# DEFENDING THE FAITH (CHURCH OF CHRIST)

According to 1 Peter 3:15 we understand the defending the faith was a God-given command. Peter wrote that we must be ready "to give a defense to everyone who asks" concerning our hope. Every Christian was to be ready to give an answer concerning his faith. The early Christians were willing to defend the truth of the gospel. So should we.

The defense of Christianity had its origin in the inspired apostles. When Paul boldly matched over the plains of ancient world he stood ready any time to sound forth a defense of the truth of Christianity. His defense of the time religion against the Athenian Philosopher in Acts 17 is one example (Acts 17:22-31). For historical value here we must recognize that the first Christians were willing and able defenders of their faith (see Ph 1:7, 16; Acts 24:10 – 25; 1 Peter 3:15, Jude 3).

## THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION IN KENYA

There was a religion problem in Kenya whereby so many people died. It has been reported that more than 400 died at Shakahola, where Pastor Mackenzie, proclaimed false prophet told those people to fast to death before the coming back of Jesus to take His church.

All the registered religious groups were asked by the government authority to explain and differentiate their faith or doctrine.

The government wanted to know, among other things;

1. The goals of the church in the community
2. How you worship
3. The weekly collection of money
4. The church relationship to the government,

### 1. The goals of the church in the community;

The church exists to evangelize. In the first century, the Christians met together daily to encourage each other (Acts 2: 42). They were active in teaching God's word daily (Acts 5:42).

### 2. How you worship;

There are two types of worship that a Christian will engage in; public worship and private worship. The public worship will be with one or more other Christians. It may take place in a home or in an open field or almost any place (since the Bible does not tell us where to conduct our worship assembly). Men are lead in the public worship service (1Timothy 2:8).

3. **They weekly collection of money:**

Christians are taught to collect together a gift of money

Christians are taught to collect together a gift of money to be given to the Lord on each first day of the week. This is the way that God intends that each Christians give back to Him a portion of the goods that he has given (1 Corinthians 16:2). Each person is to purpose or plan to give back to God, a part of the blessings he has been given. It is to be done in a cheerful manner (2 Corinthians 9:7).

The Christians relationship to His government except for laws that would prevent a Christian from obeying, worshiping and serving God, a Christian is commanded to obey the laws of his country (Romans 13:1-7). Christianity can exist in any culture, under any form of government as long as Christians are allowed to worship, God in freedom. The church should never involve itself in politics and the affairs of the government. Since all churches of Christ are autonomous, or self-governing, there is no structure or government higher than that of the local church.

I am however delighted to let everyone know that the government authority was and is satisfied with the doctrine and the way of Christ.

God bless the church in Kenya. We appreciate your financial support the work of the Lord in Kenya. We continue to pray for Brother Ellis Forsman, his wife, Sister Lynell, his daughter Kelly and her family. We also thank and pray for Brother Gerald (the only person we know who accompanied Brother Ellis to his trip to Kenya. Brother Gerald is working hard to establish the orphanage in Kenya at Kakamega.

Your Brother in Christ.

John Kombo