



**THE IGIOTBE**

# Journal of Christianity, Cultural Leadership and Community Development

## Call for Papers

### About the Journal

The Igiogbe, which translates to "The Family Root," serves as the ancestral home for all Edo people. The initiative is an integral part of Arise Education scholarship Foundation, with the founding principle to promote general education that translates into cultural relevance and sustainable development. The Igiogbe seeks to address prevalent knowledge gaps in the essence of 'cultural practices' upon which families are built; a support structure on which society depends. The focus of the journal is the contemporary societal challenges associated with the multi-faceted significance of the Igiogbe, or the Family House, within the cultural and religious context of the Benin Kingdom.

#### Objectives:

The following objectives must guide paper writing and presentation:

1. To investigate the historical and contemporary dynamics of the encounter between Biblical Christianity and Edo indigenous culture, aiming to understand the processes of adaptation, assimilation, and resistance within this cultural intersection.
2. To examine the various strategies and methodologies employed in evangelism and discipleship efforts within Edo communities, with a focus on their effectiveness, cultural sensitivity, and long-term impact on individual beliefs and community dynamics.
3. To analyze the role of cultural elements such as language, art, rituals, and social structures in shaping Christian teachings among the Edo people, identifying points of convergence and divergence.
4. To assess the implications of cultural encounter and transformation on Edo cultural identity, social cohesion, and community development, exploring both the opportunities for intercultural dialogue and collaboration, as well as the challenges of cultural assimilation and preservation.
5. To generate practical insights and recommendations for stakeholders involved in Christian missions, community development initiatives, and intercultural engagement in Edo and similar cultural contexts, aiming to foster mutual understanding, respect, and sustainable transformation within diverse religious and cultural landscapes.

### Brief Note on the Theme

The conference theme highlights the dynamic interaction between Christianity and indigenous cultures, particularly the Enikaro, as a critical area of exploration. It seeks to examine how evangelism, discipleship, and religious practices intersect with and impact the cultural identity, values, and traditions of specific communities, such as the Edo people. It encompasses the complexities of cultural adaptation, contextualization of religious beliefs, and the implications for community development, social dynamics, and spiritual growth within diverse cultural contexts.

### Conference Theme

EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION OF  
**CHRISTIANITY**  
AND **INDIGENOUS**  
CULTURE OF  
**“Enikaro”**  
(Ancestors)



**TUESDAY 1ST OF OCTOBER, 2024.**  
**@ SIR VICTOR UWAIFO**  
**CULTURAL CENTRE,**  
**AIRPORT ROAD, BENIN CITY**

**TIME: 9:00AM**

#### Keynote Address:

**PROF. CLETUS C. ORGU**  
(Provost, LIFE Theological Seminary,  
Ikorodu, Lagos State)

#### Lead Paper Presenters/Topics

1. **Dr. Femi Oye-oluwafemi**  
(LIFE Theological Seminary, Ikorodu)  
“Enikaro” (Ancestors) and Christianity,  
Exploring Cultural Conversion Complexities’
2. **Prof. Osarhieme Osadolor**  
(Professor of history and international studies)  
The Role of “Enikaro” (Ancestors) in  
Shaping Social Dynamics Among Edo People”

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**www.theigiogbe.org**

## Sub-Themes in three categories as follows:

- 1. Religion, Tradition and The Family House: The Benin/Edo Experience**
  - The Role of Religion in Shaping Cultural Identity
  - The Role "Enikaro" (Ancestors) in Shaping Benin Identity and Worldview
  - Religious Symbols and their Impact on Cultural Identity
  - The Impact of "Enikaro" on Morality and Spirituality in Benin
  - Enikaro and Cultural Heritage: Preserving Edo Benin's Rich Traditions
  - The Role of the Igiogbe in Fostering Community Cohesion and Identity.
  - Ancestral Altars and Beliefs in Modern Benin Society: Continuity and Change
  - Enikaro (Ancestors) and Social Factors: Examining Culture, Religion, and Identity Intersections"
- 2. Biblical Christianity in Edo Cultural Context**
  - The Old Testament Foundation of Christianity and Its Implication for Christianity in Edo Society
  - The Judeo-Christian Ancestors and the Ancestors in Edo Culture: A Biblical Reflection
  - Enikaro (Ancestors) in the Benin Kingdom in the Light of Biblical and Historical Christology
  - Edo Art and Symbolism in Christian Worship: Syncretism or Cultural Expression?
  - The Impact of Christian Missions on Edo Social Institutions and Cultural Practices
  - The Future of Biblical Christianity in Edo Cultural Context: Trends and Prospects
  - Christianity and "Enikaro" (Ancestors): Friends or Foes?
  - The Cultural Relevance of Contextualizing Christianity in Benin Society
- 3. Evangelism and Discipleship in Edo Cultural Context**
  - Understanding Edo Cultural Worldview and Its Implications for Evangelism
  - The Role of Storytelling in Edo Culture: Leveraging Narrative in Evangelism
  - Discipleship Models in Edo Culture: Lessons from Indigenous Practices
  - Edo Values and Discipleship Formation: Aligning Biblical Teachings with Cultural Norms
  - Edo Art and Symbolism in Discipleship: Utilizing Visual Communication for Spiritual Growth
  - Edo Language and Discipleship: Translating Biblical Concepts for Effective Communication
  - Discipleship in Edo Traditional Religious Context: Challenges and Opportunities
  - Navigating Power Dynamics in Edo Discipleship Relationships

More topics can be explored under each division.

## Editorial Guideline.

Manuscripts should use Times New Romans font size 12, double spaced in MLA 7th edition. Abstracts of not more than 250 words with maximum of 5 keywords should be sent to editor.theigiogbe@gmail.com on or before 31st July 2024.

Response to Abstracts on or before **16th August 2024**

A soft copy of the full paper (not more than 15 pages including references) in Microsoft Word should be submitted to editor.theigiogbe@gmail.com on or before 30th September 2024.

Each paper must have a separate title page with full information of the author(s) i.e.

- (i) Title of Paper,
- (ii) Name[s] of Presenter[s];
- (iii) Institution of Affiliation
- (iv) Phone Number & e-mail address.

Each Paper Presenter should come along with twenty (20) hard copies of their papers to the venue.

Papers accepted for publication will be peer-reviewed, and attracts a review and publication fee of N25,000.00 (Twenty Five Thousand Naira Only)

For further information contact:

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