

**MUSLIM UNITY & THE QUEST FOR  
NATIONAL INTEGRATION IN  
NIGERIA**

**ARE MUSLIMS FULLY INTEGRATED  
INTO THE NIGERIAN NATION-STATE?**

# **EARLY ADVENT OF ISLAM**

- **Kanem Borno**
- **Muhammad Ibn Mani**
- **Humi Jilmi**
- **1085**

# LATE ARRIVAL OF CHRISTIANITY

- **Rev. Henry Townsend**
- **Agacia Tree, Badagry**
- **1842**

# THE GAP

- **800 YEARS!**

# THE EFFECT

**SHARI'AH REPLACED WITH COMMON LAW**

- **FRIDAY CHANGED TO SUNDAY**
- **ISLAMIC EDUCATION CHANGED TO WESTERN EDUCATION**
- **MUSLIMS FORCEFULLY CONVERTED**

# **POST-INDEPENDENCE NIGERIA**

- **THE OIC IMBROGLIO**
- **OPPOSITION AGAINST SHARIAH (1999)**
- **OUTCRY AGAINST ISLAMIC BANKING**
- **THE SUKUK SAGA**

# **NIGERIA'S HOLIDAYS (8)**

- **Christians ...5**
- **Muslims ...3**

# CHRISTIAN HOLIDAYS (5)

- **Christmas Day**
- **Boxing Day**
- **New Year Day**
- **Good Friday**
- **Easter Monday**



# MUSLIM HOLIDAYS (3)

- 'Id al-Kabir
- 'Id al-Fitr
- Maulud an-Nabiyy

# **MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES**

- **CHURCH CERTIFICATES ..... ACCEPTED**
- **XTIAN REGISTRY CERTIFICATES ...ACCEPTED**
- **MOSQUE CERTIFICATES ..... REJECTED**

# THE FRIDAY QUESTION

- **CHRISTIANS ENJOY WORK-FREE SUNDAY**
- **MUSLIMS MUST GO TO WORK ON FRIDAY**
- **CHRISTIANS ATTEND CHURCH WITH THEIR FAMILIES**
- **MUSLIM FAMILIES ARE SEPARATED ON FRIDAY**
- **CHRISTIANS STROL IN & OUT OF CHURCH ON SUNDAY**
- **MUSLIMS RUSH IN & OUT OF MOSQUES ON FRIDAY**

# **WORKERS' CHALLENGES**

- **Official engagements for Muslim workers on Fridays, e.g. meetings, seminars, workshops**
- **Some employers or heads disallow Muslim workers from attending Jum'ah**
- **Distance between workplace and mosque**

# STUDENTS' CHALLENGES

- Exams, tests, assignments during Jum'ah period (12 – 3 pm)
- Officially recognized free hour on Friday (1-2 pm) too short
- Distance between school and mosque

# **THE HIJAB AFFAIR (DOCUMENTS)**

- **Hijab for international passports**
- **Driving licences**
- **National Identity cards**
- **Registration of voters**

# **THE HIJAB AFFAIR (UNIFORMS)**

- **Hijab on school uniforms**
- **The Army**
- **The police**
- **Para-military formations**
- **Nurses**

# THE IDEAL JUDICIARY

- **Christians ...Common Law courts**
- **Muslims ... Shari'ah Court**
- **Traditionalists ... Customary Court**



# **STUMBLING BLOCKS**

- **Controversy on work-free Friday**
- **Debate on Maulud Nabiyy**
- **Disagreement over hijab**

# SCRIPTURAL INTERVENTION

- Qur'an 49:10
- انما المؤمنون اخوة
- Qur'an 3:102-105
- واعتصموا بحبل الله جميعا
- Qur'an 21:92
- ان هذه امتكم امة واحدة

# HADITH ON UNITY

- ان المومن للمومن كالبنيان يشد بعده بعضا
- المومنون كرجل واحد ان اشتكي عينه اشتكي كله و  
ان اشتكي راسه اشتكي كله
- ليس منا من دعا الي العصبية و ليس منا من قاتل  
علي العصبية و ليس منا من مات علي العصبية

# SUMMARY

- **Britain Christianised Nigeria**
- **The situation has not changed**
- **Muslims are now endangered species:  
Persecution, Stigmatisation,  
Disenfranchisement, Marginalisation**

# CONCLUSION

- **Muslims are not integrated into the Nigerian system until:**
  - 1. 1<sup>st</sup> Muharram is declared a holiday**
  - 2. Mosque marriage certificate is recognised**
  - 3. Friday becomes work-free**
  - 4. Hijab is allowed on documents/uniforms**
  - 5. Shari'ah courts are allowed in all states**



**THANKS FOR  
LISTENING**