

SECTION E: MAN'S RESPONSE TO GOD THROUGH FAITH AND LOVE.

13. MAN'S QUEST/SEARCH FOR GOD.

Man's search for God leads him to look wherever he can to gain greater knowledge of reality (God) Therefore, quest for god refers to man's attitude to find the power above him in the process of managing the universe.

By nature, man feels insecure to think that can be independent and this in most cases leaves him with questions unanswered thus making him inquisitive above self.

REASONS WHY PEOPLE SEARCH FOR GOD.

- To gain confidence in their works such as painting, putting up houses, doing exams etc.
- So as to attain blessings so that your wishes come true or you get your wants and needs e.g. many people pray for life, security etc.
- People believe that there is someone greater and more powerful than man; therefore, they are to continue searching for that person.
- They want to know God better and acknowledge him as the sole creator of the world.
- People search for God because of the many problems they face in the world e.g. sickness, poverty.
- Because there are many things which are mysterious which reveal the existence of God e.g. rivers, rocks, big trees, human beings.
- In order to know the origin of man and the world, people search for God
- People search for God in order to praise and thank him for the good things he has done for them, life success in work, wealth, children etc.
- They look for him in order to solve problems they face in life because there is no life safety or security away from God.
- People feel they are inconvenienced by some forces beyond their control effects of the living dead/ancestors, spirits, ghost hence search for God as a solution.
- God has constant love for his people. This is why they continue searching for Him to give them more blessings.
- It is our nature to search for reality since people expect to have originated from somewhere. Thus man's curiosity makes him search for God.
- People search for God in order to achieve their goals e.g. being with well-paying job.
- They also search for God in belief that they will attain eternal life.
- People also search for God to seek for repentance and forgiveness due to the many sins they commit.

WAYS IN WHICH PEOPLE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION EXPRESS THEIR SEARCH FOR GOD.

- Through attending religious activities such as Mass, services.
- Through making pilgrimages to Holy places such as Rome, Namugongo.
- Through reading religious texts such as the Bible and Christian magazines e.g. leadership, the Rock etc.
- Through attaining Sacraments or religious rites such as Eucharist, Baptism, Matrimony, Penance anointing of the sick.

- Through keeping the Sabbath day holy e.g. going to church on Sunday, on Friday
- Through joining religious groups like fellowship, legion of Mary, YCS, Xaverians. Etc.
- Through composing hymns of songs of praise such as Expedito Magembe, Fr. Musaala, Fr. Kabuye, ps Okudi, ps Bugembe
- By taking up religious vocations like being priests, brothers, nuns
- By living according to and observing the Ten Commandments e.g. not worshipping idols and other gods.
- Through giving church tithe i.e. 10% of one's annual income, offertory in church and other church dues.
- Through praying like in the morning, lunch and in the afternoon as well as overnight prayers. For example, every last Saturday of the months Christians go for overnight prayers at Mt. Zion prayer center Bukalango.
- Through fasting during lent. Christians especially Catholics and Anglicans have a special period for fasting in search of God's mercy.
- Through watching religious programs e.g. turning point on WBS, soul touch on UBC, etc.
- Watching Christian movies like the passion of Christ, the exodus and other prophetic movies.
- Celebrating important days or festivals such as martyrs' day on 3rd June, all saints' day on 1st November, all souls' day on 2nd November
- By building churches as worshipping places where people go for prayers e.g. Rubaga Cathedral for the Catholics, Rubaga miracle center built by pastor Kayanja.
- Through reciting the rosary in the month of May and October by the Catholics.
- Using saints as mediators between God and man e.g. Uganda martyrs, st Jude for hopeless cases, st Anthony for lost property, etc.
- Through attending retreats, fellowships, conferences and miracle crusades.
- By starting up Christian radio and TV stations e.g. top TV, Radio Maria, Impact FM
- By joining charitable groups like Caritas Uganda chapter a charity organization in the Catholic church aiming at uplifting of people's standard of living.
- Through pursuing biblical and theological studies in order to renounce traditional cultures and religions.

HOW GOD REVEALS/MANIFESTS HIMSELF TO US TODAY (WHAT SHOWS THAT GOD EXISTS)

- Through dreams and visions which people get and later manifest in life e.g. apostles, Virgin Mary.
- Through miracles where the blind see, lame walk, deaf start hearing.
- Through religious rites and rituals.
- Through the Christian literature, scriptures and verses in the bible.
- Through the church leaders like the pop, priests, cardinals, nuns etc.
- Through answering prayers through the Holy Spirit.
- Through natural calamities like wars, floods, accidents, earthquakes.
- Through wise men/prophets and prophetess.
- Through His creation such as lakes, rivers and mountains.
- Through Christian symbols and objects such as the crucifix, the rosary the cross, and church buildings.

- Through the needy in our communities as Jesus said that whoever helps one of those in need has helped him.

BAPTISM

Baptism is a Christian rite that one goes through to be acknowledged as a Christian and as a child of God

Importance of baptism

- It prepares one for other sacraments like Holy Communion, confirmation, matrimony and penance.
- Baptism helps one to live a better life and become a follower of Christ.
- Man attains a close relationship with God and becomes a child of God, the father.
- A Christian becomes a member of the church and this helps to enlarge the Christian community.
- Through baptism, a Christian changes his/her way of life and becomes a serious servant of God.
- It entitles one to become a missionary of Christ.
- A Christian becomes a peace maker and will work hard to bring peace in the world through forgiveness and reconciliation.
- A Christian is empowered by the Holy Spirit and is able to do the good works of charity to other members of society e.g. helping the sick.
- After baptism, a Christian can train to become a teacher of the good news or priest of Christ.
- It is a symbol of Christian commitment to serve God and our fellowmen.
- The sacrament gives a Christian authority to fight the devil and its works and gives one victory over sin.
- A Christian is given a new name for identification and it gives him power to become a child of God in God's kingdom.
- Baptism helps Christians to be forgiven of their sin and reconcile man with his God.
- Baptism is a sign of accepting death and resurrection through Jesus Christ.

IMPORTANCE OF HOLY COMMUNION TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

- Holy Communion prepares Christians for their resurrection at the end of the world.
- Holy Communion promotes fellowship and unity among Christians of the same Church.
- Holy Communion helps Christians to remember and celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Holy Communion reminds Christians of the last supper Jesus had with his disciples.
- Through celebrating the Eucharist Christians fulfill the command Jesus left with them that is "do this in memory of me"
- Holy Communion enables Christians to repent their sins in preparation of celebrating the body and blood of Jesus.
- Holy Communion gives Christians new life and strength required to fight the evil one.
- Through partaking the Holy Communion Christians are assured of eternal life.
- Holy Communion reminds Christians of God's love for them by giving in His only son for their salvation.
- It prepares Christians for the heavenly banquet on which all Christians will be invited.

- Holy Communion strengthens Christians to endure persecution and accept martyrdom for the sake of the gospel.
- Holy Communion prepares Christians for the second coming of Jesus Christ.

PROBLEMS CHRISTIANS FACE WHEN TRYING TO KEEP FAITH IN GOD

- Isolation from peers due to religious differences.
- Lack of time for prayers due to tight schedule of work.
- Criticism from non-Christians and others who end up discouraging the loyal Christians.
- Bad examples from church leaders e.g. some rape their followers.
- Man's sinful nature which leads people to steal, rape and defile others.
- Influence of cults which carry out funny rituals and end up killing people like restoration of the 10 commandments by Kibwetere.
- Influence of science and technology where some think they are independent of God.
- Lust for wealth causes people to divert from God.
- Permissiveness in society where people do what they and end up signing against God.
- Christian doctrines and dialogues which are hard to understand like "eat my body and drink my blood"
- Discrimination according to sex, beauty, tribe, status, leading to nepotism, tribalism and sectarianism.
- Language barrier where due to mixture of cultures some people fail to get the word of God preached.
- Backsliding of converts. This is due to confusion brought about by different preachers as well as the social-economic problems in the modern world
- Disunity that is to say existence of many denominations which sometimes preach against each other making Christians develop hatred for one another.
- Opposition and persecution from governments and non-Christians. Sometimes the government makes policies that limit people's search for God such as restrictions put on time for prayer, laws on noise pollution especially in cities and all that affect the would be seekers of God.
- Poverty: where by most of the people lack Bibles and other materials necessary to help them seek for the truth.
- Poor transport and communication as well as remoteness of some areas makes it difficult for the preachers to access different regions for evangelical purposes.
- Diseases for example malaria and other contagious diseases such as Ebola limit Christian activities that aim at searching for God.
- Political instabilities and insecurity caused by wars and rebel activities limit people's ability and time to pray, preach help the needy and worshipping God.
- Conservatism in the church for example neglect of women, youth in church leadership which limits Christians chances of exercising their gifts for proper searching for god.
- Traditional or cultural beliefs tend to be hostile to Christian faith for example; polygamy, witch craft and so many others.
- Negative foreign influence for example; homosexuality, lesbianism and so many others.

WAYS IN WHICH TRADITIONAL AFRICANS SEARCHED FOR GOD

- Through serving as witch doctors, medicine men etc.

- Through offering sacrifices like goats, cows, etc.
- Through participating in religious virtues e.g. circumcision
- They built shrines as worshipping places. For example, among the Baganda of central Uganda shrines were built for each god as a way of respecting them.
- They gave honour and respect to places they considered holy or sacred e.g. rocks, trees, mountains
- They named their children after the gods e.g. Byakatonda and Byamukama.
- They consulted mediators during times of crisis e.g. drought, famine, war
- They prayed to God and there was no special place or time for prayers because they believed that God lives everywhere.
- Songs and dances were performed in a religious context. They named and had traditional names for God e.g. Ruhanga, Mukama, Mugabe, Dunda Namugereka, katonda and Liso Dene.
- They believed in mediators through which they would consult God e.g. diviners like Nagadya, Musoke, spirits and ancestors.
- By wearing fetishes on arms, waists which were made of beads, sticks, strings for protection from evil spirits and give luck to the user. Africans believed that God was involved in all relationships and this is why they gave hospitality to strangers as it was similar to a sacrifice.
- By accepting to work as diviners, medicine men, traditional healers and rain makers.

