THE VALIDITY AND EFFECTS OF SACRAMENTS IN THE ACK DIOCESE OF MOUNT KENYA WEST

BY

JACKSON NJOROGE WANJOHI

THIS DISSERTATION IS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF A MASTER OF THEOLOGY FROM ST PAUL'S UNIVERSITY

SEPTEMBER 2012

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DECLARATION

This dissertation is the 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 college.

SIGTNATURE OF STUDENT:……..… DATE……

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

SUPERVISOR: REV. DR. ZABLON B. MUTONGU

SIGTNATURE: ……..……..… DATE……

DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL

NAME: ……

SIGTNATURE: ……..……..… DATE……

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all those persons who helped me in one way or the other and contributed towards the successful completion of this dissertation. I am particularly indebted to my supervisor the Rev. Dr. Zablon Bundi for imparting valuable skills and knowledge which enabled me to carry out this project. He guided and encouraged me to the end of the completion of this thesis. Without his correction and guidance, this research would not have taken its present form.

I also express my gratitude to the library personnel for assisting me in search for documentation. The research clinic panel chaired by Dr. Zebedi Muga, made useful comments that further shaped my work up to the conclusion of the study. I record my appreciation. My sincere thanks to my bishop, the Rt. Rev. Joseph Kagunda for encouraging and allowing me to conduct research in the ACK diocese of Mt. Kenya West.

Special thanks are due to my wife and children for giving me moral support during the busy times. My sincere gratitude goes to Mr. Fred Oyando who kindly and patiently typed this research project.

Lastly, yet foremost. I thank and praise the Lord for giving me the opportunity to study at St. Paul's University for a Masters Programme in Theology .

To each and all of you I say thank you very much.
God bless you abundantly.

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my beloved wife Margaret, daughter Ruth and the two sons Isaac and Timothy in appreciation of their support and sacrifice they offered me during the preparation of this study. Through them I wish to inform the young generation that education can be achieved in the morning, at noontide and at sunset for learning is a life time process.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACK	-	Anglican Church of Kenya
AD	-	Annon Domin (The year of our Lord)
AIDS	-	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CE	-	Common Era
CF	-	Compare
HC	-	Holy Communion
KCPE	-	Kenya Certificate of Primary Education
KCSE	-	Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education
KJV	-	King James Version
HIV	-	Human Immune Deficiency Virus
OT	-	Old Testament
NT	-	New Testament
1Cor.	-	1 Corinthians
Eph	-	Ephesians
Gal	-	Galatians
Jn	-	John
Lk	-	Luke
Mk	-	Mark
Matt.	-	Mathew
Tit	-	Titus
SPSS	-	Statistical Package for Social Science

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the validity and effects of sacraments in the ACK, Diocese of Mt. Kenya West. The study addressed the divisions which arise due to different interpretations and understanding of the sacraments. These divisions cause doubts and confusions among the Christians. The validity of sacraments remains questionable. Controversies exist over the spiritual gifts of grace and the unique presence of Christ in the Eucharist. The main objective was to critically evaluate the validity and effects of sacraments. The study was conceived due to the fact that sacramental theology was developed in the patristic period through the reformation. Its context therefore is separated from modern context in terms of space and time. The study was conducted in the following sample churches; St. Paul Amboni, St. John Mweiga, St. Peter's Nyeri, ACK Kamuyu and St. Joseph Ruringu of the diocese of Mt Kenya West. The study was conducted through descriptive survey design. The data was collected in April 2012 using the questionnaires, interview and observation techniques from 108 Christians purposively selected from the accessible population. The data was analyzed using analytical technique and was presented in tables and figures. The study established that most of the Christians understand the meaning of sacraments. Most of them do not believe that sacraments bestow grace; neither does the validity of sacrament depend on the work of the minister. The priests are responsible for the administration of sacraments. Some parishes do not have priests and hence no administration of sacraments. The presence of Christ is at the centre of Eucharist. The researcher recommended that the Church to educate the Christians on sacraments. Holy Communion should be celebrated frequently at least twice a month. The Christians should realize their baptismal unity in the Church and overcome their divisions. The diocesan office to deploy evangelists and priests to the parishes without services and seek lasting solutions. There is need for further study in the parishes without personnel to determine the problems which affect the Christians and the clergy.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

THE COMMUNICANTS QUESTIONNAIRE

Kindly provide the following information on sacraments. This questionnaire is important for the completion of my postgraduate studies at St. Paul's University Limuru .

