

CHRISTIAN SERVICE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, KUMASI
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY



TOPIC:

**THE CHURCH'S CONTRIBUTION TO EVANGELISM: AN
EVALUATION AND RESPONSE OF SAINT MARIST'S CATHOLIC
CHURCH AT SOUTH SUNTRESO KUMASI.**

PROJECT WORK
(LONG ESSAY)

BY:

EMMANUEL AGYEKUM

JULY, 2015

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fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Arts in
Theology with Administration.**

JULY, 2015

DECLARATION

I, Emmanuel Agyekum, do hereby declare that this thesis/dissertation/ project report is the result of my own original research, except for sections for which references have been duly made, and to the best of my 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

This work is humbly dedicated to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Also, to my lovely Family Mrs. Olivia Agyekum (wife), Emmanuella Ampem Agyekum (daughter), Elkanna Anokyewaah Agyekum (daughter) Nathan Agyekum (son) and my spiritual Father Rev Baffour Awuah, lovely church members in Christ Central Image Chapel, my parents Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Tawiah, my siblings, the extended family, and friends. Moreover, to all Students and Ministers of Christ Jesus.

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CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

Reflecting on the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is best to describe evangelism as the backbone of Christianity. Jesus was recorded for preaching in towns and villages throughout his stay on earth. He pursued preaching of the gospel as a major occupation which was so important to him than food. This introductory chapter considers the background to the study, statement of problem, research questions, aim and objectives, significance of the study, methodology, scope and structure, and review of relevant literature.

1.1 Background to the Study

Matthew 28:18-19 says, “Then Jesus came to them and said, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (NIV). On his way back to his Father, Jesus commissioned his disciples including other generations of his disciples evangelize the lost. He made it clear that he has been granted absolute power over all creation so the church should invade every corner of the globe to present the Good News. In effect the church is supposed to win the lost through the preaching of the Word and then proceed to disciple them by teaching them to live by the teachings of the saviour.

According to Dennis J. Mock, with respect to relating to the lost world of unbelievers, evangelism is the main priority of the church.¹ Evangelism comes first in the matter of importance on the church's agenda. The church exists to make converts but the major channel to convince unbelievers to be part of God's household is witnessing. Paul says, I am not ashamed of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ because it is the power of God that leads to salvation (Rom. 1:16, NIV). Without the proclamation of the gospel the lost would be denied salvation in Christ Jesus. This priority involves walking in a godly manner before the world and witnessing for Christ by proclaiming the gospel regularly as a way of life.² He further explains that the righteous lifestyle of the church in the midst of the ungodly people is a mode of evangelizing. On the other hand, the preaching of the gospel should be prioritise as a way of life or a daily activity that comes before everything else. It is of a matter of importance to do a proper evaluation at regular intervals to ascertain how this highly important task is faring among the churches and denominations. It was recorded in the book of Acts on how the Lord added to the early church and multiplied their numbers.

Reading through the gospel of John 15:16, Jesus admonished the church to go and bear fruit and that the fruit should stay. This means that the founder of the church did not only command his followers to reach out to the lost world but to ensure that those witnessed and converted should stay. This scripture reveals that after obeying the commission to evangelize the church should also evaluate their work. It is of paramount interest to the church to assess their evangelism activities whether it is ongoing or dying out and also what rate is it bearing fruits or dwindling.

1.2 Statement of Problem

¹ Dennis J. Mock, *Missions Evangelism Discipleship* (Atlanta Georgia: BTCP, 1989), 62.

² Mock, *Missions Evangelism Discipleship*, 62.

Churches keep on springing up with different denominations recording large numbers all over the continent particularly in our part of the world. As to how they attract the numbers and how the new ones get their members, is a wonder. Some authors maintain that willingness of the churches to get involved in evangelism at grassroots level is still very low.³ If this is the true picture of the situation then what is driving people into the churches? Is evangelism really going on in the churches?

It seems evangelism is not a popular activity in the churches in Kumasi these days but the denominations keep on recording increase in numbers. New churches are being established here and there almost everyday. It has been observed that most of the classrooms are been occupied by churches all over, the established churches keep on expanding their place of worship due to increasing numerical strength. One wonders how this trend comes about and how they are maintained although seemingly there are no visible signs of evangelism. One can point to vibrant activities and programmes within the four walls of the church building but it seems difficult to relate to outreach among the churches. This informed the choice of St. Mary's Catholic Church, South Suntreso for this work. This church has grown over the years to become a very big church so the study does evaluation of how they evangelize the lost, if they do. There is the need, therefore, to examine the results of evangelism so far and how effective the methods employed has impacted the immediate environment. Therefore the main problem addressed in this work is whether the churches are contributing to evangelism or not and the impact of their contribution so far.

1.3 Research Questions

³ Thorsten Prill, "Evangelism, Theology and the Church" in *Evangelical Review of Theology*, Vol. 29, No. 4, (October 2005), 318.

The following questions were asked to assist the researcher draw a meaningful conclusion as follows:

- a. How prominent is evangelism in the programmes of the local church?
- b. Who is involved in evangelism in the church?
- c. What model of evangelism is being used?
- d. How often does the local congregation evangelize the lost in the vicinity?
- e. What have they achieved through witnessing?
- f. What is the place of evangelism in the local church today?

1.4 Aim and Objectives of the Study

The main purpose of this research is to assess the contribution of St. Mary's Catholic Church, South Suntreso to evangelism. For this purpose, the following are the objectives the study sought to find answers to:

1. To find out the church's involvement in evangelism.
2. To examined the channels of evangelism used by the church.
3. To examine the contributions of the church to evangelism.
4. To assess the impact of the evangelism activities of the church in the society.
5. To suggest and recommend a more effective modes of reaching out to the lost in today's society.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study is significant because it reveals the state of evangelism in the church. To contribute to scholarly work on evangelism. To enable the church revive interest in the Great Commission. To enable the church identify the most effective method for evangelism in the society.

1.6 Research Methodology

The present study uses a case study survey research design. The contribution of the phenomenon of evangelism is examined in one case, St. Mary's Catholic Church. It thus, employs a survey method to find in detail the opinion of priests, members of congregation and leaders in order to establish a better description of the problem of study. In this way more of qualitative approach was used for data collection and analysis.

Population includes three priests, ten leaders and twenty-seven members of the congregation. Primary data collection methods used was interviews. Data collection instruments are interview guides and questionnaires. Interview guides were designed to answer the objectives of the study it was administered to only the priests and leaders. Questionnaire was also administered to the members of the congregation who were selected for this study. Secondary data was collected through relevant literature, theses, articles in journals and internet sources and electronic books.

1.7 Scope and Structure of the Study

In reality this work may interest many churches, parachurch and groups in the Christian fraternity; but it was limited to the contribution of St Mary's Catholic Church, South Suntreso to evangelism.

