

CHRISTIAN SERVICE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, KUMASI

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

**THE ROLE OF THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY IN THE GROWTH OF
PENTECOST INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTER, NEW TAFO
ASSEMBLY**

PROJECT WORK

(LONG ESSAY)

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JUNE,2023

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**A LONG ESSAY SUBMITTED TO CHRISTIAN SERVICE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE, IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN THEOLOGY
WITH ADMINISTRATION.**

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY

JUNE, 2023

DECLARATION

We hereby declare that this project work report is the result of our own original research except for sections of which references have been duly made and to the best of our knowledge no part of it has been presented to this University College or any other institution for the award of a degree.

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DEDICATION

To the glory of God, this work is dedicated to our parents, to the Head of Department of Theology, Doctor Samuel Brefo Adubofuor and all the lectures of the department of theology, Christian Service University College for their wonderful support during this work.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, we want to express our profound gratitude to Alpha and Omega (God) for His insight, direction, understanding, protection and knowledge given to us throughout the duration of our study at the Christian Service University College. Many thanks to our supervisor, the Head of Department of Theology, Dr. S.B. Adubofuor for his support and constructive comments and suggestions in this work and also the lecturers of the Theology Department of Christian Service University College especially, Pastor Paul Diboro Kang-Ewala, Pastor Emmanuel Twumasi- Ankrah and Dr. Isaac Boaheng.

Secondly, we would like to express our appreciation to Pastor Emmanuel Pasteeco Arthur (Head Pastor, Pentecost International Worship Centre, New Tafo) and all the Elders and the leaders of the children's ministry. We also want to thank all who supported and prayed for us. May the Lord God bless and replenish you thousand times and even more for whatever you have lost because of us. God richly bless you all.

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CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

One of the most recurring issues in the church in recent times, is church growth. Many churches have devised varied methods or strategies to aid the growth of their churches, some of which have yielded their desired results whilst others have failed to yield their desired outcome. However, James Oscar notes that, one of the ‘arms’ of the church that plays a role in its growth is the children’s ministry. He points out that, “churches ought to see the children’s ministry as a source of sustainable church growth.”¹

For Everlyne Andesia, “Children ministry is a great kingdom ministry that is of significance to the church. Training Children in the ways of the Lord is both service to the children, church, family and God.”² In his research on the effectiveness of the children’s ministry at Santasi district of the Church of Pentecost, James Oscar revealed that, “Sixty five per cent (65%) of the respondents think that the children’s Ministry contributes much to the numerical growth of the church as about sixty per cent (60%) of the church membership have gone through the children’s ministry in various localities of the church.”³ For James Oscar, “this shows how positive the children’s ministry has impacted the growth of the church in terms of its membership.”⁴

Prince Samoakyi, also observes that, the children’s ministry at Buokrom Estate Christ Apostolic Church International played a role in the growth of the church. He explains

¹ James Oscar Osei, “Effective Children’s Ministry: An Assessment of the Children’s Ministry of the Santasi District of the Church of Pentecost in the Kwadaso Area”, (Long Essay, Christian Service University College, Kumasi, 2019): 11.

² Everlyne Andesia Atieli, “Factors Affecting Growth of the Children Ministry: A Case of New Life Covenant Churches,” (MA dissertation, Africa International University, 2019): 1.

³ Osei, “Effective Children’s Ministry”, 41.

⁴ Osei, “Effective Children’s Ministry”, 41.

that, over the past seven years, an average of thirty five (35) members of the children ministry every year transition to the adult church from ages thirteen (13) to (15).⁵ For Prince Samoakyi, activities and initiatives such as preacher kids sessions, community children's club, movies and lessons, Bible quizzes, parental seminars have largely played a role in helping keep these children at church.⁶ Dale Hudson points out that, "Nothing grows a church like a vibrant children's ministry."⁷

The role the children's ministry plays goes beyond the spiritual upbringing and nourishment of children but extensively also helps the church to grow in many areas. "This is to say, children are the most effective population that churches can invest in. If churches fail to invest in the children then they are likely to fail in future. However if churches invest in the children then they are likely to succeed in the future."⁸

Adding her thoughts to the discussion, Mimi points out that "Contrary to popular belief, children's ministry isn't the church's babysitting service. In my opinion, children's ministry is an extension of family ministry. The two ministries work in tandem to build God's kingdom and strong, faith-filled families."⁹ The use of family is not in the strict sense of the word but contextually in reference to the church as a family and thus the role the children's ministry plays in the development and sustainability of the church. White Hutchinson in citing a research conducted by George Barna points out that, the children's ministry has a lifelong impact on the church.¹⁰ In an assessment to

⁵ Interview with Prince Samoakyi, Sunday School Teacher at Buokrom Estate, CACI, 27th June, 2023.

⁶ Interview with Prince Samoakyi.

⁷ Dale Hudson, Relevant Children's Ministry. <https://www.relevantchildrensministry.com/2016/03/7-ways-childrens-ministry-can-impact.html>, 2016, 2. Accessed on 5th March, 2023.

⁸ Atieli, "Factors Affecting Growth of the Children Ministry", 1.

⁹ Patrick Mimi, Sunday School Works: What does a Children's Ministry Do? <https://sundayschool.works/encouragement/what-does-a-childrens-ministry-do/> March 7, 2023. Accessed on 10th March, 2023.

¹⁰ White Hutchinson, The Importance of Children's Ministry. <https://www.whitehutchinson.com/religiousfacilities/childrenministry.shtml> Accessed on 5th March, 2023.

ascertain the effectiveness of the Children's ministry at Heaven Glory Church, Obuasi Danladi Boyorbor observes that "about twenty five of the children at the children's ministry joined the adult church every three years and continuous to attend church regularly."¹¹ For him, the numbers are encouraging, considering some of the challenges confronting the children's ministry.¹² Literally speaking, church attendance has 'everything' to do with church growth relative to numbers. The views as held by White show the importance of the children's ministry to the numerical strength of the church. Considering the various views shared on the role of the children's ministry on church growth, the question that immediately comes to mind including that of the researchers is, what role can be played by the children ministry towards the growth of Pentecost International Worship Center, New Tafo? Which activities of the Children ministry can be rightly appropriated to aid the church to grow? Averagely how many of these children transition to the adult church in the last ten years? It is in view of some of these questions, that this research seeks to examine the role of the children's ministry on the growth of Pentecost International Worship Center, New Tafo.

1.2 Problem Statement

The growth of every church is at the heart of Christian ministry and the church as a whole. However, it requires a multifaceted approach that involves every single unit of the church in achieving this goal.¹³ According to R. Eri, one of the department of the church that has a role to play in the growth of the church is the children's ministry. He explains further that, the survival of the church and its development is largely dependent

¹¹ Interview with Danladi Boyorbo, Elder at Heaven Glory Church, Obuasi, 28th June, 2023.

¹² Interview with Danladi Boyorbo.

¹³ Donald A. McGavran and Winfield C. Arn, *Ten Steps for Church Growth* (Harper and Row, New York 1977), 88.

on the children's ministry.¹⁴ Everlyne citing R. Eri points out that, the reason some churches perform poorly is because "they have not looked on factors affecting the numerical growth in the children ministry."¹⁵ More so, studies conducted by James Oscar on the children's ministry at the church of Pentecost, Santasi District as shown above also suggests that the children's ministry plays an important role in the growth of the church. However, no research has been done at the Pentecost International Worship Center, New Tafo, to affirm or dispute the outcomes of some of these researches in the context of this church which will help the church identify those activities of the children's ministry that are helping and those that are not helping with respect to the growth of the church. It is in view of this, that the researchers seek to investigate the role of the children's ministry on the growth of Pentecost International Worship Center, New Tafo.

1.3 Research Questions

The main question for this study is: what is the role of children's ministry on the growth of Pentecost International Worship Center, New Tafo?

The study further seeks answers to the following secondary questions:

1. What is the background history of PIWC at New Tafo?
2. What are some of the activities of the children's ministry at Pentecost International Worship Center, New Tafo?
3. What is the impact of the activities of the children's ministry on the growth of Pentecost International Worship Center, New Tafo?

¹⁴ R. Eri, *Children and the Church: why the Church Should Invest in the Youth and Children* (Nairobi: Christianity in Numbers, 2016), 16.

¹⁵ Eri, *Children and the Church*, 16.

1.4 Aim and Objectives of the Study

The main aim of the research is to examine the role of children's ministry on the growth of Pentecost International Worship Center, New Tafo.

Some of the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To investigate the background history of PIWC at New Tafo.
2. To examine some of the activities of the children's ministry at Pentecost International Worship Center, New Tafo.
3. To assess the impact of the activities of the children's ministry on the growth of Pentecost International Worship Center, New Tafo.

