

***The Obstacles And The Challenges Facing Child
Evangelism In Kajo-Keji County***

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Table of Content

Foreword	3
CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION	4
CHAPTER 2 - THE SITUATION NOW	6
CHAPTER 3 - THE PREFERED SITUATION	11
CHAPTER 4 - SOLUTIONS.....	16
CHAPTER 5 - Conclusions	21
APPENDICES	24
QUESTIONS	24
BIBLIOGRAPHY	25
WEBSITES	25
LIST OF THE INTERVIEWEES	26

Foreword

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I thank God for allowing this research to be carried out I pray that any one who will read this work will feel the burden and help children to be reached by the word of God.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

From different parts of Kajo-Keji, people say that child evangelism has been left out in many churches of Kajo-Keji if so why?

How does the church in kajo-keji look at child evangelism? Are there same challenges and problems in carrying out child evangelism? What are the problems and what has been done to overcome the challenges?

I want to find out what challenges are in child evangelism and what can be done to overcome these challenges in Kajo-Keji.

1.1 The key questions for this study are formulated as follows:

1. What is child evangelism?
2. Why is child evangelism important?
3. How to do child evangelism?
4. What are the obstacles/challenges in doing child evangelism?
5. What could be the solution to these obstacle/challenges?

I think the effects of the civil war have made some parents to live in fear of anyone who approach their children. Also a negative attitude towards children's evangelism, rumours about witchcraft, lack of knowledge about the importance of evangelizing children, divorce, culture, shortage of materials and few workers have contributed to its less effectiveness in some part of Kajo-Keji county. Therefore I am suggesting that if only the church can work together with the ministry of the children to bring a change in to these attitudes and the problems, more can be achieved for the ministry of children in kajo-keji.

This study is limited to three denominations (ECSS, Pentecostal and Baptist church) in Kajo-Keji County and not beyond Kajo-Keji County.

1.1 Value of the study

The reason for carry out this research is because of my own interest in child evangelism and also my involvement in the children's ministry.

This study will help to bring out the problems which are hindering the gospel to reach children in Kajo-Keji County and come up with solutions to the problems. It will help the church in Kajo-Keji county to see the value of teaching children the word of God and to create a strong base for the church in the future and the nation when challenges and the obstacles are dealt with for children to be properly reached by the gospel.

This study will benefit the church in Kajo-Keji to have a strong base for the future.

It will mostly benefit the children in Kajo-Keji to grow in Christ and will one day go to heaven.

1.3 Method of study

This research was carried out by doing literature review and they used qualitative method of interviews, by interviewing two members from each church. I also organized a meeting in Limi parish on 5th/7/2015 and 28 people attended to discuss on the obstacles and challenges facing child evangelism and the solutions to the obstacles. I also interviewed 5 key people who are working with children ministry in Kajo-Keji County. See the appendices for details.

Before we can look at the next heading, we need to know the age range that we are referring to.

According to the constitution of south Sudan, any one below 18 years is a child but for this matter, I am referring to children from 5-12 years. I consider children above 12 to be youth who have already graduated from Sunday school service to youth service. Therefore, we can look at the next chapter to help us understand what child evangelism is, the importance, the obstacles and the challenges in doing child evangelism.

CHAPTER 2

THE SITUATION NOW

The situation today is one of the reasons that have made me to carry out this research in Kajo-keji. People say that child evangelism is being left out in the churches and before we can continue, let us first understand child evangelism as our first question below.

2.1 what is child evangelism?

It is hard to define child evangelism as one word however; we can draw its definition from the definition of evangelism.

Dr. Sam Doherty defines evangelism as proclamation of good new to lost sinners, that Jesus Christ died for their sins, that he rose again that he is willing and able to save all those who want to turn from their sins and put their trust in and him as Lord and Saviour (Doherty 2011, (B) page 7).