1.8 Literature Review

A review of relevant works with respect to the church and evangelism, Bible and Missions, Urban ministry and evangelism and church growth was done. What scholars say about evangelism was reviewed below.

1.8.1 The Church and Evangelism

The church and evangelism are really a subject of great importance. Prill says, the theology of evangelism of a local church or a national church body, deeply impacts the evangelistic strategies that a church chooses.⁴ Evangelism can yield better results for a particular church based on how they understand evangelism as God intends them to know. In effect every church can make impact through evangelism when they have well defined way of witnessing to the lost as commanded by scripture in their own understanding of that particular scripture. He further emphasizes that any church that is committed to evangelism, needs to have a clear understanding of its theology of evangelism.⁵ This can be true but the fallout would be that the church's theology or their understanding of evangelism may be wrong thereby affecting the message as well. This work tries to identify the theology of St. Mary's Catholic Church on evangelism and how impactful it has been over the years, and why?

1.8.2 Bible and Missions

According to Delos Miles, God is himself actually evangelizing through the Bible, that is, proclaiming the good news to the world...All Scripture preaches the gospel; God evangelizes through it.⁶ He is of the opinion that the Bible by virtue of its content presents the gospel to the world. It is like God preaching through a written document this case the Bible. So missions is not possible without the Bible, it is more of a textbook that the missionary or evangelist cannot do without. It is a true assertion but it doesn't mean one cannot preach the gospel without the Bible in his or her hands but the scripture in that person is also acceptable.

Kwame Bediako reveals, "Reading the Bible in the Two-Thirds World context of poverty, powerlessness and religious pluralism is probably the single most important

⁴ Prill, "Evangelism, Theology and the Church" in *Evangelical Review of Theology*, 309.

⁵ Prill, "Evangelism, Theology and the Church" in *Evangelical Review of Theology*,

⁶ Delos Miles, *Introduction to Evangelism* (Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman Press, 1983), 19.

characteristic of this new theology of mission. It is by thus appropriating the Scriptures and the Gospel in context, that this new theology of mission has been able to acquire fresh insights into the Gospel and into the nature of the Christian mission itself, such as the discovery that the Gospel is good news to the poor”.⁷ According to Bediako the Bible should be contextualized in the area of missions where the indigenes or the recipients are presented with a gospel that they are familiar with. So in the poverty-stricken third world countries people should be made to understand that the gospel is for the poor.

1.8.3 Urban Ministry

Some people believe there is a gospel for the working classes or the urban dwellers. Roy Joslin asks, is the message we preach in our urban churches to be different from that proclaimed elsewhere? Surely, there is only one message, one gospel – Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.⁸ Joslin argues that the message of the gospel presented to the people in the city should not be different from that of rural folks. Urban ministry has been abused in such a way that preachers make it look that there is a special message fit for the city inhabitants. The bottom line of the gospel is to save the sinner no matter the location. Although his argument is correct the methods and modes of presentation cannot be the same because urban challenges are far different from the rural situation.

1.8.4 Evangelism and Church Growth

The relationship between evangelism and church growth is supposed to be that of bedfellows or fuel and vehicle engine. C. Peter Wagner states, “The single most

⁷ Kwame Bediako, *Christianity in Africa: The Renewal of a Non-Western Religion* (Edinburgh University Press, 1995), 144.

⁸ Roy Joslin, *Urban Harvest* (England: Evangelical Press, 1983), 83.

effective evangelistic methodology under heaven is planting new churches.”⁹ According to him, the church is to engage a world without Christ in such a way as to expand the kingdom of God by drawing people into a life-giving and life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. His position does not see church growth as a result of evangelism as some people may think but planting new churches or church is a way of evangelizing. The question is how or by what means can the churches be planted. Can a local church be planted without evangelizing to the lost? Except old members from an existing church are transferred to start that church.

Donald McGavran used church growth to describe the evangelization of all people with the view toward the development of indigenous congregations with the new converts in a manner consistent with their cultural norms. McGavran says that the best way to evangelize a caste is not for a foreigner to preach to them.¹⁰ He concluded the best way to reach ‘untouchables’ was to plant a church in their culture and have members of that church who were ‘untouchable’ to evangelize their friends, neighbors, relatives, and associates. Church planting resulted in ‘untouchables’ evangelizing ‘untouchables. It can be concluded from his assertion that church growth is channel to evangelize the lost but it must be done by the indigenes towards their own people. As far as that can be very effective there is no doubt that foreigners can also chalk successes in evangelism away from home.

1.9 Conclusion

The first chapter of this work has reveals the intentions of the researcher and framework for this research. The background to the study made it clear the church has a mandate to win souls and also a responsibility to occasionally evaluate that task. The statement of

⁹ C. Peter Wagner, *Church Planting for a Greater Harvest* (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1990), 11.

¹⁰ Elmer Towns, *Putting an End to Worship Wars*, (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1977), 42.

the problem convincingly made it known that there is a problem to work on in the field of evangelism. Aim and objectives of this work was also outlined to make the work more purposeful. This research would be significant in so many areas including scholarly or academic discourse. The literature review reveals how the church handles evangelism. It also gives the relationship between the Bible and missions. Urban ministry was also discussed briefly through the review of other works. Then lastly, evangelism and church growth was looked at, as discussed in other works.

CHAPTER TWO

BACKGROUND TO SAINT MARY’S CATHOLIC CHURCH AND EVANGELISM

2.1 Introduction

In the introductory chapter the framework for this work was given, where the background to the study, literature review and many others were presented. This chapter discusses the background to saint Mary’s Catholic Church which in effect will work on the history of the church, their connection to evangelism and the profile of the Catholic Church in Ghana.

2.2 The Catholic Church in Ghana

The Roman Catholic Church in Ghana is directly connected to the Catholic Church worldwide under the leaderships of the Bishop of Rome, the Pope. It is believed that Catholic Church in Ghana accounts for three million of the populace. The entire nation has been divided into nineteen dioceses which have also been grouped under four arch dioceses: Accra, Kumasi, Temale and Cape Coast but this work is very much interested in the Kumasi diocese. Richard Foli notes that the first catholic missionary station was opened in 1880 at Elmina.¹¹ This was to pioneer the evangelism and mission work of the Roman Catholic Church here in Ghana or to establish Catholicism in Ghana. There were 2 bodies that evangelized Gold Coast (now Ghana). The first group came in from the

¹¹ Richard Foli, *Christianity in Ghana* (Accra: Trust Publications, 2006), 27.

south (Elimina) and the other group brought about by the White fathers from Burkina Faso. This later group evangelizes northern Ghana.¹²

2.3 The Catholic Church in Kumasi

The Catholic Church has operated in Kumasi for more than a century now. According to Foli, the first missionary station was open successfully in 1903.¹³ Kumasi is now one of the four arch dioceses.

