

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Adventist University of Africa

Theological Seminary

Pastoral Theology

Title: A BIBLICAL STRATEGY FOR EXORCISM IN MASII CHURCH DISTRICT IN CENTRAL KENYA CONFERENCE

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Christ mandated the church to take the good tidings to every creature and make them believers (Mark 16:15-16). Christ is very clear that believers are endowed with many gifts like casting out demons, healing the sick and so forth (Mark 16:17-18). Applying Bible principles to cast out demons remains a challenge since Christ did not design one for the Christian family. From Genesis to Revelation it is evident the Bible does not give a standard procedure or formula for driving out demons.

After a thoughtful study on demon possession and exorcism in the Bible, the researcher developed a Biblical teaching manual which can be used in Masii District and Central Kenya Conference. The manual is thus developed to teach church members on the reality of demons, to help them learn on demonic possession (and what it entails) and exorcism, to train and equip members with Bible based procedure to cast out demons. This study is also geared to encourage and bring hope to the demonic possessed, to the affected family members and friends who are giving up

after numerous efforts of deliverance. Ultimately, this study is purposely designed to combat demonic attacks, oppression and harassment among our church members.

In order to make this study viable and practical, church members of three churches namely Kitooni, Masii Township and Utithini were involved. This study was intended for the youth and adults who are able to understand the concept of demon possession and exorcism. Adults in attendance were averagely 54.1% while Youths in attendance were 45.9% average. Men's attendance in the seminar averagely summed up 40% compared to the women which was 60%. Data collection was done through questionnaires, surveys, interviews and reading books.

After the first training session, it was observed that members who doubted the existence of demons and their tricks now had the urge to learn more. Other members were interested to get acquainted with the procedure to drive out demons. The researcher discovered that deliverance procedure may vary depending on (i) the exorcist, (ii) the location and (iii) the demons that have invaded and the tricks they exhibit. However the underlying principle is that the procedure should entail prayer invoking the power of God for deliverance.

Deliverance procedure is an item the Adventist church needs more than any other time in the past. Church leadership should therefore give a statement on how the church should engage demonic possession and how to drive out demons. The researcher learned that the program candidly benefited all participants.

Adventist University of Africa

School of Postgraduate Studies

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IN CENTRAL KENYA CONFERENCE

A project

presented in partial fulfillment

of the requirement for the degree

Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology

by

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This noble work owes success to my lovely wife and our dear son
who both gave me all the time to work it out
even when they dearly needed me.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Demon possession is not only a local problem found in Kenya and in particular Masii District, but it is a global problem. It is everywhere because the fury of the devil and his agents is against human commitment to the Lord. Thus, some of Masii Adventists have in one way or another been affected. The many cases that have been observed indicate that some members resolve to seek and search for solutions from witch doctors, astrologers, 'prophets' and 'prophetesses' and from gospel ministers believed to be 'miracle performers.' According to some members, when the mystical phenomena struck their loved one, prayer never took precedence and is regarded as insipid.

One elder relates how at the age of ten he accompanied his grandmother to night dances normally called *kilumi*. *Kilumi* is a type of dance which was conducted in the night in a grass thatched house which could accommodate about thirty people. This type of a dance was conducted in a witch doctor's homestead to consult for a drug to cure a certain ailment or to predict unseen impending thing. *Kilumi* is a dance mostly for women but men were also there. The women were those that had passed the age of fertility and the men who attended were also elderly and were not married. *Kilumi* was held for twofold reasons, either because a disaster had befallen or someone wanted information from the dead. In this dance two to three skin drums made of round wooden logs with a big hole were used. The elderly men kept warming

and beating the big drums. At the center of the grass thatched house fire was kept burning bright with big dry logs which produced no smoke.

Before the dance started, women stood in a line of five to six and men of the same number stood the opposite side. Women rotated in turns but men did not since they were few. The dance started with a low pace with drums beating systematically and each song had its beat. The shoulders of the men and women vibrated at the rhythm of the drums, moving forward and backward meeting at the center and their necks touching each other's shoulder. The beating of the drums as well as the singing would go high. Everybody intoxicated by the hot dance became frenzied and almost mad. There was shouting as dust filled the house and nothing could stop the dance. This condition would continue for about ten to twenty minutes until his grandmother could not bear the situation. Now possessed, she shouted above everyone and bounced up severally in the air until she could stand on her two big toes as she bounced up-down like a ball. At this point she could start talking in tongues no one could comprehend and at the same time the shouting and bouncing continued. At this point a special song was sung for her and the beating of the drums went higher until his grandmother became almost insane.

When she could not bear her condition anymore, driven by unseen forces, she could jump at the center of the fire. Amazingly, she could pick up the red burning coals, eat them and wash herself with them, talking and shouting things no one could understand. At this time the other women threw oiled *ugali* and roasted meat at the side of the fire. Blood was also poured around the burning fire. The witch doctor crawling like a snake would stretch out while talking things no one understood. The beating of the drums slowly went down and his grandmother could come out of the fire (the mystery of it) not burned. She could sit at a certain corner alone silently

meditating on the whole episode. Later she could eat *ugali* and meat telling them what she was told by the spirits. If the people had committed an offence which brought disgrace to their god, the spirit directed them to slaughter or suffocate a cow or a goat in order to appease their god.

Statement of the Problem

Basically, all that triggers the genesis of this project is threefold. First many of our church pastors do not want to be associated with issues of encountering demons. Second, many of our church members who experience demonic attacks seek out other alternative means for assistance to resolve their predicament. Third, church members do not come out in open, because they do not believe their Adventist pastor can be an instant ‘miracle performer’.

The general observation is that both the clergy and the laity have embraced the world view of many people; they fear the power of the devil. Church members do not appreciate the power of the gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit and the impact they can make within the Adventist church.

Purpose of the Study

This study is purposed to embrace Bible principles in order to combat demonic attacks, demonic oppression, and harassment in the Christian family. The study also seeks to formulate and design an integrated program, to educate church members on demon possession and thereby suggest Bible-based guidelines for driving out demons from a captive. The study is further designed to encourage many that are affected and discouraged by demonic activities in their lifetime. This study also brings hope to those who are at the verge of giving up and are desperately in dire need to overcome demonic possession and activities. Finally the study will help church members and

pastors to be well versed in what to do in case they are faced with spiritualistic manifestations.

Significance of the Study

While demon possession and demonic activities is a challenge to the church in Masii, there has not been any study to address the problem. This study is prepared to contribute to the solution of the problem. The study will thus seek to restore and inspire confidence of church members in the ability of the pastor to exorcise demons.

Delimitation of the Study

Although demon possession may be a nationwide problem, this study covers three churches namely Kitooni, Masii Township, and Utithini in Masii church District in Machakos County in Ukambani station of South Eastern Kenya.

Definition of Terms

Demon – The word “demon” is the anglicized form of the Greek (*daimon*) which like the more common word (*daimonion*) is in the English Bible, rendered “devil”.¹ Thus devil is synonymous with demon. Demons are angels created by God, they were originally good but sinned and became demons.

Demonology – Is the study of demons or the beliefs about demons.

Demon possession – Is derived from two Greek words (*daimonion* *exon*) which mean having a demon. (*daimonizomai*) is the second word and it is better rendered “demonization”. Demonization is thus synonymous with demon possession

¹ John Henry Blunt, *Dictionary of Doctrinal and Historical Theology* (London: Longmans , 1903).

which plainly means to be demonized.² In other words demon possession means the demon has control, influence, or dominion over the victim.

Phrenology – is a theory which claims that human conduct could be best understood in neurological rather than philosophical or religious terms.³

Ancestor veneration – is the custom to respect the deceased ancestors who are considered still a part of the family and whose spirits are believed to have the power to intervene in the affairs of the living.

Reification – is derived from the word reify, which means the consideration of an abstract thing as if it were concrete or of an inanimate object as if it were living. It is the consideration of a human being as an impersonal object.⁴

Exorcism – Means involving the name of God to expel an evil spirit believed to inhabit or possess a person, a place or an object. It also means casting out or driving out or getting rid of evil spirits that are living in a person, a place, or in an object.

Methodology

This study involves program development which entails plans and procedures which deal with demon possession. This research covers five chapters with chapter 1 giving the background of the study. Chapter 2 is based on theoretical foundation where comparison is made on various sources beginning with the Bible, Ellen White's writings and other authors from different religions on what they say about demon possession and exorcism.

² M. M. Ninan – Angelology 14 www.acns.com/rmm9n/articles/angels/14.html.(Accessed January, 2013).

³ Wikipedia, *Edinburgh Phrenological Society* In *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*. accessed April 11, 2013, from en.wikipedia.org/wiki/phrenology,

⁴ *Wikitionary* Creative Commons Attribution/Share-AlikeLicence, Accessed April 11,2013, <https://www.Wordnik.com/words/reification>

Chapter 3 deals with the local setting where the research was done. This chapter describes the geographical setting of Masii church district. In this chapter, 3 questionnaires and an interview were given out. The first questionnaire is prepared for church members, the second for delivered captives and the third is prepared for those involved in deliverance ministry. The interview is prepared for a young man who was demon possessed for 13 years. A testimony of a delivered woman is also shared.

Chapter 4 comprises of a designed program which has plans and procedures to tackle demon possession in Masii church district. The chapter also covers implementation of the plans where I was able to conduct a seminar and other various activities. There is also evaluation to determine the outcome of the plans and procedures in place.

Chapter 5 focuses on summary, conclusions and recommendations I have made from the program developed.

CHAPTER 2

DEMON POSSESSION AND EXORCISM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, WRITINGS OF ELLEN WHITE AND SELECTED OTHER SOURCES

The Origin and the Reality of Demons

It is important to ascertain the origin and the reality of demons, since there is a tendency to doubt that evil spirits exist. The Bible does not clearly state the origin of the demons; however there are inferences that suggest their origin. To ascertain the origin of demons, Bernard states three main theories:-

- 1) The first theory suggests that they are disembodied spirits of a pre-adamic race which fell with Satan and were judged with him.
- 2) The second theory refers to “Demons as the offspring of a union between angels and women.”
- 3) The third theory reveals demons as some of the fallen angels associated with Satan in his rebellion against God.⁵

The first theory bears no biblical proof for the origin of demons and therefore cannot be relied upon. Ellen says, “But the scriptures not only teach the existence of angels both good and evil, but present unquestionable proof that these are not disembodied spirits of dead men”⁶The second view draws its interpretation from Genesis 6:2-4 which records that before Noah’s deluge sons of God saw the daughters

⁵ Bernard N. Schneider, *The World of Unseen Spirits* (Winona Lake, Indiana: BMH Books, 1975), 106-107.

⁶ Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy* (Silver Spring, MD: Ellen G. White Estate, 2006), 511.

of men were fair and took them for wives. This theory does not also hold sufficient evidence as there is no clear reference to fallen angels, rendering it undependable.

The third theory carries more weight since there is biblical evidence beyond doubt that there is the presence of evil forces and ‘spirits’ in the world. Revelation 12:7-9 says, “And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back... And they lost their place in heaven... He was hurled to the earth and his angels with him.” The Bible does not only teach the existence of the devil but also of a great company of his followers known as demons or evil spirits. These demons originally were holy but with their leader, Satan, they fell away from God.⁷ The Adventist church advocates the scriptural testimony about the existence of evil forces and spirits that influence the sinful nature of human kind.⁸ Although the scriptures make it clear that the supernatural is real and that a spiritual warfare is going on, there are those who demythologize the accounts of the devil, demons and demon possession. They contend that the supernatural references in the Scriptures are from a pre-scientific, superstitious world view.⁹

While demonism, spiritism, witchcraft, and other spiritualistic phenomenon have their origin with Satan, the Bible sees spiritual beings as originally created by God. He created Lucifer who became Satan Ezekiel 28:15 says, “You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.” He created good angels who subsequently rebelled against Him and together with Satan

⁷ Josh McDowell and Don Stewart, *Handbook of Today's Religions* (California 92402: Here's Life Publishers, 1992), 175.

⁸ General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, *Seventh-day Adventist Church manual* (Silver springs, MD: General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 2010), 159.

⁹ McDowell and Stewart, *Handbook*, 151.

became adversaries.¹⁰ It is thus evident that the origin and the reality of demons have their origin with Satan and his angelic followers who rebelled against God.

The Nature of Demons

Demons like many other objects have characteristics that describe them.

Below Peter Horrobin has given some of them:-

- i) They are alive. Demons are not just ideas or indefinable forces that operate from within the mind of a man. They are living, functioning, and spiritual beings with a mind, characteristics and will of their own, and are dedicated to the service of Satan.
- ii) They are able to speak. In the Bible there are numerous examples of demons speaking through the mouth of those people whom they are occupying. For instance Luke 4: 34 the demon says, “Ha! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are-the Holy one of God.”
- iii) They have job functions. Their primary function is to serve Satan in fulfillment of his rebellion against the living God and His creation.
- iv) Demons know their end. Like the devil the father of lies knows he has but a very short time and the end thereof will be destroyed, demons too know their destiny that they will be destroyed.
- v) They have supernatural strength. The account of the Gadarene demoniac in Mathew, Mark and Luke all give testimony to the fearsome strength of the man. He would break chains that were used to him. No one could restrain

¹⁰ Brempong Owusu-Antwi, “Demons and Demonic Activities in the Bible” In *The Church Culture and Spirits Adventism in Africa*, ed. Kwabena Donkor (Silver Spring, MD 20904: Biblical Research Institute, 2011), 53.

him. However, it is noteworthy that not everyone who is demonized manifests such supernatural physical prowess.

- vi) Demons are well organized and are under higher authority. Satan himself was part of a well-organized hierarchy of angelic power before his fall. It is absolute, that Satan also organizes his own troops, imitating the angelic realms. This is contrary to what some people say that Satan's kingdom is a kingdom of chaos which has no order and yet he organizes his troops in manner they should avoid defeat at all costs.
- vii) Demons are legalistic. They claim legal rights in a person through sin. Unless sin is repented of, demons will legalistically hang on to the ground they have been given.
- viii) Some demons have animalistic character. The manifestation of Satan as a serpent in Genesis 3 is the first biblical illustration of a 'demonic' manifestation in the form of an animal. No wonder many possessed people give testimonies that describe the appearance of some demons as dog, cat, cock, snake etc.
- ix) Demons work together in families. They commonly work together to support each other in their work. A demon that already has residence in a person will attempt to strengthen its power base by inviting others to come in as well.
- x) They try to remain hidden. Demons do their work effective when they are able to lie hidden. Many people who are struggling with physical, emotional, mental or spiritual problems may really be struggling with demons and do not know it. Satan prefers to work in the dark where nobody quickly notices him.

xi) Demons bow to Jesus' name. No matter how much power a demon may think it has, its master, Satan, was defeated at Calvary.¹¹

Josh McDowell and Don Stewart enumerate more characteristics as the Scripture reveals. These are highlighted as below:

xii) Demons are numerous (Mark 5:8, 9, NASB)

xiii) Demons are allowed to roam the earth and torment unbelievers (Mathew 12:43-45, NASB)

xiv) Demons tremble before God (James 2:19, NASB)

xv) Demons teach false doctrine (1 Timothy 4:1 NASB)

xvi) Demons oppose God's people (Ephesians 6:12 NASB)

xvii) Demons attempt to destroy Christ's kingdom (1 Peter 5:8, NASB).¹²

Demons are regarded as spirit beings with hands, feet, mouth, and wings just as it is with good angels who appear to men converse with them. This is equally true to the evil angels who are the foes of the Christians.¹³ Another version of the culture of the fallen evil spirits gives the contrast that they are strong and at the same time so weak, so sagacious on the one hand, and on the other unwise enough to promote God's cause whilst hating and opposing it.¹⁴

Activities of Demons

Demons have their system of activities. As Satan's subjects, their primary function is to serve Satan. They engage in all forms of temptation and deception.

¹¹ Horrobin, *Deliverance Volume 1*, 84-107.

¹² McDowell and Stewart, *Handbook*, 175-177.

¹³ William Henry Branson, *Drama of the Ages* (Nashville, Tennessee: Southern Publishing Association, 1953), 191.

¹⁴ Maurice Meschler S.J., *The Life of our Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God* (London: B. Herder, 1924), 276.

Demons inflict disease, dumbness (Mark 9:17), deafness (Mark 9:25), blindness and deafness (Mat 12:22), convulsions (Mark 1:26, 9:20; Luke 9:39), paralysis or lameness (Acts 8:7). They do oppose the spiritual progress of God's people (Eph 6:12)¹⁵ There are many more varied activities of demons. The tactics of Satan and his demons are to use lies (John 8:44) deception (Lev 12:9), murder (Ps 106:39; John 8:44) and every other kind of destructive activity to attempt to cause people to turn away from God and destroy themselves. Demons try every tactic to blind people to the gospel (2 Cor. 4:4) and keep them in bondage to things that hinder them from coming to God (Gal 4:8). Demons will also try to use temptation, doubt, guilt, fear, confusion, sickness, envy, pride, slander or any other means possible to hinder Christian's witness and usefulness. Although at times demons bear enormous strength, however their power is limited by God's control. After rebelling against God, their power became limited. Demons cannot read people's minds or know their thoughts. They are unable to know the future. Nevertheless, demons can only explain what they hear and observe happening in the world and probably can draw some conclusions. A demon may know what you ate for breakfast or said in a private telephone conversation because it listened to the conversation. Christians should not be led astray if they encounter members of the occult or of other false religions who seem to demonstrate unusual knowledge from time to time.¹⁶

Jeff Purswell gives many more activities. It is the demons' aim to:-

- i) Keep people in spiritual ignorance
- ii) Make one believe the devil has unlimited power

¹⁵ Millard J. Erickson, *Christian Theology Second Edition* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007), 473.

¹⁶ Jeff Purswell, *Bible Doctrine Essential Teachings of the Christian Faith* (Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 2006), 176-177.

- iii) Make one believe the devil is more powerful than we (believers) are
- iv) Make people believe that Christians should not face persecution
- v) They harden one's heart against God.
- vi) Use circumstances to defeat people such as sickness, death, accident etc.
- vii) Make people disobedient ¹⁷

Additionally, Peter Horrobin says demons:-

- i) Serve and worship Satan
- ii) They rejoice in Satan's works
- iii) They execute Satan's wishes
- iv) They negatively affect the affairs of nations
- v) They undermine the work of the church
- vi) Specifically, they oppose and attack believers and
- vii) They punish Satan's enemies. ¹⁸

Emmanuel Eni has noted that in our contemporary society agents of Satan come to: - "1. Cause quarrels and confusion in the churches. 2. Scatter the churches. 3. Make men and women sleep while the sermon is on. 4. Cause distractions of various sorts when the service is on like children crying, young people chatting etc. 5. Win souls for Satan."¹⁹ Beware that demons also propagate false teachings (1 Timothy 4:1 NIV). Demons also attempt to destroy God's people (1 Peter 5:8). Lastly, Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14 NIV); his agents the demons

¹⁷ Eddie Smith, *Making Sense of Spiritual Warfare* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Bethany House, 2008) P. 48.

¹⁸ Horrobin, *Deliverance Volume 1*, 90.

¹⁹ Emmanuel Eni, *Delivered from the Powers of Darkness* (Nigeria, Ibadan: Scripture Union [Nig.] Press & Books, 1987), 52.

pretend to appear as angels of light too. They are very crafty, keen to trick and convince their victims in such a way that many are ensnared without them realizing it.

Classes of Demons

Although Scripture does not reveal any categories of demons, according to Peter Horrobin there are three levels that are mentioned. The first is regarded as ‘ground’ because in this level they work right here on good *ol’terra firma*. In this realm, demons seek to affect and attach themselves to or inhabit individuals. The warfare involves confrontations with our Adamic nature, with temptations and torments from the world’s system and with altercations with evil spirits.²⁰ The second category is the occult level. By contrast, at this level, human is not fighting a flesh and blood war. But the battlefield involves forces of darkness. These are demonic forces that operate via “Satanism, witchcraft, new age practices, shamanism, false religions, secular humanism, media that glorifies the occult, blood sacrifices and so on.”²¹ The third category is the territorial level also known as strategic level. Satan’s kingdom is real and he is territorial. He is not in all places for he is limited. However, he seeks to dominate the world affairs.²² To achieve his objectives, Satan uses his agents who roam through-out the earth seeking to devour humanity.

As to any possible distinction between demons and evil spirits, it would appear that the powers of darkness have varying size, power and authority.²³ Thus demons do not belong to the same category as shown above. In regard to the good angelic realm, scripture reveals that they are of varied categories with different

²⁰ Horrobin, *Deliverance Volume 1*, 59.

²¹ *Ibid.*, 59.

²² *Ibid.*, 60.

²³ *Ibid.*, 83.

assignment to fulfill. They may be divided into a variety of positions. Both the OT and the NT make those divisions.²⁴

There are other varied categories of demons beginning with the first as *shedim* which is found in Deuteronomy 32:17 and Psalm 106:37 and rendered in English as “demons.” The *shedim* were not pagan idols, but the demonic spirits whose role inspired the perverted worship of those who were disobedient to God. The second category is *she'irim* he-goat.” Jeroboam appointed priests from all sorts of people to sacrifice calves he had made (1 Kings 12:31-32). These pagan deities were regarded as demons in the form of satyrs (goat-like creatures). The third is *'elilim* translated as ‘idols’ Psalms 96:5. The text makes a clear connection between idols and demons. The Hebrew word is the plural for “empty” or “vain”. Thus, the text suggests that while the idols of the nations are empty or nothing the demonic spirits back of them are very real.²⁵ Other evil spirits mentioned in the Old Testament include *Azazel*, the scapegoat (Lev 16:8-26) which is thus depicted in the apocryphal book Enoch (6:7; 9:16; 10:4-6) as the leader of the fallen angels which actually could represent the power behind evil. *Lilith* is another that is regarded as the night demon (Isa 34:14).²⁶

In the NT a variety of names of demonic spirits are given, many of which are suggestive of their function. Others indicate orders or classes of fallen angels. The Pauline Epistles concur with the OT perspective of demons that connect them with pagan deities. Heathen sacrifices are devoted to demons, not to the Lord; thus, those who take part in such sacrifices worship those demons and not God in Christ (1 Cor.

