

## S4 NOTES: C.R.E

### Instructions to Students

Please copy these notes into your books. We shall revise when we return to school ~ Teacher Mabel, Nabisunsa Girls School.

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### ***COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE***

#### **QUALITIES OF A GOOD MARRIAGE PARTNER IN ATS:**

- Ability to give birth. The girl had to be in position to produce for the children man since children were important in marriage.
- One was supposed to be sexually normal to be able to stabilize a marriage .A man was to be free from impotence.
- One had to be in good health conditions that is to say being free from hereditary disease like asthma in order to control their spread to the children.
- A boy was to brave enough in order to give effective protection to the girl and property.
- Virginity was a valuable quality expected among the girls and it was tested on the day of marriage and rewarded.
- One was expected to have gone through initiation rites. These were rites of passage from childhood to adulthood e.g. in Mbale all boys had to undergo circumcision as sign of adulthood.
- Hard work. Girls were required to be hard working. Hard work was a sign of a blessing and laziness a curse
- Morally upright (disciplined) if a girl was morally upright (disciplined) even her future children would learn from her and behave well in society.
- Partners had to be of the same tribe so as to reduce on the problems of taking long to adjust due to differences in language, customs, taboo.
- Ability to pay bride wealth by the boy to the girl's family. Failure to do so showed that the boy was unable to look after his wife.
- Parents had to research and let their children marry from families which were free from witch craft for the family to be upright.

#### **CHALLENGES OF CHOOSING A MARRIED PARTNER (MARRIAGE PARTNER IN ATS)**

- The rich man who had a lot of cattle denied the young boys who were poor to get girls of their choice because they took over the young girls.

- There was a problem of generation gap where a young girl was forced to get married to an old man because of wealth.
- Parents were more influential in their children's families, especially girls knew that they were in such homes because of the parents of their husbands.
- There was a problem of early marriage where girls were forced to get married in order to get wealth for their parents.
- In case of death of the partner. The girl was forced to get married to another family member so that they are able to look after the children of the deceased.
- Qualities to be considered before marriage were in favour of the parents not the prospective partners. This denied them of their right to enjoy their rights.
- There was a problem of high bride wealth because girls were looked at as commodities for parents to extract wealth.
- In some societies virginity of the girl was broken by the father in law, for example among the Banyankole the father in law broke the daughter in law's virginity because they believed that breaking it was painful to the boy.

### ***BRIDE WEALTH***

These were gifts which were taken to the family of the girl or bride by the bridegroom's family before the marriage for appreciation.

### **IMPORTANCE OF BRIDE WEALTH IN ATS.**

- It was a sign of love to the girl since it showed that the man's family was interested in the bride and wanted to marry.
- It showed appreciation of the parents of the girl for the work well done in upbringing of the girl who was disciplined.
- It was a form of compensation of the family of the girl for the loss of the girl i.e. they will miss her services in the home.
- It helped to cement and seal the marriage. This was because once it was paid then the marriage was bound to take place.
- It enabled the brothers of the bride to get married using the same items brought by the in laws to get wives.
- It showed the seriousness of the bridegroom and his capability as a man to care for his family.
- It boosted the economic status of the girl's family since the animals and foodstuffs offered added value to the family.
- It acted as a certificate to confirm a marriage. The society had to give them respect

- It accorded the boy respect and improved on his status in the community, the in laws would look at him as a capable husband.
- It showed that the man respected the wife to be. So, the more bride wealth paid the more the value attached to the wife to be.
- It strengthened the unity between the two families, they entered into a serious relationship and they became relatives.
- It encouraged proper upbringing of children especially the girl. This was because girls who were morally upright fetched more bride wealth.

### **DANGERS OF BRIDE WEALTH.**

- Some husbands have ended up mistreating their wives under the pretext that they paid bride wealth so, that they ended up overworking them.
- Some men have turned polygamous because they have ability to pay for more than one wife.
- It has made some parents become greedy and selfish. They look at the girl child in terms of material belonging not as a human being created in God's image.
- It has made some parents to force their children into marriage; this is because of desire for material gains.
- It sometimes leaves the boy in a state of poverty since he has paid bride wealth which is at times very expensive.
- It at times causes misunderstandings between the couple in that the wife might become insubordinate to the husband because he paid less bride wealth.
- It causes conflicts between the man's family and the girls' family especially when too much bride wealth is demanded. It becomes a form of exploitation to the boy's family.
- It has led to sexual immorality in that those who cannot afford to raise the bride wealth to marry resort to sexual abuse for sexual satisfaction.
- It makes the man at times use dubious ways of getting bride wealth like theft which leads to imprisonment.
- It is expensive and therefore makes the young couple who cannot afford it to elope which is a disgrace to the parents.
- It denies one a chance to marry a person of her /his choice and resort to a cheaper one. This interferes with God's will of companion.

## ***DIVORCE***

This refers to the legal separation of wife and husband. It is permanent and partners can never come together again in life.

Separation is a temporary marriage disorder and the two partners are free to reconcile and stay together again.

### **CAUSES OF DIVORCE TODAY OR MODERN SOCIETY.**

- Unfaithfulness, couples who cheat on each other when discovered usually divorce e.g. Tiger Woods, the golfer was divorced by his wife after being found to have committed adultery.
- Anti social acts like witchcraft, sorcery, greed which bring about disharmony in society.
- Lack of sexual satisfaction. One is forced to get another partner who can satisfy him/her sexually causing divorce.
- Long periods of separation by the couple which leads to starvation hence temptations to commit adultery which leads to divorce e.g. former president of S A late Nelson Mandela was in prison for 27 years which tempted Winnie Mandela to engage sexually with a family lawyer. This ended in divorce.
- Barrenness, this makes a man to divorce a wife in order to get one who can bear children.
- Failure to pay bride wealth which makes the parent of the girl to initiate divorce in order to avoid making a loss.
- In case of incurable disease and hereditary disease by the wife in fear of further infection to spread to children, the woman was divorced.
- In case a boy got married without undertaking initiation rites .This would imply that a person is still a child e.g. among the Bagisu if One was discovered uncircumcised then he would be divorced
- Anti social behaviour like theft, selfishness and witchcraft. Traditional society was based on solidarity any behaviour against that was punished.
- In case of intermarriage which would promote misunderstanding between people

### **REASONS WHY MARRIAGES WERE MORE STABLE IN ATS THAN TODAY (WHY DIVORCE WAS RARE IN ATS THAN IN MODERN TIMES)?**

- Parental involvement as opposed to personal choice Parental involvement assisted in solving marital problems and counseling partners.
- Time was taken to study a partner; parents took time to study the partner where as today the young people are taken by infatuation.

- In ATS women were submissive to their partners and loyal. Whereas today there is women emancipation which makes women disrespect their husbands.
- Marriage was for production of children which stabilized marriage while today some women can choose to do without children which leads to divorce.
- Divorce was regarded as a shame in ATS where as today because of permissiveness people feel free to act the way they want.
- The problem of barrenness was solved by polygamy while today because of monogamy incase of barrenness a couple can easily divorce.
- Bride wealth sealed a marriage in ATS while today some of the couple just elope and incase of disagreement divorce occurs.
- In the past it was hard to get a wife, it involved a long process while today women can easily be picked in dance halls, town and church.
- In ATS women owned almost nothing in the past; they depended on men while today women own assets and can live independently.
- Alcoholism which makes the man irresponsible and unable to provide basic needs of life.
- Women emancipation which makes some women to disrespect their husbands and also makes them feel independent of men e.g. former vice president of Uganda Wandera Kazibwe divorced her husband Eng Charles Kazibwe that he slapped her twice.
- Religious differences which make the couple fail to connect in marriage due to lack of love among them.
- Religious differences which make the couple fail to harmonize their faith differences e.g. Daniela a wife to Jose Chameleon was threatening to divorce when he wanted to convert to Islam from being a catholic.
- Forced marriages by parents that make children fail to connect in marriage due to love among themselves.
- Poverty which makes the man unable to provide the basic needs of life.
- Interference from in-laws over interference in their children's marriage which makes the life of one f the partners difficult.

### ***CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH DIVORCE WAS PERMITTED IN A.T.S.***

#### **CAUSES OF DIVORCE IN ATS.**

- Lack of virginity. In some societies if a woman was found not to be a virgin, she would immediately be divorced.
- Women with misfortune or bad omen like killing children at birth. There would be divorce for fear of bad omen continuity.

- Incest. In case of marriage of blood relative, divorce would take place because it was a taboo to marry a relative.
- Laziness of the wife. One of the qualities considered for good wife to work hard so laziness led to divorce.
- Cruelty and violence on the part of the man. This would lead to fight hence bodily injuries.
- Continued cases of adultery on part of the woman. Women were meant to be faithful to their husbands.
- In case of incurable disease and hereditary diseases by the wife, in fear of further spread to children the woman was divorced.
- In case a boy married without the undertaking of initiation rites. This would imply that the person is still a child e.g. among the Bagisu, if one was discovered uncircumcised then he would be divorced.
- Anti behaviours like selfishness like selfishness and witchcraft. Traditional society was based on solidarity, any behaviour against was punished.
- In case of intermarriage it was encouraged between people of the same tribe to reduce misunderstanding between the couples.

**REASONS WHY MARRIAGES WERE MORE STABLE IN ATS THAN TODAY/ WHY DIVORCE WAS RARE IN ATS THAN IN MODERN TIMES.**

- Parental involvement as opposed to personal choice. Parental involvement assisted in solving marital problems and counseling partners.
- Time was taken to study a partner. Parents took time whereas today the young people are taken up by infatuation.
- In ATS women were submissive to their husbands and loyal whereas today there is women emancipation which makes women disrespect men.
- Marriage was for pro-creation of children which stabilized marriage while today couples choose to be childless which leads to divorce.
- Divorce was regarded as a shame in ATS whereas today because of permissiveness people feel free to act the way they want.
- The problem of barrenness was solved by polygamy whereas today because of monogamy in case of barrenness a couple can easily divorce.
- Bride wealth sealed marriage in ATS whereas today some of the couples just elope and in case of disagreement divorce arises.
- In the past, it was hard to get a wife. It involved a long process whereas today women can easily be handpicked in dancehalls towns and churches.

