

**THE ROLE OF CHRISTIAN MUSIC IN PREACHING THE GOSPEL IN GOLI
DEANERY (COLOSSIANS 3:16)**

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**UGANDA CHRISTIAN
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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this work is my original work and it has never been presented to any University or institution of higher learning for any award.

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Date: 23/08/2024

APPROVAL

This research work has been done under my supervision and is now ready for submission with my approval.

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DATE: 23/8/2024

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DEFINITION OF TERMS

The following terms used will be defined as follows;

Role

A role is defined as the function assumed or the part played by a person or something in a particular situation.

Christian

The Biblical meaning of Christian is an adherent of Christ. The disciples were formally called Christian, first, in Antioch, according to Acts 11:26. "And when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So, for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the Church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch" (NIV). Agrippa recognized that to believe what Paul preached would make him a Christian, according to Acts 26:28. Peter accepted the name as itself a basis of persecution. This name was adopted by the disciples of Jesus. So, the Christian is someone who has put his/her faith and trust in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ through his death on the cross and subsequent resurrection where our behavior mirrors, reflects, and resembles Christ. It is being gracious and merciful to others like Christ.

Music

Music can be defined as vocal or instrumental sound (or both) combined in such a way as to produce beauty of form, harmony, and expression of emotion. And can also be defined as the written or printed notes representing vocal or instrumental sound.

Preaching

Preaching refers to the authoritative proclamation of the word of the living God by living men of God in God's ordained manner of moving people to Christ and salvation and to eternal life.

Gospel

The word itself comes from a Greek word "euangelion," which literally means "good news." In the New Testament, it refers to the announcement that Jesus has brought the reign of God to our world through his life, death, and resurrection from the dead.

Deanery

In the context of the Church, a Deanery refers to a geographic grouping of parishes or churches within a Diocese. The dean, also known as the dean of the Deanery, is a clergy member who serves as the representative of the bishop in that particular area. The dean's responsibilities typically include overseeing the clergy and congregation in the Deanery, organizing Church activities and events, and assisting in the pastoral care and administration. The formation of deaneries helps facilitate effective coordination and communication between the Diocese and its various local Churches.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

COU- Church of Uganda

ND- Nebbi Diocese

NIV- New international version

MDD- Music, Dance, and Drama

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze the role of Christian music in preaching the gospel in Goli Deanery, focusing on the importance of Colossians 3:16 which states, "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts." By examining the impact of music in spreading the gospel message, both within the church community and beyond, this study seeks to understand how music can be used as a powerful tool for evangelism and discipleship in Goli Deanery.

This research was carried out in Nebbi District with the aim of examining the role of Christian music in preaching the gospel in Goli Deanery, Nebbi Diocese (ND). This research has explored the impact of Christian music in preaching the gospel in Goli Deanery by conducting a contextual analysis and applying the principles outlined in Colossians 3:16. The study has utilized questionnaires to gather feedback from church members on their experience with Christian music, interviews with church leaders to gain insight into their use of music in preaching, observations of church services to see how music is integrated into worship, and my personal experiences of Christian music in my spiritual journey.

In light of Colossians 3:16 and the feedback from Church members, Christian music plays a crucial role in preaching the gospel in Goli Deanery by enhancing the worship experience and creating a conducive atmosphere for spiritual reflection and contemplation. Through Christian music, missionaries in Goli Deanery are able to effectively communicate the message of the gospel to the local community, helping to spread the teachings of Christianity and attract new followers. The use of Christian music in preaching the gospel has been found to have a significant impact on the emotional and spiritual well-being of believers in Goli Deanery, fostering a sense of unity and devotion among members of the congregation. Christian music serves as a powerful tool for evangelism in Goli Deanery, attracting individuals who may not otherwise be interested in traditional forms of religious outreach and helping to cultivate a sense of belonging and community among believers. The use of Christian music into worship services in Goli Deanery has been shown to increase levels of engagement and participation among congregants, leading to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the gospel message.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This research is entitled, "the role of Christian music in preaching the gospel in Goli Deanery according to Colossians 3:16", Nebbi Diocese, Anglican Church of Uganda. The emphasis was put on Goli Deanery because Christian music has long played a significant role in various aspects of religious practices, firmly embedded in the culture and traditions of believers worldwide. There are prominent Churches in Goli Deanery that have been recognized for their devotion to preaching the gospel and engaging their congregations in meaningful worship experiences, but sometimes can have non- devoted believers who do not mind of worshipping God vigorously in truth and in spirit.

The main target groups are the youths within the Church and also elders, both the males and females, aged from 15 years and above fellowshipping within Goli Deanery, Nebbi Diocese, especially, those who attend Church services, in order to address any gaps and shed light on the significant ways in which Christian music enhances the effectiveness of the gospel within the Church worship services.

1.1.1 Background

The Diocese of Nebbi is an ecclesiastical unit formed by a group of parishes under the jurisdiction and pastoral care of a Bishop, under the Province of the Church of Uganda. It was carved from Madi and West Nile Diocese on the 24th October, 1993. Currently it has seven Archdeaconries namely the Deanery, Goli central, Ukuru, Padyere, Jonam, Nebbi Urban and Alala, it has forty six (46) parishes, and 423 congregations/Churches. The Diocese covers three local government Districts of Pakwach, Nebbi, and Zombo located in the North Western part of Uganda. The Diocesan headquarter is located in Goli, Jupangira sub- county in Nebbi District.¹

In this study, the researcher has chosen to research on the role of Christian music in preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ as in the scripture. Because Colossians 3:16 says; "let the message of

¹ Church of Uganda, Nebbi Diocese. Magazine. 1st edition, 1st January 2023

Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your heart" (NIV).² The message of Christ. Refers especially to Christ's teaching, which in the time of the Colossians was transmitted orally. But by implication it includes the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual songs. Some of the most important doctrines were expressed in Christian hymns preserved for us now as in Colossians 3:16.

1.1.2 Statement of the Problem

Over the years, Christian music has been used to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ both in the Church but also in the general community. Colossians 3:16 emphasizes the necessity of making music to the Lord. Traditionally, the composition of Christian music inform of hymns and praise songs were inspired and informed by scripture. However, due to modernization the nature of Christian music has changed from preaching the truthful gospel as written in the scriptures to a secular orientation where some musicians seek to promote their own messages that are not Christian. This is dangerous as it distorts the message of Christ, and we see secular styles of music enter in the Church today which is dominating the bible - based music, and has become a challenge in many ways. So, there is need for a proper use of Christian music that must be sung to minister the truthful message of Jesus Christ in the Church.

1.1.3 Objectives of the Research

- I. To analyze the meaning of Colossians 3:16 in preaching the gospel.
- II. To examine the church practices of using Christian music in Colossians 3:16 in preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ in Goli Deanery.
- III. To examine the implications of Christian music in Colossians 3:16 for the Christian in Goli Deanery.

² The Holy Bible. 2011. *New international version*. 5th edition. Revised and published by Biblica international.

1.1.4 Research Questions

- I. What is the meaning of Colossians 3:16 in preaching the gospel?
- II. What are the Church practices of using Christian music in Colossians 3:16 in preaching the gospel of Jesus in Goli Deanery?
- III. How does the use of Christian music in Colossians 3:16 impact the spiritual practices and community engagement of Christians in Goli Deanery?

