

GOOD NEWS THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE AND SEMINARY

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE CROSS  
AND STAR CHURCH – GHANA

A TERM PAPER  
IN FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT OF  
CHURCH HISTORY

HS 304

***PRESENTED TO***

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of writing this paper is to present the history of Brotherhood of the Cross and Star Church in Ghana. There exist several stories about the church. Within these stories are few elements of truth with a greater part of it being speculations. This situation has been created not only because of the controversial nature of the subject but because this area has been greatly neglected in terms of historical research and the few literature that exist on the subject are philosophical, fragmental and does not augur well for a simple understanding of what the organization is all about.

In addition, they do not provide a reliable and comprehensive work on the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star. In this paper, I will describe who Brotherhood of the Cross and Star are, and how the Church found her way from Nigeria to Ghana. This history gives a clear understanding of the Church, and illuminates the good reputation of the Church.

This paper will provide opportunity for re-examining the performance and the life of the believers in this present generation. Moreover, the nature of African Christianity is such that, besides the belief in the existence of a supreme being, it reflects the African religious traditions which pushes the African to persistently question and attributes any happening that comes in his way to a supernatural circumstance. This thesis provides some useful information on a unique spiritual organization, taking into consideration its outstanding achievements, which can be gainfully consulted in such matters.

Most importantly, however, the desire to do a research work on religious history, to present a reliable information and comprehensive work on the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star with its characteristic uniqueness spurred me into writing this work.

## CHAPTER ONE

### WHO ARE BROTHERHOOD OF THE CROSS AND STAR

A. The Brotherhood of the Cross and Star from all information I gathered from Pastor Abdul Mamman who is among the 144,000 Virgins ("that is the high level Pastor of the Church) he is also in charge of the Church in the Grater Accra Region.

"The Brotherhood of the Cross and Star is no Church as some people are misled to believe. It is the new Kingdom of God which has since been in existence ever before the creation of the world". The idea of establishing it physically came to the founder through revelation. What is Brotherhood? According to Pastor Abdul's definition of the name, Brotherhood, the term covers a relationship between God and all created things including non-living things like the land, sky, wind, moon, sun, star, etc. created by God put together. In 1 Peter 2:17 we enjoined to love our neighbour, honour all men, and the fear of God.

Hebrews 13:1, stresses the need to let brotherly love continually abound. The church is about living in unity and love and manifesting the virtues God presented. Love is the basis of the church, One who loves his brother is in God and God in him, Love is God, God is Love. This is Brotherhood.

What is Cross? – Cross is similarly as that of Jesus. It means the tribulations, persecutions and hatred that the children of God have to suffer from the hands of the unbelievers (Mark 8:34).

What is Star? – It is the reward for those who carry the Cross successfully to the end. It means glory, the crown of life, kinship and power of His reign (Rev. 2:26-28). The Star is the ruler of the Brotherhood of the Cross and it is Jesus Christ (Romans 8:16-17).

### **B. ORIGIN OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE CROSS AND STAR**

Upon the information I had, says many people who had the zeal to write about the origin of the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star often present different views on this subject. According to Pastor Abdul Mamman said, "for those who want to know the origin of the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star, we may say that Brotherhood Church has no origin, it has no beginning nor end. Except a person wants to know the origin of God".

This explanation by the Pastor is rather theological and doctrinal. The actual history is shrouded in claims and counter-claims which according to the Pastor, the head leader neither confirms nor disputes. Again he said, "Anybody who have from time to time been coming to us inquiring about the origin of the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star. We asked them to go and love one another. Anybody on the surface of this earth who tells you that he has know the foundation of the Church is a liar". All these claims go a long way to prove the fact that the Church has no origin and that nobody can tell of its origin. According to information I had, the reason for this stand of the Leader, Olumba Olumb Obu, as regards the origin of the organization is that he does not want to arrogate to himself anything he does, rather he prefers to say that God does everything. This he often tells people who investigate about the origin of the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star that he has not founded anything.

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There are, however Pastors, Elders and historians who have agreed on this version, and there are yet others who disagree with it. The fact that every organization or movement must have a beginning or a founder, makes many people attribute the foundation and origin of the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star to the Leader. This if we bring together some of the information which relates to the formation of the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star, and the above view that Brotherhood has no origin, notwithstanding, it is clearly noticed that the Leader, Olumba Olumba Obu has feature prominently as a central figure.

Therefore with this background, it can be confirmed that the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star has its historical origin. From all information I gathered, the origin of the organization can be traced from two historical dates, the exactly day is not known; early 1920s marked the period of the conception of Brotherhood while the later 1950s marked the physical manifestation of the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star on earth.