1.5 Scope and Focus of the Study

The research focuses on the role the children's ministry plays in the growth of Pentecost International Worship Center, New Tafo. The Scope considers how the activities of the children's ministry has helped in the growth of the church. This assessment is done taking into consideration, the number of children that have transitioned to the adult church within a period of the past ten years, from 2013 to 2023.

1.6 Research Methodology

The research uses historical and mixed research methods. The historical studies basically considers the "identification, location, evaluation, and synthesis of data from the past."¹⁶ This approach was employed in the research to help give a summary background account of Pentecost International Worship Center, New Tafo, the children's ministry at PIWC. The mixed research methods was used so as to help

¹⁶ Samuel Adubofour, *Research Writing for Project Work and Dissertation* (Kumasi: Christian Service University College, Department of Theology, 2019), 14.

achieve the aim of this research work. The mixed method approach includes both the quantitative and qualitative methods. The researchers used these methods as a guide to collect the necessary data required for the work.

1.6.1 Data Collection Methods of the Study

This study employed both primary and secondary methods to collect data. With the primary form of data collection, the researchers used interviews and also added participant observation to help the researchers analyze the data collected objectively. Some key individuals were interviewed to solicit their views on the topic of study and they include pastors, selected church leaders and groups and individuals who have played important roles relating to the topic under consideration.

The secondary method includes the collection of data from publications such as books, journals, thesis, magazines and other unpublished works and internet sources.

1.6.2 Sample and Sampling Procedure

The research considered the use of purposive sampling method which targets respondents for the interview and was used to gather information for the study. According to R. Panneerselvan purposive sampling is a method where the sampling units are selected based on the opinions of some experts, the researcher's intuition, or both.¹⁷ This method aided the researchers to reach their targeted group which includes some selected Elders, Deacons, Sunday School teachers, some children of the Children's ministry. These individuals were selected based on their level of familiarity and understanding of the issue of study and whose opinions the researchers considered significant to the study.

¹⁷ R. Panneerselvan, *Research Method; Learning* (New Delhi: Private Limited, 2004), 201.

1.6.3 Data Analysis

The researchers employed both qualitative and quantitative analysis in their study of the data obtained during the fieldwork. The qualitative analysis method was chosen because it relies more on the quality of the information gathered based on its applicability to the topic at hand and the quantitative helps to consider the statistics of the children's ministry within 2013 to 2023 on an average basis. The researchers collected data through interviews and analyzed them in a qualitative and quantitative manner and presented thematically relative to the objectives of the study.

1.7 Literature Review

There are quite a reasonable number of scholarly works on the topic of study. In view of this the researcher considered some selected literature for the study on the topic of study under the following themes: What is Children's ministry, Jesus's Ministry to Children and Biblical foundations of the Children's Ministry.

1.7.1 What is Children's Ministry?

Children's ministry refers to the set of programs, activities, and services provided by churches and religious organizations aimed at nurturing and mentoring children in their faith formation, spiritual growth, and character development. Children's ministry plays a vital role in the spiritual upbringing of children as it seeks to provide them with a sound foundation in biblical knowledge and Christian values.¹⁸

Children's ministry encompasses a wide range of activities, including Sunday School classes, Vacation Bible Schools, children's worship services, puppet shows, drama, music, games, and crafts, among others. These activities are designed to be age-

¹⁸ C. Stonehouse, *Joining Children on the Spiritual Journey: Nurturing a Life of Faith* (Michigan: Baker Academic, 1998), 34.

appropriate, interactive, and engaging, with the aim of teaching children about God's love, grace, and salvation through Jesus Christ.¹⁹ Children's ministry is not just about teaching children the Bible and instilling Christian values but is also about creating a safe and nurturing environment in which children can grow and develop emotionally, intellectually, and socially. In this regard, children's ministry helps to enhance children's sense of belonging, community, and self-worth.²⁰

The Bible places great importance on children, with Jesus Himself saying, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Mark 10:14, NIV). Children's ministry, therefore, seeks to create an environment in which children can encounter Jesus in a personal way and develop a lifelong relationship with Him.²¹

Therefore, the children's ministry is a crucial aspect of the work of the Church, as it seeks to provide children with a solid foundation in the Christian faith and character development. The spiritual formation and emotional well-being of children are vital to their overall development, and children's ministry seeks to provide a nurturing environment in which these aspects of a child's growth can be fostered.

1.7.2 Children in Jesus's Ministry

Jesus gave a lot of weight to children's engagement in the Kingdom of God during His earthly ministry. The disciples rebuked them when they brought youngsters to Him so He may touch them, according to Mark 10:13–16. However, when Jesus saw it, He became furious and rebuked them, telling them to let the children come to Him and not to stop them because the kingdom of God belonged to such. One could firmly believe

¹⁹ G. Beaumont, *Children's Ministry in the Way of Jesus* (Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 2011), 19.

²⁰ Stonehouse, *Joining Children on the Spiritual Journey*, 78.

²¹ Beaumont, *Children's Ministry in the Way of Jesus*, 65.

that anyone who does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not experience its inheritance. He then blessed them by placing His hands on them while holding them in His arms. Doherty also asserts that, the disciples reasoned that the youngster couldn't visit the master because he wasn't a man like them. Instead of saying that a child cannot arrive until he is like a man, the fortunate Saviour asserts that a man cannot come until he is like a child.²² For Jody, “there is no more beautiful experience than being able to lead a child to Christ. When you see a young child being able to verbalize what it means to be washed in the blood of Jesus, it sends a clear signal that it is always better when they are taught the fundamentals of the kingdom at their early stages of life.”²³

Clearly the Bible recognizes and places key emphasis on the role of Children in God's divine agenda of the development of the kingdom and its vitality, particularly relative to its survival and growth.

1.7.3 Church Growth

Over the years, Church growth has been one of the topical issues in relation to the development of local churches. Genesis 1:28 appears to point to God as the author of growth, which can be seen in the process of creation.²⁴ According to Wagner, the term church growth may be defined as the science that investigates the nature, function and health of Christian churches as they relate specifically to the effective implementation of the great commission by Jesus to make disciples of all nations.²⁵

²² Sam Doherty, *The Biblical Basis of Child Evangelism* (Kilchzimmer, Switzerland: European Child Fellowship, 1986), 87.

²³ Jody Capehart, *Becoming a Treasured Teacher* (Grand Rapids, MI: Scripture Press Publications, Inc., 1992), 153.

²⁴ Ajith Fernando, *ESV Global Study Bible* (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 2012), 38.

²⁵ Peter Wagner, *Church Growth Conference for Africa* (Lagos: August Publishers, 1992), 248.

To H.C Shank, church growth is “numerolatry: the idea that numerical growth is the only really valid criterion of church growth.”²⁶ It appears that, people limit their minds to numerical increase. However, McGavran and Winfield Arn disagree with Shank’s definition and points out that numerical growth is just an aspect of church growth. He posits that, “Church Growth is that science which investigates the nature and function, planting and multiplication, health of Christian churches as they seek specifically to effectively implement the Lord’s Great Commission to make disciples of all nations and peoples (Matthew 28:19-20).”²⁷ Church growth must be considered in the totality of things looking at all departments of the church.

Bob and Mary agree largely with McGavran and Winfield Arn by explaining that, Church growth is not only about numerical power; but involves “elements that are relational to the advancement of God’s Kingdom which may include spiritual and physical development of members.”²⁸ These elements involve the spiritual, physical, financial, missional and infrastructural growth of the church. Church growth in this work means, a manifestation of spiritual maturity and numerical growth of the children at the children’s ministry of Pentecost International Worship Center. Therefore, this research looks at these facets of church growth and assesses the role of the Children’s ministry on the growth of Pentecost International Worship Center, New Tafo.

²⁶ H. C Shank., The ranch report. Church growth, starting with basics, <https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/542dcea-files-uploaded/church%20Growth%201-8.pdf>2014, 1, accessed on 18th June, 2023.

²⁷ McGavran and Arn, *Ten Steps for Church Growth*, 88.

²⁸ Mary and Bob Hopkins, *Principles of Church Growth* (Sheffield: ACPI, Philadelphia Campus, 2008), 5.

1.8 Significance of the Study

This research may help to broaden the scope of knowledge on children's ministry and implant in the church the need to continue to prioritize the children's ministry for greater impact and rightly appropriate its benefits to the church relative to church growth. Researchers may also rely on the outcome of this work for their further studies into the children's ministry.

