions of secret societies in Nigeria.

**3.0 MAIN CONTENT****3.1 Secret Societies in Nigeria**

The secret societies were instituted for the purpose of self-preservation and for the preservation of the community which has members. The groups enforced maintained traditions, customs and beliefs of their religion. The movements determined ritual behaviour and regulated social attitudes. In this way, they became the “power” of the community where they functioned.

In addition to these, members of the groups usually claimed to possess esoteric knowledge and mysterious power denied to the other members of the community. For this reason, they considered themselves superior in intelligence and ability to the other members of the community, to the effect that the non-members were impelled to seek admission to the societies so that they might be protected against surroundings dangers.

The secret societies cannot be regarded as evil. But they exist for the well-being of the community as we enumerate below the category and the functions of these societies. However, any secret society can be dangerous if it gets out of hand. Since most of the activities are secret, and since only the initiated know anything about their doings, the societies can engage in nefarious anti-social deeds without the community of men and women knowing it, or having a proof of it, unless such deed become glaring. They can embark on selfish ends. They can commit brutal judicial murders, bully and exploit the uninitiated and the under-privileged. They can even threaten the well-being of the community and the individual which and who, are expected to be protected. Thus they can perform any outrageous deed without people knowing it, since the activities of the societies are not well defined and their doings cannot be verified (Awolalu and Dopamu 1979, pp.220-221).

### **3.2 The Egungun Group**

Egungun is an ancestral cult showing the beliefs of the Yoruba in life after death. An Egungun is believed to be the spirit of a deceased person, who has returned from heaven to earth to visit his people. Hence he is called "The Citizen of Heaven". The Egungun society consists of masked figures who represent the dead. The dress of an Egungun gives people the impression that he is from the spirit world. He is robed from head to foot in a variety of dresses, and he sees only through a net covering the face. The Egungun is accompanied by atokun. On the morning of the festival the people go to the Central Egungun Shrine and from there, the real festival begins. The Egungun goes round the town of the adherents.

The festival is an occasion of joy for the adherents. The adherents use leaves of beans for communal meals during the annual festival. The Egungun also feature prominently at funeral ceremonies of the adherents. They enter the house of the deceased, imitate his voice, receive gifts and bless the members of his family. They represent messengers from the spirit world that came to enquire into the general well-being of the family of the deceased. They then depart, bearing messages from the living members of the family to the deceased.

## **4.0 CONCLUSION**

In Nigeria, secret societies were instituted for the benefits of the adherents and their communities. The group of the movement maintained traditions, customs and beliefs of their religion. Egungun is an ancestral cult, showing the beliefs of the Yoruba in life after death.

## **5.0 SUMMARY**

The most prominent groups among the traditional groups are the secret societies. They are instituted for the purpose of self-preservation and for the preservation of the community which has adherents. The Egungun is an ancestral cult that shows the beliefs of the Yoruba in life after death. It features annually in the community of the adherents. Besides, the Egungun features at funeral ceremony of the adherents in the community that practises it.

### **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

Discuss the Egungun festival.

### **6.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT**

Identify the roles of the secret societies in Nigeria.

### **7.0 REFERENCES/FURTHER READINGS**

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**UNIT 3      ECKANKAR RELIGIOUS GROUP****CONTENTS**

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Objectives

3.0 Main Content

3.1 The Main Aims of the Group

3.2 What is Eckankar?

3.3 Defining Eckankar

3.4 The Doctrines of Eckankar

3.5 Sri Harold Klemp

3.6 The Teachings of Eckankar

3.7 Why Eckankar Religion Remains

4.0 Conclusion

5.0 Summary

6.0 Tutor-Marked Assignment

7.0 References/Further Readings

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This unit will introduce you to the purpose of Eckankar on this earth. It will discuss the reality of God in your life. The unit also enlighten you about the knowledge of God which you have within you.

**2.0 OBJECTIVES**

At the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- Explain the main purpose of Eckankar
- Analyse the teachings of Eckankar religious group
- Describe how to do things out of pure love in order to improve your life and find a measure of happiness which you need to know.