WAYS IN WHICH GOD REVEALED HIMSELF TO PEOPLE IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

- Through providing solution to their calamities e.g. famine and war.
- Through blessing them; God revealed Himself through blessing them, through rain, good harvest, child birth.
- God appeared to them through people with supernatural powers e.g. diviners, traditional healers and do the impossible.
- Through granting them victory during time of war.
- Through the natural phenomenon of creation like animals e.g. preying mantis among the San and khoikhoi, lady bird, rocks, sun, moon, stars, trees and rivers.
- Through dreams where people dreamt correct things.
- Through visions like a vision of fire, human beings, birds and animals.
- Through religious virtues like circumcision, initiation of people into the clan.
- Through having good leaders who possessed both religious and diviners' authorities.
- Through natural calamities e.g. locusts, drought, earthquakes.
- Through ancestors, spirits and diviners who acted as mediators between God and men.
- Through fortune tellers e.g. those who read finger marks.
- Through friends, relatives, parents who tried to guide the society.
- Through their traditional worship where people get possessed and passed information to others.

ATTRIBUTES/QUALITIES OF GOD

- Africans described God as a creator and this is why He was given names e.g. Katonda-Baganda, Ruhanga-Ankole and Kibumba-Basoga meaning potter or moulder. He is also

referred to as Lokasuban meaning maker in Itesots, Dunda (shepherd), Ruhanga (giver). The sun and giver of life.

- To Africans, God is real and existing. This is why they applied to Him using words like the sky, sun, shining one, rain.
- God is Supreme Being maker of heaven and earth, sun and man.
- God is unique and incomparable. His uniqueness is one reason why they are no images of God in Africa.
- God is one and same for the whole universe and every corner of the earth.
- God is described as the one who feels rivers and bearer burdens.
- God is the controller of the world and the master of everything in the world.
- God is transcendent and beyond human understanding.
- He is far yet near but no man can reach Him.
- To Africans, God has no beginning or end; therefore, He is the alpha and omega.
- God is regarded as spirit and some tribes like Langi, think He is as wind or air.
- To Africans, God is Omni-present. This is why they had no special place or time of prayer because they believed He was everywhere.
- God is Omni-science to Africans. God is all knowing and knew everybody even before they were born.
- God is Omni-potent having great power without limit and is greater than all great kings in the world.

BELIEF IN DIVINITIES

- Divinity is a quality of God/goddess but have no absolute existence of their own.
- Divinities are regarded as intermedia's between God and man. Each divinity is responsible for a certain duty and have departments they are responsible for.
- Africans show their belief in divinities by address and offering them thanks giving prayers.
- They are consulted and offered sacrifices in case of crisis.
- They also express their belief by naming children after certain divinities e.g. Musoke, Nagadya, Musisi.
- They also put up worship places/shrines where they had offer prayers.
- Africans respected divinities and gave them libation and food offerings.
- Divinities have department e.g. in Buganda, there is Mukasa-water and fertility, Kibuukawar, Kiwanuka-thunder and fertility, Kawumpuli-plague, Nagadya-fertility, Dungu-hunters, etc.
- Divinities are respected as beings who can bless and punish the living. This is why people struggle maintain good relationship with them.

PRAYER

- It is a communication of a religious person to God and it can be personal or communal prayer.
- Payer can be expressed in words spoken and sang, dancing with symbolic in actions and silence.
- Prayer expresses the faith of work and ruling motive of the religious believer.
- A person who prays believes that God is listening to him encouraging him to encourage him to understand his own experience in life.

- Man praises God's power manifested in creation and in the providential care of the world.
- Man is grateful to God for the blessing given to him and begs for forgiveness of sin.

ROLE OF PRAYER

- It helps people to reconcile back to their father. He acts as guidance in daily life and through prayer one seeks protection.
- God becomes aware of people's needs, both material and many things He has done for them.
- Prayer comforts man amidst the many problems of the world like sickness, poverty.
- He pacifies God incase man has annoyed Him.
- Prayer makes man realize his dependence on God.
- It helps man express his commitment to God and it brings him closer to God.
- Prayer expresses faith, love and motives of the believer to God
- In search of the real meaning of life, the worshiper surrenders and opens oneself to a supernatural being called God.
- It introduces the one who prays into a new understanding of God
- It helps one to grow in the understanding and awareness of God and what he asks of us in life.
- It facilitates dialogue with God who listens to one's prayer
- Helps man to come closer to God and understand his own experience and God's presence in his life.
- It is a dimension of life which helps man to re-interpret his relationship with God.
- One can ask for forgiveness of sins through prayer and repentance
- We pray for others in sickness, when they have lost their dear ones etc

WAYS IN WHICH TRADITIONAL AFRICANS OFFERED THEIR PRAYERS

- Through expression of faith life, work and motive of a believer
- Through offering sacrifices which constitute the commonest way of communication with God.
- Through religious rituals which included symbolic actions gestures as well as words spoken and sung.
- Through acts of worship like singing, dancing and praising the marvels of the world.
- They prayed through intermediaries like diviners, foreseeers, rituals elders, medicine men.
- Through naming children symbolizing His power and glory.
- Through veneration or respecting scary places where spirits and ancestors are believed to live such as rocks.
- Through moral living where a person was able to observe the traditional values and norms of society.
- They also prayed through mediators like ancestors or the living dead spirits and divines who lived in the spirit world.
- Through naming of children symbolizing power and glory.
- Through acts of hospitality, kindness and generosity to the disadvantaged such as orphans, widows, needy.
- They composed poems, proverbs, riddles all praising God's creation.

SACRIFICES

Sacrifices constitute the commonest way of communicating to God. It can be a spiritual or physical offer to God. Physical offers can be animals like cattle, goats, sheep and food stuffs like simsim, beans and groundnuts.

ROLE OF SACRIFICES AMONG THE AFRICANS

- Sacrifices were offered for purification services. People who were ritually unclean/ had committed some crimes had to give in some animals as sacrifices in order to attain purity.
- Sacrifices were offered to give thanks to gods. In particular, the people had to give thanks to gods for the life and the property gods had given them.
- Sacrifices were offered to seek forgiveness from gods in case Africans offended them. This was done in an effort to reconcile with their gods.
- The Africans sacrifices showed respect to gods. The Africans believed that gods were above them and therefore deserved respect because of this they had to burn incense for gods.
- Among the Africans, sacrifices were avenues of seeking God's blessing especially in their gardens and in wars. In this case, the Africans had to offer sacrifices before going to war in order to evoke victory.
- Sacrifices among the Africans were used to mark important historical events in their lives such as birth of Children, naming of children, marriage and harvest celebration.
- The Africans offered sacrifices to give back gods part of what the gods had given them. They regarded gods to be the giver of everything and the owner of all the worldly things.
- The Africans offered sacrifices to ward off calamities or dangers. If the community felt guilty for any given reason, the people had to offer sacrifices in order to appease gods, aimed at averting the calamities that could have befallen the community.
- The sacrifices helped to unite the Africans as they shared the sacrificial meal, they came to live together as one and realize the importance of each other.
- Through sacrifices, the Africans dedicated their lives, lives of their animals and crops to God.
- The Israelites offered sacrifices to cleanse their places of worship such as the alters and shrines among others which had to be kept pure at all times.
- Sacrifices were important procedures in the crowning of a new kings. Sacrifices gave such people legal authority to begin performing their duties.
- Sacrifices formed the basis of worshiping among the Africans. In other words, sacrifices became avenues of people expressing their inner commitment to gods and ancestors.
- The Africans offered sacrifices to promote peaceful living in their community. This was especially after sensing danger.

ROLE OF RITUALS IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

- They expressed religious values and beliefs of Africans to the members and gods.
- It was a way of appealing to God to influence events in an African life
- They showed dependence and trust of man on God e.g. feast/celebrations
- It was a way to express harmony and peace with fellow man e.g. blood pact among Baganda
- They expressed good relations with the spirit world e.g. libation
- They were used as a method to seek for blessing from God e.g. through prayers.

- They acted to strengthen societal relationships e.g. celebrations such as puberty rituals, funeral rites etc
- Rituals led to the observation of morality in society and kept the cultural candle burning
- Rituals like songs, dances, sacrifices etc were sometimes an appeal against trouble to the spiritual world.
- Rituals led to maintenance of cultural values among Africans
- They were for thanksgiving after God's blessings
- They were for cleansing the society after a misfortune
- They were for seeking God and ancestor blessing

QUEST FOR GOD IN CHURCH HISTORY

HOW THE EARLY CHRISTIANS SEARCHED FOR GOD?

- Praying was one of the major ways of searching for God by Christians in the apostolic Church. They engaged in both community and individual prayers.
- They celebrated the Lord's supper or Fellowship meals: Christians organized fellowship meals in which they shared the Lord's Supper (Eucharist).
- Alms giving for helping the needy: Many Christians got involved in helping those in need through charity work and giving of alms.
- Missionary journeys: Early Christians moved from their homeland to other regions for the purpose of spreading the good news.
- Baptism: Church leaders would baptize the converted people as a mark of entering the Christian church.
- Ethical teaching: Early Christians lived by giving moral instructions to the members e.g. St. Paul taught about bad sexual practices.
- Repenting was another important way of seeking God in Apostolic church. They believed that they were sinners who needed God's mercy so they repented sins as individual and as a community.
- Sharing material property: Early Christians brought what they had together and shared with the entire community of the faithful. This was in form of money and material things. Acts:2;45.
- Catechism: Preachers and church elders also gave oral Christian moral instructions to converts and infant churches.
- Organizing meetings: The church held constant meetings to have clear discussions on how to handle difficult issues like circumcision of gentile Christians.
- They also appointed elders and Bishops of the church for example; the seven deacons appointed to help in the distribution of alms.
- Visiting and anointing the sick: Christians in the early church would constantly visit their sick brothers and sisters to bring back hope and would call on their leaders to anoint them.

- Miracles were also performed by the Church leaders in the apostolic Church. For example, Peter and John healed a crippled at the gates of the temple at Jerusalem. Acts:3;1-9.
- They also successfully engaged in debates on theological issues with those who were opposing Christianity especially the Pharisees and the scribes.
- They also exercised the Holy Spirit gifts like, speaking in tongues, interpreting the tongues prophesy etc.
- Fasting: This was a sign of self-discipline and repentance, the early Christians fasted as a community and on individual basis.
- Encouraging the persecuted: This was part of the Christians responsibility especially their leaders to comfort and encourage the persecuted so as to remain firm on the truth.
- Testimonies were given: The early Christians led by the eye witnesses gave testimonies over Jesus' miraculous power and his entire ministry.
- Evangelizing: Apostles and Christians preached the gospel i.e. the good news about Jesus Christ to those who were still in darkness. This led to establishment of churches in such regions.
- Gospel and letter writing: Members in the early church committed the oral gospel into writing. They also wrote letters to address spiritual issues in infant churches.
- Settling disputes: Christian leaders were involved in solving conflicts and quarrels among Christians in the church.