1.9 Organization of Chapters

This study is organized into five chapters. Chapter one consists of the general introduction and the background to the study. Chapter two deals with the history of The Church of Pentecost and its children's ministry and the background history of PIWC, New Tafo. Chapter three discusses children's ministry and its activities in Pentecost International Worship Center, New Tafo. Chapter four examines the impact of the children's ministry on the growth of PIWC, New Tafo. Finally, chapter five deals with the summary, conclusion and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF PENTECOST INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTER, NEW TAFO

2.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with the historical background of Pentecost International Worship center (PIWC), New Tafo, brief history of the Church of Pentecost's Children's Ministry, and the Sunday school at Pentecost International Worship Center (PIWC), New Tafo.

2.2 The Historical Background of the Church of Pentecost

The Church of Pentecost in Ghana has its roots in the Pentecostal movement that began in the early 20th century. It emerged as a result of the efforts of the British Apostolic Church, which sent some missionaries to the Gold Coast, now Ghana, in 1937 to preach the Gospel.²⁹

The Apostolic Church embraced the Pentecostal experience of speaking in tongues, which was gaining momentum in various parts of the world at the time. In 1947, these two men, James Mckeown and Peter Anim had a doctrinal conflict. Anim therefore broke away from the mother church to start an independent Pentecostal church which was named, the Apostolic Church of Ghana. Mckeown also maintained the name, the Ghana Apostolic Church.³⁰ Although the founders had deep roots in the British Apostolic Church, the new church was independent and had its leadership structure. It

²⁹ D. Owusu-Ansah, "Pentecostalism in Ghana: An African Reformation" *Religion Compass*, 2(3), (2008): 434-450.

³⁰ J. K. Asamoah-Gyadu, *African Pentecostalism: An Introduction* (London: Oxford University Press, 2018), 55.

began to spread rapidly throughout the country, attracting a significant following. The church changed its name to the Ghana Apostolic Church in 1953 and further changed it to the Church of Pentecost in Ghana in 1962.³¹

The leadership of the Church of Pentecost continued to evolve, with James McKeown as the leader in the 1950s, followed by Michael K. Ntummy in the 1970s and 1980s. The current Chairman of the Church of Pentecost in Ghana is Apostle Eric Kwabena Nyamekye, who assumed office in 2018.³²

The Church of Pentecost has a robust history of evangelism, church planting, and community development projects. One of its notable projects was the establishment of the Pentecost University College in 2003, a venture that has contributed significantly to tertiary education in Ghana. The church has been actively involved in establishing hospitals, schools, and vocational training centers in Ghana.³³ Additionally, the church has been actively involved in missions work, planting churches in several African countries, Europe, the Americas, and Asia. The church has a presence in over 100 countries worldwide and a membership of over 3 million people.³⁴

Despite its growth, the Church of Pentecost has faced criticism over the years, with some accusing it of commercialization and financial impropriety. However, the church has maintained its focus on evangelism and social development, which has earned it a place as the largest and most prominent Pentecostal church in the country.³⁵ Nonetheless, the Church of Pentecost in Ghana has come a long way since its inception in 1947. Its rich history in evangelism, church planting, and community development

³¹ Owusu-Ansah, "Pentecostalism in Ghana: An African Reformation" *Religion Compass*, 434-450.

³² J. Afum-Adjei, *Challenges of Religion and Politics: A Study of the Church of Pentecost in Ghana* (LIT Verlag Münster, 2015), 5.

³³ Gyampoh-Vidogah, *The Church of Pentecost in Ghana and Her Contribution to Socio-Economic Development: An Analysis of Selected Projects and Programs* (Accra: University of Ghana, 2009), 44.

³⁴ Afum-Adjei, *Challenges of Religion and Politics*, 5.

³⁵ Asamoah-Gyadu, *African Pentecostalism*, 55.

projects has endeared it to many Ghanaians. Although it has faced some criticism over the years, the church's significant contribution to Ghana's social and economic development cannot be denied.

2.3 A Brief History of Pentecost International Worship Center (PIWC), New Tafo

The church of Pentecost, New Tafo established the English Assembly with the hope of attracting and grounding the youth firmly in the local church. This was because the church found out that many of its tertiary students were not attending church services during vacations. In this effect, when these students were asked about their absence, the most obvious reply was visiting the other Charismatic churches where services are conducted with English language.³⁶ There was Pentecost International Worship Center (PIWC) in Accra and in Kumasi but not in New Tafo area. Therefore, in the wisdom of the church the English Assembly was established in the year 2008 at M. K. Yeboah temple, and it ran shift with the local Assembly in the same building and in the same building and on the same premises.³⁷

So as time went on, other local branches around the church in the New Tafo area also took the initiative to establish the English Assembly. This happened in the days of Apostle Rigwell Ato Addison. He was the Area Apostle at that time. He decided that the two other local branches running English services should join together with the New Tafo English Assembly, Krofurom and become the Pentecost Worship Center (PIWC). This happened in the year, 2009. The two other English Assemblies that joined were Yennyawoso and Nhyiayeso (Tafo).³⁸ The rest of the local assemblies in the area served as satellite churches. However, there was no building for the PIWC or the new

³⁶ Interview with Oti Awere, Elder and Leader of New Tafo PIWC, 14th June, 2023.

³⁷ Interview with Oti Awere.

³⁸ Interview with Oti Awere.

development. It was not long and Apostle Rigwell Ato Addison left. He was replaced by Apostle Ackah Baidoo as the new Area Apostle. He also accepted the vision and asked for the three (3) local English Assemblies to come together as one church. This was so because during the local churches conventions, the leaders saw the activeness and the liveliness of the youth. This made the purpose of establishing the PIWC a sure vision. Consequently, the PIWC was established in September, 2010.³⁹

Pastor Tetteh Judah was made the first resident pastor, and he resided at Tafo Nhyiaeso. Elder Ato Cobbinah became the first presiding elder for this new cause. The PIWC ran shift with the local church in the same temple of M. K. Yeboah, Krofurom. The PIWC started services at 7am in the morning and closed at 9:30 am to give way for the local church to function. Therefore as times went on and the population grew, it was decided that the PIWC should get a place of its own to be more effective.⁴⁰

Apparently, the English Assembly, Krofurom of previous years had a land acquired. Therefore, the leaders of the PIWC begun to develop it. In the cause of these events, Pastor Tetteh Judah left and Pastor Isaac Osei replaced him as the resident pastor. So in the year 2014, the PIWC moved in to their new place and building. The presiding elder at that time was Elder Charles Amoah. Pastor Isaac Osei also left in 2017, and was replaced by Pastor Anthony Mensah.⁴¹ The PIWC has so far produced one prophet who is in the person of Fred Antwi and an Apostle who is also in the person of Kingsley Addai for the Church of Pentecost. It has also produced five (5) pastors for the church. This is the history regarding the New Tafo Pentecost Worship Center (PIWC).⁴²

³⁹ Interview with Owusu Afriyie, Elder at PIWC, New Tafo, 30th March, 2023.

⁴⁰ Interview with Owusu Afriyie.

⁴¹ Interview with Owusu Afriyie.

⁴² Interview with Owusu Afriyie.

2.4 Brief History of the Church of Pentecost's Children's Ministry

From the beginning of the Church of Pentecost, children services, then known as Sunday school were organised in various localities. In 1972, the General council of the Church met in Kumasi. The Church felt the need to have a well organise and well-structured service for the Children at all levels for effective scripture teaching. The decision was then taken and the following were appointed to steer the affairs of the then Sunday School. The late Aps. C.E. Apau-Asante was General Leader; Deputy General Leader was Mrs. Margaret Mills with the late Mrs. Esme Siriboe as the Secretary.⁴³

2.5 A Historical Account of the Sunday School at Pentecost International

Worship Center (PIWC), New Tafo

The Sunday School was established at the M. K. Yeboah temple in the year 2008. Elder Owusu Afriyie was appointed as the district Sunday School leader for the English Assembly. The place of worship of the Sunday School at that time was the mission house of the district pastor. The Sunday School which is the backbone of the mother church is within the vision of the church, therefore its establishment was not something new.⁴⁴ During the days of Pastor Adobah, the district pastor, the children's ministry was established and this was in the year 2008. It was realized that there were children in the English Assembly, hence the need for the Sunday School. Pastor Adobah left and he was replaced by Pastor Samuel Antwi as the district pastor. The children of Pastor Samuel Antwi, two children of Elder Ocansey, four children of Deaconess Monica and those of Sister Rhoda, and the kids of few members constituted the membership of the Sunday School in the year 2008.⁴⁵

⁴³ The Church of Pentecost, Article 12 *Constitution* (Accra: Pentecost Press Limited, 2010), 97.

⁴⁴ Interview with Owusu Afriyie.