### **C. THE BIRTH PLACE OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE CROSS AND STAR**

The indigenes of the Cross River State in the Republic of Nigeria were aware of Christianity before the organization came into existence. There were the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of Scotland Mission now Presbyterian and a host of others. This Eastern Nigeria was religious from time immemorial. Brotherhood of the Cross and Star was in the world but was revealed to the Leader, Olumba Olumba Obu, who is also the sole Spiritual Head. It was not a break away from any other Orthodox Church, this was revealed by the Pastor Abdul Mamman. The Church was at No. 8 Eton street. Later it was moved to 26 Mbukpa street, and now it is at 34 Ambo street Calabar Nigeria as the Head Quarters of the Church.



## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE EARLY FOUNDER**

A. Before the Leader of the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star was born, his father Ano Obu and the mother Ibum Mba, were living at Biakpan in Biase Local Government Area of the Cross River State – Nigeria. His parents were farmers and fabulously wealthy and very famous within and around the neighborhood. The Leader's parents were always at the service of their fellow human beings. The Leader and sole Spiritual Head of the Brother of the Cross and Star was born in 1913 the exactly day is not known. He was born at Biakpan a town in Ugbagharah Clan in Akanmkpa Local Government Area of the Cross River State in Republic of Nigeria.

According to Pastor Abdul Mamman, when Olumba Olumba Obu was at the age of five, he knew himself as someone who had been sent by God to redeem mankind. He performed wonderful miracles during that period. The Leader called himself as the supreme teacher who was destined to liberate the world from bondage of evil and from that time he was nicknamed Akwa Andikpep in Efik Dialect (meaning the Great Teacher).

At that time the Leader would gather the children of his age group to teach them about the word of God, he would tell them to love one another, to obey their parents, to be forgiving and often conclude that if they could do all these things then they would automatically become the children of God.

Olumba Olumba Obu was sent to school by his parents when he was at the age of six. Though he read up to standard two and the Holy Spirit within him did not allow him to continue. The Holy Spirit moved him to various houses to deliver the gospel. Of course he is able to read and write English Language. His marriage, Leader Olumba Olumba Obu married to Elizabeth O. Obu. They have been blessed with children, two boys and two girls. He sent all his children to school, they have gain the best of education.

### **B. THE STRATEGIES OF THE FOUNDER MISSIONARIES**

The information I had from elders of the Church indicate that, in most parts of the Cross River State – Nigeria where Christianity did not make much impact, and was seen as not meeting the religious needs of the people, there emerged groups of religious organizations known as the Aladura (Prayer Group). These were distinct from the Mission Churches in their made of evangelization and worship, singing, clapping, drumming and dancing formed part of their worship. "Their simple claim is that God answer all prayers". Their founders usually claimed that they had been visited by angels instructing them to go and save humanity from prediction and to spread the gospel. There were yet other small spirit movement which engaged in such activities as ordering and using charms like rings and talismans. They effectively traded in them, advertising them as means of spiritual power, but only a few who had the spiritual power, but only a few who had the means could give them patronage while the poor still hoped for more active spiritual and true movement which they believed would be the only answer to their immediate problems. Many who had accepted Christianity did not find the older churches alive enough to their liking. Some of them either entered to the primary religious practices or played both ways; attending Church services on Sundays and practicing the traditional people's religion in real life.

The Leader of the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star, Olumba Olumba Obu was inspired by the Holy Spirit at this time emerged to meet the over flowing religious needs of the people. The Church Leaders or elders and Pastor Abdul continue to say that, the idea of establishing the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star came to the founder, Leader Olumba Olumba Obu through revelation. They also see their Leader as the sole Spiritual Head and life-wire of the organization. He is described as being week, gentle, humble but charismatic. He is held in a very high esteem by his followers, and very many mystical beliefs and attributes surround him. "Most of his actions performed, and every word uttered by the Leader relates to the teachings of Jesus Christ".

The duties of the Leader are both spiritual and Physical. According to the Pastor, the Leader's major Spiritual duty is to deliver spiritual message to the world. These adherents believe that God speaks through him and he transmits the message to the world. He also prays for and heals the sick with God's power. He conducts the normal Church services and baptizes new converts.



## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BROTHERHOOD OF THE CROSS AND STAR – GHANA**

#### **A. THE FIRST GROUP OF PEOPLE**

The Brotherhood of the Cross and Star Church, is situated at Odorkor Tepper Opposite Kingdom Transport Service, near Africainia Head Quarters on Accra-Winneba Road. In Accra many branches has been planted or established as follows:-Korle Gonno, Mamprobi, Teshie-Nungua all in Accra.