Therefore, child evangelism is proclamation of good new to boys and girls that Jesus Christ died for their sins and that he is willing to forgive them if they turn away from their sins and put their trust in him as Lord and Saviour

From the interviews I carried out, four members defined child evangelism as the preaching of gospel or messages of salvation to boys and girls so that they get to know their problem of sin and the solution, to help them grow in the way that glorifies God by accepting or receiving the Lord Jesus as their personal Saviour (interviews, on 19 June 2015).

Christians in St John Limi parish defined child evangelism as the proper way of bringing up a child so as to fear doing evil (wrong) or it is the proper way of bringing up a child spiritually, morally, intellectually so as to fit in society (interviews on 5 July 2015).

In summary, child evangelism is the teaching of the message of salvation to boys and girls so that they can believe and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

Having known what child evangelism is we can now look at the importance of evangelizing children as our next heading.

2.2 Why is child evangelism important?

According to Dr. Sam Doherty, some people consider the task of teaching children the word of God to be of little importance, there is a trend in some Sunday schools and children work away from the actual teaching of the word of God (Doherty, 2011(A), page 155).

I agree with this statement because in some of the churches within Kajo-Keji, children are told to go out when it is time for teaching the word of God and it would be better if they take them to be taught the word of God in their simple language than to sing songs which may not apply to their condition of life to be changed. They are considered as noisy in the church so the only thing is to send them out. Therefore, it is important to know the importance of teaching children the word of God. When I interviewed people from different churches, they were able to share with me the importance of evangelizing children as follows:-

- It helps children to accept the Lord Jesus as their personal Saviour through confession of sin, since the Bible says that “all have sinned” (Romans 3:23).
- It shapes their future by equipping the children with leadership skills as they grow up because the future generation lies in the hand of the children.
- It makes the children to grow wise because they are under attack in that many people with false teachings are targeting our children.
- It also helps children to fear God and love him as their heavenly Father.
- It helps children to fear sin and evil.
- It helps children to be respectful, loving and kind as they acquire a sense of right and sharing with others.
- It leads children to eternal life.
- It pleases their parents to see their children growing up with good morals.

I think there is no parent who would like to see his or her child doing wrong thing unless he or she is a wrong person and even some wrong people don't want to see their children doing the same but they want to see them doing good.

- It also widens their thinking about good and evil so as to choose good because children are faithful to others.
- It is a command from God that everyone needs to be reached by the word of God. Mark 16: 15 says "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" and children are also God's creation and they belong to God's kingdom (Matthew 1-4) so they need to know the way to the kingdom through teaching them the word of God.
- Dr Doherty added that evangelizing children helps them to have their whole life to live and they will also evangelize others.
- It also helps children to know that the Lord Jesus loves them and wants them to come to him. Matthew 19:14 says "let the little children come to me and do not hinder them".
- Evangelizing children helps us to reach the parents of the children in their homes and because of these, God will bless us (Doherty, 2011(B), page 73).

So people I interviewed saw the importance of evangelizing children and they were able to mention the above reasons for evangelizing children. Therefore, what hinders children to be reached or to be evangelized in our churches, homes and the areas where we live? This brings us to the concern of carrying out this research in Kajo-Keji County so as to find out the obstacles and challenges facing child evangelism in Kajo-Keji.

2.3 what are the obstacles and the challenges facing child evangelism in Kajo-Keji County?

From the research I carried out, the following are the challenges facing child evangelism in Kajo-Keji county:-

- ❖ Different people I interviewed said that absence of Sunday school teachers or a committed person to teach children is one of the challenges in most churches in Kajo-Keji County.
- ❖ They also said that parents have little time to teach children spiritually, they leave it to the church alone, yet the church has neglected it.