**3.0 MAIN CONTENT****3.1 The Main Aims of the Group**

The main aims of the Eckankar religious group are to teach you how to get to heaven. Besides, it aims to give you the tools to explore your dreams. Furthermore, the religion also aims to help you to have more love and understand past and present relationships. And to gain the spiritual insights that improve the equality of your life everyday. The religion is a spiritual adventure of a lifetime. Paul Twitchell introduced it in 1965 to the world.

### **3.2 (i) What is Eckankar?**

Eckankar is a religion for the individual. It is designed to help individuals find their own way back to God through direct personal experiences.

#### **(ii) What are Eckists?**

Eckists come from all walks of life. Their common denominator is a love of God and commitment to spiritual enfoldment. They are of every race and religious background. They are responsible members of their community. The adherents of Eckankar religion accepted the religion in order to find answers to questions which the orthodox and traditional teachings could not find solutions to [Excerpted Harold Klemp, Religion of the Light and Sound of God, Eckankar Doctrines Cramer, Todd 11, Munson Doug. 1995]

### **3.3 Defining Eckankar**

The word ECK means The Divine, or Holy, Spirit, The Audible Life Stream; the essence of God which supports and sustains all life; the Life Force. Eckankar is a Religion of the Light and Sound of God. He appears to mankind through the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit can appear to mankind as Light, which is a reflection of the atoms of God moving in space, or as sound, which is the Audible Life Current that carries Soul back home to God.

### **3.4 The Doctrines of Eckankar**

The adherents of Eckankar religion claimed that each person is a soul. Besides, a classic soul travel, experience worries less, knows more love, feels energized and changes bad habits.

(i) Dreams: Another area which the Eckankarists believe is that soul never sleeps. While the Mahanta is the Dream Master. Dreams help us in daily life. Dreams help spiritual unfoldment. Karma can be resolved in the Dream State. In addition to these, Dream symbols are individual. Dream characters represent aspects of the Dreamer. In this universe, there are many levels of Dreaming. Dreams can prophesy. Keep a dream Journal, but the purpose of Dreams is to bring the individual closer to the Light and Sound of God.

(ii) Karma: The law of Karma is scientific and logical. Understanding karma can liberate the adherents of this religion from being a victim. The adherents can be free of karma. Karma metes out perfect justice. The adherents are responsible. Experience

teaches the adherents their religion. The adherents receive spiritual maturity as they realise that they are the creator of their own lives.

(iii) Reincarnation: Near – Death and out of-body-experiences have helped people live life more fully. Heaven exists on other planes. Reincarnation helps to explain aspects of our personalities. Reincarnation is a widely held belief among the adherents of Eckankar Religion. According to them, soul is always moving forward. We have been here before, they claimed; and that there is a reason for the veil separating us (mankind) from the past. We often return to be with Family and Friends from before. Past –Life memory is accessible. The physical plane is a school of life.

(iv) The God Worlds of Eck: In the God worlds of Eckankar, soul travel makes it possible to achieve God – Realization in this Lifetime. In the words, in question, the soul is a plane. Therefore, there is gain in spiritual understanding from the Temples of Golden wisdom. In it, we have the Astral plane too. In God worlds, we have the causal plane. Likewise, there is a mental plane in such worlds. In these worlds, there is the Etheric plane that exists in them.

(v) Love: The divine Love needs no words to communicate. Besides, Love is simple: The adherents must learn that love is simple. They know greater Love through the golden heart.

(vi) The Eck – Vidya: The Eckankar adherents believe that man always wants to know the Future. They also believe that Life is cyclical. Eck – vidya looks into soul records; namely: past, present and future. This is a warring planet, but that is alright. They also believe that one must not use knowledge to manipulate others. Man has a golden tongued wisdom.

(vii) Adherents Solve Problems: The adherents have the knowledge or wisdom of knowing when to give up. They claimed that Hu helps one to do so. They also use the Shariyat Technique for well-being and happiness.

(viii) Initiations: Initiation links soul to the Audible Life stream. Each adherents of Eckankar enters it with a different state of consciousness. However, initiation pace and frequency vary. According to them, initiation corresponds to a different plan of

existence. The adherents believe that consciousness has to be earned moment to moment. They also believe that the rules change from plane to plane. They stressed that the real initiation occurs inside. Initiations are private and sacred. Each invitation is an invitation from the Living Eck master to take the next step on the way home to God.