²⁴ David Smith, *With Willful Intent A Theology of Sin* (Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Book, 2008), 379.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, 370.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 380.

10:20). The apostle refers to demons as “the rulers of this age,” demonic spirits controlling those who “crucified the Lord of glory” (1 Cor. 2:8).²⁷

Demon Possession and Exorcism in the New Testament

Demon possession is not only found in the contemporary society, nor solely found in the New Testament, but its presence is also found in the OT though not as much as in the NT. “In the Old Testament, demonology has not been developed with consistency as in the New Testament; yet, the belief in the reality of demons as malevolent, supernatural beings is evident.”²⁸

As we study the beginning of beginnings, we find out that when Lucifer rebelled against God he was followed by a host of the angels of heaven. These angels became fallen angels who are still in league with Satan. As fallen angels which are known as “spirits of devils,” they have throughout the ages carried on their deceptive and nefarious work.²⁹ Thus, demonic acts and experiences entered the earth with the devil and his fallen angels having invaded the earth, which is the beginning of evil spirits.

Unlike the OT, the NT is full of various episodes of encounter with the demonic forces. “In nearly every instance, Christ addressed the demon as an intelligent entity, commanding him to come out of his victim and to torment him no more (Luke 4:36.)”³⁰In the Gospels Jesus Christ ministered to those who were demon

²⁷ Ibid., 380-381.

²⁸ Brempong Owusu-Antwi, “*Demons and Demonic Activities in the Bible*,” In *The Church Culture and Spirits Adventism in Africa*, ed, Kwabena Donkor (Silver Spring, MD 20904: Biblical Research Institute, 2011) 53.

²⁹ Branson, *Drama*, 191.

³⁰ White, *Controversy*, 516.

possessed with a lot of passion. Enumerated below are some of the demonic activities in the Gospels during the time of Jesus Christ:

- i) Mathew 8:28-32, two demon possessed men living in tombs meet Jesus of Nazareth.
- ii) Mathew 9:32, a demon possessed man with a dumb spirit is brought to Jesus.
- iii) Mathew 12:22, a man demon possessed with blindness and muteness is brought to Jesus.
- iv) Mark 9:17-27, the healing of a boy with an evil spirit.
- v) Mark 1:23-26, a man possessed with an evil spirit is among those in the synagogue.
- vi) Mark 16:9, Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene from whom He had driven seven demons. In their time, the apostles continued with the ministry to attend to the demon possessed. Philip for instance in Acts 8:5-8 was used by God to free many people who had become captives of Satan.³¹ During his ministry, Jesus rebuked (Luke 4:41), healed those afflicted by evil spirits (8:2; 13:32), expelled demons from those possessed (8:32-35) and empowered his disciples to do the same (9:1; 10:1-16). The Pharisees soon started attributing his power over demons to supposed alliance with the prince of demons (Mark 3:22). At this point in time, Jesus pointed out the internal contradiction within the statement (Mathew 12:25-27) and then countered “But if I drive out demons by the spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you” (v.28). “His condemnation of the Pharisees’ words as blasphemy against the Spirit

³¹ Vaughn Allen, *Victory on the Battlefield Setting Captives Free* (Brushton, New York: Master book Publishers, 1993), 15.

and his warning of anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven (v32) are evidence that what He had just done was by the ‘power of the Holy Spirit.’”³² Nevertheless, hints of underlying views are evident, demons, the evil angels of Satan (Mark 3:22), can form a group and cooperate against a person (Mathew 12:45/Luke 11:26). They can be so numerous and multifaceted to be described as “legion” (Mark 5:6) and a number of different ones can possess a person (Luke 8:2). Hence they cause a wide range of sicknesses.³³

New Testament has references on exorcism. When the seventy returned from their mission and reported that even the demons were subject to them in Jesus’ name (Luke 10:17) Jesus was “full of joy through the Holy Spirit” (v.21). When Jesus came preaching in the town of Galilee “demons also came out of many” (Luke 4:41). In the book of John, we do not see Jesus casting out demons, but he frequently in his writings uses darkness as a symbol of evil. The following text bears witness to this understanding John 3:19 says “but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.”

When Phillip went to Samaria and preached the gospel, “Unclean spirits came out of many crying with a loud voice” (Acts 8:7). Jesus commissioned Paul to preach to the Gentiles “that they may turn from darkness to light” (Acts 26:18). Saint Paul declared that the devil is able to transform himself into an angel of light and appear to men (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). In contrast to the Gospels and Acts Paul has little to say about the evil spirits or demons. Much of his ideas about evil spirits that we can glean from his writings are contained in his notion of principalities and powers. He writes about cosmic beings that he calls “principalities, authorities, and powers”

³² Erickson, *Christian Second Edition*, 887.

³³ Katharine Doob Sakenfeld et al., eds., *The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible Volume 2* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007), 94.

(Ephesians 6:12), that rival God but God conquers them. 1 Corinthians 15:24 says, “Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.” Demons are also associated with unholy sacrifices of pagans (1 Corinthians 10:20-21) and with the “divining spirits” which was practiced amongst the people of the Roman Empire. (Acts 16:16-18).

John the revelator speaks of evil forces that lead the nations into universal war and carnage in the last days. In Revelation 16:14 he declares “they are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs...” It is in Revelation that many of these various and sometimes disconnected manifestation of evil are brought together using the categories of Jewish and Christian apocalyptic literature.³⁴ The devil and his angels can work miraculous signs. As mentioned earlier, they can appear to men in a materialized form. In Revelation, the devil is presented as a dragon. “The dragon is a demonic controller of human society specifically dominating the Roman Empire symbolized by the beast and the whore (Revelation 17).³⁵

Demon Possession and Exorcism in the Writings of Ellen White

In the OT there is occasional mention of the existence of demons, (as we have seen above) compared to the time of Christ and the apostles on earth, when the evil spirits manifested their power most striking. During the time of Mrs. White the cosmic forces must have had manifestations even more striking than the time before her. She says “I saw evil angels contending for souls and angels of God resisting them.”³⁶ Writing on demon possession she says:-

³⁴ Joseph Kelley, *The Four Last things* (New York: Paulist Press, 2006), 66.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ White, *Messages to Young People*, 52.

Satanic agencies were incorporated with men. The bodies of human beings, made for the dwelling place of God had become the habitation of demons. The senses, the nerves, the passions, the organs of men, were worked by supernatural agencies in the indulgence of the vilest lust. The very stamp of demons was impressed upon the countenances of men. Human faces reflected the expression of the legions of evil with which they were possessed.³⁷ If the eyes of many could be opened in their heedless march, they would see a mighty procession of people of all classes, all kinds, all nations, passing in the same ranks, classing themselves as the companions of demons, rapidly moving on in a continually swelling procession to certain ruin.³⁸

As she was shown angels contending for souls, it reminds us of a continuous raging battle which for decades has been taking place. Mrs. White plainly explains how in her time, the devil and his agents took possession of the whole human being and that people exhibited the character of the demons which possessed them. No wonder she categorically says, "I have been shown that Satan has not been stupid and careless these many years, since his fall, but has been learning.... The power of Satan now to tempt and deceive is tenfold greater than it was in the days of the apostles. His power has increased and it will increase until it is taken away."³⁹ This evidently proves that the power of the devil and his agents is on the rise. His schemes and techniques to inhabit God's people will keep on increasing to lure many and take possession of their abilities to ensure they serve him.

While writing on exorcism Mrs. White says, "In my labors in the cause of God, I have again and again met those who have been thus possessed and in the name of the Lord I have rebuked the evil spirit."⁴⁰ Besides spreading the gospel, it seems obvious that Mrs. White was also involved in the deliverance ministry. Her movement from one place to another enabled her to meet with the possessed that she attended to

³⁷ White, *Desire of Ages*, 36.

³⁸ White, *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 334-335.

³⁹ White, *Spiritual Gifts Volume Two*, 277.

⁴⁰ White, *Selected Messages Book Two*, 353.

and delivered them. It is also clear that Mrs. White had a challenge with exorcists of her time who were fanatics. She writes, “These persons claiming to have a special message for our people would charge one and another with being possessed of an evil spirit. Then after praying with them they would declare the devil cast out.”⁴¹ Mrs. White’s testimony is an indicator that as God has faithful laborers who sow good seeds, the enemy also sends his agents to sow the tares. The same thing is happening today. Agents of the devil pose as angels of light and none can detect their mission. Mrs. White specifically says, “None are in greater danger from the influence of evil spirits than those who, notwithstanding the direct and ample testimony of the scriptures, deny the existence and agency of the devil and his angels.”⁴² There is great danger when we deny the reality of evil spirits while the scriptures are so plain and one does not need the conviction of the Holy Spirit to believe. Mrs. White declares “from the days of Adam to our own time, our great enemy has been exercising his power to oppress and destroy.”⁴³

Humankind is a special target of the devil’s attacks and harassment, consequently Mrs. White gives special remedy on how to overcome the snares of the devil and his agents. One thing we have to note is that “Neither wicked men nor devils can hinder the work of God.”⁴⁴ God planned for the salvation of humanity before the foundation of the world. Who can interfere with such systems that God put in place long ago? Not even one. Mrs. White comments, “The word of God studied

⁴¹ White, *Mind Character and Personality Volume One*, 40.

⁴² White, *Controversy*, 516.

⁴³ White, *Desire*, 510.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, 529.

carefully and obeyed, is the only thing that will keep man pure and keep him pure.”⁴⁵ Bible studies with fervent prayer and embracing the savior in our daily life makes Satan and his agencies a defeated foe. When we denounce the devil God sends the Holy Spirit or His angels to redeem us. Referring to the Holy angels Mrs. White says, “They enter the darkest places to rescue the children of God from the snares of Satan, and their presence causes the evil angels to fall back.”⁴⁶ God is always willing to deliver us from the wrath and the damnation of the evil spirits.

Demon Possession in Other Sources

While writing about demon possession, Montgomery Watt quotes some verses from the Qur’an that support how Islam regards demons. Just as believers have angels as guardians and helpers (8.912; 6.617) so a demon is assigned to each unbeliever and prompts him or her to evil (19.83/6;43.36). Besides the ordinary demons, there is *ash-shaytan* who might be taken to be the demon par excellence, the devil or Satan.”⁴⁷ Either through the power of choice or through seduction of the evil spirits, mankind became the indwelling of the evil powers. By the power of demons or his agents, the devil’s mission is to distress, oppress and destroy.

Citing Wikipedia, *Jinn* or *djinn* are regarded as super natural creatures which are frequently mentioned in the Qur’an. Like human beings the *jinn* are said to have freedom to make choices. They can be good or evil, or even neutrally benevolent. They can travel large distances and at extreme speeds. The *jinn* are believed to live in remote areas, mountains, seas, trees, and the air, in their own communities. For

⁴⁵ White, *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 335.

⁴⁶ White, *Gifts Volume Two*, 277.

⁴⁷ W. Montgomery Watt, *Introduction to the Quran* (Edinburgh, Great Britain: Edinburgh University Press, 2005), 155.

protection from *jinn*, Muslims believe taking time to recite the verses of the throne (Qur'an 2:255) and the final three chapters of the Qur'an (chapters 112-114) are the most effective means to seek protection from satanic whispers and evil creatures.⁴⁸

Jewish apocalyptic literature introduces the idea of a cosmic battle between God and all the forces of evil in the cosmos. Out of that context the figure of one dominating evil spirit that lords it over all the others begins to emerge. This Satan becomes the prince of those angels who also opposed God and were expelled from heaven along with their leader.⁴⁹ The good angels are subordinate and created beings.⁵⁰ They are messengers of God and contrasted with the good angels are the demons which are messengers of the devil.⁵¹ In Jewish teaching, humans were created with two impulses, the *yetzer tob* which means good impulse and the *yetzer ra* which also means bad impulse. Satan to whom the Jewish refer as the "hinderer," leads human to evil and people must struggle to overcome their evil inclinations.⁵²

Hindu religion advocates the reincarnation and transmigration of souls according to one's *karma*. Souls of the dead who committed extraordinary wrongs (while alive) are condemned to roam as lonely, often evil, spirits for a length of time before being reborn. Such spirits in Hindu religion are recognized as demons.⁵³ Even though the Hindus believe there is evil in the world, there is no single devil-like entity in Hinduism. However, take note that there is a concept of *asura* which means evil

⁴⁸ L. Loeffler, *Islam in Practice: Religious Beliefs in a Persian Village*, (New York, 1988), 46, En.wikipedia.org/wiki/jinn accessed May 14, 2014

⁴⁹ Joseph Kelley, *Four*, 64.

⁵⁰ Watt, *Introduction*, 154-155.

⁵¹ McDowell and Stewart, *Handbook*, 151.

⁵² Tracy R. Rich, "Human Nature" 1996-2011, accessed May 14, 2014, www.jewfaq.org/human.htm.

⁵³ Peter Smith, "Evil Spirits" 2008, accessed May 14, 2014, En.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demon.

spirit. In the Hindu religion, it is believed that evil spirits do not remain evil forever, and so they are beings of *Naraka*, the lower plane, and they can evolve to goodness.⁵⁴ The truth is that the Hindus are conscious of the presence of evil spirits that try to interfere with the physical wellbeing of human kind. As a result, the Hindus have their means of protection against any attacks by the evil spirits. Hindus believe in the following ways in order to ward off evil spirits from your home:- (i) Planting a *Tulsi* plant in a pot and watering it regularly. The plant was considered holy and it was believed that it kept away all evils. (ii) Lamp- lighting a small lamp or *diya* everyday after taking bath in the evening or in the morning symbolized keeping the light of God and wisdom burning in your house. (iii) Incense sticks- they believed the fumes of the incense sticks carried all your prayers to God. (iv) *Swastika*- this is a symbol with four blades that point to four different directions. It represents the sun and its power.⁵⁵

Buddhists believe in the existence of good and evil spirits. Although evil spirits are invisible, one cannot deny the existence of such spirits by virtue that they cannot see them. Evil spirits impact greatly on human and their activities. Regarding protection from evil spirits, Buddhists believe that, only goodness shields people from the power of evil spirits. Goodness in Buddhism is a wall through which evil cannot penetrate unless one opens the door to the evil influence. This means a person can lower his or her shield of protection by believing in the power of evil spirits. A person is considered much stronger than spirits if he or she is religious, virtuous and pure in

⁵⁴ Beliefnet, "*What the Devil?*" accessed May 14, 2014, www.beliefnet.com/faiths/2001/08/What-the-Devil.aspx.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

mind and if he or she is intelligent and possesses strong will power and understanding capacity.⁵⁶

Signs of a Demon Possessed Person

How can one tell that a person is demonized? There are several Bible based signs. The person possessed may have unusual strength (Mark 5:2-4). He may act in bizarre ways like wearing no clothes and living away from home (Luke 8:27). He or she may engage in self destruction behavior (Mat 17:15). The victim is destroyed either physically, emotionally, socially or spiritually.⁵⁷In general, the captive may be totally affected in one or more of the following ways:

- a) Change of personality
- b) Physical changes
- c) Mental changes
- d) Spiritual changes⁵⁸

Causes of Demon Possession

This study has shown that some of the causes of demon possession are willfully committed. Even though some people may seductively be led by the evil spirits but the truth is that the individual makes the last choice. The following are the main causes of demon possession-

Continual Sinning and Being Unrepentant: It must be said at the outset that the dominion of evil powers is precisely because of sin.⁵⁹ Continual practice of sin

⁵⁶ Venerable K. Sri Dhammananda, *What Buddhists Believe*(Kuala Lumpur: Buddhist Missionary Society, 1987), chapter 16, accessed 14 May 2014, <http://www.sunysb.edu/clubs/budhism>

⁵⁷ Erickson, *Christian Second Edition*, 473.

⁵⁸ Dowell and Stewart, *Handbook*, 177.

⁵⁹ Thomas R. Schreiner, *New Testament Theology Magnifying God in Christ*(Nottingham: Apollos Intersivity Press, 2008), 369.

provides a stream of entry points through which Satan deploys his forces against man directly and therefore against God. The act of sinning creates a foothold for possible demonic influence in one's life. "When people live their lives without repentance, practicing behavior patterns they are in partnership with the demonic."⁶⁰ When we are not remorseful of our acts against God, the spirit to neglect repentance ignites in our hearts.

Supernatural Power and Reification: The desire to seek for supernatural powers like performing miracles, exorcism etc catches the attention of some people. Thus, for the sake of obtaining supernatural power some welcomed the satanic influence.⁶¹ The use of divination and magic is a grave matter. These practices involve one's failure to submit fully to God and lack of trust in His providence and care. The mysteries of heathen worship are replaced by the secret associations and séances, the obscurities and wonders of the sorcerers of our time.⁶² Many people who are in search of wonders have become prey of demons and end up missing grip to accept the word or the spirit of God. Reification occurs when social institutions become bigger than and gain control over the people who created them. Modernity is the consequence for the loss of control of the human institutions. It is observed that man of today has no freedom, no mental collectedness, no all round development. Reification leads mankind to surrender his spiritual independence and moral judgment to the organized society in which he lives.⁶³ There is therefore the belief that demonic powers control cultures. As a result reification renders people powerless to change

⁶⁰ Horronbin, *Deliverance Volume 1*, 265.

⁶¹ White, *Desire*, 516.

⁶² White, *Evangelism*, 608.

⁶³ Bruce Bradshaw, *Change Across Cultures* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002), 76-78.

their culture. This creates entry points for the demons to subdue the people's spiritual power.

Masonry/Satanism: The engagement of masonry or Satan worship has been proved by the pagan rituals and blood curdling oaths as most assuredly that makes a mockery of God in claiming the Bible as its guide for faith and practice. Yet their practices are anti-Christian. Many Christian masons believe they are worshipping God because of clever manipulations of biblical terminology used. Like it is believed that a mason may not close prayers in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ as it would offend other brothers who are Jews, Muslims, and Buddhists and so on. When they worship they don't worship Jesus Christ but someone they regard 'the supreme architect of the universe.' None other is to be worshipped and honored than this god of naturalism besides the Bibles' God as revealed in Christ.⁶⁴

Recently, a Kenyan magazine "The Nairobiian" went in circulation with a title on the cover page "Confessions of Devil Worshipers." Inside the paper, the title was followed with a terrifying inscription "Primary school kids make horrifying revelations on blood rituals, road crashes, sex orgies they engage in"⁶⁵ It is true that the horrors of Satanism are so terrible that some people don't believe. Satanism which does exist is expressed as the worship of Satan. It's real because many have lost their children and entire families to what they may not have known existed. Satanists are in four categories namely: - Traditional or Religious Satanists, Outlaw and Intergenerational Satanists, Experimental Satanists and Self-Styled Satanists.⁶⁶

⁶⁴ Jack Harris, *Free Masonry* (New Kensington: Whitaker House, 1983) 139-160.

⁶⁵ Nyambega Gisesa, *The Nairobiian* (www.standardmedia.co.ke, September 6-12,2013) 1,5&7.

⁶⁶ Stephen Arterburn & Jim Burn, *Steering them Straight* (Colorado Springs, CO: Focus on the Family, 1995),101-106.

Sacrifices: 1 Corinthians 10:20 – talks about sacrifices of pagans being offered to demons not to God. During the OT and NT times, many people gave sacrifices to unknown gods. That is why the apostle Paul declares them as giving their sacrificial offerings to demons and not to God (Theos). “...rather their idol gods were to be understood as the locus of demons...”⁶⁷ Offering sacrifices to these demons is idolatry and was one way of creating entry points for the demons to reside in the one offering the sacrifice. Sacrificing involves bloodshed. Demons seem to love bloodshed and especially from human or animal the essence being eternal destruction. When we rebel, neglect and reject the authority of Yahweh, we end up creating gods for ourselves, we are experts in doing so and the devil fosters and thrives on our expertise.⁶⁸ This practice is called idolatrous religion which has links with worship of demons.⁶⁹

Neglect of Prayer, Lack of Bible study and Denial to Keep the Commandments of God. “The darkness of the evil one encloses those who neglect to pray.”⁷⁰ It is said less prayer is less power and much prayer is much power. There is great truth in this statement. Prayer is the weapon that we can diligently use daily to conquer and subdue the powers of darkness. Once we neglect the power of prayer, we are prone to demonic attack. Satan does not want God’s people to keep vigilant in studying the word. “Satan employs every possible device to prevent men from obtaining the

⁶⁷ Gordon D. Fee, *Pauline Christology An Exegetical – Theological Study* (Massachusetts: Hendrickson, 2007), 132.

⁶⁸ Christopher J. H. Wright, *The Mission of God Unlocking the Bible’s Grand Narrative* (Nottingham: Inter-varsity Press, 2008), 162.

⁶⁹ David A. Desilva, *An Introduction to the New Testament Contexts, Methods and Ministry Formation* (Nottingham: Inter-varsity Press, 2004), 916.

