

AN EVALUATION OF DRAMA AS A TOOL FOR MISSION AND  
EVANGELISM

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this thesis is to examine the significant roles of drama in the communications of the gospel. The impact of Christian drama in fulfilling the great commission. This project examines the origin of drama and it was found that drama is not a new thing in communicating the God's word to his people. The various uses of drama in the church is also exposed. Looking at the aims of Christian drama reveals that drama is a weapon for mission and evangelism. This makes the researcher to evaluate drama as an effective tool to be use for mission and evangelism.

Drama is a powerful tool is expressing and communicating the Christian faith if it is well and properly handled.

For this reason, you will agree with the researcher the need to incorporate drama in our church worship. And it is a call to the church, Pastors to use drama for better understanding of the gospel.

In this dispensation drama has been a tool that God is using. Many testimonies has shown that people like visual than audio. Aremu said "drama revealed the mysteries of life and solutions". It presents message in a way that people will actually know what to do. Salako said, Drama is useful in all fields. To impact knowledge to people of all ages.

God relied on drama as a weapon to expand his kingdom and destroy the satanic kingdom. Good preaching will last in the heart of the people with the topic and text, in few time but a drama message will tarry in the memory. People never forget scene by scene that are watched many years ago. For example you can recall a Mount Zion film Agbara nla. (A-ya-a-a Matanga!)

Drama make people to understand better what God intend to pass to them. Drama is also a support to pastor's preaching as explained by Adeniji. Drama also acceptable anywhere and anytime. The better language that people in the contemporary days clearly understand is drama. Drama is acceptable among all ages. Drama magnetize men to Christ. It thereby enabling Christians to fulfill the Great commission.

### 5.3. CONCLUSION

There has been two dimensions to the important and uses of Christian drama in the church in the recent times. Although some pastors, evangelists, missionaries, attested to the fact that Christian drama has been useful and effective in their preaching or ministry, many have not seen reasons why drama should be used in the mission and evangelism. This is due partly to the fact that, much knowledge on the importance and relevancies of Christian drama has not been exposed. This research

has attempted to explore some areas that the researcher believes will be useful to church leaders – pastors.

Christian drama will go a long way in the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ on earth if given a place to be practiced in the church. There has been evidences of how Christian drama affects the lives of members. If all Christian denominations gives priority to Christian drama to compliment other ministries like preaching ministry, music ministry, education ministry etc. the message of Christ will be well and adequately understood by the churches and the unchurched for their transformation.

Suffice to say that Christian drama may be abused if not adequately and properly planned and organized. This research wok has attempted to enumerate the uses, nature and effectiveness of Christian drama. The researcher believes that if properly handled, Christian drama will not be abused or misused in the church and evangelistic programmes of the church.

#### 5.4. RECOMMENDATIONS

To whom much is given, much is expected. God has endowed church with much potentials which the church needs to utilize faithfully. Christian drama is a weapon for mission and evangelism. it is not an entertainment. Drama has been used by people in the ages back to interpret the bible in an understandable way. It should be incorporated in our church programmes such as Bible studies, Revival programmes to bring people back to God.

Pastors should emulate Ezekiel, Jeremiah and other Old Testament prophets. They should borrow ideas from our master Jesus Christ who washed the foot of his disciple and told them.

“Now that I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should as I have done for you.”  
(John 13:14-15 NIV)

Pastor should be aware that what people see do have more impact in their life than what they hear alone. The issue of salvation is not one man business; Pastor can not do it all alone, they needs other people to minister along with them. Adeniji says that he was aware of this fact which made him to include the services of Acting Doves on September 17,2003 when he led Nigeria Baptist Theological Seminary chapels devotion. A situation which made his message to be clearer without much stress on preaching.

There are differs of spiritual gifts in the church which God has called His people into, Pastors should allow drama minister to exercise their God – given gifts in the ministry. According to Job Alabi, in one of his teaching, he said, “Release them to their destiny.”

Pastors should give room for drama ministry in the church to affect lives for God and those who are called to be fulfilled in of their calling.

Likewise, Christian dramatist who are called into this ministry should also learn from the Bible. Why is the message of Ezekiel and others be so effective and powerful? These points will be help to Christian dramatists:

- Know God, be born again and life your life for God as Ezekiel did.
- Ready to sacrifice your time, money body to present a real message.
- Give yourselves to the word of God (The Bible)
- Do not deceive, let the message be convincing and prove real.
- Saturate your life and ministry with prayer and fasting.
- Be serious and committed to what you are doing (The ministry)
- Holiness is a must for Christian dramatist.

- Maturity is a must for any drama ministers.
- Be convinced that you are called by God into drama ministry don't just jump into it.
- Be open minded. Do not keep grudges, malice etc. Col. 3:5-6
- Seek other profession to support and satisfy your needs, don't tarnished the image of Christ in your life by living in poverty.
- Humility is a must if you want to fulfilled. Ministry is not a competition but a complimentary.

During the course of this research work the researcher could not even trace one theological institution in Nigeria that include "Church drama" in their curriculum. Nigerian Universities are doing "Theatre Art" If drama occupied an important space in the act of communicating of the gospel and it is generally accepted, God is calling people into it and it is making great impact in the life of people as well as church. To arrest the danger of Christians trained in secular institutions and impact wrong doctrine or ungodly drama schools which may lead to competition at the detriment of Christian drama.

The researcher therefore suggests that The Nigerian Baptist Seminary Ogbomoso should design a course of study in the school curriculum that is centred on Christian drama as we have in church music. This will enhance the practice of drama in our local Baptist churches.