EXAMPLES OF TRUE SEEKERS OF GOD IN CHURCH HISTORY

1. Clement of Alexandria

- Originally came from Sicily islands in Mediterranean.
- He was born 1500AD in Athens (Greece)
- He traveled widely in Greek speaking areas empire
- His travels included quest for the best Christian teacher.
- He traveled to southern Italy, Syria and finally Egypt.
- In each of these places, he found instructors who he described blessed and truly remarkable men.
- He felt that he was privileged to have studied under their care.
- He moved to Alexandria where he met a man called Pantaenus whose teaching impressed him most.
- Clement eventually succeeded his teacher Pantaenus as a chief Christian teacher in Alexandria
- His writing show that even when he rested from his travels, he always remained a seeker after the knowledge of God.

2. St. Francis of Assis

- He was born in 1182AD
- He was at first a light-hearted youth but he changed gave up his inheritance and bound himself to God. He embraced poverty and lived a life of the gospel.
- He preached the love of God to everybody.
- He founded an order of Monks and Nuns called the Friar and gave wise rules to his followers.

- He encouraged his group to preach to non-believers and to the unfortunate in society.
- He worked among the lepers and was oppressed to violence
- He loved nature and everything created by God. He would communicate well with nature.
- He composed songs, poems and prayers praising God. E.g. ‘Make me an instrument of peace’
- He helped the poor and lived a simple life like them.

3. St. Augustine of Hippo Regus

- He lived from 354-430AD
- He was born of a Christian mother.
- He turned to scriptures as they were better off than the pagan literature they had studied.
- He wrote his auto biography (confessions)
- His search for God led him to travel to Milan Italy in order to serve God better. He became Christian when he was baptized
- He traveled from Africa to Europe where he came to understand the meaning of Christianity.
- He composed many hymns and prayers e.g. “you made us yourself and our hearts are restless until they rest in you”
- He continued a lifelong process of studies and teaching Christianity.

4. Robert de Nobili

- He was an Italian
- He was son of Italian metropolitan city
- He lived in the 16th and 17th centuries
- He became catholic priest in 1579
- He was a missionary of the Jesuit Order
- He made missionary journey to India and worked among the Indians
- He approached the people of India in an understanding and respectful way
- He saw that Indians were serious seekers after God
- He was humble enough to learn the Indian language, religion and customs
- Instead of asking them to give up their culture to become Christians, he tried to see how Christianity could be made at home in the Indian culture.

5. Mathew Ricci

- He was a catholic priest in 1577 AD
- He was an Italian
- He lived in the 16th and 17th centuries
- He made the missionary journey to China and worked among the Chinese people
- He was a missionary of the 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 saw that the Chinese were serious seekers after God and was humble to learn from them.
- He studied the Chinese language, religion and custom

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

WAYS IN WHICH CHRISTIANS IN THE MIDDLE AND MISSIONARY CHURCH SEARCHED FOR GOD

- They endeavored to take long journeys to seek for information from scholars and religious leaders e.g. Clement of Alexandria
- Many read Christian books and scriptures to understand the true meaning of Christianity.
- Some offered to live selfless lives in order to seek and serve.
- God better e.g. St. Francis of Assisi who took up the vow of poverty when he sold all the property he had inherited and gave the money to the poor.
- They offered to die for faith and accepted martyrdom e.g. Uganda martyrs disobeyed the earthly king and accepted to die for Christ.
- They built churches e.g. Apollo Kivebulaya encouraged the growing of trees to build churches in Congo among the pilgrimages and Toro.
- He carried out works of charity like the monks and nuns cared for people with deadly diseases like leprosy.
- They lived prayerful lives and wrote religious books
- They prayed and composed prayers like St Augustine composed “our hearts are restless until they rest in you” and St Francis composed “make me an instrument of peace”
- They composed church hymns like St Augustine, St Ambrose and St Francis composed inspirational songs.
- They took up sacraments such as Eucharist, matrimony, but some kept chastity and took up holy orders.
- They translated the gospel in to local languages like Apollo Kivebulaya translated the gospel of St. Mark to pigmy.
- They opted for celibacy and took up the vow for chastity and celibacy such as the monks and nuns.
- They wrote letters of encouragement to young churches
- Went to the desert places to teach Christianity.

HOW UGANDA MARTYRS SEARCHED FOR GOD

- They searched for God by accepting torture and persecution e.g. St. Balikudembe accepted his limbs to be cut off at Nakivubo for the sake of Christianity.
- They searched for God by preaching the gospel to other people e.g. St. Charles Lwanga preached, converted and baptized Kizito Omuto.
- By abandoning their traditional/cultural practices e.g. St. Mulumba sent away two of his wives and remained with one to practice monogamy.
- Some of them denounced appeals from their relatives to abandon their Christian faith e.g. St. Kizito turned away the offer of his Uncle Mukajanga who was the Chief executioner.
- They rejected political favours of their society e.g. they resigned from their positions in Kabaka’s palace for the sake of Christianity.
- They accepted to be converted and baptized the Kizito Omuto accepted to be baptized by St. Charles Lwanga.

- They accepted to die for the sake of Christianity e.g. all of them about 22 accepted to be killed at Namugongo by burning them.
- They travelled long distances and went for Christian instruction. For example, they would walk from Mengo to Munyonyo.
- They would get time and meet for prayers as a community of believers.
- They forgave their enemies especially those who persecuted them to the point of death.

QUEST FOR GOD IN THE BIBLE O.T

WAYS IN WHICH ISRAELITES SEARCHED FOR GOD.

- They offered sacrifices of animals, plants etc. e.g. Abel offered the best of his animals that is the best young lamb.]
- They made pilgrimages to places like Jerusalem where they had built the temple of God.
- They carried out religious and cultural practices like the circumcision of all males on the 8th day which was a covenant made by Abraham.
- They honoured and observed important holy feast days like the Day of Atonement and the Passover feast when God spared their lives and killed all the 1st born of Egyptians.
- They fasted in the right way by smearing ash and putting on holy sacks to show their repentance to God.
- They went to temples, synagogues and read the Holy Scriptures and prayed.
- They observed the Decalogue commandments and other covenants laws in order to keep their relationship with God.
- They dedicated their first born to God as a thanksgiving to God for the gift of life and children e.g. Hannah dedicated Samuel to God because she had been a barren woman.
- They prayed, composed songs, proverbs and psalms of all promised God the creator e.g. David and Solomon wrote Palms, proverbs thanking God for his creative activity.
- They observed covenant demands such as showing, and comfort to the needy by offering them material and spiritual needs.
- They had a positive response to God's call e.g. Abraham left his native land of Haran and went to a promised land of Canaan. Moses left his work of being a shepherd and took up a role of liberating Israelites from slavery.
- They listened to messages from prophets e.g. King David listened to Nathan when he was corrected about his adultery act of killing Uriah to take over Bathsheba his wife.
- They paid tithe and arms and the tithe was 10% of one's income.
- They showed hostility to non-Jews by refusing to marry Gentiles girls as to avoid mixed marriages.

HOW GOD HELPED THE ISRAELITES TO STAY FAITHFUL TO HIM

- He provided them with Manna and water
- He gave them the Ten Commandments through Moses on Mt. Sinai
- He sent them calamities when they disobeyed Him such as the snakes in the desert and those who looked at the bronze snake of the cross would be healed.
- Gave them able leaders who helped them in keeping peace and settling disputes e.g. Solomon
- Provided them with protection from their enemies e.g. the Amalekites.

- Guided them with the pillar of fire during the night and the cloud during the day
- God appeared to them in His power and glory such as the thunder from Mt. Sinai
- He saved them from their enemies such as the incident at the Red Sea
- He gave them the ark of the Tabernacle which was always in front of them during trek to symbolize His presence.
- He appeared to them in different ways such as His appearance to Moses in a burning bush.
- He appointed for their leaders such as King Saul.

WAYS IN WHICH GOD REVEALED /MANIFESTED HIMSELF IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- Through sending Moses to save them from slavery in Egypt showed that God existed.
- Through punishing them when they did wrong e.g. he let David's child go adultery with Uriah's wife Bathsheba.
- Through the wonders of creation or world phenomenon such as sun, moon, lakes and rivers.
- Through sending them prophets to lead them to worship of Yahweh e.g. Jonah was sent to the people of Nineveh, Amos talked about social injustices.
- Through dreams e.g. Joseph dreamt about the sun, moon and 11 stars bowing down to him meaning that his parents and brother would one time respect him a lot.
- Through natural calamities such as 10 plagues e.g. plague in Egypt pressing for Israelites freedom.
- Through vision like when Moses got a vision of burning bush that he got a message to go and liberate Israelites from Egypt.
- He sent them food from heaven and water from the rock.
- Through miracles that were performed by the prophets. Moses separated the red sea with a stick.
- He gave victory to the Israelites over paginations like philistine; David was able to kill Goliath using a stone and a sling.
- Through saving people from dangerous and critical situations e.g. God saved Daniel from being eaten by a den of lions in which had been thrown. He also spared David's friends from burning furnace in which they had been thrown after refusing to worship the golden statue.
- By giving them men and leaders e.g. David and Solomon who were great leaders of Israel.
- By giving them the 10 commandments. On mountain Sinai God gave the Israelites the commandments to guide them in their lives and if they obeyed them they would be blessed while breaking them would lead to curses.
- By protecting them and providing a pillar of cloud during the day to guide them cling to the pillar of fire during the night to give them so that they can travel day and night.
- Through punishments like floods during the time of Noah and Burning Sulphur during the time of Sodom and Gomorra.
- Through creation of the universe and Adam and Eve from the soil.
- Through the Sinai covenant made with Israel as a chosen nation of God.
- Through their ancestors or patriarchs, e.g. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