At first they had their Regional Head Quarters at Kaneshie North, at present Odorkor Tepper has become their Regional Head Quarters. Pastor Abdul Mamman is the Grater Accra Regional Minister of the Church. He is classified as 144 virgins, that is the high level Pastor of the Church they are absence from marriage”. Evangelist Jonathan kobena Oboh is also one of the care takers of the Church – Odorkor branch.

“PEACE” is their Slogramme or greetings and the respond is “PEACE OF THE FATHER” (God). According to Pastor Abdul Mamman, before the Church founded it’s way from Nigeria to Ghana, there were emerged groups of religious organizations known as the Aladura, Church of the Lord Brotherhood, Musama Disco Christo Church, Bethany Church, African Faith Tebernacle, 12 Apostles and other African Institution Churches.

According to the Pastor Mamman, the first group of people went to Kumasi, their names and dates is not yet known. They were traders who came to do business in Ghana. They came to stay with a Ghanaian friend who has also stayed in Nigeria for sometime, known as Pastor Yiadom Boakye.

Though the first group were traders, yet they were prayerful and religious. These three men, instead of their trading, they started propagating the gospel. With the help of Pastor Yiadom Boaky, many people became flexible in responding to the gospel message brought to them. Through their seriousness in prayer and healing of the sick, God helped them to establish the Church at Ashanti New Town, Kumasi Aboabo apposite Garden City Commercial College and Old Tafo-Kumasi.

In the year 1980 they came to establish the Church in Accra and settled at Kaneshie North. By the power of God and their hard working spirit, many branches has been established in most part of Ghana. The Churches has build temples and mission houses. The Church has been established at the following places:- Korle Gonno, Mamprobi, Teshie-Nungua all in Accra, Tema. Cape Coast end Agona Swedru in Central Region. Takoradi, Sunyani, Akatiso, Koforidua, Saamang-Osino and Bomfa Adumasa in Ashanti Akim.

#### **B. THE EARLY TEACHINGS AND PRACTICES**

Brotherhood of the Cross and Star’s teaching and practices are based on the equality of all members and people, irrespective of their positions in the Church, hence every member is either called a brother or sister. Even when there are such positions as the Leader, Deacon, and Apostle, they are created for more formality. In my research the Leader has no special regard attached to him. He does not elevate himself higher than any other member. There is no class distinction among the members. In principle, the hierarchy of the priesthood takes this form, the Leader, the Pastor, the Apostle, the Evangelist, the



Crusader, the Deacon and the Choristers but in practice, their duties overlap. The Pastor could perform similar duties as the leader or an evangelist. There are visioneers who belong to a special group and perform no other activities than seeing visions, and the choristers compose and arrange all the spiritual songs for the New Kingdom. The preface and all prayer offered in the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star are as follows:- "They give thanks, praise and honour to God in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, thanks, praise and honour be to God in the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; thanks, praise and honour be to God now and for ever more, Amen" This pattern is often used by the Leader, the officers and members of the congregation. All testimonies begin and end with, In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ Now and for ever more, Amen".

These patterns are meant to be followed strictly and usually they do. Moreover, prayers must be relevant and meaningful to the issue concerned.

### **1. SUNDAY SERVICE & OTHER SERVICES:**

The organization makes desperate efforts to propagate the gospel. Indoor sermons are conducted particularly during Sunday service. The Holy Spirit usually descends to possess one or several of the members who see visions or have the gift of tongues. Morning and evening prayers are held daily. House to House preaching are also encouraged and done regularly to win more souls and to strengthen the sick who are unable to worship in the bethels. Open air service are conducted during evangelical tours or ministries.

### **2. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE:**

The early Brotherhood of the Cross and Star Church members in Ghana were noted for their ways of dressing and living. They were concerned about non-conformity of the Christian to the world. Thus, they did not fashion themselves in accordance with the world. All members appeared in simple and plain white robes, they do not put on sandals or any kind they are bare footed. Any member even visitors has to remove their shoes or sandals when entering into their temple. The church sing spiritual songs and dance around to make their impact felt, but they do not use any drums or it's kind.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **THE GROWTH OF THE GHANA BROTHERHOOD OF THE CROSS AND STAR**