⁷⁰ G. Edward Reid, *Battle of the Spirits* (Fulton, MD: Omega Productions, 2001), 224.

knowledge of the Bible; for its plain utterances reveal his deceptions.”⁷¹The knowledge of scriptures enables us to distinguish between the all round truth and embrace it and forfeit the false. All who will fully depart from God’s commandments are placing themselves under the control of Satan.⁷²Lack of adhering to the word of God thus creates entry points for demons to take control of one’s life. We should keep God’s truth and avoid walking in deception which may spark conflict inside oneself between doing the will of God and the desires of our heart.

Spiritualism and Ancestor Veneration: Spiritualism claims to be a form of Christianity. It claims to put the living into direct touch with the dead. It is actually based upon the theory of the natural immortality of the soul. Its roots are therefore sunk so deep into the old pagan mythologies, often based upon ancestral worship.⁷³Spiritualism declares that there is no death, no sin, no judgment, and no retribution, that “men are unfallen demigods...” does not such teaching suggest an origin similar to that of demon worship?⁷⁴ Deceived mortals are worshipping evil angels believing them to be the spirits of their dead friends.⁷⁵Veneration means to create the necessary conditions for the ancestors to live happily together with the living. Veneration varies from one place to another. Some people, during veneration, pour libation, break *kolanuts* and pray on the deceased graves. Some put a mouthful food on the floor before eating and refrain from emptying and washing the evening

⁷¹ Ibid., 222

⁷² White, *The Ministry of Healing*, 92.

⁷³ Branson, *Drama*, 192-194.

⁷⁴ White, *Evangelism*, 608.

⁷⁵ White, *Testimonies Volume 1*, 298-299.

meal pots until morning just in case the dead come and find nothing to eat.⁷⁶ The practice of veneration also creates entry points by the powers of darkness since they may unnoticeably pretend that they are the departed friends who haunt the living.

There are other ways human kind may experience demonic attacks and oppression. The attacks and oppression may be caused by:-

- i) Unholy associations like fornication, adultery, cult and occult practices.
- ii) Generational iniquity which means inheriting demonic bondage through the iniquity of parents or grandparents.
- iii) Trauma:-some people become demonized because of trauma or fear.⁷⁷

Effects of Demon Possession

Demons cannot attach and harass without adverse effects. The horrors of demonism are terrible. They can cause suffering on the victim who may suffer in terms of social, physical, emotional, and or mental. “When they are in a person, demons attach themselves to the body, and or soul, mind, will and emotions.”⁷⁸ “Other spirits have a specific effect of the mind, controlling the thought processes of individuals so that they cannot function as God intended Rom 12:2.”⁷⁹

Demons can stress and depress someone until he or she becomes sick. Downward the spiral, distress follows depression and there is need for heavier medication for the demonized. At this point, the person’s life is so controlled by his condition. At this level life loses its purpose.⁸⁰ Most likely the person may

⁷⁶ Kwabena Donkor ed., *The Church Culture and Spirits Advent in Africa* (Silver Spring; MD 20904: Biblical Research Institute, 2011), 72-73.

⁷⁷ Eddie Smith, *Making*, 64-67.

⁷⁸ Smith, *Making*, 68.

⁷⁹ Horrobin, *Deliverance Volume 1*, 91.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, 61.

contemplate suicide. Demons can also fiercely harm and inflict pain on the victim causing restlessness. Some demon possessed become mentally retarded and live in isolation.

The Gospel contains accounts of individuals whose physical health had been totally compromised as a result of the activity of the evil spirits. For example Luke 13:11 records the woman with a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years, “She was bent over and could not straighten up at all.” For the unbeliever it is possible for the demon to dwell in him. Besides indwelling someone, demons many times tempt the victim. They persuade and entice someone to do something. At times they trouble the individual by repeated attacks or incursions as in war. They cause pain, financial reversals or discouragement among other effects. When the evil spirit occupies someone, and actually controls the person from within, it causes the individual to act after the manner of such a spirit.⁸¹ Demons imbue anti-social behavior in the life of the victim and in economic terms the victim becomes less productive.

Exorcism and Deliverance Ministry

In casting out demons, Jesus did not exact a definite procedure. Jesus cast out demons without pronouncing an elaborate formula. He only commanded the evil spirits to come out (Mark 1:25, 9:25). He attributed the exorcism to the spirit of God (Mathew 12:28) or finger of God (Luke 11:20). Exorcism involves casting out or crowding demons as Jesus did and as He taught His followers. The victim is delivered from demon attacks. The expulsion of evil spirits from a person and or a place is not a

⁸¹ Andrews Ewoo, “*Spiritualistic Manifestations Challenging the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Africa*” In *the Church Culture and Spirits Adventism in Africa*, ed, Kwabena Donkor (Silver Spring, MD 20904: Biblical Research Institute, 2011), 14-17.

human effort. “The human agent left alone is powerless before the demons.”⁸²

Mankind does not and cannot manifest by himself the power to cast out demons. Jesus in His time gave the twelve the power over unclean spirits, to expel them and to heal all kinds of sickness. Mark 6:7 says, “Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave authority over evil spirits.” It was observed that evil angels were contending for souls while the angels of God resisted them. Good angels control not the minds of men against their will. The angels of God can do but little, especially if men yield to wishes of the enemy and make no effort to resist him. God will not commission holy angels to extricate those who make no effort to help themselves.⁸³

When carrying out exorcism or deliverance the following key points are important: -

Authority: Jesus invested His disciples with the authority to cast out demons (Mathew 10:1). Christ Himself was mandated with all authority in heaven and on earth (Mathew 28: 18-20). He invests to His people with authority over powers of darkness. Whatever, that we ask of Him He hears us and He gives us. Demons are cast out not by the power of our own voice, but with the authority vested in us by the Holy Spirit (Mathew 12:28, Luke 11:20).

Faith: Faith in Christ is a must. Faith in Jesus Christ is the basic requirement when encountering the demon possessed and casting out demons. Faith comes from hearing the words of Christ (Rom 17).⁸⁴ The success or failure to exorcise evil spirits depends on our faith in Jesus Christ or lack of it (Mat 15:28; Mark 9:19, 23)

⁸² Lamech Miyayo, “Casting Out Demons: Lessons from the Bible,” *In the Church Culture and Spirits Adventism in Africa*, ed, Kwabena Donkor (Silver Spring, MD 20904: Biblical Research Institute, 2011), 170.

⁸³ White, *Testimonies Volume 1*, 345.

⁸⁴ Miyayo, *Casting*, 172.

Prayer: The prayer of faith is very essential. Prayer involves calling on the name of Jesus Christ which means inviting Him to do the miracle. In the power of deliverance, there is no power that can deliver the ensnared soul but the power of God in answer....to the earnest prayer of His faithful followers.⁸⁵ At the sound of fervent prayer; Satan's whole host trembles.⁸⁶ There is not just power in prayer but much power indeed.

Singing: There is great power in singing. Indeed much power that renders demons powerless and weakened. In the event of casting out demons, singing apparently inspires faith in Jesus Christ and impacts a change in heart. Demons cannot reside where praises of glorifying God are being recited.

Spiritual dimension: For every challenge in deliverance it is a must to include spiritual dimension. "To try to confront institutional evil without taking into account the spiritual side is merely to set up an alternative demon of power."⁸⁷ In exorcism, there is need for God's people to manifest a character of pure and holy life in fear of the Lord. When we live by the fear of the lord, we will not be controlled by the fear of man or any other fear.⁸⁸ All the above tools are very essential in casting out demons.

Experiencing Salvation and Overcoming the Powers of Darkness

Salvation is a central concept within Christian theology. In Paul's writings, Christians are regularly described as those who are being saved (1 Cor. 1:21; Eph 2:5; 1 Tim 1:15). They are being saved from something. Whether they are saved from

⁸⁵ White, *Testimonies Volume 1*, 299.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, 346.

⁸⁷ Duang A. Gargett, *Angels and the New Spirituality* (Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 2002), 208.

⁸⁸ Rick Joyner, *Delivered from Evil* (Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image Publishers, 2004), 88.

illness, poverty, oppression, etc, salvation should be understood as something that happens in the context of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of His second coming.⁸⁹

Salvation as a central theme encompasses key components of the saving work of Christ. These are incarnation of Jesus Christ, His earthly ministry, crucifixion, resurrection and his heavenly ministry. Every believer, by faith, should appropriate the work accomplished by Christ Eph 2:6-8. And for the believer to be in union with Christ it is made possible by the Holy Spirit who brings all the blessings of salvation. In order to experience the power of salvation, our union in Christ has to be an experienced reality, event or activity that affects the individual in some way. Thus, the experience of salvation means God's visiting the believer and delivering him or her, not only from sin that imperils their ultimate existence but also from the spiritualistic power that are so intertwined in African society on daily basis.⁹⁰

The believer who is experiencing true salvation must also be delivered, not only from sin but also from the fear and influence of spirits in all their forms. The believer, his or her attitude on African worldview must change because generally speaking it invokes the fear of spiritualistic powers. For a Christian there is need to avoid serving two masters if he or she wants to experience true salvation. We must embrace Jesus and remain new creation in Jesus Christ and do away with the old.⁹¹

In order to overcome and resist the powers of darkness, the believer must:

- i) Discard cultural practices that are not in line with biblical faith.

⁸⁹ Nathaniel Walemba, *The Experience of Salvation and Spiritualistic Manifestations "In the Church Culture and Spirits Adventism in Africa*, ed, Kwabena Donkor (Silver Spring, MD: Biblical Research Institute, 2011), 135.

⁹⁰ Ibid., 136

⁹¹ Ibid., 137-139.

- ii) Accept that the devil exists and that all spiritualistic powers in all form are of the devil.
- iii) Sever all connections with anything that may be of the devil
- iv) Accept that evil angels are capable of performing miracles.
- v) Stand firm on God's word.
- vi) Accept and understand the testimony of the scripture.
- vii) Maintain a close union with Christ and have a rich experience in the things of God.
- viii) Be Prayerful
- ix) Remember that the dead know nothing (Eccl 19:5-6)
- x) Not be tempted to seek help from the mediums and wizards. Isa 8:19-20.
- xi) Not play into the hands of the devil.⁹² It is not good for a person to take the devil for granted and take lightly Bible teachings that warn us against him and his agencies.

The above points are very important that God's people must embrace them in order to overcome evil spirits. Neglecting to uphold any of them may create favorable entry points for the demons to claim ownership. This exposes oneself into continuous attacks and temptations by the evil spirits. God's desire is to ensure that mankind experiences salvation and the devil's plan is to make sure that human is destroyed completely. Every soul has a role to choose which side to belong. God's people should choose wisely.

⁹² Ibid., 141-143.

CHAPTER 3

DEMON POSSESSION AND EXORCISM IN MASII CHURCH DISTRICT IN CENTRAL KENYA CONFERENCE

In the context of this study...Demon possession and exorcism are inseparable. Where there is possession that impact on a person, exorcism aims to rescue and heal the person. This chapter focuses on demon possession and exorcism in Masii District.

The Country of Kenya

Kenya is a country in the eastern part of the African continent. It has 42 ethnic groups with a population of 40 Million. In the map of Kenya, following political boundaries, Masii location is in Mwala District in the larger Machakos County in South western Kenya. Masii location comprises of five sub locations of which two are the area of interest for this research, namely Utithini and Mithini, where the three churches under study are located. Masii is mainly occupied by the Akamba people. However, being divisional headquarters, Masii has a few people from other tribes like, the Somali, Meru and Kikuyu who are civil servants while others have come to do business. Below is a table which shows the demographic information about Utithini and Mithini and Masii. This report is compiled from the 2009 census.

Table 1.¹ Masii Location 2009 Census

Location	Sub-location	Male	female	Total	Household	Area in sq km	Density
Masii	Utithini	2851	2955	5806	1522	22.5	258
	Mithini	2193	2166	4359	973	24.9	175
Total		5044	5121	10165	2495	47.4	433

¹ Government of Kenya, 2009 Census.

The Masii generally depend on agriculture and livestock for their livelihood. The terrain is lowland with sand-like soil.

Pointers to Determine if a Person is Demon Possessed

How exactly would you determine if someone is possessed? What could be regarded as demonic possession in an individual? Is it possible to differentiate demon possession from a normal sickness, mental illness or any other challenge? This is indeed a puzzling issue which needs careful study in order to determine the possibility of a demonic possession in a person. Many souls have died because they did not know the cause of their suffering. Their relatives too did not know if they died of a normal sickness or not. They did not even speculate the possibility of a demonic possession. Many others have been haunted, oppressed, depressed and traumatized. No one could realize the presence of demonic possession. The reason is that the enemy never appears in its true character. He never gives notice as to the way they will invade the individual. They never openly say, hey I am the agent of the devil and I have been sent to reside in you, because you are a favorable 'Mansion.' Many of demonic possession I have observed initially may start with a harmless or 'helpful' spirit from the demonic agent. The agent will even guarantee you good life and nothing alarming is earlier anticipated or speculated at this point. An exorcist shared with me how a demon demanded its Kenya shillings 20 which they had put on fire. The exorcist sarcastically treated shillings 20 as little money and yet the demon seriously promised if they would go to shop, that money was worthy to buy a car and a lot would remain.

Sometime it is tricky and hard to determine the possibility of demonic presence in a person. However, there are some hints which may aid in establishing the possibility of demonic powers in an individual. According to a research conducted in

Masii with those involved in the ministry of casting out demons, the following phenomenon can be helpful to determine the possibility of demonic possession:-

Behavioral change – A demon possessed person portrays behavioral variation. First and foremost, the person may withdraw from family and friends. He may portray mood swings. If the person was active in church he/she may suddenly withdraw and replace church activities with nothing meaningful. He or she becomes angry and hot tempered. Some become rude, wild, fierce and dangerous to live with. Others may choose to keep quiet, be calm but not responsive as they would be in their normal life. They behave abnormally and their strength is supernatural. Their eating habits and sleeping patterns change. Some remain dumb and may choose to live in seclusion.

Holy objects – A demon possessed person readily reacts to holy objects like the Bible, hymnal book etc. Their eyes are burned with fire or they become weak when they stare at the Bible. Their hands become feeble to hold anything and normally experience general body weakness. At times, they are reluctant to read and study God's word. Some violently pick the Bible and tear it into pieces with unusual strength.

Prayer - Majority of those who come for prayer react. Immediately the prayer starts, they either fall there or they behave in a manner that fire is burning them down. Some time the possessed exhibit extra ordinary strength. It is amazing to discover that there are cases where no matter how one prays the possessed does not react. However, these are rare cases. What is clear is that the devil and his agents cannot stand the power of prayer. One time we were praying for a demon possessed lady. When the prayer started, suddenly she was tossed up and immediately she was caught at the door disappearing like lightening. She felt that the surrounding was unfavorable for her.

Singing – This is another tool that makes the powers of darkness weak including the devil himself. Singing gives the possessed discomfort. The evil spirits feel that singing is making a disturbing, interruptive noise into their mission. One evening we went to pray for ‘Sarah’ who was possessed. We started the program with a song and our singing kept her disturbed, swaying and breathing heavily. Fire was burning in her, she said.

Knowing strange tongues – As prayers continue, if the person speaks in a new tongue and/or writes a new tongue, it is an indication of the presence of demons. Evidence of this is indicated in appendix G two letters which are a sample of a lady who is now delivered. Before she was delivered, she could speak and write new tongues. A new tongue simply means a language that is not known by the victim but the victim speaks it fluently as if it is his or her language. Definitely it is the demon in him or her which speaks and writes.

History of the person - knowing the history of a person and the lifestyle that person lives may assist to determine his or her condition. It’s good to know what this person values most; is it his culture and customs or his or her faith in God? In his or her lifetime, does he experience strange noises? Does he experience scaring dreams? Are there times he is carried away while in deep sleep to strange destinations like under masses of water or high up in the midst of the sky or any other strange world where he is given hard labor? Does the person converse with strange beings which chase after him, beat him and or torture him? When the person wakes up in the morning, does he or she have general fatigue and his or her body feeling tired yet he never had heavy work? A combination of several, not one or two of the signs above may be suggestive of something strange happening to the person.

Some stories may not make sense; however, they indicate that the person is demon possessed. For instance, a colleague involved in the deliverance ministry shared a story of a widow he prayed for. Because of fear of the night, the widow would use a container to relieve (short call) herself, but in the morning, the container would be dry. She observed this severally, until one time she called this man of God who prayed for her. The widow reacted during prayer and the evil spirits which had possessed her were destroyed. Some women experience no monthly period. Yet when they are medically tested, there is no cause detected. Others become pregnant and experience the signs of a pregnant woman yet the baby is never born. Some other people become obsessed with certain behavior. For instance, some may be obsessed with sex and the craving is never quenched. Others may become alcoholics or drug addicts unless we are keen, we will not detect that the enemy is behind this kind of behavior. Other people eat beyond normalcy but no one even detects that the enemy has camouflaged himself. It's also amazing that others do not have appetite and they don't feel the need for food. One time we were praying for such a person who had lost appetite. She explained to us how she had been fed on the demons food e.g. blood, plain cabbage with *ugali* or plain boiled maize etc. Interestingly, others become a burden to the family as they can only eat a special meal and nothing more. One lady used to feed on bread and margarine. There are others who are denied the opportunity to work to earn a living. The demons allow them to stay at home doing nothing, not even house chores. When they stay idle, the evil spirits are calm, but when the person does some house work, the problem resurfaces. An Asian lady we were praying for had demons which spoke and categorically said "We don't want her to work to assist her parents." Nobody in the family would detect she was possessed as the problem started with fever and malaria.

Differentiating Natural Sickness from Demon Possession

Many times, it is not easy to differentiate natural sickness from demon possession. However, those involved in the deliverance ministry may be privileged to note the difference. First, it is observed that normal sickness is different from demon possession because the latter cannot be detected in a medical laboratory. Doctors always have difficulty to give a detailed account of the nature of sickness. In fact I have ever come across people who say, the doctor has advised them to take their sick one home for some other arrangement. Second, a survey I did (see Appendix E Instruments) some of my interviewees say that real sickness makes the health of a person deteriorate to a noticeable level while a demon possessed person initially remains in good health despite the challenge he or she is having. Some possessed people can stay in good health for a long time despite the fact that they are possessed. Third, a person suffering from a natural sickness remains steady during prayer while a possessed person may react by falling, screaming and/or becomes weak and generally experiences body discomfort. It is also helpful to note that a person may start with a normal sickness through which the powers of darkness may invade him or her using this sickness.

Differentiating Mental Illness from Demon Possession

Mental illness may not easily be differentiated from demon possession. Nevertheless one underlying principle is that demons fear and scream at the mention of the name of Jesus Christ, while mental illness, mentioning the name of Jesus Christ does not create fear in a person. During the prayer session, demons are uncomfortable hence they make their captive unsettled or unhappy so they wish to run away or begin to torture their victim. For mental illness, there is no reaction, however how many

times the name of Jesus Christ is mentioned. Secondly, a demonic possession is accompanied by supernatural phenomena because its cause is the evil spirits. Mental illness, which is also referred to as psychosis, may be as a result of psychiatric disorders whose cause may be environmental stress, neurological vulnerability and social deprivation. A person with a neurological disorder i.e. psychotic may talk, think and behave in a manner we do not understand.

Differentiating Epilepsy from Demon Possession

How can someone differentiate epilepsy and demon possession? Several of the interviewee exorcists indicated that in both cases, the symptoms are almost the same, making it impossible to determine one from the other. For if it is falling, in both the victim falls, if it is seizures, they both have and if its foaming in both they occur Luke 9:39, 42. This is one of the most difficult to differentiate. Nonetheless, we can be able to determine if it is demonic possession if the person affected is accompanied by supernatural powers during prayer time. A demon possessed person while on the ground, may speak and tell things that people do not see. One Sabbath day, there was a family which had three possessed girls. Trouble started in the church and they were taken home. During prayer time as the three were lying on the ground, a lady from the neighborhood went to visit the family. She was wearing hair wigs usually referred to as (*nywele ya farasi*). While she was at the gate, the demons started screaming and demanded that Dorcas should give them their hair wigs.

An epileptic does not see things like the demons do (in a person) in their spiritual realm. Once an epileptic falls, he or she may not take much time on the ground while for demon possessed person, the victim may take a longer period, or may fall, rise and fall depending on the prayer service. Even when the prayers are not offered, once a demon possessed person falls for two to three consecutive days, the

victim may experience dizziness or complains that he is tired. Something else to observe is that a demon possessed will fall an indication the case is epileptic. Some will fall and make foam while others don't foam. They will not even react to prayer but one thing is clear, you will hear them tell you strange things they see during prayer session or whenever they fall. A young man we prayed for used to fall and rise. When we started praying, he never reacted neither did he fall. He narrated how he witnessed cone shaped objects and a snake came out of his head going upward and suddenly he felt rejuvenated.

Differentiating Cerebral Malaria from Demon Possession

Whereas cerebral malaria and demonization may share the same signs, it is not all the time. While cerebral malaria can be medically diagnosed in a medical laboratory, possession cannot readily be detected. I and fellow exorcist prayed for a lady who had serious signs of cerebral malaria. Later her case turned to be demonic. She seemed to have a neurological disorder. She could spend the whole night having endless conversation. Sometimes she experienced severe headaches which no pain killer would calm down. It was amazing when it was discovered that she was demon possessed after being taken into a prayer room.

While the symptoms of both cerebral malaria and demonic possession may be similar, the former may have very fatal signs that in a few days the health of the person deteriorates. Symptoms of demonic possession in a person may take place gradually for a period of time and yet physically, the person stays looking healthy. Cerebral malaria can be cured with a medical prescription while demonization cannot be cured by a medical prescription. Moreover cerebral malaria once cured does not reoccur while a demon possession problem may reoccur so long as the person is not prayed for. Some demonic cases may end instantly. Other cases may take a longer

period to heal, once the person is prayed for, and the former spirits are destroyed, there is a possibility of other spirits invading the individual if the demons have a legal right to claim.