NATURE OF GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- God is a creator. He created the universe and all things that are in it like human beings, stones, grass, and animals.
- God is omnipotent, almighty and powerful. God created all people plus all the powerful kings and showed his almighty power when he released the Israelites from Egypt, destroyed nations that hated Israelites and raised Israelites to glory.
- God is omniscience. He is all knowing and aware of everything e.g. He was aware of the mighty power he released the Israelites from Egypt destroyed nations that hated Israelites and raised Israelites to glory. This is why He sent Moses as a liberator
- God is Omni present. Was there at the beginning of creation. He appeared to Abraham in Haran and Canaan. He was also present at Sinai when he gave the commandments to Moses.
- God is eternal. He is the beginning and the end, alpha and omega. He was present at the beginning of creation and continued to appear to the Israelites throughout their history.
- God is a spirit at the beginning of creation. The spirit moved water and created way for the Israelites. Prophet Ezekiel was also lifted by the spirit of God and taken to another land. The spirit of God left king Saul and an evil spirit entered him.
- God is a God of history. When he called Moses, God told him that He was the God of his forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- God is eminent. He is always near man that is why was ever near Adam in the garden of Eden.
- He is a punishing God. When Adam and Eve sinned against God, He passed Judgement over them.
- God is loving and merciful. Due to His love, God clothed man after sin. His mercy is shown in the act of liberating the Israelites from Egypt.
- God is pre- existent He was there before the creation of the universe meaning that He is the beginning and the end.
- God is the source or the giver of life in both the creation stories. God created everything in their different forms and totality and gave them life.
- God delegates works. In Genesis 1:28 God gave man the authority to multiply and subdue the earth in Genesis 12:19 God created all animals and birds and brought to man and named them.
- God is spiritual. In Genesis 1 God used words to create the universe without being seen physically.
- God's the source of happiness to mankind. In Genesis 1:29 God provided man with all kinds of grains and fruits to use for their happiness and in Genesis 2:8-21 God provided Adam with a partner after realizing that he was lonely and therefore unhappy.
- God is the source of goodness and perfection. Whatever God created was perfectly good and gave him pleasure and admiration (Genesis 1)
- God gets angry; When Moses was giving excuses to so as to dodge going back to Egypt God became angry with him.
- God is forgiving; He forgave King David who had committed adultery with Bathsheba when David realized his mistake and repented.

NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ABOUT SEARCH FOR GOD

WAYS THROUGH WHICH GOD REVEALED HIM SELF TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

- **Through spiritual gifts;** On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came up on the apostles in form of tongues of fire and they spoke in different languages.
- **Through Jesus Christ His son;** Jesus is a perfect revelation of God in the New Testament. Jesus told his disciples that when they see him they have already seen the Father because he is in the Father and the Father is in him
- **Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ;** Though Jesus died and was buried, the power of God could not leave him to rot. On the third day he was risen from the dead.
- **God also used creatures to reveal His existence in the New Testament;** During the Baptism of Jesus, a dove descended on top of Jesus as a sign of receiving the Holy Spirit
- **Through extending his mercy to the people;** This is seen in the act of forgiving sinners and rescuing those in danger. For instance, Jesus saved the adulterous woman from being killed.
- **Through the word;** Jesus revealed the existence of God's kingdom to people through parables for instance, the parable of the sower, mustard seed and that of the vineyard.
- **Through weather changes and disasters;** At the time of Jesus' death on the cross, darkness covered the whole earth and there was a strong earthquake which opened even the graves of the dead.
- **Through Visions;** St. Paul received a vision of Jesus Christ when he was going to persecute Christians at Damascus, Peter received a vision about foods to be eaten which included even pork.
- **Through angels;** The angels of God appeared to different people in the New Testament. For instance, Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced her conception and another Angel led Peter out of the prison.
- **Through Jesus' ascension;** After Jesus' resurrection, he broke the law of gravity and he was taken to heaven in the presence of his disciples.
- **Through miracles performed by Jesus Christ and later his disciples.** For example, walking on water, feeding of the five thousand changing water into wine and when Peter and John healed a crippled man at the gates of Jerusalem.
- **Through the transfiguration of Jesus;** This was when Jesus was on the mountain and his appearance changed to dazzling white then Moses and Elijah talked to him.

WAYS IN WHICH PEOPLE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT SEARCHED FOR GOD.

In the New Testament people searched for God by doing the following;

- Through fasting, During Jesus' time the Pharisees and their disciples as well as those of John the Baptist were fasting as a way of searching for God.
- Through listening to Jesus' teachings especially the parables he taught to them.
- Through going to the Temple and synagogues to pray to God. This was common on the Sabbath.
- They also searched for God by celebrating religious festivals such as the Passover which was celebrated to remember their ancestors' departure from Egypt.
- They observed the Decalogue commandments and other covenant laws in order to keep their relationship with God.

- They celebrated the Lord's supper or Fellowship meals: Christians organized fellowship meals in which they shared the Lord's Supper (Eucharist).
- Alms giving for helping the needy: Many Christians got involved in helping those in need through charity work and giving of alms.
- Missionary journeys: Early Christians moved from their homeland to other regions for the purpose of spreading the good news.
- Baptism: Church leaders would baptize the converted people as a mark of entering the Christian church.
- Ethical teaching: Early Christians lived by giving moral instructions to the members e.g. St. Paul taught about bad sexual practices.
- Repenting was another important way of seeking God in the New Testament. They believed that they were sinners who needed God's mercy so they repented sins as individual and as a community.
- Sharing material property: Early Christians brought what they had together and shared with the entire community of the faithful. This was in form of money and material things. Acts:2;45.
- Visiting and anointing the sick: Christians in the early church would constantly visit their sick brothers and sisters to bring back hope and would call on their leaders to anoint them.
- Miracles were also performed by the Church leaders in the apostolic Church. For example, Peter and John healed a crippled man at the gates of the temple at Jerusalem. Acts:3;1-9.
- They also successfully engaged in debates on theological issues with those who were opposing Christianity especially the Pharisees and the scribes.
- They also exercised the Holy Spirit gifts like, speaking in tongues, interpreting the tongues prophesy etc.
- Encouraging the persecuted: This was part of the Christians responsibility especially their leaders to comfort and encourage the persecuted so as to remain firm on the truth.
- Testimonies were given: The early Christians led by the eye witnesses gave testimonies over Jesus' miraculous power and his entire ministry.
- Evangelizing: Apostles and Christians preached the gospel i.e. the good news about Jesus Christ to those who were still in darkness. This led to establishment of churches in such regions.
- Gospel and letter writing: Members in the early church committed the oral gospel into writing. They also wrote letters to address spiritual issues in infant churches.
- Settling disputes: Christian leaders were involved in solving conflicts and quarrels among Christians in the church.
- They also responded positively to God's call. For instance, the fisher men who were called by Jesus.

REASONS WHY JESUS CHRIST OPPOSED SOME OF THE WAYS THROUGH WHICH THE PEOPLE SEARCHED FOR GOD

- Some practices made them self-centered and they forgot other people's needs. For example, of strict observance of the Sabbath they ignored to help those who were suffering.
- In searching for God some of them became money minded and were interested in keeping great wealth. For example, the rich young man refused to follow Jesus because of wealth.

- Some of the ways made them very proud and were acts of showing off. For example, the Pharisees would pray from streets and other public places so as to show off.
- Some of the ways had made them keep man made laws at the expense of God's law. For example, they wanted to stone to death the woman caught in adultery yet it was against the 5th commandment.
- When searching for God some people became discriminative and isolated the out casts. They discriminated the lepers, and the women yet Jesus encouraged equal treatment of all.
- Their religion was more on ritual practices than spiritual development and that is why Jesus opposed their ways of searching for God.
- Judaism also encouraged hypocrisy and people found it hard to change their hearts in line with Jesus' teaching.
- Their religious practices were much honoured than God himself.
- In their religious practices they cheated people by over charging them during the paying of temple tax and buying animals for sacrifices.
- Some of religious practices were a way of cheating and undermining God. For instance, during offertory they offered little than what was expected of them that is why Jesus attacked them.
- The Jews misused the Temple, a dwelling place for God by selling property during worship and making noise.
- While searching for God the Jews had hatred for one another especially those they took to be their enemies thus ignored the golden law of love.

New Testament teaching that can help a young person to remain faithful

- Teaches one to respect parents
- Lived a humbled life
- Teaches one to live a prayerful life
- Helped those in need
- Should reconcile with others to live in harmony
- Need to help others, young people
- Listen to elder's advice
- Respect of those in authority
- Worship of God the almighty, young people should worship God to remain faithful
- Love for enemies
- Forgiveness
- Should preserve
- They should have hope

EVASION OF GOD

Evasion means turning away or escaping from God and against His will.

EVASION OF GOD IN THE PRESENT SITUATION

REASONS WHY PEOPLE EVADE GOD TODAY

- God takes long to answer people's prayers hence they try other means through witch craft.

- Improved technology and science which misleads people to think that God isn't there and they believe in their own knowledge and powers to solve problems e.g. infertility.
- Modern leisure activities have dominated people's minds and they find that they do not have time for God e.g. music, movies, etc.
- Frustrations and disappointments that come in life lead to failures which make one try other fields like witch doctors.
- Bad examples from church leaders who are hypocrites and untrustworthy e.g. Kibwetere who killed almost all people in his culture.
- Influence of friends where one invades God so as to please or feel in place with his friends.
- Living in an impure life, sinful and poor background where people don't emphasize religion.
- God punishes or causes suffering to innocent people e.g. earthquake, accidents.
- Persecution of believers causes people to evade God by doubting His existence in life.
- God is invisible causing doubt in His presence.
- Hard economic conditions/poverty, cause people to try other gods who can be able to solve their problems.
- To Africans God and His angels are white while the devil and his angels are black, so people evade god in this belief.
- Influence of the modern education which has helped people to solve their problems without referring to God and many educated think that God is for the uneducated.
- Church practices like monogamy force people to run away as many want polygamy (the rigid religious laws).
- Conflicts in the church where believers end up evading God e.g. the conflict between pastors like pastor Kayanja and Male.
- Lack of benefit from religion.
- People have lust for power and they are always worried about their positions and leaving less time for God.

