

PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF GOD IN
NYAMIRA DISTRICT OF
WESTERN KENYA

BY

JOHN ADENIJI

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PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF GOD IN NYAMIRA DISTRICT OF
WESTERN KENYA: A STUDY OF THE DYNAMICS OF
THE PASTORS' IMPACT ON THE LAITY FOR
CHURCH GROWTH

BY

JOHN ADENIJI

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

Approved:

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate the Dynamics of the Pastors' impact on the laity, how the Pastors as enablers and leaders have equipped the members for the growth of their Assemblies. This was conducted among twenty-eight Nyaramba PAG pastors of Western Kenya.

In order to adequately deal with this subject, four research questions were raised by the researcher and nineteen interview questions were developed from them. In addition, the following data was collected from the record of each Assembly.

- (1) How many members were there in the Assembly when the Pastor started pastoring?
 - (2) How many members are there in the Assembly now?
- These were statistically processed.

Findings of this study showed that there is a minimal impact made by the pastors on the laity for the following reasons:

- (1) The pastors do not set definite goals for the growth of their Assemblies.
- (2) The pastors produce non-participatory laity.
More than half of the pastors do not

involve the laity in ministry.

- (3) The pastors do not create appropriate channels whereby the gifts in the laity could be put to use.

Dedicated

To the memory of my late mother
Mrs. Janet Oredola Adeniji

and

My dear loving wife Felicia Olupeju Adeniji
and our children Oluwaseun, Oluwakayode & Oluwasesan

who through their encouragement, commitment,
Sacrifice and prayers have made this thesis possible.

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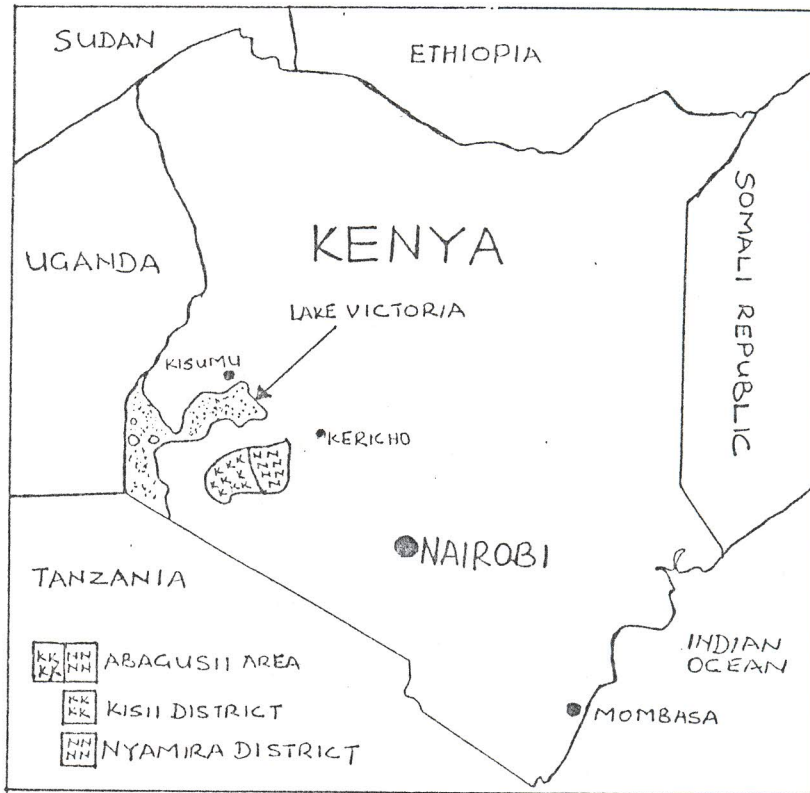
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Nyamira District was formed out of Kisii District by the Government of Kenya on the 22nd of August, 1989.¹ Kisii District, of which Nyamira was part, ranked as the most densely settled rural district in Kenya, as shown in Map 1. It has an average population density of 396 persons per square kilometre.²

MAP 1

SHOWING THE LOCALE OF THE ABAGUSII IN KENYA



Nyamira District is dominated by the Abagusii and they have constantly constituted ninety-eight percent of the total population.³ The Abagusii have an extremely youthful population. Approximately fifty-three percent of the total population consist of children aged between zero (0) and fourteen (14) years. Despite the high population pressure in the District, the Abagusii still have low emigration rates, for after thirty years of age, anyone who has not migrated will find it difficult to emigrate.⁴ Correspondingly, the in-migration in the District is somewhat restricted. It accounts for two percent of the total population and they are made up of other tribes like Luo, Luhya, Kikuyu, Kipsigis.⁵

Eighty percent of Abagusii claimed to be Christians. In public, few people claim to be believers of traditional religion.⁶ The two major denominations working among the Abagusii before others came in are the Roman Catholics and the Seventh-Day Adventist. In 1924, a mission from Canada, Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada (P.A.O.C.) began work in Western Kenya.⁷ The indigenous Church of this mission, Pentecostal Assemblies of God (PAG) started working among the Abagusii in Nyamira District in 1957 and they have established twenty-eight Assemblies with Pastors as leaders who see to the overall activities

of these Assemblies. These twenty-eight Assemblies are now known as Nyaramba Pentecostal Assemblies of God (P.A.G.) in Nyamira District. It is into this district that the Researcher has travelled to discover the things that hinder Church Growth and those that promote it.

Problem Statement

Never before in human history has a voluntary movement grown as rapidly as Christianity is growing today.⁸ This is particularly true in many countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The expansion of the Church is dramatic among those called Pentecostals or charismatics. This growth began at the start of the 20th Century and one credible estimate is that there are 160 million Pentecostal/ Charismatic worldwide.⁹

In Africa there is only one word to describe the growth of the Church and that is spectacular!¹⁰ In 1900, the African Church had 8.7 million and by 1988 there was 218.4 million. The Pentecostals have been making a great contribution to the growth of the Church in Africa.

According to Akao,

"Pentecostalism, as a Christian body, is undoubtedly comparatively young, but it has grown with such phenomenal rapidity that it can almost be said to have spread its tentacles into every known denomination of the church and is sparking off revolution in the churches."¹¹