2.4. Brief History of Saint Mary's Catholic Church

The almost sixty-one years of St. Mary's existence started humbly with six people who were all immigrants who came to South Suntreso as civil servants.¹⁴ The first mass was said by the late Rev. Fr. Pass at house number M5, North Suntreso, at the residence of Mr. J. E. U. Ansah in October 1954. This was at the request of Mr. and Mrs. Ennin on the silver jubilee of their wedding. The mass was participated by Mr. and Mrs. John Honny, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. U. Ansah, Messrs Anthony Ansah, Charles Arthur, V. B. de Graft and Dr. Claude Ennin.¹⁵ Reports indicate that initial mass was said under a mango tree in front of the Suntreso Community Centre. Rev. Fr. Pass, Gasellaers, Van Castle, Van de Lora were the priests who led the mass. The first church committee headed by Mr. Ennin met at a meeting to decide on the name for the church, and through a majority decision "the church of Immaculate Conception" was accepted by all.

2.4.1 Expansion and Development

¹² J. Kofi Agbeti, *West African Church History: Christian Missions and Church Foundation; 1482-1919* (Netherlands: E. J. Brill, 1986), 53.

¹³ Foli, *Christianity in Ghana*, 28.

¹⁴ Interview with Rev. Fr. Peter Amoateng, Parish Priest of St. Mary's Catholic Church, April 04, 2015

¹⁵ Brochure of the 50th Anniversary of St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, South Suntreso, Kumasi.

Eye witness report has it that the present site of the church was acquired with the approval of His Lordship Bishop Bronk in 1957. During the inspection of the newly acquired land the Bishop said “I will make Suntreso a second cathedral”. In 1961, Suntreso was made a parish and Rev. Fr. Leuw was appointed the first resident parish priest with a large territory covering Trede and Nyinahin. His first major project was the mission house. After the demise of Leuw, Rev. Fr. Leo Bekema succeeded him and within six months supervised the building of a small church which was later expanded to suit the rapid growth of membership.¹⁶

Rev. Fr. James Baffour Addo is the third parish priest who was appointed in 1987. He strengthened the Kofi and Ama silver collection idea raise sufficient funds for the development of the church. Through that means a set of musical instruments were bought and the landscaping of the church was done. He further solicited for overseas grant for the construction of St. Leo international school in 1991. In 1993, Rev. Fr. Thomas Manu assumed office and in consultation with the church council appointed an accountant to properly manage the finances of the church. Unlike the Ghanaian politicians he continued the development projects initiated by his predecessors especially the St. Leo project, which was opened in 1993 with a three storey, fifteen classroom block. He also started a construction of a fence wall around the church’s plot of land to protect it from encroachers.¹⁷

Rev. Msgr Joseph Yeboah an expert in church projects became the next parish priest in 1996. Under his tenure he supervised the expansion of the St. Leo international school and the St. Mary’s vocational institute and continued the new church building project to

¹⁶Brochure of the 50th Anniversary of St. Mary’s Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, South Suntreso, Kumasi.

¹⁷ Brochure of the 50th Anniversary of St. Mary’s Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, South Suntreso, Kumasi.

the roofing level before he retired in 2001. On the other hand Rev. Fr. Dominic Asiedu Fosu took over as the six parish priest in September 2001 and continued with the St. Leo complex. He also has to his credit he rapid development the new church building and completed an ultra modern mission house project which was commissioned in 2004 during the 50th anniversary celebration.¹⁸

2.4.2 Evangelism and Church Growth

St. Mary's Catholic Church has used several means to win souls to the sheepfold. Between 1958 and 1961 Rev. Fr. Peter Van Strien and his assistant Rev. Fr. K. Pepping were appointed to Suntreso and it was during this period that the members of the newly formed Legion of Mary undertook house to house evangelization to bring more members to the church. According to Archbishop Peter Kwasi Sarpong when he became the bishop of Kumasi in 1970 the church was among the only four parishes in the city.¹⁹ As already stated in 2.4 the church begun with six people then grew to 20 people by the time they celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2004 the church had over 2000 members and had nurtured 5 young men into the priesthood. Today, the membership has grown to about 3100 people.

2.5 Conclusion

This chapter gives the humble beginning of the church and where it has grown to be in terms of membership numbers, infrastructure wise and among others. This is a clear indication of a missionary church that has lived to achieve its purpose for coming to Ghana. If a church can rise from an initial membership of six to more than three

¹⁸ Brochure of the 50th Anniversary of St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, South Suntreso, Kumasi.

¹⁹ Brochure of the 50th Anniversary of St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, South Suntreso, Kumasi.

thousand today then the act of evangelism cannot be ruled out in terms of how they got there.

CHAPTER THREE

THE SAINT MARY'S CHURCH AND EVANGELISM

3.1 Introduction

In the previous chapter, a lot of work was done on the history of Saint Mary's Catholic Church South Suntreso. That chapter revealed that the church begun like a seed which through evangelism and other things have grown over the years: numerically, and infrastructure wise. In this third chapter, the research presents data on the biblical foundation of evangelism. Then, the nature of evangelistic activities of Saint Mary's Catholic Church, the impact of the evangelistic activities, the challenges to evangelism and so forth. All these information were basically received from field report.

3.2 What is Evangelism?

Almost all the respondents and interviewees attempted to give their own definition of evangelism. Different views were expressed by them in their own words. Some were of the opinion that evangelism is a way of spreading the gospel and taking the gospel to the lost. Going by this definition one can infer that evangelism is all about putting the gospel at the door step of every member of a particular society or every corner where Tom, Dick and Harry will come into contact with it. It may have a direct target which is those who have not accepted Jesus their Lord.

Others see the act of evangelism as sharing Christ with others and reaching out to people with the word of God. This opinion refers to people who have had an experience with the new birth in Christ and thereby trying to introduce it those who have not had that experience. Such an activity will let the audience have a picture of what they the evangelist have had after accepting the gospel. It also involves a vigorous exercise of trying to get into contact with everybody on the streets to present them with a message from Scripture.

Some respondents assume that witnessing is the act of preaching the word of God to the lost world and in effect winning souls for Christ. The respondents and interviewees were of the view that the goal of evangelism is basically to preach to the lost in communities in order to bring them to the saving knowledge of Christ Jesus. One leader who was interviewed said, infact evangelism is all about preaching the gospel to the people with the aim of winning souls for Christ. But the church sees this to be able to be more effective there should be different dimensions and approaches so if you realize the earlier evangelist adapted educational methods which is the building of school and charity.