THE EVIDENCE/WAYS/HOW PEOPLE EVADE GOD IN THE PRESENT SITUATION

- By breaking His commandments coveting people's property and murder.
- By trying to use intermediaries like communicating to God through the dead.
- Most people are prayer less by working on Sundays which shows that they are more concerned with wealth than God.
- People commit suicide, poison themselves because of frustrations, disappointments and lust for power.
- Discrimination in church where they favour the rich who seat in front and the poor are told to sit outside.
- Misuse of church funds through embezzling them for their own businesses.
- Visiting and use of witch doctors to consult them or the dead.
- Suppression and oppression of people like the women and children, the sick, the needy where women are beaten and denied some meals which causes them result to witchcraft hence evading God.
- There is struggle for power which has led to death and suffering of innocent people.
- Failure to pay church dues or tithe/offertory which shows that people care less about God.
- Child abuse i.e. burning them, sacrificing them, raping them, which are done to get wealth.

- People are participating in polygamy, adultery, fornication, prostitution, lesbianism, homosexuality and bestiality which evades God.
- People have too much love for sex leading to rape, defilement.
- Watching pornographic films which show that people against God's laws.
- Cheating in examination as well as overcharging customers and selling expired goods.
- There are many marriages break ups because of violence, drunkardness and poverty.
- Formation of cults/religious sex and dominations like restoration of the 10 commandments by Kibwetere, OWobushobozi and Bishaka.
- Correcting from one church to another especially when is looking for riches and miracles.
- Exploitation of workers where employers over work the employees and pay them less money or nothing.
- Participating in worldly pleasures like over drinking, drugs, sexual immorality and nude dancing.
- Carrying out inhuman practices like human sacrifices and murder.

FALSE GODS IN TODAY'S SOCIETY

- These are people's equivalent to God and there are many items or things people worship, respect and honour as gods.
- These items are games like football as people kill each other miss meals and mass for games e.g. when they beat Arsenal, some people can cry.
- Women and men call on, people are ready to pour acid and visit witch doctors.
- Power/politics i.e. many people love politics and can spend most of their time in politics rather than God.
- Modern education i.e. people today worship education, some have reached the extent of giving up God due to education.
- Money i.e. people are ready to go underwater, marry sugar mummies/daddies for money.
- Discos/music where people dodge Godly activities.
- Alcohol and drugs where people can even spend their last earning on alcohol so as to forget problems, feel fresh.
- Food i.e. people are gluttons, greedy.
- Modern science and technology seems to make God less important as it provides solutions to real life.
- Sacred objects like shrines, big trees, fetishes.
- Novels, films and the leisure industries which can easily take up our mind from God.
- Friends can be worshipped by people as they make influence making them to forget God.

WAYS IN WHICH THE GAP BETWEEN GOD AND MAN CAN BE BRIDGED.

- By preaching the word of God to others.
- By respecting the Sabbath day.
- By reading Christian literature e.g. the bible.
- Receiving sacraments e.g. baptism, Eucharist.
- By taking up religious motivations/vocations e.g. priests, nuns.
- Through obeying and observing the 10 commandments.
- By being a peace maker so as to avoid conflicts.
- Making pilgrimages to holy places e.g. Namugongo, Rome.

- Through praying in the morning and evening both personally and communally.
- Through attending conferences, festivals, retreats, etc.
- Through works of charity.
- Through joining Christian movements like x-verians.
- Through writing Christian in other languages.
- The church should be a watch dog for justice and morality i.e. they should encourage fidelity in marriage.
- Through paying tax, tithes
- By setting up projects to help the poor and encouraging them to the grass roots, generate income e.g. send a cow.
- By Africanizing services of the church and making church service more lively e.g. clapping, singing and dancing in church.
- By emphasizing religion at home.
- The church should enact laws similar to sharia laws in Islamic countries.
- The church should scrutinize the leisure industries and pornographic be abolished.
- Church services should be made compulsory in all Christian schools.
- By creating unity among Christians through commercial movements.
- By offering religious education/moral education in schools.

EVASION OF GOD IN ATS

WAYS IN WHICH TRADITIONAL AFRICANS EVADED GOD

- Spirits, divinities, ancestors could become semi-independent hero gods and instead of being mediators, they became barriers to communication to God.
- Religious rituals could be misused to avoid responsibilities. These rituals then became a kind of manipulation of spiritual powers for man's purposes. People trusted these rituals so much and ended up failing to look after their welfare.
- Through practicing magic and witch craft which they trusted so much causing death and suffering.
- Africans denied God's power and supreme honour by trusting in their wisdom and strength instead of trusting in God.
- Failed to worship God by giving poor sacrifices e.g. sick, stolen and deformed animals while others failed/did not give anything at all.
- There was disobedience of the moral code which led to immorality in society e.g. some carried out incest, abusing and fighting parents.
- There were power struggles where some African leaders were war mongers instead of being peace makers.
- Some Africans took up the role of God took up the role of God by claiming divine inspiration and therefore wanted to be worshipped e.g. rain makers.
- Discrimination among people e.g. royal tribes discriminated against commoners, peasants e.g. not supposed to intermarry.
- Disabled, insane and lepers were also discriminated and chased on important occasions.
- There was disrespect for human life and this is why some tribes offered humans in case of droughts etc.

- Some rituals/shrines even religious offices were regarded as sacred/holy and people worshipped places.
- Some societies killed twins thinking that they were a bad omen.
- In some African societies, people evaded God through fatalism where events were decided by fate and were inevitable. This is where God/gods were believed to be acting as they like without law of reasoning. This attitude led people to become passive and they ended up avoiding their responsibilities.

MAGIC AND WITCHCRAFT

- Witchcraft is the use of magic powers while magic is mysterious forces to change or influence events.
- Witchcraft in ATS was associated with destruction, destabilization of harmony in a community. It was used by people to cause death, sickness, barrenness, impotence.
- It can also be used to destroy crops and domestic animals.
- It can also be used in war to destroy the enemy.
- Witchcraft may be used in business to cause loss to other competitors.
- On the other hand, it was used for protection from attacks e.g. people put on charms to the family from danger.
- Some wear charms on arms, waists while others have cuts on their bodies to protect them from witchcraft, snake bites, etc.
- Witchcraft can be used by people to fight off effect from witchcraft.
- It can be used to earn a living and whoever has it gets more clients.
- Others want to get fame, prestige, power and want to be feared.
- It can also be used to win competition e.g. athletics, soccer, rugby, etc.
- People live in constant fear of men and women who use potential means to bewitch others.

WAYS IN WHICH MAGIC AND WITCHCRAFT LED TO EVASION OF GOD IN ATS

- Those who used witchcraft for protection put more trust in it thinking that it is more powerful than God thus evading God.
- It led to destruction of the relationships which led to hatred and killing of one another.
- Led to death and killing which is a means of evading God.
- Brought untold suffering to the one affected and the person could lose faith in gods for failure to protect/heal him/her.
- The one affected by witchcraft could be forced to revenge to both the individual and relatives.
- It caused destruction of crops and animals leading to famine and poverty. This could cause people to steal.
- Among the married, it led to divorce if the man discovered that the woman uses witchcraft.
- Witchcraft involved sexual immorality especially by witch doctors.
- It involved desertion and manipulation of people.

14. EVASION OF GOD IN CHURCH HISTORY

WAYS IN WHICH PEOPLE EVADED GOD IN THE EARLY CENTURIES

- In the early centuries, people misunderstood the doctrine of the trinity. This is why they came out with an easier but wrong explanation where they accepted Jesus as a spirit but not the son of God.
- The early Christians believed in one supreme God whom they called God the father but there were also less important gods and of which Jesus was the most important.
- The early Christians carried out idolatry where they concentrated on the worship of objects e.g. paintings, sculptures and decorations. Although these things were meant to help people to worship God, they turned out to be objects of worship.
- They also evaded God through the doctrine of pre-destination where God was seen as a harsh judge assigning people to hell/ heaven regardless of one's life style.
- There was also the sale of indulgences where people ended up buying God's forgiveness instead of repenting and this increased immorality among Christians.
- There was too much attention paid on the correct ways of worshiping God than the worship of God himself. This brought in conflicts, hatred and division among Christians which later led to protestant reformation.
- In Russia, people evaded God when they encouraged communism which was to discourage the spread of Christianity. Therefore, many churches were closed.
- Religion was separated from the dairy life where people believed that it was for Sundays only were people days. Life was also divided into 2 parts, religious and secular and they thought that God was needed by politicians and business men.
- Because of education people trusted in their own knowledge other than God.
- Some people found it had to drop their cultural values which conflicted with Christianity.
- There was persecution of Christians because at first Christianity was an illegal religion.
- Some people respected and honoured church leaders more than God and evading God.
- There was hypocrisy of church leaders which led to corruption in churches.
- Some people paid more attention to church hymns than God himself e.g. the hymns of St. Ambrose were thought to be destructive.
- Pieces/bones of saints and the cross of Jesus were sold to forgive people's sins instead of repenting.

HOW CHRISTIANS HAVE AT TIMES TURNED TO WORSHIPING OTHER THINGS OTHER THAN GOD

- Very nice hymns have destructed the concentration of the believers
- Extremely good artistic work has drawn the attention of the people.
- The worship of statues is common in churches and some people have honour them very much.
- Important Christian religious days have been misused e.g. Christmas, Easter and tend to be days of showing off other than worshiping God
- Remains of Saints have at times been much honoured to a point of worshiping them like God.
- The church leaders like the pope, Bishops, Pastors etc. have been much honoured by people almost like God.
- Some people today have sacrificed to the spirit of the dead use protective charms and magic and also consult witch doctors.

- Holy places like Jerusalem, Rome and Namugongo have been given too much importance as people make pilgrimages for their sake and forget to worship God.
- Some people have abused religious sacraments by carrying them out for the sake of it less their spiritual meaning.
- People have paid more attention to material needs/possessions more than God e.g. people worship wealth, men, and women more than God.
- Many people have worshiped education like Science and technology because they provide solutions to real life.
- Some religious leaders have given fake prophecy such as buying plots of land in heaven e.g. Nabbi Bushara in 1999 collected money from people in Luwero for plots in heaven.

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES THAT LED TO CHURCH REFORMATION

Reformation was a change from the old order of religious doctrines and practices characterized the 14th century.