- In ATS women owned almost nothing in the past; they depended on the men whereas today women own assets and can live independently.
- Early Christians put emphasis on forgiveness then reconciliation for the married to make marriage survive.
- Marriage was supposed to be permanent since divorce promoted adultery and there is emphasis on what God has put together no man should separate.
- They believed that marriage was to be official before the elders of the church so that partners could get blessings.
- Each partner was to supposed to satisfy the sexual desires of the other partner because the body of the husband belongs to the wife and the wife belongs to the man.
- They also encouraged the marriage to be between people of the same faith so that they are able to train their children in Christian way.

### ***COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE IN THE OLDTESTAMENT***

- It teaches that every man must leave the father's home and marry one wife ,for example God said that man shall leave his parents and be joined to his wife and the two become one.(gen2;24)
- It teaches that adultery is a sin before God and it is punishable, so people should remain faithful to their partners. (lev18:1-23).
- It teaches that marriage is intended for producing children that is why God told Adam and Eve to subdue the earth (Gen1:28)
- It teaches that a man is to pay dowry or bride wealth in order to get a wife as an appreciation for the parents for example Jacob worked for Rachel for 7 years and more 7 years for Leah (Gen 29;15-28)
- It teaches that marriage is willed by God who makes it possible and blesses it .In Genesis he said it is not good for a man to live alone; I will make for him a suitable companion. (Genesis2:18)
- It teaches that a newly married man should be given enough time with their wives in ( Deut 24:5) the newly married soldier would be given time and excused from duty for one year so that he makes his wife happy.
- It teaches that married partners should be faithful to one another. Hosea married Gomer whom he love but was very unfaithful to him.(Hosea 3)
- It teaches that marriage is intended for companionship that is why God said it is not good for man stay alone.
- It teaches that virginity was cherished .A virgin girl brought a lot of respect to her husband and the entire family.(Deut 22:13-20)

## ***COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.***

- It teaches that the couple should satisfy each other's sexual desires to avoid temptation in marriage. (1Cor7:3)
- It teaches that marriage should be permanent because it's God's original plan. Jesus taught people to stay together till death do them part.(Eph5:31) (mark10:9)
- It teaches that people should support each other in a marriage in order to complement each other.
- It teaches that marriage is optional i.e. people are free to choose to get married or to stay single as a way of expressing their love for each other. (celibates 1Cor7:1-7)
- It teaches that wives should be submissive to their husbands just as the church is subject to Christ. (Eph5:21-35)
- It teaches that a husband should love and respect the wife just as Christ loves the church.(Eph5:25)
- It teaches that marriage should be monogamous. In mark 10:7-8, Jesus said that a man shall leave his father and mother for his wife and the two will become one.
- It teaches that the man is the head of the family in a marriage institution. Therefore, a marriage should be characterized with love and care.
- It teaches that Jesus offered people the power to love unselfishly and in this way he brought healing in a marriage relationship. (Eph5;21)
- It teaches that there should be respect in a marriage between the wife and the husband .Sarah gave a very good example, she respected Abraham and referred to him as a master.(1Pet3:6)
- It teaches that faithfulness is important in a marriage. In ( Mat 19:9-10),Jesus says any man who divorces his wife for any cause other than unfaithfulness commits adultery if he marries another woman.
- The new testament teaches that people should support each other when organizing a wedding ,for example Jesus attended a wedding at Cana where he supported the couple by turning water into wine.(John 2:1-11)

## **QUALITIES OF A MARRIAGE PARTNER IN THE BIBLE**

1. Being respectful( 1Pet3:1)
2. Inner beauty(1Pet3;3-4)
3. Loving and caring(1Pet3:7)
4. Morally upright(1Pet3;6,3;12)
5. Faithful.



## ***COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE IN CHURCH HISTORY***

- Christians regarded marriage as earthly and useless. Therefore, they devoted most of their time to God because Jesus had promised them he was coming back soon.
- Those who were to marry were to join a monogamous marriage because God created one man one woman.
- They also felt that marriage was supposed to be built on principle of love and care because man and woman were created for companionship.
- They also preached that in a family a husband was to be a head of the family and was expected to be respected by the wife and the children.
- The early Christians put emphasis on forgiveness and reconciliation for married in order to make their marriage survive.
- Marriage was supposed to be permanent since divorce promoted adultery. Emphasis was put on God's teaching that what God has put together no man should separate. Each partner was supposed to satisfy the sexual desires of the other because the body of the husband belonged to the wife and the wife's body belonged to the husband.
- They also encouraged that marriage should be between people of the same faith so that they are able to train their kids in the Christian faith.

## ***MONOGAMY***

It's a marriage system where a husband marries one wife.

### **ADVANTAGES OF MONOGAMY**

1. It promotes marriage stability as each partner would be faithful to each other.
2. The family unity is strengthened
3. It promotes marital love and respect in the family because the two understand each other.
4. It promotes joy and deep relationship among the family members i.e. the husband and wife because they satisfy each other sexually.
5. Monogamy is cheap and less tasking since all resources go one person.
6. It controls evil effects of witchcraft and poisoning.
7. It is a means of observing family planning; this is because few children are produced.
8. It prevents sexually transmitted diseases, because faithfulness is observed among partners.

9. The possibility of solving misunderstandings among partners is high third parties are minimized
10. Sexual satisfaction is possible especially on the side of the woman. This reduces unfaithfulness and divorce.
11. It promotes easy administration of the family, there are few problems associated with men since they can provide basic needs of life and instill discipline among children.
12. It promotes security to both husband and wife as each partner gets a peace of mind, since there are fewer conflicts in the marriage.

### **DISADVANTAGES OF MONOGAMY**

- Women tend to be indisciplined due to lack of competition from other women.
- Some men die childless incase the woman is infertile or barren yet children are very important in a marriage.
- They may end up getting single sex children which denies a man a chance of getting variations in offspring which is beneficial.
- In case of chronical disease like sickle cells, the family will get only unhealthy children who are very expensive to treat and maintain.
- If the genes of both parents are dull, the children born might be dull and will attain poor grades which will affect their future.
- It limits the chances of expanding the clan and family due to production of few children who may be girls and may die.
- Monogamy limits the chances of other women to get married since men are more than the women in Uganda which causes prostitution.
- Sometimes it causes divorce especially in situation of health, indiscipline, continuous quarrels between husband and wife.
- Monogamy encourages adultery incase in case the women has prolonged sickness, this is because the man would be sexually starved and would look for sex elsewhere.
- It reduces child reproduction, labour reduces and would create need to hire labour which is expensive.
- It leads to instability in marriages due to big headed women who become disrespectful, abusive and deny their husbands sex.

### ***POLYGAMY***

It is a marriage system where one husband has more than one wife.

### **ADVANTAGES OF POLYGAMY**

- It gave a chance to a man to have children of different variation i.e. sex, appearance and intelligence.
- It maintained harmony and cooperation in a home e.g. if the first wife fell sick or died, others would take care of the children left behind.
- It solved problems of man's sexual needs in case one wife was pregnant and didn't like sex man was free to have sex with other women. This reduced marital unfaithfulness.
- It was a symbol of status and sign of prestige. Polygamous men were highly respected that why they were always given leadership positions in ATS.
- It was a sign of wealth and economic status; this is because women brought in bride wealth.
- It provided a man with cheap labour because women and many children worked for free on the farm.
- It is also lessened the burden of producing children since women would produce for the husband.
- It led to expansion of the clan because a big number of children especially boys were born.
- It was a source of security in marriage because one would many people at home (boys) arising from many women which protected the home from external attacks.
- The husband got good services from committed wives such as food. This enabled him get a balanced diet.
- It helped surplus get an opportunity of getting married. This helped to reduce sex abuse like prostitution.

### **DISADVANTAGES.**

- It at times protected sexual unfaithfulness among women due to lack of sexual satisfaction and company because women were many.
- Inheritance of property became a problem after death of the head of the family as result of wives and children fighting for the property of husband and father.
- It would make the man overwork sexually which would reduce him to a robot and would become a sexual maniac.
- At times it was difficult for the man to instill discipline in both the children and wife because they were very many and difficult to administer.
- It promoted discrimination among women as some were loved than others which created tension, hatred, jealousy and sometimes witchcraft.

- Women lived in psychological fear expecting the man to bring a new wife at any time. This is because the man's love was going to be divided.
- Polygamy worked against young men because old men took young women since young men could not afford to pay bride wealth and marry.
- It was expensive in terms of feeding and taking care of the home and general welfare of the children since they were many.
- Women were treated as property e.g. overworked on the farm yet the man would fail to give equal love to all.
- In polygamous families; quarrels, fights and misunderstandings were common among children and women which led to body harm.
- It promoted contraction of STDs since they would be transferred from one woman to another.