Differentiating Hysteria from Demon Possession

Hysteria is another challenge to differentiate from demon possession. The signs are more or less the same. It may be difficult to judge hysteria from demonic possession. Nevertheless, one crucial point is that hysteria is a condition doctors can manage while demon possession only the power of prayer can overcome. It is evident that hysteria may be a condition caused by the environmental stress as well as biological challenge in the victim's body chemistry. With demon possession the victim is controlled by evil forces. Nyabega Gisesa in 'The Nairobiian' says, "A female student who joined devil worship in form one dropped school due to frequent acts of demonic hysteria that lasted three to four hours."² This reveals how abnormal demonic hysteria can be.

One interviewee clearly states that hysteria becomes normal after taking glucose or sugar with which demons cannot be persuaded. If prayers are offered a person with hysteria does not react as the possessed do. The person remains calm while in demonization, the behavior of a possessed person varies from one person to another. Beware that demons can introduce hysteria as a disease to a person and they hide under it. Hence discovering the demons may take time especially for those who do not know their tactics.

² Gisesa, *The Nairobiian*, 5.

Differentiating Depression from Demon Possession

If not carefully considered, it can confuse someone to establish if a case is depression or whether it is powers of darkness inducing the behavior observed in a particular person. It is true that through psychological scrutiny of a person a case may be pronounced as depression by doctors. Nonetheless it is also possible that the same case regarded as normal depression may later turn out to be demon possession and vice versa. The first reason is that the case may be a combination of normal depression and demon possession. The second reason may be that no thorough study has been observed to establish the real cause of the disease. In order to know if the depression has its origin from evil spirits try the following:- Pray with the person and observe if there is reaction. During prayer is the person becoming weak or breathing heavily or does the person have discomfort of some kind? Is the person interested in prayer or praises to God or they consider it as a waste of time. Investigate if the person sees or is hearing strange noises calling and instructing him or her on what to do or what not to do.

In January, 2014 I was praying for a lady who every time a vehicle visited there homestead very late in the night, her problem could recur or worsen. She was the only one who could hear the vehicle come and leave. One time she witnessed mosquito net burn without seeing the cause of the fire. As her problem continued she displayed signs of a depressed person, she looked heavy with thoughts and she refused to eat because she saw all foods to her, were bad. One Sabbath evening I visited her in the hospital and prayed she was able to eat. The following day I realized she denied she had eaten last night and was now refusing to eat. Then I asked her if she was willing to be prayed for and she accepted after asking her three times. As I

offered the prayer I noticed signs of demon possession as she was restless and breathing heavily until prayer was over.

How a Person Can be Demon Possessed

As mentioned earlier, the enemy never appears in their true form. In the first place the enemy doesn't look harmful and portrays the character of a helpful agent sent from God to offer a special service to you. The enemy will seductively use all the means to lure the victim the way they anticipate. Demons are sure if they present themselves to the victim as horrible and menacing, probably the victim will seek refuge from God. Thus the victim will run away and 'they' will lose him or her. At first, they may introduce you to communication with a dearly departed one. They may also introduce you to someone who can help you in your need, only to trick you. At an early stage one may not know where he is heading.

One evening a man who boarded a *matatu* home was given two kilograms of fertilizer by a lady who did not get a seat. The lady requested the man to hold the fertilizer for her. When the man reached his stage, the owner of the fertilizer was nowhere. That night the powers of darkness visited with him. He was given instructions that he should pay for the two kilograms of fertilizer. He was told where to place the money, and failure to pray would attract interest. Indeed he was unable to pay and his brother offered to assist him. The results were that one son of the latter became possessed.

The enemy may also take advantage of a weakness the victim has. If you lack money, they will definitely promise you good money and wealth in general. If your marriage is troubled, the enemy will offer to settle the discord. If a person is proud and loves fame, the enemy offers to elevate him or her. If you are sick and have many other problems, the enemy is quick to offer to fix the problem right away. The enemy

will convincingly promise you good life, wealth, power, sex etc. Now the tricky part of it comes later when you are at your peak that is when they reveal their true color. They expose you to severe suffering which is intense and hard. They expose you or torture you when you go against the agreement you made with them. In 2012 a form three student was brought to me by his mother to pray for him. He loved watching and listening to rock and roll music and desired to be like the young artists. He admired their fame and how they performed. Later he enrolled through internet, gave out his mobile number and they would communicate from time to time. The only part that awakened his senses was when he was asked to give out his mother and his sister for a sacrifice.

It is very interesting, when you hear demons say how they trap people and or use animals or birds in their mission. Even things we least expect the evil spirits to use are used to trap many innocent persons. Some ways the evil spirits I hear claim they use is getting a photograph of the person they are targeting. They can also take one's clothes, which just disappear mysteriously in the house or hanged outside. Sometimes they can pick, just a thread or a piece of cloth from an innocent person and they will work on such an item and ensure that the person is demon possessed. At times the evil spirit may change tactics and ensure they catch many, either by using animals or birds of the air in form of spirits. They send them and command them to do a task that the victim will not realize. In some cases others are trapped using money, given to the victim by somebody with such evil powers. The evil spirit may also use things like the cat, dog, rat, snail and lizard etc in form of a spirit. People will see all these things as normal, and yet the evil spirits are beclouded under cover. Take note that this is not written to scare people or make them think that anything they see is a snare by the evil agents.

The powers of darkness may as well choose to use cosmetics to trap people. Some of the items demons use is spray especially the one with sharp scent. Another item is paint (cutex) used to decorate fingernails and toe nails. They may also use things like food items, beads, rings, buckles and eye pencil. These are items the evil spirits have designed with a special mission.

The demons at times may choose to introduce someone (especially the youth) to sex, drugs, and many other things. When the person does not know anything and his or her ability to think becomes ineffective, the person can no longer make decisions or good choices.³ That is why a demonic force finds it easy to access the person. Many who meet with such a person may not detect that he is demon possessed. There is no doubt then, therefore, that evil spirits use drugs as a tool to recruit many people into demon possession. This does not mean that all drug abusers are demon possessed. However, if demons decide to catch the victim, they may introduce him to drugs so that they will easily catch him.

Demons use sex as a tool to inhabit a person. This is truly amazing; nevertheless, the truth is that the demons use their agents (catch) to plant evil forces to many people. This is just done by one having sex with the evil agent, who as a carrier of demons spreads the evil forces to innocent people. As a result we have many people who are sexually very hot, their craving does not go down and they can change partners anyhow. This condition is abnormal because it is not the person but the powers of darkness that pressurize their victim to have more and more craving. At times you will hear the victim say he or she dislikes what he or she does, but because there is another spirit in him or her that is why the inclination for sex does not go down and he or she doesn't care whoever he or she has sex with. Such agents, the

³ Arteburn and Burns, *Steering*, 105.

demons ensure that they are appealing to whoever they come across. So that as instruments used, the devil is sure they will do his mission effectively.

Demons may use other alternative ways to trap some people. Through a traditional charm, an agent may greet a person he or she is targeting. Like in our place they have what we call 'love potion' which is used by a person who is looking for love from a person they have not been able to win. Immediately the agent touches the culprit the demons enter depending on the spiritual level of the target. If the person is strong in faith the demons cannot access him. But if the target is spiritually weak, the demons find it easy to intrude. The agent with the traditional medicine may also put it in the food or drink of the person he is targeting. Immediately the victim takes the food or drink, he swallows the demons which start dwelling in him. Sometime the agent may place the medicine where the culprit will either sleep on or sit on or trample on or cross over or lean on to trap the captive. The agent may also put the medicine where the culprit will touch or see. Thus there are many ways the culprit is demonized.

One time a spirit in a demon possessed lady we were praying for revealed how they attempted to trap her. The agent collected soil from her foot prints and did with it as they wanted and the culprit became demon possessed. Sometime the evil agents may use the books a target writes or reads. They may use his pen or pencil, and do with it whatever they want and the evil spirits invade him or her. It may happen that the victim may or does not get back his or her things, but whatever the evil agents plan to do, will definitely do to demon possess the person. This looks funny and leaves many terrifying worries, if we should live under fear because the devil and his agents are utilizing any avenue to ensnare people. Nothing should expose anyone to

be frightened no matter what. God still is in control keeping watch over His people when they go out and when they go in, Psalm 121:8.

Causes of Demon Possession in Masii

As a matter of fact, demons do not wake up to a person and say, “Hey! Do you want to be partially or fully possessed? Definitely they find a weakness or a door through which they access the person. Like the giraffe which may enter the house with the nose, then the head, then next, the whole giraffe gets in the house. So it is with demons, they only require a small crevice to go through and the next moment they are in. The following are some of the causes of demon possession in Masii :

Traditional cultural beliefs and practices. It is an African belief that traditional culture and beliefs play an integral part of the society. Powers of darkness are closely associated with traditional cultural beliefs e.g. to pour libation is a way of sharing a drink or meal with the dead. Those who embrace this kind of belief and other cultural beliefs are prone to demon attacks and possession. This is a very simple avenue the evil spirits use to indwell many people who in their heart are spiritually empty. This kind of practice is appeasing to the evil spirits.

Consulting witchdoctors to acquire mystical powers to perform miracles is one way to receive spirits without one’s knowledge. During the time of our ancestors, it was believed that witchdoctors cured harmful mystical powers transferred to a person through witchcraft (saying this does not mean the idea is supported because it did not originate with God) however, currently the devil has planted witchdoctors strategically as his agents to trap, initiate, and recruit many into his kingdom. Several of those who visit witchdoctors become an avenue through which demons find easy access. Surprisingly, many do not know they have become a residence of demons. The demon strongly insists that it has the right to reside in the victim because he or

she visited with and invited them when he or she consulted witchdoctors for any reason like love potion, healing, protective charms, or saving marriage etc.

Being afraid of witchcraft- Behold we become what we behold. It is what we believe that we become. A person that is scared of witchcraft becomes a very viable residential object for the powers of darkness to claim ownership. Demons are invisible to us but we are visible to them. They see us and our reaction towards wizards and spirits. As indicated above demons capitalize on one's weak point to find an access to stay. The moment they realize someone has weakness that witchcraft can harm, definitely they dearly utilize the opportunity.

Superstitious powers- Some people engage in the business of using superstitious powers. Some know their origin and others are ignorant to know the origin of those powers. Whichever way, it is true that those 'miracles' they perform, the powers behind, have origin from demonic spirits. Such powers are used to make things like needles, razor blades and handkerchiefs to attract people looking for such miracles. Engaging in this kind of activities to perform great miracles attracts the demons which start as helpful agents.

Devil worship- The worship of Satan is a direct link that connects an individual with the devil's agents. Those that worship the devil must encounter the presence of powers of darkness or demons in their lifetime at some point, either as harmless or harmful agents. The demons will assist the individual to learn their tricks and ways on how to carry out the mission the devil has entrusted him or her with. Recently a young man confessed how he had been assigned a spirit that trained him to travel in the whole world in seconds. The spirit was called Roselyn. She could visit with him in the night at his sleep and she could educate the young man on how to do

things without much effort. This is amazing. The point is no one plays with fire and never gets burned.

Spiritualism- The belief that the living has a direct link with the dead, and can communicate and carry on with their plans, is a big lie. The living converse and see spirits that imitate the physical features of their loved ones who died long ago. Some people, claim that they were visited by a dead ancestor who gave instructions about a sacrifice to be made e.g. red or white cock, a black or white goat etc. Little do they realize they are preparing an entry point for demons. When they are sacrificing they are doing so to the evil spirits that pretend to be their ancestors.

Disregarding God's word and power- Disregard of God's word and its power by the individual may set the platform for demons. Some people disregard God's word and its power as mere and with no effect. They take the Bible as another book authored by a common person. They trust and uphold traditional teachings and practices that are full of theories and hypothesis that are inconclusive because their basis is ungodly. When agents of the devil see our ignorance and our carelessness in handling God's word they take advantage and possess the empty room of our heart. Whether partial or complete disregard of God's word and its power, the truth is that, this creates an avenue for the evil spirits to inhabit.

Disregard of prayer- Some people disregard prayer and its power. Why they do so is twofold. Some disregard prayer out of ignorance and for being non committal while others do not see the need because of the environment, culture or family background they were brought up in. Neglect of prayer jeopardizes the spiritual nourishment of an individual. Indeed, little or high disregard of prayer broadly creates an avenue for evil spirits to find a place in a person. There is a saying that "No play and no work make jackal a dull boy." Lack of prayer makes a person feeble and very

weak to resist the habitation of evil spirits. In fact, a prayer less life helps the demons to swim and harbor swiftly. A prayerful life harbors many barriers in a person so that the evil spirit cannot penetrate.

Mystical powers from one person to another- The transfer of mystical powers from one person to another is a major avenue for powers of darkness to live in a person. In our land, it is believed that a wizard or a witchdoctor can transfer his powers to the son or daughter. The father transfers those powers most probably to the first son and the mother transfers to the first daughter. Sometimes, the powers can be transferred to a child of their choice. Such mystical powers are closely associated with evil spirits which involve demonic forces. Some people visit with those having mystical powers and seek to have them at a price. This involves a covenant that is mandatory to be fulfilled. One elder shared how the covenant involves sacrifices including animal as well as human sacrifices. The person who seeks such powers will continue to enjoy the services he requested so long as he fulfills the covenant. Failure to meet the requirements attracts a severe penalty. The powers of darkness most likely will turn against the owner and impose punishment for failing to meet the agreement.

Jealousy or hatred- This sounds funny. Some people who have such powers of evil spirits may wish to trap those they hate or are jealous of. Thus they transfer the mystical powers to those they are not happy with.

Lifestyle- The life an individual lives may as well determine if a person is owned or not. There is a possibility that the lifestyle one lives may create an avenue for demons to possess him or her. For instance, a person who is alcoholic or drug addict is more vulnerable to demon possession than anyone else. A person who is addicted to viewing pornography or prefers listening to acid music is most likely prone to be demon possessed. Another possibility that can lead anyone to demon

possession is living a non believer (lack of faith). When the Holy Spirit does not dwell in the heart of a person most likely the next person to occupy that space is the demons. Demons prefer residing in the place where there is no fierce opposition or repulsion.

Wealth- Seeking after wealth has also landed many into the hands of demons. They are given various promises with great hope that life will never be the same again. How are they trapped? First the devil ensures that they are poor, jobless and are in dire need for wealth. Second the devil ensures that they have the wealth but then, security is not guaranteed unless they seek assistance from an ‘alternative source’ besides God. They scare and tease you. They instill fear in you, that there is no way you can prosper and have peace and security unless you invite them to guard you and enhance your means. In one town, every market day there is someone who supplies a charm at twenty shillings to whoever wants it, to make good sales of the day. Many could pick and return it to the owner in the evening, failure to return attracted severe penalty.

Greed for power/leadership/employment- Greed and craving for power and promotion in today’s society has become the routine of the day, in the political world as well as in the Christian Church. Many people are so much obsessed to clench and secure positions, so much that they are ready to lay down their lives for whatever means they will employ to ensure they have the position. As a result others have decided to consult with diviners, soothsayers, astronomers. The main idea is to clasp the seat; but in the event many end up inviting evil spirits into their lives, families and society. Thus, they have created a possible avenue that exposes them to demonic possession.

Fear of demons- When a person lives under fear of demons, most likely they are sure to triumph over that person. This is a profound avenue for the demons to access the individual. One thing worth noting is that demons can hear us when we speak. They can see our motives and when they realize we fear them they take advantage of our weakness. Demons are only disadvantaged in one thing that they cannot learn and read our minds. However, they can be possessive whenever they learn they can control and trample on you.

Poverty- Even though this may not be a major cause, several people, because of their poverty condition, they may be ensnared by the powers of darkness. As they move from one point to another in search for food, shelter and money, the devil may appear to them appeasing and helpful. Only to catch them, and they realize later that they have been trapped. The devil is cunning and plays with his tricks to such an unfortunate people in the society.

Demonic effects/ items/tools- The devil at times will use his human agents who may be one's close friend/s. He grants them a good heart, very generous to share anything with anybody. However, behind the curtain, he has a mission to accomplish. The devil seems to have many demons that lack assignment; he therefore chooses to share them with innocent people. In one school a boy was generous enough to share his bread with other pupils, one time it turned out that anyone who shared his bread was possessed. Other items the devil may use are- clothes, sweets, rings, necklaces, cutes, perfumes/sprays, beads, and hair wigs etc. Some people take things that belong to the devil and they share with others without their knowledge may create an opening for demons.

Seeking prayer from outside faith or from 'miracle performers'- The devil has planted several agents everywhere who come inform of 'prayer warriors'. When

innocent people visit with them they pretend to cast out the evil forces and yet they are only strengthening them. They promise people miracles and indeed they perform the miracles, however, they are agents of the devil. Out there are God's true prayer warriors but it is not easy to determine who is genuine. Caution to the Adventist church members who are interested in miracles, they should be careful; otherwise they will become victims of the evil spirits. Many people have unknowingly attended prayers associated with bad spirits, and they have come out worse than when they went in for help.

Sickness- At times when we are sick the devil tends to intrude via the evil spirits. The bad spirits camouflages under the symptoms of the disease and continues to torture the victim unnoticeably. Sickness can create an inroad of demons into a person's body.

Sinning and no repentance- Continual sinning and no repentance up set our loving God. The Holy Spirit cannot indwell a sinful soul who does not repent. And who else can occupy the vacuum other than evil spirits which will control the person.

Evil spirits- demons are evil spirits that roam the earth. Their main mission is to attack and own people. Day and night they are busy accomplishing their business of recruiting many into the kingdom of the devil. Those recruited become part of the demons and are inclined to engage in the same business of recruiting more.

Ignorance- If there is a time the devil laughs at us and takes advantage to possess us is when we fool ourselves and pretend that the demon does not exist. Secondly, the demons, take advantage of us when we live our life carelessly and ignorant about demonic activities, and deny they are there. The evil spirits only capitalize on one's ignorance and carelessness and these create access for demons to own a person.

Beliefs in demons- Those who believe in demons and their activities and take them as harmless and hurtless create an avenue for demons to possess them. This is a very dangerous belief.

Why Many Disregard Bible Principles

When a sick person is tested in a medical laboratory and the results have nothing detected, some people choose to seek help elsewhere. First because they curiously have high hopes for instant miracle. When the illness becomes resistant they go round searching for people who can grant them an instant miracle of healing. As a result, they least expect to engage themselves into prayers. If at all they choose to go for prayers, they approach those people who advertise themselves as ‘miracle performers’ who are displayed in the media. The term prayers offered by God’s servants in His Church as mere and simple, without any productive results.

The second point is that many people take with high regard the help of a person they see other than what they don’t see. As the battle with demons rages on and some people have given up, they choose to visit witchdoctors or soothsayers in order to do away with their problem. In such a situation they are looking for a visible power they can consult and hear say good things about their case. They ignorantly regard biblical principles as inadequate to offer answers there and then.

The third point is that some people are not Christians, and they feel that, faith may be a requirement for someone to be delivered. For instance, a traditionalist may feel inadequate to consult someone they don’t believe in. As a result they visit with witchdoctors for consultation. They feel they are free to obtain help from what they believe in other than someone being imposed on them. Therefore faith becomes a standard measure for them. They forget that anybody anywhere at any given time can access our heavenly father as much as they believe in him.

Demonic Activities in Masii

There are various demonic activities that have been witnessed in Masii. Below is an interview, a testimony and a report on the survey I conducted.

Interview with a Young Man Possessed for Thirteen Years

The interviewee is now 24 years of age. In his life, he discovered that he was possessed because he had the following signs: sleepless- fearful nights. He witnessed appearances of strange things like dogs emerging from darkness then followed by strange voice behind. He could hear beating of objects around himself. He suffered until he could diarrhea blood.

His life experience within the thirteen years was miserable. People who died long ago but were familiar to him were his friends. Many are the times he could see himself sleeping over the waters and in the graves. He had a woman like demon who held him as a baby. Later he went crazy and his usual habitation was in the bushes and valleys. A demon would visit with him daily in an attempt to eliminate him. He would take four days without a meal or drinking anything. His condition worsened and he was taken to the hospital. None knew he would survive.

However for his healing, in 2003 he was shown five dreams. The first one he saw himself standing on the pulpit delivering a sermon to the congregation. As he started preaching, he started shaking and behaved as demon possessed. The second dream he was shown backsliding and going back to Sunday worship. The third dream, he was shown that he was completing school. The fourth dream, he was shown that he was becoming hopeless and helpless. The last dream he was shown he was dying and no longer going to live. All the dreams were fulfilled except the last dream where he only became severely sick to the verge of death. It is when he was in this condition that one morning he turned to God and sought Him for forgiveness of the sins he

committed. He prayed and God miraculously delivered him and he found himself regaining tremendously.

The message he is sharing with other demon possessed persons is that God is real and His promises are true. Through Christ, God defeated the devil and his agents (evil spirits). God can be trusted all the time.

To those who have never experienced demon possession he encourages them to be firm in the Lord. Everyone should be aware that Satan has unaccountable schemes against God's people.

Testimony

There are several testimonies to give, nevertheless, I have written one. The name in the testimony is not the real name of the person.

The year was 2010 and it started with a lot of hope. Carol was sure to continue with her education since she had started the year well. Nothing seemed to interrupt her school program. But as she continued, she experienced severe headaches, high fever and malaria. At night while sleeping she could bleed from both her nose and her mouth.

