

## SERVICE IN CHURCH HISTORY.

### **SERVICES RENDERED BY CHRISTIANS IN CHURCH HISTORY.**

They conducted Bible studies, whereby those who had properly understood the Bible explained the contents to the converts in order to understand more about God.

Christians in church history performed miracles to prove God's love and power among the people for example St John and St. Peter healed a lame man who was sitting at the entrance of the temple.

They wrote encouraging letters to the new converts for example St. Paul wrote encouraging letters to the Corinthians and Galatians.

They preached the gospel to the new converts for example St. Paul moved to the Gentile land and preached to the people he found there and St. Francis preached to his followers.

They interpreted the gospel to the new converts in order to understand the word of God.

They organized fellowship meetings to encourage and strengthen each other and also shared knowledge about God.

They offered charitable services to the needy like the sick, orphans, and widows for example St. Francis of Assisi sold off his wealth and shared with the poor.

They established churches for the new converts and others offered their houses as places of worship for example St. Paul established a church at Corinth, St. Francis established a church for his followers and the mother of Mark offered her house as a place of worship.

They carried out Eucharist celebrations and this was mainly done by the apostles in trying to remember Jesus' action during the last supper as he had instructed them to eat the body and drink the blood of Jesus.

They carried out catechism classes which was a process of teaching the new converts the basics of Christianity.

They served the communities by praying for the new converts in order to enlighten them so as to save them from backsliding.

By baptizing the new converts so as to initiate them into God's family for example St. Paul baptized all the people he found in Lydia's house.

They served the community by composing hymns that praised God for example Bishop Milton Ambrose composed hymns that praised God.

### **SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE MISSIONARIES IN CHURCH HISTORY.**

The missionaries promoted education in Africa by establishing schools for example they established St. Mary's college Kisumu, Gayaza high school etc.

The missionaries established churches which were used as places of worship. This helped to strengthen the new converts' faith for example they established Rubaga cathedral and Namirembe cathedral.

They promoted health by establishing hospitals or health centers for example they established St Francis Nsamboya hospital which rendered health services to many people.

They introduced new cash crops that helped to boost trade in Africa for example they introduced cotton and coffee which helped to boost trade in Africa.

The missionaries preached the word of God to people of Africa; they moved door to door which influenced many Africans to get converted to Christianity.

They introduced new languages that facilitated communication in Africa for example they introduced German, English, French and Latin.

The missionaries also prayed for people like the sick and the dead during burial which gave courage to the living.

They also served the community by providing to the needy with items like food, clothes, medication which was done under charitable services.

They served the communities by baptizing the new converts so as to expand on the Christian family.

They taught Africans new practical skills which helped them to survive for example girls were taught bakery skills and boys were taught carpentry skills in vocational schools.

Missionaries created different employment opportunities and employed many Africans to work in their schools. Hospitals and churches for example they employed Africans as messengers, secretaries, teachers etc.

They de-campaigned slavery activities in Africa which they looked at as being UN human.

They constructed roads and railway stations which helped to improve on transport and communication because they lead them to market centers from production centers.

QN. What is some of the problems faced by Christians in early church as they tried to offer service to the people of their community.

-Language barrier.

-Discrimination for example the rich discriminated the poor.

-Doubted their background for example St. Paul was a murderer before becoming a Christian.

-Sexual immorality.

- Poverty.

-Delay of Parousia [the coming of Jesus].

-Persecution for example St. Stephen was persecuted

-Theological debates.

-Opposition from other religions for example from Judaism.

-God taking long to answer their prayers.

-Imprisonment of some people for example St. Peter and St. Paul were imprisoned.

## **PERSONALITIES WHO RENDERED SERVICES IN CHURCH HISTORY.**

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

-He was born in 1181 and was a monk.

-He was an Italian Roman Catholic preacher, deacon and a friar.

-He formed the men's order of friars or brothers whom he worked with in serving God.

-He preached the good news of Jesus Christ especially among the ordinary people.