#### **A. THE EXPANSION OF THE CHURCH**

The growth of the church depended entirely on evangelistic campaigns and teachings to bring men and women to Christ. The evangelism is best done at personal or small group level, by persons of the same or a neighboring culture together with the Leaders and Pastors from Nigeria to those to whom the message is being presented. In some places few people are won, about twenty to sixty, and in some others hundreds, while in some areas the campaign has a different result. All along, the work was done by Pastors from Ghana and Nigeria who understood, the ways of the Holy Spirit toward converts of people into the Church. The welfare and the growth of the Church demanded not only carrying on mission work in the field, but also meeting the needs of the individual members and the congregation as a whole. The Board of the Church in Nigeria undertook to send a given amount of money to support the training of the leaders. They also helped provide church chapels for believers for fellowship and meetings. The wise administration by the church or mission and distribution of resources promoted a maximum growth of the church. Many churches were planted across some of the regions of Ghana, as a result of quantitative and qualitative growth of the church. Many branches of the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star Churches can be found in different geographical locations of Ghana, such as in Greater Accra Region, Eastern Region, Western Region and Ashanti Region.

The success of the geographical expansion of the church started from Ashanti Region in Ashanti. New Town, Bohyen Healing Home, New Tafo and Old Tafo all in Kumasi. Greater Accra Region they have Kaneshie North, Odorkor, Korle Gonno, Mamapobi, Teshie Nungua and Tema. In Central Region, Cape Coast. Western Region, Sekondi and Takoradi. Brong Ahafo – Sunyani. Eastern Region they have Koforidua, Bamfa Adumasa and Saaman near Osino. In Greater Accra alone they have about Ten Thousand (10,000) members.

As the church continue to grow, leaders and care takers were appointed to lead the church the immediate contact between the missions Board in Nigeria and Ghanaians.



## CHAPTER FIVE

### THE TEACHINGS (THEOLOGIES) OF THE CHURCH

The teachings or the theologies of the church are fundamental facts that indicate that Brotherhood of the Cross and Star are more biblical. These teaching are important.

1. Provide guidelines for the interpretation of the scripture.
2. As a guidance for belief and practice.
3. To build a foundation for unity within and among churches.
4. For instructing new church members and for sharing information with inquirers.
5. To give update interpretation of what we believe and practice, and finally,
6. To help in discussing Members of Brotherhood of the Cross and Star belief and practices with other Christians and people of other faith.

The teachings of the church are arranged in four series or sects.

- A. themes common to the faith of the wider Christian church (major doctrines)
- B. the church and practices
- C. discipleship
- D. the reign of God (eschatology)

#### A. THEMES COMMON TO THE FAITH OF WIDER CHRISTIAN CHURCH (MAJOR DOCTRINES)

##### 1. GOD

The Brotherhood of the Cross and Star Church believes in the existence of the Triune God (Trinity) and His goodness. He is pleased with all those who come near to him by faith. God is seen as father, son and Holy Spirit, who is holy and loving. He is the one who created the universe and all visible and invisible things. God is the only one who brought salvation to humanity through Jesus Christ, when men fell into sin. Jesus Christ continued to sustain life (church) to the end of the age, the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star believe in the worship of God alone and witness Him alone by faith. The Church have been therefore joined to this through the faithfulness of Christ Jesus and confess Him as the only Saviour and Lord.

The church recognized God as the creator whose understanding is beyond human understanding. The church also acknowledge that God spoke and related to humanity in various ways. He has spoke above all through His only Son, the word who incarnated, dwell among men and revealed the Divine being and character, that the sovereign power of God, His perfect mercy and might are without end. His abounding love, grace and wrath against the sinfulness of man are perfect in righteous love, God is therefore ever ready to forgive and transform lives because of His perfect love.



## **2. JESUS CHRIST**

The church as a community believe in the Daity and the true humanity of Jesus Christ. "They believe all that the scripture teaches on His virgin birth, on His supernatural miracles, His victorious and substitutionary death, His bodily resurrection and His glorious coming" Jesus Christ is believed to be the word of God who came in the flesh, as the saviour of the world to deliver men from sin and to reconcile them to God, through His death on the cross. He was then declared to be the Son of God with power of resurrection from the dead. He is the head of the church and will come again to reign in glory. The church believes and teaches that Jesus Christ is the saviour of the world. He preached, taught, healed and proclaimed forgiveness of sin and peace to the world. Jesus therefore, began His church or community of faith by calling disciples to follow Him. He set an example for his followers to follow, such as suffering, have for enemies, non resistant to evil doer.