Making people aware of the love of God is another meaning some respondents and interviewees gave to evangelism. However, this reveals that some members of the church believe evangelism is the act of making people know that the Holy God loves the sinner although he hates sin. Then they are saying that it is not about telling people or scaring people about the wrath of God but how God has loved them. So if he has loved the sinner that much then they have to reciprocate that love by coming to Christ. Some respondents believe that evangelism is a means of letting others know the doctrines of the Christian faith. What this means is that when people are not aware of what you believe they cannot be part of it. In this respect the respondents and interviewees think

the teaching of the things that educate people about the pillars of the Christian faith would evangelize the unbelieving members of society. It also worth considering the argument that one would not need all that before making the decision to accept the Christian faith but rather after salvation then they would be taught all that.

3.3 Saint Mary's Position on Evangelism

Members of the St. Mary's Catholic Church who responded to the questionnaire and interview guides have this to say with respect to the church's position on evangelism. Some respondents gave the church's position as explaining the doctrine of the church to the public. They were of the view that the church has developed a habit of trying to explain their doctrine to the general public. As to how they go about it or the channel they use to do that and how often they do that they were very silent about it.

Some group of people also indicated that the church envisages converting of others to Christian faith. They meant that the church has been able to plant in the minds of the members the picture of soul winning. That picture is always at the back of their minds so the drive to preach the gospel is always there. But when they were asked how often they evangelise as individual members of the church there was nothing to write home about it. Other respondents said, the position of their church on evangelism is to help everyone to know Christ practically.²⁰ For some of them it is to work on the congregation to stand firm in Christ. This is a clear case of trying to protect and establish those in the net before thinking the yet to be enrolled. They observe that the church's concentration is on the current members to be deeply rooted in the faith. Moreover, some respondents think the church's stance on witnessing is to use normal and biological evangelism. The church has categorized the mode of evangelism into two; normal way of witnessing to the lost and the biological means. By normal means they indicate that going out to

²⁰ Interview with George Ampofo Adjei, Catechist, St. Mary's Catholic Church Premises, April 5, 2015.

preach, crusades and sharing of gospel tracts. Whereas the biological means refers to ensuring that all children the members give birth to are well nurtured to be added to the church members.

According to other views, the church wants every member to believe in sharing the gospel. There is a deliberate effort by the church according to some of the respondents to encourage the entire congregation to accept soul winning as a Christian duty. The church is looking at attracting more members to their fold and to admonish them to stay in the Lord. The position of the church is not to be complacent about the few thousands in their midst but to stretch out their hands to all souls especially unbelievers and to pull them towards Christ.

According to the Parish Priest of St. Mary's Catholic Church, it is the aim of the church to evangelize not a portion of people but the entire memberships of God people both in and outside the environment.²¹ Now with the effect on soul winning a lot of effort has been put in place to make it more realistic. This means that the church sees all human beings as God's people and they are willing to extend to them the right hand of fellowship no matter their status in society or background. To the church, evangelism must be both within and without because there are still some members who must be assisted to accept Jesus.

3.3.1 How active are they in Outreach?

At this point the researcher wanted to know from respondents and interviewees whether the church is really doing business for the Lord in terms of reaching out to lost souls. When the question was posed to them whether their church was poised in doing outreach and how active are they? There were various and contradicting responses as follows:

²¹ Interview with Peter Amoateng, Re. Father, St. Mary's Catholic Church Parish Priest's Office, May 23, 2015.

Two people indicated that the church is not active in evangelism all. They believe the church is not reaching out to the lost communities on regular basis. Furthermore they indicated that the church rarely goes out to fish for souls outside its premises.

Seven respondents affirmed that the church is very active in reaching out to the lost. A lot of programmes were mentioned by these respondents and interviewees that make them convinced that the church is active. Where the church fall short has to do with what we called agent of evangelism, people who will be well informed and willing to undertake evangelism and mission. The church falls short on that “we don’t have men and women who are ready for evangelism, in fact if we talk about agent of evangelism the first people that comes in mind will be the priest and the catchiest so the task is becoming more unbearable now and therefore the kind of target set cannot be met because of the shortage of the personnel to carry the evangelism activities.”²²

In another development eight respondents said that evangelism activities are done occasionally or once in a while. These people observe that the church’s approach and attitude towards witnessing cannot be described as very active. Although is a slow and unusual commitment, somehow souls are approached with the gospel of Jesus Christ once in a while. Base on data report from the field, nine of the respondents and interviewees said that the church does not have any particular program or time table for evangelism. This means that the church has not committed itself to any blueprint that will guide the activities of evangelism. The church lacks any policy direction that will ensure regular and consistent responsibility towards the lost in society. It seems it is not treated as a very important agenda or evangelism has not being prioritized by the church. Three respondents were also asked whether the church is active in evangelizing the lost? And they said the church is somehow active. These are people who do not see any

²² Peter Amoateng.

tangible activity but thinks certain practices have the potential to attract new comers to the church.

3.4 Biblical Foundation of Evangelism (The Church's Mandate)

This study wants to find out whether the interviewees and respondents were aware of the biblical basis for evangelism or the commission to the church to evangelize. Out of a total number of forty (40) people targeted to respond to questionnaire and interview guides, only twenty-eight (28) respondents and one (1) interviewee responded. The respondents answering the question on whether Saint Mary's as a Christian church is obeying the biblical mandate to win souls for Christ twenty people said yes. In another development one respondent indicated that the church is not obeying the mandate without given any particular reason for his answer. However seven people failed to answer at all.

There was a strong assertion that the church has always allocated funds to various evangelism groups to facilitate the work of evangelism. It was argued that since there is a budgetary allocation for evangelism then clearly they are really committed to obey the Great Commission or the mandate Christ gave to the church to win souls. Although they seem to have no knowledge of the specific amount it can also be argued that money alone does not show obedience except it is put to use. Report from the field indicated that through the usual mass new comers are attended to and then encourage to join one of the groups in the church. It was explained that after mass or church service new comers or visitors are invited to the front and those that wants to be part of the church are advised to join any of the groupings for better fellowship with fellow believers. One can easily say that not all newcomers or visitors are new converts. Most of the time they

may be fellow believers fellowshipping somewhere who just came in to worship with the church. They might have migrated from a certain place to a new location close to the church or they were believers who just followed a friend to church. So it can best be described as recycling of Christians, and cannot be fully accepted as an act of obeying the mandate to witness to unbelievers.

For many others, the mandate to reach out to the lost has been obeyed through giving financial aid and other help to the needy in the society. They see assistance to the poor and needy in society as way of obeying the mandate to evangelise. If the act of philanthropism is not done to portray the love of God to mankind in a way that compels sinners to accept Jesus as Lord; then it can never be considered as working within the commission to win and disciple sinners in society. The reason for stating that the church is working within the evangelism mandate is because the church is always involved in interaction with the lost. There are so many ways to interact with others. It may not be to reach out to them with the gospel but to build friendship and bridges with the community in which the church is located. It can also be argued that such friendships precede the spreading of the gospel and even make it easier. Some respondents affirm that leaders in various groups in the church have been tasked to visit members and non members regularly. These leaders are made up of the priesthood, church president, and other leaders. Leaders across board have been assigned to create proximity between the church and existing members in order to maintain them. Furthermore, the non members of the church community are not left out, these leaders have a responsibility to bring them on board. It may not necessarily mean that regular visits to church members and non members will make them Christians. The content of the visits is very vital because in Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus included in the mandate that they must be taught what he had commanded.