⁴⁵ Interview with Owusu Afriyie.

The number for the first time was fifteen (15) for the English Assembly at New Tafo. Between 2009 and 2010, Apostle Rigwell Stood Addison constituted all the English Assemblies in the area into one fold as the PIWC. He was the Area head of the New Tafo area at that time. This attracted more children to the Sunday School.⁴⁶ Prof. Otoo Elis who was the Vice Chancellor of KNUST at that time was the district leader for the children's ministry at Asokwa area. The Asokwa PIWC was a district on its own so it became expedient and imperative for the leaders of the children's ministry at New Tafo to visit him for more ideas and advice into grounding the children's ministry here at New Tafo. The Sunday School leaders, apart from Elder Owusu Afriyie, were Deacon Godfred Ansah, Deaconess Monica, sister Vivian, brother Asenso, brother Alan and brother Owusu Sekyere.⁴⁷ The population of the children's ministry in 2009 was fifteen (15) and due to the resilient and dedicated work of the current leaders, and with the fun innovative initiatives and activities their population is now one hundred and thirty-two (132).⁴⁸

2.6 The Children's Ministry and the Church of Pentecost

The Church of Pentecost emphasizes the significance of the Children's ministry in its constitution which expresses the view that, in the Local Assembly, there shall be a Children's Ministry composed of children and their teachers. The ministry's duties include leading Sunday morning worship services that include prayer, fellowship, and Bible study; holding recurring competitions; fostering the spiritual development of the kids; and performing other specialized Children-related ministries.⁴⁹

⁴⁶ Interview with Owusu Afriyie.

⁴⁷ Interview with Owusu Afriyie.

⁴⁸ Interview with Owusu Afriyie.

⁴⁹ The Church of Pentecost, Article 12 *Constitution*, 97.

2.7 Conclusion

The chapter is the historical background of PIWC – New Tafo. The PIWC was started as English Assembly-New Tafo due to the none-English Service of the Church of Pentecost, Krofrom which is one of the policy of the Church of Pentecost to reach out every town with the word of God in the English language to cater for its members in the high school and tertiary institutions. Hence the need to open the PIWC –New Tafo branch. Evangelism, leadership, visitation and the children's ministry are the factors that have affected the growth of the church. The population of the church is four-hundred (400) currently.

CHAPTER THREE

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AT PENTECOST INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTER, NEW TAFO

3.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the initiatives and activities of the children's ministry at Pentecost International Worship Center New Tafo. These initiatives and activities include the "Jethro Initiative", "One Child one Bible", Pick and Act, Sword Drills, Camp Meetings, Bible Quizzes, Bible lessons, Sporting Activities, Preacher Kids Sessions, and Action songs. It also considers the purpose of the children's ministry at PIWC, New Tafo, the structure of the children's ministry at PIWC, New Tafo and the Statistical presentation of the total population of the children's ministry at PIWC, New Tafo.

Vision Statement

The visionary declaration of the children's ministry is "win and nurture children to grow in the Lord."

Mission Statement

The goal of the children's ministry is to introduce kids to Christ and raise them so they can develop socially, mentally, physically, and spiritually so they can eventually take on leadership roles. (Luke 2:52)

3.2 The Purpose of the Children's Ministry at PIWC, New Tafo

The Church of Pentecost as a reputable church organization has a well defined purpose for the Children's Ministry which underpins the structures put in place to ensure the successful implementation of its programs. The purpose of the Children's ministry at

PIWC, New Tafo, is “to lead children to Christ and to bring them up to grow mentally, physically, socially and spiritually to take up the mantle of leadership in the near future. (Luke 2:52).”⁵⁰ Explaining further, James Acheampong notes that, the children’s ministry at PIWC, New Tafo, exists to train children along biblical precepts of balanced growth. This includes lessons on salvation, worship and obedience. It supports such training with camp meetings, games and Sword drill.⁵¹

3.3 The Structure of the Children’s Ministry at New Tafo PIWC

According to Elder Anthony Kusi Boateng, the structure of the children’s ministry is such that, the children are grouped into three (3) classes, taking into account their ages. Children from the ages of Zero (0) to six (6) years belong to class ‘C’, whilst children from the ages of seven (7) to nine (9) years belong to class ‘B’ and children from the ages of ten (10) to thirteen (13) belong to class ‘A’.⁵² This structure is to help educators to meet the needs of the children at the children’s ministry and rightly impact their lives as they progress from one stage to another.⁵³ Emmanuel Amankwah Kusi also adds that, these groupings help to fit and follow the guide of the syllabus which has been structured in line with the classes. The syllabus is designed systematically in a way that seeks to make practical, informative and inspiring presentations of biblical truths that will help evangelize children and ensure their growth in the Lord Jesus Christ at all levels.⁵⁴ Apart from these three classes, there is another class called the teen’s class. When the children transition immediately from class ‘A’ to the adult church they find

⁵⁰ Interview with James Acheampong, Deacon and Children’s Ministry Leader, PIWC, New Tafo, 17th June, 2023.

⁵¹ Interview with James Acheampong.

⁵² Interview with Boateng Kusi Anthony, Elder at PIWC, New Tafo, 14th June, 2023.

⁵³ Interview with Boateng Kusi Anthony.

⁵⁴ Interview with Amankwaah Emmanuel Kusi, Youth Leader and Leader of the Teens Class at PIWC, New Tafo, 28th June, 2023.

it difficult to cope with the order of service and teachings of the adult church thereby making some of them leave the church during service or do not even attend church at all. In addressing this challenge, the teen's class was created to fully prepare them for the adult church.⁵⁵

3.3.1 A Statistical Presentation of the Total Population of the Children's Ministry at PIWC, New Tafo

The statistics of the children's ministry are presented according to the structure of the classes below:

Table 1: Statistics of Children's Ministry (PIWC, New Tafo)

CLASES	AGE	GENDER		TOTAL
	RANGE	MALE	FEMALE	
TEENS	13-16	23	22	45
A	10-13	20	18	38
B	7-9	24	20	44
C	0-6	22	28	50
TOTAL				177

Table 2: No of Teachers

GENDER	NUMBER
MALE	6
FEMALE	5
TOTAL	11

⁵⁵ Interview with Amankwaah Emmanuel Kusi.

3.4 Examining the Initiatives and Activities of the Children's Ministry at PIWC, New Tafo

3.4.1 *The Jethro Initiative*

The Jethro Initiative (JI) as an initiative of the Church of Pentecost that was launched in February 2022 by the chairman of the church Apostle Eric Nyamekye. The JI aims to complement and strengthen the activities of the children's ministry in building the foundation of the children in Christ and His word whiles making their walk in faith exciting through intentionally designed extra-curricular activities.⁵⁶

Millicent Appiah, a Sunday school teacher at PIWC, New Tafo, points out that, JI has eight key objectives which includes training the children to acquire leadership skills, unity and team work, fun innovation in studying the word of God, increased participation, evangelism, holistic growth, exposure to role models, coaching and mentoring, civic responsibility and patriotism.⁵⁷ She further notes that one of the key objectives undertaken by the Children's ministry at the church after its launch is in the areas of evangelism and looking at the holistic growth of the children's ministry that is the numerical and spiritual growth of the children's ministry.

Stephen Aidoo, a deacon at the church also adds that, under this JI initiative the children are divided into groups led by a teacher and sent out into the community to engage in the spread of the gospel. He explains that this helps the children get a first hand experience on soul winning especially those in the class 'A' and appreciate the importance of evangelism in the Christian faith.⁵⁸ Recalling the most recent activity, Stephen observes that during this outreach, close to ten (10) children gave their lives to

⁵⁶ Interview with Arthur Emmanuel Pasteeco, The Resident Pastor, PIWC, New Tafo, 2nd July, 2023.

⁵⁷ Interview with Millicent Appiah, Sunday School Teacher, PIWC, New Tafo, 25th June, 2023.

⁵⁸ Interview with Stephen Aidoo, Deacon at PIWC, New Tafo, 25th June, 2023.