## **3. THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Brotherhood of the Cross and Star hold on strongly that the Holy Spirit is "the one who convicts men of their sin and leads them to saving faith in Christ the Lord. The Holy Spirit is an eternal spirit who dwelled in Jesus Christ and the church. The Holy Spirit is the source of life and is poured out on those who believe as a guarantee for redemption. By the power of the Holy Spirit scripture writers were inspired to follow God's Law. It was through the power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus Christ was prepared at His baptism to proclaim the good news, healed the sick, dead and rose again. In the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star doctrine, it was clear that at the day of Pentecost, God poured the Holy Spirit on all flesh. And more also, the church became the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. "By the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the church comes to Unity in doctrine and action. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the church preaches, teachers, testifies, heals, loves and suffers, following the example of Jesus it's Lord". It was taught that through the conviction of the Holy Spirit that people were called to repentance and leads into the way of salvation and by water and the spirit, the church (believers) are born again into the family of God.

## **4. THE SCRIPTURE**

The Brotherhood of the Cross and Star accept the Bible both the Old and the New Testament, as being inspired by God through the Holy Spirit. The scripture is believed to be the word of God and very reliable for the standard of Christian faith. The Bible serves as an instruction for salvation and training in ways of righteousness, when interpreted in harmony with Jesus Christ through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The church admitted and taught that God spoke to many and in various ways through prophets and apostles. God also spoke through Jesus Christ who became flesh and reveal the truth of God. These truth are written in the scripture under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit but in human language. The church acknowledges that God continues to speak through the living and the written word. The scripture is recognized as the final source of authority of God's revelation, standard for preaching and teaching about faith and life, and also for separating truth from error and good from evil, the Bible is an authoriative book of God for guiding and worshiping. It is therefore considered as faulty when used in a join manner. For that reason the scripture must guide every culture and tradition.



## **5. SIN**

Brotherhood of the Cross and Star believes in the sinfulness of human nature (original sin) and man is totally incapable to deliver himself from sin. Sin is turning away from God by making our individual and group choice to unrighteousness and in justice. That is, we sin by hating to do good and giving God the glory, He deserves. This has separated our relationship with God since from the beginning of Adam and Eve. Because of sin humanity has fallen short from the manner and image in which they were created and were limited from the love of God. The church taught that through sin, division, destruction and death have enslave humanity and oppressed them since the work of sin, increased in every human race. By our own sin we open ourselves to be operated by demonic powers. Sin therefore work through both individual groups and the entire universe, holding them captive and operating through politics, economics, social and religious system turning away from justice and righteousness.

## **6. SALVATION**

The Brotherhood of the Cross and Star church teaches that man is saved by grace through faith in the life, death and in the resurrection (the finished work) of Christ. That man is justified from all things on the ground of the share blood of Christ. Through the blood of Christ we are reconciled with God and become partakers of eternal life and blessed with all spiritual blessing in Christ (from a booklet: the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star). One is saved by hearing the good news of Christ and then moved to accept the gift of salvation by the Holy Spirit. This response brings man into right relationship with God including His grace. Salvation is attained when man fully repents, sin turn away from evil, obedience to God's word and deeds with full trust in Him alone.

### **B. THE CHURCH AND PRACTICES:**

#### **1. BAPTISM**

Baptism of believers with water (immersion) is practiced as a sign of cleansing from sin. It is a pledge before the church to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Only those who believe in Christ are baptized by immersion and accepted or received into the church as members of the body of Christ.

Baptism is also a testimony to God's gift of the Holy Spirit and it's continuing work in the life of believers. The practice of baptism in the church comprises both infant and adult implies that the person baptized has repented, received forgiveness, renounced evil and sought God's grace. The one baptized therefore pledges to serve Christ and minister in the church according to his or her gift of the Holy Spirit "Baptism is done in obedience to Jesus " command and as a public commitment to identity with Jesus Christ, not only in his baptism by water but in his life in the spirit and in his death in suffering love""

#### **2. THE LORD'S SUPPER**

The practice of the Lord's Supper in the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star Church is a sign by which the church remembers the body and the blood covenant established by Jesus Christ through his death. In sharing, the pastor and leaders, each believer remembers the death and the resurrection

of Jesus Christ. Thus, the Lord supper represents the presence of Christ in the church. The Lord's Supper therefore, pointed out to Jesus Christ whose body was given for believers and whose blood established this new covenant. The church strongly believes that when believers gathered together and partake in the Holy Communion of any kind of food, fruits and water, they share in the body and the blood of Christ. And by this act of remembrance believers are sustained against their weaknesses to proclaim the Lord's death.

### **3. FOOT WASHING**

Foot washing is another significant practice. The Brotherhood of the Cross and Star believers as an example set by Jesus Christ Himself, Foot washing means serving one another in love, rather than seeking to lord it over others. Jesus washed the feet of His disciples and told them "so if I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example that you also should do as I have done to you" (John 13:13-15 ). The church therefore believe that believer who wash each others feet acknowledge their willingness to let go pride and worldly power and submit their lives in humble service.