3.5 The Nature of Evangelistic Activities in the Church

Questions were posed to respondents and interviewees about the way they go about evangelism. They have already indicated that they have been evangelizing to the lost so the researcher wanted to find out how they have been going about it? It was revealed that they have a way of displaying Jesus on the street as their custom. The supposed plaques, statues and portraits of Jesus are carried around may be to let people know that there is a savior called Jesus. How effective this could be cannot be ascertained but naturally children are attracted to pictures but for adults the impact will not be that strong. It also came to light that they evangelize through the activities of the charismatic group in the church. The church has instituted a group known as Catholic Charismatic Renewal who has been organizing revivals to excite the youth to stay in the church without been enticed by the charismatic churches. So some of the respondents think their activities are one of the means the church evangelizes.

Some respondents referred to community meetings as a means of reaching out to the lost.²³ This is a group of church members who meets in their vicinities to share the word of God like home cells. They try to make sure they invite other people who are not members to participate and in a way win some to the Catholic Church. It was also learnt from the respondents that church programs such as bible week, Christ the king week, occasional seminars, and retreats are organized as a way of evangelism.²⁴ Although they consider these programs as a way of witnessing to the unbelievers they seem rather more like an internal revival which will not have much impact on the outsiders. A section of

²³ Interview with Daniel Duodu, Usher, St. Mary's Catholic Church Premises, April 5, 2015.

²⁴ Interview with Albert Owusu Boakye, Youth Secretay, St. Mary's Catholic Church Premises, April 5, 2015.

the respondents said evangelism is done by working alone the street. It was revealed that some members have their own or personal evangelism program. They go about the streets doing personal witnessing, talking anybody around the streets.

According to Albert Owusu Boakye the church has instituted the program dubbed "in touch" which allows a section of the members to engage sisters indulging in prostitution to learn any form of trade or vocation and eventually draw them closer to God.²⁵ The church is making impact on some society's outcast by letting them know that not everybody in society hate them and God still loves them. So in their effort to take them out of their way of life a new vocation is offered them free of charge with other form of assistance to keep them focused.

3.6 Impact from their Outreach Engagements

The church has no proper records on effects of their outreach duties. It was difficult to pinpoint the number who has been won by Christ through their evangelistic assignments. According to Oheneba Joe Asamoah-Poku, a lot of young men and women have been won into the church over the years.²⁶ Some social outcasts has benefitted from the programs because they have been relocated from their old dirty lifestyle to a new life in Christ and a new way of making ends meet.

3.7 Challenges Encountered so far

The researcher asked questions related to the challenges and better still difficulties in their evangelistic campaign. First, this has got to do with the willingness and the availability of people to offer themselves to be trained for the evangelism activities.²⁷ The second aspect has got to do with finances, you see finance or money and evangelization move together, and at certain points certain tools are needed to be more effective. According to

²⁵ Albert Owusu Boakye.

²⁶ Interview with Oheneba Joe Asamoah-Poku, St. Mary's Catholic Church Premises, April 5, 2015.

²⁷ Peter Amoateng.

some respondents and interviewees, for instance over there, one of the strategies of the church is the setting up of an institution, for example training institutions to train people to carry out the activities but this training institution sometimes lack some of them and lack the requisite tools, the materials to be able to do it more effectively. So at times they may have the person alright but for instance in terms of mobility, the person probably have to move from one place to another to do the work; and because of the lack of these kinds of facilities the person may not able to function well. There is a pure financial constraint which in effect has being the cause of the church not able to meet their target on the evangelism.²⁸

Now the next aspect has to do with motivation, people need to be motivated to make themselves available for the work of evangelism. Some of the leaders interviewed revealed that some people have been assigned that duty but because of lack of motivation. They cannot devote all their attention to the work of evangelism so the church could have taking up some of the responsibilities of those people to enable them have more attention for the work of the evangelism. Another factor has to do with comprehensive evangelization plan; most of the respondents and interviewees were of the opinion that they have to get a well drawn up plan that is very comprehensive. “The church actually has a universal plan for evangelization but when it comes to local implementation that is where some of these short falls comes, in the sense that you may have a policy for the whole church that is relevant and should be applicable to Nigerian and the Ghanaian. We have different cultural environment for instance there are certain places where even the Bible has not been translated into their local language.”²⁹ So they have the general catchiesm alright but the bible have to be translated to their local language for the people to be able to grab it and teach it well for the people for instance

²⁸ Peter Amoateng.

²⁹ Peter Amoateng.

some of these evangelization documents are printed in Latin and other languages which they cannot read it.

It also came to light that Apathy and negligence to evangelization is another challenge. Evangelization has got to do with people and you cannot evangelize people unless you take into consideration certain basic needs of the people; in the ministry of Jesus he preached the message of the gospel to the people after taking care of their physical needs. So in effect he got their attention. The interviewees explained that the church is found negligent of certain basic needs of the people and therefore the ground are not well prepared for sowing; the cultural needs, physical needs and the social needs of the people are to be catered for before the message is incorporated into that comprehensive needs of the people.

The interviewees further said that at a certain point in time the church realized that in the olden days when Latin was the main language used to communicate, and foreigners as agent of evangelization they were not able to incorporate into their mission of their evangelization project all these cultural and physical needs of the people. So their message was irrelevant to the people because it was not relevant to their needs. The church needed to take into consideration all these physical, cultural, social, in fact psychological needs of the people but the church was negligent of all that. The only concern was to impart the message to people while the ground was not prepared.

3.8 What are Saint Mary's Major Contributions to evangelism now?

At this stage respondents and interviewees were given the opportunity to comment on the contribution of the Church towards evangelism. In their response they indicated that Catholic Church see evangelism as a very comprehensive task. "Now if you look at the church's contribution to evangelism. There has been an improvement in this service

whereby by now the church does not build institution but rather the church support evangelization through human support in the form of material or financial support to the individuals. For example scholarships to the needy and brilliant student and so forth and also to children in more deprived areas these are some of the things the church is doing so that those people can also have access to their needed materials.”³⁰

Another aspect revealed by interviewees is that the church has what we called universal budget for the support of the people in need, people who found themselves confronted with natural disasters and problems. Infact the church enjoys external funding from a fund in Rome that caters for all these things. So the evangelization mission and the strategy have got to do with taking it from the humanitarian face and supporting. The respondents and interviewees reiterate the fact that Saint Mary’s Catholic Church has on their list individuals who are being supported financially and it goes a long way to attract majority to Christ or to be rooted in the Christian faith.