Christ and became regular members of the children's ministry. He enlists some of the special activities of JI which include character studies in the Bible, Christian Family values, my Environment, my Responsibility, Leadership Day, Talent Exhibition, Talk Shows, Reading Club, Family Day Out, Debate and Bible Recitation.⁵⁹

3.4.2 One Child one Bible

Another innovative of the church is the one Child one bible project. According to Emmanuel, the aim of this initiative is to make the word of God easily available to the children to aid them in their study of God's word.⁶⁰ He indicates that, the project has been very helpful to the spiritual growth of the children particularly considering the fact that the Bible is the underlining manual for teaching the children. He add that under this project the children's ministry has received over two hundred and forty Bibles from the leadership of the church and donors which aided them particularly in their outreach programs as new converts were given new Bibles to aid their study of the word.⁶¹

Aidoo Priscilla, Amponsah Daniel and two other children at Class 'A' of the children's ministry observe that, the one child one Bible has been helpful to them as it helped to study the Bible with the guidance of their parents when they are at home. For instance, Priscilla points out that the Bible becomes her point of reference each time she forgets what she is taught at Sunday school.⁶²

However, Philip Arhin an elder at PIWC, New Tafo points out that despite the success of this initiative, it is fraught with some challenges. He explains that when some of the children take the Bible home, they do not return them thereby leading to shortage of the

⁵⁹ Interview with Stephen Aidoo.

⁶⁰ Interview with Amankwaah Emmanuel Kusi.

⁶¹ Interview with Amankwaah Emmanuel Kusi.

⁶² Interview with Priscilla Aidoo, Amponsah Daniel, Class C of the Children's Ministry, PIWC, New Tafo, 2nd July, 2023.

Bibles given to the children's ministry.⁶³ Nonetheless of this challenge, it appears this initiative has been largely successful.

3.4.3 *Sword Drills*

Apart from the above named initiatives of the children's ministry at PIWC, New Tafo another activity is Sword Drills.⁶⁴ Kusi points out that Sword Drills has been one of the exciting activities of the children's ministry that makes teaching and learning fun at the Sunday school. He notes that the aim of this activity is to enable the children to be familiar with scriptural passages and easy to locate them in the Bible.⁶⁵ Describing how the sword drill works, Mark Boamah, a Sunday school teacher at PIWC, New Tafo notes that, "in sword drill, children have to find a Bible passage as quickly as possible. The teacher and each child should have a Bible on hand, start the game by opening the Bible and selecting a random passage. Then give them a passage reference and ask the kids to find it in their Bibles as quickly as they can. The first to find it reads it out loud and earns a point. The one that earns five points first wins. Instead of letting each child compete against each other,

you can also form teams or partners."⁶⁶ He adds that often the winners and participants are given biscuits and toffees as an incentive and a motivation for other children who are unwilling to participate to become fully involved.⁶⁷ For Aidoo, these games have been very instrumental in keeping the children regularly at the ministry and also he finds these games very exciting and a fun. Again, many of the parents come thanking the teachers for the enthusiasm of their wards in always wanting to be at church.⁶⁸

⁶³ Interview with Philip Arhin, Elder at PIWC, New Tafo, 28th June, 2023.

⁶⁴ Interview with Amankwaah Emmanuel Kusi.

⁶⁵ Interview with Amankwaah Emmanuel Kusi.

⁶⁶ Interview with Mark Boamah, Sunday school teacher, PIWC, New Tafo, 28th June, 2023.

⁶⁷ Interview with Mark Boamah.

⁶⁸ Interview with Stephen Aidoo.

3.4.4 *Pick and Act*

Pick and Act is one of the numerous games played by many children even in the secular circles. According to Adusei Clement, many of the children at the Children's ministry find this activity exciting. Explaining what pick and act entails, Clement observes that, key words of the Bible after lesson are written on pieces of papers and children will come and pick one, with what is written on it, the child is expected to demonstrate it for all the others to see, and it has often been fun.⁶⁹ He notes that, the aim of this activity is to graphically present the word of God to the children which most often are easily recollected by children because of the fun attached to it.⁷⁰ However, in an interview with, Priscilla, one of the children at the children's ministry, she points out this activity is exciting. Some of her colleagues at Sunday school sometimes feel shy in participating but was quick to add that, this does not deter them from coming to church regularly because of the lessons and the excitement involved.

3.4.5 *Preacher Kids Sessions*

Preacher Kids session has been one of impactful initiatives of the children's ministry at PIWC, New Tafo. According to Philip Arhin, the preacher kids session is to inculcate into the children the ability to mount the pulpit to demonstrate the lessons they have learned in the form of preaching and it focuses on making them become more acquainted with God's word.⁷¹ Millicent adds that, on children's ministry day, which is an annual celebration for the children, they are given the platform to exhibit their level of understanding of God's word before the adult church often to the amazement of their parents. Again she observes that, some children have become very vibrant in the youth

⁶⁹ Interview with Adusei Clement, Elder, PIWC, New Tafo, 28th June 2023.

⁷⁰ Interview with Adusei Clement.

⁷¹ Interview with Philip.

ministry in relation to their ability to share the word of God with their colleagues because of the impact the preacher session has had on them.⁷²

In another interview with Francisca Ofori, one of the child preachers of the recently organized preacher kids session points out, this activity has been of tremendous help to her because “it has increased her level of boldness and her ability to speak in public which hitherto was not the case.”⁷³ She added that, she invited her cousins and aunties who came to watch her preach and afterwards decided to join her in church after seeing her transforming.⁷⁴ It appears that, this has played a key role in unearthing leadership abilities in these children even as they transition to the adult church.

3.4.6 Bible Quizzes

In the views of Mark, Bible quiz is one of the activities that aims at equipping the child with the word of God. He explains that, it involves asking questions on lessons or topics of the bible that the children are taught at Sunday school to see their level of understanding in relation to the topic.⁷⁵ According to Samuel Sarkodie, a Sunday school teacher at PIWC, New Tafo, also adds that, bible quizzes help to test the children’s knowledge of the Bible. Each child is given a Bible and they are put into groups. We ask the children questions about the Bible, verses, or people, and the children are told to find the answers in their bibles and raise their hands when they do. Friendly competition is encouraged between the children.⁷⁶ For Philip, this goes a long to build the children spiritually in their Christian faith.⁷⁷ The researchers in their observation last

⁷² Interview with Millicent Appiah.

⁷³ Interview with Francisca Ofori, Child Preacher at PIWC, New Tafo, 2nd July, 2023.

⁷⁴ Interview with Francisca Ofori.

⁷⁵ Interview with Mark.

⁷⁶ Interview with Samuel Sarkodie, A Sunday School Teacher at PIWC, New Tafo, 27th June, 2023.

⁷⁷ Interview with Philip.

Sunday, witnessed a highly tensed quiz between the groups which are named according to the fruits of the spirit. It was truly an exciting and educative contest.

3.4.7 Bible Lessons

Bible lessons play a key role in the spiritual development of the children's ministry and it's literally the foundation of the ministry. James Acheampong, a deacon at PIWC, New Tafo, notes that, the bible lessons are drawn from the syllabus of the children's ministry which has been designed in a way that meets the spiritual needs of the children at every level of the children's ministry which takes into account children at ages 0-6, 7-9, 10-14.⁷⁸ The teachers use the syllabus as guide to impart the children with knowledge of God's word.

3.4.8 Camp Meetings

Camp meetings are religious meetings held in the open air or in tents to serve spiritual purposes, and such meetings are always held away from homes. Children camp meetings are embarked on by most churches and other non-denominational Christian groups.⁷⁹

Amankwaah Kusi also explains that, "these meetings serve as grounds where children are led to salvation through Christ. They serve as a platform to disciple children. Camp meetings serve as places for children to socialize in a godly way. Children develop their leadership skills as they are allowed to supervise their peers during such meetings. Camp meetings also provide an avenue for children to discover and use their gifts, talents, and other hidden abilities."⁸⁰

⁷⁸ Interview with James Acheampong, a deacon at PIWC, New Tafo, 28th June, 2023.

⁷⁹ Oxford English Dictionary, OED online. March 2023 (Oxford University Press), <http://www.oed.com/viewdictionaryentry/Entry/1112> accessed on 15th May, 2023.

⁸⁰ Interview with Amankwaah Kusi.

Deacon Mark asserts that activities like Bible studies which bring these children's knowledge to bear are observed outreach evangelism, sporting activities, games and dawn jogging are also done to build in these children the ability to speak boldly in their communication with health people and to also motivate their physical strength. T.I. AMASS and Kumasi Senior High School are the venues for these meetings. The children spend three (3) days at these places.⁸¹

3.4.9 Sporting Activities

Just like it is said "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, all play and no work, makes Jack a lazy boy". This activity is to ensure the physical fitness, social interaction and also identify the individual talents of the children.⁸² According to Millicent, sporting activities such as football, ampe, skipping robes, oware and other physical engagement are organized quarterly for the children. She notes that even though these games are often exciting and improve the health of the children, there is often social interaction amongst the children who come around to watch these games it also seen as an opportunity to share the word of God with these kids.⁸³ Similarly, Clement adds that, last year for instance after these activities which were held at New Tafo Presby Primary 'B' school, five teens received the lord Jesus Christ as their personal savior after a short message was shared with them by Elder Emmanuel. He explains further that, out of these five children, three of them attend church regularly to date.⁸⁴ It is obvious that, despite the physical benefits derived by the children from these exercises it has also become an effective tool of evangelism for the children's ministry.