#### **EXAMPLES OF WOMEN WHO PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.**

- **Hannah:** *Hannah was a very devoted woman who turned her misery into joy. She dedicated her only son Samuel to God to work as a priest for God and the Israelites. (1 Samuel 1:19-28).*
- **Miriam** a sister to Aaron was a prophetess and composed a song of victory for the Jews (Exodus 15:19-21) after crossing the Red sea and crushing the Egyptian army.
- **Rebecca** the wife to Isaac made tricks with her son Jacob to take over the inheritance and blessings of Esau by deceiving their father Isaac. Jacob later became the grandfather of the Israelites (Genesis 27).
- **Sarah** was able to endure barrenness until God gave her Isaac as the covenant child.
- **Bathsheba** the wife to king David pleaded to him to fulfill his promise which helped Solomon to become a king in Israel where he did many good things like constructing the temple which helped people worship God(1 Kings 1:11-21).
- The widow of **Zarepheth** saved the man of God Elijah from hunger by making bread for him from the only remaining flour and oil she had (1Kings 17:8-).
  - Jesus loves the church Ephesians 5:28.
- **Rehab** protected the Israelites spies and helped them to escape during Israelites entry to Canaan when Joshua had sent the 12 children of Israel to spy and see how good the land was (Joshua 2).
- **Queen Esther** pleaded for the Jews from king Xerxes and due to her courage and devotion, she save her people the Jews from extermination and destruction from the enemies(Esther 5& 10)

- **Tekoa** in a lever woman requested king David to pardon and forgive his son **Abaelom** who had revolted against him and threatened to give his throne away ( 2 Samuel 14).
- **Ruth** David's grandmother is remembered for her courage and determination to stay with the mother-in-law Naomi after the death of her son (Ruth 1:16-22).
- **Deborah** ruled her people as a prophet and a judge during the time when survival of the Israelites was threatened (Judges 4:1-10).
- The **queen of Sheba** showed courage to travel a long distance to see and hear the words of wisdom from king Solomon which she appreciated and even gave him gifts (1 Kings 10:1-14)
- The **Shunemate woman** helped the man of God Elisha by Giving him food always and building a small room for him where he could stay whenever he visited (2 Kings 4:1-7).

### ***NEW TESTAMENT.***

- The Samaritan who went and told the Samaritans about Christ and what he had said concerning her which was true. They accepted his message and believed that he was the savior of the world (John 4:9-41).
- Elizabeth mother of John the Baptist who was a fore runner of Jesus Christ, he paved way for Jesus' coming and said the one who comes after him was greater than him (Luke 1:57-65)
- Mary the mother of Jesus Christ gave birth to the messiah/savior who came to save the world from sin (Luke 2:2-7).
- Mary the mother of Mark offered her house as a place for prayer and one time were praying Peter was released from prison (Acts 12:12-19).
- Mary Magdalene was the first witness to the resurrection of Christ when she went to the tomb very early in the morning and found when Christ resurrected and appeared to her first (Mark 16).
- Mary who anointed Jesus at Bethany with an expensive perfume and used her hair to wipe his feet she was preparing him ahead of his death (Mark 14:3-9).
- Dorcus/Tabitha offered charity, she assisted the orphans and widows with clothes and when she died, the Christians pleaded to Peter and he got her back to life.
- Mary and Martha were good friends of Christ; Martha used to pack for him food and welcomed him to her home. This helped him during his leisure time (Luke 10:38-42).
- Pilate's wife who had a dream about Jesus' innocence and remained sleepless. She told her husband that Jesus had no crime against and should be pardoned but because it was God's plan to save mankind, he had to die.

### **EXAMPLES IN ATS.**

- State the name of the society.
- What was being done.
- State the reason.

Women were being discriminated against in ATS by being used as entertainment for visitors as form of hospitality e.g. among the Bahima of the western Uganda when a man received an important visitor he was to surrender his wife to him for a night and it was called “*Okwirana*” meaning “*laying the bed for one another.*”

- It teaches that marriage should be monogamous e.g. in Mark 10:7-8. Jesus said a man shall leave his father and mother and unite with his wife then become one.
- It teaches that man is the head of a family in the marriage institution therefore marriage should be characterized by love and care of a father.
- It teaches that marriage was initiated by God and Jesus confirmed in Mathew 19:4-6. He said God created man and woman and the man leaves his father and stays with his wife and become one.
- It teaches that Jesus offered people the power to love unselfishly and in this way heavily brought to the marriage relationship in Ephesians 5:21.
- It teaches that there should be respect in marriage between wife then a husband e.g. Sarah respected her husband Abraham and called him master (1 Peter 3:5).
- It teaches that there should be respect in marriage. In Mathew 19:9-10. Jesus says any man who divorces his wife for any cause other than unfaithfulness, commits adultery if he marries another woman.

### **MARRIAGE IN ATS/UNDERSTANDING/FEATURES OF A MARRIAGE IN AFRICAN SOCIETY.**

Marriage was very important and highly valued as a central aspect of the society. It was much necessary for existence and continuity of the society.

Marriage was compulsory. Everybody was expected to marry as a way of belongingness to a particular society.

There was no room for single life. It was seen as betrayal of society. E.g. in Buganda they were referred to as “*Endiga Yamutomela*” meaning “*he was knocked by a sheep.*”

Polygamy was highly valued because it was one of the ways of showing status and prestige and being able to manage many women.

- Marriage was meant for producing children and if you had no child, you were considered nobody e.g. Okot in his book songs of Lawino says you marry a giant of a man full of age and grey hair but if unmarried and without children, you are nothing.
- Marriage was a venue for sexual enjoyment. Sex outside marriage was forbidden and highly punishable.
- Marriage was a source of prestige and respect. It was the only way people became recognized as adults and given positions of responsibilities like heirs and clan leaders.
- Bride wealth was respected as a seal of marriage. It made it stronger and permanent e.g. in Tororo; a boy's family would pay about five cows and some goats to the family of the girl.
- Parents played a significant role in choosing a marriage partner for their children, is helped to avoid incest.
- Virginity was highly valued at the time of getting married and virgins were respected and honoured.
- Sex education was carried out to prepare the couple for institution of marriage is helped to strengthen their marriage.
- Unmarried were treated with a lot of disrespect because they regarded them as children e.g. in Buganda if one died while unmarried, his body was passed behind the door.

### ***MAN'S RESPONSE TO GOD THROUGH FAITH AND LOVE.***

#### **MAN'S QUEST TO GOD (SEARCH FOR GOD).**

to search is to quest, seek, ask, find out, love or discover the truth about something therefore man's search for God means to find out or discover more about God.

#### **HOW PEOPLE SEARCH FOR GOD TODAY.**

- People search for God today through having regular prayers which is communication with God and it draws closer to him e.g. Pastor Kayanja of Miracle Center Cathedral organized the 77DOGS where people were praying daily.
- They search for God through preaching the Gospel to convert people to Christianity e.g. Pastor Joseph Serwadda of Victory Church Ndeeba preaches the gospel on impact FM where many people convert to Christianity.
- They go out on missionary journeys to different places to make aware of God's existence.
- Other deny themselves food and drinks in form of fasting to devote their lives to God.
- It's through repenting of one's sins in order to be righteous before God.

- Others search for God through forgiving and reconciliation with people who offered them to keep peace.
- Through carrying out charity works especially to the needy which provides their welfare e.g. Mengo Hospital has Sanyu baby's homes which cares for the disadvantages and abandoned children, they are given food, shelter and education.
- They also search for God by taking up sacraments like Eucharist, Baptism, and Confirmation in order to belong to God's family.
- People search for God through celebrating important Christian days like Christmas in remembrance of Jesus' birth.
- Others search for God by living celibate life to give enough time to God e.g. the catholic priests like fathers Kibuuka have devoted their services to search God in churches.
- Some search for God through interpreting and translating the Bible in the local language so that people understand it better.
- Through giving offerings as a way of obeying the commandment in Malachi 3:10 and as a way of thanks giving in order to get blessings from God.
- Some Christians carry out Bible study in order to understand the truth and revelation of God through his words so that they can do his will.

### **WHY DO PEOPLE SEARCH FOR GOD/FACTORS THAT PROMPT MAN TO SEARCH FOR GOD.**

- People search for God because they want everlasting life so they carry out bible study so that they can achieve a place in heaven.
- Others search for God so that he gives them wisdom and intelligence in order to do whatever they are doing well, the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.
- Others search for God to give them good jobs in order to meet their basic needs.
- Others pray so that God gives them wealth to live happy and comfortable life and chase away poverty.
- Some people search for God so that he saves them from sickness especially those deadly ones like HIV/AIDS and cancer.
- Some people pray so that they can be able to live well with others especially those who are most difficult to live with especially slow or not tempered.
- In order to understand the origin of the world and man. People have got many questions which haven't been answered about how man came into existence.
- God is omnipotent (powerful) man searches for him in order to solve all his problems.



- Others search for God so that their sins are forgiven in order to be righteous with God. Some want companionship with God.
- Some need eternal friendship which only God can provide to them.
- People believe that God has constant love for man. However much man has continued to offend God, e finds it in his heart to forgive man.
- Others search for God through Baptism because they Fear death and would not want a peaceful death and enter the kingdom of God.

### **ATTRIBUTES/X-TICS/QUALITIES OF GOD.**

- God is a jealousy, because he tolerates no rival and wants man to worship him alone e.g. In Exodus 20:1. In the Ten Commandments he said “*worship no other God but me.*”
- God is a liberator who rescues people form problems e.g. in the book of Exodus, he liberated the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.
- God is a creator. In Genesis 1 and 2 he created heaven and earth and also created man in his image.
- God is the beginning and the end because he made the world and he is the one to bring it to an end.
- God is a provider, who provides for man’s needs e.g. in the book of Exodus he provided for the Israelites. Manna and quails while in the desert.
- God is merciful God and forgiver of sinners e.g. the book of Exodus he gave the Israelites who worshipped the golden calf when Moses had gone to Mt. Sinai receive the Ten Commandments.
- God is love and he loves everyone equally e.g. He loved the world and he sent his only son to die for man’s sins.
- God is all knowing (omniscient) e.g. He knew man before he was created in their mother’s wombs and the plans ahead (Jeremiah 29:11).
- God is a spirit and can’t be seen by naked eyes e.g. In the book of Acts, the holy spirit came upon the apostles on the day or Pentecost as a counselor.
- God is all powerful and even his word has power e.g. in Genesis he spoke to the world and it came into existence like and let there be and it was.
- God is Emmanuel (God is with us) especially in times of trouble and that’s why man searches for him.
- God is holy. He is righteous and tolerates no sin and therefore man searches for his forgiveness.
- God is eternal i.e. He is immortal meaning he lives forever without end and doesn’t die.