1.1.5 Scope of the Study

This refers to the boundaries or limitations that define the extent of the research or investigation being conducted. In this research, the researcher included the following scope of study:

Content Scope

The content scope examines the vital role that Christian music plays in spreading the message of the gospel within the Goli Deanery community. This research focuses on exploring the impact of musical expressions of faith on the preaching of the gospel as indicated in Colossians 3:16, including how music fosters spiritual engagement, community building, and evangelism in Goli Deanery. The study aims to shed light on the transformative power of Christian music as a tool for effectively sharing the gospel and inspiring faith among believers in Goli Deanery.

Time Scope

From October to December 2023, following the length or span of time being discussed with my supervisor, was meant for data collection. The actual writing of the research started on the 10th January, 2024 when the researcher reported to school. The research is expected to be delivered in April 2024. This implies that the research took about six months to complete.

Geographical Scope

Goli Deanery is found in Nebbi District, especially in Jupangira sub-county, Nebbi Diocese. It encompasses two parishes, namely St. Stephen's Cathedral and Kaya Parish,

along with five small Churches. The Deanery covers an area of approximately 2 miles and is characterized by Mountainous terrain. The weather is typically cold throughout the year, both during the rainy and sunny seasons. Moreover, the area boasts a significant amount of planted forests and shares a boarder with the Democratic Republic of Congo, situated to the North Western side of Uganda.

1.1.6 Justification

The findings of this study revealed that Christian music will be of help as it has the ability to connect people on an emotional level, creating feelings of peace, inspiration, and joy. By including Christian music into preaching sessions in Goli Deanery, it can help create a deeper emotional connection with the congregation, making the message of the gospel more impactful and meaningful.

The information yielded by this study is beneficial to the Deanery administration, Parish priests, and Lay Readers in that music have a way of breaking down barriers and reaching people from different walks of life. In a diverse community like Goli Deanery, Christian music provides a common ground that can be understood and enjoyed by both young and old, educated and not-so- educated, across different cultural backgrounds. It serves as an accessible medium for preaching the gospel that can bring people together and break down barriers.

Although the study was conducted in only 7 Churches in Goli Deanery, in the Diocese of Nebbi, this finding will be of great use not only to Goli Deanery but to the Church of Uganda - how Christian music is often used as a form of worship and expression of gratitude towards God. By including music into preaching, it allows the congregations to actively participate in the worship experience, lifting their spirit and creating an atmosphere of praise and thanksgiving. This enhances the overall spiritual experience and reinforce the teachings of the gospel.

Through this study, we realized that music has the power to leave an impact on the human mind. Utilizing Christian music during preaching sessions in Goli Deanery helps with the memorization and retention of scriptural teachings, as well as engage the congregation by providing a memorable and enjoyable experience. The catchy melodies and uplifting lyrics can

serve as anchors for the biblical messages, making them more likely to be remembered and applied to individuals' lives.

The findings of this study reveal that Christian music can serve as a powerful tool for outreach and evangelism efforts. Through music, the message of the gospel can be shared with those who may not regularly attend Church or have preconceived notions about Christianity. By organizing music related events and including Christian music in various community platforms, Goli Deanery can increase its outreach and create opportunities to spread the gospel to a wider audience.

The study will also be helpful in enabling the researcher to get his qualification of Bachelor of Divinity Degree.

1.1.7 Significance

The significance of Christian music in preaching the gospel in Goli Deanery lies in its ability to connect with the people at a deeper emotional level. Music has a unique power to inspire and uplift the spirit, allowing individuals to experience a personal connection with their faith. By putting Christian themes and messages into music, believers can effectively communicate the teachings of the gospel, fostering a sense of unity and understanding among the congregation. This connection helps to strengthen people's faith, bringing them closer to God and promoting a more profound spiritual experience. Overall, Christian music acts as a catalyst for spreading the gospel, touching hearts, and transforming lives within the Goli Deanery community.

1.1.8 Theoretical frame work

Christian music plays a crucial role in spreading the message of the gospel within Goli Deanery community. It functions as a powerful tool that not only resonates with people on an emotional and spiritual level but also effectively communicates the teachings and values of Christianity. By putting religious themes, biblical references, and uplifting melodies, Christian music creates an immersive and engaging environment that helps individuals to connect with their faith and inspire them to share their faith with others. Thus, this theoretical framework acknowledges the transformative power of music and its ability to uplift, unite, and ultimately facilitate evangelization within Goli Deanery.

1.2 LITERATURE REVIEW

1.2.1 The meaning of Christian music in Colossians 3:16 in preaching the gospel.

In an article from the black beat books, Foster gives a comment on what he did find: the holiness church was the only one that didn't consider music sinful, they'd clap their hands and bang a tambourine and sing. Sometimes they had a piano player, and he'd really play a whole lot of jazz.³ In the chapter entitled "perfect to George than Symphoniae iu cundae," in *Liturgic Hymns* 1965: 323.⁴ Luther argued that black Holiness and Pentecostal Christians considered music a gift from God, an instrument of the Holy Spirit, which is good. But can be used for ungodly purposes if used in ungodly texts.

In an article from the Negro folk songs, 141, Manson asserts broadly that "we must have Jesus in all things in the Church and his saints, and that dancing and singing to God is to be in the spirit of Jesus only. In Jesus only, we rejoice and praise God."⁵ Sanders, *Saints in exile* 63, also stated that if the Holy Spirit dance and gospel music is God, the doing of the dance and music are enabled through God, and the orientation of both the musician and the music are towards God.

Mc Coy argued that Clark revolutionized the musical department in the COGIC by introducing a new Pentecostal sound and choir style for singing in Churches, in addition to one important element of the anointing.⁶

When we look at the book written by Tim A. Dearborn and Scott Coil, gave a detail of worshipping God with an introspective version of a praise and worship service, where the people sing Southern gospel standard ("I'll fly away") and traditional hymns ("Great is thy faithfulness") done in a contemporary style with projected lyrics.⁷

³ George Murphy (2005). "Pop" Foster, the Autobiography of pop Foster, New Orleans Jazzman, as told to Tom Stoddard (San Francisco: Black beat books) 19.

⁴ Martin Luther. (1967) "perfect to George than Symphoniae iu cundae," In *Liturgy and Hymns*, Ed. Ulrich S. Lenpold, vol 53 I Luther's work. Philadelphia: fortress press, 323.

⁵ Work, "Changing patterns in Negro folk songs, 141.

⁶ Tim A. Dearborn and Scott Coil. (2004). *Worship at the next level: insight from contemporary voices*. Page 74- 84.

⁷ Eugene B. Mc Coy, *climbing up the mountain: the life and times of a musical legend* (Nashville, Tennessee) 68.

1.2.2 The Church Practices of Using Christian Music in Colossians 3:16 in Preaching the Gospel

The Holy Bible, New International version (Colossians 3:16), emphasizes the necessity of making music to the Lord with gratitude in our hearts, in order for the message of Christ to dwell richly in us as we teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the spirit.⁸

In an article from the Black gospel music tradition, Mellonee Burnim explains, that in earliest stages, gospel music is characterized as both a reinterpretation and expansion of the existing music tradition. And in an article from, *singing in my soul* 24, Jackson explain that music had to be restored to sacred use in order to reinstate its legitimate purpose of being a "tool of praise."