⁸¹ Interview with Deacon Mark Boamah.

⁸² Interview with Millicent.

⁸³ Interview with Millicent.

⁸⁴ Interview with Clement.

3.4.10 Action Songs

Apart from the sporting activities, one of the activities of the children ministry that involves physical activity is Action songs. As the name suggests, the children are taught songs that go along with actions in the class.⁸⁵ Stephen points out that, engaging the children in both physical and spiritual exercise also helps them to understand the songs. One typical song usually rehearsed in class A is “my head, my shoulders, my knees, my toes, they all belong to Jesus.”⁸⁶ This way, the songs easily sticks with them as many of them continue to sing these songs together with its actions even after class particularly in their home.⁸⁷ According to Millicent, what this does is that, it keeps the children excited which motivates them to regularly come to church and even invite their friends to church in order to experience the fun.⁸⁸

3.5 Conclusion

These children ministry’s activities help these kids to indulge in communal labour activities socially. Morally, the Bible lessons help to build Godly character in them, thereby they becoming good citizens of the country. Spiritually, during these camp meetings for instance these children are taught to observe their quiet time which help them to pray. Physically, the sporting activities and morning joggings enhance the health of these children.

⁸⁵ Interview with Stephen.

⁸⁶ Interview with Stephen.

⁸⁷ Interview with Stephen.

⁸⁸ Interview with Millicent.

CHAPTER FOUR

EXAMINING HOW THE INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HELP IN THE GROWTH OF PENTECOST INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTER, NEW TAFO

4.1 Introduction

This chapter considers an examination of the effectiveness of these initiatives and activities of the children's ministry on the growth of PIWC, New Tafo both numerically and spiritually. Again it investigates the challenges with some of these initiatives and activities.

4.2 Data Collection

For this study, the researchers created a data collection system that allowed them to correctly separate the issues and elicit the appropriate replies from the right respondents. Some chosen church leaders (Pastors, Elders, Deacons, Sunday school teachers), selected children and some members from PIWC, New Tafo responded to questionnaires.

4.3 Analysis of Data

Despite the difficulties the researcher faced in collecting the necessary data for the study, a respectable percentage of people who received the questionnaires answered. These people were selected based on the fact that they have an appreciable level of understanding on the children's ministry at PIWC, New Tafo. The data collected is analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively.

4.4 Study Population

The research population comprised of twenty-five (25) males and fifteen (15) females totaling forty respondents. This represents ten (10%) percent of the total adult population of four hundred (400) membership which comprises of one hundred and eighty-six males and two hundred and fourteen females all of whom belong to PIWC, New Tafo. In addition to this, eighteen (18) representing ten (10%) percent of the 177 total number of children from the children's ministry were also interviewed. Therefore, the total number of respondents used for this research is fifty-five (55) which the researchers consider to be moderately appropriate for this research.

4.5 How Effective are the Initiatives and Activities of the Children's Ministry at PIWC, New Tafo

This section discusses the effectiveness or otherwise of the various initiatives and activities of the children's ministry at PIWC, New Tafo. When the question of the effectiveness of the activities of the children's ministry was asked, forty (40), representing seventy two (72%) percent of the respondents pointed out that, the initiatives and activities as discussed in Chapter three are effective in the delivery of the mandate of the children's ministry and the remaining fifteen (15), which represents eighteen (18%) percent of the respondents shared varied views pointing to the less effectiveness of some of the activities and initiatives of the Children's ministry. For instance, Obed Oti, and six (6) other respondents who are all members of the church mentioned that, Pick and Act coupled with the Bible quiz appear to be less effective an activity for the children's ministry. They pointed out that, these two activities actually serve as a demotivating factors that threaten the attendance of some of the children at

that department.⁸⁹ Obed explains that, some children, including his niece who belong to class B were literally avoiding attending the children's ministry and investigations done by him revealed that, the cause of it was the fact that she feels embarrassed when they are unable to answer questions during the Bible quizzes.⁹⁰

Nonetheless, Philip Arhin and majority of the respondents think otherwise noting that, this could be just some few cases that could be dealt with by examining these children and addressing their concerns. He observes that, the Bible quizzes has helped a lot of children including his two children to be abreast with many Bible texts and stories in the Bible thereby helping them grow in the word of God.⁹¹ Similarly, Adjei Abraham, a Sunday school teacher at PIWC, New Tafo adding his views to the discussions observes that initiatives such as the Jethro Initiative, One Child one bible, preacher kids sessions, sword drills, Bible lessons, sporting activities amongst many others have been very effective in the spiritual and numerical growth of the children and to a large extent the church.⁹² He further argues that, the Jethro Initiative for instance, which groups the children into groups has been an effective tool of children outreach or evangelism which helped them to reach many unsaved children in their targeted area from the time it was launched to date.⁹³ Singling out the preacher kids sessions elder Awere notes in another interview that this initiative offered the children an opportunity to showcase their appreciation of the biblical lessons they have been taken through at the children's ministry. In his words "this has been very beneficial to the church as many of the children who took part in the preacher kids session have become very active and vocal in the youth ministry with some of them taking up leadership roles in the adult church

⁸⁹ Interview with Obed Oti, Member of PIWC, New Tafo, 29th June, 2023.

⁹⁰ Interview with Obed Oti.

⁹¹ Interview with Philip.

⁹² Interview with Adjei Abraham, Sunday School Teacher at PIWC, New Tafo, 25th June, 2023.

⁹³ Interview with Adjei Abraham.

after transitioning from the children's ministry."⁹⁴ It is obvious from the responses that majority of these initiatives and activities of the children's ministry are very effective and it appears that its aims and objectives are largely being realized.

4.5.1 Assessing the Impact of the activities of the Children's Ministry on the Growth of PIWC, New Tafo

The research work revealed that the fifty (50) representing ninety (90%) of the respondents out of the fifty-five (55) asserted that the initiatives and activities of the children's ministry have a role to play in the growth of PIWC, New Tafo both numerically and spiritually. This confirms the views of Johnvesly who points out that, the children's ministry plays a key role in the growth of every church and therefore must be taken seriously.⁹⁵ Even though there are several aspects of church growth, the study limits itself to the numerical and spiritual growth of the church and is discussed below.

4.5.2 How the Children's Ministry Plays a Role in the Numerical Growth of PIWC, New Tafo

The field work showed that, fifty (50) representing ninety (90%) of the respondents out of the fifty-five (55) pointed out that the initiatives and activities of the children's ministry play a role in the growth of PIWC, New Tafo in terms of membership. These respondents asserted that, activities such as the one child one Bible, the Jethro initiatives, sporting activities, amongst others were actually not only exciting but were also avenues of evangelism that helps the children's to win more souls for the church. Felix Amankwah, a deacon and a patron of the children's ministry observes in an interview that, last year for instance, under the Jethro initiative, the teen's class of the

⁹⁴ Interview with Adjei Abraham.

⁹⁵ Johnvesly, *Role of the Church in Reaching Next Generation*, 81.

children's ministry organized a cleanup exercise at New Tafo community close to Adams Apple. He notes that after the exercise all the children came together and surprisingly some teens in the community who were attracted by this activity came close to the gathering and one of the teachers took the opportunity to share the word of God with these children and fifteen children surrounded their lives to Christ and out of these number four are regular members of the church to date.⁹⁶ Expanding the discussion, Kusi also points out that, the children themselves are "active instruments of evangelism among their peers". He explains that the children often spoke about the initiatives and activities of the children's ministry to their colleagues and peers both at home and at school.⁹⁷

Citing a particular example, Millicent notes that January this year two children from Class B (ages 7-10) were able to bring five of their peers to church who stayed with them in same neighborhood through the one child one Bible initiative. She explains that when she interrogated the children on how they were able to convince their friends to follow them to church, they retorted that "they told them that when they come to church they would be given free Bibles to study the word of God."⁹⁸

Similarly, Comfort Adu Mensah, a Sunday teacher, also adds that "we have a lot of parents who say they chose our church for what it has to offer their children." She explains that the children a lot of the time lead their parents to a church. God uses children's ministry to minister to the whole family and therefore a quality child's experience helps the church to grow in membership.⁹⁹ Confirming the views expressed by Comfort and Millicent, Sarkodie again observes in an interaction with some parents

⁹⁶ Interview with Felix Amankwah, Deacon at PIWC, New Tafo, 3rd July, 2023.

⁹⁷ Interview with Emmanuel.

⁹⁸ Interview with Millicent.