On the field of health they have this to say, there is an annual health program which is on health screening. Through this exercise they create an avenue to evangelize; this is where the church takes full charge of all the beneficiaries and those targeted through their outreach campaign. This kind of service to society is full a week free health screening and together with many other health assistance is held in every September annually. Many people are attracted to attend to their health needs and are offered the chance to accept Jesus as their Lord and also added to the church.

In another development, respondents and interviewees made it known that the church has instituted a program for the old and the aged to ensure they are well motivated to serve on their last days on earth. Most of the time these people are neglected and left out

³⁰ Peter Amoateng.

of church activities by both the family and the church so St. Mary's has set aside a special day that is the first day of July to bring them on board. They socialize with them and make them feel that they are part of the church. However, respondents and interviewees believe that the church depends very much on the youth for the future. One of the major contribution they have made so far is to entice the youth to come to the church and to stay. A whole week has been reserved for the youth, infact not only that the church have a comprehensive plan for the youth, every month they spend much time to interact with them and find out their needs both spiritually and physically. And then every year precisely Easter Sunday they mobilize them and have some kind of spiritual program for them. Education is one area Saint Mary's has used to contribute to evangelism. According to Peter Amoateng, they have provided special educational units to the individual. He gave further explanation by talking about the grade system in their schools, "it is a grade A school but for us to be able to provide service to the needy as a contribution from the church we have made it a policy that we charge a lowest amount of fee to be able to supplement those who are not able to pay a fee for grade A schools so we brought the fees and charges to the minimum and then take care of the remaining amount that could have been paid by the student." They do all these to make life bearable for people to worship God.

3.9 Conclusion

This chapter reports the findings of field work with much emphasis on St. Mary's Catholic Church and their connection to evangelism. Report from the field reveals that respondents have various definitions to evangelism in their own understanding. It was also clear from their response that some of them are very much aware of their church's stance on evangelism. On the activeness of the church towards outreach there were differing views as some said the church is active, others voted for not active whiles some

think they are not very active and consistent. It also came to light that the evangelistic activities of the church are founded on the Scriptures to fulfill the God given mandate to the church. Again different ways of presenting the gospel were discovered from the respondents and interviewees when they were called to give the nature of their evangelistic campaigns; from personal evangelism to revivals. On the impact of evangelism it covered various fields such as education, social interventions and others were mentioned. The work was not without discussing the challenges St. Mary's has encountered in their quest to honour the great commission. Data from the field brought to light that soul winning has become capital intensive, personnel needed to be trained as fishers of men are not available and people are not motivated to take full responsibility of that assignment.

CHAPTER FOUR

ST. MARY’S CATHOLIC CHURCH AND EVANGELISM: AN ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction

The discussions in this chapter are based objectively on the field data presented in the previous chapter and it is directed at the research objectives for this work. Chapter four presents analysis, and assesses the contribution of St. Mary’s Catholic Church to evangelism.

4.2 How they See Evangelism

The following is an assessment of the field report within the context of St. Mary’s Catholic. The data collected and presented in 3.2, indicates that almost all the Christians interviewed knew what evangelism means. They all attempted to define “evangelism” as a channel of bringing people to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through the preaching of the gospel. Some respondents indicated that it is all about making people aware of the love of God. This also gives indication that some understand that bringing the lost to the saving knowledge of God can be done in kind.

4.2.1 St. Mary’s Adopted View on Evangelism

Based on the report from the field presented in 3.3, most of the members in the church are aware of the church’s position on outreach. Responses from this section make it vividly clear that the church has an adopted view on evangelism. There is an indication that six views constitute their position on evangelism.

The church has adopted the position that presents to the society a comprehensive doctrine of the church. Since denominational doctrines vary, it can be perceived that their position is to make people Catholics; because Catholic doctrine is different from the rest of the Christian groups, evangelicals or Protestants. There are certain things that

are distinctively Catholic and this renders their contribution to evangelism very shallow. The next perceived position is that the church envisages converting others to the Christian faith. Some interviewees mentioned that the church has a vision to pursue lost souls and to win them into the Christian fold. Thus, soul winning is one of the church's major target in which they seek to achieve.

However, a number of the respondents hold that the church has adopted the view to assist everyone (both the members and non members) in the society to know Christ practically. One interviewee indicated that it is the aim of the church to evangelize not a portion people but the whole of God's people both in and outside the environment. This implies that their vision to witness is targeted at people both within and without to ensure that people really accepts Jesus as their Lord. Some people in the church may need the gospel more than the outsiders.

In addition, some views from the respondents indicated that the church has adopted two ways of adding to the membership. The biological means where people become members by virtue of the fact that their parents are members of the church. Then, preaching the gospel to convert people into the church. Thus, it appears that the church has a calculated plan to ensure that children born to members are added to their number and also to bring others from outside the church join them.

Another position indicated by respondents is that the church wants every member to embrace witnessing as an obligation to the Christian. This implies that the church gives its members the picture that it is the duty of every Christian to witness. As to whether this awareness creation carries the requisite force to energize them to do the work is another thing. The field data recorded some respondents as saying that although their numbers are soaring they still look forward to attract more from the outside of their faith to their fold. This implies that they do not have a specific number so their doors remain

open to all who will like to worship with them. If the church has taken these entrenched positions how involved are they in evangelism?

4.2.3 The Church's Involvement in Outreach

Data collected as stated in 3.3.1, two respondents gives an indication that the church is not active in evangelism at all (house to house or outdoor). This implies that the church is not making any effort to preach the gospel to the souls outside the church. The view of two people out of the lot could not be taken serious.

Seven people indicated that the church is very active in evangelism. They are not emphasizing on this because there is tangible evidence that shows that they are witnessing but based on the numerous programmes of the church. One interviewee indicated that the church lacks people who are ready for outreach, they rely mostly on the priest and catchiest. A critical study of these factors makes it difficult to accept that the church is really involved in evangelism. How can few people be doing everything where as the majority is missing in action.

The next response about the church's involvement in evangelism indicated by eight respondents was that witnessing was done once in a while. Thus, it appears the church is not really committed to soul winning and their involvement is questionable. Two people indicated that the church is not active; now eight is saying that the church responds to evangelism occasionally. A notably perceived short fall indicated by nine people interviewed is that the church does not have any timetable for evangelism. This implies that there is no policy or programme to necessitate the involvement of the entire church in outreach. A critical study of this factor indicates that the church's involvement falls flat.