In another article from the personal interview with Dr. Clark Mattie she points out the roots of gospel music originating with slave songs such as "I couldn't hear nobody pray", "Steal away" and "Hear music in the air." Clark Mattie refers to the Bible, (Ephesians 5:19). And also, in an article from, *singing in my soul*,⁹ Jackson argues that the gift of music has been given, the Holy Spirit plays a critical role in enabling Christians to make music, so you can see it is all in the spirit of God and to the glory of God.¹⁰

Also, in the book written by Webber Robert, he argues that music witnesses to the transcendence of God and to his work of salvation. God's heavenly court uses music to praise him. Music in worship draws the earthly worshipers into the heavens to stand with the heavenly throng as they offer praise to God.¹¹

In another book by White James F, he argues in response to a question "why do Christians sing? One of the reasons he gives is that music aids worship and that music is a more expressive medium than ordinary speech. Music enables us to express an intensity of feelings through varieties in tempo, pitch, volume, melody, harmony, and rhythm. There is a greater range for expressiveness

⁸ The Holy Bible. 2011. *New international version*. 5th edition. Revised and published by Biblica international

⁹ Jackson, *singing in my soul*, 24.

¹⁰ Clark, Mattie Moses. (1991). Personal interview Iowa, October 15.

¹¹ Webber, Robert. (1994). *Worship old and new*, Rev, and expanded, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, (Page 195- 203).

in singing than when speaking. Music can, and often does, convey a greater intensity of feeling than would be expressed in its absence.¹²

White James F. further argues that today's hymns borrow indiscriminately from whatever tradition seems to have produced something of value, Catholics are almost as likely to sing "Amazing grace" as are Protestants; the St. Louis Jesuits appear in most new Protestant hymnals.¹³

And an article from worship a verb, Webber argues that music serves the fourfold order of preparation, hearing the word, communing or the table, and being sent forth. Music brings us into the presence of God, assists us in hearing and responding to the word, helps us experience healing at the communion table, and provides us with the sense of being sent forth.¹⁴

1.2.3 The implications of Christian music in Colossians 3:16 for the Christian.

In the book written by Aimee Semple Mc Person, denigrates "worldly and rag-time music", but also praises the use of instruments for worship.¹⁵

And in father of the blues, an autobiography when the young WC Handy bought himself a guitar, his father roared. A box, a guitar one of the devil's playing... Take it away.¹⁶

In an article from the Black Holiness Pentecostalism, Lovett argued that overtime, some sanctified Churches may have relaxed their vigilance. Anecdotes of worldly blues musicians playing gospel music in worship service.¹⁷ And Boyer in contemporary gospel music. Boyer, Dranes recording of "I shall wear a crown" epitomizes her gospel piano style.¹⁸

¹² White, James F. (2000). Introduction to Christian worship, 3rd Ed, rev and expanded. Page 112- 128.

¹³ White, James F. A brief history of Christian worship 1993 page 172- 173.

¹⁴ Webber, Robert.(1985). Worship is a verb page 179- 182

¹⁵ Aimee Semple Mc (1985). Personal experiences sermons and writing (1919: rep... New York, publishing) 38- 39.

¹⁶ Wc. Handy. (1970). father of the Blues: An autobiography. New York: Collier Book Ed. cited in Levine, Black culture and Black consciousness 177.

¹⁷ Lovett, "Black Holiness Pentecostalism," 27

¹⁸ Boyer "contemporary gospel music," 31- 32

Daniel argued that intense instrumental rhythmic drive was one of the primary commonalities with secular music. Many recording of the 1920s and 1930s made extensive use of a "rocking, driving beat" typical of the Blues and jazz of the period.¹⁹

1.3 METHODOLOGY

1.3.0 Introduction

Methodology refers to the method by which data is gathered for a research project. It is the blueprint for the collection, measurement, and analyze data in order to achieve the objectives of the research project. It presents the method that the researcher used in this study highlighting a more detailed description of the selected methodology. This section includes research design, study population, data collection method, data analysis method, data collection tools, research ethics, and methodological challenges.

1.3.1 Research Philosophy/ Approach

Research philosophy refers to the beliefs and assumptions that guide the researcher's approach to conducting the research. Research philosophy outlines the researcher's underlying worldview and overall perspective on how knowledge is acquired and understood.

In the context of studying the role of Christian music in preaching the gospel in Goli Deanery, a suitable research philosophy/approach could be interpretivism. Interpretivism emphasizes the subjective interpretation of individuals and their social worlds. This approach focuses on understanding the meanings and interpretations that individuals place on their experiences, rather than seeking objective truths or generalizability.

1.3.2 Research design

Research design refers to the framework of the research methods and techniques chosen by the researcher to conduct a study. The design has sharpens the research methods suitable for the subject matter and set them for success. The purpose of this study is to look at the role of Christian music in preaching the gospel in Goli Deanery, a case study of Nebbi Diocese. It

¹⁹ Daniel "Gotta moan sometime," 22.

involves qualitative approach that involves open- ended questions that enable respondents to express their opinions, suggestions, and recommendations regarding the purpose of the study.

1.3.3 Contextual analysis

Contextual analysis involves examining a particular subject within its surrounding circumstances, conditions, or setting to gain a deeper understanding of its meaning, relevance, or implications. This approach considers the broader context in which something exists or occurs, including historical, cultural, social, and situational factors, in order to interpret and interpret and analyze the subject more accurately. By investigating the context in which something is situated, contextual analysis aims to uncover hidden meanings, connections, and influences that can provide valuable insights and enrich interpretations.

1.3.4 Application of Colossians 3:16 to the Christian of Goli Deanery

The application of Colossians 3:16 to the Christians of Goli Deanery emphasizes the importance of incorporating spiritual songs, hymns, and music into their worship and community life. By singing and making music with gratitude in their hearts, they can deepen their connection with God, encourage one another in faith, and strengthen their unity as a Christian community. This verse underscores the significance of worship through music as a means of expressing devotion, sharing teachings, and nurturing spiritual growth among believers.

1.3.5 Data Collection Method

Data collection method refers to the techniques and processes used to gather information and data from various sources for research or analysis purposes. These methods are crucial for obtaining accurate and reliable data that can be used for decision-making, identifying patterns, or studying phenomena. Data collection methods can vary depending on the nature of the research, the type of data required, and the resources available. In this study, the researcher chose to use the following methods:

Questionnaire

Sets of related questions about "the role of Christian music in preaching the gospel in Goli Deanery" were used to obtain written information about this study from the targeted respondents. 22 questionnaires were distributed to 10 female and 12 male individual Christians whom the

researcher selected with the help of two parish priests of the two parishes under study. The questionnaire was written and answered in one language that is English (please see Appendix A for a copy of this questionnaire).

16 out of 22 questionnaires were returned due to different reasons such as; busy schedules, forgetfulness etc. These questionnaires helped the researcher to collect information from many respondents within a limited period of time. The respondent's privacy was also protected, since each questionnaire was filled individually and the collected data was treated with maximum confidentiality.

Interview

This purposeful conversation involved male and female, educated and illiterate, young and adult members of the study population. The researcher used the same questions for both questionnaire and interview. A copy of these questions is located in Appendix A.

One group interview was conducted in (St. Stephen's Cathedral parish) under study on Tuesday 05/12/2023 and 18 respondents complied.

6 individual interviews were carried out. Members of the congregation who sing in the Church and have changed their places of residence, I had to follow them and those who were actively ministering every Sunday specially the adults and elders within Goli Deanery.