## **IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER:**

- Prayer draws people closer to God as they communicate with him frequently. They are able to establish a good relationship with God.
- Prayer enables people to receive God's protection against danger especially those posed by the devil like witchcraft.
- Prayer also helps to comfort man especially one going through various challenges like death of a loved one.
- Prayer helps people intercede for others like the sick those who are suffering and this enables them in the long run get well.
- Prayers enable man to realize and acknowledge that he is supposed to depend on God all the time.
- Prayer helps come down God's anger especially when man angers him. When a man asks for God's forgiveness during prayer he gets God's mercy.
- Prayer helps man to show his commitment to God and this keeps him hopeful.
- Prayer makes one put his trust in God and this increases man's level of faith.
- Prayer enables a person to grow up spiritually since God manifests himself to him/her during prayer.
- Prayer helps people get rid of evil spirits (exorcism).
- Prayer enables one express their gratitude to God.

## **PROBLEMS THAT PEOPLE FIND WHEN SEARCHING FOR GOD.**

- There are cultural beliefs that people are strongly attached to, hence find it difficult to drop them.
- God sometimes takes long to answer prayers and so the weak ones give up and look for other means like witchcraft for quick answers
- Long and chronic illness also may hinder people from searching for God like HIV/AIDS, mysterious sickness due to frustrations.
- Many Christian's sects in existence like the Anglican, Pentecost, etc confuse many people and they have failed to choose where to go e.g. Kibwetere who deceived people that Jesus was coming back in 2000 and burnt them after stealing their property through his false cult which was known as restoration of the Ten Commandments.
- Illiteracy level among the people which has made them fails to read the word of God and understand it.

- The busy working schedule of the people which has hindered people from going to church and getting access to bible study.
- Greed for wealth especially for those who want to become rich selfishly by using methods of theft, witchcraft and human sacrifice.
- There are many does and don't those exist in Christianity which is hard to fulfill.
- There are bad examples from religious leaders which discourage their followers e.g. some pastors like Kiwedde of Namulanda church along Entebbe road used to ask for money from people before praying for them.
- There is also a challenge of conflicts and wrangles especially in churches and among church leaders over finances and leadership.
- Some people fail because of the challenges they have in life like in marriages which make them fail to concentrate.

### ***HOW GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO US TODAY.***

- Through miracles e.g. being healed from dangerous diseases.
- Through church leaders since these people help us to draw closer to God by guiding us spiritually.
- Through dreams and visions. These are experiences where one witnesses something but has to draw spiritual truth from them.
- Through wise men and other people who have unique ability to make decisions and give advice because of their knowledge and experiences.
- Through reading the bible; through reading the bible man gets to know more about God.
- Through charitable works whereby when one is in need, people come to offer help when he least expects.
- Through survival of accidents and wars. God reveals his persistent protection help when he least expects it.
- Through speaking in tongues where God makes its will to be known to certain people.
- Through a sacrament like baptism where one draws closer to God and becomes a member of God's family.
- Through having stable marriages with morally upright children. This respects God is glory and his love upon that family.
- Through good leadership and governance. It's a sign that God has blessed the country since leadership comes from God.

- Through natural catastrophes which reveals God's anger and disappointment before man e.g. famine, a flood and earthquake.

### ***MAN'S QUEST FOR GOD IN ATS.***

#### **SEARCH FOR GOD IN ATS.**

- They named children after names of God as a search for him e.g. among the Banyankole, they gave names like Byaruhanga meaning all belongs to God.
- They sang songs and danced during their religious ceremonies as a way of searching for God e.g. among the Itesots of eastern Uganda, they danced in the dry season which was a way of invoking the spirits to respond to their problems or give them a blessing.
- They consulted diviners who meditated between people and their gods foods and drinks to appease them e.g. among the Baganda, before taking alcohol, it was poured on the ground as a sign of sharing and thanking their gods.
- Through building worshipping places like shrines were normally built behind their homes where they gathered to worship.
- Through giving various names to indicate various roles and responsibilities played by God e.g. among the Baganda, they called him Namugerka meaning ruler. He rules over the earth.
- Through carrying out prayers as a way of communicating to God.
- Veneration of ancestors was a way of searching for God; they would appease the ancestors so that they would respond to their needs because they were believed to be nearer their gods.
- They searched for God through worship of the extra ordinary objects and features like big trees and rocks e.g. Nakayima tree in Mubende which was believed to contain God because of its size and features.
- Through carrying out initiation rites like birth rites and last funeral rites which helped them get closer to God.

#### ***HOW GOD REVEALED HIMSELF IN ATS.***

- By answering prayers e.g. in case of drought, when it rained, they ere assured of God's presence.
- Through dreams to people like the medicine men would receive dreams about the kind of medicine or herbs which they had to use.
- There were some people in society with supernatural powers like diviner and traditional healers and these were looked at by the community as representatives of God.

- Through natural calamities like drought, floods and earthquakes, this showed that God was annoyed with the people because of their sins.
- Through names given to people. They showed that God was powerful e.g. the Bakiga western Uganda, they named Ainomugisha meaning “God is a source of blessing.”
- He revealed himself through natural creations like rivers, mountains; all these showed his beauty, power and love.
- Blessings of wealth, children and wives symbolized God’s presence. It meant that God was pleased with such a family.
- Through messengers like birds and animals e.g. among the Baganda, the hooting of an owl at night was an indicator that trouble such as death had be fallen the family where the owl had visited.
- Through consuming sacrifices given to him, people gave sacrifices, thanks giving. Their absence from the place of sacrifices demonstrated that God had consumed them.
- Through ancestral spirits by appearing to people and when one of the members was possessed, it indicated that God had appeared to that society.

#### **WAYS IN WHICH PEOPLE IN ATS OFFERED THEIR PRAYERS TO GOD.**

- Through naming their children after some ancestor’s divinities and unique happenings symbolizing God’s power and glory.
- They offered prayers to God through composing poems, proverbs and riddles all praising God and His creation.
- Through living morally upright life where a person respected people in society and was able to observe traditional values and norms of the society,
- It was through the act of hospitality, kindness to the disadvantaged members of the society like widows and orphans.
- They prayed through acts of worship like singing, dancing and praising God.
- It was through veneration of social where spirits and ancestors were believed to live like in shrines and ancestors were believed to live like in shrines, big trees, hills and wells.
- They prayed through intermediaries like ancestors or the living dead, spirits and divines who lived in the spiritual world.
- Through offerings sacrifices which constituted the commonest way communication with God.

#### **ROLES/IMPORTANCE OF SACRIFICES IN ATS.**

*Sacrifice refers to the situation where animals or birds were slaughtered and their meat or blood was presented to God and spirits.*

- The spirits themselves asked for sacrifices when they were hungry or thirsty thus it was a means of satisfying the spirits.
- They were also used for repentance in case one wronged God/gods; he would seek for forgiveness by offering sacrifices.
- They acted as means of purification/cleansing in case one had a misfortune case. Sacrifices would be offered and blood would be sprinkled on the victim as a way of cleansing.
- It was a way of sharing with God what he had given to man i.e. life and property for the Africans had to offer sacrifices before going to war in order to invoke victory.
- Sacrifices were important procedures of crowning of a new king. Sacrifices helped to unite the Africans which they shared the sacrificial meal. They came to live together as one and realized the importance of each other.
- It showed respect to their gods. The Africans believed that gods were above them and thus deserved respect they had to burn incense for their gods.
- They were given to mark important historical events in their lives such as birth of children, naming of children, marriage and harvest celebrations.
- Sacrifices were given to offset calamities or dangers. If the community felt guilty for any reason, they offered sacrifices to appease gods aimed at averting the calamities.

## ***CHURCH HISTORY.***

### **HOW CHRISTIANS SEARCHED FOR GOD IN CHURCH HISTORY:**

#### ***EARLY CHURCH***

- They searched for God through making pilgrimages to holy places like Jerusalem e.g. Paul made pilgrimages to Rome and preached the Gospel there.
- They searched for God through making prayers to God as a way of thanks giving to him e.g. the apostles gathered in the upper room and prayed to until the holy spirit descended upon them on the day of Pentecost.
- Some offered to die for their faith and accepted martyrdom e.g. Stephen was stoned to death for Christianity.
- They established churches wherever they went and preached the word of God e.g. St Paul established churches in Corinth and Galatia where many people gathered for prayers.
- They preached the Gospel of God for people to know more about the word of God e.g. Peter, John and Paul preached the gospel to crowds in Corinth where they converted to Christianity.

- They baptized new converts so that they could join the family of God e.g. Paul baptized Stephanus and his family.
- They shared the Eucharist which brought unity among them and also helped them to remember Christ's death for them on the cross.
- Through fellowship, they would gather together and share testimony about God and what he had done for them hence strengthening each other spiritually.
- Through carrying out charity work e.g. helping the poor, Dorcus used make clothes and she would give them to the poor like the orphans and widows.
- Through writing Christian literature e.g. St. Paul wrote many letters to the Christians in Corinth, Ephesus, Galatia in order to strengthen them spiritually.
- Through carrying out bible study which helped them to learn more about God.

### ***MIDDLE AGE AND MODERN AFRICA:***

- They carried out charity especially to the poor and the needy e.g. the monks and nuns helped to treat the sick by giving them medicine (middle age).
- They translated the gospel into other languages for easy understanding e.g. Apollo Kivebulaya translated St. Mark's gospel into the pygmies language (church in modern Africa).
- Some offered to die for their faith and accepted martyrdom e.g. the Uganda martyrs accepted to die for their faith b refusing to follow Mwanga's orders (church in modern Africa).
- They built churches where people gathered to pray and hear the word of God e.g. Apollo Kivebulaya led to the building of churches in Toro and D.R.C.
- They baptized new converts so that they could join the family of God e.g. Charles Lwanga baptized Kizito Muto the youngest martyr and he became stronger in faith (modern Africa).
- They moved long journeys to seek for information from scholars and religious teachers e.g. Clement moved around Syria to Egypt where he met Pantaenus who was a teacher and Clement also became a teacher (middle age).
- Through bible and Christian literature man searched for God. Other Christians attended Catechistical schools e.g. Egyptians attended Alexandria Catechistical school (middle age).

