

NAIROBI EVANGELICAL GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

*Church Leadership Perception of Care to Orphans in Bunia:
With Reference to Postwar Situations in the Democratic
Republic of the Congo*

BY
DINO KILE

*A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate School in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Divinity in Missions Studies*

THE
HN
31
.K55
2007

JULY 2007

**NAIROBI EVANGELICAL GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

**CHURCH LEADERSHIP PERCEPTION OF CARE TO ORPHANS IN
BUNIA: WITH REFERENCE TO POSTWAR SITUATION IN THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**


BY

DINO KILE

**A Thesis submitted to the Graduate School in partial
fulfillment of the requirements for the degree
of Master of Divinity in Missions Studies**

Approved:

Supervisor:



Dr. Henry Mutua

Second Reader:



Dr. Caleb Kim

External Reader:



Dr. Samuel Linge

July, 2007

STUDENT'S DECLARATION

CHURCH LEADERSHIP PERCEPTION OF CARE TO ORPHANS IN BUNIA:
WITH REFERENCE TO POSTWAR SITUATION IN THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

I declare that this is my original work and has not been submitted to any other College or University for academic credit.

The views presented herein are not necessarily those of the Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology or of the Examiners.

(Signed)



Dino Kile

July, 2007

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to understand the perception of Church leaders in Bunia on the church's care to the children that were orphaned due to war. It explored the church's ministry to orphans as well as factors that hindered addressing the issue of orphans.

Data was collected by using interview which was aimed to church leaders whereby one leader was interviewed from each church in Bunia. The procedure used to analyze the findings was based on grounded theory approach with focus on qualitative method. The research findings, as a result, revealed that the church in Bunia is inactive to take care of orphans because of poverty and lack of biblical teaching about her responsibility to minister to orphans. Poverty and lack of biblical teaching were found to be major hindrances to the need to take care of orphans. Because the church does not address the issue, orphans lack education, shelter, health-care, the word of God. They are subjected to live on their own, cast away from the rest of the community, and most of them find their place in the streets where they are exposed to poverty, premature sexual practices, sexual abuse, drug, theft, insecurity, diseases, HIV/AIDS, premature death, persistent trauma, and dirty words.

Some recommendations were made to the church and leaders, and for further studies. Recommendations for the church aim at encouraging and suggesting way forward in taking care of orphans in Bunia, whereas further study recommendation consists of suggestion of possible topics *vis-à-vis* orphans that need to be exploited

To

My wife and all those who have compassion and love for orphaned children.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Above all, I am grateful to God the Almighty for his love, grace, care and strengths. He has given me the opportunity to study at NEGST ministry.

My beloved wife, Bongerize Dino, I thank you for your deep love and constant encouragements. You have always shared my ministry vision.

My academic advisors: Dr. Stephen Sesi, Dr. Henry Mutua, and Dr. Caleb Kim for the sacrifices of your time and energy, pieces of advice and encouragements during my study at NEGST.

I wish to thank Reverend Kokole Idringi, the legal representative of CECA, and Reverend Likambo Amuta, the former senior pastor of Locale Sukisa for their approval and recommendation of my desire for further studies at NEGST.

Much gratitude is finally due to those who supported my studies financially: Steven Schoemaker, Ron Langford, Dr. David Langford, Roger Stoll, AIM International, Wayfarer Ministry, NEGST, Mustard Seeds, and Mylne-Grant. May God bless and reward each one of you.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AOG: Assembly of God

CBK: Communauté Baptist du Kivu

CE: Communauté Emmanuelle

CECA: Communauté Evangélique au Centre de l’Afrique

CECCA: Communauté Evangélique du Christ au Cœur de l’Afrique

CEPAC: Communauté des Eglises de Pentecôte en Afrique Centrale

CNCA: Communauté Nation du Christ en Afrique

CEP: Communauté des Eglises Pentecôtistes

DVCAA: Deputy Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs

DRC: The Democratic Republic of the Congo.