Observation

The researcher has attended some seminar, conference, youth camp, and convention where many youths and elders gathered to praise and worship God. He has observed the type of Christian songs being sung, frequency of singing the Christian songs, the timing (seasons) of the songs being sung in the Church, reaction during singing, most active Christians during singing, observing whether Christians carry hymn books or not, he also observed whether the dressing cords portrayed the image of God, and also the coordination between vocalist and instrumentalists for the uniformity that brings harmony and Godliness.

Personal experience.

The researcher is an Alur by tribe and at the same time a Christian. He has experience in music, dance, and drama since he was a music director in the Church for many years. This experience has been the source of the ideas for this study.

1.3.6. Data Analysis Method.

The researcher used qualitative technique to analyze the data in a complementary manner. Qualitative analysis has been used to analyze all the responses obtained either in interviews or from open- ended items appearing in all instruments. This technique used in this research was content analysis technique. Thus, they involved transcribing and describing each response using both interpretive means and semantic approach. Each response was assessed and examined with great care, developing a theme out of it in accordance with the main theme of the study. Some of the responses which were clear and straight to the point was transcribed and quoted directly as they appeared in chapter four. Others were edited and summarized inform of a tabulated frequency distribution responses.

Data Collection Tools.

In this research, semi- structured interview guide and open- ended interview guides were used to get information from various members in the mentioned area of the study. A copy of these interview guide or questions is located in Appendix A. And also, observation check - list was used by the researcher to get the necessary information of the study. A copy of this observation check list is located in Appendix B.

Research Ethics.

The study strived to avoid any form of harm to respondents by observing the ethical rules and these included; informed consent, respect for confidentiality of respondents' views and assurance of not causing any harm to the respondents.

Methodological Challenges.

The researcher faced many challenges such as; limited finances for transport in distributing questionnaires. Also, during collection of data there was heavy rain. In addition to that, some respondents delayed with some copies of questionnaires and others did not comply.

Conclusion

The study has explored the role of Christian music in preaching the gospel in Goli Deanery based on the instructions given in Colossians 3:16. Through an in-depth analysis of the literature on this topic and the methodology employed, it was found that Christian music plays a crucial role in spreading the message of the gospel and encouraging believers in their faith. The research has shed light on the importance of incorporating music into preaching efforts, as it can effectively communicate the message of the gospel and touch the hearts of listeners in a unique way. It is hoped that the findings of this study will provide valuable insights for pastors, worship leaders, and believers in Goli Deanery as they seek to effectively reach out and nurture their community through the power of Christian music.

CHAPTER TWO:

THE MEANING OF COLOSSIANS 3:16.

2.0 Introduction

This highlights the significance of Christian music in the biblical verse Colossians 3:16 as a tool for preaching the gospel message. Through music, hymns, and spiritual songs, this verse encourages believers to share the teachings of Christ with one another, spreading the message of the gospel in a melodic and memorable way. By exploring the role of Christian music in Colossians 3:16, one can delve into how music enhances the communication of Christian beliefs, fosters spiritual growth, and strengthens the bonds of faith within the Christian community.

What is involved in letting the word of God dwell in us richly? Reading the bible sensibly and regularly is a start. But how, and with what attitude and what expectations?²⁰

As noted earlier, Colossians makes little direct reference to the Spirit. We may well ponder the meaning of believers being filled with the Spirit, and whether that is equivalent to them having the word of Christ dwelling in them richly.²¹

As already illustrated in Colossians, Paul is concerned to have right doctrine about Christ. But here, with the wording dwelling in you, his burden is not to hold correct formulations of truth but have the word of Christ fully at home in the being and experience of persons and in the believing community. The context keeps out attention directed to the church corporate experience. Paul uses the word dwell to convey this idea, whereas John employs abide, “And my words abide in you.”

In Colossians 3:16, Christian music plays vital roles in preaching the gospel and fostering spiritual growth within the Christian community:

²⁰ Stephen Gaukroger & Derek wood (2002), Cross way bible guide. 4th Ed. British library cataloguing in publication Data. P 81.

²¹ Martin, Ernest D (1924). Colossians, Philemon, Believers Church Bible commentary. Library of congress cataloguing publication Data. Pp 172-174.

2.1 Teaching and Admonishing.

Christian music serves as a means of teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom. Hymns and spiritual songs carry profound theological truths and moral principles, helping believers understand and internalize the message of the gospel. Through music, key doctrines and instructions of the Christian faith are reinforced and passed on to future generations.

The phrase in all wisdom can be construed with dwell or with teaching and admonishing. Other references to wisdom in Colossians support the construction of the text. A prime example is 1:28, which also associates wisdom with warning (admonishing) and teaching.

The relationship of singing to teaching and admonishing raises a question. Are we to understand singing as the means for teaching and admonishing or as parallel with teaching and admonishing? All three terms are in the same grammatical form. All three should likely be seen as means by which the word of Christ dwells in believers. Teaching implies instruction, admonishing connotes an exercised concern, and singing adds the element of celebrative worship. Attempts to make clear distinctions between psalm, hymns, and songs are not convincing. (Perhaps Spiritual is best taken to modify all three.) Together these terms portray “the full range of singing which the Spirit prompts.”

Setting words to music unquestionably enhances communication potential, as the advertising industry knows. Interest and retention are heightened with addition of colorful music. Didactic hymns and scriptural songs are powerful means of passing on the faith. But such a function of singing in the church does not exhaust Paul’s vision in this directive. Hymnody may be a more significant vehicle of theology than sermons are, but here the focus is on singing to God, not to one another.

2.2 Expressing Gratitude and Worship.

Music in Colossians 3:16 encourages believers to sing with gratitude in their hearts to God. By expressing thankfulness and worship through music, Christians deepen their connection with God and magnify His greatness. This attitude of gratitude enhances the spiritual experience and contributes to a vibrant and authentic worship environment.

The phrase in your heart does not specify silent worship, but an involvement of the whole being. This fifth reference to thanksgiving in Colossians identifies gratitude as the main spring for singing. Paul expresses the idea of thanksgiving differently here. Although grace is part of the word commonly translated thanksgiving, here the word grace itself carries the meaning of gratitude. A literal rendering is with the grace singing in your hearts to God. These details imply that grateful singing arises out of awareness of being in the realm of God's grace, and that Spirit-inspired singing is the lyrical expression of devout soul. In the previous line with gratitude is structurally parallel with all wisdom.²²

2.3 Unity and Community Building.

Singing hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs together promotes unity and mutual support among believers. Music has the power to unite hearts and minds, creating a sense of community and fellowship among Christians. By sharing in musical worship, individuals strengthen their bonds with one another, fostering a spirit of harmony and cooperation within the church.

2.4 Evangelism and Outreach.

Christian music serves as a powerful tool for evangelism and sharing the gospel message with others. The uplifting and inspirational nature of hymns and spiritual songs can captivate hearts, making them more receptive to the truths of Christianity. Through music, believers can effectively communicate the love of Christ and the transformative power of the gospel to those inside and outside the church.

2.5 Conclusion

By fulfilling these roles, Christian music in Colossians 3:16 enriches the worship experience, edifies believers, enhances community life, and amplifies the proclamation of the gospel, contributing to the growth and vitality of the Christian faith.

²² Martin, Ernest D (1924). Colossians, Philemon, Believers Church Bible commentary. Library of congress cataloguing publication Data. Pp 172-174.

CHAPTER THREE

THE CHURCH PRACTICES OF USING CHRISTIAN MUSIC IN PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS IN GOLI DEANERY.