(ix) The Eck Masters: The Living Eck master belongs to the order of the vairagi; providing guidance home to God. According to Harold Klemp, the adherents can be free from fear. This is because they are never given more than what they can handle. The Living Eck master grants total spiritual freedom to his students. With the Living Eck master, the adherents experience only what is necessary for spiritual growth. The adherents have the Mahanta as the inner form of the Living Eck master. The Living



Eck master is not worshipped. The Living Eck master takes on Karma but doesn't relieve it. It is natural to question. The Eckists's goal is spiritual mastery.

(x) The Play of Soul: Eckankar is a Living religion. The Adherents do prove it themselves. In it, they understood who they are. They become liberated from being the victim. Besides, to them, life becomes miraculous. It is only the inner master that acts as the Light through the darkness for the adherents of the religion. The adherents believe in love and responsibility to all life.

### **3.5 Sri Harold Klemp**

Sri Harold Klemp is the spiritual leader of Eckankar, the Mahanta, and the Living Eck Master. His inspiring and practical approach to spiritually help thousands of people finds greater freedom, wisdom, and love. His teachings uplift and help them recognize their own experiences with the Light and Sound of God.

### **3.6 The Teachings of Eckankar**

The teachings of Eckankar are as follows:

(i) There are many routes we can take to heaven. God has established so many different paths and means for the adherents of the Eckankar religion. It is the spiritual exercises of Eck that do help each of them to find his/her own custom – made approach to the kingdom of God.

(ii) This earth is a big old schoolhouse. In fact, so is this entire material level of existence called the physical plane. For this reason, the adherents learn to find their ways from this universe back to God.

(iii) The teachers of Eckankar religion are as follows: Moses, Jesus Christ, Muhammad, Confucius, Buddha, Krishna, Zoroaster, Socrates, Copernicus, and Martin.

- Another teaching of this group is that you need to master your life; you must apply self-discipline and have a true desire to experience God for yourself. Your experience with the spiritual Light and Sound of God will enrich your life and help you put daily problems into loving perspective.

- Humans have been inspired by the Holy Spirit to reach spiritual understanding since the beginning of civilization. The Holy Scriptures of Eckankar is known as the Shariyat – Ki – Sugmad, which means “Way of the Eternal”.

### **3.7 Why Eckankar Religion Remains**

Eckankar religion has the key teacher and mentor. He is the Living Eck Master. Eckankar is never without a living master. This ensures the religion remains pure and appropriate for the consciousness of the day. It avoids the theological disputes and political maneuverings so common in large organizations. And it allows the spiritual student to see and hear a teacher who has travelled the path to self – and – God – Realization [Excerpted; Paul Twitchell, 1965].

## **4.0 CONCLUSION**

You have learnt about the Religion of Eckankar in this unit. Eckankar Religion is an individual one. It teaches you how to go back to god. Harold Klemp is the spiritual head of the religion.

## **5.0 SUMMARY**

In this unit, you have understood the following facts:

Eckankar religion has the key teacher and mentor. This encourages the religion to exist in the universe. The adherents have the knowledge or wisdom of knowing when to give up.

Initiation links soul to the Audible Life Stream. It occurs in the inner mind of each adherent. The Universe is a big old schoolhouse. Each adherent needs to master his/her own life. He/she must be disciplined and have a true desire to experience God.

## **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

Write note on Sri Harold Klemp.

### **Solution:**

Sri Harold Klemp is the spiritual leader of Eckankar, the Mahanta, and the Living Eck Master. His inspiring and practical approach to spirituality helps thousands of people find greater freedom, wisdom, and love. His teachings uplift and help them recognize their own experiences with the Light and Sound of God.

## **6.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT**

List the teachings of Eckankar religion.

## **7.0 REFERENCES/FURTHER READINGS**

Harold Klemp, The Art of Spiritual Dreaming

Harold Klemp, What is Spiritual Freedom?

Harold Klemp, Cloak of Consciousness.

Excerpted from Internet.