-He catered for the poor with the basic needs of life; he sold off his wealth and shared with the poor.

-He advised his followers to live a humble life according to their calling.

-He carried out catechism lessons in which he taught Christian principles to young converts.

-He baptized new converts.

-He also explained the Christian scriptures.

- He conducted fellowships with his followers.

### **BROTHER TOBBY KIZZA UGANDA.**

-Born in 1872 in mawokota.

-Accepted baptism in 1890 by the father Loudel of the white fathers.

-He was the first Muganda to become a brother of the white fathers.

- He was trained as a catholic brother in Algeria and returned to Uganda in 1896.

-He trained fellow Ugandans in carpentry work which helped to provide self-employment to Ugandans.

- He offered medical treatment to the sick.
- He prayed for the sick and out of faith, they got healed.
- He established schools in some parts of Uganda which promoted literacy.
- He founded evangelical missions where he preached the gospel.
- He lived a life of sacrifice for the sake of the gospel.
- He travelled on foot and on a lorry on his mission to Rwera to preach the gospel.
- He died in 1961 at the age of 89.

### **BISHOP SHANAHAN OF SOUTH NIGERIA. [Catholic missionary]**

- He was born in 1871.
- He was an Irish man who arrived in southern Nigeria in 1902.
- He served as a bishop in Nigeria.
- He preached the gospel in schools in Nigeria and converted them to Christianity.
- He established a network of schools which helped to promote literacy.
- He trained many missionary priests, brothers and sisters which helped to expand Christianity.
- He conducted catechism lessons to children and adults.
- He encouraged cash crop growing which helped to people to earn income.
- He encouraged Africans to preserve their own culture and drop the culture of throwing away of twins among the Ibo people.
- He walked long distances to solve people's problems.
- He trained women in different skills of production like craft making which became a source of income.

### **ARTHUR SHEARLY CRIPPS OF RHODESIA [Anglican missionary].**

- He was an Anglican missionary priest in Rhodesia.

- He was born in 1869 and died 1952 at 83.
- He wrote many books and the money earned helped in running the parish.
- He moved on foot for many miles to visit Christians and preaching to them.
- He preached the good news of Jesus.
- He prayed for the sick and with faith, they got healed.
- He defended the rights of the Africans when the missionaries wanted to take their land.
- He treated the blacks and whites equally.
- He lived a life of self-denial by practicing poverty.

### **REVEREND EZEKIEL APINDI OF KENYA.**

- He was born in 1885 in western Kenya.
- He accepted baptism in 1905 and worked in Nairobi and Mombasa.
- He founded schools and worked as a teacher and head teacher hence promoting formal education.
- He preached the gospel and converted the nyanza people in Christianity.
- He was chosen to speak on behalf of his people to the British about African problems.
- He opened up many Christian missions which helped in expanding the church.
- He worked as an interpreter for the missionaries and was given a Kiswahili bible.
- He conducted missionary journeys in Kenya and Tanzania.
- He explained bible scriptures and helped people to know the word of God.

## **BIBLICAL TEACHING ABOUT SERVICE.**

### **HOW GOD USED HIS AUTHORITY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.**

God used his authority to create the universe by simply saying “let there be and there was”

He used his authority to bring floods that weakened every living creature on earth, it rained for 40 days and nights without stopping.

He used his authority to liberate the Israelites from the bondage of slavery in Egypt by sending Moses to liberate them.

God used his authority to send the Israelites the Ten Commandments and ordered them to respect them.

God used his authority to fulfill the promises he made to the people for example he fulfilled the promises he made to Abraham when he made him the father of all nations.

He used his authority to guide the Israelites day and night with a pillar of fire and clouds on their way to the Promised Land of Canaan.

God used his authority to reject leaders or kings who disobeyed him for example he rejected king Saul when he disobeyed him when he killed all the Amalekites and spared their king yet God had ordered him to kill all the Amalekites including their king.

God used his authority to answer people’s prayers in Old Testament for example he answered Hannah and Elkanah’ prayers by blessing them with a son Samuel.

