THE IMPACT OF TERTULLIAN'S DOCTRINE OF SIN ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH OF GOD IN EAST AFRICA-BUNYORE.

By:

Margaret Mabel Ongecha

This Dissertation is submitted in the Partial fulfillment of the Requirements of a Master of Theology from St Paul's University.

Date: September 2012

St. Pauls University

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DECLARATION

This research is a product of my work and not a result of anything done in collaboration. It has never been presented to any other institution. I agree that this dissertation may be available for reference and photocopying at the discretion of the University.

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SIGNATURE OF THE STUDENT DATE:

SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION

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

_____ _____

SIGNATURE OF THE SUPERVISOR DATE:

Director's Approval

Name: _____

_____ _____

Signature Date

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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to the Church of God in East Africa Bunyore. The study is to challenge the Church to re-interpret the Doctrine of Sin.

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Abstract

The interpretation of Sin in the early church was influenced by the culture, Bible and the church traditions. This had a great impact on the roles of women in the early church. Women were exempted from performing various tasks in the church like baptizing, preaching and teaching. The researcher observed that even though women in the history of Church of God in East Africa Bunyore, have been ordained since 1970s they do not perform various rituals in the church such as; laying the foundation of the Church, officiating marriage, baptizing children, dedicating the children to the Lord and burying the dead. The purpose of the thesis was to analyze the impact of Tertullian's doctrine of sin on the roles of women in the Church of God in East Africa- Bunyore. The researcher looked at Tertullian's teachings and reflected on the teachings of Church of God –Bunyore and how this has affected the women ministry. In the research both secondary and primary methods of data collection were used to collect relevant information to the study. The research process of data collection entailed, observation, interviews and focus group discussion. The main objective of the research was to ascertain if the doctrine of sin had contributed to the way women had been denied the opportunity to do various tasks in the church. The researcher then challenges the Church to re-interpret the doctrine of sin and come up with a church that is inclusive in terms of service.

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