### ***PERSONALITIES THAT SEARCHED FOR GOD IN CHURCH HISTORY.***

#### **CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA:**

- He was born in about 150AD in the Greek city of Athens.

- His parents were pagans but he was converted to Christianity and he set out to search for the best Christian teaching he would find.
- He travelled to Southern Italy, Syria and Egypt and found instructors who he described blessed and truly remarkable men.
- Clement eventually succeeded his teachers in Alexandria Pantaenus as a chief Christian teacher in Alexandria.
- He moved there where he met a man called Pantaenus whose teaching impressed him mostly.
- His writing showed even when he rested from his travels; he always remained a seeker after the knowledge of God.

### **ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO.**

- He lived with his mother and mother was a Christian but he grew up without much commitment to Christianity.
- As a young man he read scriptures and his own fetching. He compared them with pagan literature he had studied and found them unfavourable so he couldn't interpret scriptures well.
- His search for God made him travel to Milan in North Italy where Ambrose was a bishop. He appreciated his message because of his good reputation as a preacher. He began to understand the message of the scriptures.
- He used to read St. Paul's writings with great attention and at one time a friend of his told him a story about St. Anthony an Egyptian monk, Augustine realized that he had to change.
- He got baptized year later and that was the beginning of the life spent in seeking deeper understanding of the Christian faith.
- He sometimes got annoyed with others who could not see the truth as he saw it.
- He became a priest and started preaching the word of God.
- He composed many prayers and hymns e.g. you made us for yourself our hearts and restless until they rest in you.

### **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI.**

- He was born in 1181AD.
- He grew up in a rich family and a light hearted youth but he changed. He gave his inheritance and bound himself to God.



- He embraced poverty and lived the life of the gospel.
- He identified himself with the poor, lived as a poor man and he was able to understand the poor.
- He preached the gospel of the love of God and the neighbor. In this way he taught people how to relate with God and each other.
- He founded different religious organizations of nuns and monks which taught people Christianity.
- He encouraged his people to preach the gospel and non believers, the poor and disadvantaged members in society.
- He cared for the sick and those who suffered from the dreaded skin disease like leprosy.
- He preferred peace to violence. He encouraged people to use the spirit of love sort their difference and stop hurting each other.
- He was unhappy with using crusades to defend Christians where they fought with the Muslims.
- He believed in the idea of the peaceful searching for God and also believed in tolerating other religion.
- He supported the idea that Christians should learn and understand Islam best.
- He encouraged his followers to learn Arabic and even translated the Quran but few people listened to his idea.
- He composed many songs e.g. make life an instrument of peace.

### ***ROBERT DE NOBILE.***

He was an Italian born in Metropolitan city. He became a catholic priest in 1579.

He was a missionary of Jesuit order. He made missionary Journey and worked among the Indians. He preached to the Indians in an understanding and respectful way.

He saw that the Indians were serious seekers after God and was humble enough to learn from them. He left them to remain in their culture instead of asking them to give up their culture in order to become Christians.

He tried to see how Christianity could be made at home in India by making an effort to learn their language and even appreciate their cultural values.

### ***MATHEW RICCI.***

He was a catholic priest and was also an Italian who lived between 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century.

He made missionary Journeys to China. He was a missionary of Jesuit order.

He approached the Chinese people in an understanding and respectful way.

He firmly preached the gospel to the Chinese despite the strong opposition he met.

He studied Chinese language and also made an effort to understand their religious customs.

This helped him establish a good relationship with the people.

Instead of asking to give up their culture and become, he tried to see how Christianity could be made home in the Chinese culture.

### ***QUEST FOR GOD IN THE BIBLE.***

#### **OLD TESTAMENT.**

- They searched for God through building alters where people would meet to sacrifice and worship God e.g. Abraham built altars at Shiloh where sacrifices were made to God.
- They searched for God by going to temples and synagogues to worship God e.g. the Israelites always went to Jerusalem temple to worship the almighty God.
- They searched for God through undergoing circumcision as God had instructed them e.g. Abraham accepted circumcision at an old age as an instruction given to him by God.
- Israelites made pilgrimages once a year where they went and worshipped God repented their sins and improved their relationship with one another.
- They composed songs and hymns which were used to praise God e.g. King David and Solomon composed songs and Proverbs to praise God.
- They responded positively to God's call e.g. God called Moses and responded and left his work and took up the role of liberating the Israelites from Egypt.
- The Israelites searched for God by celebrating great feasts in honouring e.g. they celebrated the pass over event to remember how God saved them from death.
- They observed the Decalogues as a way of searching for God e.g. they respected the Sabbath day as a day for praising and worshipping God for having liberated them from Egypt.
- They searched for God through performing miracles which showed God's power e.g. Elijah helped poor widows to pay her late husband debt by multiplying the oil and it filled up jags which was later sold.
- They used to repent of their sins and it was done on the day of repentance and they would offer an atonement sacrifice.

- Prophets searched for God by guiding the Israelites into what God wanted them to do e.g. Prophet Nathan guided King David when he wanted to construct the temple in Jerusalem and told him that it would be son Solomon to build it.
- They searched for God through offering sacrifices e.g. Prophet Elijah offered the sacrifice of a bull at Mt. Carmel when he had a contest with Baal prophets.

***Ways in which God revealed himself to man in the Bible.***

**OLD TESTAMENT:**

- God revealed himself to man in the Old Testament in the following ways>
- By answering prayers like God answered Solomon's prayer by giving him wisdom.
- Through fire like Moses saw the burning bush where he was called by God to go and liberate the Israelites from Egyptian slavery.
- Through a cloud like God guided the Israelites through a cloud and protected them on their way to the Promised Land.
- Through dreams like Joseph had a dream in which the sun and moon were bowing down before him.
- Through provision of food in times of scarcity like he provided manna and quails to the Israelites in the wilderness.
- Through natural calamities like floods e.g. God sent floods on earth during Noah's time and disobedient people obeyed.
- Through natural calamities like plagues e.g. God sent 10 plagues upon the Egyptians before the Israelites were released.
- Through prophets to lead them to the true worship of God e.g. God sent Prophet Elijah to lead the people of God to worship him after having a contest with Baal worship.
- Through having the ability to interpret dreams like Daniel had the spirit of God and interpreted the dream of king Nebuchadnezzar.
- Through giving them leaders like the Israelites cried out to God for leaders and he answered their prayers by giving them Saul, David and Solomon.
- Through the rainbow like God sent a rainbow after the flood as a covenant that he will never destroy the world by using floods.
- Through victory over enemies like David was able to kill Goliath the Philistine using one stone who was an enemy to the Israelites.
- He revealed himself through a voice e.g. called Samuel three times in the night when he was asleep; he woke up and said here I am.

- He revealed himself to Abraham in form of a ram which was presented to him as a sacrifice simply because of Abraham's faithfulness to God.

## **NEW TESTAMENT:**

### **SEARCH FOR GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.**

- They searched for God through taking Holy Communion. This was done in remembrance of Jesus.
- They searched for God through sacrificing their life for God for example Stephen accepted to be stoned to death because of Jesus.
- They searched for God by being servants of others. For example Jesus offered to wash the feet of the apostles during the last supper and he demonstrated that he was a servant.
- They searched for God through being compassionate. For example Barabbas sold his field and distributed money to the poor and Dorcus designed clothes for the poor for free.
- They searched for God through forgiving each other in order to enable them reconcile with God. For example the prodigal son and Jesus forgave those who executed him.
- They searched for God through showing love to other people which made them feel good. For example the Samaritan man who cared for the man who had been beaten up by dressing his wounds and feeding him.
- They searched for God through baptizing new converts in order to introduce them into God's family. For example John the Baptist who baptized people.
- They searched for God through prayers, for example Jesus taught the disciples the Lord's Prayer, when Mary Jesus' mother prayed for Jesus when he was on the cross.
- They searched for God through fasting in order to draw closer to God. For example Jesus who fasted for 40 days and nights.
- They searched for God through turning away from their sins, for example the tax collector who repented and paid some people their money.

### **GOD'S MANIFESTATION/REVELATION.**

Through light e.g. on the day of transfiguration, he appeared to Jesus in form of dazzling light.

In form of a dove e.g. on the day of baptism, a dove fell on Jesus and declared him as God's only begotten son.

He revealed himself in form of a star like he appeared to the wisemen from the east in form of a star directing them to the kraal where Jesus Christ was born. He revealed himself through miracles e.g. through his son, Jesus many miracles were performed e.g. raised Lazarus to life after four days.

He revealed himself through tongues of fire e.g. the disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost when they were praying in the upper room.

He revealed himself through a voice e.g. he revealed himself through a voice to John the Baptist as he was baptizing him his beloved son.

He revealed himself as a king e.g. during the triumphant entry into Jerusalem he rode on a colt and was being praised hosanna to the highest.

### ***MAN'S SEARCH FOR GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.***

- They searched for God through the following ways:-
- Contacting Jesus for advice e.g. Nicodemus Visited Jesus at night to explain aim the nature of the kingdom of God and what he would do to enter the kingdom of God.
- They searched for God through taking the Holy Communion. This was done in remembrance of Jesus' death on the cross for their sins.
- They believed in Jesus' resurrection and they themselves would one day resurrect from the dead if they died holy.
- They searched for God by being servants of others e.g. Jesus served the others by washing the disciple's feet; he demonstrated that he was a servant and not a ruler.
- They searched for God through being compassionate to others e.g. Jesus fed the hungry; he fed 5000men on five loaves and two fish.
- They searched for God through forgiveness of others e.g. the father of the prodigal son who wasted his wealth, began to eat with pigs; he was given and given a big feast.
- They searched for God through baptism in order to become members of God's family e.g. Jesus was baptized in the river Jordan by John the Baptist.
- They searched for God by believing in him and his son e.g. they believed in Jesus as the way, the truth and the life and no one goes to the father except through him.
- They searched for God through preaching the Gospel e.g. the apostles accepted the greatest commission to go out and preach the gospel to the world.