**UNIT 4 THE HARE KRISHNA MOVEMENT AND BAHAI****CONTENTS**

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Objectives

3.0 Main Content

3.1 The meaning of the Movement

3.2 The History of the Movement

3.3 The Style Life of the Adherents of the Movement

3.4 Other Spiritual References of the Movement

3.4.1 The Bahai Faith

3.4.2 Beliefs

3.4.3 Bahai Faith and the Unity of Religion

3.4.4 Bahai Faith and the Unity of Humanity

4.0 Conclusion

5.0 Summary

6.0 Tutor-Marked Assignment

7.0 References/Further Readings

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This unit will introduce you to the movement of the Hare Krishna, the meaning, the History, the Style, Life of the adherents and other scripture of the religion, and Bahai teachings.

**2.0 OBJECTIVES**

At the end of this unit you should be able to:

- Explain the origin of the Hare Krishna Movement and Bahai;
- Analyse the teachings of the movement and the Bahai;

**3.0. MAIN CONTENT****3.1 The Meaning of the Movement**

A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada defined Hare Krishna thus:

“Hara” means “the energy of God”. While “Krishna” and Rama means “God is who All-Attractive” and “He who is the source of All Pleasure”. In addition to these, he says “Rama” can also refer to “Radha-Raman. The word “Rama” is another name of Krishna meaning beloved of Radha or as a shortened form of Balarama, which refers to Krishna’s first expansion.

### **3.2 The History of the Movement**

Bhaktivedanta swami Prabhupada began the public chanting of the Hare Krishna mantra in India around 1921. Upanishad Narada was instructed by Brahma to say out loudly the following words of mantra:

Hare Krishna Hare Krsihna

Krishna Krishna Hare Hare

Hare Rama Hare Rama

Rama Rama Hare Hare.

It is believed that when the adherents recite the above words aloud, or speak, or meditate upon the words, they are expressing the love of God in their hearts. The love of god probably referred to the word “Krishna”, which form part of the name of the Movement. “Hare” can be interpreted as either the vocative of Hari. Hari is another name of Vishnu, which means “golden one”. The adherents of the movement recite the mantra out repeatedly or softly to himself or herself. He or she could also recite the mantra softly to himself or herself in the mind.

According to K.N. Aiyar, “Krishna “consciousness” is not an artificial imposition on the mind of the adherent. But it is original energy of the living entity. Between 1960 and 1970, the devotees of the movement appeared on the street of Western cities, dancing and chanting with drums and cymbals, wearing saffron ahatis or colourful saris selling Bhagavad Gita. The devotees were members of the international society for Krishna consciousness that was founded by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. The International Society for Krishna consciousness (ISKCON) was the first organized Vaishnava group to make a large impression of movement outside India where it started. The Theologians classified Hare Krishna devotees as practitioners of Bhakti Yoga. They also referred to them as Gaudiya Vaishnavas. This is because the devotees follow a line of gurus descending from Chaitanya Mahaprabhu who appeared in Bengal. Vaishnavism is derived from Hindu religion.

### **3.3 The Style Life of the Adherents of the Movement**

Very many adherents of the ‘Hare Krishna’ live according to strict rules of the movement. The initiates take vows to abstain from all forms of recreational drugs and intoxicants from eating meat, fish and eggs. They also abstain from gambling, and from all sexual relations except for purposes of procreation within marriage. On the other hand, the non-initiates of the movement are left to his or her own discretion to follow the regulative principles of the laid down standard principles of the society.

The adherents' elevation and joy are derived from chanting God's holy names that were mentioned in the subheading 3.2 in this unit.

The Hare Krishna mantra is one of the famous songs among the UK singles charts on occasions.