- ❖ Some of the parents are pagans. They have no commitment to church and such parents cannot allow their children to be taught Christian ideas of God.
- ❖ Some children are given too much work by their parents, giving them little time to attend any church service and some are not even allowed to attend due to domestic work.
- ❖ Bad peer influence making children stubborn and unruly because they want to look for bush rats and football instead of attending church service. They prefer discos, watching bad films and soccer, so getting them to hear the word of God becomes difficult.
- ❖ Some church leaders think that evangelism is only for big people, they are not aware of the salvation of children and that is why when it is time for preaching, they send children out of the church.
- ❖ Absence of learning materials for the children and the few which are there, are written in English, making learning difficult.
- ❖ Limited staff. From the office of CEF, they said that workers are few to reach all part of Kajo-Keji to teach children since it involves transport hence covering some area and others left with out being reached.
- ❖ There is no cooperation between the church leaders and the Sunday school teachers to organize themselves to have common interest so making children to be neglected among the congregation.
- ❖ Some pastors have no interest for children and even no identification of the Sunday school teachers letting the ministry of children down in some churches.
- ❖ No teachings given to the children from the Bible, they only sing songs which may not convey any gospel truth to their lives.
- ❖ Also the leaders don't mind about training Sunday school teachers and therefore, too much work left to one person making the Sunday school teachers to leave the work.
- ❖ Some churches do not support the ministry of children especially when coming to training teachers because leaders do not see the importance of teaching children and if they know, they don't care yet children workers are willing to train more Sunday school teachers.

- ❖ There are groups like Muslims, Jehovah Witnesses and Kuku traditional culture which restrict their children from attending any Christian teachings, gatherings being in church or elsewhere. This is also another challenge to the ministry of children.
- ❖ Some of the Sunday school teachers have no interest in teaching children because they are chosen. It is not their calling and a burden to reach children with the word of God, making them irregular in class when it is time to teach.
- ❖ Inadequate funds for transport to facilitate the ministry of children to reach other areas which are lacking teachers.
- ❖ Political instabilities in the country have affected the whole of south Sudan including Kajo-Keji County making people to live in fear and conflicts in the country and hence letting many activities down including child evangelism.
- ❖ Problem of office facilities to facilitate the work especially to write materials in the local language for children to be taught in their own language.
- ❖ Rumours about witchcraft because people live in fear of each other and therefore, fearing anyone who approaches their children.

When I look at all these challenges, they are mainly caused due to leaders' lack of understanding of the position of children in the church and if there are people who can see these challenges and point them out, I am convinced that they are the very people who can have solution to these challenges as we shall see later in the coming chapters. However, let us first see what the Word of God says about children in the next chapter as.

CHAPTER 3

THE PREFERRED SITUATION

3.1 What does the Bible say about children?

The Bible says in Proverbs 22:6 that we should “train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it”. This means that parents and all those who work with children should train children when they are still young for them to take right decisions because the character of the child is build up when he or she is still young. That is why Dr. Sam Doherty wrote that we should teach children word of God now and not wait until they are older and harder to reach because it is easier to train young sapling than an old tree (Doherty 2011(A), page 158).

Francis Xavier the Spanish Jesuit missionary to the Orient in the 16th century is reported to have said: “Give me a child until he is seven and you can do what you like with him afterwards“ (Doherty 2011(A), Page 160). This means that when a child is well trained when is still young at the age below seven, it is very hard for that child to forget what has been taught to him.

Deuteronomy 6:6-8 says “These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads”.

The people of Israel were to love God, think constantly about these commandments, teach them to their children and live each day by the guidelines in God’s word. This is what God wants of us today as parents, guardians, and leaders in the church: to love God and teach his word to the children of our generation. So that they can learn to fear God.

Deuteronomy 31:12-13 says “Assemble the people – men, women, and children, and the aliens living in your towns – so they can listen and learn to fear the Lord your God and follow carefully all the words of this law. Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the Lord you God as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess”.

This means that we should not only look at one part of the congregation (the adults) and leave out children but whole church need to be evangelized including children.

Psalm 78:3-8 says "What we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us, we will not hide them from their children we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so that the next generation would know them even the children yet to be born and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds. They would not be like their forefathers a stubborn and rebellious generation whose hearts were not loyal to God".