### **4. MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP**

The Church as considered to be the family of God believes that God calls particular persons in the family or church to specific leadership ministry and office. All who minister are accountable to God and to the community of faithful as they serve the church. The church calls, trains and appoints gifted men and women to a variety of leadership roles in the ministry. These include Teachers, Pastors, leaders, conference ministers, evangelists, care takers, secretary, treasures and many others. Those appointed to and teach are edged to do so with authority, in truth and lead the congregation in faithful living.

## **C. DISCIPLESHIP**

### **1. DISCIPLES AND THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

Through the saving grace of God, believers are empowered to be disciples of Jesus, to follow His teachings and His path through suffering to the end of the earth. Walking in the faith of Christ, believers are transformed and conformed to Christ's likeness and separate from the world of sin. By faithful the church believers, every believer is adopted into God's family and becoming children of God. In all aspect of life, we are called to be Jesus' disciples in suffering for right without paying back or retaliating. As disciples we must love our enemies and forgive those who persecute us.

### **2. CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

According to the teachings of the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star, to be a disciple is to know life in the spirit. This Christian spirituality takes shape in believers, as they grow in the image of Christ. The Holy Spirit is experienced once the believer once "dies" (baptized) with Christ. The experience of the Holy Spirit leads believers on to the ways of God. As disciples of Christ, every individual and the church are called into the relationship of God to reflect the way of Christ. And as believers grow in the spirit or as Christ abides in them they become mature and bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit as Christ's



disciples. The presence of the Holy Spirit therefore shows or reveals the fruit of the Spirit and the outer behaviour of the Christian becomes in line with the inner one.

### **3. FAMILY & MARRIAGE POLYGAMY**

The Brotherhood of the Cross and Star adopt a very rigid policy about marriage. The church believes God created human being for relationship. God intends human life to be blessed through families, especially the family of the faithful. All Christians are to take their place within the household of God, where members treat each other as brothers and sisters. With the recognition of this fact about the church as a family, either single or married is honored. The church is encouraged to respect them and include them in activities in the church. On the other hand, marriage is thought to be a covenant between one man and one woman for life. It is a mutual relationship established by God for sexual intimacy, companionship, birth and rearing of children. The church does not adopt a very rigid policy about polygamy. In principle, it believes "That the Christian society must be build on Christian family life and that the ideal of the Christian family life can only be realized in monogamy". According to the leaders, the divine teachings of the Leader Olumba Olumba Obu is completely against polygamy because the practice of polygamy itself brings untold problems to the family. The children brought bout by this means are often at logger heads with one another and therefore there can be no permanent peace in such a family hence the Leader from the very beginning tells the members of the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star to strictly adhere to the principle of one man one wife, one woman, one husband. But it is a common knowledge that not all the members adhere to the policy of monogamy, and the organization is not enforcing it either. The church is strengthened to marry and encourage reconciliation in times conflicts.

### **4. TRUTH AND AVOIDANCE OF OATHS**

The Brotherhood of the Cross and Star Church committed to tell the truth, to give simple "Yes to Yes and No to No," and to avoid swearing of oaths. This emphasis is based upon the teaching of Jesus to His disciple. The implications is that truth telling and avoidance of the use of profane language maintain the integrity and the solidarity of the family. It also implies again that when one has not taken an Oath he may be less careful about telling the truth. The fact is, all Disciples of Christ must always speak the truth in every matter, in order to maintain peace.

### **5. PEACE, JUSTICE AND NON RESISTANCE**

The Church recognizes God as God of peace and created the world in perfect peace, as perfectly revealed in Christ. The Brotherhood of the Cross and Star Church follows the ways of peace, doing justice and practicing non resistance, even in the face of violence and warfare. The community as disciples of Christ do not prepare or participate in war or military service.

The Church witnesses against all forms of conflict among races and classes. The practice of over coming evil with good, is the churches principle of peace, justice and non-resistance.

#### **D. THE REIGN OF GOD**

The Brotherhood of the Cross and Star Church believes in the eschatology, the second coming of Christ to judge both the living and the dead. That day will be the day of the Lord, when Christ will gather His Church already living under His reign, according to God's plan for the future. These disciples or the people of God will reign with Christ in peace and in justice. The reign of God will include the poor, outcast, those persecuted, children and those whose faith is like mustered seed and non Christians. It is believed that those who are dead will rise or come out from the those who are dead will rise or come out from the grave – the good one's to the resurrection of life, while the evil to the resurrection of condemnation. Thus the righteous will inherit eternal life and the unrighteous will inherit hell and totally separated from God.