The reformers were against some practices in the church which they declared to have been false as seen below;

- Emphasis was being put on religious practices and projects other than faith and God.
- There were practices like sale of indulgences where people ended up buying God's forgiveness instead of repentance.
- Idol worship was being incorporated into the church.
- Priests had started legalizing divorce and this had increased immorality among Christians.
- Some religious leaders like Bishops and pope assumed high authority and wanted people to worship them.
- Leaders put much attachment on prayers other than people's needs.
- There were doctrinal conflicts like the blessed trinity which confused many people.
- Some practices like slavery were being supported by some church leaders.
- There was disagreement as to whether bread and wine turned into the body and blood of Jesus in the ritual of Holy Communion.
- The practice of crawling the eight steps Jesus descended before death was taken to have power of saving a soul from hell.
- Arguments on the cult of the virgin where people opposed Mary's remaining a virgin after the birth of Jesus Christ.
- Some religious leaders also opposed the pope's infallible doctrine that the pope was being guided by the Holy spirit and that Christians had to abide by whatever decision he makes.
- Forced celibacy to all priests in the church.
- Contradiction on the ritual of Baptism in that to some people only the grown up would be baptized.
- The confession of sins by Christians at penance at least once a year.

EVASION OF GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Evidence/How/Ways in which Israelites evaded God

- Israelites evaded God through going against their family life by marrying more than one wife and foreign women.
- They worshiped other Gods E.g. Jezebel wife of Ahab who worshiped Baal

- Through apostasy where they turned to the belief in foreign gods e.g. at the time of king Ahab and Solomon many people worshiped Baal.
- Through idolatry where Israelites modeled and worship idols e.g. at the time of King Ahab, many people worshiped Baal.
- Through idolatry where Israelites modeled and worshipped idols e.g. the molten calf during the leadership of Aaron and Jeroboam made a golden bull.
- Through exclusive respect and attention for secret objects and started worshipping them instead of God e.g. the temple, ark objects and the law.
- They evaded God through equalization where they were concerned with religious observances such as offering sacrifices, religious rituals, traditional customs and forgot being concerned, being loving to both God and neighbors.
- They evaded God by being self-centered and self-worship where they ended up denying God in their lives.
- They exploited fellow Israelites through over taxation, oppression of the poor, needy and other weaker members of the society. This was common during the time of prophet Amos.
- Some murdered innocent people e.g. King David murdered Uriah and took his wife Bathsheba and King Ahab killed Naboth and took over his vine yard.
- There was persecution of God's prophets e.g. Jeremiah was thrown into a dry well and Elijah persecuted by Ahab.
- They carried out intermarriages which were against the family life of Israel. This was 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.
- There was disrespect as well as grabbing God's sacrifices because of greed e.g. during the time of Eli, his sons grabbed people's sacrifices and ate the parts that were supposed to be burnt to God.
- There was hypocrisy of religious leaders who believed that they were holy than others.
- Some offered poor sacrifices e.g. the stolen, sick and poor harvests e.g. Cain who offered poor harvests.
- Some disobeyed God's call e.g. Jonah who refused to go to Nineveh
- The Israelites sometimes ignored God completely and turned to do everything on their own.
- Sometimes, they suffered from spiritual pride and took God's protection for granted.
- They made alliance with foreign nations instead of trusting God. For example, Ahaz king of Judah made an alliance with a pagan king of Assyria.
- Divorce and adultery were common.

REASONS/CAUSES/WHY ISRAELITES EVADED GOD

- God took long to answer so they resorted to other gods like Baal e.g. even led people to make golden calf when Moses delayed to come back.
- They took long to reach the Promised Land i.e. they took forty yrs. before reaching Canaan.
- They were very greedy for material things e.g. King Ahab took over Naboth's vineyard forcefully.
- Bad examples from leaders like Ahab who led people to worship other gods like Baal and even bad prophets.
- Trusting in their wisdom and power made Israelites to construct the tower of Babel. Hence, evading God.

- Lust for sex/women made David take over Uriah's wife Bathsheba's and Solomon to Marry 700 women and 300 concubines.
- Jealousy, selfishness and enmity which led to evasion of God e.g. Cain was jealous of Abel and ended up killing him.
- Messages of doom/destruction made people destructive and stubborn hence giving up on God e.g. Jeremiah was thrown into a dry well for giving bad messages.
- Suffering and discouraging experiences made people doubt the existence of God, hence evading him.
- Strict laws and commandments of God were to be followed with people just decided to evade him, e.g. Sabbath laws, 10 commandments.
- Poverty and lack of necessities led people to evade God.
- Persecution from non-believers forced the Israelites to abandon God hence evading him.
- Pagan nations seemed to be more successful than Israelites hence causing them to abandon him.
- God punished innocent people like when during Noah's time he killed everything that ever lived on earth except Noah's households.
- Infertility of the land they occupied made them to worship Baal the Canaanite god of fertility.

ACCORDING TO THE O.T WHAT RELIGIOUS PRACTICES BROUGHT THE ISRAELITES AWAY FROM GOD

- Giving poor sacrifices to God e.g. stolen animals, Cain offered poor harvests
- Idolatry Like on the way to Canaan at the foot of Mt. Sinai where they muddled a golden calf and worshiped it.
- Apostasy where they worshiped other gods like Jezebel worshiped Baal.
- Worship of secret objects like the ark of the covenant and the temple.
- Fasting in prayer outwardly by putting on sacks, smearing ash etc. yet inwardly that were not really fasting.
- Insincere prayer to cover up for other sinners of oppressing the poor and orphans.
- Observance of the Sabbath laws yet failing to have proper relations of God and other men.
- Temple prostitution where women stayed themselves on the temple gates to give fertility to all.
- Celebration of the Passover feast yet they were corrupted by their sins e.g. Eli's Sons used to eat sacrifices offered by other people.
- The act of discriminating the sick especially the lepers.

EVASION OF GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

WAYS IN WHICH PEOPLE EVADED GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- They rejected Jesus having been the son of God and that is why Pirate ordered for His crucifixion.
- The Jews also misused God's dwelling place i.e. the temple and even sold items in there.
- Through the persecution of Christians and followers of Christ e.g. Saul persecuted Christians before he became one of them as Paul.

- They broke some of the commandments e.g. do not commit adultery like the Samaritan woman who had five husbands and the adulterous woman Jesus saved from being stoned to death.
- The Pharisees practiced hypocrisy and they believed that they were righteous people in all aspects of life.
- Through exploitation of people especially workers e.g. Zacchaeus, the tax collector who later confessed and compensated the people 4 times as much.
- Murdering and killing innocent people like Jesus and setting free guilty people like Barabbas.
- There was discrimination of women, children and gentiles, hence evasion God. They were discriminated according to age, sex and race.
- There was division in church where Christians wanted to follow those who had baptized them.
- There was corruption and bribery in society e.g. Joseph and Mary were denied a room to stay because they had little money compared to others and hence went to the manger.

WHY JESUS WAS REJECTED BY THE JEWS?

- He was rejected because He preached against their way of life e.g. the Pharisees never liked Him because He preached against hypocrisy.
- Jesus was also rejected because He was from a poor family of a carpenter.
- They rejected Him because they thought and believed that God was a spirit and did not produce but Jesus called himself son of God.
- He was also friendly to the despised in society/sinners e.g. tax collectors, prostitutes and as a holy man not expected to defend such public sinners
- Jesus' interpretation of laws differed from that of Moses e.g. Moses encouraged revenge through an eye for an eye but Jesus preached reconciliation and forgiveness and even changed the Sabbath law.
- Jesus was also celibate and hence had no respect, He lived a celibate life whereas to the Jews all leaders were supposed to marry.
- Jesus also questioned the authority of religious leaders who thought they were righteous people e.g. the Pharisees.
- Jesus was of a low status and humble whereas they expected a savior of a high social status. He was poor and came from a poor family, born in a manger and had a humble origin as His father was a carpenter.
- He lived as a servant and rather than as a master and king/ruler and this is why He washed the disciples' feet.
- He had conflicting ideas/laws that differed from those of Moses e.g. He worked on the Sabbath day and women were important to Him yet they were oppressed and minimized by the Jews.
- Jesus failed to rescue Himself from the cross, pain and suffering.
- The doctrines taught by Jesus were so difficult to understand e.g. eat my body and drink my blood.
- He was a friend of Gentiles who were less considered as humans but as animals.
- He was young and therefore was ignored and disrespected by elders and conservative people.

- Others rejected Him because they say that He was using witchcraft to perform miracles. They called him a prince of demons.
- Jesus came from a very poor family which was despised and this contributed to his rejection.
- He had a despised profession that is he was a carpenter and that is why people at Nazareth rejected him.
- They doubted Jesus' source of wisdom and this contributed to his rejection.

WAYS IN WHICH JESUS WAS AN ANSWER TO PEOPLE'S EVASION OF GOD

- In His work of building the kingdom, Jesus taught people how to respond to God and each other in a human way. One of the biggest obstacles was the Jewish exclusivism and pride of Jewish leaders who considered themselves to be the only chosen people of God.
- Jesus exposed them to the false attitudes i.e. indifferentism Luke 16:9-31, the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man never cared for Lazarus who was too poor that even the dogs licked his sores.
- There was also self-sacrifice/sufficiency/satisfaction Luke 12:13- the parable of the rich fool who cared more about his riches than God and his neighbor.
- Jesus often attacked their religious customs, practices, places and persons e.g. Jesus put fasting laws to their proper places and requested people to accompany fasting with pure hearts instead of showing it externally Mark 2:18, 22.
- He attacked hypocrisy of the Pharisees who believed that they were holy men and took great care to wash so that utensils used are clean, washed their hands up to the elbows but turned a blind eye to breaking of the commandments Mark: 7:1-13. He explained that Pharisees made external observances instead of trusting God.
- Jesus fully associated with non-Jews, discussing with them and healing their sickness (Mark 7:24-30). Jesus helped the Samaritan woman whose child had a demon in her, Luke 7:1-10. Jesus healed a slave of Roman soldiers without really instituting the slave.
- Jesus condemned the worship of the temple get it was a mere building. The temple was over exaggerated and instead of worshiping God, the Jews appeared to be worshipping the temple.
- He chose to live a life of politeness, offering Himself, giving service to the poor, dependence on God so as to serve God, the father and this is why He taught prayers that bring confidence.
- Jesus rejected power, wealth, food, independence as a way of fulfilling His mission. Jesus rejected Satan during his temptation Mathew 4:1-11.
- Jesus demonstrated equality by working/ loving old people equally and tax collectors, women and all public sinners.
- He preached against divorce and polygamy which were common among Israelites and educated for marriage.
- He carried out charitable activities which help people to come closer to God e.g.
- He respected the Sabbath day and encouraged people to love and respect it.
- He encouraged forgiveness and reconciliation in society.