SECTION A: PERSONAL INFORMATION

Put a tick ☐ where appropriate

1. Gender

   Male ☐ Female ☐

2. Age Group

   16-24yrs ☐ 25-39 yrs ☐ 40-49 yrs ☐ 50-64 yrs

   65 yrs + ☐ ☐

3. What is your level of education?

K.C.P.E ☐ K.C.S.E ☐ Diploma ☐ Degree ☐

4. What is your occupation ?

Student ☐ Farmer ☐ Business Person ☐ Public worker ☐

5. 6. Where do you live ?

Rural area ☐ Urban area ☐

6. 7. What is your marital status?

Single ☐ Married ☐ Divorced ☐ Widowed ☐

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SECTION B : THE CHURCH SACRAMENTS

1. What is a Sacrament?

A rite ☐ An object ☐ A symbol ☐ A sacrifice ☐

2. How many Sacraments does your church have?

Two ☐ Three ☐ Seven ☐ more than Seven ☐

3. Are sacraments necessary for man's salvation?

Yes ☐ No ☐ I do not know ☐

Somehow ☐

4. Do sacraments the bestow of grace?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe ☐ Somehow ☐

5. Who confers sacraments in your church

Bishop ☐ Priest ☐ Deacon ☐ Elders ☐

6. Should ministers who are not upright administer sacraments?

Yes ☐ No ☐

7. Which mode of Baptism were you baptized?

Immersion ☐ Pouring of water ☐ passing under the flag ☐

By being greeted by the priest ☐

8. What gift did you get when you were baptized?

The spirit ☐ Life ☐ Salvation ☐ Power ☐

9. Do you advocate the infant Baptism ?

Yes ☐ NO ☐

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If yes give reasons …….

If no give reasons……..

10. Are those Christians who join your church already baptized , re-baptized?

Yes ☐ NO ☐

11. How often do you receive the Holy Communion?

Every Sunday ☐ Often ☐ Once a month ☐ Once after three months ☐

12. How does your church understand the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist?

In the elements ☐ in mysterious way ☐ In person ☐ Non of these ☐

13. During the Lord's Supper, how is the wine distributed in your church

From one cup ☐ Individual cup ☐

Bread dipped in one cup ☐ None of these ☐

14. Are the benefits derived from the participation of the Holy Communion automatic?

Yes ☐ No ☐

15. Why is the church considered as a sacrament?

It is the body of Christ ☐ It is Holy ☐ It is a place of worship ☐

Thank you for your cooperation

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APPENDIX B: RESEARCH INTERVIEW CONSENT FORM

Interviewer: ……..

Interviewee: ……..

Date of interview …….

Purpose of the Interview:

This interview is part of my research in Systematic Theology for the award of Masters of Theology of St. Paul's University Limuru.

Confidentiality:

Research ethics will be observed at all times in the analysis and use of data. The data from the interview will only be used for the academic purpose. No names or identifying characteristics that will be included in the report. The interview report may be used as part of the written papers or books but without your name or including characteristics and subjects to the research project.

Acknowledgement:

Please sign this form to show agreement to its contents

Signed (Interviewee) ……..

Signed (Interviewer) ……

Thank you for your cooperation

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APPENDIX C: TIMEFRAME OF ACTIVITIES

DATE/MONTH	LOCATION	ACTIVITY
January – March 2012	Nairobi	Proposal writing
March 2012	St. Paul's University	Submission of the Proposal
April 2012	St. Paul's University	The researcher gets clearance from the University.
April 2012	Nyeri	Collection data.
May 2012	Nairobi	Data organization analysis and interpretation of data. Typing, Editing, Report writing /revision.
June 2012	St. Paul's University	Submission of the Dissertation.

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APPENDIX D: *RESEARCH BUDGET*

No.	Description of the item	Cost in Kshs
1.	• Library search. • Traveling expenses. • Writing materials.	6,000
2.	• Typing and photocopying of research instruments	5,000
3.	• Data collection	5,000
4.	• Assistant allowance and refreshments	10,000
5.	• Traveling allowances	5,000
6.	• Data processing analysis and report writing.	5,000
7.	• Contingencies	10,000
	GRAND TOTAL	**46,000**

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