## CHAPTER SIX

### CHURCH ORGANIZATION

#### A. LEADERSHIP

The organizational structure of the leadership of the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star Church includes the following:-

1. **LEADER:** candidates or leaders are chosen by the congregation. The choice is forwarded to the ministerial committee for critical examination. When the candidates are qualified, the ministerial committee may allow the congregation to vote, and whether is an agreement of seventy five (75) percent of the votes, the ministerial committee may accept and install the elected leader. This method of choosing or appoint leaders id applied to all leadership positions in every congregation. Within the leadership positions there are various recommended officers in the congregation.
    - (i) **LEADERS:** An elder is a general overseer appointed by the congregation to be available for consultation and to help the congregation in a general oversight of the church.
    - (ii) **TREASURE:** The treasurer should be capable to take care of the funds of the church forward all financial receipts to the headquarters as required. He or she should be capable of making payments to pastors and members as directed.
    - (iii) **LEADER IN CHARGE:** The leader in charge of the congregation is to conduct Sunday and week-day services in the absence of the leader there must be some one to take over such duties on his or her behalf. The leader may pay visits to individual members in their homes, hospitals and work places an share ideas with them. Thus, leaders are responsible to time with others. The leaders also minister to communities other than the church, by means of evangelism or witnessing. The leader helps the pastor in the areas of child education, baptism, communion, funeral etc. (from the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star constitution).
- B. **TRAINING OF THE CLERGY:** according to the pastor Abdul Mamman and evangelist Oboh "The clergy" or priests do not undergo any formal training in the brotherhood of the Cross and Star, as is obtained in other mission churches. They are trained by the Holy Spirit". The organization has no need for any type of training because as soon as a preacher mounts the pulpit, he will be controlled by the Holy Spirit who will dictate the sermon to be delivered to the congregation. Their belief in this subject they quoted the Act of the Apostles chapter 4, verse 13 which reads, " Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and perceived that they were uneducated common men they wondered, and they recognized that they had been with Jesus". He, Pastor Mamman emphasized that what is important for the priesthood is elementary education, and then the ability to read and interpret the Bible. After that, one can be inspired to preach and lead a congregation. Priests that serve the church are not from other religious sects. But enthusiastic members of the society do the preaching through the help of the Holy Spirit.



### **1. DUTIES:**

The duty of the pastor in the church when he or she is not the leader in charge are as follows:

- (a) The pastor is the shepherd in charge of the congregation. As a shepherd he is to heal, sustain and guide (Spiritual guidance) the individual and himself, in the midst of stress, anxieties, sickness, death and others. Thus the pastor provides comfort and brings restoration or encouragement to individual facing problems in the church.
- (b) The pastor is to direct and advice the congregation and the leaders. He is also responsible to educate leaders about how they must perform their role and duties effectively.
- (c) He is responsible for administering the Lord's Supper (Communion) baptism, children's dedication, church business meetings, funerals, burials and thanks giving services. But he can also delegate leaders to assist in some of these duties.
- (d) The pastor is to encourage and join in evangelistic activities or crusades in order to bring men and women into the house of the Lord.
- (e) Lastly, the pastor is to pay visit to members, and also officiate at weddings or blessing of marriage.

### **C. FINANCE:**

The finance committee of the church is composed of the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. This committee works for only one year and then members may be re-elected or other members chosen to replace them. The finance committee should be capable of working out and administrating the long and short (annual and 6 months ) budgets of the church, taking into consideration the duties, request and recommendations of the church. Members of the committee decided on all loans and growths to other members, other organizations and salary advances exceeding three months salary.

### **D. CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENTS)**

Any amendment of any part of the church constitution must be effected by a two-thirds majority of the quorum, at a regular meeting of the conference. The proposed constitutional change, addition or removal must be submitted to the church executives committee for at lease six moths before the end of the church year conference. This proposal is distributed to area committees and individuals congregations for additional months before the annual conference. The conference therefore decides on what measures are to be taken, to establish or maintain peace and unity in the church.

### **E. ROLES OF LAYMEN IN THE CHURCH**

The success of the church and the work in the ministry depends on laymen (participation), who have less or little, their participation in the work and the positions they occupy are the key factors in the church growth. The laymen in the church believes in their responsibility to broaden the borders of the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star committee. They help in witnessing by means of developing interpersonal relationships with non-believers and then later invite or bring them into the church.