⁹⁹ Interview with Comfort Adu Mensah, Sunday School Teacher at PIWC, New Tafo, 25th June, 2023.

to assess the effects of the programs of the children's ministry on the children that some of the parents point out that the activities and initiatives of the children's ministry was very a key aspect of their overall consideration in joining PIWC, New Tafo. He further points out that some parents are loyal, committed, financially supportive to the church because they have seen massive transformation in the lives of their children.¹⁰⁰ These views expressed above point to an effective children's ministry with effective initiatives and activities that plays a role in the numerical growth of PIWC, New Tafo. In addition to the above, children at the at the teens class graduate to the adult church every year and the next discussions considers this transition numerical.

4.5.3 Transition of the Children to the Adult Church: An Increase in Membership

Another area that the children's ministry plays role with respect to the growth of PIWC, New Tafo is when the children transition from the teens class to the adult church. It is without doubt that from the literal point of view every child is expected to grow into adulthood and same can be said when it comes to the church particularly dealing with the spiritual wellbeing of children in the church. Over the years Children from the teen's class in the children's ministry have transitioned to the adult church thereby increasing the numerical strength of the adult church which to a large extent represents an embodiment of the church. Emmanuel Acheampong, a deacon and the leader of the teen's class points out that, averagely from ten (10) to twenty-six (26) children from the children's ministry transition to the adult church every year. He explains further that, in the past ten (10) years; from 2013 to 2023 close to hundred (100) of the children have transitioned to the adult church. And out of these hundred (100) that transitioned to the adult church, sixty eight (68) of these children are regular members of the church

¹⁰⁰ Interview with Sarkodie.

up to date.¹⁰¹ He indicates that this number represents seventeen percent (17%) of the total population of the adult church.¹⁰² Indeed, 17% to the membership of the church is quite an encouraging contribution to the numerical strength of the children's ministry. Confirming the importance of the children's ministry, Dale asserts that "nothing grows a church like a vibrant children's ministry."¹⁰³ Deacon Daniel Sefah, also adds that, many of these children who transitioned to the adult church, have taken up important roles in the adult church such as leading opening prayers, singing, playing instruments and even reading of the Bible during sermons which is a sure indication of the spiritual growth attained through the children's ministry.¹⁰⁴

4.5.4 How the Children's Ministry plays a role in the Spiritual Growth of PIWC, New Tafo

Apart from the role the children's ministry plays in the numerical growth of the church, the children's ministry also plays a role in the spiritual growth of PIWC, New Tafo. Again James, a deacon at PIWC, New Tafo, argues that the children's ministry is the foundation or bedrock of any thriving and serious ministry. He explains further that the spiritual vibrancy of the PIWC, New Tafo today is as a result of the solid foundation grounded in the initiatives and the activities of the children's ministry and the children who consistently transition from the children's ministry to the adult church.¹⁰⁵ Arhin agrees with James as he notes that taking into account the numerous activities and initiatives such as the Jethro Initiative, One Child one Bible, Pick and Act, Sword Drills, Camp Meetings, Bible Quizzes, Bible lessons, Sporting Activities, Preacher Kids

¹⁰¹ Interview with Acheampong.

¹⁰² Interview with Acheampong.

¹⁰³ Hudson Dale. Relevant Children's Ministry. Published on .0/2016, 2 and retrieved on 15th May, 2023.

¹⁰⁴ Interview with Daniel Sefah, Deacon at PIWC, New Tafo, 8th March, 2023.

¹⁰⁵ Interview with James Acheampong, Deacon at PIWC, New Tafo, 1st June, 2023.

Sessions, and Action song have fundamentally impacted on the spiritual growth of the church considering the fact that majority of the church members particularly those play in various roles in leadership had their spiritual training from the children's ministry.¹⁰⁶

In the words of Millicent, she is a Sunday school teacher and secretary of the youth ministry because of the impact these activities such as the Bible lessons and quizzes, sword drill and the preacher kid's session had on her life. In her words "I derived my confidence to speak publicly from the various activities of the children's ministry particularly the preacher kid's session which gave me the platform to exhibit my teaching ability."¹⁰⁷ Similarly, Stephen observes that "the ministry has been feeding the spiritual human resource of the church since its inception through the Bible lessons members receive as a Christian foundation, from the children's ministry." He further explains that but for the solid foundation deacons, pastors and elders got during their Sunday school days it would have literally been impossible for them to attain these positions in the church.¹⁰⁸ Arhin adds that from time to time, teens who transition to the adult church often become very useful to the church and play a good role in the choir, prayer teams, evangelism teams and the youth ministry.¹⁰⁹ He explains that, the children's ministry is the beginning point that has groomed great leaders through their well-structured activities for the church thereby providing the church with effective and efficient leaders who are abreast with biblical truths and church doctrines as such.¹¹⁰ Elder Anthony Kusi Boateng, an elder, PIWC, New Tafo, also asserts in an interview that, he has a strong foundation in ministry today because of the role the children's ministry played in building him up in word of God. For him, he became very rooted in

¹⁰⁶ Interview with Arhin.

¹⁰⁷ Interview with Millicent.

¹⁰⁸ Interview with Stephen.

¹⁰⁹ Interview with Arhin.

¹¹⁰ Interview with Arhin.

God's word because the Sunday school system helped him in memorizing scriptures and consistently got stuck to observing his quiet time. Through their initiatives like the sword drills, pick and act, bible lessons and quizzes and preacher kids sessions.¹¹¹ The view expressed affirms the outcome of the research conducted by James Oscar on the effectiveness of the children's ministry on Santasi district of the Church of Pentecost. James Oscar points out that "fifty-five percent of the church leadership went through the children's ministry as reported by sixty-five percent of the respondents. This shows how well the children's ministry has impacted the church in the area of leadership. These leaders who went through the children's ministry are seen to be people who know the church, understand its teachings and practices and as such are able to defend their faith."¹¹²

These views affirm the opinion that "Children are the future leaders who need to be prepared for leadership. Teaching is the means to prepare the younger generation for future responsibility. The result of obeying the command to teach children is to have a people prepared to take over from the older generation. The future of the children depends on the training they receive today."¹¹³ Today, the New Tafo PIWC can boast of the likes of overseer, Philemon Amoanin who is the Resident Pastor of the Church of Pentecost, Bunjai in North East Gonja District, Pastor Obed Oti, the Resident Pastor of Kajeji Assembly, Atebubu in the Bono Region and Daniel Yaw Oti who is a media engineer at PIWC, New Tafo as products of the children's ministry.

¹¹¹ Interview with Anthony Kusi Boateng, Elder, PIWC, New Tafo, 13th May, 2023.

¹¹² Osei, Effective Children's Ministry, 43.

¹¹³ *International Journal of Academic Research and Reflection* (2020). Vol. 8, No. 3, ISSN 2309-0405 Progressive Academic Publishing, UK. <https://www.idpublications.org>, 35, accessed on 17th May, 2023.

It is therefore without any form of ambiguity from the various views shared by the respondents that the children's ministry plays a significant role on the spiritual and leadership growth of Pentecost International Worship Center, New Tafo.

4.6 Conclusion

The children's ministry plays an important role in the proper functioning and advancement of the church and that is demonstrable in Pentecost International Worship Center, New Tafo in the areas of numerical growth and spiritual growth. These growth is basically achieved through the numerous activities and initiatives of the children's ministry such as the Jethro Initiative, One Child one Bible, Pick and Act, Sword Drills, Camp Meetings, Bible Quizzes, Bible lessons, Sporting Activities, Preacher Kids Sessions, and Action songs. It is also important to note as it appears that many of these initiatives are effective in the delivery of the mandate of the children's ministry.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

In summary, the study attempts an examination of the role the children's ministry plays towards growth at Pentecost International Worship Center, New Tafo. It also took into account the historical background of Pentecost International Worship Center, New Tafo, the church of Pentecost's Children's ministry and New Tafo PIWC Children's ministry. It considered some of the activities and initiatives of the children's ministry and how it helps in the numerical and spiritual growth of PIWC, New Tafo. Again, it looked at the essence of the activities and how they impact the lives of the children spiritually, morally, socially and physically.