3.0 introduction

In the context of Colossians 3:16, which reads "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts," the use of Christian music in preaching the gospel is a powerful tool for worship, teaching, and spreading the message of Jesus Christ. It is important explain Church practices related to using Christian music in preaching the gospel in the Goli Deanery, based on Colossians 3:16 and the data collected.

3.1 Using Christian music to enhance the message.

Christian music is often used to complement the preaching of the gospel of Jesus. By selecting songs that tie into the themes of the sermon, church leaders can help reinforce the message and make it more memorable for the congregation.

Paul in Colossians 3:16 emphasizes the necessity of making music to the Lord with gratitude in our hearts in order for the message of Christ to dwell richly in us. We should teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through Psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit.²³ Albert, a respondent, mentioned that in most cases the congregation follows the lead of the choir or choir leader when it comes to selecting songs for a church service. The congregation has limited privilege in choosing songs. Additionally, sometimes the person preaching selects songs that are related to the theme of the sermon, aiming to connect well and make sense for a proper message to the congregation.

Worship through Music: Christian music is utilized as a tool for worship within the church community. It helps congregation members connect with God on a deeper spiritual level and express their praise and devotion.

²³ The Holy Bible. 2011. *New international version*. 5th edition. Revised and published by Biblica international

3.2 Teaching and Admonition.

By incorporating psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs into the preaching, the message of Christ is not only spoken but also sung. This musical element enhances the teaching by appealing to the emotions and engaging multiple senses.

Rev. Francis Kermu stated that, mostly, the choir practices the songs. When a new song is introduced, it is taught to the church. This is true because the Bible instructs us to teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through Psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Personally, I have noticed that there are people whom God has anointed to receive spiritual songs from God. When the Spirit of God gives them songs, a genuine person in the walk of faith does not behave in a selfish manner. Instead, he or she teaches the church of Christ with these new songs to extend the kingdom of God. This is done in humility while putting pride aside.

3.3 Memorization and Meditation.

The use of music aids in memorization and meditation on biblical truths. Melodies and lyrics can stick in the minds of listeners, allowing them to recall and reflect on the message even outside of church gatherings.

Through observations, it has been noted that certain churches within Goli Deanery actively participate in audio music recording. This practice has resulted in the widespread dissemination of the message of Christ through those recorded music. You could hear them singing recorded songs perfectly, and I strongly believe that meditation follows memorization as the song enters deeply into their hearts. This creates a turning point to those who do not know Christ.

3.4 Encouragement and Edification.

Christian music has the power to encourage and build up believers in their faith. Through uplifting lyrics and melodies, individuals can find strength, comfort, and inspiration in their spiritual journey. One of the respondents stated that the church genuinely emphasizes singing hymns because the messages in traditional hymns are firsthand, mostly directly from the translated Bible, hence their need for emphasis. Although other contemporary music is also significant in modern services, it is challenging for believers fellowshiping within Goli Deanery

or elsewhere to overlook singing hymns due to their contextual meaningfulness, as they convey the message of Christ to the entire world.

3.5 Using music in prayer and intercession.

Some churches in Goli Deanery may incorporate music into their prayer meetings and intercessory sessions, using it as a means to connect with God and seek His guidance and intervention in various situations. One of the respondents stated clearly that, the emotional and profound impact of music reaches deep into one's heart, prompting self-reflection on the word of God contained within the songs. Ultimately, this process leads to personal growth and a striving for spiritual perfection in the eyes of God.

3.6 Music in missions and outreaches.

Church groups in Goli Deanery may use Christian music as a tool to reach out to the local community or to spread the message of Jesus to unreached areas. They may organize music concerts, street performances, or other events that combine music with evangelistic efforts. The churches in Goli Deanery also organize various events such as conventions, crusades, conferences, retreats, and youth camps, where Christian music is sung to spread the gospel and further expand the kingdom of God. Men of influence provide opportunities for talented young individuals to showcase their musical gifts and sing praises to the Lord. Additionally, there is a team of trumpeters within Goli Deanery that teaches people sol-fa notations, enabling them to skillfully play hymns. I have observed members of the congregation eagerly joining these lessons to acquire proficiency in playing the trumpet and effectively preach the gospel of Jesus Christ.

3.7 Incorporating Christian music into the worship service.

Church leaders in Goli Deanery follow the practice of including Christian music in their worship services. This can involve singing traditional hymns, contemporary Christian songs, or even incorporating musical performances into the service.

Personally, I have found that it is a tradition among many believers in Goli Deanery to carry or bring their hymn books to all Christian gatherings, including conventions, crusades, conferences, youth camps, and other types of Christian gatherings. This practice is seen as a beneficial way to use Christian music in preaching the gospel. Devoted believers understand that at any given

moment, the praise and worship leader or the preacher may begin a song from the hymn book. Therefore, carrying it with them wherever they go demonstrates their commitment and faithfulness in spreading the kingdom of God.

Another respondent, named Upakrwoth Solomon, argued that the Church practice of using Christian music in preaching the gospel have been built on hymns. Hymns are deemed essential in the lives of believers even in the present day, as they serve as a reminder that we have a calling not only to study God but also to know, serve, and worship Him. This is precisely why hymn singing has played a crucial role in reformed theology and practice. It allows us to establish a genuine communion with God and worship Him in both spirit and truth.

3.8 Creating a worshipful atmosphere.

Christian music is used to create a reverent and worshipful atmosphere during church services. By singing songs of praise and worship, church members can focus their hearts and minds on God and prepare to receive His Word. One of the respondents, Albert Ungeirwoth, asserted in his response that in modern times, praise songs evoke more enthusiasm than traditional hymns. On a different note, hymns are cherished by numerous individuals within the Goli Deanery congregation, particularly the elders, as they hold profound significance that manifests transformative effects on their lives. Meanwhile, the youth channel their energy into praise songs, considering it one of the manifestations of being filled with the Holy Spirit, as explained by Yoacel Edna.

3.9 Encouraging congregation participation.

Church leaders encourage active participation in worship through the singing of Christian music. By inviting the congregation to join in singing praises to God, church leaders foster a sense of community and unity among believers.

In regards to encouraging congregation to participate, a valuable idea is put forth by Solomon as he describes the Church practices in using Christian music to worship God among the Christians in Goli Deanery. He states that both the congregation and individuals need constant reminders of all that God has done for his people, and singing serves as an excellent means of firmly establishing this truth in our lives. Apostle Paul, further supports this concept in Colossians 3:16,

where he advises that the word of God should reside abundantly within us, and we should teach and encourage one another in wisdom through the singing of Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual songs.

3.10 Unity and Fellowship.

Singing together creates a sense of unity and fellowship among believers. It fosters a communal experience where individuals come together in harmony to worship and proclaim the gospel message. Deborah Nyayich provided a clear insight into using Christian music in preaching the gospel in Goli Deanery. The congregation has a strong feeling of excitement and interest and a desire to clap their hands and dance together during moments of praise, with the inclusion of instruments such as piano, guitar, and various others is encouraged as long as there are skilled individuals who can play them. She further emphasized that Christian music serves as an inspiration for wholehearted dedication to serving God, as it brings joy and dispels any malevolent spirits that may be troubling individuals. This viewpoint is corroborated by the Holiness Church in an article titled "The Autobiography of Pop Foster" in 1.2. This has fostered a sense of unity and fellowship, enabling the Church to build one another for the glory of God, particularly in spreading the gospel through music.