Laymen participate meaningfully in visitation programs, reach out to those who are hospitalized, new comers, home bound and then share ideas with and encourage them. They at times do this alone and at time accompany the pastor to learn the way to open conversation with those visited. Visitation is open to every individual member in the church at anytime, for it is seen as a way of relating mutually to each other. Laymen are not separated from decision making in the church, but are welcome to contribute freely in decision making. The church consider both leaders and laymen as equal or as brothers and sisters. For this reason they are not limited in any way. Laymen in general perform the greater functional roles in the church through the direction or instruction of the leader (pastor) in charge.



## **CHAPTER SEVEN**

### **EVALUATION**

As I was practicing and moving with Brotherhood of the Cross and Star Church for about four months my experiences, observations and research findings have helped me to measure the performances of the church a critical analysis, I have discovered the strength and the weakness of the church.

#### **A. THE STENGTH OF THE CHURCH**

The church, according to my own experience, can be defined as a community that professes the true religion together with their children. They engage in the worship of one God through faith in Jesus Christ, under on baptismal mandates to maintain the unity and the stability of the community. The Brotherhood of the Cross and Star Church – Ghana as a community recognizes God as the Supreme authority who does not (guarantee) profane words and man's submission to Him is a blessing. The name God is recognized as spiritual and powerful, which is usually expressed in every act of life. This is especially done in times of greeting, eating, giving prayer, etc. for example, "PEACE OF THE FATHER (GOD)" is the response. Is also an emphasis of pronouncing spiritual blessing upon someone who gives out something. This emphasis is also strongly and constantly spoken of in times of entering the house of a member and during preaching and witnessing Christ.

In reference to women in the community of Brotherhood of the Cross and Star Church, they are submissive, humble, dress modestly and mother to preserve their family solidarity or integrity. The women take this responsibility upon themselves to bear with their husbands in any hardship and to avoid divorce adultery and proposition in the community. This has become the normal practice of Brotherhood of the Cross and Star women to maintain harmonious unity and to bring better comfort to their husband in the home. Another important strength I observed in the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star community is their strong eagerness towards conversion and establishing of churches. They have a practical approach towards men and women in order to bring them into the church (Evangelism and Crusades) Brotherhood of the Cross and Star are greatly interested in suffering for others, when there is war, conflict or misunderstanding, in order to bring peace.

Due to their attitude towards resolving conflicts, they have become known as a "peace makers" or the "nonresistant group" they are very concerned about supporting the poor and the needy, as well as the sick, the church or the community established hospitals and schools in Nigeria in aid of social improvement plans has been made to start these project in Ghana to improve their social life. According to the pastor they have never experienced any failures in the healing of the sick or otherwise. They don't receive anything in return for the spiritual healing. They heal free of charge. Unless one comes back to thank God with some presents in the form of money in appreciation of the help rendered to the one. They use only blessed water to heal the sick.

#### **B. THE WEAKNESS OF THE CHURCH**

I observed that there is no fixed condition of service for the clergy. They have no leave throughout year and do not earn salary. But people who have benefited in one way or the other make free will

donations to them. When I asked the secretary how the priests are able to pay their children's school fees and run their homes, he simply replied "All those noble men who serve God very sincerely have no problem. If one is serving God very sincerely, God will help such a fellow to survive through someone else".

### **C. CO-OPERATION WITH THE STATE GOVERNMENT**

Although the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star does not participate in active politics, the political stability of the state is its concern. "As a religious organization, the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star prays for the peace, safety and progress of the country and the state in particular. Members also attend the non-denominational services organized by the government



## CONCLUSION

The Brotherhood of the Cross and Star Ghana belongs to the spiritual church group known for their plain ways of dressing, living and worshipping. The church started as a fellowship at Kumasi Ashanti New Town in the foundation of the church was laid by the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star from Republic of Nigeria. The church spread across the regions of Ghana, through the hands of dedicated and committed Ghanaians. The church had some branches in the Greater Accra Region, Ashanti Region, Western Region, Central Region, Brong Ahafo Region Eastern Region. The church believed in the Old and New Testament of the Holy Bible as the authoritative word of God and inspired by the Holy Spirit. The emphasis of the doctrines or the theology is based on the New Testament. The church affirms the practice of non resistance peace, believes baptism and almsgiving.

The Ghana Brotherhood of the Cross and Star Church is in partnership with some of the A.I.C. churches. The church is fond of supporting various services to individual church members and the national development, like providing of health centres known as camps and schools.

The main sources of any development project in the church and in the state comes from the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star Mission in the Cross River State in the Republic of Nigeria.

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**BY NKEREUWEM, UMO EFIONG (MISS)**

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2. EVANGELIST JONATHAN KOBENA OBOH (ALIAS LIVINGSTONE) ODORKOR TEEPA
3. ELDERS AND SECRETARY