This passage reminds us of Israel's unfaithfulness to God after all he did to them so there was need to teach their children all there stubbornness so that they may not be like their forefathers before, the Lord.

When we look at our country today, there are many things that are going on wrong around us after coming back from exile; many people have turn away from God. So there is need to teach our children to know the mistakes which are going on around us so that the new generation will be of God fearing people who will put their trust in God. Therefore, we are called upon to evangelize children.

Hudson Pope wrote "it is important to teach the child the scripture of the Bible from the very cradle. This will give the Holy Spirit something on which to work and through which to reveal Christ. Lenin, one of the founders of communism, said. "Give me four years to teach the children and the seed I have sown will never be uprooted (Doherty, 2011(B), page 159). Meaning the earlier we evangelize, the better and the change will be.

Psalm 51:5 shows us that a person is sinful by nature. That is why David recognized himself and said "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me".

Isaiah 53:6 says "we all like sheep, have gone astray" and Romans 3:23 says "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". These verses help us to understand what the Bible says about the nature of man as being sinful from the beginning. This helps us to think more about our children and show them the way of salvation. The Bible says from the birth the person is sinful, and if all have sinned, children too are sinners and if they are sinners, they need to know and get saved and this should be our reason for evangelizing children so that they can get saved and one day go to heaven.

Ephesians 2:3-5 is also another part of the scriptures which shows man's nature of sin. By nature "we", including children, are sinners but because of God's grace and mercy, He made us alive in

Christ and John 3:3 says “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless is born again”. How will they be born again unless they are evangelized to know the nature of their sins and the way for salvation?

Mark 16:15 says “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all the creation”. This verse includes children to be reached by the gospel of Christ because children are also part of God’s creation. And any preacher or teacher of Word of God who leaves out children, has failed to fulfil this command in the Bible.

Matthew 18:5-6 says “And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me but if any one causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea”. This scripture shows us that anyone who denies children the word of God and chases them out from the church will have to answer before God at one time to come.

Matthew 18:10 says “See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven”. Children have angels in heaven who always see the face of the Father, that is why when little children were brought to Jesus, he rebuked the disciples for denying them and he said “let the little children come to me and do not hinder them for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these (Matthew 19:14). Jesus loved children and all leaders, parents should follow Jesus’ example.

3.2 How will they know that the kingdom of God belongs to them if they are not reached and evangelized? (Romans 10:13-14)

We should reach children with the word of God for them to know the way of salvation. Because of what the Bible teaches, adults should reject the ideas that children cannot get saved and know that children are lost and need to be saved and they can become saved. Leaders should be convinced of the power of the gospel to change children’s lives (Romans 1:1). They should be able to accept training on how to present the gospel message in an age appropriate way and learn how to give response to the message of salvation and counsel children regarding to the assurance of salvation, confession of sin and remember that salvation is by faith not by reasoning or intellectual development (Doherty 2011(A), page 236).

John Drescher wrote that there are seven things which children need. One of these is a sense of significance. So the parents of the children and all those who deal with children should know that children need to be recognized by the elders. Therefore, they should be allowed to participate in the church and they need to be encouraged by the elders (Drescher, 1988, page 19-26). Security is also another thing that children need in their lives because they still need guidelines for life and some children have no parents, the only place they can find their joy is the church.

There are 132 million children across the world on the records as orphans. Studies have shown that same of these children are not fostered or adopted and more than 10% will commit suicide before reaching eighteen years. Every 2.2 seconds, one more orphan gets out of the system (turns 18) with no family to belong to and no place to call home. It is also said that every year across the world, 275 million children are victims of violence in their own homes, places that are supposed to offer them protection and love. There are 10.4 million refugee families around the world and half of all the people living in sub-Saharan Africa are living in poverty and in these, South Sudan is included (African wwp booklet, A, 2011).

Therefore, the church should accept and love them with God's love (Matthew 14:14, 18-5). Whoever welcomes little children in his home welcomes Jesus. We should have relationship with children in our churches by giving them a proper place to learn, but not to send them to stand outside and sing meaningless songs, so we must accept children in our churches, communities and homes.