### **3.4 Other Scriptural References of the Movement**

The practice of the chanting the Hare Krishna mantra or songs are found in the Puranic, the Pancaratra and Vaishnava literature. We quote an example of such mantra thus:

- "All the grievous sins are removed for one who worships Lord Sri Hari, the Lord of all lords, and chants the holy name, the maha-mantra padina purana: svarga khanda 50.6.
- "Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Hare Hare: Whoever chants this mantra, even neglectfully will attain the supreme goal of life. Of this there is no doubt" – Agni Purana.
- This sixteen-name, thirty-two syllable mantra is the maha-mantra in the Age of Kali by which all living beings can be delivered. One should never abandon chanting this maha-mantra" – Ananta – sambita.
- "About this divinely spiritual Maha-mantra, which delivers one from material existence, the original guru. Lord Brahma has said "The srutis have declared this mantra to be the best means of deliverance in the Age of Kali. Having all heard this form Brahma the sons and disciples of Brahma beginning with Narada, all accepted the Hare Krishna Maha-mantra and having meditated on it, attained perfection" – Ananta – Sambita.
- When the sixteen names an thirty-two syllables of the Hare Krishna mantra are loudly vibrated Krishna dances on one's tongue" – stava – mala – vidyabhusana – bhasya, Baladeva vidyabhusana in Bhaktisiddhanta's Gaudiya Kanthahara 17:30 (English translation of the Kali Santarana Upanishad).

#### **3.4.1 The Bahai Faith**

The Bahai faith is a religion founded by Bahaullah in 19th century Persia. The movement is across the global world, Nigeria inclusive. 'Bahai' teachings view religious history as evolving educational process for mankind, through God's messengers. It is termed Manifestations of God. Bahai is a term use for a follower of Bahaullah. Bahaullah is seen as the most recent Pivotal but not final of the individuals. He claimed to be the expected redeemer and teacher prophesied in Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and other religions and that his mission was to establish a firm basis for unity throughout the world, and inaugurate an age of peace and justice, which Bahai's expect will inevitably arise.

#### **3.4.2 Beliefs**

The principles of the teachings of Bahai are the unity of God, the unity of religion and the unity of mankind. The movement concept of God, Bahai's believe in a single, imperishable God, the creator of all things, including the creatures and forces in the

universe. The existence of God is eternal. It has no beginning or end. He is a Personal God, unknowable, inaccessible, the source of all Revelation, omniscient, omnipresent and Almighty. The adherents of Bahai believe that God expresses His will in many means, including series of divine messengers refers to as Manifestations of God or divine educators. In expressing God's intent, these manifestations are seen to establish religion in the world. The teachings of Bahai movement state that God is too great for humans to fully comprehend or to create a complete and accurate image. The adherents of the movement refer to God as the All-Powerful, or the All-Loving. They emphasis on monotheism and reject the doctrines of the Trinity (Stockman Robert).

### **3.4.3 Bahai Faith and the Unity of Religion**

The adherents of the Bahai movement believe in the validity of the world's religious, whose founders and central figures are seen as manifestations of God. They interpret religious history as a series of dispensations, where each manifestation brings a somewhat broader and more advanced revelation, suited for the time and place in which it was expressed. Specific religious social teachings, such as, the direction of prayer or dietary restrictions may be revoked by a subsequent manifestation so that a more appropriate requirement for the time and place may be established conversely, certain general principles, such as, neighbourliness or charity) are seen to be universal and consistent. The adherents of the movement do not believe that this process of progressive revelation will end. However, they believe that is cyclical. These believers do not expect a new manifestation of God to appear prior to 1000 years after Bahaullah's revelation.

Their beliefs are combinations of the earlier religions beliefs. The adherents assert that their religion is a distinct tradition with its own scriptures, teachings, lairs and history. It's cultural and religions debt to the shia Islamic matrix in which it was founded is seen as analogous to the Jewish socio-religious context in which Christianity was established. The adherents describe their faith as an independent world religion, differing from the other religion, differing from the other traditions only in its relative newness and in the appropriateness of Bahaullah's teaching to the modern context. Bahaullah is believed to fulfil the messianic expectations of these precursor faiths. (Britannica Book of the Year 1988).

