

A Historo-Religious Approach to Christian-Muslim Relations in Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

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Abstract : Christian-Muslim relations had been existing for a long time in Nigeria. Despite the long standing relations between the two faith communities, there had been occasional religious crises in Nigeria (especially in Northern part of Nigeria). These crises have rendered some people homeless, left some without a family, while property worth millions of naira destroyed, and thereby putting some people in perpetual trauma. The situation seemed to be entirely different in Nasarawa State where there is relative peace between Christians and Muslims. The purpose of the study therefore was to examine Christian-Muslim relations in Nasarawa State. Its objectives were to: (i) identify the factors responsible for the peaceful coexistence between Christians and Muslims in Nasarawa State; (ii) state how they were relating in times of politics, worship, celebration of religious festivals etc; (iii) discuss how issues which could have led to crises were resolved between the two faiths, and (iv) examine the roles played by the religious leaders, traditional rulers and the media on peaceful co-existence between the Muslims and the Christians in Nasarawa State. Historical and Comparative methods were adopted in this research. Historical method helped to evaluate the history of Islam and Christianity in Nasarawa State, while comparative method was adopted to assess the extent of interaction of Muslims and Christians in the State. The study employed primary and secondary sources as tools for gathering information.

Keywords : historo-religious, christian, muslim, relations

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