Children should be disciplined to grow up in Christian manner by disciplining them in the word of God, as John Drescher said that one of the seven things children need is the word of God (Drescher, 1988, Page 117).

Psalm 127:1 says "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain". In the same way unless we bring children to God and they grow up with the fear of God, we may labour in vain.

This teaching should not only be in the church but right from home by the parents (Deuteronomy 6:6-8). This means that parents should be right with God, they must not only know the way, but also go the way. That is why John Drescher said "parents who only tell their children religious facts and send them to church can have little hope of the children to continue going to church. That whenever a parent gives his children good instruction and set them at the same time bad example, may be considered as bringing them food in one hand and poison in the other (Drescher, 1988, page

119). Here it means that spiritual development begins at home which needs cooperation between the parents, children workers and the church to work on their own relationship with God in order to show good example to the young ones. When they tell children to go to church, they must be able to go themselves for it is good for parents to do what they say.

Children should be at the centre of the churches' concern for evangelism. Our attitude towards children is a test case and indicator for our understanding of gospel and for authentic discipleship and integral Christian mission. Churches need to adopt Jesus' example and that of the early church. Mark 9:36 says "when he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Church and ecumenical heritage, 2005).

So when I look at Kajo-Keji in general, there is need for all church leaders, parents and children workers to raise up for a common purpose of evangelizing children in the word of God, to create a strong base for our children to grow spiritually because they are under attack of the enemy. Many cults are targeting them and many wrong teachings are surrounding them, therefore, it is the right time for the people of Kajo-Keji to join together and evangelize children. The Bible says "Train a child the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6). This means that when children are well trained in the word of God when they are still young, they will be strong and when the evil comes on their way, they will be able to resist through the word of God in their hearts.

CHAPTER 4

SOLUTIONS

How can we do child evangelism effectively to bring change in the lives of the children in Kajo-Keji County?

4.1 From the interviews

As I said before, after the people who I interviewed had pointed out the challenges for child evangelism, they also suggested some solutions to the challenges as follows:

1. They said more Sunday school teachers need to be trained from each church if we are to improve child evangelism in Kajo-Keji.
2. Parents need to join hand in teaching children spiritually and they must be exemplary in everything they say and do for examples refraining from obscene language.
3. Children need to be discouraged from attending discos, videos and night clubs. So the government needs to be involved in by setting laws which forbid little children from attending such activities.
4. Evangelism need to be simplified through books written in the local language like Bari or Kuku to enable good understanding of the message.
5. There must be constant prayers and fasting. Pastor Kennedy said that a children ministry like CEF needs to organize prayer meetings, seminars and conferences for pastors and children workers to destroy the strong spirits which are weakening people in the churches and to make people understand the importance of evangelizing children (interviews, 21 July 2015).
6. Let pastors be trained to know the importance of evangelizing children and let them learn to motivate the Sunday school teachers just by encouraging them, praying for them and the children because they are doing a very good job.

7. People who have a burden for children need to meet the senior pastors, lay readers, elders of the church and know their vision for the church and teach them the importance of evangelizing children together with the Sunday school teachers.
8. One of the Sunday school teachers said that the diocese of Kajo-Keji needs to organize workshops for the pastors to know the importance of teaching children because there are many parishes within Kajo-Keji county without Sunday school programs, for example Coi'ba in Kangapo 2 payam, Sera in Kangapo 1 payam, St John Bajur in Lire payam, Beliak and others (interviews 23/July/2015).
9. The Mothers' Union must be involved and reminded of their role as mothers in children ministry in the church.
10. Church leaders should to be taught to understand that children can be saved and become like adults so they need to organize fundraising to raise funds for the Sunday school to buy materials needed for children to be taught properly and also encouraging giving in the churches for Sunday school programs.
11. Sensitization on peace building by the community leaders and the church leaders for peace to be achieved so that the gospel of Christ can reach all areas of Kajo-Keji
12. Children workers need to do promotion for people to see and understand the benefits of reaching children with the word of God through testimonies, written newsletters, visiting schools, teachings over the radio to evangelize the parents to understand that Jesus loves children and he wants them to come to him. It was very important for the interviewed people to come up with these suggestions. It is therefore my prayer that everyone who will read this, will be concerned to work towards the achievement of these suggestions to improve the situation of children in Kajo-Keji county.