On December 12th 2010, Carol went to church as usual. While she was in church, she heard someone calling her and she responded. Suddenly she felt being tossed up and down while she was sitting. Immediately she fell down and was taken to the hospital.

When treatment seemed unresponsive, Carol unfortunately was taken to a witchdoctor who pierced her chest in one of her ribs. She was given a ring as a protective device. Carol would walk with this ring wherever she went. After they came home from the witchdoctor, Carol's condition hardly improved. Her headaches, high fever and malaria continued, and then she started having stomachaches. Her

condition worsened. She could go out in the night and walk long distances. Other times she would fall and it was not easy to establish the cause.

Because of the harsh experiences she was going through, her mum took her daughter to ‘a miracle performer’, but nothing was forthcoming. There was no change and her condition worsened the more. This time her mother took her to an Adventist for prayer. When prayer started Carol said many things; yet she later could remember nothing because it was the spirits in her that revealed those things.

Today Carol is a delivered child of God. She gives testimonies about the greatness and goodness of our Lord Savior Jesus Christ. In fact Carol’s recovery touched the hearts of many who had witnessed her sickness and now she is able to praise God for His Mighty Miraculous deeds. Carol admonishes God’s people to live a sanctified life with strong faith in the Jesus Christ.

Survey Report

In selecting the interviewees I explained to church members my intention to carry out a study on demon possession and exorcism. I had with me three different questionnaires and one written interview. The first questionnaire was for church members, the second was for delivered captives and the third was for those involved in casting out demons. In detail I explained the nature of each questionnaire and what it entails.

Before church members received the questionnaires, I encouraged them for two important things, i) both men and women to participate and ii) the youth and adults to participate. The aim was to ensure that all gender and ages were represented. It was also for ensuring surveys collected were inclusive.

In order to determine the preference of demon possession in Masii District I interviewed 39 members in Kitooni church, 17 men and 22 women. In Masii

Township I interviewed 20 members, 9 men and 11 women. In Utithini church I interviewed 20 members, 6 men and 14 women. The ratio for adults to youth in Kitooni church is 10:3; Masii Township 10:3 and Utithini 10:4.

Figure 1 below shows the number of church members who answered the questionnaire-

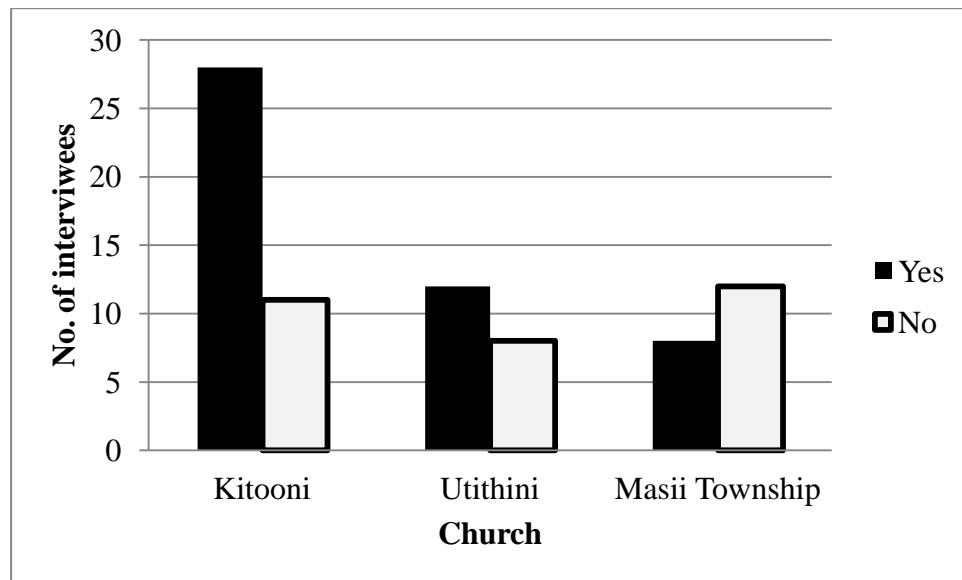


Figure 1: Level Interviewees Believe Church is Involved in Handling Demonic Cases

As per Figure 1, Kitooni is mostly involved in handling demonic activities with 71.8 percent. My observation why this is so, gives three reasons:

- i) Kitooni having a high level of members involved in handling demonic possession is an indication that, there are more demonic cases compared to the other churches. The table below shows 39 of the interviewees agrees that demonic cases are in their church. I believe a high level of demonic cases attracts for attention of many church members to be involved.
- ii) There is also a high level of many church members from Kitooni who have witnessed a casting out session. The table below shows 32 of the interviewees has witnessed casting out sessions.

iii) Kitooni has several church members in deliverance ministry because seemingly they have the zeal of being involved. Most likely the zeal may have been triggered for them being exposed in witnessing several demonic cases as the second reason states.

In Utithini church, the survey indicates that 60 percent of the church members are involved in handling demon possession. This is an indication that Utithini may not be experiencing a high level of demonic cases compared to Kitooni.

The chart above indicates that Masii Township is aware that the Church is handling the issue of demon possession with 40 percent. Deductions are that members of Masii Township have fewer cases to handle as the statistics show.

Table 2 shows the number of captives delivered, interviewees involved in casting out demons and the perception members have in demonic presence in the church:

Table 2 Analysis of the Data Collected from Interviewees

Church	Respondents	No. of interviewees	Those who think demonic cases		Those who have or have not witnessed casting out sessions	
			Exist in church	Does not exist in the church	Have witnessed	Have not witnessed
Kitooni	Church members	39	39	-	32	7
	Delivered captives	11				
	Exorcists	7				
Utithini	Church members	20	6	14	12	8
	Delivered	-				
	Exorcists	-				
Masii township	Church members	20	9	11	3	17
	Delivered	2				
	Exorcist	-				

Table 2 shows that 100 percent of Kitooni Church respondents are fully aware that demonic cases are found in the church. Utithini has 30 percent and Masii Township has 45 percent who believe demonic cases are in the church today. In Kitooni 82 percent have witnessed casting out session. Utithini has 60 percent of respondents who have witnessed a deliverance session and Masii Township 15 percent have witnessed a casting out session. In all the three churches there is awareness of demonic presence. The results indicate prevalence of demonic encounters in Kitooni is more than in Masii Township and Utithini churches.

CHAPTER 4

PROGRAM DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION

This chapter describes a program designed to employ plans and procedures that should diminish the impact of demonic activities in Masii church district. The program has to be implemented to establish its sustainability. Further it shall be evaluated to establish if the plans are realistic.

Proposed Program Design for Casting out Demons

The Bible does not give a general detailed, definite procedure or formula on how to cast out demons. Angel Manuel Rodriguez tackling the question, ‘Is there a ministry or gift of exorcism in the Bible?’ says “the casting out of demons was common in Jesus’ ministry, but He did not provide the disciples with a particular procedure.”¹ This does not subsequently mean that believers or exorcists do not need one either. Christ must have had a formula indeed even if the Bible does not share with us consistently and in an open vivid way. When we read through the Bible, in all instances Christ encountered a demonic case; it is suggestive that He used varied methods in driving out demons. For instance, Jesus by the word of His mouth, Mathew 8:16 “When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.” By the power of the Holy Spirit delivered the possessed. Mathew 12:28 says “But if I drive out demons by the spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” Take

¹ Angel Manuel Rodriguez, [www.adventistonline.com/forum/topics/January 24 2014](http://www.adventistonline.com/forum/topics/January_24_2014)

note that a deliverance procedure may vary from one exorcist to another and from one place to another and from one victim to another depending on the type of the challenge the exorcist is handling. Nonetheless besides varied methods, the principle point to cast out demons remains the same. Why then the difference? Below are two methods used deliverance ministry.

Method One: Face to Face Procedure

In this method we visit with the victim and pray with him or her. Below are practical suggestions on casting out demons which entail common steps exorcists use. These steps have been used in a procedure where we visit to pray with the victim.

Step one: Personal preparation. Be prepared spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically - Before an exorcist engages himself or herself into a deliverance session, it is not good to start the service without personal preparation. Christ says that it takes prayers and fasting to cast out devils (Matt 17:21). It is good to realize that some demons are adamant and can sarcastically tease, humiliate and or enjoy you. They are so powerful, strong and intelligent to engage. The seven sons of Sceva are a good example of individual exorcists who were overwhelmingly overcome and they prevailed not against the evil spirits (Acts 19:15-16).

An exorcist must keep in touch with heaven in order to overcome devils. Prayer is a tool which connects an individual with the spirit of God. By confessing our sins, by believing and having prayer of faith in Christ Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, the results are tremendous. It is also advisable to embrace fasting in one's deliverance ministry. Prayer and fasting connects a person with God through Christ Jesus. Remember casting out demons is not an individual's power or might. It is not about one's ability or ego driving out the devils. It is the power of the Holy Spirit by

the word of Jesus Christ. That is why there is need to prepare oneself to subject the body, mind and soul to the will and wishes of the Holy Spirit God.

Like Jesus our intercessor, the author and finisher of our faith, as exorcists we must be prayerfully connected with our God. Thus by faith we become strong and bold that at our command through the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Christ Jesus, the evil spirits obey without resistance. It is important to prepare oneself, spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically because the task before you requires total involvement of the exorcist. Prayer is therefore necessary to prepare the exorcist holistically.

Do not attempt alone- During a deliverance service, it is not advisable to attempt the exercise alone. It is advisable to work as a team. It is good to embrace Christ's advice to His disciples that they should go two by two (Mark 6:7). Although Christ says two by two should go out, it does not necessarily mean that exorcists should not be more than two. The principle point is that there is need to attempt a deliverance service as a team. Team work brings forth enormous results. When we are united to fight against the powers of darkness the Holy Spirit empowers us and the evil forces prevail not. The Bible says, "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor.... Two shall withstand... (Eccl 4:9-12).

Going for a deliverance exercise is going to a battle field. Two forces are battling it out and this calls for teamwork. Encouragement for teamwork has threefold reason. First, the possessed may exhibit great and enormous strength which can overwhelm the exorcist as an individual. Second, there is likelihood of temptation when handling, a deliverance encounter of a person of the opposite sex. Third, when exorcists work as a team they are able to exchange ideas and pray in turns. Thereby as a team they are able to subdue the strength or the intelligence of those evil spirits.

Faith is essential- As a person God is using to accomplish His mission, you have not just faith but great faith indeed. In Mathew 8:10, Jesus discovered the centurion had great faith when he came to intercede for his suffering servant. By such faith, the centurion's servant was healed. The exorcists task deals with invisible creatures and this time it's his or her faith in God. Human effort and influence is not enough. An exorcist should ask God to increase his or her faith and to give him or her hope of trusting Him. Any demonic encounter must be approached with faith to triumph over those cosmic forces. A demonic encounter with a faithless approach does not bring good results. Mathew 17:19-20 records that disciples were unable to drive out demons when they inquired; because their faith was so little. Faith is thus crucial when driving out demons. You cannot engage oneself in the deliverance ministry without faith.

Devine authority- As you work as a team, trust that you have divine authority to overcome the situation. Be bold, nothing should make you waver. James 4:7 says, "Submit to God and resist the devil and he will flee..." You are already under full control of God. Remember, in order to start the whole program, you must rely on the power of Christ. Hebrew 2:2 admonishes, "Look to Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith..." Look up to Jesus for more power and trust that Christ is going to use you as a vessel to deliver the possessed. You are full of the Holy Spirit and God is ready to use you. Christ in Luke 10:19 says, "...I give you authority to trample on serpents and scorpions..." In Mark 16:17 Jesus says, "And these signs shall follow them that believe..." One of the signs Christ speaks about among others, is casting out demons. Be encouraged that these signs are with believers and for our use to save souls that the devil is destroying mercilessly. So don't be afraid, the battle is the Lord's, your task is to subject yourself to the will of God. Call upon Him and He will do the rest for you.

So move on and fear not the evil spirits. God says, “Fear not for I am with you... I will strengthen you...” (Isa 41:10). Attempt the deliverance service with authority because God has declared to be with you. If you are afraid, ask God to give you the divine authority to approach the service with determination.

Carry a Bible and hymnal- You are now divinely connected in readiness to perform the will of God. As you visit the possessed, carry with you a Bible, hymn book, a notebook and a pen. In some cases you may use an audio and or visual recording gadget if need be (this is not compulsory). Christ took with Him the good news whenever He visited with the diseased in pain, the demon possessed and the paralyzed (Matt 4:23-24). Disciples carried with them the message of the Lord when they prayed for the sick and the possessed (Matt 10:7-8).

Step two: Service program. This step is very important before you start prayer. First, it is good to consider the following- Investigate the problem- Start the session with a song and prayer to welcome the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit. In your dialogue investigate the root cause of the problem. If the individual is unable to communicate, let the caregiver or the one close to him or her narrate how the problem started and the experience the victim has undergone. Failing to give all details of the case, the devil and his agents take advantage of such weakness and camouflage under such undisclosed secrets. Make sure in any session you take notes of the main issues to present to God in prayer. Caution should be taken as, some possessed persons and or the immediate family members may be uncomfortable when you are taking notes. They may opt not to share adequately with you any information they have. At the start, keep them alert that you will take note of important items for purposes of prayer. Assist them to be open and free so that they do not withhold any helpful or useful information. When the victim or anyone close to the victim feels

insecure to share any private information, an attempt should be made to secure a secluded place where they will share with you without restraint.

Is the victim a believer- As you continue with interrogation, seek and confirm if the individual in need of deliverance has accepted Christ as his or her personal savior? Establish his or her spiritual well being and whether he or she trusts that Christ is able to deliver them. Once you establish he or she doesn't enjoy a favorable spiritual relationship with Christ, know that God has sent you as a vessel to help the victim to become a believer. This is an issue you need to capture in prayer in order to drive away the spirit of disbelief in him or her. At this stage it is imperative to pray to raise his or her spiritual status. It is also important to establish if they have items with them from the evil world e.g. charms from witchdoctors or wizards or from devil worship. When the spiritual status of an individual is low and he or she has effects from the spirit world, the demons claim ownership. Any concoction an individual swallowed or washed with or was rubbed on their pierced skin or tongue gives the demon the right to claim ownership. Confirm if the victim has been introduced to devil worship or any other questionable form of worship or religion. Seek to know if the possessed person has been prayed for and sprinkled with 'holy water' or anointed with 'oil'. Inquire if the captive has been introduced to drugs or to some addictive behavior against social normalcy. Lately this is a method the devil is using to trap many innocent people.

Pre-deliverance teaching- So far you know the root cause of the individual's problem. Take your Bible and read a text or a few verses. Your main objective is to do pre-deliverance teaching to bring hope to the individual and the family at large. Your task is to raise their spiritual status and drive out the spirit of fear and disbelief. Share with them that demons were there in the times of Jesus Christ but they did not

prevail against Him. Bring them the good news that the same savior will not allow the devil to prevail, but will mercilessly destroy them. For what is impossible to man is possible to God. Demons are very insignificant before our Lord and savior. Take note that you should encourage the possessed to read the scriptures especially in circumstances where the victim is able to read. If the person in need of deliverance cannot read because of challenges related with the case at hand, you should not force him or her. But prayerfully seek the savior's intervention to destroy any spirit against the victim's reading the word of God. It is true that some possessed people have difficulty with reading the word of God for various reasons. For some, it is because they see dimly and cannot read well. Others see black and nothing at all. Some other persons see the wording upside down. There are others that are denied the opportunity to read audibly and so forth. Your task at the moment is to bring great hope to this needy person(s).

Confessing sin(s) - When you are sharing the word of God, strive to assist the victim to confess and repent of his or her sin. Remember the above stages are applicable if the condition of the case is manageable. Each case should be treated on its merits because in some cases the captives are insane and cannot be attentive. Some are even wild and violent so you should act to command the devils to be bound to allow room to read the word of God. If the condition seems uncontrollable don't give up; continue asking God to subdue the demons. When the possessed is normal and can understand, assist them to ensure they confess their sins to prevent evil spirits from claiming the victim back. In cases where the victim is unable to soberly communicate, seek the Lord in prayer to intercede for them and cleanse them from their past iniquities. God is faithful, trust that He will forgive and cleanse them from any obstacles the demons claim as their stronghold. God can delink the possessed

from any attachment the demons can claim. When God brings sanity in their being, they can now be led to seek for forgiveness from their own lips. And thus a confession and repentance prayer should be read as the victim repeats.

Prayer session- With all the items recorded in your notebook, you are ready to present them to our father on behalf of the captive. Indeed prayer is the primary reason you are there. Before you start praying, you may wish to sing a song followed by prayers. If you are few, you can pray in turns but if you are many, you may appoint a few to present the supplication to God. As you start prayers it is good to lay your hands on the victim's head or hold his or her hands. Christ says, "... they will place their hands on sick people and they will get well." Mark 16:18. In your prayers, ask God to forgive each one of your sins and break any curse against the demonized. In some instances, the captive may experience mild manifestations as the prayers go on. In other cases the captive may experience horrible manifestations when prayers are on. Whatever the case, the situation may call for more prayers alternated with songs and if need be, reading the word of God. The prayers may continue until the captive is fully delivered. In many cases the length of the service is determined by the severity of the case. Many times you cannot determine how long a deliverance service will take until you encounter it. How long is also determined by how heavily the demons are determined to fight the battle and if they claim custody of the victim. The other condition is whether the victim is ready to detach himself or herself from any covenant they might have made with the demons and to let go of the spiritual world.

Take into account that a person cannot be completely delivered if still he or she experiences any signs of manifestations. He or she must be completely delivered feeling rejuvenated and re-energized. Remember at some point the case may require more attention with commitment hence standing for hours in the night or day praying

for the victim. In such cases seek and ask the Lord to grant you wisdom to understand why there is resistance from the devils. It might be the demons claim ownership if the victim is holding to anything that belongs to the devil. It could also be demons are blocking prayer see Appendix D. Sometimes you may grow weary, when that happens seek the Lord in prayer, to grant you strength. As a believer but human, know that at some point you may be forced to pray for the Savior to control the situation while you go to rest.

Be thorough- In your prayer be thorough in mentioning all the items you recorded. If you are not careful to mention all of them, there is a probability of demons seeking refuge under the cover of what has not been prayed for. As prayers progress the victim may say things the spirits did not want him or her to say, they may be a barrier to the prayers offered, so be ready to pray for all those items and ask the Lord to destroy them. And therefore, as you were thorough while investigating the case, be thorough also in presenting those issues one by one to the Almighty God. Thoroughness in the whole process is essential. Disregard any feeling that you are spending too much time praying for the victim to be delivered. Thoroughness in prayer will enable you to invade the demon's stronghold and ensure that everything is under the control of the Holy Spirit. Remember, throughout the deliverance service, prayers should alternate with songs and reading texts in the Bible for cases that take long hours. This is done to weaken the demon's powers from all sides and through all means available. It is also intended to avoid monotony and fatigue.

Holy objects- As prayers continue, the situation may dictate that you place the Bible or hymnal on the victim's body on the affected part. You may also place your hands on the victim's body especially the affected part. Demons are cunning and very crafty; they keep on moving from one part of the body to another. When they move to

the breasts it is advisable to have a female lay her hands on the breasts as you pray or as she prays. This means it is good to attend a deliverance service in a team of male and female believers. In a situation where a female prayer warrior is unavailable, just command the devils in the name of Jesus Christ to leave the breasts or you can even command them to be destroyed. God is ready to answer your prayers accordingly, just trust that He is listening to your prayer. But as much as possible avoid touching areas which open the door for lust. For ladies ensure that they are covered.

In case of a re-entry- After deliverance, the person formerly possessed is rejuvenated and feels liberated. Remember, that demons may try to re-enter after they have been cast out especially in strong and severe cases. If they re-enter immediately after deliverance just continue with prayers. If they re-enter after a day or after some period of time it is prudent to repeat the whole procedure. If the re-entry is frequent, it is good to investigate why it is happening as you fight them back with thorough constant prayers. Ask God to grant you His divine power to strengthen you and increase your faith. As you intercede for the victim ask God to strengthen and increase his or her faith. Take note, that there are occasions when you cannot push God to respond with an instant healing. When you have prayed and you feel so exhausted that you cannot continue with prayers, ask God to bind the demons and thank Him for the success so far witnessed. This is not an indication you have surrendered to the devil and his agents but an opportunity to rest. After this, seek the Lord for more power and rejuvenation through prayers and fasting. When you are strengthened you may continue with the procedure until the possessed is delivered.

Post deliverance teaching- After deliverance it is good to have post deliverance counseling. The delivered must be advised to relinquish any objects from the spirit world. They should decide to disassociate themselves with demons. Remind

them to decline from any covenant they had made initially. Let them know there is need to abstain from sin. Continual sinning gives the demons the reason for re-entry. Ask them to avoid sin at all cost. They must safeguard their heart from evil thoughts or plans. Give them hope from any traumatizing experience they may have gone through during prayer service and before. Let them know that Jesus loves them no matter what they are going through. They must be ready to embrace Jesus Christ as their savior all the time. One author wrote that the delivered should lead their life “being 100% Jesus, 100% of the time.”² They should be admonished to allow Jesus to lead their life all through their lifetime. They should pray all the time, read the word of God and meditate on the goodness of the Lord. The delivered should be encouraged that nothing should create fear in them even in case of re-entry. They should be patient, understanding and optimistic because God our hope is greater than legions of demons.