### **3.4.4 Bahai Faith and the Unity of Humanity**

Bahai's believe that human beings have a "rational soul" and that this provides the species with a unique capacity to recognize God's station and humanity's relationship with its creator. Every human being is seen to have a duty to recognize conform to their teachings ( MC Mullen Michael 2000). Through recognition and obedience, service to humanity and regular prayer and spiritual practice. The adherents of the movement believe that the soul becomes closer to God. This is the ideal of Bahai belief. When a human being dies, the soul passes into the next world, where its

spiritual development in the physical world becomes a basis for judgement and advancement in the spiritual world (Masumian Farnaz 1995). Heaven and Hell are taught to be spiritual states of nearness or distance from God that describe relationships in this cosmos and the next, and not physical places of reward and punishment achieved after death (Masumian Farnaz).

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

The Hare Krishna means the energy of God. While Krishna and Ram mean God is who All-Attractive and “He who is the source of All Pleasure”. The Bahai teachings are the unity of God, Unity of religion, unity of mankind, Gender equality, Elimination of all forms of prejudice, world peace, Harmony of religion and science, Independent investigation of truth, universal compulsory education, universal auxiliary language, obedience to government and non-involvement in partisan politics and Elimination of extremes of wealth and poverty.

#### **5.0 SUMMARY**

Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada was the founder of Hare Krishna in India around 1921. The movement began international one between 1960 and 1970. The Bahai movement believe in the unity of God, Gender Equality, harmony of religion and science, obedience to government and universal compulsory education and elimination of the extremes of wealth and poverty, to mention but a few.

#### **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

Comment on the Hare Krishna Movement.

#### **6.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENTS**

(1) State the beliefs of the Bahai.

(2) “Hare Krishna Hare Krsihna

Krishna Krishna Hare Hare

Hare Rama Hare Rama

Rama Rama Hare Hare”

Discuss the mantra.

#### **7.0 REFERENCES/FURTHER READING**

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**UNIT 5 OLUMBA OLUMBA OBU MOVEMENT OR BROTHERHOOD OF THE CROSS AND STAR****CONTENTS**

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Objectives

3.0 Main Content

3.1 The Description of the Movement

3.2 The Aims of the Movement

3.3 The Teachings of the Movement

3.4 The Uniform of the Adherents

3.5 Fasting

4.0 Conclusion

5.0 Summary

6.0 Tutor-Marked Assignment

7.0 References/Further Readings

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This unit will introduce you to the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star Movement.

**2.0 OBJECTIVES**

At the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- State the founder of the Brotherhood;
- Discuss their Teachings;
- Describe the Movement.

**3.0 MAIN CONTENT**

Brotherhood of the Cross and Star is a Spiritual Movement which believes in and Practices the teachings of Jesus Christ. The movement was established in 1956 by the founder and leader Olumba Olumba Obu at Calabar, in Cross River State of Nigeria. The group obtained her certificate of incorporation on 25th March, 1964. The movement is the proverbial Biblical mustard seed, whose insignificant genesis has

experiences a tremendous evolution into a giant tree under Olumba Olumba Obu. It has spread beyond Nigeria to other parts of the world. The movement is not a church but, “Christ Universal Spiritual school of Practical Christianity”.

The name of the movement “Brotherhood” means Love, Truth, Good manner, Mercy, Patience, Humility, Meekness, Unity and Oneness of God’s creations. The brotherhood kingdom finds fulfilment in the promise of the Lord Jesus Christ. He promised to go and prepare a place then come back and take us into Himself. In other words, the kingdom which Jesus Christ had promised to prepare is the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star. The founder quoted the following Bible passages to support his claim on the promised kingdom of Christ.

Let not your hearts be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my father’s house are mansions: If it were not, so, I would have told you, I go prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you into myself; that where ye may be also (John 14: 1-3). The brotherhood is referred to as the new heaven and new earth; the new kingdom of God on earth wherein dwelleth righteousness, peace and love. It embraces all creation. The kingdom of the movement is universal. It knows no boundary or barrier. Brotherhood means equality. It also means one, Love, and service. The movement is the Christ Universal Spiritual School of Practical Christianity for its adherents.

### **3.2 The Aims of the Movement**

The aims and objectives of the group include the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ the Lord practical demonstration of healing the sick, helping the poor offering relief to the unfortunately establish non-profit Christian schools, colleges and health centres in accordance with the policies of the government of the day. Moreover, the movement aims at promoting agricultural enterprises, industries and engage in other lawful activities to generate funds for the welfare of people in various parts of the world. As a result of it, enhancing the spiritual emancipation of humanity. The objective of the movement is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ from house to house, city to city throughout the cosmos.

