EVALUATING THE RITES OF PASSAGE EXPERIENCES PROGRAMME (ROPES) IN NAIROBI NORTH PRESBYTERY.

Submitted by

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This dissertation is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of a Master ofTheology degree from St. Paul's University.

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September 2012

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DECLARATION

This Dissertation is a product of my own work and is not the result of anything done in collaboration. It has not been previously presented to any other institution. I agree that this dissertation may be available for reference and photocopying, at the discretion of the University.

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT _____ DATE _____

1 confirm that the work reported in this thesis was carried out by the student under my supervision.

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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to all adolescents who are transiting from childhood to adulthood.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am grateful to God and all who laid their heart and hand towards the production and completion of this work. I am grateful to my supervisor the Rev. Dr. Sammy Githuku who tirelessly read, and guided me through this dissertation process. I thank my mother Wanjiru wa Kamau who provided moral and financial support, the St. Paul's University library staff and all the ROPES fraternity in Nairobi North Presbytery who were a great resource in data collection hence the authenticity of this production.

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ABSTRACT

Rites of passage in traditional and contemporary society are meant to establish intentional guided moral values to young people as they transit into adulthood. This study evaluated the Rites of Passage Experiences Programme commonly known as (ROPES) a contemporary church based rite of passage. The study sought to know whether the ROPES programme has provided an effective avenue for guidance, counsel and mentorship to the adolescents as they transit from childhood to adulthood. Relevant literature was reviewed and gaps identified. The research defined the ROPES programme, its origin how it is carried out, the teachings offered, their relevance and how communities of belonging are created there in. The research employed both qualitative and quantitive methods and obtained data through stratified purposive sampling. A population of fifty three people formed the population of study. These were drawn from the four parishes in Nairobi North presbytery where the ROPES programme has been embraced. Personal interviews, questionnaires and participant observation were the main source of primary data which was presented and analysed. From the findings the ROPES programme has provided for a guided rite of passage. This aims at developing a socially, spiritually and emotionally mature young person who is well adjusted to the society. It employs a high parental involvement who are agents of nurture hence foster development in the life of the young people.

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ABBREVIATIONS

PCEA	Presbyterian Church of East Africa
ROPES	Rites of Passage Experiences

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DEFINITION OF TERMS

Agikuyu	A bantu community that inhabits central Kenya.
Adolescents	The stage of life averaging ages twelve to eighteen years
Gutonyio	Means being incorporated or being taken in
Menjet	Seclusion huts used during the initiation rites among the Nandi of Kenya.
Nairobi North Presbytery	One of the administrative areas in the Presbyterian church that covers part of Kasarani District, Juja and Kiambaa constituency.
Ndemengo	This refers to the cutting done on the initiates body during initiation.
Peer counselling	Giving advice to a person who is equal to another in rank, status or merit
Riika	An initiation set comprising of young people who undergo circumcision in a given year together, among the Agikuyu comprising of boys and girls.

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List of Tables

Table 3:1	Sampling frame	35
Table 4.1	Respondents according to age	40
Table 4:2	Respondents according to gender	40
Table 4:3	Respondents level of education	41
Table 4.4	Understanding of ROPES programme	42
Table 4.5	Relationships with parents, peers, environment& church	44
Table 4.6	Communities formation	45
Table 4.7	Areas of improvement	47

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page i

Declaration ii

Dedication iii

Acknowledgments iv

Abstract v

Abbreviations vi

Definition of terms vii

List of tables viii

CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION 1

1.0 Background of the problem 1

1.1 Statement of the problem 5

1.2 Objective of the study 5

1.3 Research questions 6

1.4 Significance of the study 6

1.5 Scope and limitation of the study 6

1.6 Thesis Structure 7

1.7 Conclusion 7

CHAPTER 2 - LITERATURE REVIEW 8

2.0 Introduction 8

2.1 The ROPES programme 8

2.1.2 Initiation rites of passage 10

2.2 Adolescent ROPES 15

2.2.1 Definition of Adolescents 16

2.3 A description of the ROPES programme 17

2.3.1 Initiates 17

2.3.2 Counsellors and mentors 18

2.3.3 Parents 20

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2.3.4 The ROPES camp ……...21
2.3.5 Reintegration ……..…24
2.4 Teachings given in the ROPES programme ……...…26
2.4.1 Sexuality ……26
2.4.2 Basis of Christian faith ..……27
2.4.3 The community ……27
2.5 Community formation ……28
2.6 Essential elements ……31
2.7 Conceptual Theory ……32
2.8 Conclusion ……32

CHAPTER 3 - RESEARCH METHODOLOGY……..33
3.0 Introduction ……..33
3.1 Research design ……..33
3.2 Target population ……..34
3.3 Sampling ……..34
3.4 Development and validation of research instruments ……..35
3.5 Data collection techniques ……..35
3.5.1 Questionnaires ……..35
3.5.2 Interviews ……..36
3.5.3 Participant observation ……..36
3.6 Data analysis ……..37
3.7 Ethical issues ……...37
3.8 Conclusion ……..38

CHAPTER FOUR – DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS ……39
4.0 Introduction ……....39
4.1 Characteristics of respondents ……39
4.1.1 Age ……40
4.1.2 Gender ……40
4.1.3 Education level ……41

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4.2 Emerging issues from the research question 41
4.2.1 The ROPES Programme 42
4.3. Teachings given in the ROPES programme 43
4.3.1 Relationship with parents, peers and environment 44
4.4 Communities formation 45
4.5 Areas of improving ROPES programme 47
4.6 Responses from interviews 49
4.6.1 Organization of the ROPES programme 49
4.6.2 Camping 50
4.6.3 ROPES programme participants 52
4.6.4 Reintegration 52
4.6.5 Follow up and emerging activities 52
4.6.6 Benefits accrued by the church 53
4.7 Conclusion 54

CHAPTER FIVE CONCLUSIONS AND RECCOMMENDATIONS 55
5.0 Introduction 55
5.1 Summary of the findings 55
5.2 Conclusion 57
5.3 Recommendations 57
Bibliography 58
Appendices
Appendix 1 Introductory letter to participants 61
Appendix II Research questions 62
Appendix III Research authorization letter
Appendix V Research Permit.

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