ECC: Eglise du Christ au Congo

HCR: High Commission for Refugees

HRW: Human Right Watch

KOG: Kingdom of God

NEGST: Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology

NGO: Nongovernmental Organization

NIV: New International Version

OT: Old Testament

R.I.: Refugee International

UK: United Kingdom

CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	iv
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	vi
LIST OF ACRONYMS	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	x
CHAPTER ONE	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
Problem Statement.....	2
Significance of the Research.....	3
Research Questions.....	3
Delimitation and Limitation.....	3
Definition of Terms	4
<i>Church Leader</i>	4
<i>Church</i>	5
<i>Orphan</i>	5
<i>Orphan Care</i>	5
CHAPTER TWO	6
LITERATURE REVIEW	6
The Role of Substantive Literature Review.....	6
Methodological Literature Review	7
Background of War in Bunia.....	8
<i>Setting</i>	8
<i>Genesis of War in Bunia</i>	9
<i>Effect of War on Children</i>	11
Orphans.....	11
<i>Understanding “Orphans”</i>	12
<i>Orphan as Poor</i>	13
<i>Worldview of the Poor</i>	14
<i>Shalom of God as a Remedy to the Poor</i>	16
The Church and her Role	17
<i>Understanding the Church</i>	18
<i>Mission of the Church to Orphans</i>	19
Summary of Literature Review.....	24
CHAPTER THREE	25
RESEARCH METHOD AND PROCEDURE	25
The Grounded Theory.....	25
Rationale for Choice of Qualitative Research Method.....	26
Entry.....	27
Population	27

Sampling	28
Qualitative Interview	28
Role of the Researcher	29
Method of Verification and Validity	29
Data Analysis Procedure.....	30
CHAPTER FOUR.....	32
RESEARCH FINDINGS AND INTERPRETATION.....	32
Analysis and Interpretation of the Findings.....	35
<i>Inactivity of the Church to Take care of Orphans</i>	35
<i>Perception of the Church on Orphans in Bunia after War</i>	35
<i>Strategies of the Church to Take Care of Orphans</i>	36
<i>Outcomes of the Relation of the Church to Orphans</i>	37
<i>Hindrances</i>	38
<i>Exposure to Risky Life</i>	40
CHAPTER FIVE	42
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	42
Summary of Findings.....	42
Recommendations.....	43
<i>Recommendations for the Church</i>	43
<i>Recommendations for Further Studies</i>	44
REFERENCE LIST.....	45
APPENDICES	49
APPENDIX A	49
LETTER OF ENTRY.....	49
APPENDIX B	50
INTERVIEW QUESTIONS	50
APPENDIX C	51
MAP OF ITURI/DRC.....	51

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
4.1: Developing Facts.....	34
4.2: Subcategories of Risky Life.....	41

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” (James 1:27, NIV)

Statistically, there is an alarming increase of orphans in the world today. Africa is the most affected continent on the globe where the number of orphans is drastically increasing due to war and HIV/AIDS. By the year 2010 it is estimated that there will be more than 20,000,000 orphans living in Africa alone (Fleck 2003).

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is one of the countries which was hardest hit by the ever-increasing number of orphans in Africa. This figure concerns HIV/AIDS orphans and war orphans add to that. As far as this fact is concerned, many children will be suffering, and most of them will be dying at a very young age in Africa. In the North-Eastern part of the DRC, the province of Ituri (particularly Bunia Town), there have been cases of children suffering and dying because they have no care. Most of these children are victims of war and the ongoing ethnic conflict that has separated them from their parents, while keeping them radically remove from an educational path leading to proper integration into society. About 4,000,000 people have perished since 1998 in the DRC (Bell 2006) leaving behind orphaned children without anybody to look after them. Sadly, the majority of the victims originate from the eastern part of the country. War, along with all its consequences, has killed people in DRC. People have continued losing their lives in