### ***MAN'S EVASION OF GOD.***

Evasion means to run away, avoid, dodge or ignore the truth. Therefore, man's evasion of God is the way through which man ignores or runs away from the truth about God.

### **WHY PEOPLE EVADE GOD?**

- *People evade God because of the following reasons:-*
- God is unseen and yet they would want to see him physically.

- God takes long to answer prayers and at times fails to answer prayers made so they lose hope in him.
- Prolonged illness and suffering and end up consulting witchcraft.
- Formal education which challenges the existence of God like sciences and history so people lose trust in him.
- Frustrations and sufferings in life especially when they have many failures and they feel sad.
- Too much leisure leaving no time for God. They waste time listening to secular music than read the bible or go to church.
- Poor examples from church leaders who hypocrites, thieves and immoral. People see nothing good in church.
- Poverty causes people to evade God. Some try other forces to become rich like consulting witchcraft.
- Lack of benefits from church. Some people expect gifts from church like free education, clothes e.t.c. when they don't get them they leave the church.
- Some people doubt God because they can no longer observe miracles being performed in church e.g. they can't see or lame walk.
- The confusion caused by different Christian denominators which rival each other when competing the for converts.
- There is discrimination in church, the rich are favored more than the poor. So, they lose interest in God and evade them.
- Band wagon effect. Some people evade God because they have seen others do so e.g. children evade God when their parents believe in small girls they follow.

### **EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT PEOPLE EVADE GOD TODAY.**

- Irregular attendance of church worship especially by the men and the youth. It is evidence that they do not value God.
- Some people sacrifice others for wealth e.g. Kato Kajuba, prominent businessman in Kampala sacrificed Kasirye of 12 years in Masaka in order to get riches.
- There is embezzlement of funds for people's own use instead of development of the society e.g. Hon. Byandala who embezzled funds meant for the construction of Mukono-Katosi road.
- Many marriages breaking up because domestic violence get married people are meant to live up their vows e.g. Hon Judith Babirye separated with her husband because he was beating her and refused her from plaiting hair.

- Alcoholism. People with problems have resorted to alcohol as a way of stress relieving them instead of trusting God.
- Some institutions normally work even on the day of worship like many teachers work on Sunday yet it is a day set aside for prayers.
- Cheating of exams, even church founded schools involve in examination mal practice in order to perform well.
- People worship money instead of God, there is too much love for money in that some parents sacrifice their own children in order to become rich.
- There are many cults in church today; many church leaders consult Satan for powers. In order to perform miracles and attract more people in their churches.
- Some women dress up indecently in church which provokes men and they lose concentration in church hence failing to pray.
- Some participate actively in worldly leisure which is immoral like watching pornography.

### **FALSE GODS IN TODAY'S SOCIETY:**

*False gods are items people worship, respect and honour like God. Today people worship modern education too much that they have forgotten anything to do with God.*

- Some people take politics or power as something very important to the extent of killing others in order to retain the power.
- Money has become a god to some people. People believe that where there is money, there is everything.
- Music drives away people's senses, some end up worshipping musicians. They dance the whole night minus any prayers.
- There are some objects taken to be sacred like shrines which are respected and worshipped taking up God's position.
- Friends can be worshipped. Some friends make strong impact on others who believe they can't do without them, they can't survive.
- Men and women are worshipped. Some women end up killing their rivals over a man. They believe they can't do without him.
- Modern science and technology like the use of laptops and computers. These make God less important.

### **WAYS IN WHICH THE GAP BETWEEN MAN AND GOD CAN BE BRIDGED? I.E. WHAT TO BE DONE TO BRING PEOPLE BACK TO GOD.**

- By praying continuously and fasting, this brings man closer to God.

- By translating the bible into traditional languages so that all people can read and get the message of God.
- The church can set up income generating projects so as to help those who are poor.
- By carrying out charitable works and this makes one to live a righteous religious life.
- By reading the bible and meditating upon God's word and put it into action.
- By watching Christian movies such as passion of Christ. This helps uplift the faith of the Christians.
- By receiving sacraments like baptism and confirmation which helps one become a member of God's family.
- By going for Christian seminars, conferences and workshops where people come to learn the word of God and grow stronger in faith.
- By praising and worshipping God. This can be done through singing hymns and songs to glorify his name.
- Through preaching the gospel of Christ to people so that they convert to Christianity.
- Through making pilgrimages to holy places in order to have their faith in God renewed.
- Through carrying out missionary journeys in order to preach word of God and also receive blessings from God.
- They carry out guiding and counseling by religious leaders to people with problems so that they retain their hope in God.

### ***EVASION OF GOD IN ATS***

- Although Africans were strong seekers of God, it does not mean that they were perfect and at times tended to avoid the truth about God by doing many ungodly things like;
- Human sacrifices in some tribes as a way of pleasing their Gods was a way of evading God e.g. among the Ibo of Nigeria, twins were killed because they were considered a sign of bad omen.
- They failed to respect the blood pact. It was an agreement which made brothers but later on some rejected their responsibility.
- Some people were disloyal to religious leaders by disobeying them e.g. medicine men yet they were represented God's authority.
- Some religious traditions at times misused by the medicine men e.g. they would use such occasions to deceive people in order to get items like meat.
- Some rituals were supposed to be religious became too immoral e.g. the twin celebrations in Buganda where people engaged in obscene things instead of praying to God.



- Some people were denied a chance of going closer to certain sacred places they threatened them that they would die which made people see God as the tormentor.
- Some people undermined God by giving him poor sacrifice such as sick animals and those stolen from other people.
- There was of conduct which was inhuman. Some people chased away others like foreigners e.g. Kabaka Mwanga ordered the killing of Bishop Hannington.
- They evaded God by failing to give him thanks after good harvest, child birth and yet they were supposed to appreciate him.
- They failed to respect shrines as sacred places. It was only diviners, medicine men who were supposed to enter those shrines but other people did enter them.
- There was power struggle amongst them yet Africans believed in customs, beliefs and norms being instituted by God and thus sacred.
- They abandoned and neglected the spirits of the living dead yet African religion respected the spirits and were supposed to be recognized by society.

### ***WITCHCRAFT:***

This is the use of evil and magical powers to make things happen.

### **DANGERS OF WITCHCRAFT.**

- People failed to search for their true God as some believed that they could solve their problems using witch craft.
- It prevented one from working hard because some people used witchcraft to destroy people's produce.
- It prevented people from getting married yet marriage was very important in ATS.
- It prevented men from satisfying their wives as a result of witchcraft.
- It led to misfortunes like accidents which at times would lead to death.
- It led to marriage breakups and divorce especially if a partner got involved in witchcraft the other partner would become disgusted.
- It led to famine and destruction of property.
- It created suspicion among people.

### **EVASION OF GOD IN CHURCH HISTORY:**

- There was division in the early church; people identified themselves with people who had unique gifts for example Apollo, Paul, etc instead of being united.

- Some Christians in the early church found it difficult to believe that God existed in 3 persons i.e. father, son, Holy Spirit.
- Some Christians in the early put more attention to beautiful song, hymns, composed in the church and failed to focus on God. Songs were meant to put them in worshipping mood.
- They honored artistic paintings, pictures and decorations on the walls in the church for example mother Mary.
- They also respected saints more than God for example in case of any problem they could ask for help from the saints and forget about God.
- There was greed for riches and material wealth by some Christians; this was also reflected among the nuns and monks. For example those who accumulated a lot of wealth deviated in their vows and even began to employ servants.
- Some Christians in the early church misused spiritual gifts and in this way made non believers to hate Christianity, for example Christians in Corinth misused the gift of speaking in tongues and they caused confusion.
- Some Christians engaged in sexual immorality for example in Corinthian church a young man was reported to have sex with his step mother (1<sup>st</sup> cor5:1ff)
- Some Christians promoted discrimination in church; they favoured the rich and neglected the poor during worship. This was condemned by Jesus during his ministry as he called upon Christians to help the needy.(James 2:1-13).
- Some Christians abused the lord's supper, for example the rich and the poor were divided when celebrating the lord's supper and others joined the celebration before repenting of their sins.(1cor11:17-34)
- Some Christians in the early church abandoned their faith, for example they engaged in Jewish traditions like circumcision to influence the Jews.
- Some Christians doubted the resurrection of Jesus and that of other people, for example Christians in Corinth doubted teaching about resurrection. (1cor15;)

### **MIDDLE AGES:**

The monks discriminated against the lay brothers and they subjected them to manual labour while they concentrated more on church services.

Some believers became more exhausted especially those holding position of responsibility and they failed to teach the Gospel.

Popes and Bishops neglected their responsibility of teaching the believers who depended on them for instruction, hence their faith declined and some became immoral.

### ***EVASION OF GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.***

## **EVIDENCE/HOW/WAYS IN WHICH ISRAELITES EVADED GOD.**

- They worshipped other gods e.g. Jezebel wife of Ahab who worshipped Baal.
- Some murdered innocent people e.g. king David murdered Uriah and took over his wife Bathsheba (2 Samuel: 11).
- They exploited fellow Israelites through over taxation e.g. King Solomon over taxed the Israelites in order to complete his building projects and cater for his many women.
- Sometimes they disobey God's call and did what they wanted e.g. Jonah who refused to go to Nineveh went to Joppa and went to Spain and was swallowed by a fish.
- They carried out intermarriages which were against the family life in Israel. This is because these marriages would lead to pagan worship e.g. King Solomon accepted the building of temples to pagan gods so as to please his wives (1 Kings).
- Some practiced idolatry where Israelites moulded and worshipped idols e.g. the Israelites moulded the golden calf during the leadership of Aaron when Moses had gone up the mountain. (Exodus 32)
- Israelites evaded God by going against their family tree by marrying more than one wife and foreign women e.g. King Solomon married foreign wives and they were 100 of them, they made him go a stray from God. (1 Kings 11)
- Through equalization where they were concerned with religious observances such as offering sacrifices, religious rituals, traditional customs and forgot being concerned to loving God and neighbours.
- There was persecution of God's prophet e.g. Elijah was threatened by Jezebel and he went and hid in a cave and cursed God (1 Kings 19:27-40).
- They carried out adultery which was against the covenant law e.g. King David committed adultery with Bathsheba Uriah's wife and God got annoyed with him (2 Samuel 11).
- They made alliances with foreign nations instead of trusting God e.g. Ahaz King of Judah made an alliance with a pagan king of Syria.

