

**NAIROBI EVANGELICAL GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

**An Evaluation of the Women's Ministry
Programs in Kenya Assemblies of
God Church-Buruburu**

BY

Susan Odhiambo

*A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION*

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2010

July, 2010

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GOD CHURCH - BURUBURU


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SUSAN ODHIAMBO

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

LIBRARY
NAIROBI EVANGELICAL GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
P.O. Box 22444

Approved:

Supervisor:



Dr Alice Mambo

Second Reader:



Dr John Jusu

External Reader:



Prof. Mary Getui

July, 2010

Student's Declaration

AN EVALUATION OF THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY PROGRAMS IN
KENYA ASSEMBLIES OF GOD - BURUBURU

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

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

Signed _____
Susan Odhiambo

July, 2010

ABSTRACT

This study was an evaluation of the programs of Kenya Assemblies of God Women's Ministry (KAGWM) in relation to relevance with the ministry's objectives and the needs of the women represented. The purpose of the study was to evaluate the relevance of the programs offered by KAGWM with its objectives and the needs of the women.

The objectives of the study are: to establish how the programs offered by the KAGWM assist the women in meeting their ministry objectives; to determine how the programs of KAGWM relate to the needs of the women and to realize how the programs equip women to become mature Christians.

The findings and recommendation of this study will serve as a guide to the KAGWM leaders in evaluating how their programs are related to the objectives of the ministry.

Qualitative research paradigm is used in this evaluation since it required the aspect of describing how the program imparts the members. The researcher used purposeful sampling in selecting the interviewees. The reason for purposeful sampling was to get women who were actively involved and would give useful information. The instruments used were interview guides that had open-ended questions as seen in appendix 1 and 2. In order to develop the instrument the researcher considered the objectives of the study.

The findings revealed that the programs of KAGWM were formulated to attain the ministries objectives. No ministry objective was left without a channel in order to be realized. The finding also viewed that the needs of the single ladies were not being considered.

In view of the above aspects, the leaders of the KAGWM should re-examine the objectives of the ministry to see if they can come up with some that can help build the morale of the women. The KAGWM leaders need to formulate a program that specifically deals with the needs of the single ladies in order to have all the needs of the women met. The leadership of KAGWM should have a representative from all the groups.

TO

God Almighty who has by His grace enabled me to come this far, my loving husband Timothy and my children Mike, Nike, June and Jeremy who have supported me in prayers and much needed moral support.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am grateful to God Almighty without whom I could accomplish nothing. His grace has been sufficient even in times when I felt like giving up. It is by His strength that I was able to finish this thesis.

I thank my husband Timothy who has supported me throughout my studies even when I had to be in class for long hours and during holidays. He tirelessly paid all my fees together with the children's without delay which was a big burden. Thank you very much.

Dr. Mambo, my first reader who tirelessly gave me candid advice that helped me focus on the important matter other than what I regarded urgent. Your support and prayers have been a great encouragement especially during my difficult moments. You were more than a teacher to me and for that I am really grateful.

Dr. Jusu my second reader who took his precious time and gave us lessons on how to write our thesis. Your comments and advice have made this paper come to being. You came to NEGST at the right time and I appreciate you.

Dr. Ngewa whose big office of the Academic Dean did not stop him from identifying with me and encouraging me when I was really down. May the Lord Bless you.

I appreciate my classmates Sofia, Lucia and Wambui who stood by me as I worked on my research. Special thanks go to Grace who has helped me in editing this paper.

To God be the glory and Honor.

ABBREVIATIONS

KAG: Kenya Assemblies of God

KAGWM: Kenya Assemblies of God Women's Ministry Buruburu

WM: Women's Ministry

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

The Kenya Assemblies of God Women's Ministry (KAGWM) was introduced in Kenya in 1972 by a missionary called Mary Beggs. The parent body of the ministry started in 1925, when Etta Calhoun organized a group of women for intercessory prayer in Houston, Texas. Originally meeting for intercessory prayer for missionaries, the women quickly found practical ways to provide support for each other and for the ministry of the Assemblies of God Church. The group became the first Women's Missionary Council, the forerunner of today's Assemblies of God Women's Ministries (Beggs 1972, 4).

The AOG Women's Ministries has continued to organize meetings across the United States and in other countries. While many changes and adjustments have been made, the primary purpose of the Ministry, which is, to reach the world for Jesus has never changed.

The KAGWM Buruburu began with membership of four women. Today the ministry has grown to a population of fifty women comprising of married, widowed, and singled women—with and without children.

A casual look at the ministry of the Church will reveal that these women are having a significant impact on the Church; however the impact has been diminishing with the passing of time to the bewilderment of many. It is interesting to note why such a crucial ministry is witnessing a low morale among its members.

Problem Statement

There is evidence of low morale and involvement in the ministries of the KAGWM by women in the last eight years of the existence of the ministry. A major manifestation of the low morale is the non-attendance of members who have made prior commitments of engagement in the ministry. Prior to these years, the women's group was vibrant and the most active in comparison to other ministries of the church. What has concerned the researcher is the reason or possible factors that have led to the low morale and involvement that is now evident. This study is a response to that concern and is therefore an inquiry into the level of involvement and commitment of the women to the ministries of the KAGWM.

Purpose of Study

The study, which is evaluative in nature, had a dual purpose. In the first place, the purpose was to establish the logical contingency between intended outcomes (objectives) and the intended transactions offered by the programs in the ministry. Second, the purpose was to establish the participants' perception of relevance of the ministry from their assessment of the programs offered in the ministry.

Significance of Study

The findings of the research will serve as a resource material and guide to the administration of KAG in assessing the degree to which the objectives of establishing a ministry is being met through the programs offered by the ministry. They will also serve as a guide to the KAGWM leaders in evaluating how their programs are relevant to the objectives of the ministry. It will help to uncover the possible reasons of the low morale among the women in the church.

