

NAIROBI EVANGELICAL GRADUATE  
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

THE STUDY OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AFRICA INLAND  
CHURCH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CURRICULUM IN  
THE LOCAL CHURCHES

BY

JONATHAN MUTUNGA

A Thesis submitted to the Graduate  
School in partial fulfilment of the requirements for  
the degree of Master of Arts in Christian Education

JUNE, 2003

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JUNE 2003

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**Student's Declaration**

THE STUDY OF EFFECTIVENESS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
CURRICULUM IN THE AFRICA INLAND CHURCH LOCAL CHURCHES

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 the Examiners

(Signed)   
Jonathan Muthama Mutunga

June 2003

## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to assess the overall effectiveness of Christian education curriculum in Africa Inland local churches and investigate whether or not Christian education is achieving the expected goals and objectives and to make important recommendations to the AIC Christian Education department on the basis of conclusions reached. These are the questions I wanted to ask about AIC Christian education curriculum.

1. What are the major objectives of the Christian education department of AIC Kenya?
2. What is the goal of the Christian education department of AIC Kenya?
3. What ways do the CE coordinators try to implement the Christian education provided for local churches?
4. What are the factors that contribute/ hinder the implementation of Christian education in local churches

From the research study the following answers were obtained. One, there is an acute limitation of the current personnel of the Christian education regional coordinators in trying to teach all levels of people due to their academic level.

Secondly, the Christian education department at the national level doesn't involve the regional coordinators in the designing, implementing and evaluating the CE Programmes. This is a major drawback in the effectiveness of the Christian education curriculum. As conclusion the researcher has suggested the Christian education department should reorganise its functioning to involve the regional coordinators in the designing, implementing and evaluating the Christian education programme. This will help in making the content and materials appropriate and the teachings quite relevant to the nature of problems and the needs of the people. It will also help the regional coordinators to have a sound understanding of the goals and objectives of the Christian education curriculum.

## DEDICATION

To my loving wife Peninah Nthenya Muthama

And

Our children

Grace Mumo Muthama

Benjamin Mumo Muthama

Caleb Kyama Muthama

And to my mother Kalondu

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

AIC Africa inland church.

C.E.D Christian education department.

CE Christian education.

## LIST OF TABLES

- Table 1. Academic level of co-ordinators.
- Table 2. Co-ordinators' experience.
- Table 3. Christian education curriculum content and the Bible.
- Table 4. Relevance of Christian education teaching to real life experience.
- Table 5. The Christian education coordinators' understanding of the goal of The Christian education curriculum.
- Table 6. The Christian education coordinators' understanding of the objectives of the Christian education curriculum.
- Table 7. Factors hindering the implementation of the Christian education programme.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Africa Inland Church of Kenya was founded in 1895 by God's great work through His faithful servants of the Africa Inland Mission. Since then the church has been involved in different activities to reach the unreached groups of people and to bring its members into maturity in Christ. The Christian Education Department (C.E.D) of the Africa Inland Church of Kenya was established in 1963 after its needs had been realized for many years. It was initiated by the co-operative efforts of missionaries of Africa Inland Mission (AIM) and the indigenous members of Africa Inland Church (AIC) of Kenya. At the same time, the National Christian Education Committee was formed (AIC Christian Education Guide 1998).

One of the main duties of the Christian Education Department of AIC Kenya is to design Christian education curriculum and develop curriculum materials for its congregations. The department has the following programs: Sunday school for all ages, Christian Service Cadets for girls, Christian Service Battalion for boys, Youth in Action, Christian Women Fellowship Conferences, Seminars and small group and local Bible Studies. The target of AIC Christian Education Department is to provide a curriculum and materials that are aimed at achieving the educational objective of the church: Teaching everyone with all wisdom, to make everyone mature and perfect in Christ (AIC Christian Education Manual 1995). In relation to this overall educational objective of the Church, the curriculum materials development project has its own objectives which endeavors to produce quality and biblically sound materials that are relevant to the context of the congregation (ibid.).

Christian education (CE) has always been one of the powerful ministries of the church. It is powerful in the sense that it is through it that the church is able to pass its doctrines and objectives to its members in a most effective way. Christian education ministry is a teaching ministry of the church. Any well-organized church will usually have several Christian educational ministries in it. H. Colson and Raymond Rigdon are convinced that a responsible Church cannot do without an educational plan, and that such a plan must represent the full life, work and belief of the church as it attempts to maintain faithful worship in the modern world (Colson 1981, 9). This study therefore, aspires to assess the overall effectiveness of Christian education in the AIC local churches in Kenya and investigate whether or not CE is achieving the expected goals.

### **Problem Statement**

AIC Christian education department has developed both curriculums for the programmes and curriculum materials. However, reports of local church leaders and members indicate that Christian education in the local churches has been stagnated for quite some time. Several church leaders have noted a lack of teaching and training in local churches despite the fact that there are trained Christian education coordinators. This is attributed to various factors including understanding and implementation of the CE curriculum materials and facilities required. One of the major factors to be considered is the effectiveness of the CE curriculum toward accomplishing the goal set by the AIC Christian education department which has necessitated this study. Are the CE objectives and goals of the AIC being accomplished through the curriculum provided to local churches; and secondarily, is the curriculum being effectively implemented?

Nowadays, there is a great need for education in the church. It is a fact that each local church that is established by Christ is commissioned to promulgate the