4.2.4 Awareness and Obedience of the Mandate

From data received section 3.4, seven respondents failed to express their opinion on whether they are aware of a biblical to evangelize and whether St Mary's is complying with that commission. It implies that this group of people has no knowledge of the Great Commission. So if they do not have the least knowledge how can they oblige. Twenty people indicated that the church is well aware of the church's mandate to win souls and not only knowing they are exercising that mandate. One person strongly indicated that the church is not working on the mandate at all.

It was captured in the field data that commitment to the mandate is best demonstrated by how the church set aside funds to execute this mandate annually. Next, a number of the respondents relate the obedience to this mandate to effort the church makes every time of worship to encourage new converts to be fully involved in church activities including joining the groupings. However, some respondents indicated that the desire to fulfill the commission of soul winning led the church to institute a program to assist society especially the needy. According to other people who are of the opinion that the mandate is being executed, it is indicated that the church has created an avenue to constantly commune with lost souls in society. Another group of respondents said, nevertheless, the mandate is seldomly achieved without follow-up and visitation. They indicate that the church has tasked the leaders of the various groups, priests and other leaders to do that regularly. A study of all these factors implies that the church has put so many things in place to enhance their efforts to honour the biblical mandate to evangelise the lost. The study does not really reveal a real commitment to preaching the gospel to the lost world although their efforts are not bad but there should be a tireless effort to arrest sinners. The rest are to support that campaign.

4.3 Examining the Channels of Outreach Adopted by the Church

Respondents, according to data collected in section 3.5, indicated the medium through which the church witness to the lost. There are some responses which indicate that one channel St. Mary's has adopted is the carrying of the statues and plaques of Jesus around the city. This suggests that they used these plaques to draw people's attention to Christ. Without any word to the people especially those who are hostile to churchism and Christianity can they be arrested for Christ? Probably some may be attracted to the plaques and will follow but most people might not.

Another perceived mode of propagating the gospel as indicated by the respondents is the activities of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. A study of this factor suggest that the church consider evangelism as putting the right checks that will stop the members especially the youth from moving out. The implication is that the church is very much concerned about keeping their numbers intact as they look forward to increase it. The parable of the talents indicates that those who have, more will be given.

In addition to the above, one person interviewed indicates that community meetings has been used over the years to reach unbelievers. This implies that the church has committed itself to using these meetings to invite unbelievers and then introduce them to the church. It was also reported from the field as indicated by one respondent that the church takes the opportunity to use internal programs such as Christ the King Week, Bible Week, seminars and retreats as channels of sharing the gospel to the lost in the community. This suggests that members are asked to invite people to these programs and then when they honour the invitation they are ministered to. Few respondents also indicate that they have put it upon themselves to talk to people along the streets about the savior, Jesus Christ. It implies that the church does not have any plan to send the members out for personal evangelism but out of self motivation very few people do that

occasionally. So in effect those involved are handful because so many people lack that self motivation. It was also discovered from the data collected that another mode of spreading the gospel adopted by St. Mary's Catholic Church is by giving vocation to those involved in social vices like prostitution and in the process wins them for Christ. This probably suggests that souls can be won when the gospel is backed by actions that reform the wayward.

4.4 Examining the Contribution of the Church to Evangelism

In section 3.8, respondents indicated that the church uses social services as a means evangelization. They give financial and material aid to the poor and needy in society. An interviewee says that the church is now into support for victims of natural disasters through a universal budget. This implies that they no more pay much attention to building institutions but rather to give aid to individuals and in effect encourage them to accept Jesus as Lord. Jesus came to die for people so probably the church is trying to walk in his steps by being human centred more than being more project-oriented. The next contribution to evangelism is in the area of health. Data received recorded that free health screening and free medical assistance are given to the public every year. This implies that when people are invited to seek for their bodily welfare they are given more offers by also attending to the needs of their soul.

Another contribution by the church to outreach as indicated in the data collected is care for the aged. Respondents mentioned that a time has being set aside to socialize and cater for the needs of the old and the aged in various communities. This suggests that the church wants to tell the world that when it comes to salvation it has no age limit, everybody should be given the chance. Not only the old but the youth is in the list of St. Mary's as indicated by the field report. Apart from material support and scholarships the

church has programs every Easter to deepen their faith in Christ. It further implies that all ages should be targeted when it comes to witnessing.

Lastly, an interviewee identifies education as one of their major contributions to evangelization. The church provides quality education at cheap cost. Through education especially their schools they come into contact with people from all walks of life including people from differing faiths. This implies that through education they are able to train children at the very early age to know Christ and also parents from different backgrounds comes into contact with the Christian practices.

4.5 Impact from Evangelism Activities Assessed

Impact on the Church

In chapter 2, section 2.4 it was discovered that the church that started with six people is now counting about three thousand-one hundred (3100) members and it is still counting. According to one man interviewed, based on data derived from the field, section 3.6, many young men and women have been added to the church. This suggests that the various activities employed by the church to win souls have paid a lot of dividends; the major impact on the church is numerical growth especially the youth population.

Impact on Society

There is an indication that social outcasts like prostitutes have been reformed and assisted to learn an honorable vocation. The poor and the needy have received maximum care and financial and material aid. Affordable quality education and health care has been placed in the doorsteps of the communities.

4.6 Urbanization and Christian Witness

Evangelistic activities and urbanization as indicated in 3.7, goes with a lot of challenges. St. Mary's is situated in Kumasi, South Suntreso. Since it is located in the Metropolis challenges of urbanization has catch up with them in line with Christian outreach.

Witnessing in urban areas is confronted by financial lack. Some respondents made it clear that financial constraint has crippled the church not to meet their target on evangelism. Urban centres requires a lot of movement before getting to a lot of people so financial support is very important. According to data collected there is an indication that inner motivation to evangelise on the part of the individual member is not available. This suggests that in urban areas people have little time to spare so they spend all their time for themselves and on their jobs. This implies that personnel are not available for training and also to carry out the mandate.

4.7 Conclusion

This chapter examines and assesses the raw data collected from the field. The involvement of St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in evangelism was investigated. The work found out that the church's involvement in gospel outreach is not that strong especially through direct proclamation of the gospel, crusades and personal witnessing. Furthermore, the medium for the propagation of the gospel was examined. It was observed to be effective although some of them like carrying of plaques seem weak. The dues paid so far to evangelization by the church were also examined. The results indicated that through education, health, paying attention to the old, the needy and among others they have contributed immensely to witnessing. However, an assessment of the impact of the evangelistic activities on both the church and society was done. The results suggest that numerical growth has occurred and the society has benefited through financial support, relief and other things. By implication the Catholics does not understand evangelism to be much organizing gospel crusades or house-to-house evangelistic outreach like the evangelicals do. They probably want to concentrate on the words of Jesus that suggests that humanitarian aid to prisoners, the sick and the poor pleases the father (Matt. 25:31-46).

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents summary of study and findings, discusses implications and recommendations and proposes areas for further research.

