

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF EVANGELISM IN CHRISTIANITY AND DA'WAH IN
ISLAM AND ITS IMPLICATION FOR CHRISTIAN WITNESS

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ABSTRACT

A comparative study of evangelism in Christianity and Dawah in Islam and its implication to Christian witness, seek to know how Christianity and Islam seems to be making ahead way far above the other religious and again to discover why the rival one another greatly to the extend that one of this mentioned religion virtually copied everyting the other do in order to move forward, make convert and be reckoned with. The main aim of this research was to examine the method of evangelism in both religions Christianity and Islam, which have conbtributed to the growth and expansion of the two religions, the writer will also consider the various ways this two religion carried out her evangelism in attaining this purpose, the study is aimed at doing the following: (i) To examine the ways the Christians and Muslims mobilize members for evangelism (ii) To discuss the various methods of evangelism in Christianity and Islam. (iii) To compare evangelism in Christianity and Dawah in Islam (iv) To consider the implication of Dawah on Christian witness. In order to achieve the purpose of this work, combination of primary and secondary source method were involved. The primary sources were mixed of personal interviews and researcher's observation. The interviews were held with people who have information about Evangelism in Christianity and Dawah in Islam adherents. While the secondary sources depended largely on the vast amount of the literatures written by well known authors related to this work. Relevant books, dissertation from the seminary library and internet materials were consulted. These are the major findings concerning the two religious. Both religions make frantic efforts at mobilizing members to participate in witnessing. The both religions strategies are the development of public evangelism, personal evangelism, itinerant evangelism, literature evangelism, teaching evangelism among the Muslim these strategies are Khuraj (outing) for public witnessing Ziyarah (proclamation/visitation to target groups Talim (training and salat meaning prayer before they embarked on the task of propagation of faith. The Christian recruit and train missionaries Pastors and Evangelist for the task of faith propagation, the Muslims mobilized and trained (talim), they also go out (khuraj) for faith proclamation. Churches, Association, Conference mobilize members and participated in mission effort to win soul for Christ. Similarly the Muslims embark on visitation to houses and persons to solicit participation in Dawah propagation tours. Christian witness sometimes targets a particular audience, such groups may includes, the Muslims sometimes targets groups of person such as lawyers, teachers, or other professionals. Both religions base their witnessing propagation mandate on their sacred writings the Bible and the Quran, other finding among the religions includes the establishment of worship centres and promoting spiritual growth while the Christians plant churches, the Muslims establish Mosques each of the aforementioned religion aim at enhancing the spiritual growth of those among whom faith is proclaimed. In both groups, members are made to be aware of the faith proclamation activities and are mobilized to be involved, differences in the groups Islam is a movement, Christianity is not, Islam main intent of engaging in proclamation outing is for purifying the Islamic faith and practices, while Christians lay strong emphasis on the necessity for personal experience and commitment to Christ. Mobilization for Dawah proclamation are done through three ways (1) through her jaiola, door to door mobilization (2) through weekly meetings on Fridays in the Mosque and (3) through her annual mass gathering. While among the Christians, mobilization are carried out through visitation to churches, media publication and adverts, internet website positing, through annual convention in session, Conferences, Association and Christian Association of Nigeria and through prayer network partnership. Propagation strategy – Christians use the strategy of survey and research, missionary support care and social ministries, the Muslims embarks on itinerant faith witnessing from place to place. Other differences in Christian faith propagation activities, females are very much involved while among the Muslims a woman can only be actively involved in company of her husband. Other noticeable difference, Christian relies on the Bible as her guide while Muslims relies on Quran, and the Haddith as source for proclamation.

5.2 Conclusion

The heart yearning of God is that all mankind would be saved, and for this yearning to be achieved or realized, He had placed His representative in the world. The scripture declared how can they hear, except someone is ready to go out there and proclaim the Gospel of Christ and Him alone. God is counting on all Christian witness to rise up to the task of making Him known to all generations from our Jerusalem to the entire world of sin. Ours is to obey the instructions of the Holy Spirit of God in us and through us to do the work of convicting the lost souls back to God. God is counting on us to use the various methods thought up by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the methods include preaching, teaching and healing.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the information gathered through the interview and questionnaire shared plus the researcher's observations, the followings are the researcher's recommendation.

1. Christians adherents needs to wake up and be more proactive in her evangelistic mobilizational derive to make good result.
2. Christians should do everything possible within her reach, to keep the Christian youth from going out of faith to join other faith, Christian leaders should endeavor to use their stewardship of influence for placement of her youth, those properly placed should render necessary help to seek scholarships for others, by so doing the youth will no longer be easily enticed with money at the detriment of her faith to join other religion.
3. Christians should do everything possible to place Christian's adherents in her schools, hospitals and worship centers enough of engaging known Christians to work in Christians enterprises.
4. Christians should arise and be more aggressive in propagating Christ and Him alone as source of salvation
5. Christian witness must be ready to tell other religion adherents that salvation is by grace through faith in Christ and not by work.
6. Christian witness must be ready to do the will of Him who called and sent out to evangelize the world without fear and favour.
7. Christian witness should seek for more positive ways of propagating Christ, our lives should preach to people around us.
8. Christian youth should know the children of whom they were, especially the female youth that are easily enticed with money and the male counterpart that are enticed into joining secret cult.
9. Christian witness need to evaluate her strategies from time to time in other to keep focus on God's mandate for Souls Winning, this will enable her to know weather the strategies or methods are on course of accomplishment or failure.