Another respondent expressed those traditional songs, or hymns, are especially appreciated as they encourage the congregation to sing together as a group. Sharing songs with different age groups aids in building confidence and contributes to a strong, thriving tradition that is embraced by individuals of all ages, including the youngest citizens.

3.11 Cultural Relevance.

Christian music can bridge the gap between traditional and contemporary worship styles, making the gospel relevant to diverse audiences. Goli Deanery may incorporate culturally appropriate music styles to reach and engage a broader community.

The Church practice of using Christian music in preaching the gospel have been described by Emmanence as a source of strength, as well as a means of easing pain, improving one's mood, and assisting in the discovery of meaning in difficult times. The songs have messages that connect one's spirit to worship in the spirit and truth. In that he and many respondents said, people

worship God more easily and sincerely in their own vernacular or in well-known languages. People feel more at ease with fellow members of the church or visiting strangers if they can easily communicate with them in a known language. Fellowship largely depends on the ability to understand one another.

3.12 Conclusion.

The use of Christian music in preaching the gospel of Jesus has proven to be a powerful and effective tool in the mission of the church in Goli Deanery. Through the emotional and spiritual connection that music brings, individuals are able to receive and respond to the message of Jesus in a way that transcends language barriers and cultural differences. The uplifting and inspirational nature of Christian music has the ability to touch hearts and souls, ultimately leading individuals to a deeper understanding and relationship with Christ. This practice serves as a beacon of hope and encouragement, guiding individuals towards a path of faith and salvation.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE IMPLICATIONS OF CHRISTIAN MUSIC IN COLOSSIANS 3:16 FOR THE CHRISTIAN IN GOLI DEANERY.

4.0 Introduction

In this chapter, we will explore the implications of Christian music in Colossians 3:16 for the Christian in Goli Deanery. We will examine how music can be used as a tool for teaching, encouragement, and worship in the local church context, and how it can impact the spiritual growth and unity of believers in Goli Deanery.

4.1 Encouragement and Inspiration.

Christian music can serve as a source of encouragement and inspiration for the Christians in Goli Deanery, helping them stay connected to their faith and drawing closer to God. In light of encouragement and inspiration, Christian music can help Christians in Goli Deanery navigate challenges and obstacles in their spiritual journey.

The spiritual impact of Christian music in Colossians 3:16 on believers in Goli Deanery is profound, as it serves as a source of inspiration, comfort, and encouragement in times of joy and sorrow. Music has the power to touch hearts and minds, leading individuals to experience God's presence in a personal and transformative way.

The Church practices of using Christian music in Colossians 3:16 involve incorporating music into worship services, prayer meetings, Bible studies, and other gatherings to uplift and inspire believers in their faith. This creates a conducive atmosphere for spiritual growth and fellowship.

4.2 Worship and Praise.

Christian music can be used as a tool for worship and praise, allowing individuals to express their adoration and gratitude towards God through song.

The use of Christian music in Colossians 3:16 enhances the worship experience of Christians in Goli Deanery by facilitating a deeper connection with God through expressions of praise and thanksgiving. This fosters a sense of spiritual intimacy and reverence among believers. Through

the use of Christian music in Colossians 3:16, Christians in Goli Deanery are able to unite in worship and praise, regardless of their cultural or linguistic differences. Music has the ability to transcend barriers and bring people together in a spirit of unity and harmony.

4.3 Community Engagement.

The use of Christian music can bring members of the Goli Deanery community together in worship, creating a sense of unity and fellowship among believers. Actively involve the congregation and the local community in the music ministry. Encourage congregational singing, and provide opportunities for individuals to participate through choirs, worship teams, or solo performances. Organize workshops and training sessions to develop musical skills and nurture talents within the Deanery. By fostering active participation, you can create a sense of community and ownership, allowing Christian music to become a powerful tool for preaching the gospel and fostering spiritual growth.

Community engagement among Christians in Goli Deanery is enhanced through the use of Christian music in Colossians 3:16, as it creates opportunities for believers to come together in fellowship and service. Music can be a catalyst for various ministry activities and initiatives that promote social justice, compassion, and mutual support within the community.

4.4 Spiritual Reflection.

Christian music can prompt listeners to reflect on their spiritual journey and encourage them to deepen their relationship with God.

In Colossians 3:16, Paul instructs believers to let the message of Christ dwell in them richly through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with gratitude in their hearts to God. This verse highlights the importance of music as a means of spiritual reflection and connection with God.

One implication of Christian music in preaching the gospel to the Christian community of Goli Deanery is the aspect of spiritual reflection. Music has the power to engage the mind, heart, and soul in a way that allows for deep introspection and contemplation of spiritual truths. Christian music, especially when focused on the message of Christ and the gospel, can prompt believers to reflect on their faith, their relationship with God, and their response to His grace and love.

By incorporating Christian music into their worship services, gatherings, and personal devotional times, the Christian community of Goli Deanery can engage in spiritual reflection as they meditate on the lyrics and melodies that point them to the truths of Scripture and the character of God. This reflection can lead to a deeper understanding of their faith, a renewed commitment to living out the gospel, and a closer intimacy with God.

Through the message of Christ dwelling in them richly through music, believers in Goli Deanery can experience spiritual growth and transformation as they reflect on the message of the songs they sing. This reflection can lead to a greater awareness of God's presence in their lives, a desire to align their hearts with His will, and a commitment to living out their faith in a way that honors and glorifies Him.

The spiritual reflection prompted by Christian music can deepen the faith and understanding of believers in Goli Deanery, leading to a more vibrant and transformative experience of the gospel in their lives.

4.5 Evangelism and Outreach.

Christian music can be a powerful evangelistic tool, attracting non-believers to join in worship gatherings and learn more about the Christian faith. Christian music in Colossians 3:16 has a positive and lasting impact on the spiritual and community engagement of Christians in Goli Deanery. It serves as a means of spreading the gospel message, nurturing faith and discipleship, and building strong relationships among believers. Music has the power to transform lives and communities, leading individuals to a deeper commitment to Christ and His mission of love and redemption.

4.6 Healing and Comfort.

Christian music has the potential to bring healing and comfort to those in need, offering solace and peace in times of struggle

In Colossians 3:16, it says to let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. This verse highlights the importance of using music as a tool for teaching and encouraging one another in the Christian faith.

When Christian music is used in preaching the gospel to the Christians in Goli Deanery, it can serve as a source of healing and comfort for the believers. Music has a unique ability to touch our emotions and hearts in a way that spoken words may not always be able to do. The lyrics and melodies of Christian songs can bring about feelings of peace, joy, and hope, providing solace in times of trouble or distress.

By incorporating Christian music into their worship services and gatherings, the believers in Goli Deanery can experience a sense of healing and comfort as they are reminded of the love and grace of God through the songs they sing. These songs can also serve as a form of encouragement and strength, helping the believers to persevere in their faith and continue to trust in God's promises.

So the use of Christian music in preaching the gospel to the Christian community in Goli Deanery can have a profound impact on their spiritual growth and well-being, providing them with a source of healing, comfort, and encouragement as they navigate their faith journey.

4.7 Conclusion.

Colossians 3:16 emphasizes the importance of using Christian music as a tool for teaching, admonishing, and expressing gratitude to God. By incorporating this scripture into the worship practices within Goli Deanery, Christians can strengthen their faith, edify each other, and foster unity among believers. Through intentional selection and utilization of Christian music, the church in Goli Deanery can continue to grow in their spiritual walk and collectively praise the Lord in a way that is pleasing and honorable to Him.

CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

The role of Christian music in preaching the gospel in Goli Deanery, as outlined in Colossians 3:16, is essential and impactful. Music has the power to express the love of God, inspire faith, and touch the hearts of believers and non-believers alike. Through hymns, praise songs, and worship music, the message of the gospel can be spread in a powerful and transformative way, drawing people closer to God and encouraging them to live out their faith in their daily lives. As Colossians 3:16 states, let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you sing with gratitude in your hearts to God, demonstrating the power of Christian music to preach the gospel effectively and touch lives in Goli Deanery.

Furthermore, the use of Christian music in preaching the gospel in Goli Deanery serves as a reminder of the importance of worshipping God through music and song. As believers come together to lift their voices in praise and adoration, they are not only edified and encouraged in their faith, but they also create a powerful witness to those around them. Through the power of music, the gospel message can reach hearts and minds in a unique and impactful way, sparking a transformation in individuals and communities that can only come from the presence and power of God. Therefore, let us continue to use Christian music as a powerful tool in preaching the gospel in Goli Deanery, bringing glory to God and proclaiming the message of salvation to all who will listen.

5.2 Recommendations

The researcher makes the following general recommendations to the Church, stakeholders in Goli Deanery for the betterment of the role of Christian music in preaching the gospel in Goli Deanery, Nebbi Diocese:

It is crucial for churches and musicians to realign their focus and intentions. They should prioritize serving and exalting Jesus rather than seeking personal fame or recognition. Recognizing that the Holy Spirit is the source of inspiration, they can strive to seek His guidance and allow Him to lead their music ministry. By grounding their songs in biblical truth and

reflecting the message of the gospel, musicians can create music that truly touches hearts and draws people closer to Jesus. Additionally, fostering a culture of humility within the music ministry can help prevent the temptation of self-exaltation. Overall, a sincere and authentic approach, coupled with a deep understanding of the Word of God, will contribute to the fruitfulness and effectiveness of Christian music in spreading the gospel.

It is important to approach music with humility and a genuine desire to worship God in spirit and truth, as highlighted in John 4:42. Artists should use their talents to convey the message of Christ faithfully, rather than becoming preoccupied with financial gain. They should embrace the principle of giving freely that is emphasized in the Bible. Additionally, it is crucial for gospel singers to align their actions and character with God's principles of integrity, ensuring that their ministry through music is authentic and faithful to the teachings of the Bible.

In order to address the issue of lack of suitable equipment so that the Church ensures a more harmonious and enjoyable music experience within Goli Deanery, it is advisable to invest in acquiring appropriate sound equipment. By upgrading the existing machines or instruments and providing adequate training to the vocalists and instrumentalists on their usage, it will significantly improve the coordination and quality of music in the churches. This will enhance the worship experience and uplift the spirits of the congregation.

To address the issue of ignorance of God's word by many musicians, it is essential for Christian musicians to prioritize their spiritual growth and biblical understanding. By consistently studying and meditating on the Word of God, they will gain a stronger foundation for their music ministry. It is also crucial for them to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in their songwriting process, allowing Him to lead and inspire the lyrics they create. Furthermore, churches and Christian communities can play a vital role in nurturing and supporting musicians, offering them opportunities for discipleship, theological training, and mentorship to ensure their music aligns with the principles of the Bible and carries the powerful message of the gospel.

To address the issue of prayerlessness among choir members, it is essential to emphasize the importance of cultivating a personal connection with God through prayer. The Church leadership can organize prayer meetings specifically for choir members, encouraging them to seek God's

guidance and inspiration for their music ministry. Integrating regular prayer sessions into choir and leaders rehearsals and performances can foster a deeper spiritual atmosphere and help the choir members and leaders recognize the significance of their role in worship. By prioritizing prayer and seeking a genuine connection with God, the choir can effectively convey the message of the gospel and lead the congregation into a transformative worship experience. Additionally, providing resources such as devotionals or scripture studies focused on prayer can further support and encourage choir members and leaders in their spiritual journey.

In order to address this issue of considering music as a mere thing to pastime, it is crucial for the Church community to enhance the understanding and appreciation of music's significance. One way to achieve this is by fostering education and awareness about the power of music as a means of spiritual expression. By organizing workshops, seminars, or dedicated study groups, individuals can gain insights into the transformative impact of music and develop a deeper connection to it. Additionally, the Church should prioritize cultivating an environment of moral integrity within the choir, encouraging the members to uphold biblical principles and setting clear expectations for conduct. Nurturing a spirit-filled atmosphere will enable God to work within the gifted musicians and amplify the spiritual impact of their worship, leading to a more vibrant and edifying musical experience for the entire congregation.

To address this issue of a secular mindset, it is recommended that the Church actively engage in nurturing and guiding musicians, particularly the emerging talents, towards a stronger Christian worldview. Offering mentorship programs, workshops, and theological education on the -+significance of music in worship can help instill a deep understanding and appreciation for the role of Christian music. By emphasizing the importance of staying true to the gospel message, musicians can be encouraged to create music that aligns with Christian values and principles. Additionally, cultivating a culture of discernment within the Church, where members are encouraged to critically evaluate the music being introduced, can help prevent the infiltration of secular styles. Regular communication and transparent discussions with choir members about the intended role and purpose of Christian music can also be beneficial. Ultimately, fostering a supportive and spiritually discerning environment within the Church will contribute to the restoration of Christian music's true purpose in proclaiming the gospel message

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APPENDIX A: RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE (English Version)

Dear Respondent,

I am Kutesa Elvis, a student of Bachelor of Divinity at Uganda Christian University; I am currently carrying out a Research entitled “The role of Christian music in preaching the gospel: a case study of Goli Deanery, Diocese of Nebbi.” You have been selected to participate in this research exercise and any information given will be treated with confidentiality. It will be used for academic purposes only.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Marital status: Single. Married Widowed

Title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. L/R Rev. Can. Dr.

Education level: Primary Secondary College University

Age: 18-35 36-45 46-55 56+

Occupation:

Parish:

Date:

PARTICULARS:

Name:

Gender: Male

Female

QUESTIONS:

Interview guide (semi structured).

1. What type of Christian music do people like singing in the Church? Please comment briefly.

Hymns.....

Praise.....

Others.....

2. Do you think the songs people sing in the Church carry any Christian message? Please explain.

.....

3. What language is commonly sung during song ministry within Goli Deanery? And why

.....

4. What type of songs do you like singing? Please give reason for your answer.

Traditional song (from the hymn book)

.....

.....

Contemporary song.....

Others.....

Church practice of using Christian music in preaching the gospel

5. Does the music director dictates the type of song to be sung in the Church? If yes explain

.....

6. Does the Church takes initiative to teach Christian music? If yes explain

.....

7. Does the Church emphasize on singing hymns? If yes explain

.....

Open- ended (key informant)

8. What are some of the implications of Christian music in Colossians 3:16 for the Christian in Goli Deanery?

.....

.....

Thank you very much for your responses. May God bless you?

APPENDIX B: OBSERVATION CHECK LIST

- The type of Christian songs; Hymns, praise, worship etc.
- Frequency of singing the Christian songs.
- The timing (season) of the songs being sung in the Church.
- Reactions during singing.
- Most active Christians during singing.
- Observing whether people carry hymn books or not.
- The coordination between the vocalist and instrumentalists.

