DIALOGUE BETWEEN HIP-HOP THEOLOGY AND SOTERIOLOGY: *A Critical Investigation Of 'Gospel' Hip-hop Music Among the Youth in the Anglican Church Of Kenya (ACK), Nairobi Diocese in Westland's Archdeaconry.*

BY

Isaac Mbogo Rukungu

This dissertation is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Masters of Theology (MTh) from St. Paul's University.

September 2012

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Supervisor: **Dr. Dickson Nkonge Kagema**

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Declaration

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

SIGNATURE OF THE STUDENT

…… DATE: ……/…../2012

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

NAME OF THE SUPERVISOR: DR. DICKSON NKONGE KAGEMA

SIGNATURE: …… DATE: ……/…../2012

Approved by:

Signature: …… Date: ……/…../2012

DIRECTOR, POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

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Dedication

This work is a special dedication to Nairobi Diocese Youth Ministry (NDYM) Anglican Church of Kenya and to all young people who are interested in a lifestyle that honors God. It is to the youth workers, pastors counselors, parents and teachers who have the noble task of mentoring the youth to raise a godly generation in the 21st century.

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Abstract

This thesis presents a study which has investigated the theology of hip-hop music, its influence and contribution to the holistic salvation of the Christian youth. As a Dialogue between Hip-hop Theology and Soteriology, the study attempted to analyze theological contents of Gospel hip-hop used by Anglican youth in Westland's Archdeaconry in Nairobi. It also predicted the future of this music in the Anglican church of Kenya (ACK) compared since has already elicited conflicts among the elders and the youth on theological contents of this music used in the youth Ministry. This state of affairs prompted the study documented herein. The study focused on youth aged 13- 25 years in primary, secondary and tertiary schools. Questionnaires, interviews, focused group discussions ,observations, participation in youth ministry programs like '*keshas'*, *'bashes'*, *'concerts'*, *'rallies*' and Sunday services informed the study. Some of the challenges encountered were uncooperative respondents, communication barrier and poor road network, insufficient funds. The study has shown that Hip-hop music has both negatives and positives effects and its influence is either disastrous or beneficial. Youth who come to churches where there is gospel hip-hop get ministered. They learn godly lifestyles, gain skills to cope with life challenges and experiences holistic salvation. The song does not only minister to the spiritual being but also the physical person providing a platform for self rediscovery and freedom from earthly realities that are youth enslaving such as poverty and vices like drug and substance abuse, sexual immorality and lack of purpose and meaning in life.

This study tested such hypothetical statements like, majority of the youth in ACK, Westland's Archdeaconry in the Diocese of Nairobi use hip-hop music for worship and entertainment without minding its Theology. The study attempted to have a healthy dialogue between hip-hop music and Soteriology and found that youth are denied gospel hip-hop in church, get lost in to the world of 'rave' and 'gigs' where they get the secular hip-hop. For this reason the proposed a careful integration of gospel hip-hop for evangelizing and keeping youth in church. The study also recommends proper guidance and mentorship programs in church that reached out to the youth with love.

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I wish to thank God most sincerely for giving me a chance to realize my dream and blessing me with good health, sane mind and finances. My special appreciation to youth of ACK Diocese of Nairobi, Westland's Archdeaconry and the entire NDYM for sparking interest to do this study. Special thanks to the Bishop of Nairobi Diocese, the Rt. Rev. J. Waweru for allowing me to serve in his diocese, the Rev. Gilbert Odhiambo, the Ven. Canon E. Githinji, the Ven. F. Kibaki and the Rev. J. Gatuma for mentorship giving me a chance to serve in the youth and teens ministry in their parishes.

Warm and heartfelt appreciation goes to my supervisor and mentor the Rev. Dr. Dickson Nkonge for his articulate guidance and assistance accorded this far without which this document would not have been birthed. I also wish to recognize the efforts of lectures at St Paul's University from whom I have gained valuable skills. Thanks to the Rev. Canon Prof. J. Galgalo, for guiding me in my academic journey not only as a great teacher but also as a mentor. I appreciate postgraduate lecturers particularly the post graduate director the Rev. Dr. D C. Chosefu and the Dean of Theology, Rev. Dr. Sammy Githuku. I owe much to the Rev. Dr. Kabiro Wa Gatumu, the Rev, Dr. Z, Bundi, the Rev. Dr. E. Onyango, the Rev. Kiboi and the Rev. Cathrine Njagi. I am also indebted to the Rev. Dr .Z. Muga for his insights on theological analysis of music.

Heartfelt appreciation goes to my dear parents, siblings and friends for their moral support. May God bless you so much for being there when I needed you most.

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List of Abbreviation

ACK - Anglican Church Of Kenya

NDYM - Nairobi Diocese Youth Ministry

USIU - United States International University

DJ - Djying

TSO - Totally Sold Out

MC - Master Of Ceremony

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