## **REASONS WHY ISRAELITES EVADED GOD.**

- God took long to answer their prayers they resorted to other gods like Baal e.g. even led to people making a golden calf when Moses delayed to come back.
- They took long to reach of the Promised Land i.e. they took 40 years before reaching Canaan and doubted God and made a golden calf.
- They were greedy for material things e.g. King Ahab took over Naboth's vineyard forcefully gospel of the women caught in adultery whom Jesus forgave for the offence (John 8:31-33).

- The Jews rejected Jesus Christ as the messiah. They referred to him as also Joseph the carpenter and therefore opposed his teachings (Matthew 14:13).
- The Jews put a lot of emphasis on religious practices like fasting that ensured people when Jesus tried to correct their wrong attitude; they regarded him a law breaker. (Mathew 6).
- Through being hypocrites while bringing God's gifts and offerings e.g. Acts 5 where Ananias and Saphira sold their possessions and only brought part of the profit to the apostles.
- They discriminated people in society e.g. people with dreaded skin disease were discriminated against e.g. Jesus healed the leper and it raised a lot of dust in the community (Mark 1:40-45).

### **JESUS' RESPONSE TO THOSE WHO EVADED GOD IN NEW TESTAMENT.**

#### **(HOW JESUS RESPONDED TO THOSE WHO EVADED GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT).**

- He performed miracles which helped people draw closer to God e.g. the Lord fed the 5000 men on two fish and two loaves of Bread.
- He changed the Law of Moses and gave a new teaching where he emphasized love e.g. he gave the second greatest commandment which says love God with all your heart, soul and mind. Love your neighbor as you love yourself.
- He advised the Pharisees who considered themselves righteous because of their work not to show off or be proud because salvation is by grace by God not by works.
- He advised those who commit adultery to live a faithful life and never sin again e.g. he forgave the adulterous woman and told her not to sin again as she was going to be stoned to death.
- Through wiping and sending away merchants form the temple that were selling and misusing the temple? He advised them to pray.
- By advising the rich to sell off their property and help the poor and needy if they were to inherit the kingdom of God e.g. the rich young man.
- He encouraged his followers to accept him as the way, the truth and life in other wards he was showing his followers to follow his footsteps and teachings (John 14:6)
- He demonstrated equality by associating with all people irrespective of age, tribe, race and sex and also interacted with the Samaritan woman. This helped to do away with discrimination (John 4:1-29).
- He detested divorce and stressed that what God has put together no man can separate (Mark 10:9).

- Jesus put laws in their right places e.g. he requested people who were fasting to accompany it with a pure heart (Mark 2:18-22).

### **HOW GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO US TODAY.**

#### **MAN'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE WORLD.**

The universe was created by God and man from the beginning was given a responsibility to be in charge of God's creation. This theme refers to a Christian active participation in all world affairs so as to make it a better place to live in. Christians respected to actively participate in the political, social, spiritual and economic development in society.

### **HOW HAVE CHRISTIANS INVOLVED THEMSELVES IN THE WORLD TODAY.**

#### ***POLITICALLY.***

- They participate in electing good leaders which leads to good governance of a country politically e.g. Christians participated in electing president Museveni as president of Uganda in the recently concluded presidential elections.
- They stood for different political posts e.g. members of parliament e.g. Judith Babirye is now woman member of parliament for Buikwe district.
- They pray political leaders in their societies in order to help them lead the country in peace e.g. the Christian joint council prays for political leaders in order to rule the country peacefully.
- They join different security agencies, which has helped to promote peace e.g. Judith Nabakoba was a police spokes person and helped to promote peace. She is now serving as a minister.
- They helped to look after those people who are in politically insecure areas by providing them with food and clothes e.g. pastor kayanja of miracle centre church Rubaga contributed clothes for people in Sudan (refugees) when there was a war in southern Sudan between salver Kiir and the president.
- They have been members of the electoral commission and facilitate peaceful voting e.g. Sister Magoba was once a vice chairperson of the electoral commission and ensured fair elections.
- They studied the law and became good judges so as to promote Justice.
- They dedicate leaders in society to God after electing them and so that God guides them to do what they are meant to do.
- They condemned evils committed by political leaders when they engage in evil an act which promotes peace.

### **REASONS FOR CHURCH PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS.**

Politics is the art and science of managing or governing society.

### ***REASONS.***

- Christians are also citizens of both the world and earth .participation in politics fulfills Jesus' call to give to the emperor what belongs to the emperor and to God what belongs to God (Mark 12:17).
- Authority comes from God so; Christians who are elected through the accepted means to serve to serve society are doing so with God's approval
- The church is the light and salt of the world thus this will help it to guide the people in the world.
- Christians have a duty to reconcile conflicting parties. This helps in bringing up peace in society e.g. the Acholi Religious initiative played a significant role in bringing peace and moral understanding between Kony rebels and UPDF forces when they held peace talks.
- Christians have an obligation to advise policy makers when go wrong and enable them to turn into the right direction e.g. prophet Nathan talked to king David when he committed adultery with Bathsheba Uriah's wife ,he repented and was forgiven by God.
- Christians participate in politics in order to govern and control the world e.g. according to Genesis 2: man is a co-creator where he has the duty of developing the society so that it makes the world a better place.
- Christians are also members of the world so, being passive in the world activities is very unfair.
- If honest and reliable Christians join politics. The society benefits a lot for example Arch Bishop Orombi was seen as a leader with integrity.
- A Christian needs to earn a living and one way to achieve it is by engaging in politics.
- Christians are peace makers; they are expected to promote peace.
- The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom and politics need s wise people to govern society.
- Jesus judged cases fairly than other Judges e.g. a woman who was caught in adultery. So, Christians can also act as fair Judges.
- The church has a role of spreading the gospel to all the people including politicians. He gave the greatest commission to his disciples.
- God is the author of politics of politics because he is the king of kings. Therefore, it is difficult to separate politics from God.
- It is a Christian obligation to oppose unjust systems. People have to participate in politics.

### **WHY SHOULD A CHRISTIAN NOT PARTICIPATE IN POLITICS?**

- Politics involves bloodshed i.e. killing people which is against the law of God which “thou shall not kill”. This deprives people of a right to live.
- Politicians hate the truth which Christians must confess; a Christian might become a liar and therefore should not join politics.
- When some people join politics especially those with a position of responsibility, they tend to act as rulers instead of acting as servants. Jesus said he came to serve not to be served.
- Politics leads to a desire to accumulate wealth through using means like stealing money which is condemned by God.
- It is very hard to serve two masters at once and satisfy them i.e. politics and money. Jesus said that no man can serve two masters at once.
- Multi party politics divides people because of their different political ideologies yet Christians are meant to be united.
- God separated politics from religious institutions. He anointed kings to cater for people’s welfare and prophets to guide them and also draw people closer to God.
- Politics can lead to family neglect since the politician spends a lot of time attending to official duties hence neglecting their husbands, wives, and the children.
- Politics leads to discrimination of those opposed to the ruling party yet it is the duty of a Christian to build a spirit of brotherhood.
- Politics leads to disloyalty. A Christian may fail to balance between politics and Godly duties yet Jesus says give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.

***SPIRITUAL INVOLVEMENT:***

- They carried out mass preaching, this helps people to convert to Christianity for example pastor Kayanja preaches to people and influences them to convert in the 77 days of glory.
- Christians offer catechism classes to young people to help them access sacraments like Baptism, confirmation etc.
- Christians build places of worship where Christians commune for worship with minimal distractions.
- Christians engage in charity walks where they fundraise and even obtain items from people. This was one way of showing love and care to those in need by supplying their needs.
- Christians carry out home visits (visits), this gives people an opportunity to listen to people’s testimonies, read scriptures which strengthen their faith in God.
- Christians open up radios and television stations which help in strengthening people’s faith in God, for example pastor Senyonga owns Top radio where the Gospel is preached.

- They organize conferences, fellowships and crusades. They expose people to scriptures and testimonies which lift their level of faith in God.
- Christians also engage in fasting exercises with a purpose of establishing a strong relationship with God and even breaking forces that bind them.
- They carry out missionary Journeys to holy places which give them an opportunity to strengthen their faith in God.
- They get involved in prayer so that they can influence God to transform and bless people in different aspects.
- Christians with a gift of anointing can perform miracles in Jesus' name where many people are healed from different complications, for example pastor Kayanja of miracle centre Rubaga has healed many people during prayers in 77 days of Glory.
- Christians occupying position of responsibility live exemplary lives in order to create a good image among believers.
- Some Christians compose spiritually strengthening songs in order to sustain people's faith in God.
- Some Christians with the gift of writing, write different Christian publications and distribute them among people .This strengthens them spiritually.

### ***ECONOMIC INVOLVEMENT.***

- Christians open up projects to generate income for their families, e.g. banking projects like centenary rural development bank which teach people saving skills and even offer employment opportunities.
- Christians actively participate in business, have shops from where they earn some income and even gain business skills.
- Some Christians engage in business Saccos and even advance loans to people to enable them invest .For example St Kakumba Sacco in Kyambogo university gives soft loans to its members.
- Christians pay taxes to the government .This increases government revenue and the money is injected in projects like Road construction, hospitals, schools etc which offer employment opportunities to the public
- Some schools engage in both commercial and subsistence agriculture. This improves household incomes.
- Christians train other Christians and equip them with skills like tailoring, cookery; carpentry etc .This helps them earn a living.



- Some Christians with relevant qualifications apply for jobs in government and international organization .This enables them to earn income and is able to sustain them.
- Some Christian writes Christian publications which help to spread the Gospel earn income and develop talents.
- Some Christians write compose music which helps to touch people’s lives and enable them earn income.

***SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT.***

- Some Christians construct social infrastructures like schools which have eradicated illiteracy in society.
- Some Christians used to carry out charity work by helping the needy like orphans, widows, etc to enable them feel comfortable.
- Some Christians have established orphanages and baby homes to help babies without responsible parents.
- Sex education is given to young people by church leaders and elders to help them live a morally upright life
- Some Christians have entered the music industry by composing songs which help to uplift people’s morals, for example pastor Bugembe has composed many songs like “kani” which has helped change people’ lives.
- Some Christians provide guidance and counseling services to the members in the church and the community at large who are facing different challenges. This helps them to get solutions to their problems.
- Christians help them organize mass wedding ceremonies among members in the church which help them to fulfill God’s plan for mankind of creating man and woman to live together.
- Christians help organize games, music, dance, and drama competitions among young people. This helps to develop their talents.
- The church helps to raise up children in a morally upright manner by teaching them the word of God through Sunday schools
- Some Christians help to foster unity among believers to help them have peace. This is done by joint Christian council.

**HOW DO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE PRACTICE THEIR FAITH IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS?**

***POLICEMAN.***

- They keep law and order in the country. They make sure that they sensitize people about the law.
- They arrest wrong doers and subject them to different punishment so as to promote justice and even enable them transform.
- They try to control traffic by using traffic lights. This helps to control accidents on the road.
- They try to save people who are injured by taking them to hospital. This enables them access treatment.
- They try to resolve disputes between people. This promotes peace among people.

### ***HOUSEWIVES***

- Housewives practice their faith by caring for all members in the following ways,
- Housewives help to train their children to have a positive attitude towards work. According to the bible, all people have to participate in work.
- Housewives organize bible study and fellowship among family. This draws people closer to God.
- Housewives practice their faith by being submissive to their husbands, this stabilizes their marriages.
- Housewives practice their faith by taking children to church. In this way they groom God fearing citizens for the nation.
- Housewives practice their faith by teaching children information concerning sex. This helps to impart self control among the children.

### ***BUS DRIVER***

- Bus drivers practice their faith by ensuring that they use moderate speed. This helps to control accidents on the roads.
- Bus drivers practice their faith by charging reasonable fee or fairs, this makes people feel comfortable.
- Bus drivers practice their faith by respecting other road users, this helps to control accidents.
- Bus drivers practice their faith by treating all passengers equally and respecting them. This makes them feel comfortable.
- A bus driver can preach the Gospel through playing Gospel music. This draws people closer to God.

### **OTHER PEOPLE THAT MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN THE WORLD.**

### **1. NELSON MANDELA.**

- He was born in 18<sup>th</sup> July 1918 at Transkei in South Africa and was from Madiba clan.
- He was married at first to Winnie Mandela between 1958-1996 and later to Grace Machel between 1998-2013.
- He established a political party known as African National congress.
- He was a nationalist, was non violent, very active in fighting Apartheid and a political leader. As a result of the above he was imprisoned for 27 years and was freed in 1990.
- He negotiated end of Apartheid in South Africa through his political party
- He became the first and oldest black president in South Africa but retired after 5 years. He presided over a transition from a minority rule and won national and international recognition.
- He remained a devoted champion for peace and social justice in his nation. He received Nobel peace prize medals.
- He died at the age of 95 in 2013.

### **2. DR. LUKWIYA MATHEW.**

- He was a Ugandan physician and supervisor of St Mary's Hospital Lacor outside Gulu town.
- He was at the forefront of Ebola virus in 2000.
- He was born in 1957, in the middle of the struggle. Dr Lukwiya remarked that, "if I die, let me be the last".
- He died on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2000.

### **3. MOTHER THERESA.**

- She was born in 26<sup>th</sup> August, 1910 and she joined the sisters of loreto which was an Irish community of Nuns with missions in India.
- She took her vow as a Nun in Irish and was sent to India where she taught at St Mary's' High school in Calcutta between 1931-1948.
- The poverty among the people outside the convent compelled her to go and work among them. She established an organization known as missionaries of charity in 1950 which helped lepers, homeless and the poor living in slums of Calcutta.
- She depended on divine providence and started an Air School called the slum children. She got financial volunteers and was able to extend the scope of her work.
- She died on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 1997. Later was proclaimed a saint in 2016, her feast is 5<sup>th</sup> September.

## **PROBLEMS THE CHURCH IS FACING WHEN PARTICIPATING IN THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT.**

- The church is finding difficulty in participating in the development of the society because of the following problems,
- Shortage of funds, some church members are poor and contribute little which cannot fund the project.
- The church is facing a problem of rigid cultures, some people still support polygamy which slows development due to lack of trust between the man and wives.
- The church is facing a problem of limited manpower; church leaders are few and have to cover extensive areas.
- Opposition from non-believers people with low level of faith. This slows development.
- There is a problem of bad example from religious leaders. Many are accused of homosexuality which discourages believers.
- There is a problem of division among believers; this reduces people's level of commitment to established projects.
- Some people are usually lured into witchcraft which promotes syncretism which is condemned by God.
- There is a problem of permissiveness of members; some members indulge in evil without considering its impact on others e.g. alcohol.

## **THE ROLE OF ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT.**

- This is an organization which brings together most of the recognized Christian denominations (sects). They have registered the following achievements.
- They have formed inter-denomination organization like scripture union, Bible society which safe guards scriptures against distortions.
- It has translated the bible into different languages through the Bible society. This enables people understand scriptures.
- They have sensitized against dangers of AIDS. This promotes good morals.
- They have jointly welcomed international church leaders like the Pope, Bishop which brings people together.
- They have accepted marriage between members of different denomination which promotes peace and unity.
- They have carried out joint prayers for the nation which brings people together.

- They have carried out joint peace tasks by acting as mediators between government and rebel groups which promote peace in the country.
- They have jointly developed the syllabus of Christian religious education which is being used in the schools.
- They have jointly fought against witchcraft and witchdoctors as well as believers in African Traditional Religion.
- They have established health centres and treat patients without discrimination.

## ***THE BIBLE***

### **HOW MOSES INVOLVED HIMSELF IN THE AFFAIRS OF HIS SOCIETY?**

- Moses responded positively to God's call of rescuing the Israelites.
- He liberated the Israelites from bondage and helped them regain their freedom.
- Moses performed miracles which helped the pharaoh's heart to soften and release the Israelites.
- Moses acted as a mediator between God and the Israelites. He delivered God's messages to the people.
- Moses played a role of a priest. He helped to guide the Israelites and officiated their sacrifices.
- Moses interceded on the behalf of the Israelites; this helped them to across God's mercy. He forgave them when they moulded the golden calf.
- Moses gave the Israelites the laws. This helped to regulate their relationship with God and each other.
- Moses wrote the 1<sup>st</sup> five books in the Bible. These were to benefit future generations.
- Moses helped to act as a leader of the Israelites community.

### **HOW JOSHUA CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ISRAELITES COMMUNITY.**

- He was the 2<sup>nd</sup> person to lead the Jewish people after Moses.
- When the Israelites were attacked by the Amalekites immediately after crossing the Red sea, he defeated them and became Moses' assistant.
- He captured the city of Jericho and eventually the whole land of Canaan.
- He made peace talks and treaties with those who were willing to leave the city of Jericho.
- He influenced his family to worship God. This promoted monotheism.
- E presided over covenant renewal at Shechem, this drew people closer to God.

- He prayed to God to continue manifesting himself to Israel.
- He partitioned land to the twelve tribes of Israel upon reaching the Promised Land. This helped to settle them.

### **HOW THE PROPHETS CONTRIBUTED (INFLUENCED PEOPLE).**

- Prophets acted as mediators between God and people. Moses took people's complaints to God and returned with a response.
- Prophets influenced people to turn away from their sins. For e.g. Hosea's wife was influenced to change.
- Prophets resolved disputes among the people in order to promote peace.
- Prophets anointed kings who had to control affairs of the kingdom. E.g. Samuel anointed Saul, David and Solomon.
- Prophets delivered people from suffering. Moses rescued the Israelites.
- Prophets performed miracles which increased people's level of faith in God. E.g. Elijah disapproved Baal worship.
- Prophets received instructions from God. For e.g. Moses received laws from God.
- Prophets interceded on behalf of the people to God for e.g. Amos interceded and God changed his mind about impending danger.
- Prophets punished wrong doers to enable others learn a lesson. Baal worshippers were drowned in river Kison by Elijah.
- Prophets warned kings to enable them make good decisions. Prophet Micah warned King Ahab not to attack Syria to capture Ramoth. Kings 22:1-28.

### **HOW JESUS GOT INVOLVED IN THE WORLD.**

- Jesus preached the good news of the arrival of the kingdom of God and changed people's lives.
- He showed people that a leader had to act as a servant in order to show a good e.g. to people. For e.g. he washed the disciple's feet.
- He associated with all categories of people i.e. Gentiles, Jews, tax collectors e.t.c. this made them feel accepted.
- Jesus accepted to redeem people from sin by dying for them on the cross.
- Jesus got involved in communal and personal prayer. He used to go synagogues on the Sabbath and also solitary places for prayer.

- Jesus forgave sinners which helped people to change. For e.g. forgave a woman caught in adultery.
- Jesus got involved in changing the parts of the Mosaic Law that were oppressive. E.g. the law of retribution.
- Jesus participated in community feasts and ceremonies which brought people together. E.g. the wedding in Cana.
- He participated in religious celebrations which united people. For e.g. the Passover feast.
- Jesus paid tax; he contributed to generating income to fund community projects.
- Jesus purified worshipping places which promoted peace and drew people closer to God. For e.g. he chased the people who were carrying out trade in the temple.
- Jesus comforted those who were grieving to help them adjust. For e.g. he visited Mary and Martha when their brother Lazarus died.
- He fed the people who were hungry e.g. he fed the 5000 men with two fish and five loaves of bread; they ate and left a balance of 12 baskets.

**END.**