

*NAIROBI EVANGELICAL GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY*

*The Impact of Cult and Sects on the Spiritual Growth of
Christians in Africa Inland Church Naivasha*

*BY
JOHN MBUGUA KARIUKI*

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

JULY 2006

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July, 2006

STUDENT'S DECLARATION

THE IMPACT OF CULTS AND SECTS ON THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF
CHRISTIANS IN AFRICA INLAND CHURCH NAIVASHA

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)

John Mbugua Kariuki

July, 2006

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to describe the impact of cults and sects on the spiritual growth of Christians in AIC Naivasha. In order to accomplish this research the researcher generated four research questions from the literature review.

A qualitative research was carried out for this study. By use of closed and open-ended questions, face-to-face interviews were recorded and transcribed. Data was collected from eight cultic groups composed of men, women, youths and children from different ethnic groups.

The finding reveals that the presence and aggressive recruitment of cults and sects in the town of Naivasha impacts negatively the spiritual growth of members of Africa Inland Church Naivasha.

DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to Christians of AIC Naivasha.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIC: Africa Inland Church

AIM: Africa Inland Mission

DCC: District Church Council

ICPG: International Christian Preachers of God

JCC: Jerusalem Christian Church

JW: Jehovah Witnesses

NAC: New Apostolic Church

NDDC: Naivasha District Development Committee

RCC: Regional Church Council

TSDA: Traditional Seventh Day Adventist

GLOSSARY

Jeshurun –Loved or Upright Ones

Kanitha wa Anabii Akorino- Church of the Prophets

Kanitha wa Witikio na Uhonania -The Church of Faith and Healing

Mungiki - United Multitude or Crowd of People

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

This research investigates the impact of cults and sects on the spiritual growth of Christians in the Africa Inland church Naivasha, Nakuru District, in Rift Valley Province of Kenya. The church was founded by missionaries of Africa Inland Mission (AIM), in the early 1950's during the colonial period.

Naivasha has a warm climate that attracts tourists' from all parts of the country and the world at large. Some of the businesses taking place in this town include horticultural farming, animal rearing, poultry, fishing and tourist sites found in Mount Long' not, Hell's gate, Geothermal plant just to mention a few.

According to "The provincial population figures of 2000 had projected that by the year 2005, Naivasha will have a population of half a million, and this was to prepare the municipality for the infrastructure and other social amenities" (Naivasha District Development Committee Report 2000, 6).

AIC Naivasha is one of the Local Churches under the Naivasha District Church (Pastorate), in Kijabe Region (Diocese). The church is surrounded by various religious groups which include the Evangelical churches, Roman Catholic, Neo-Pentecostals and also world religions such as Islam and Hinduism. There are many mushrooming unknown sects. "In Kenya, which is said to have more than 600 registered denominations and several hundred more unregistered, the government and mainstream churches have quietly expressed nervousness" (Githongo 2000, 1).

Naivasha is not exceptional, there has been a high proliferation of religious groups, for both evangelicals and cultic, some have constructed permanent places of worship, rented halls, schools, tents, residential houses and others worship in open fields.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to investigate the cults and sects that impact on the spiritual growth of Christians in AIC Naivasha; for Christian to be able:

1. To ascertain those cults and sects hampering the spiritual growth of Christians in AIC Naivasha
2. To determine the common characteristics of these cults and sects
3. To assess the challenges that these cults and sects pose on the spiritual growth of Christians
4. To identify various ways and means of reaching out and converting the cultic adherents
5. To identify how the church can be thoroughly equipped to respond to the challenges of cults and sects

Significance of the Study

The significance of this study is to benefit Christians in AIC Naivasha who have been impacted negatively by these cultic groups. Findings will benefit the AIC Naivasha DCC and the researchers who have interest in understanding, identifying and reaching out to the cults and sects.

Statement of the Problem

The study seeks to investigate the impact of cults and sects on the spiritual growth of Christians in AIC Naivasha, in an attempt to make the church fully equipped to combat the challenges posed by various cultic groups.

Research Questions

This research seeks to answer the following questions:

1. What are the cults and sects hampering the spiritual growth of Christians in AIC Naivasha?
2. What are the teachings of cults and sects as opposed to those of AIC Naivasha?
3. What challenges do the cults and sects pose on the spiritual growth of Christians in AIC Naivasha?
4. What criteria can Christians in AIC Naivasha use to determine cults and sects?

Delimitation and Limitation

This study confines itself to interviewing eight cultic members from different ethnic groups and at least a family member who is an AIC Naivasha. The interview has been limited by the willingness of the interviewee to share their experience in the movement and what impact they have on the spiritual growth of Christians.