Thanksgiving- Finally when the possessed is fully delivered offer a thanksgiving prayer to appreciate God for the miracle of healing. Appreciate God for healing the victim’s soul, mind and body. Thank God for the gift of healing and for accepting to use you. Express your gratitude to God for the opportunity and the privilege He has extended to you and for revealing His powers. Don’t forget also to appreciate God for the experience you have gained. There is always a new lesson or experience you gain because in each case you will discover there is a new thing you have learned, even with the same victim. Thank God for blessing and bringing the victim’s family hope and peace of mind after a period of stress and pain during the time when their beloved was under demonic attack and/or harassment.

²Covenant Warriors International Ministries, “*Steps to Cast out a Demon*” accessed April 11 2013, www.covenantwarriors.org

Method Two: Phone Call Procedure

Sometimes there are moments when people will give you a call because they have a possessed person or they may not know what the case may be. If I am not engaged, the first thing I do if possible, is to ask if they can give me a moment of personal prayer. Here I ask God to bless me and cleanse me in preparation to pray for the possessed. Sometime it may be that I have no time or I do not have sufficient credit on my cell phone or they do not have it either. Sometime the condition may not give room for personal silent prayer or for investigation of the case. I have found no harm when I pray with the victim right away over the cell phone. In this regard the phone may be placed on the victim's ear or you increase the volume for all people around to join in prayer. In my prayer, I start with adoring God for who He is to us. Then I seek forgiveness for sins of commission and omission. Then I present the case to God and trust that God is willing to heal the victim. Finally I return special thanksgiving to God for answering my prayer.

I have discovered that this method is very effective; because there are those I have prayed for over the phone and have been delivered. Some of the victims I have prayed for I have never seen them, but they have witnessed their deliverance when we prayed through the cell phone. It is also good to note that there are some cases which may prompt me to visit the victim if the case seems severe.

Implementation

Central Kenya conference gave me a formal permission to carry out the study in Masii district in Machakos County. With prior arrangement with the area district pastor, a request for permission to carry out the study in his district was also granted. Letters to this effect are displayed in Appendix A.

Before the Sabbath for the seminar, it was my responsibility to liaise with the district pastor to confirm his availability and that of the church members. The pastor then assigned me a church at which I would preach. Whenever I reached Masii in the morning, I visited the three churches (Masii township, Kitooni and Utithini) to create awareness and register my presence and confirm my availability for training in the evening.

Time Allocation-Day one

- 20 minutes devotion/ short Bible study
- 10 minutes introductory remarks
- 80 minutes lesson presentation
- 10 minutes break
- 30 minutes question and answer.
- 25 minutes training members on team prayer

Day two and all subsequent days-

- 15 minutes devotion/ short Bible study
- 10 minutes review of previous lesson
- 80 minutes of presentation
- 10 minutes break
- 30 minutes question and answer
- 25 minutes of team prayer

Report on the Field Study - The study went on well for six months from January 13, 2013 to June 29, 2013. Our sessions started at 2:30 pm and ended at 5:20 pm. Attendance was good in every session though the first was poorly attended as indicated in the table below, because it was conducted on a Sunday which is a

working day for church members. In our deliberations, the district pastor, the elders of the church and I felt that this was an opportunity to meet and benefit many church members. As a result, we changed the subsequent sessions to be conducted on a Sabbath day which was most convenient for many church members.

Although there were three churches involved in the study we agreed to hold our meetings at Masii Township church because it is big and central to members from the other two congregations.

Goals and Objectives- My presentations focused on accomplishing the goals and objectives I had set to make sure that church members benefited from every endeavor. Below is the attendance record and the lessons learned.

Table 2 shows lessons learned from day one through day six. The lessons were presented well and benefited church members.

Table 2. Church Members Attendance and Lessons Learned

Date	Attendance	Lesson learned
January 13 th 2013	47	What you need to know about demons.
February 9 th 2013	159	Purpose of the deliverance program and who should conduct a deliverance service.
March 23 th 2013	184	Types of demonic cases and how demons prevent prayers
April 27 th 2013	152	Proposed program on casting out demons.
May 18 th 2013	193	During deliverance service and how demons leave the body.
June 29 th 2013	195	Misunderstanding of the deliverance ministry.

Lesson Presentation- Before starting any presentation, I made sure members carried with them a pen, a book to write on and the Bible. We studied several lessons as indicated in Appendix E. The lesson dealt with the basics of demon possession and

progressed to an in depth study of procedures on demonic forces and exorcism. Our meetings started with a devotional message which involved a song, reading the word and prayer.

In order to remind ourselves what we learned on the previous presentation, each time we had a lesson review. I would ask a few questions which would cover the previous presentation. According to my assessment, church members in this regard participated well. The next item was presentation of the new lesson. At the end of each presentation, I had question and response time. Church members at this time raised questions, which I responded.

Bible Study- In my devotion I had the privilege to encourage members on a daily Bible reading strategy and meditating upon the word. Reading a verse or so keeps the person spiritually nurtured. I encouraged members that it is in the Bible where we discover schemes of the devil and learn the techniques to overcome him. Members took Bible study seriously and appreciated how the activity changed their life. This I also encouraged them to practice continually for their spiritual growth.

Prayer groups- On the first presentation I spared some time for training members on group prayer. I was able to divide members into groups of five for the activity. A leader for each group was elected to coordinate the group. In subsequent days I would take 5 minutes to brief them on what things to pray for and if they had concerns they raised them there. Later as we proceeded with our meetings I realized that members were doing so well in embracing prayer. Church members gave testimonies on how they discovered that there is power in prayer. One time a member who had a demon possessed gave his testimony and he commented that prayer really works. Members likened prayer groups to team building. Each member benefited from the other as they gathered new experience day by day.

When we started prayer groups, each day I kept on encouraging members to keep those prayer groups for continuity purposes. Since that time some members have been calling saying how prayer has really changed their life and the life of others who had lost hope.

On the last Sabbath I had the opportunity to visit with one family in their home and prayed with a man who was demon possessed. The case was so strong, that the man was denied by demons, the chance to go to work. When we prayed most of the evil powers were destroyed and the man felt better and was able to go back to work. I trained the family on how to pray for the possessed and they have succeeded.

Recently a member called me and narrated how life had lost meaning for her. She was contemplating suicide when our meetings were taking place. She never even attended these meetings because of her challenge. One member who did not miss any of the meetings directed her to one of the exorcists that I mentored. She visited the Adventist exorcist and immediately she discovered her life was changing for better day after day. She is now healed and she testifies how she cherishes prayer.

Making Phone Calls- In each month I arranged with prayer group coordinators to contact them at least twice in a month to get news and progressive reports on any development they had realized. The activity continued for six months at which coordinators appreciated the program as good. In case coordinators experienced a challenge I had given them the opportunity to share with me. Good enough God was on our side, and only a few hitches which the coordinators managed. According to the report I gathered all the prayer groups excelled wonderfully.

Personal prayer- Besides prayer groups, I encouraged individual prayer. I ensured that members were involved in prayer for their personal spiritual nourishment. At the end of each group praying session, I invited each member to pray

for their individual needs or challenges. I also encouraged members to pray even outside the meeting place praying for any other person they knew had challenges. Church members testified how they had witnessed development of answered prayer not only to their personal life but also in the life of those they were praying for.

Visitation- In the fifth and sixth months I had the opportunity to visit two families which were faced with cases of demon possession. The main aim of visiting was to demonstrate in actual sense what entails in a deliverance service. I visited those families with a few members and we were able to witness in reality. During this time I could alternate members in prayer for the possessed. At the end in both cases members realized and appreciated that our prayer was successful.

Exhibits- In order for members to understand the things I was teaching, I demonstrated exhibits from once demon possessed persons as displayed in appendix D. It shows some signs demons use to prevent prayer. It is true there are many signs which demons use to prevent prayer from working. Some of the signs are seen while others cannot be seen. The two cases we attended members witnessed how a demon can make their captive fall into a deep sleep, a sign to prevent prayer. The other exhibit was a writing of a mixture of strange languages as displayed in appendix C. The exhibits made members realize there is need to embrace a deliverance formula.

Proposal on Plans and Method for Exorcism- After taking members through an in depth exercise of training, I proposed them to adopt the plans and the methods I shared with them. All church members accepted. They started practicing the plans and methods which many have commented and approved.

Evaluation

The study was successful because all the necessary systems and procedures were coordinated well. This is because of the following reasons:-

Permission- The program owes its development from our conference office and the district pastor of Masii church district. They gave me permission to carry out the study to prove it and it has really worked.

Personal view- This is a program that I have tried and it has worked. I have applied the procedures to three demon possessed people and the program has proved viable. I am recommending the program to other people.

Appeal- In my presentation I made an appeal to recruit members willing to be used in the deliverance ministry. Hundred and twenty members (which translates to 61 plus percent) out of hundred and ninety five accepted the call. They accepted the call because I :- a) used four of their elders in two occasions for two different demonic cases which were successful; b) had trained members using demonstrations from the membership to which the four elders confirmed the procedure we used previously in our two cases.

Demons Exist- The study shows that demons exist. Some church members from the beginning had difficulties believing demons exist. After teaching church members about demon possession, demonic activities and the losses they have caused against human, made them to re-focus on the reality of demons. Besides the teaching many of the members have witnessed a deliverance phenomenon. Their disbelief in the existence of demons is no longer there.

Team work- During our training there are two deliverance incidences we attempted with some of the church members. We discovered that one person cannot attempt alone because in one case we were overwhelmed. The victim had enormous strength which required a number of people to overcome. It is five men who subdued her strength. One case took longer period than the other. I had the privilege to involve members to pray in turns. It is also very vital to note that because we attempted as a

team no one could doubt our integrity. As a result we were successful in handling the two cases and appreciated. Meaning team work in this procedure is very essential you cannot ignore or else attempting alone lands you into trouble. With church members, we have tried the procedure and it is very successful with team work.

Is the victim a believer? – Deliverance service becomes easy when the victim trusts that God is able to deliver them, the procedure shows. Deliverance service of one who doesn't believe in the power of God has challenges especially when the victim is withholding any crucial information, this too we discovered. When we attempted the two deliverance cases we discovered that the one that took longer time was of a person who was not sincere in heart accepting Christ as personal savior.

Personally I have attempted ten cases of non believers but more than fifty cases of believers. I discovered that God can never reverse a person's choice unless the victim is willing to accept Him. Therefore, encouraging the victim to become a believer the procedure shows that quick results are realized and the procedure becomes simpler. It is true, it is working.

Investigating the case and confession of sins- The procedure has also shown that it cannot be successful if you do not know the cause of the case you are handling. When I was new in deliverance ministry I could just pray without investigating why those demons were there. It would take me long time to drive them out. In fact I believe it was God's grace that delivered the victim.

How do you drive out demons from a person who has not confessed? The program reveals that when you have investigated the case and you lead the victim to confess of their sins they have committed the demons have no ground to claim possession. They become powerless and easy to drive out. Church members have tried it and I have also used it. It is really working.

Pre-deliverance teaching- This procedure has shown it works because, the victim is psychologically and spiritually prepared. Many victims once they have deliverance experience the procedure shows that those who had a deliverance teaching were able to adjust accordingly. Those who have never had any pre-deliverance teaching the procedure shows they were affected psychologically and their spiritual being was affected greatly. The procedure therefore works so well when the victim has been taken through deliverance teaching.

Prayer session and holy objects- The procedure reveals it works most with prayer. Without prayer with what do we drive out the demons? The study shows that invoking the presence of the Holy Spirit overwhelms demons. Using holy objects like the Bible in deliverance service, the procedure shows that when we place it on the affected part of the body demons transfer elsewhere in the body or are destroyed. We have tried both and the procedure proved successful.

In case of a re-entry- Demons though may return, this is not an indication that the program is not efficient or has failed. The procedure works and that is why in the first attack the demons were driven away. The new entry is also driven away as long as the procedure is followed. Church members and I have tried the procedure and it gave out remarkable results.

Post deliverance teaching and thanks giving- Counseling the victim after deliverance is very essential. The process of driving out demons involves at times scaring experiences. The program proves successful because those victims who have been taken through a counseling session after demons are driven out heal quickly more than those who were not. The study shows that for a complete successful deliverance program the victim should be taken through a process of psychological,

physical, and spiritual healing. By doing so the program has proved quite reliable and gives good results.

Thanking God is another way of saying that the results have been enormous and the method used to drive away the demons was successful. Success on the program depends on the procedure and not in an individual. This program is really working and dependable.

Phone calls- This is a method I have tried and it is working. I have prayed for more than thirty people over the phone and it has shown good results. Fifteen people of those I prayed for using a phone I have never seen them. Yet they did call back to confirm their healing. I have trained church members in Masii and two of the exorcists have succeeded in the program by using phone. The procedure has shown many good results.

Delivering the captives- Masii church members have benefited very much from the plans and procedures of this study. As at now 20 exorcists are very active in the ministry and they have witnessed that the program works. From June, 2013 the report I have received shows that 15 possessed people have been delivered. Church members are really appreciating God's wonders through them. Thus demon possessed are being set free and enjoying good health. The program has proved successful.

Unanswered questions answered: - Many church members have been asking questions like 'Do we have exorcists in the Adventist church? How do I know if a person is demon possessed? What can I do if the possessed becomes hostile insane? Why should the deliverance process take long and yet God can perform the miracle instantly?' The above questions are no longer a problem. This program has enabled church members in the deliverance ministry to respond to such questions.

The Power of Fear- Church members no longer fear demons. As we started many church members were afraid of scaring stories about people who have had terrifying experience with demons. Sometime members would be astonished hearing exaggerated stories of battles exorcists go through when handling demonic cases. Nathaniel Walemba while we were discussing the fear demons cause in people said that “this is intimidation by the demons.”³ Sharing such experience of intimidation made church members to believe that it is possible to overcome evil spirits. The program is presented in a way that removes fear from people. Many members testify that when they had their first encounter with demon possessed, they never knew they would overcome but as they applied those procedures in the study they realized amazing success.

Some Church Members Needed Help- There is another type of fear that some church members are engulfed in. A few members (from Masii) have been calling me seeking for assistance while the same services are available nearby. This has prompted me to make three observations which are: - first members don't want their neighborhood exorcist to discover they have a demonic challenge and so they are afraid. Second members are not free to share openly their deep experiences and confidential matters with the neighborhood exorcist. Third I believe a prophet is without honor in their home (Matt 13:57).

In this regard I have been able to counsel them to come out of such fear and trust their exorcists. Those members I have counseled I introduced them to the exorcists nearby and they have appreciated the services.

Interest for the study- From the start members were attracted by the study. They were zealous, attentive and taking notes. These church members are now using

³ Nathaniel Walemba, East-Central Africa Executive Secretary May 4 2014.

the notes of the procedures which have proved successful. Today members are requesting for another seminar to be organized for them to invite other people. Their aim is to ensure that they have the same procedure to help diminish demonic activities among people.

A mystery: -To some members the procedure has proved successful to the extent that they term it a mystery. They have realized that this is not man's plan, but God's plan because of the success members have accomplished.

Confessions- In Masii some members who attend deliverance services give their confessions how they suffered in the hands of the agents of the devil spending their money, time and effort without success. Others confessed how they were ignorant and testified how the study has benefited them. They were able to accept that demons are not hypothetical or fictitious, but these are real creatures which rebelled against God.

Recently a member from Masii confessed how he experienced signs of demonic possession, but because he didn't want to believe so, he treated the case as psychiatric because some voice was following him pleading with him not to disown them. He lived in denial but he was able to share it with Masii exorcists and confessed that truly demonic possession and activities are taking place. Masii exorcists applied the same strategy to deliver him. He is now free and appreciates the service.

Confidentiality- Deliverance ministry calls for a person who can keep privacy of matters that can cause anxiety and suspicion. At times demons make ill utterances about people you know including church members and church leaders. These are matters if not handled with care may spark hatred and defamation.

I have trained my members to keep confidential their client's private life. I have trained them to uphold and maintain integrity as regards their relationship with

clients. Any negative information they hear from demons (if they speak) should be kept confidential for the following reasons- first, to safeguard the place of deliverance ministry in Masii; second, to safeguard the integrity of the office of Adventist exorcists; third, to maintain a mutual rapport between the exorcist and the client; and fourth, to build confidence and trust in Adventist deliverance ministry.

So far my findings are that there have been no complaints from church members. Those casting out demons in Masii have therefore maintained their integrity and made confidential people's challenges. This has made the program successful because people have build trust and confidence with those exorcists. All this development owes its success from the program.

Prayer- Healing demonic possession and stagnating demonic activities isn't a thing to be attempted from a scientific or philosophical worldview. Science could cure natural diseases and sicknesses. But healing demonic possession and stopping demonic activities require prayer. Using prayer in this program has made the study achievable. Members now trust prayer in the procedure. Previously church members visited witch doctors to consult for an unfamiliar disease, but as at now prayer has proved viable. They have discovered prayer accompanied with studying the word of God and singing songs of praise to God is the only medicine available. Members have come to learn that using scientific methods and soothsaying to end the predicament makes the condition tricky. Prayer is the only tool to engage demons and the results have been tremendous.

Church members in Masii are serious and have embraced prayer especially when a certain disease is established to be demonic. A member called me recently and commented that nowadays our church members no longer waste their time and energy going to witch doctors and soothsayers. Another member was overheard saying "Once

a case has been undoubtedly established to be demonic, prayer is the only weapon to drive out the devil and his agents. Other means are ‘by the ways’” Using other methods to engage demonic forces, some church members feel that it is a waste of time and resources. Meaning the program has really kicked and proving practical.

Rumors- These are hearsay which cannot be true. The rumor was that a few members were overheard commenting that they do not need to learn or read about demons. They claimed they have had nothing to do with demons.

Even though there may be such persons, however this has not affected the program. Many church members have embraced this program because it is working. This must have been a group of people who have witnessed several deliverance services and have seen the program successful. They became silent because there is nothing to doubt or debate.

*Remarks-*The plans and procedures of this program were successful. Members have considered this training very educative and edifying. The program has really enlightened members who have accepted demons exist because of the effects they have witnessed. The success of the program has made members take the initiative to educate others.

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This chapter describes the summary, conclusion and the recommendations of the study.

Summary

Chapter 1 starts with the introduction in which I describe the background of this research. The purpose and the significance of this research was to come out with a tool which should aid the clergy and the laity in combating the increasing cases of demon possession.. The chapter also describes the delimitation of the study. In this study I did not intend to comprehensively cover the subject as it goes beyond my study area of Masii district. However what is happening in Masii reflects what is happening elsewhere especially here in Africa. Also in this chapter, I defined some terms the understanding of which is crucial to the understanding of the subject under discussion. I concluded the chapter with the description of the methodology I was going to use to develop a program that exorcists could use in their deliverance ministry. This program is the purpose and significance of the study.

Chapter 2 discusses the theoretical foundation of the study. In developing the program various sources have been used. These include the Bible, Ellen White's Writings, as well as other sources. It is in chapter 2 that I indicated that the New Testament has much more to say about demon possession than the Old Testament. It is in this chapter that I noted that demon possession was common in the days and

throughout the ministry Ellen White. In her time, there were some exorcists who were extremists while others were not faithful to the Word of God just as it was in the time of Jesus and the Apostles.

In this chapter, I found out that demons have classes with assigned activities by their master. The study also revealed that the demons are loyal to their architect. Investigations into why some people believe that demons cannot be cast out revealed that disbelief owes its origin to the denial of the existence of demons and their activities to humankind. The devil and his agencies have vowed never to allow humanity to discover these lies. I concluded the chapter with a discussion of the remedy for demonic acts towards humanity. The chapter affirms that humanity can overcome the powers of evil spirits.

In chapter 3 I describe the local setting of the selected area of study. In this chapter, I indicated the reasons why I chose Masii church district for this research. Among the reasons for my interest in Masii district is the degree to which demon possession is affecting some members of the church. I indicated in this chapter that sometimes it is not easy to differentiate different sicknesses from demon possession. I however have shown that with keenness of mind it is possible to tell demon possession from normal sickness. However, I have observed that it is possible for the victim to be demon possessed and sick at the same time.

In this chapter, I have indicated that many people disregard the biblical principles in driving out demons because they are looking for instant miracles which the biblical approach may not guarantee. Thus to them, the biblical way delays answers to their problems. The common practice is to consult and get responses instantly. I have argued and shown that although the unchristian means may

be enticing, applying Bible principles is the best option because it gives lasting results. Those who have adhered to them have no regrets.

Chapter 4 gives the program design which is the central theme of the entire study. I have set plans and procedures which should be followed by exorcists to realize pragmatic results. The program which I have proposed works because I have tried it with satisfactory results.

In chapter 5 I have given the summary, conclusion and recommendations. The study brings out a summary and a conclusion that demons are real and they do exist. The church must therefore come out to rescue the situation with various mechanisms to combat demonic activities towards people and their possessions.

Conclusion

This study has shown that demon possession is rampant in Masii district, and that it has an impact on the life of a human being in all ways: physical, social, emotional, psychological, economical and spiritual. It is a problem which greatly affects the victim, his or her family and the community in general.

Demon possession and demonic activities are common not only in Masii but in many parts of the world especially Africa. Yet there are many people who deny their existence. This gives them (demons) a chance to play their tricks against members who may not know when they pounce on them since they do not believe in their existence.

While different people have tried several approaches to combat demon possession, the only proven tool that can combat the problem is a biblical strategy. Prayer as part of the biblical approach is the key to victory. It is the only tool that makes the devil and his agents tremble. In confronting demons, faith is very essential.

Prayer requires faith. Besides prayer, there is need to encourage the victim and the family through counseling.