4.2 From the Literature

1. For child evangelism to be done effectively in Kajo-Keji County, first of all, we need to have a calling for the ministry of children and allow God to use us to reach children for Him. If we have the burden, we shall stand firm by God's help, no matter what challenges may come on our way.

Dr. Sam Doherty wrote that “God has provided us with a gospel message which he will use in the lives of the children when we present and teach it to them. (Doherty, 2011(A), page 256).

2. Pray that God will work in the hearts of the children and present the message properly by the help of the Holy Spirit.

3. Teach the Bible lesson knowing that there are two kinds of children in your class: the saved and the unsaved children. So evangelize the unsaved child and disciple the saved child or help the saved child to grow spiritually.

Doherty wrote that when teaching the Bible lesson, don't just tell a story, teach the central truth thoroughly in the passage your lesson is based on. Find it, it may be a truth like God is holy, sin always has consequences, Jesus Christ is God or salvation is by faith. Simplify it and teach it throughout the lesson and throughout your story, apply it to the life of the children both the saved and the unsaved because our responsibility is not only to tell a Bible Story but to teach the Bible truth and to apply it to the lives of the children (Doherty, 2011(A), page 265-266).

4. We can evangelize children using a word-less book; you can buy it, if you cannot make it. A Word-less Book is a book without words, it has a green cover and inside there are 4 pages or double pages these are: - gold, black, red and white. Each colour represents a group of gospel truths and should be shown to the children as you speak about that group of truths (Doherty, 2011(B), page 79).

This tool has a lot to communicate to the children about God and it is recommended by child evangelists. For example Mr. O the founder of child evangelism fellowship used the word-less book in reaching children with the message of salvation and its proved effective (Rohrer, 2012, page 83).

5. Leaders need to develop home to home evangelism; children can be reached or evangelized in their own homes. This will help to reach the children and their parents who may not have time for church.

6. Child evangelism can also be done in the local churches by targeting children who have come together with their parents for Sunday worship and now you can invite more from your area to your Sunday school or week day meetings to learn word of God.

7. You can also start a weekly Good news club in your home for children to learn word of God or by organizing a 5-day club in the neighbourhood during holidays for five days.

8. You can organize weekly open-air meetings for children, you can meet children in same public places where they have gathered and evangelize them.

9. Church leaders can organize a children rally, a week-long camp for the children, fellowships, drama based on Bible lessons and spiritual songs.

10. Another way to carry out child evangelism effectively is to have positive attitude towards child evangelism especially for the church leaders like pastors, Sunday school teachers, elders of the church and all teachers of the word of God. If they love child evangelism, the word of God will reach children and the change will come to the lives of the children and Kajo-Keji will be a transformed community in south Sudan.

11. Church leaders need to identify people who have calling for children and send them for training to become effective in the church because we have given same ways on how to do child evangelism above and there is no way they will become effective without being trained so they need to be trained and know what they are doing.

12. People need to become fulltime workers in children ministry, many people don't see the reason to become fulltime workers due to the challenges faced by child evangelists but we need to trust God. Bishop Anthony Poggo of Kajo-Keji Diocese (at the conference of children workers on 21/July, 2015) encouraged people that God will provide, so the only solution is to work hard and to be prayerful, God who calls us is faithful, and will do it.

You may not feel like working with children as fulltime worker but you can open up your home for children to learn in, you can support the ministry of children through prayers, as what the minister of religious affairs in Kajo-Keji county said at the conference that "the challenge needs prayers for God to bring change".

So we need to pray for the children in Kajo-Keji and the leaders to love children and value them.