HOW JESUS RESPONDED TO THOSE WHO EVADED GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

- He was friendly to sinners e.g. tax collectors like Zacharias and Mary Magdalene.
- He condemned Pharisees who claimed to be righteous and advised them to base on the grace of God and serve all.
- He performed miracles which helped people to draw closer to God e.g. feeding the hungry.
- He changed the law of Moses and gave a new teaching where He emphasized love.
- Jesus gave a perspective of a new life for the lonely and those with a meaningless life e.g. Zacharias, Mary Magdalene the harlot.
- He discouraged revenge and encouraged forgiveness so that people leave revenge to God.
- He discouraged adultery and taught that both men and are equally guilty and this was untrue in society.
- He discouraged divorce and advocated for permanence in marriage.
- He forgave sinners and encouraged others to do the same.
- He condemned their religious exhaustiveness and pride where they considered themselves as the chosen people of God.
- He taught prayers that bring confidence to people.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. a) Why has it remained hard for many people to completely believe in the existence of God?

- Church leaders lead un-exemplary lives that confuse believers due to the inability of their leaders to lead immutable lives.
- Due to the absence of miracles, people have evaded God due to the belief that God cannot solve their problems.
- Church wrangles especially those that concern money laundry have made Christians evade God due to the unfaithfulness of the church leaders.
- Discrimination in church on ground of wealth where the rich are given top priority leaving the poor to fend for themselves thus causing faithful Christians to evade God.
- Pulpits in churches have been used for campaigns, arising out personal grudges instead of preaching the word of God.
- Selfishness of believers who are expected to share part of their wealth to provide for the poor.
- People have used Christianity as a spring board i.e. Christianity is supposed to be a source of personal desires.
- The success of all evil people causing the righteous to lose faith because of the poverty status of the righteous people.
- People have used their academic knowledge to create “tools” that have eased life for example medicines, phones that offer entertainment.

b) Give dangers of witchcraft and magic to the people of Traditional African Society.

- Destruction of crops
- Caused death to the people
- Poverty
- Disabilities
- Hatred and separation of families
- Bareness and importance

- Sickness and pain
- Mob justice
- Evasion of God
- Loss of business and skills because they were out competed
- Created fear among the people

2. a) Show how cultural heritage integration in the church has misled Christianity today?

- Native African languages e.g. Luganda may not bring out whole message of God
- Musical instruments like drums are used in shrines and yet are used in the church
- Bride wealth acceptance has delayed many youths from church wedding
- African praise for worship songs some used in shrines and used in church
- African baptism names accepted in the church i.e. Musoke
- Africans stools allowed in church and some of them contain witchcraft.
- African back cloth is also put on by the people in church
- Respect of monarchical leaders
- African styles of dancing
- Selling offertories in form of animals.

b) Show how Jesus' ministry is a challenge to man's evasion of God.

- Jesus encouraged forgiveness and reconciliation
- Jesus warned the Jews against revenge in all circumstances
- Seek knowledge by reading the word of God
- Jews killed him, he challenged them when he resurrected
- He warned them about being anxious about what to eat, drink as pagans
- Jews had denied that Jesus was a son of God.
- Jesus emphasized love even to enemies
- He cleansed temple which was misused by Jews
- Encouraged them to take on baptism
- He challenged them about the proper use of the Sabbath
- Taught the lords' prayer

3.a) Show how wealth can be the root cause of man's evasion of God.

- It can lead to sexual immoralities like prostitution, homosexuality
- Those who trust their wealth especially the rich always fail to trust God
- It can bring about death and killing other people which is evasion of God
- It can lead to witchcraft which often bring about untold suffering hence evasion of God
- It leads to corruption in various forms like bribery, embezzlement of funds which is evasion of God
- One can be tempted to steal and commit robbery in an attempt to acquire wealth
- It involves child/human sacrifice at times which is a form of evasion of god
- The desire for wealth can lead one to overwork even on Sundays forgetting to go for prayers
- It involves deceit and at times manipulation for example use of wrong weigh scale gambling.
- It can lead to selling and dealing in drugs like marijuana which are addictive and destructive to those who consume them.

b) How did the Israelites evade god in the Old Testament

- They worshipped idols for example the golden calf
- Grabbing of people's property for example King Ahab grabbed Naboth's vineyard (1Kings 21)
- The Israelites exploited and suppressed their fellow Israelites who were poor, weak for example King Solomon used forced labour.
- In 2 Samuel, King David committed adultery with Bathsheba
- King David also had Uriah killed after taking Bathsheba
- They offered poor sacrifice to God for example Eli's son.
- They disobeyed and killed God's prophets for example the Prophet Elijah time and Jeremiah
- They married foreign women for example King Solomon, King Ahab
- Overtaxing the people of Israelites for example King Solomon
- Through apostasy, the Israelites worshipped the gods of other nations e.g. Baal, Canaanite gods, gods of the Amorites etc.

15. 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 the Christians active participation in all world affairs so as to make it a better place to live in.

Thus Christians are expected to actively participate in the political, social, spiritual and economic development of society.

HOW HAVE CHRISTIANS INVOLVED THEMSELVES IN THE WORLD TODAY?

Political involvement

- Participating in electing good leaders.
- Standing for different political posts for example members of parliament, etc.
- Studying law and becoming judges so as to promote justice.
- Being members of electoral commission so as to facilitate peaceful voting e.g. sir Magoba.
- Joining different security agencies e.g. Uganda police, UPDF, etc. to promote peace.
- Acting as advisers to the elected leaders.
- Consecrating/dedicating such leaders to God after election.
- Praying for political leaders in their societies.
- Supporting the army and other security agencies financially.
- Condemning political evils done by political leaders.
- Drafting proposals and taking them to authorities during the constitution amendment process.
- Christians look after those people who are in politically insecure areas.

Economic involvement

- Opening up projects to provide people with employment.
- Active participation in business i.e. many Christians have shops, work in markets, etc.

- Condemning corruption and embezzlement of funds.
- Paying of taxes to the government in order to facilitate economic development.
- Applying for jobs in government and international enterprises.
- Giving soft loans to people so as to facilitate investment e.g. centenary bank.
- Collecting taxes for the government.
- Participating in both subsistence and commercial agriculture. E.g. caritas Uganda.
- Electronic media have been started by the church for economic purposes.
- Exploitation and utilization of economic resources.

Social involvement

- Construction of social infrastructures like schools, entertainment centers, hospitals, etc.
- Educating the people in different fields i.e. encouraging church members to become professionals.
- Charity work is done by the Christians helping the needy in society.
- Orphanages have been constructed as well as babies' homes to help the children.
- Entering the music industry by composing songs that up lift people's morals condemning discrimination.
- Forging unity through ecumenical council (joint Christians council)
- Arranging marriage ceremonies among members of the church.
- Sensitizing people on hygiene issues to improve on their health.
- Sex education is given to the youths by the church.
- Organizing games and music, dance and drama competitions among the youth to develop their talents.
- Educating people about their talents directly fighting for the rights of the people in society. E.g. Rev. Kayiso.
- Bringing up children with in the accepted morals of the society.
- Providing counseling and guidance services to members of the community who are facing different life challenges or problems.

Spiritual involvement/strengthening

- Mass preaching; different Christians organize open air crusades for the purpose of transmitting of the good news.
- Catechism; they offer Christian instruction to the young Christians where Christian doctrine is taught.
- Baptism; Christians convert and baptize people in the name of the father, son and Holy Spirit.
- Church sermons; there is regular preaching which takes place in the church so as to strengthen people's faith.
- Building of worship places; Christians contribute money for building spiritual centers in different areas.
- Living exemplary lives; church leaders live as examples in the communities where they work as shepherds and this encourages many people to turn to God.
- Organizing religious seminars and collections so as to keep the lights of Christians burning.
- Encouraging people to repent and turn to God.

- Fasting; Christians have periods when they fast with a purpose of renewing their relationship with God.
- Advocating for equality of all people regardless of age, sex, tribe, etc.
- Performing miracles in Jesus' name where many people are healed from different diseases.
- Charity work is carried out by Christians by showing love and care to the neglected in the society hence redeeming their souls.
- Composing of spiritually strengthening songs and joining church choirs to praise and worship God.
- Joining religious institutions and living a celibate life so as to serve God faithfully.
- Missionary work; different Christians go to other countries as missionaries to spread the word of God.
- Writing religious literature, handouts and translating the bible into different languages to enable people read it for themselves.
- Distributing freely the religious literature and different bible versions to the people.
- Opening up Christian Medias like radios and televisions that help in strengthening of Christian faith.
- Home to home visits are made by Christians and their leaders to encourage the backsliding Christians to have hope in Jesus.
- Encouraging monogamous marriages among members and condemning divorce and well as marital unfaithfulness.
- Administering other sacraments like confirmation and the anointing of the sick.
- Offering both individual and communal prayers so that God can change those who are spiritually sick.

ADVANTAGES OF A CHRISTIAN CLUB AT SCHOOL

- Enable students to come together (unity)
- Students share testimonies about their personal lives
- It promotes discipline among the students
- It enables the school to gain a good name
- It helps students to utilize their leisure time well
- It promotes values of love, forgiveness and reconciliation
- Students fulfill their Christian obligations e.g. baptism, confirmation etc
- Students have opportunities to study the scriptures and understand
- Promotes evangelism
- Promotes talents
- Promotes works of charity
- Promotes leadership skills
- Enables them to pray

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;

- Limited support from the government – government interference
- Shortage of funds, some churches are poor
- Too many areas that require solving – church can't handle all.
- Rigid African culture (marriage examples)
- Political instabilities – church wants to solve a problem in Gulu but there is war.
- Few administrators with limited authority – few priests in regions
- Opposition from non-believers, don't have faith in church, fight and don't support activities.
- Other means of solving the problems like witchcraft.
- Bad examples from religious leaders e.g. pastors accused of homosexuality
- Language barrier
- Permissive; people do what they want, don't care about evils and things like alcoholism are encouraged.
- Rivalry among/between Christian sects
- Science and technology – solves diseases, importance, sex change

REASONS FOR THE CHURCH INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS

- The church is the light and salt of the world; thus this will help it to guide the people in the world.
- Fear of God is the beginning of wisdom and politics needs wise people.
- God is the author of politics because He is the king of kings therefore it is difficult to separate politics from God.
- Christians are also members of the world so being passive in the world activities is unfair.
- Christians are peace makers so they are expected to promote peace and freedom by participating in politics.
- God works on world affairs e.g. Exodus 3 calling Moses to liberate the Jews.
- The church has a role of spreading the gospel to all the people including politicians.
- God's people like Samuel participate and performed well.
- In the Old Testament prophets like Isaiah and Nathan acted as advisers to the kings and were not blamed.
- Man as God's creature must be guided if he goes astray which is done by the church.
- Christians are also human beings with rights to participate in politics.
- Corrupt people cannot do well except Christians.
- The church is given a responsibility to serve which it must fulfill.
- For the purpose of promoting love in the whole world, the church should participate in politics.
- It will help to unite the people in the world.
- Jesus judged cases fairly than other judges e.g. a woman caught in the act of adultery, so Christians can act as fair judges.