God used his authority to forgive people their sins for example he forgave King David when he repented after committing adultery with Bathsheba Uriah’s wife.

He made way for Israelites when crossing the red sea and guided them up to the promised land of Canaan.

God used his authority to provide to the people of Israel manna and water while in the desert on their way to the Promised Land of Canaan.

He used his authority to appoint leaders for example he appointed King Saul as the first king and King David as the second king of Israel.

### **SERVICES RENDERED BY MOSES.**

Although Moses had to lead the Israelites to the Promised Land where they were to enjoy good life so God had to help Moses to render the following services.

He liberated the Israelites from the bondage of slavery in Egypt where they had to stay for over 350 years.

Moses acted as a law giver when he handed over the Ten Commandments to the Israelites which he had received from God on mountain Sinai.

Moses acted as a mediator between God and the Israelites when he communicated God's message to the people and vice versa.

Moses acted as a high priest when he led the Israelites in prayer and also offering of sacrifices to God on behalf of Israelites in other words, he officiated religious ceremonies.

He also acted as an interceder; he was always available to speak on behalf of the Israelites asking for forgiveness from God for example Moses asked forgiveness from God when the Israelites annoyed God by worshipping a golden bull calf.

He united all the twelve tribes of Israel which was a great achievement.

Moses acted as a judge; he settled conflicts among the Israelites and also helped in shaping moral conduct of the people of Israel.

He acted as a shepherd in times of trouble and he was a great wall to lean on during that time for example when they ran short of food and water while in the desert they had to lean on Moses.

Moses was also a miracle performer; he performed several signs of wonder and miracles for example he separated the red sea for the Israelites to cross and also hit the rock and a water source came out.

He acted as a military commander; he was always courageous and fearless and tried so hard to defeat the enemies.



## **QUALITIES OF MOSES.**

-Moses was always courageous and he led the Israelites in different battle Fields.

-Moses was approachable in a way that the Israelites found it easy to approach him whenever in trouble for example they approached him while in the desert when they lacked water and food.

-He was optimistic or hopeful for example before crossing the Red sea Moses had hope that they would cross the Red sea.

-Moses was loving in that he loved the Israelites so much to the extent that he killed an Egyptian to the expense of an Israelite.

-Moses was honest to the people and to God.

-Moses was obedient in that he obeyed the ten commandments of God and he also accepted to go back to the land of Egypt as requested by God where he had murdered an Egyptian.

-Moses was a prayerful leader in that he consulted God through prayers whenever he faced a challenge.

-Moses was a good listener he always gave time to the Israelites and listened to them.

-Moses was also a patient leader like he patiently waited whenever he prayed to God.

-Moses was a tolerant leader, he tolerated all the Israelites.

## **SERVICES RENDERED BY KING DAVID.**

King David was the second king of Israel and he was loved by all people and rendered the following services.

He expanded the nation of Israel by fighting wars against their enemies of Israel and the neighboring nations; this helped him to expand the boundary of Israel.

He led the Israelites in military campaigns, he achieved success of very many nations which were a threat to many Israelites for example he killed giant Goliath who was feared by everyone.

He built Jerusalem temple and made Jerusalem a strategic city a good city for better administrative work.

King David was a musician and during his free time he composed many hymns that praised and worshiped God.

He turned Israel into a theocratic nation, the nation that feared God and accepted God's prophets.

King David was a repentant king despite of all his weakness as a human being; he never forgot to repent by asking forgiveness when he committed adultery with Bathsheba Uriah's wife he repented.

King David promoted trade in Israel by establishing trade links with other nations

He promoted monotheism as expected by God.

### **FAILURES OF KING DAVID.**

King David had lust for women for example he had lust for Bathsheba but not love.

He committed Adultery, he was unfaithful to his wife and had an affair with Bathsheba.

He committed Murder for example he plotted for the death of Uriah by ordering to put him at the battle front.

David failed to be exemplary as a leader, he decided to rest at his home yet the soldiers were in the field fighting a battle.

