

NAIROBI EVANGELICAL GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF THEOLOGY

*A Survey on Members' Perception of Faith Cathedral
Church on Muslim Evangelism and its Implications for Mission*

BY
KITUR CHEPKIRUI CATHERINE

*A Thesis Submitted To The Graduate School in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Arts in Missions (Islamic Emphasis)*

JULY, 2008

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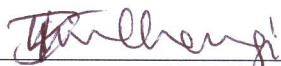
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July, 2008

Student's Declaration

A SURVEY ON MEMBERS' PERCEPTION OF FAITH CATHEDRAL CHURCH ON MUSLIM EVANGELISM AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR MISSION

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 Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology or the Examiners.

(Signed)  _____
Kitur Catherine Chepkirui

July, 2008

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to find out and explain the members' perception of Faith Cathedral Church on Muslim evangelism. The study also sought to identify contributing factors to that perception with the view to help the church develop practical approaches toward Muslim evangelism. Interview questions were employed in collection of data. The study of documents was also done. Emphasis was placed on information gleaned from the interviews because perception is about peoples' opinion and attitude. An interview guide was used in order to generate information from the respondents. The following groups were interviewed: church leaders including the senior pastor and some sampled members of the congregation. In order to achieve the objectives of this research, the following questions were posited which gave direction to the research efforts:

1. How do the members of Faith Cathedral Church perceive Muslim Evangelism?
2. What factors contribute to the perception of the church members on Muslim Evangelism in relation to mission?
3. What are the practical approaches that can be used by the Church for Muslim evangelism?

First, the research findings showed that the degree of awareness was a key factor that influenced members' perception of Muslim evangelism as well as methods of approach. Secondly, there are secondary factors that contributed positively and negatively toward Muslim evangelism. These contributing factors determined the extent of members' involvement in Muslim evangelism. Those who had increased awareness of Islam had positive view. They were characterized by compassion, love, commitment and patience as they gave themselves to do open air meeting, door-to-door evangelism, and giving out tracts in order to enable Muslim neighbours or friends to hear the Good News. But those who had little knowledge of Islam were overwhelmed by fear, threats, terrorists and feelings of inadequacy, hence saw Muslim evangelism as a risk undertaking and very hard. As a result they took no action so as to win Muslims for Christ. Thus, right attitude or perception in any mission pursuit is vital.

TO

All who want to reach out to Muslims for Christ. My passion is to see every believer's life impact the Muslim world.

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Abbreviation

- *FGCK*: Full Gospel Churches of Kenya.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Islam is the world's second largest religion with a following of over one billion people called Muslims (Clark 2003, 15). The word "Islam" actually means "submission to God." Therefore, a Muslim is one who strives to submit to God.

Islam has spread across the entire globe. Muslims can be found in every single country, but they are predominately found in Africa, the Middle East and Asia (Ibid., 13). As Muslims look at the world, they are convinced that their way of life is better than the Christians way. Furthermore, they believe they know the Christian religion and they want nothing of it. Such knowledge is challenging and it has frustrated the efforts of some faithful Christians who would have wanted to fulfill the Great commission of our Lord Jesus Christ (Mathew 28:19 NIV).

This research is a survey on members' perception of Faith Cathedral Church on Muslim evangelism and its implication for mission. Faith Cathedral Church is situated in Kawangware market and is affiliated with the Full Gospel Churches of Kenya (FGCK). Next to this Church is a Mosque. Besides the mosque, Faith Cathedral Church is strategic in its location by the fact that there is a society of Muslims living a few meters away from the church. The location has been identified as "Muslim village." While this is strategic in itself for the church to reach out with the Good News to the Muslims in the said village, it became apparent to the researcher that the church has not fully seized the opportunity to win Muslims to