Recommendations

Having gone through this study, I would like to make the following recommendations:

1. *The church should come up with a Bible study guide that creates awareness of the existence of demons and their activities.* While it is a biblically proven fact that demons exist, many church members do not believe in their existence. I therefore recommend that the church at the local conference level prepare a Bible based teaching on the reality of demons. The Bible study guide must be simple for the common church member to understand in order for them to learn without much difficulty. The new Seventh-day Adventists belief that addresses this phenomenon is very helpful for the development of a simplified and contextualized Bible study guide.
2. *The church should encourage deliverance ministry among the pastors and church members.* The church has neglected this noble ministry for a long time. It is a ministry that is greatly needed today than ever before. We can no longer be silent. Leaders of the church who are involved in deliverance ministry should prepare a document for teaching church members about demon possession and deliverance ministry. Lessons should cover the basics like how to tell a person who is demon possessed (the signs) and the actions to take. Deliverance should not be regarded by the church as a lesser gift. All Spiritual Gifts which the Holy Spirit has blessed the church with, are for spiritual nurture and edification of the church of God. We do not have to practice deliverance like other churches do; we can have our unique way of exercising it. Jesus Christ is our role model and we can follow what the Bible says without being overpowered by our emotions. For many years, the gift of deliverance

is believed to have been a play game of tricks and schemes, which are meant to intimidate people and cause a spirit fear. Such acts may have taken place outside the church, as a result pastors and church members may be under the fear of intimidation. Recognition of this ministry by the church will remove the fear.

3. *The church should come up with a program that helps church members to differentiate natural sickness from demon originated diseases.* Demonic activities have negatively impacted the life of some members. They are living a miserable life and yet they are not aware of the main cause of their trouble. Jesus while handling demonic cases, He never intimidated people and this is a good example to follow. Pastors and church members should not therefore, treat deliverance ministry with suspicion and fear of intimidation. I recommend they should instead embrace it.

4. *The leadership of the church at the local level should make a statement on the spiritualistic manifestations that are common in some churches in some parts of the country.* While the church at the General Conference level has recognized this phenomenon, and indicated how it can be combated, the local church leadership of the Adventist church has not explained it to the local congregations. The local version of the statement should say something about casting out demons. It should encompass directives on how Adventist exorcists should approach deliverance ministry to avoid misunderstanding, fallout and extremism. Without guidance, Adventist exorcists may fall prey to the devil and consequently embrace a funny and weird procedure which in turn will raise unnecessary concerns. A misguided procedure can easily be used by the devil as a weapon to undermine the church of God.

5. *A course in Adventist universities and colleges.* Deliverance ministry requires orientation especially for new people. The church leaders should advise institutions which train pastors, to introduce a course that will deal with demon possession and



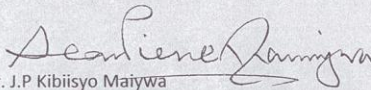
exorcism. The aim of having such a course is to train and equip pastors with the knowledge of how to handle demonic cases. The phenomenon is such that at one point or another in their ministry, pastors will be faced with cases of demon possession. Such cases will require someone with the knowledge on what to do.

6. *Adherence to a Biblical strategy to exorcism.* Demon possession is a battle that involves principalities and evil forces from the dark world. No one can fight the devil with simple methods. Prayer is the key. A simple prayer takes the hand of God to make the devil tremble. I recommend and encourage pastors and church members to embrace prayer as the only tool which should be used to deliver the demon possessed. Stick to prayers,. Luke 18:1 admonishes that God's people should always pray and not give up or lose heart. Continuous prayers will drive the evil spirits. I recommend that exorcists set aside time to seek the Lord in private prayer for more power.

7. *Further study.* This study focused on Masii district. It would be useful to the subject if the study could be replicated in another area of the country or even in another country of our division. Moreover, there are aspects which the study has not considered which further research would investigate.

APPENDIX A
CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from the Conference Office

 July 22, 2011	 Central Kenya Conference Executive Office
Dean of Students Adventist University of Africa Private Bag Mbagathi 00503 NAIROBI.	Redhill Road P.O. Box 41352 00100-GPO Nairobi, Kenya Tel: 020-2404872 020-2404887 Fax: +254-020-7122714 Email:ckc@yahoo.com
<u>Attn: Dr. Razmeritta</u>	
Dear Sir,	
Conference Committee sitting on June 23, 2011 voted to approve r esearch request of the following Pastors who are doing MA and D. Ministry at Adventist University of Africa.	
1. Peter Makenzie Kateeti-MA 2. Julius Munuve Mbai-MA 3. Stanley Machuma-MA 4. Jane Ndungu-MA 5. J. Okemwa-MA 6. Kariuki Francis-MA 7. Muthinja Zakaria-MA 8. Mecha Samsoni-MA 9. Mutugi Benjamin-MA 10. Okong'o Vincent-MA 11. Robinson Kenyatta-MA 12. Alex Ambuchi-D.Min 13. Alfred Marundu-D.Min 14. Geoffrey Wanyoike-MA 15. Johnson Nyagaka-MA	16. David M. Muasya-MA 17. Githinji Wilson-MA 18. Paul Owuor-MA 19. Ayub Macharia-MA 20. Gitonga Douglas-MA 21. Dickson Makenzie-MA 22. Maiywa Jean Peirre-MA 23. Okioma Ezra-MA 24. Nzaui Solomon-MA 25. Rubucha Francis-MA 26. John Macharia-D.Min 27. Lucas Otwera-D.Min 28. Guto Timothy-D.Min 29. Peter Ndeto-MA 30. Willie Ngugi-MA 31. Ruguru B.-D. Min
Your consideration on this matter will be highly appreciated; and fine details on specific location of each research will be provided by each student.	
Yours faithfully, CENTRAL KENYA CONFERENCE	
 Pr. J.P Kibiisyo Maiywa EXECUTIVE SECRETARY	
C.C Officers CKC.	

Letter from the District pastor where the research was done.



SEVENTH -DAY
ADVENTIST
CHURCH

PST. KAIGONGI DANIEL
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
DATE: 8th Jan 2013

Masii District
P. O. Box 44-90101
Masii-Machokas
8th Jan 2013

20th December 2012

Pr. Dickson M. Kateeti
P.O. Box 40829-00100
Nairobi

Dear Sir,

RE: PERMISSION TO COLLECT DATA INFORMATION FOR YOUR STUDY

Christian regards.

This is in response to your candid request to be allowed to undertake a research study in Masii for your Master's program.

May I confirm to you that your request has been granted, you can now commence your survey work in the following churches as you indicated:

- i) Masii Township
- ii) ii) Kitooni
- iii) iii) Utithini

Wishing you God's guidance and blessings in your survey study.

Yours faithfully,

Pr. Daniel Kaigongi
Pastor in charge
Masii District

PST. KAIGONGI DANIEL
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
DATE: 8th Jan 2013

APPENDIX B
INSTRUMENTS

Adventist University of Africa

Questionnaire

A strategy for Biblical teaching on demon possession and exorcism in Masii District in Central Kenya Conference

Questionnaire for church members

Instructions: Please put a tick or fill the blank spaces with your response.

1. Age of respondent 0-15 16-30 31-45
 46-60 61and above

2. Gender of respondent Male Female

3. Occupation of the respondent _____

4. Religious affiliation _____

5. Do you believe demons exist? _____

6. Are there demon cases in your church/Do you think demon cases might be in your church? Yes No

If yes, how have they been dealt with?

- Prayed for in SDA Prayed for outside SDA Witch craft Other

specify

7. What do you think are possible causes of demon possession?

8. Have you ever witnessed a session on casting out demons? _____

What are the challenges you witnessed during the session?

9. What do you think are possible solutions to these challenges?

10. What are some of the effects of demon possession?

11. To the best of your knowledge, do you think your church is active in handling the issue of demon possession? _____

If no, what could be the reason(s)?

12. Do you think church members have an idea of demon possession in the church?

13. If no, why doesn't the church know?

14. If yes, what led them to know the presence of demon possession?

Adventist University of Africa

**A strategy for Biblical teaching on demon possession and exorcism in Masii District in
Central Kenya Conference**

Questionnaire to a delivered captive from demon possession

Instructions: Please put a tick or fill the blank spaces with your response.

1. Age of respondent _____
2. Gender Male Female
3. Occupation _____
4. Position in the church _____
5. Religious affiliation _____
6. Do you believe demons exist?
 Not at all Somewhat Very
7. Do you believe some people in your church may be experiencing demon possession?
 Not at all Somewhat Very
8. Did it ever cross your mind that you were demon possessed?
 Not at all Somewhat Very
9. What do you think was the possible cause/s of your problem?

10. When you were demon possessed, did you ever realize you were a captive? _____
If yes, what made you realize? _____

11. Were there things you hated most and liked most when you were demon possessed?
If yes what are those things?

12. When you were demon possessed, how did you spend most of your time?

13. Would you mind telling more about the spirit world?

14. Would you mind to narrate your experience with demon possession?

15. How were you delivered?

16. How long did you take to be delivered?

Adventist University of Africa

**A strategy for Biblical teaching on demon possession and exorcism in Masii Church District
in Central Kenya Conference**

Questionnaire for those who have been involved in casting out demons

Instructions: Please put a tick or fill in the blank spaces with your response.

1. Age of respondent

2. Gender of respondent Male Female

3. Occupation of the respondent _____

4. Position in church _____

5. Religious affiliation _____

6. Do you believe in the existence of demons? _____ If no why?

7. Have you ever seen demon possessed people in the Adventist
church? _____

8. Approximately how many cases have you attended to date? _____

b) All these cases were they successful? Yes No

If no, why _____

9. What do you think are the causes of demon possession

10. What are the symptoms of a demon possessed person?

11. How should spiritualistic manifestation cases be handled?

12. How does one prepare for a deliverance session?

13. Is there a definite procedure to be followed during casting out demons? _____ If yes explain

14. How can you differentiate the following:-

a) Demon possession from cerebral malaria?

b) Demon possession from natural sickness?

c) Demon possession from mental illness?

d) Demon possession and epilepsy?

e) Demon possession from hysteria

f) Demon possession from depression

15. How can you determine the possibility of demon possession?

16. Give some guidelines for determining the prevalence of demon possession

17. Can demons return to the person whom they left? _____

If yes, how and why?

18. Can demon possession be handed from one generation to another? _____

If yes how?

19. Is it possible that demons can leave on their own without having been cast out? _____ If yes explain

20. Is there always a manifestation when demons are cast out?

21. Can a person be demon possessed without knowing?

22. Who can be involved in casting out demons?

23. When casting out demons, is it okay to have people from outside your faith?

If yes why

If no why

24. Can a born again Christian be demon possessed?

If yes why

If no why

25. In this ministry of casting out demons, are there challenges or problems you have encountered?_____

Kindly enumerate the challenges/problems _____

26. How can we be able to handle these challenges/problems?_____

27. Which age group is prone to demon possession?

- Children Youths Adults All age brackets

28. Which gender is most affected?

- Mostly males Mostly females All gender equally

Adventist University of Africa

**A strategy for Biblical Teaching on Demon Possession and Exorcism in Masii Church District
in Central Kenya Conference**

Interview with a Youth Demon Possessed for 13 years

1. How old are you? _____
2. How did you discover you were demon possessed?

3. Briefly share your own experience throughout the 13 years

4. Tell how you were delivered

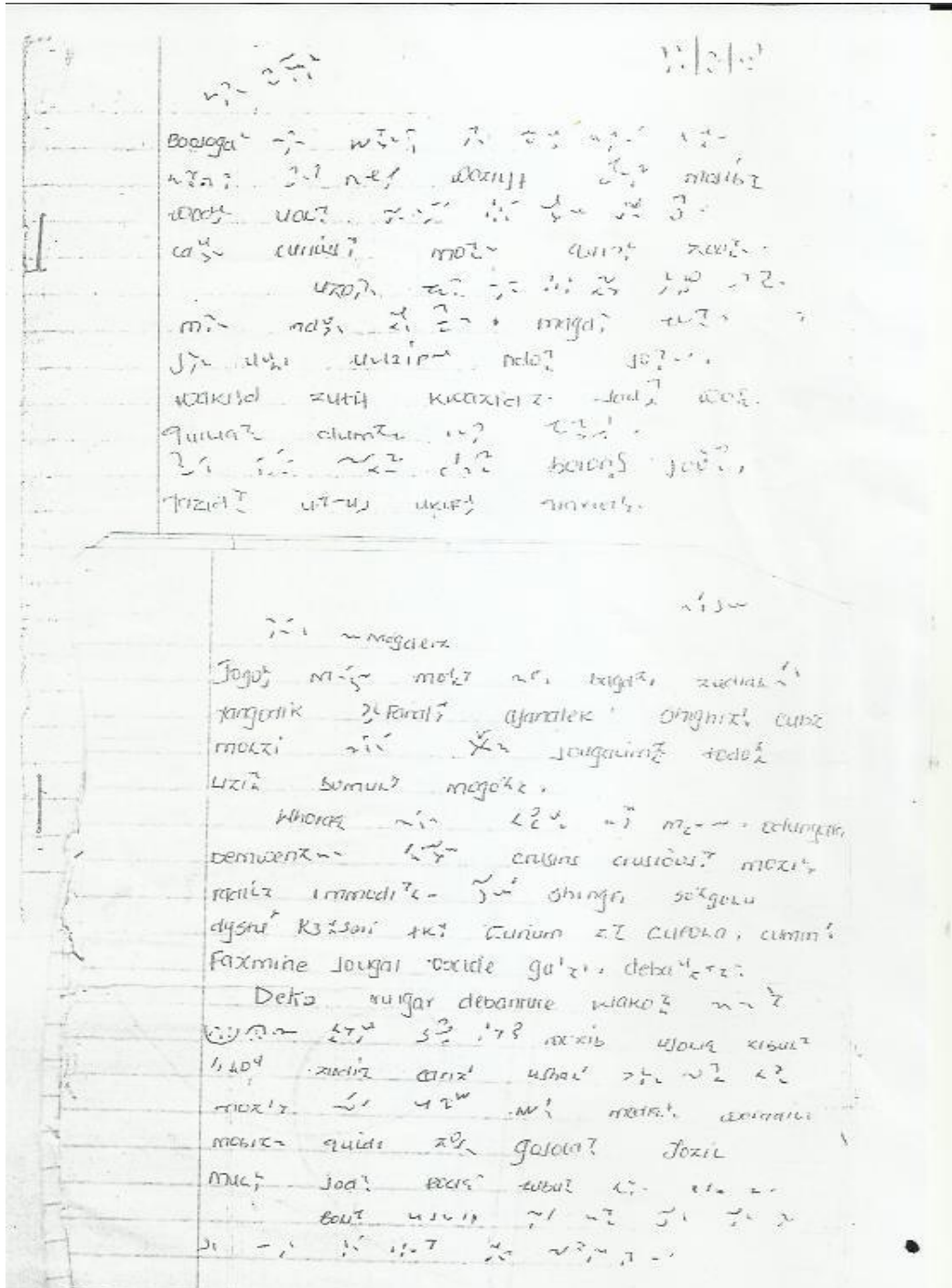
5. What do you tell other demon possessed persons?

6. Do you have anything to tell those who have never had such an experience?

APPENDIX C

DOCUMENTS

Two letters of strange language written by a demon possessed lady who is now delivered.



APPENDIX D

PHOTOS

NB: Picture 1-4 shows a few of the signs demons use to prevent prayers



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4



Picture 5

NB: Picture 5 displays some of the severe effects demons inflict on the body of a victim.

APPENDIX E
TEACHING MATERIALS

Adventist University of Africa

Teaching Materials

What you need to know about demons

As you proceed to engage yourself in casting out demons, it is of great significance to take note of the following that: -

Demons are invisible enemies. We do not see them, we can only hear them talk, we can see their actions too where applicable. Sometime it is not possible to differentiate the demon's speech and actions from the victim's. It is true demons see us and our actions, they can hear us converse too. Because of our inability to see them, they can take advantage over us. Sometime they may pretend to be the real victim seeking for assistance. They may also pretend that they deserted the victim long ago and yet they hide at a certain corner of the victim's body. As a person God is using to deliver the victim, nothing should worry you in such circumstances. At this point your responsibility is to keep connected with heaven, even if they threaten you or give you an ultimatum to stop prayers or vacate the scene immediately. This should not worry you. Other times they may also threaten that the victim is already under their custody and that we have nothing to claim. This too should not worry you. It can also happen that as you persist in prayer that nothing seems to be forth coming. There seems to be no reaction and the demons claim that nothing scares them. This also should not be little you. The one you depend upon for power is more powerful than the devil and his agents. So persist in prayer as you also diligently seek wisdom to discern why the demons should persist. Sometimes they may be persistence because

they have with them a protection from their dark world. Therefore, keep on praying and soon you will realize a change as the demons ability to react goes down. So trust in the Lord that He is with you and cannot abandon you at such a crucial time. Joshua 1:9 reminds us to be strong and of good courage. That nothing should make us afraid or dismayed because God is with us. Continual prayers will kick out demons from their hideout.

Demons are not atheists. They know God, His son Jesus Christ as the “son of God” Mathew 8:29; “Jesus of Nazareth... the Holy one of God.” Mark 1:24. “Son of God most High” Luke 8:28; as a result at times they will pretend to be spiritual and ready to ‘worship’ our most High God. This is tricky and confuses the whole situation. For how does a demon sing praises, give good quotations from the Bible, request for prayers and above all pretend harmless. This most confuses with the personality you are dealing with sometime if you are not careful not knowing the tactics demons use, you will grow reluctant in rebuking the demons because you will see the victim is delivered. When such circumstances occur, don’t be overwhelmed. Keep on being connected to heaven and ask God to reveal the truth to you. Prayer is the only secret tool that God wants us to use. It is the only key that opens the demon’s stronghold. For under no normal circumstance should a delivered person sing all or several hymns and quote Bible verses and yet he or she doesn’t sleep or rest. Under no normal circumstance should the victim ask to be prayed for and yet she or he remains talkative and doesn’t portray the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit in them. At the same time it is not under normal circumstance for a delivered person to fail to notice some family members or people close to him or her. Such behavior definitely reveals that something is wrong and this calls for more prayers. So don’t be confused and fail to act because of demons that pretend to worship and pay homage to

our God. Just pray until the demons react, ask God to unmask any protective devices they may be using.

Demons are intelligent creatures. Know that demons never use the same tactics or method to attack. Too they do not reveal themselves in the same way and their degree and method of reaction varies from one case to another. The demons may not necessarily behave the same. Sometimes, there are people that are demon possessed and yet no one can notice. An individual can take months and he or she seems normal and no one can detect the presence of demons. Such kind of behavior may continue until when the demons are provoked through fervent prayer. That is when they react. If it happens in a certain case the demon speaks, though not always, it is not easy to understand their language. Sometimes they speak in sayings and some of the terms they use may not adequately be understood. That is why we need God's intervention for wisdom and understanding. Demons also in their communication use sign language. Unless you have knowledge to interpret their signs then you are left out. Nevertheless, this should not confuse you; continue with prayers. Call on the name of Jesus Christ and command them to stop their babbling and sign language. Sometimes they commune in a language human cannot comprehend. But as you watch carefully, you will see the victim look with his or her eyes in various directions or the victim turns one side to another or may touch one part of her body to another. The latter happens if the demons have various entry points. Demons can also speak various foreign languages.

Demons have entry points. Demons have what they call PUK. These are numbers or signs or marks that they put in various points like in the house where the victim sleeps, works or on the body of the victim for easy location. Note that during prayer time they can share with you their entry points. The signs they use can both be

visible or invisible. Visible signs may be drawings on the wall and or on the body of the victim. Sometime it may be scars on the skin of the possessed that one cannot notice. When an individual sees the drawings they may not actually understand if there is any concealed information. They will see drawings and scars that are meaningless and senseless and which have nothing to do with anyone. For the invisible signs only the devils know them unless the signs are revealed to the victim or any other person God assigns. Demons as said above may tell the entry points which may be found in various places like on the body of the victim, or at home or at school/college or work place or on the path the victim goes through etc.

By what name do you drive the demons. Demons are not scared when you command them in the name of Jesus. They claim they also have their 'Jesus'. The only difference with Christians is they have one Jesus Christ our Lord. For demons they have three types of 'Jesus' they regard with high reverence. Acts 13:6 talks about Bar-Jesus and Elymas which Paul in Acts 13:8-10 refers him as 'you are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right!' The third Jesus Paul in Colossians 4:11 refer "Jesus, who is called Justus..." when we rebuke and pray in the name of Jesus alone the demons are quick to enjoin and answer 'amen' with you. But when we rebuke and pray in the name of Jesus Christ, or in the Holy name of Jesus or in the name of Jesus our savior, this makes the difference. For those who do not know this secret it is interesting that God in our ignorance answers our prayer. Acts 17:30 Dr. Luke reminds us "In the past God overlooked such ignorance,..." when we discover this secret it is in order to drive demons in the name of Jesus Christ or qualify our Jesus as Lord, holy, savior, redeemer etc., in order to make the distinction with the 'Jesus' of the demons.

Demons may or may not be driven out at once. Even if demons are driven out completely others may invade and claim ownership. Sometime they may be driven never to come back and in other cases once driven, they keep on recurring. It depends on the magnitude of the problem and how deeper the demons are rooted in the life of the victim. In situations where there is recurrence there are reasons why. First it may be because they have a *puk* or signs or marks to locate the victim. Thus when one lot is destroyed and the marks are not destroyed the next rank of demons may invade. The process may continue until all are completely destroyed. Pray that the *puk* or marks are destroyed. Second, they may not be driven out completely because the possessed has a secret or secrets not shared or items the victim is withholding from the spiritual world and is not ready to hand over for prayer. This makes demons to claim ownership. Third, demons may keep on invading the victim time and again because God is using the possessed as a tool to deliver others that are suffering elsewhere. Many times this happens when the victim is already delivered.