### **3.3 The Teachings of the Movement**

The Brotherhood and Star teach the following to her adherents:

Preaching the Goodnews, carter for sinners, the needs and convert them to the part of righteousness. In addition to these, the movement teach prayers, faith, hope, repentance, peace and love. The adherents address one another sisters and brothers.

### **3.4 The Uniform of the Adherents for Worship**

The official uniform of the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star is white garment with a cape known officially as the ‘Soutane’ in conformity with what is recorded in Revelation of John the Divine in Revelations 7: 13-15, 19: 8. The sisters use white head ties. No makeup, no plaits or jewellery of any kind: rings, chains, beads, wrist-watch (1 Peter 3: 3, 1 Timothy 2: 9-10, Exodus 32: 2-4. All members wear white robes

regardless of their age or position within the kingdom. The kingdom is known as bethels. White Soutane was worn by Jesus Christ during transfiguration (Matthew 17:2). His white indicates “righteousness” or purity, and peace. Red soutane is worn by the adherents of the movement. It is sewn in the same style like the white soutane. Red means “love” and the word of God. The adherents also turbaned. The Brothers or Bishops use purple turban.

The Evangelist brother/sisters/ Apostles (Brothers) and Deaconesses use red turban. Their pastors use black turban. While the senior prophets/prophetess use yellow turban. Blue, green and brown turbans are use by prophets/prophetess. All ordained brethren sit together in the ordained pew. The doctrine of the movement indicates that the adherents must not wear shoes into the Bethels of worship. God is holy and all worshippers of God must worship Him in spirit and in truth. (Exodus 3:5, Romans 10:15, Lk2:2-35). Bethels are opened 24 hours a day, 7days a week, and each day of every year from January to December. The adherents bow there head three times before God before and after prayers. (Matthew 2:11, 26:39).

### **3.5 Fasting**

Fasting is the act of refraining oneself from food and water. It is a period of purification in which the adherents of the movement devote themselves to prayers, and supplications to God. Fasting brings them closer and in direct communication with their creator as they spread themselves away from the chaos of the world. All types of sicknesses and problems of members are solved through fasting. The adherents fast from 6.00 am to 6.00pm; especially on Thursdays to conform to the time when Jesus Christ was crucified as opposed to Friday, adopted by the other Christian groups.

Before the Pentecostal period 72 hours of dry-fasting with no food or water is undertaken by the adherents of the movement. This is observed in order to purify them for the month of Pentecostal day which is one week after the dry fasting. During Pentecostal, fasting is observed daily from 6.00am to 6.00pm to bring members closer and worthy to receive the Holy Words and blessings of god (Acts 13: 2-3). Full feast is served for the breaking for all members of the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star. Their songs are composed for them by the Holy Spirit. The adherents are law abiding people whichever country they may find themselves. They use fruits, vegetables, rice and water for feast. It is blessed and served after service or fasting.

The adherents do not believe in medicine of any form, so they do not take medicine. They believe in faith healing. They confess their sins, sing spiritual songs, listen to power of the spoken words, pray and bless water to drink for healing of sicknesses. Every member pays one tenth of his/her earning as tithe to God. (Malachi 3: 7-12). Disputes are settled among themselves.

### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

Brotherhood of the cross and Star is a spiritual kingdom, where love, peace, and joy reigns.

## **5.0 SUMMARY**

The Brotherhood of the cross and Star was founded by Olumba Olumba Obu in Calabar. Members belong to the kingdom of bethels all over the world. They do not use drug for healing but prayer and fasting are used to cure sickness. Members pay one tenth of their earning for tithe. They do not go to court to settle disputed. But disputes are settled within their kingdom.

## **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

Faith is Brotherhood of the Cross and star. Do you agree? Discuss.

## **6.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT**

Comment on the doctrines of the brotherhood of the Cross and Star.

## **7.0 REFERENCES/FURTHER READINGS**

Excerpted from the Internet on 7/5/2007. chick.

The origin of Brotherhood of the Cross and Star from the website.