According to the code of leadership a king was meant to be a monogamist in his marital status which King David abused.

He carried out an illegal census which was against the wish of both prophets and tribal elders which symbolized pride and arrogance.

He recruited the Israelites in the army against their wish.

He divided Israel into two south [Judah] and north [Israel].

He misled his son Solomon by advising him to revenge on his enemies in order to kill Joab.

He had sexual intercourse when the covenant box was at war.

He practiced polygamy which was against God's demands.

He practiced tribalism and nepotism by giving royal favors to people from the south at the expense of people from north which led to division of the kingdom.

### **SERVICES PROVIDED BY KING SAUL.**

He fought and defeated Israel enemies for example he fought the philistines and Ammonites.

He built a disciplined army by recruiting trained Israelites soldiers.

He united the Israelites by bringing together the 12 tribes of Israel so as to fight against his enemies.

Economically, Saul conducted trade especially in iron which promoted economic prosperity in Israel.

Saul was a good administrator and treated all people equally.

He loved his nation to the extent that he died at the battle front with the philistines while defending his nation.

He cleared the forest areas purposely to reduce on the hiding places of the philistine army.

He laid a foundation to the institution of kingship which other kings like David, Solomon based on in developing Israel.

### **FAILURES OF KING SAUL.**

He violated the holy command of killing the enemies of Israel for example he spared king Agag and the fatty animals of the Amalekites 1samuel 13:1

He was a coward he showed great fear in philistine war. 1samuel 17:8-11

He deceived Samuel that he had obeyed the lord's command of destroying all the property yet he had spared Agag and the fatty animals.

He worshipped Baal for example he named his son a pagan name Isha-baal meaning man of Baal.

He was materialistic for example he spared the fatty animals during the war with the Amalekites.

He offered the sacrifice on behalf of priest Samuel.

Saul was impatient when he failed to wait for Samuel to offer the sacrifice.

He consulted the false prophets [a medium] after failing to get an answer from God.

He murdered 85 priests of Nob who were cooperating with David. 1samuel 22:16

He refused his men to eat food for a full day not until he had revenged on his enemies 1samuel 14:24ff.

He was jealousy and selfish, he attempted to kill David 1samuel 18:6-10.

### **SERVICES PROVIDED BY KING SOLOMON.**

He built the Jerusalem temple which centralized worship in Israel.

He composed hymns and proverbs for example he composed over 1001 songs and 3000 proverbs which promoted monotheism in Israel.

He settled disputes between the two prostitutes who claimed for the same son. 1kings 3:16-18.

He promoted trade improved standards between Israel and the neighboring states.

He promoted friendship and peace with his neighbors through his marriage for example he got the city of Gezer as a wedding gift from the pharaoh of Egypt.

He built cities of Gezer, Megiddo and Hezam which were strategic for economic development 1kings 9:15.

He made Israel known to the rest of the world for example the queen of Sheba visited him carrying with her gifts 1kings 10:6-10.

Solomon developed infrastructure in Israel which helped in the development of Israel.

He installed the Ark of the covenant in the temple which centralized worship in Israel.

He built a strong and professional army. This was used to defend Israel against Israel's enemies.

He dedicated the temple to God which symbolized the re-dedication of Israel to service of Yahweh.

### **FAILURES OF KING SOLOMON.**

He practiced polygamy by marrying 700wives which was against the kingship 1kings 11:1-3

He practiced adultery by having the 300concubines in addition to the 700wives.

He allowed his wives to worship their gods in Israel and built Altars for them 1kings11:8

Solomon practiced idol worship for example he worshipped Astarte the god of Sidon.

He imposed forced labor to Israelites when carrying out his building projects for example when constructing the Jerusalem temple, he forced Israelites to work.

He heavily taxed the people to meet his building programmes and the expenses of his wives.

He was extravagant for example he used 5000kgs of the fine flour, 10,000 liters of olive oil,10 stall fed cattle and 100 sheep which were got from oppression of the people 1kings 4:2-23.