APPENDIX C: LIST OF RESPONDENTS

S/NO	NAME	GENDER	AGE	PARISH	QUESTIONNAIRE OR INTERVIEW
1	Upakrwoth Solomon	M	32	Kaya	Questionnaire
2	Paliel Emmance	M	33	St. Stephen's Cathedral	Questionnaire
3	Yoacel Edna	F	29	Kaya	Questionnaire
4	Ugen- Rwoth Albert	M	34	Kaya	Questionnaire
5	Nyayich Deborah	F	28	St. Stephen's Cathedral	Questionnaire
6	Rev. Kermu Francis	M	39	St. Stephen's Cathedral	Questionnaire
7	Ayiorwoth Liberty	F	24	St. Stephen's Cathedral	Questionnaire
8	Rev.Munguriek Newton	M	45	St. Stephen's Cathedral	Questionnaire
9	Kawambe Alex	M	48	St. Stephen's Cathedral	Questionnaire
10	Nyamutoro Sally	F	35	Kaya	Questionnaire
11	Kasamba Jeres	F	65	St. Stephen's Cathedral	Questionnaire
12	Wanguich Doris	F	27	St. Stephen's Cathedral	Questionnaire
13	Mandhawun Molly	F	40	St. Stephen's Cathedral	Questionnaire
14	Upoka Peter	M	37	St. Stephen's Cathedral	Questionnaire
15	Afoyo Rwoth Ruth	F	31	St. Stephen's Cathedral	Questionnaire
16	Oweki Geoffrey	M	48	St. Stephen's Cathedral	Questionnaire
17	Kumakech Benjamin	M	45	St. Stephen's Cathedral	Interview

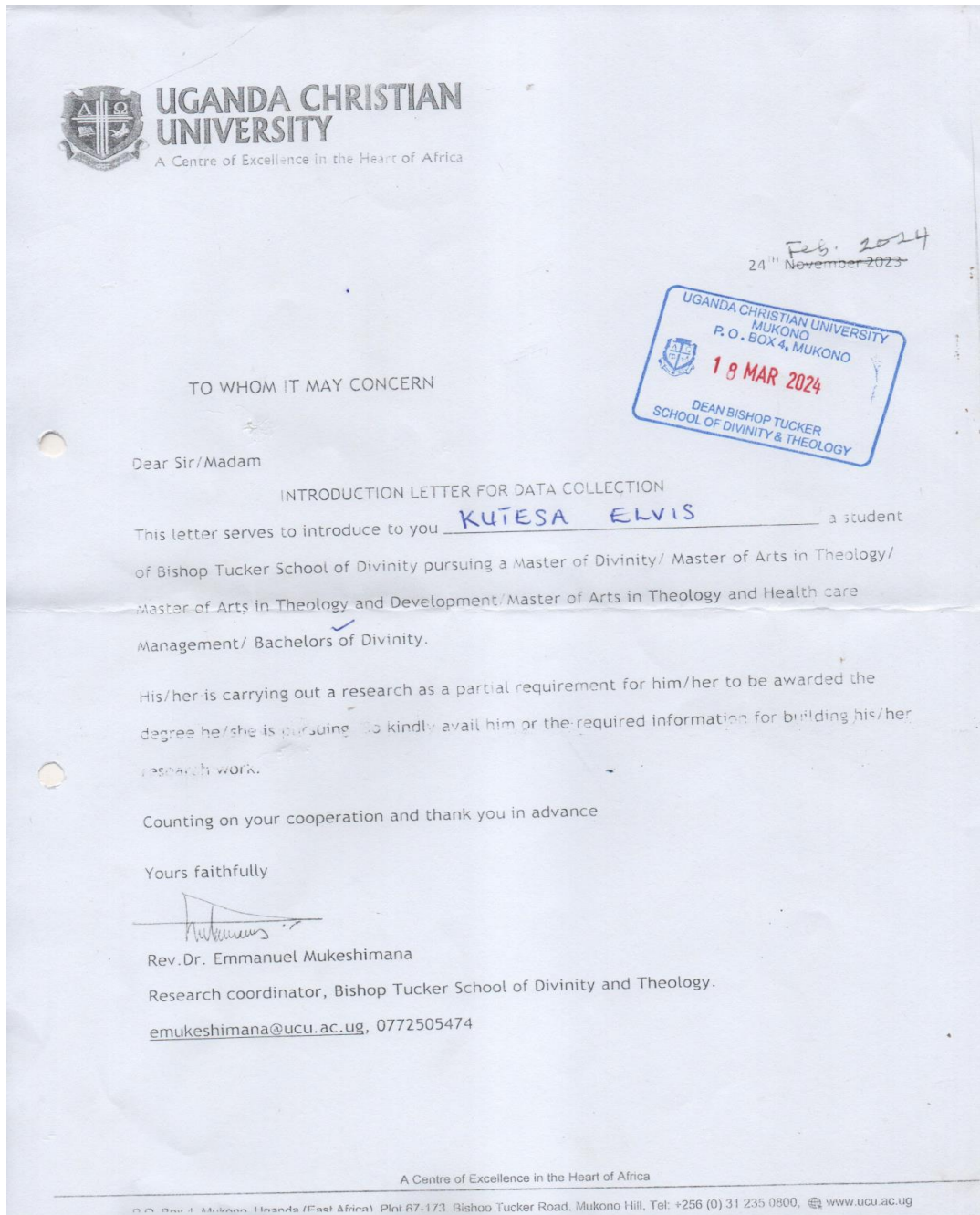
18	Ocungirwoth Friday	M	31	St. Stephen's Cathedral	Interview
19	Yowasi Malakwang	M	78	St. Stephen's Cathedral	Interview
20	Wanok Denis	M	35	St. Stephen's Cathedral	Interview
21	Kisa Ubaidubu Calvis	F	45	St. Stephen's Cathedral	Interview
22	Ayungurwoth Sharon	F	35	St. Phillip Nebbi	Interview

APPENDIX D: TIME FRAME

This section shows the time frame the researcher spent in his study from the time of proposal writing to the time of the submission of the final report.

Activity	Period (months)
Identification of the topic	June - August 2023
Writing of the proposal	July 2023
Proposal approval	August 2023
Data collection	October - December 2023
Actual writing of research	January - February 2024
Data analysis	March 2024
Compiling a report	March - April 2024
Submission of the research report	August 2024

APPENDIX E: INTRODUCTION LETTER



UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa

Feb. 2024
~~24th November 2023~~

UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
MUKONO
P. O. BOX 4, MUKONO
18 MAR 2024
DEAN BISHOP TUCKER
SCHOOL OF DIVINITY & THEOLOGY

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam

INTRODUCTION LETTER FOR DATA COLLECTION

This letter serves to introduce to you KUTESA ELVIS a student of Bishop Tucker School of Divinity pursuing a Master of Divinity/ Master of Arts in Theology/ Master of Arts in Theology and Development/ Master of Arts in Theology and Health care Management/ Bachelors of Divinity.

His/her is carrying out a research as a partial requirement for him/her to be awarded the degree he/she is pursuing. So kindly avail him or her the required information for building his/her research work.

Counting on your cooperation and thank you in advance

Yours faithfully

Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Mukeshimana
Research coordinator, Bishop Tucker School of Divinity and Theology.
emukeshimana@ucu.ac.ug, 0772505474

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