

Magi-In-Manger Outreach:  
A Missional Strategy For Church Planting in Wounded Urban Slums of Lagos, Nigeria

*By Samuel A. Odubena, Ph.D. Candidate, Asbury Theological Seminary.*

Many cities of the world are fast becoming global cities as investors from all works of life are moving into them. Just as the IT companies are changing the look of many cities, so also architecturally, the expensive glass-chromium-aluminum-cladding design is giving the cities an unconventional look. This, of course, is not without the influx of many people from the rural areas with their countless of problems. This research paper, *“Magi-in-Manger Outreach: A Missional Strategy for Church Planting in Wounded Urban Slums of Lagos, Nigeria,”* aims at presenting a well-defined missional strategy for planting a church in the context of the age-old Oke-afa slum in Lagos metropolis where slums and squatter settlements and sense of ever-present inequalities are not only on the rise but are also neglected by the church.

The challenges of the slums in Ikotun, Ejigbo, Ijora-badiya, Majidun-Ikorodu, Oke-afa Isolo, Ogba, Kio-Kio village, Pako, and Ajegunle in Lagos range from high population density of people who are not necessarily physically challenged but are ridden by poverty, lack of bible-based church, absence of wholistic mission, and so forth.

Therefore, this strategy, which is being proposed for the first time, is anchored on Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11. It suggests and emphasizes the demonstration of the love of God. The church like the Magi from the East, must heal the wounded slum population by taking a vulnerable posture and responding with compassion. If the world forsakes the slums the church should not! Mission must take place in the manger!