- We need to pray for our leaders to value children in their churches and create a good environment for them to hear the word of God and to be disciplined in the word of God.
- We need to pray for children who have been forced in to domestic work and refused to attend to the word of God to be set free and will one day hear the gospel.

- We need to pray for the church leaders to understand that children are sinners and they need to get saved (Romans 3:23). We pray that they will organize workshops, conferences about child evangelism and create friendly visits for Sunday school teachers to share ideas on how to do the work in the ministry and learn from each other so we pray that all these will be done for the sake of children to grow in the knowledge of God and they will one day go to heaven.

CHAPTER 5

Conclusions

5.1 What are the challenges?

From this study, I have seen that many children have been left out in church worship due to the wrong idea that children are too young to understand the word of God. Many church leaders and Sunday school teachers have left teaching children, they are only dealing with the big congregation. Some parents look at children as the source of help which is true but they give them a lot of domestic work without allowing them to attend to the word of God, they are forced into brewing alcohol. This trains children to begin drinking alcohol at early age.

Few people are interested in teaching children but the rest have no idea about it they are not trained. They have no idea of how to do it, no one stands with them for help in materials or learning aids so they end up singing songs. The children go back to their homes where they can't learn any Bible verse and when a friend comes with any bad teaching, they are ready to accept and follow. This makes children to decline in their faith due to shallowness of God's word in their hearts and lack of discipleship.

The war also caused people to stay in camps and when they returned back home, they faced a lot of challenges. Poverty embraced their families in that feeding, school fees and many other necessities became a problem, making parents to leave their homes and children to suffer in the villages with one parent or relatives to struggle with them. Others stay with their parents but are left alone during the day because parents go to look for money creating no time to teach them the word of God. As they look for survival, people with wrong teachings take advantage of this situation.

5.2 Now the question is how do we overcome these challenges?

Church leaders need to cooperate and see that children are reached with the word of God and for this to work, they need to have positive attitude towards child evangelism, this is true for especially the church leaders, parents of the children, Sunday school teachers and any other person who have burden for children. Because children are the future of this county and nation, they are the leaders of tomorrow so we need to bring them up in the fear of God (Deuteronomy 31:12-13). So that this nation will be a God fearing nation. Therefore, they need to be trained in the word of God (Proverb 22:6).

Church leaders need to know the condition of children as sinners and they need Jesus in their lives (Psalm 51:5, Romans 3:23). These verses show that a child is born in sin and if all have sinned, it means children are included as sinners and how will they know that they are sinners who will tell or reach them? Be the one to reach them in your church, area and home, make a change in the life of a child, be a disciple of the whole nation (Mark 16:15).

Let us not only concentrate on adults alone. In reality, when you evangelize a child, it will create a big change in the future because that child will also train others and the change will spread all over Kajo-Keji and South Sudan at large.

From my own experience, I used to visit one of the primary schools in Kajo-Keji County and one of the boys in that school called Saviour came to me and said that he wanted to share the gospel of Christ in his class because most children there are not saved. I told Saviour to go on with the help of the Holy Spirit. After a week, I went to meet the pupils as usual, Saviour was able to bring eight names of children who responded to the gospel and gave their lives to Christ. This gave me hope that what we are doing is not just waist of time, there will be a change in the lives of the children who we reach with the gospel of Christ. If the change is not to day, it will be in the future but Evangelism need to be done to day for future results. Saviour was 13 years old and was able to attend one of the trainings of CEF called Super Seminar to get more skills for reaching more boys and girls for Christ, he can now preach to children in his church, at school and even over the radio. Now by the time he will reach 30 years, how many children will he have reached for Christ? I think many will be reached and that is what we want Kajo-Keji to be in the coming years and the whole nation.

Let us have compassion for the children of Kajo-Keji and the nation of South Sudan and evangelize them. By the grace of God, the change will come.