He committed murder; he killed Joab and his brother Adonijah.

He sold twenty towns to king Hiram of Tyra in partial payments of some debts.

He practiced nepotism where all cabinet posts were occupied by in-laws for example Zadok was made the chief priest.

### **SERVICE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.**

Questions.

QN.1 How did Jesus use his authority during his time?

QN.2 Show how authority meant service during Jesus's time.

QN.3 What lessons can modern leaders learn from Jesus's ministry?

QN. 4 What does the New Testament teach us about service?

### **THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ABOUT SERVICE.**

The New Testament teaches us to always serve others than waiting to be served for example Jesus demonstrated this by washing the feet of his disciples.

It teaches us to serve all people equally without discrimination for example Jesus served the Jews and the gentiles, men and women, children and elderly people.

The New testament teaches us to protect and defend the weak in the society for example Jesus protected the adulterous woman who was supposed to be stoned to death and also defended the rights of the children when he called them to come and serve with him.

It teaches us to pray for God's guidance for example Jesus prayed to his father while in the garden of gethsemane before his arrest.

The New Testament teaches us to respect authority while serving God and man for example Jesus demonstrated this by paying taxes to the Roman government.

It teaches us to associate with all people in society without discrimination for example Jesus associated with the Jews and the gentiles, tax collectors, fishermen, children, women and called them friends.

The New Testament also teaches us to forgive one another in order to serve God and fellow man for example Jesus forgave those who crucified him.

It teaches us to work for God's glory just as Jesus performed miracles to prove God's love and power for example when he healed the blind man to give glory to God.

It teaches us to appreciate other people's contribution in society for example Jesus appreciated the woman's offering to God and anointing at Bethany.

The New Testament teaches us to have the virtue of self-sacrifice for the sake of serving others for example he accepted to die for man's sins in order to build the relationship between man and God.

The New Testament teaches us to love one another the way we love ourselves for example Jesus loved every one to the extent of dying on the cross to liberate man from the cross.

The New Testament also teaches us to resist temptations in serving the needs of others like Jesus resisted the devils' plans that aimed at failing him in his ministry

**WAYS THROUGH WHICH CHURCH LEADERS TODAY HAVE FAILED TO SHOW SERVICE TO THE CHURCH.** [*Refer to the notes of injustices in church today*]

### **SERVICES RENDERED BY THE CHURCH LEADERS /CHURCH TODAY.**

The church has provided employment opportunities to many people today for example centenary bank that belongs to the Catholic Church has employed very many people as managers, cashiers and cleaners.

The church has provided guidance and counseling services to very many people for example at Rubaga cathedral they have Tuesday class that has offered guidance and counseling to those getting married and those already married.

The church has fought illiteracy and promoted education through establishing schools for example the Catholic Church established Uganda martyrs' s.s.s Namugongo which has educated many people.

The church has offered charitable services to the needy people by giving them food, clothes, shelter and paying school fees for them for example watoto church

under child care project, world vision and compassion international they have paid fees for many orphans.

The church has promoted health by establishing health centers and funding health centers for example St. Francis Nsambya hospital is being funded by the Catholic church.

The modern church has also fought sexual immorality by preaching against sexual misuse for example pastor Martin Ssempe of Makerere Community church has constantly preached against homosexuality.

The church has involved itself in peace initiatives or peace talks for example Bishop John Odama and other Bishops in northern Uganda had peace talks with the lords resistance army leader Joseph kony.

The church has established many Churches which has helped to expand the kingdom of God through preaching the word of God for example pastor Robert kayanja established Rubaga miracle center.

The church has improved on communication through establishing media stations like radio and television stations for example the catholic church established radio Maria, Pentecostal church established salt television, Adventist church established prime radio.

The church has also protected the marriage institution through formation of clubs for example mothers' union a club of married women where women have encouraged each other on various aspects hence helping the marriages to be more stable.

The church has organized prayer meetings [fellowships] where believers meet and encourage each other which has help them to strengthen their faith.

**END.**