WHY SHOULD CHRISTIANS NOT PARTICIPATE IN POLITICS?

- The whole church stands high chances of persecution.
- This might delay the spread of the gospel because of taking much time in politics.

- Politics involves blood shed i.e. telling people which is against the law of God.
- Politicians hate the truth while Christians must profess the truth. So a Christian might become a liar.
- A Christian may be influenced and become money minded which can affect one's faith.
- In politics, hypocrisy is at the highest peak which is condemned by Christianity.
- God separated religious institutions from political institutions because of dangers He realized e.g. He appointed Saul as the first king.
- Politics divides people instead of uniting them but Christianity is only to ring people together.
- Politicians violate human rights which a Christian is expected to do.
- The church is more concerned with the spiritual welfare not physical welfare as politicians are.
- Politics leads to hatred but Christians are expected to love their enemies too.
- Jesus was persecuted and killed because the politicians feared that He had come to take up their offices.
- Sometimes politicians are oppressive
- Jesus said "No man can serve two masters at the same time", what belongs to God". So religious leaders belong to God's service
- Even if people expected Jesus to be a political leader, he refused

ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

This is the committee which brings together most of the recognized Christians sects.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- They have formed interdenominational organizations like scripture union, bible society, etc.
- It has translated the bible into different languages through the bible society involving priests, reverends and lay men and women.
- They have joined together in fighting corruption especially in public offices.
- They have jointly sensitized people against the dangers of AIDS.
- They have jointly welcomed international church leaders like the pope, bishop of Canterbury.
- They have formalized marriages between members of different churches.
- They have carried out joint prayers for the nation and on holy days e.g. good Friday (way of the cross).
- They have carried out joint peace talks and acted as mediators between government and rebels.
- They have solved conflicts among members arising from issues pertaining the doctrines of faith.
- They have jointly developed the syllabus of Christian religious education which is being used in the schools.
- They have been involved in joint elections monitoring under Uganda joint Christian council.
- They have jointly fought against witchcraft and witch doctors as well as the believers in African traditional religion.

- Establishing and treating patients in some hospitals without discrimination. E.g. joint medical store at Nsambya established by the joint Christian council.

HOW JOSHUA CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ISRAELITE COMMUNITY

Joshua means God saves

- Joshua Ben nun was from the tribe of Ephraim among the 12 tribes of Israel
- He was the second person to lead the Jewish people in their early history after Moses who gave him the training as his successor
- He became leader of Israelites after Moses after they had entered Canaan and up to the time of Priest Samuel, Israel had not got a leader like Joshua.
- When the Israel were attacked by the Amalekites immediately after crossing the red sea, he led the counter attacks to defeat the enemy and subsequently became Moses' assistance/military leader as well as religious leader.
- In numbers 13 – 14, he was one of the chosen member from the Ephraim clan among the twelve leaders who went to scout and spy Canaan land but on returning, the 10 members said they could not conquer Canaan but Joshua and Caleb said praise the Lord, it is possible for us to do it and after 40 years it was Joshua and Caleb remaining to see Israelites conquering Canaan up to Ai
- He captured the city of Jericho and eventually the whole land of Canaan. The Jericho City was just surrounded and Israelites walked around it and it collapsed.
- Joshua married from the family of Rahab, the harlots who housed spies in for Joshua in the city of Jericho.
- He made peace talks and treaties with those who were willing to leave the city of Jericho like the tribe of Gibeonite (Joshua 9 -10)
- He was exemplary and set his family as a model in worship Yahweh
- He presided over the covenant renewal at shechem
- Served as a priest
- He prayed to God to continue manifesting himself to Israel hence it was in times of Moses
- He a partitioned land to the twelve tribes of Israel upon reaching the promised land.
- He led the people in renewing the covenant God had made with their ancestors at Mt. Sinai.

HOW THE PROPHETS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DAY TO DAY OF RUNNING OF THE ISRAEL

- Through acting as mediators between God and people. Moses took people's complaints to God and returned God's response.
- Through encouraging people to repent and turn away from their sins (Jonah went Nineveh)
- Settling disputes amongst people so as to create peace and unity in society.
- Appointed leaders like kings who guided and controlled affairs of society. For example, Samuel appointed David and Elisha appointed Jehu to replace Ahab.
- Delivering them from oppression and exploitation Moses delivered Israelites out of Egyptian slavery.
- Performed miracles which increased people's faith in God Elijah showed that his God was the almighty against Baal by calling fire from heaven to burn the sacrifice, Elisha fed people with only 100 loaves of bread.

- Received instructions (laws) from God to guide people on how to live according to God's expectations. Moses received the 10 commandments
- Led people to victory in war, and challenging situations like Moses and Joshua against Amalekites at Rephidim Exodus 17:8-16
- Acted as political leaders in society.
- Interceded and pleaded with God to forgive the Israelites when they turned away from God. For example, Amos interceded for the people of Israel to be saved from disaster.
- Gave message of hope to people which encouraged them when they had given up in life
- Punished the wrong doers who misled society Elijah killed 450 prophets of Baal 1 Kings 18:1-40 page 342-343 Good News
- Warned the kings and people to enable them make proper and sound decisions. Kings 22:1-28 Prophet Micaiah warns Ahab not to go into war with the Syrians to capture Ramoth from the Syrians.

HOW MOSES INVOLVED HIMSELF IN THE AFFAIRS OF HIS SOCIETY

- Accepting God's call to be his spokesman
- Liberating the Israel
- Miracle working
- He was involved in leadership roles
- He was a mediator between God and man
- He was a prophet, he delivered God's message
- As a priest he helped to guide and lead Israelites in their prayers
- He was an intercessor
- He was a law maker
- He was a judge, he settled cases and disputes
- He wrote the Torah
- He helped in shaping the moral conduct of the people

HOW JESUS GOT INVOLVED IN THE WORLD

- Jesus preached the good news of the arrival of the kingdom of God and changed many people.
- He acted as a physician by healing the sick from different diseases e.g. the leper, the paralyzed, those with demons, etc.
- He associated with all categories of people i.e. Gentiles, Jews, tax collectors hence uniting them.
- Jesus forgave the sinners e.g. the paralyzed man in the gospel of Mark.
- He participated in community feasts and ceremonies e.g. the wedding at Cana.
- Religiously, He interpreted scriptures e.g. at the age of 12, He was found in the temple interpreting scriptures.
- He solved differences thus acting as a judge e.g. the case of adulterous woman, John 8.
- He paid temple tax thus contributing to the income of the community, Matthew 17:24-27
- He encouraged people to pay to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.
- He brought order in worshipping places e.g. Jesus cleansed the temple.
- He comforted the grieving e.g. visited Mary and Martha when their brother Lazarus had died.

- Participation in religious celebrations e.g. the Passover which He turned into the Lord's Supper.
- By involving Himself in changing the parts of the mosaic that were oppressive to the people e.g. that law of retribution.
- By getting involved in the communal and personal prayer e.g. would go to synagogues on the Sabbath and he also went to a solitary place to pray. Mark 1:35.
- He accepted to redeem the world by dying on the cross.
- He washed His disciples' feet.
- By feeding the people who were hungry. E.g. Mark 6:35-44, the feeding of 5000 men.

STEPS TAKEN BY THE CHURCH TO BRING UNITY AMONG CHRISTIANS

- A common CRE syllabus which is interdenominational has been made
- Formation of joint Christian council has been encouraged and the common stand has been taken by all churches.
- Ecumenical movements have started with the aim of bringing unity among churches; they hold joint prayers and have common leadership.
- Intermarriages among Christians have been accepted.
- They make joint pilgrimages to holy places.
- The joint Christian medical center which comprises of all Christian denominations has been set up with a common goal to provide medical care.
- Churches participate in writing and translating of the scriptures and distributing them to Christians.
- All Christians do recognize all church leaders and usually come to listen to their preaching.
- All Christians provide services to the community such as banking services by centenary rural development bank.
- Use of Christian songs for different denominations during worship has been encouraged.
- Joint fundraising for social projects like helping refugees
- Set up schools which admit children from all denominations
- Exchange of preachers between different churches.

1. a) Giving specific examples, show that the Church in the modern society supports country's economic development?

- Setup many schools both Primary and Secondary for example Uganda Martyrs S.S Namugongo, Girls and boys Uganda Martyr's Namugongo for money making projects.
- Setup many universities for example Uganda Martyr's Nkozi, Ndejje University, Uganda Christian University Mukono all are money making projects.
- Setup banks for example Centenary bank for Catholics for making money.
- Setup book shops for example Uganda bookshop for Anglicans, St. Paul and Marianum bookshop for Catholics, Maranath Printery for the Adventists-Printer.
- Setup many hospitals for example Nsambya Hospital for the Anglicans, Lubaga Hospital for the Catholics all money making projects.
- Setup many Radios for example Radio Maria for Catholics, Impact Radio for Born Again, Prime Radio for the SDA's all are money making projects.
- Setup many Televisions for example Top Television for the Born Again, Channel 44, Rubaga Miracle Centre all are money making projects.

b) Show how the Apostles got involved in the World after the Pentecostal day

- They healed people/sick / miracles.
- Preached the gospel.
- Prayed to God.
- Did charity works.
- Created peace, Justice and Unity.
- Paid taxes.
- Built Churches.
- Wrote gospels / letters.
- Converted many people (Baptized)
- Public debates in defending gospel.
- Settled conflicts.
- Celebrate Eucharist.