5.2 General Conclusions

One of the bedrocks of solid Christian upbringing has been the children's ministry. Many who have become pastors, elders and are occupying church positions at PIWC, New Tafo today can testify to the role of the children's ministry in their Christian and spiritual walk with the Lord as the field work has shown. This role is not played in vacuum because the children's ministry of PIWC, New Tafo appears to be well-structured with numerous activities and initiatives that are geared towards meeting the spiritual needs of the children at all levels. The findings of the research show that the children's ministry plays a key role in the numerical and spiritual growth of PIWC, New Tafo through its various activities and initiatives.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings and the issues that arose out of this study, the researchers recommend that:

1. Pentecost International Worship Center, New Tafo, and by extension, churches in Ghana must continue to prioritize the children's ministry in attempt to become effective in delivering their core mandate of teaching and shaping the children in a Christ like manner.
2. Other Churches likes the Charismatic and Pentecostal churches can adopt some of the initiatives or programs like the Jethro initiative, one child one Bible, Bible quizzes, sporting activities, pick and act and others as means of revitalizing their children ministry and making teaching learning exciting.
3. More training seminars, workshops and camp meetings should be regularly organized for child development facilitators or educators in the church so as to equip them with the required knowledge, tools and skills so that they can effectively and efficiently deliver their mandate of guiding and inculcating into these children the right knowledge of God.

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APPENDIX I

PERSONALITIES INTERVIEWED

Adjei Abraham, Sunday School Teacher at PIWC, New Tafo, 25th June, 2023.

Adusei Clement, Elder, PIWC, New Tafo, 28th June 2023.

Amankwaah Emmanuel Kusi, Youth Leader and Leader of the Teens Class at PIWC, New Tafo, 28th June, 2023.

Anthony Kusi Boateng, Elder, PIWC, New Tafo, 13th May, 2023.

Arthur Emmanuel Pasteco, the Resident Pastor, PIWC, New Tafo, 2nd July, 2023.

Boateng Kusi Anthony, Elder at PIWC, New Tafo, 14th June, 2023.

Comfort Adu Mensah, Sunday School Teacher at PIWC, New Tafo, 25th June, 2023.

Daniel Sefah, Deacon at PIWC, New Tafo, 8th March, 2023.

Danladi Boyorbo, Elder at Heaven Glory Church, Obuasi, 28th June, 2023.

Felix Amankwah, Deacon at PIWC, New Tafo, 3rd July, 2023.

Francisca Ofori, Child Preacher at PIWC, New Tafo, 2nd July, 2023.

James Acheampong, Deacon and Children's Ministry Leader, PIWC, New Tafo, 17th June, 2023.

Mark Boamah, Sunday school teacher, PIWC, New Tafo, 28th June, 2023.

Millicent Appiah, Sunday School Teacher, PIWC, New Tafo, 25th June, 2023.

Obed Oti, Member of PIWC, New Tafo, 29th June, 2023.

Oti Awere, Elder and leader of New Tafo PIWC, 14th June, 2023.

Owusu Afriyie, Elder at PIWC, New Tafo, 30th March, 2023.

Philip Arhin, Elder at PIWC, New Tafo, 28th June, 2023.

Prince Samoakyi, Sunday School teacher at Buokrom Estate, CACI, 27th June, 2023.

Priscilla Aidoo, Amponsah Daniel, Class C of the Children's Ministry, PIWC, New Tafo, 2nd July, 2023.

Samuel Sarkodie, A Sunday School Teacher at PIWC, New Tafo, 27th June, 2023.

Stephen Aidoo, Deacon at PIWC, New Tafo, 25th June, 2023.

APPENDIX II

INTERVIEW GUIDE

Dear Sir,

We....., undergraduate student of the Department of Theology, Christian Service University College. The area of our research is under the topic: Role of Children Ministry on the Growth of Pentecost International Worship Center, New Tafo. Please help by answering the following questions which the researchers consider vital to the success of the research? We wish to assure you that any information obtained from you would be handled confidentially.

PART I

1. Name.....
2. Sex.....
3. Age (Optional).....
4. Church/Denomination.....
5. Position in Church or Denomination.....

PART II

Understanding the Role of the Children's ministry at Pentecost International

6. In your opinion, what is the role of the children's ministry at Pentecost International Worship Center, New Tafo? Please explain with examples if any
7. In your view is the children's ministry at PIWC, New Tafo effective? If Yes, Explain why/ If No explain why

PART III

Examining Some activities and initiatives of the Children ministry in PIWC, New Tafo

8. In your understanding what is the purpose of the following activities of children's ministry Please explain with examples if any.
 - Pick and Act
 - Sword Drills
 - Camp Meetings
 - Bible Quizzes
 - Bible lessons
 - Make your way to heaven
 - Sporting Activities
 - Preacher Kids

- Find your seat in heaven
- Action songs
- The Jethro Initiative

PART IV Assessing the impact of the activities of the Children's ministry on the growth of PIWC, New Tafo

9. In your view, how effective are the above mentioned activities of the children's ministry? Please explain with examples if any
10. How have these activities and initiatives helped in retaining the children at Church for the last ten years?
11. In what ways have these initiatives and activities of the children's ministry mentioned above helped in the numerical growth of the Children at the Children's ministry
 - At what age do the children transition from the Children's ministry to the Adult church?
 - Annually, how many of the children transition to the adult church?
 - In the past ten years, averagely how many children transitioned to the adult church?
 - In the past ten years how many of these continue to attend church regularly?
 - How many of the children stopped attending church after their transition in the last ten years?
 - What are some of the causes of this 'drop out'?
12. In your opinion, how have these initiatives and activities of the children's ministry mentioned above helped in the spiritual growth of the Children?

PART V

(To be answered by the Children only)

13. How have the above named activities and initiatives of the children's ministry helped your spiritual life?
14. Which of these activities and initiatives do you enjoy the most? Please explain why?
15. Which of these activities and initiatives do you dislike? Please explain why?
16. Which of these activities and initiatives do you?
17. Which of these activities motivates you to attend church regularly?

PART VI Identifying Challenges Confronting the Children's Ministry at PIWC, New Tafo

18. Do you think the Children Ministry is facing some challenges? Yes/No
If Yes, Please state and explain these challenges
19. In your opinion, how can these challenges be addressed?

APPENDIX III

SAMPLE OF YEARLY REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, NEW TAFO



THE CHURCH OF PENTECOST HEADQUARTERS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - STATISTICAL REPORT FORM

Local PIWC, New Tafo **Period** January to December, 2022 (State Months & Year)

No.	Details	Current	Previous	Variance
1.	New Classes Opened	4	3	1
2.	Total No. of Teachers	11	9	2
3.	Total No. of Children	165	150	27
4.	Total No. of Children Attending C.M. Classes	165	150	27
5.	Total No. Of Children That Are Dedicated in the Local Assembly	158	133	25
6.	Total No. of Children Not Attending C.M. Classes	19	10	9
7.	No. of Children Attending C.M. Classes but not Dedicated	19	20	1
8.	Total No. of Children Won for Christ & Retained	35	31	4
9.	No. of Children Transferred to Youth Classes @ 13	18	15	3
10.	No. of Children Transferred In	32	21	11
11.	No. of Children Transferred Out	11	18	7
12.	Total No. of Births	42	44	2
13.	Total No. of Deaths	-	-	-
14.	No. of Children Baptized in the Holy Spirit	18	10	8
15.	No. of Children Dedicated	15	16	1
16.	No. of Children's Conventions	2	3	1
17.	No. of Rallies	2	1	0
18.	No. of Camp Meetings	1	1	0
19.	No. of Teacher Training/Seminars	3	2	1

20.	No. of Area Scripture Examinations	2	2	0
21.	No. of Area Prayer Meetings	1	2	1
22.	No. of District Prayer Meetings	1	1	0
23.	No. of Area Leader's Visits	1	2	0
24.	Total No. of C.M. Classes Held	60	60	0
25.	Total No. of Children Active in C.M. activities	158	150	7
26.	Total No. of Joint Services Held with Adults	9	12	3
27.	Total No. of Visits by District Minister	7	9	2
28.	Additional Functions: Total SOULS WON during ministry to orphans, camp meetings, schools visitations, vacation school, ministry to JHS & Primary Schs., counseling and media evang.			
29.	1st Half-year Offering			
30.	(i) Founder's Day Offering			
	(ii) Founder's Day (Sunday) Adult Attendance			
31.	2nd Half-year Offering			

Sign. & Date

Sign. & Date

(LOCAL LEADER)

(PRESIDING ELDER)

Name: Samuel Opoku Sarkodia

Name: Isaac Arthur

NOTE

1. Total no. of Children refers to all children below 13yrs in the local assembly –taken from local Ass.CM register
2. Total No. of Children Active in C.M. activities is one who is frequently involved in C.M. activities
3. Joint Services with Adults refer to Inter-Generational church services held in conjunction with the adults

APPENDIX IV
RELEVANT PICTURES



Some Children Exhibiting their Singing Gifts in Preparation for Children's Week Celebration



Some Children Playing Ludo during an in-door games organized by the Children's Ministry



Some Children engaged in the Flip Bottle Challenge