Let us support those who are working with children and encourage them in our churches to carry on with the task given to them. One of the staffs of Child Evangelism Fellowship in the regional office in Nairobi called Mr. Leonard, encouraged people in the conference held in Kajo-Keji on 22nd/July/2015 that "God has called us to his ministry to be servants, to encourage our fellow workers, our children to resist the devil and as a leader, you need to have a vision. He challenged people that what type of vision do they have? He said a servant of God needs to be courageous and enduring in the ministry of God". So, if you are a pastor or a leader in the church, what is your vision, what do you want to see in the few

years to come? We must evangelize children if we want to create a change in Kajo-Keji County and the nation.

- Let us send Sunday school teachers for training, pray for them and for the children in Kajo-Keji County and the Nation that they will hear the word of God.
- Let us pray for the churches to create good relationship with the children and parents and Sunday school teachers for children to be evangelized.
- We should pray for the ministry of children (Child Evangelism Fellowship) to reach more children in the Nation and to train more workers to join the ministry of children.
- We should pray for stability in South Sudan and for unity. Pray that workshops will be organized for the pastors on the topics of Child Evangelism.
- We should pray that God will speak into people's hearts to respond to Child Evangelism positively.
- We must respond and allow God to use us in his ministry to carry out Child Evangelism in our churches, homes or in the communities.

Remember "the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore to send out workers into his harvest field (Luke 10:2).

APPENDICES

QUESTIONS

1. What is child evangelism?
2. How is child evangelism carried out?
3. Why is child evangelism important?
4. How to do child evangelism?
5. What are the obstacles and the challenges facing child evangelism in Kajo-Keji County?
6. What could be the solutions to the obstacles and the challenges?

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LIST OF THE INTERVIEWEES

1. Namadi Silvia from Wudu, 19th/6/2015.
2. Juan Jane from Gore 19th/6/2015.
3. Kabang Annet from Lire 19th/6/2015.
4. Gune Helen from Kiri 19th/6/2015.
5. Fedelina Dimajo from Limi 5th/7/2015.
6. Aseneta Juru from Limi 5th/7/2015.
7. Poyebe Juan from Limi 5th/7/2015.
8. Silvia Modong from Limi 5th/7/2015.
9. Kelementina Juru from Limi 5th/7/2015.
10. Susan Pita from Limi 5th/7/2015.
11. Sisilia Gire from Limi 5th/7/2015.
12. Betty Juan from Limi 5th/7/2015.
13. Josephine Poni from Limi 5th/7/2015.
14. Rejoice Ide from Limi 5th/7/2015.
15. Josephine Kiden from Limi 5th/7/2015.
16. Esther Meling from Limi 5th/7/2015.

17. Margaret Kiden from Limi 5th/7/2015.
18. Annet Ayite from Limi 5th/7/2015.
19. Mary Guo from Limi 5th/7/2015.
20. Evaline Jokudu from Limi 5th/7/2015.
21. Scovia Yuro from Limi 5th/7/2015.
22. Winnie Poni Pita from Limi 5th/7/2015.
23. Harriet Juan from Limi 5th/7/2015.
24. Jackline Pita from Limi 5th/7/2015.
25. Pastuen Puru from Limi 5th/7/2015.
26. Isaac Lobua Juma from Limi 5th/7/2015.
27. Guo Viola from Limi 5th/7/2015.
28. Jane Juru from Limi 5th/7/2015.
29. Michael Aluma from Limi 5th/7/2015.
30. Rikaju Lokiyo from Limi 5th/7/2015.
31. Wilson Duku from Limi 5th/7/2015.
32. Francis Tongu from Limi 5th/7/2015.

33. Kennedy Eguma from Wudu 21st/7/2015.
34. Pastor Kennedy from Faith School of Mission 21st/7/2015.
35. Manson Moga from Lilye 30th/7/2015.
36. Augustine Jenya Aluwe from Andasire 23rd/7/2015.
37. Annet Kiden from Gungi 26th/7/2015.
38. Pastor Andrew Yunda from Mere 3rd/8/2015.