5.2 Summary of Study

This research sought to evaluate the contribution of St. Mary's Catholic Church to evangelism. It is a qualitative study that samples the views of priests, leaders and church members using questionnaire and interview guides. The sample consists of one priest, seven lay leaders and twenty members of the congregation. Instead of the targeted three priests, ten lay leaders and twenty-seven church members. The opinion of other authors was reviewed on evangelism. Historical background of Christian witness in the church revealed the challenges and difficulties in the execution of the biblical mandate to evangelize.

5.2.1 Summary of Major Findings

Based on the qualitative analysis of the results of the study, the following is a summary of the major findings. Evangelism is not only about preaching the gospel to the lost or the public perceived to be sinners but explaining the doctrines of the church to them as well. It was identified that the position of the St. Mary's on evangelism are: envisaging converting of others, aiding everyone to know Christ practically, to use biological and normal means to increase their numbers, to ignite every member to believe in sharing the gospel and to reach out to not a portion of people but the entire membership of God's people both in and out the church environment. One perceived minus identified was the lack of eagerness to preach the gospel in reality to the public at regular intervals;

most of the members of the congregation are aware that there is a biblical mandate to evangelize and thus the church is committed to it. The perceived nature of evangelism or how St. Mary's conduct outreach is in the following forms: displaying the plaques and pictures of Jesus on the streets, internal programmes to revive members and invite the public and social interventions. The contribution of the church to evangelism is perceived to be based on humanitarian approach and they are: to support evangelization through human support in the form financial and material aid, providing affordable or free health care to the public, and providing quality education at a cheap cost.

5.3 Recommendations to Church Management

With regards to the implications of the findings, the following are some of the recommended strategies for the management of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

- Instead of trying to get people voluntarily to train for the task of witnessing, the entire church should be given the privilege on Sundays once every month as part of the normal Mass.
- A comprehensive timetable should be prepared and followed to evangelize the lost at least once every two months; where the whole church would move out for about forty-five minutes and individuals given the chance to witness.
- Part of the offerings can be allocated to fund evangelistic campaigns in order not to burden the church very much financially. Mission fund can also be instituted and collected once in three months.
- The church must acquire evangelistic materials and make it available to members whilst those that make any effort to witness on their own are applauded and rewarded openly.

- It is recommended that St. Mary's Catholic Church should confront the public with the gospel in the same manner or more than the social intervention programs.
- It is recommended that the church withdraw certain beliefs such as carrying around the statues of Jesus from the public and introduced them to converts after responding to the call to repent.

5.4 Conclusion

Evangelism is the heartbeat of our God and it is crucial for the establishment of the kingdom of God on earth and to uphold the Christian faith in society. It is therefore vital for churches to periodically evaluate and assess their contribution towards improving its effectiveness. The nature of evangelistic activities in St. Mary's Catholic Church has yielded positive impact numerically but their spiritual well being is not known.

5.5 Recommendation for Further Research

This research considered the church's contribution to evangelism using St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Catholic Church as case study. It is recommended that future research should consider the following areas for research:

- The causes of apathy and negligence to the duty to evangelise among Christians.
- How the churches can raise funds to accelerate Christian witness without over burdening the members.
- The rate of spiritual growth among those won through social interventions verses converts won through the direct preaching of the gospel.

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George Ampofo Adjei, Catechist, St. Mary's Catholic Church Premises, April 5, 2015.

Peter Amoateng, Re. Father, St. Mary's Catholic Church Parish Priest's Office, May 23, 2015.

Daniel Duodu, Usher, St. Mary's Catholic Church Premises, April 5, 2015.

Albert Owusu Boakye, Youth Secretary, St. Mary's Catholic Church Premises, April 5, 2015.

Oheneba Joe Asamoah-Poku, St. Mary's Catholic Church Premises, April 5, 2015.

APPENDIX I

CHRISTIAN SERVICE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, KUMASI

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY

INTERVIEW GUIDE

Introduction: My name is Emmanuel Agyekum, BA Theology with Administration candidate who is working on the topic “The Church’s Contribution Towards Evangelism –An Evaluation and Response of the Saint Mary’s Roman Catholic Church South Suntreso, Kumasi.”

Interview Guide for Parish Priest and other Priests

1. Name

.....

2. Position/Rank.....

.....

3. Please for how long have you being working here?

.....

4. Please can you share with me the history of St. Mary’s church?

.....

5. In your opinion what is evangelism?

.....

6. What is Catholic view on evangelism?

.....

7. What is Saint Mary’s position on evangelism?

.....

8. Is the church active in evangelizing the lost?

.....

9. If yes, how do you go about it as a church?

.....

10. If no, why?

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11. How has your church impacted its immediate environment through soul winning?

.....

.....

12. Is there anything the church is not doing with regards to evangelizing the lost?

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13. What are Saint Mary's major contributions to evangelism now?

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APPENDIX II

CHRISTIAN SERVICE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, KUMASI

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY

INTERVIEW GUIDE

Introduction: My name is Emmanuel Agyekum, BA Theology with Administration candidate who is working on the topic “The Church’s Contribution Towards Evangelism –An Evaluation and Response of the Saint Mary’s Roman Catholic Church South Suntreso, Kumasi.”

Interview Guide for lay leaders

1. Name

.....

2. Position/Rank.....

.....

3. Please are you a member of this church? How long?

.....

4. Can you share with me the brief history of St. Mary’s church?

.....

5. In your opinion what is evangelism?

.....

6. What is Catholic view on evangelism?

.....

7. What is Saint Mary’s position on evangelism?

.....

8. Is the church active in evangelizing the lost?

.....

9. If yes, how do you go about it as a church?

.....

10. If no, why?

.....

.....

11. How has your church impacted its immediate environment through soul winning?

.....

.....

12. Is there anything the church is not doing with regards to evangelizing the lost?

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13. What are Saint Mary's major contributions to evangelism now?

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APPENDIX III
CHRISTIAN SERVICE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, KUMASI
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY
QUESTIONNAIRE

Introduction: My name is Emmanuel Agyekum, BA Theology with Administration candidate who is working on the topic “The Church’s Contribution Towards Evangelism An Evaluation and Response of the Saint Mary’s Roman Catholic Church South Suntreso, Kumasi.”

Questionnaire for Members

1. Name

.....

2. Male [] Female []

3. For how long have you been a member of this church?

.....

4. Is the church involved in evangelism?

.....

5. If yes, how often?

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.....

6. Are you involved in witnessing to people in this vicinity?

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7. In your opinion has your church obey or obeying the mandate of witness to the lost?

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8. In what way has your church contributed to evangelism in this vicinity?

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APPENDIX IV

RELEVANT PICTURES



St. Mary's Catholic Church – South Suntreso Kumasi.



Front View of St. Mary's Catholic Church – South Suntreso Kumasi.