Demons are in clusters of various ranks. There are ranks from one to twenty four. Each rank has a specific mission to accomplish. Besides, each rank is unable to engage and know what the other does. Some ranks are regarded as junior, low, weak and not knowledgeable compared to other-ranks that are regarded senior, high, very strong, advanced and well versed in their job. Rank one is considered the weakest and the lowest while rank twenty four is considered as the strongest and the highest which the demons believe cannot be defeated in their game. So the higher the rank the stronger the rank is regarded and treated with respect in the realm of demons. In those ranks there are assigned leaders who are overseers and commanders of particular clusters depending on the achievement they have made in the spiritual realm.

Purpose of the Deliverance Program

Is there need for a deliverance program? What is its purpose? How can it help if at all it has? Casting out demons is a gift like any other from the father of lights (James 1:17). Developing a deliverance program is therefore needful. To a new person, obviously it is strange when they have a first encounter of a demonized person. They will not know where to start and how to handle the captive may also be a challenge leave alone tackling the problem. Too they will not be able to establish if the case has its source from evil spirits and or is a natural sickness or a combination of both. It is also equally important to note that there are some people who are blessed with the gift of casting out demons, and yet they unconsciously do not know how they can utilize this special gift to assist those in need. Reason being, they do not know they possess the talent to cast out demons. This program therefore will educate and help the reader to acquire the necessary information on how to approach the challenge. Thus, the program will act as a guideline to aid in casting out demons.

The program is also designed to remind all that we are sent out (John 20:21). Casting out demons is not solely a gift instituted to the clergy. It is a gift for true believers (John 14:12), whether they are the clergy or parishioners. God does not discriminate. Christ says believers will cast out evil spirits besides performing other miraculous deeds (Mark 16:17-18). As believers we must show interest and the will to be used of God. I have witnessed some who were scared and did not want to involve themselves in casting out devils. Today God is using them to do great and marvelous deeds through the power of the Holy Spirit. The will power of an individual (believer) and his or her commitment is very vital. It is good enough to learn that God will solemnly use a believer who is ready and committed to do His will even in the gift of casting out demonic forces in a victim. It is also noteworthy that casting out demons is

not easy. In some cases it calls for hours, days and even months. In severe cases, it can take several months or years as those demons who have invaded are destroyed, more others invade as they claim authority of ownership. Thus, this subsequently calls for continual persistent prayers. Too as the prayers continue, there is need to investigate and establish the reason why the case is recurring.

Deliverance program is vital because it brings hope to the possessed and the family too. It is true that there are those who have suffered for long in the hands of the devil's agents. Too there are those captives who have suffered for a short time and since the cosmic forces are still in the business of demonizing, others will also suffer. The trend shall continue until Christ comes to take His believers to heaven. The devil knows he has only a short time to do his work. No wonder he is working so hard more than ever before and like no one's business. He has flooded the whole world with his agents all over. Like the nations of the world have engaged a tri-defense force that has the army, the air force and the navy, so has the devil engaged evil forces that tend to control the earth (dry land) the air (firmament) and the waters (sea, ocean etc). The devils plan is to frustrate mankind in order to deny the Lordship of his or her maker. He wants mankind to die hopeless so that when Christ descends, Satan will proudly claim control and ownership of the whole world. Currently the devil does not slumber and he has relentlessly employed all sorts of schemes to recruit many people to do his will. At this point, it is good to realize that through Christ's death and his shed blood we are redeemed. There is great hope in trusting the name of Jesus Christ. Even though trials and troubles will come but as believers we must embrace and practice faith, hope, patience and understanding because through Christ victory is assured.

Casting out demons as Christ practiced is part of the saving ministry. Jesus says "...son of man came to seek and save that which was lost" Luke 19:10. On the

contrary, the devil promises the suffering mankind that he has solutions to fix their problems. Just as it happened in the Garden of Eden that Satan cheated on Adam and Eve so it is today, that the devil and his agents promise mankind good life and provision of material acquisition to sort out their problems, the end thereof is great deception. The captives end up sacrificing their beloved or lose their lives or their material things miserably. Christ died to save humanity from the damnation of the evil. Practicing deliverance ministry by the church of God is one way to save, redeem and claim back souls that are perishing without hope. Besides evangelizing, we see Christ casting out devils and healing the sick from their ailment. He saved many old and young people that were tortured by the evil one, not considering gender affiliation. Both gender and all ages Christ administered to them.

The above point brings us to one important conclusion, that the church must embrace the deliverance ministry and consider it as one of the major activities Christ has extended to us to continue with saving souls. Deliverance ministry should continue until Christ's advent. Failure to engage the church in the deliverance ministry has negative impact not only to the parishioners but also to the clergy. As a church, the deliverance ministry should not feature or be established because of a rising alarming need. The deliverance ministry should have been established from the foundation of the Adventist Church since Christ the founder of Christianity in His ministry practiced deliverance. Deliverance ministry in the Christian community was introduced earlier outside the Adventist Church. As a result, many of the deliverance episodes the Adventist church members and the clergy have witnessed leave behind desirable anxiety and many questions arise. This has taken the church much time because there are those who believe there are no demons while others under great fear don't want to be associated with demons at all at anytime. Yet the reality is that we

are living in the world where those creatures are tirelessly investing. Hence we don't realize that, we are further exposing ourselves into more temptations from the devil and his agents who take advantage of our ignorance.

Who Should Conduct the Deliverance Service?

It sounds good if we had everyone engaged in the deliverance ministry. It is equally important if everyone had the gift to cast out demons. As a matter of fact, not everyone can cast out demons since it is the Holy Spirit who distributes gifts among Gods people according to their ability. Deliverance ministry however, is a ministry we can encourage believers who are willing to serve. However, this ministry is a heavy one. The Bible admonishes that only believers (true Christians) can genuinely cast out demons. Sometimes it confuses most when we discover that non believers are also 'casting out' demons as the time of the apostles. In such a state our people should not be so much interested in having the same miracles exercised on them, but they should consider several things. Such miracle performance should be investigated and discover they are exercised in whose power, and whether they are being done for favors, fame or recognition. What is the motive behind performing such miracles? Is it for advertisement or display? Are they using 'anointing oil' whose origin we do not know? Are they using 'holy water' or 'rings' (to drive out demons) whose origin and purpose is unknown? Are they asking for our clothes and soil from our land to offer special blessings? Are they revealing your own life experience? Beware the kind of a person you are dealing with. We are living in a perilous time when genuine prophets are least distinguished from false prophets. The devil schemes it that the false deliverance 'ministers' look more powerful, truthful and reliable more than genuine deliverance ministers. Christ says 'watch out that no one deceives you.' Mathew 24:4. Beware false teachers and prophets can cast out demons. Mathew 7:21-23.

In Psalm 40:8 Christ says, “I delight to do the will of my Father...” Christ was obedient to the will of God. Deliverance service can be conducted by a person who has accepted God’s offer of eternal life by repenting and obeying Him. This makes the person carrying out the deliverance service more powerful than any legion of demons. Besides being committed and dedicated your main objective must be inclined to doing the will of god. Always a genuine deliverance service will be carried out by a person who is ready to do and obey the law of God. James 4:7 says, “Submit yourselves, to God and resist the devil...” Deliverance ministry can be offered by persons who revere God and uphold God’s law. And therefore God is ready to use a person who is interested to do the will of Him.

Deliverance ministry requires very committed and dedicated persons who have love especially for the possessed. Sometime deliverance ministry is tedious and very tasking depending on the case at hand. Some cases may take a short while and others may take hours while others despite taking long hours may call for future attention taking long hours in each session. Therefore this calls for persistence, patience and perseverance. The ministry also requires very humble, reasonable and self controlled people. Those emotionally inclined may not be fit since their emotions through anger or misunderstanding may mess up the process. Those hot tempered may also have challenges. Deliverance ministry requires soberness of mind and calmness. Those that are weak in flesh and self may also have challenges especially with the opposite sex.

Types of Demonic Cases

While you are engaging yourself in the deliverance service, there is need to know that, demonic cases vary from one person to another and from one case to another. The nature of demonic cases may vary also from time to time depending on

the measures undertaken to curb the problem. It is therefore very vital for you to know which case you are handling so you are better prepared to tackle it. It is true that you may not have the gauge to measure the degree or magnitude of the case. However, there are signs when keenly observed can enable someone to establish the type or nature of the case. These signs manifest as a result of reaction during a prayer session. Reaction therefore means the way the possessed behave during a prayer session. Generally, below are three categories of demonic cases and the signs to observe. These are:-

Mild cases: Essentially in this type victims experience mild manifestations.

The degree of reaction is minimal such that a victim can be prayed for once even over the phone. This type is the easiest to be managed although at times it requires several prayers but eventually it dies out without much resistance. At times you may not notice that the case was demonic. Now, how do you differentiate a mild case from the rest? As you pray for the victim check if you can observe the following signs. Does the victim experience shortness of breath; heat around the neck or whole body? Is there slightly continuous eye blinking and trembling of hands? What about head swinging forward and backward? Does he or she experience mild headache or some pain in any part of the body? The victim also may experience general weakness which when prayed for disappears instantly. Does the victim experience anything moving from one part of the body to another or anything moving in the tummy from one side to the other or from the tummy up the gullet to the mouth? After prayer, some possessed people remain silent and unable to say Amen or talk. All these signs may be experienced during prayers. After prayers the victim must feel rejuvenated and full of strength. When the case is not well attended with continuous prayers the problem remains as usual or advances to the level of a strong case or direct to a severe

problem. Above are just a few of the signs you should observe when praying for the victim.

Strong cases: In this type, when prayers start most of the signs discussed above are also manifested but they come out strongly more than they do in category one above. The victim breathes heavily and moves his or her upper part of the body (head, shoulders) forward and backward as someone is pushing them to and fro. Sometime you can hear their stomach make noise (grumble). They can feel heat around the body and at times they can slightly sweat. They have fatigue accompanied by general weakness. Other signs as prayers continue are trembling of the whole body and eyes blinking rapidly continuous. The victim also stretches his or her body as if there are parts of the body he or she feels aching. In this category some victims fall when walking or standing (some when they fall bite their tongue) until you may treat the case as epileptic and yet the demons conceal themselves. When sleeping the victim may realize he or she has been experiencing seizures (some here bite their tongue). In some cases in this category, during prayer time the victim either calmly falls down and steadily unmoved. The victim may always be full and without need for food. Sometime the victim is carried away so that when they come back will not agree you have been with him or her. If you give them food and eat or you share an idea with them you will hear them deny taking food or sharing any information with you. Beware if the case is not dealt with consistent prayers it will either remain strong or advances to a severe problem. These are just but a few of the main signs to keep watch.

Severe or acute cases: Observations are that, in this type, manifestations are severely strong. The victim has super natural strength. The victim becomes violent or more reactive even before prayers. Some victims become restless and insane. For

being over-reactive the victim may violently fall throwing himself or herself up and down. While the possessed is on the floor demons may talk anything. At this stage demons may demand several things mainly from the victim. They may tell you the one who has sent them and what their mission is. Sometime to scare you, demons may tell you their numbers and claim total ownership of the victim. They may also disclose to you what they have done to the victim so you give up on him her. Other signs the victims experience are general sweating; numbness which subsequently makes the victim's limbs or hands functionless. When on the ground the victim sees things we don't see but they can witness what the battle is and how he or she has been delivered. In other words the victim is taken to the spiritual world where they see giants and funny numerous creatures like cats, rats, dogs or even people they know or others who are unknown to them. The victim may also be able to see things and schemes against them before they happen. In some instances the victim may cough and sneeze producing a lot of saliva and phlegm. Sometime they produce tears. The victim exhaustibly becomes fatigued.

In this category the demons are very tricky and at times they are persistent. The demons are intelligent that they hide in any part of the body that you may not discover easily. Many times you will discover that they hide in the tummy or in the back or in one breast or both or in one limb or both where they have their entry point or stronghold. In this category when you pray and the demons are destroyed there may be a chain of demons which are destroyed one after the other and so prayers may take longer hours than usual. At advanced stage before death the victim may not be hostile but very calm; however, you may detect some weird behavior like smiling and staring at a certain point when you are praying. At times when prayers are on, you will see the victim behave like there is communication with some unseen beings. You

may also see the victim picking things that you don't see and putting them in his or her mouth. Most likely in this stage the victim attended to and served that is lying there is not the real person that we know but a demon which takes the image of the victim. In some cases you will realize there is calmness all through prayer and there is no reaction and no development at all. In this category many of the possessed surrender themselves to the wishes of the agents of the devil. Here serious unceasing fervent prayer is required.

How Demons Prevent Prayers

Some things are not revealed to us because they are hidden from us but those revealed to us its expedient to share them. During deliverance service you may realize that the victim displays signs you don't understand the meaning of. In my seminar I shared with the members photos taken from a once demon possessed person showing some signs demons claim prevent prayers from working (see Appendix D). Sometime they use their own means that human cannot discern to prevent prayer. If you see the victim behave to portray funny signs, this must not worry or confuse you but rather ask God to disrupt all their plans to prevent your prayers. If you hear them claim they have blocked your prayers this should not make you worried but ask God to destroy all the barriers. Because they will phone call to get your voice so that when you pray and ask God to bless you with power of deliverance nothing seems forthcoming. At times they get your image as though you are the one and lock you in designated place like in a pit, a glass or in a house they have made.

How do you know demons have blocked your prayer? First they will tell you normally or sarcastically enjoying you. The second point is that when you pray you will see the victim unresponsive to prayer. Your responsibility is to continue asking God to destroy those barriers. Soon or later you will see the victim behave in a

manner that he or she becomes aggressive and worried. This is a sign that God is invading, dismantling the barriers. So keep on praying and by doing so will keep demons under your custody and God will control them that they will not prevail.

During the Deliverance Service

In the event of deliverance service a lot of things may happen that you need to know as a person God is using to cast out demons. You need to know those things so that you are able to handle the case(s) with you well. Failure to take note of the things may cause dire consequences. The following are things we learned:-

i) How to treat the possessed

It is advisable to understand the type of case you are dealing with whether it is mild or severe. The latter requires drastic measures that must be put in place to tackle the problem. First, you will need a safe place where the possessed can fall and be safe from being hurt. In case it is an abrupt fall that was not expected don't become confused, place the person in a comfortable place to allow good ventilation. Take time to establish what the case is rather don't assume and rush to conclude that any falling is demonic. A severe case usually exposes the victim to a violent reaction which may cause the victim to be tossed up and down. If on a hard ground the victim may be knocked down and may likely be injured. In such a situation it is advisable to use a soft surface which makes him or her comfortable and will prevent him or her from being hit to the ground. Treat the victim carefully and properly ensure that he or she is unhurt all through. As you talk with the possessed, dialogue in such a way that you become friends. Try as much as possible to understand his or her condition. Be patient and understanding. Don't try to make a lot of noise and become harsh, be sober and composed. When you are talking to the possessed at times try to look straight to his or her eyes. The presence of demons makes the possessed to look down or stare away

and remain scared. By staring at his or her eyes easily helps you detect the presence of demons. At times demons may speak through the mouth of the victim.

ii) Quenching thirst or relieving oneself

Demons are cunning and may use tricks in order to stay away from being driven away or they may intend to acquire more powers. It is possible demons may ask for water which may confuse you with the victim. Before prayers or as you continue, the demons may pretend that the possessed is thirsty and yet it is the demons that are asking for water. Why they ask for water is so that they may gain more powers to fight back and resist. In such like a situation you can either do of the following. First you may allow the victim to drink the water; but before giving out the water pray that Christ cleanses it with His blood. Second, ask Christ to give them water. This renders the demons powerless and easy to manage. At some point the demons may request to go for a short call or long call. This may not be normal and the demons through the victim may be seeking an opportunity to gather more power or may be a way of escape from destruction by God's power. It may also mean that the demons are destroyed completely. In such an instance, it is prudent to pray for the victim so that as he or she goes to relieve himself or herself, the demons may be destroyed.

iii) When the captive cries for help

When demons cry out you may confuse them with the victim. Demons cry using the mouth and the sound of the victim. Thus, differentiating the two becomes difficult. But it is important to use all means applicable to establish who is crying out for help between the two. If it turns difficult, seek the Lord in prayer to grant you wisdom to know the one asking for help. Beware that demons cry out pitifully so that you have mercy on the 'victim' while they continue with hurting the possessed. So this is a trick they use to confuse you and stop the powerful prayer from bringing damage into their

stronghold. If for sure it is the victim crying genuinely for help pray that God relieves him or her of the pain. And if it is the demons using such an excuse pray that God controls the whole situation. Again pray commanding the demons in the name of Jesus Christ to stop crying. Command them to be silenced and bound to a place where they cannot do anything. Many times when demons are crying for help there is commotion and this may bring confusion to prayers offered. Just pray that Christ calms the situation as you keep yourself strong. Caution: Don't pray for an individual's help unless you ascertain the fellow seeking for help.

iv) Adornment and apparel

Demons can use anything to accomplish their mission. That is why there is great need to learn their tricks. Before they are driven out, demons will express their demands. They may demand items from the victim. Some of the items are ear rings, hair wigs, beads, buckles and other ornaments. Besides ornaments, demons may demand some beauty items (cosmetics) like eye pencil, lip sticks, paintings on finger and toe-nails. Demons also demand certain clothes from the victim which they say belong to them. At times they demand certain foods and drinks. Demons are so complicated that they will demand anything that you bought with your own money and yet they will claim the item belongs to them because they set it to trap the victim. Sometime the demons don't speak out but as prayer continues the victim removes or has a dislike of those items that belong to the devil. The victim may remove them without knowing. If you are faced with such a situation you may do the following: First pray and ask God to cleanse those items with the blood of Christ Jesus or ask God to make the items holy. The second option is you burn those items. As you light up the fire ask God to light up His fire to burn all those items. Using either way will keep the demons detached from their reason of re-entering and owning the victim. By

cleansing or burning the items renders the demons powerless and thus drives them away. Beware; never should you throw items that demons claim belong to them. Throwing such items is like taking them back to the demons. And if it necessitates you to throw the items, it is very advisable to follow the above two steps because they are convenient and ensures the demons are powerless and harmless.

v) Interference of other deliverance agents

This does not frequently happen. Occasionally it may happen that during a deliverance service other deliverance agents may come. They may intend to join and assist in the deliverance exercise. Great care should be exercised to ensure that only true agents of God can assist. Even though we don't have the gauge to measure whoever is genuine or not, but the truth is we are living in perilous times when and where the devil has placed his agents at strategic points to promote his mission. In 2 Timothy 3:1-5 Paul reminds us to mark that there shall be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, unholy, not lovers of good, just to mention a few. "Having a form of godliness but denying its power." The Bible counsels "Have nothing to do with them." 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 Paul gives highlights of false apostles, deceitful workmen who masquerades as apostles of Christ just as Satan masquerades as an angel of light. Likely Satan's servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. At first glance it is not easy to differentiate false agents from true agents of God. If you may wish to have a deliverance agent from another faith, basically have someone whose background is well known to you or someone you are already acquainted. Take note that God has His own deliverance persons outside the Adventist church who are sincere in heart. The big challenge is how we can know a genuine deliverance agent from another faith. But, watch over their conduct, speech and the methods they use in deliverance. If their speech is full of

guile and has contradicting, confusing and contrasting statements definitely they are not agents of God. Anything they say or do must be in accordance with God's word Isaiah 8:20. If their methods depend more on personal philosophy and not the word of God, then something is wrong.

vi) What if demons speak?

In some cases demons speak as deliverance service continues. Beware that demons can easily cheat. How then should we treat such a situation in the event demons speak? When Jesus encountered demons and they spoke, the Bible is not vividly clear whether Jesus encouraged long conversations or not. All we read is that Jesus would adhere to the demons request, at times Jesus would seek to know their name (Mark 5:7-13). It doesn't bring any good if you entertain unnecessary conversations with demons for in the event they may take advantage over you and cheat. Should I then command them out right away by virtue that they are liars? By all means no. Beware demons might be carrying very crucial information that you dearly need in the deliverance of the victim. Imagine a thief in the hands of a police, how does he or she behave? Is he or she ready to tell all they do and how, their plans, their mission and those they work with? Because they are under pressure they will definitely tell most of the truth. Similarly, demons chained in the hands of God are rendered powerless. If they declare to reveal to you their secrets and how they possessed the victim ask Christ to force them to say the truth. Remember God can force the demons to tell you what you need to pray for in order to deliver the possessed. The demons will therefore share with you their entry points and any other secrets they have which may ease your deliverance service. So pray that God destroys all the entry points, burns or cleanses any items demons may be using to claim ownership. Ask God to invade their stronghold. That way it becomes easy to deal with them. This however, is not an

avenue to encourage exorcists to be speaking with demons. But rather this is necessary, that God plans it that demons disclose some of their secrets which assist in prayer. Caution is that don't entertain conversations with demons on issues discussing people's names. But let your objective be the how they entered and what their mission is in the life of the victim and what needs to be done thereby delivering the victim.

How Demons Leave the Body

Demons leave the body in diverse ways. Below are some of the ways I shared which you will notably realize as prayer is taking place. These are: -Sneezing, coughing, screaming, burping, vomiting, producing gas, breathing out, eyes blinking, shedding tears, diarrhea, uncontrollable movements of body as if there is a struggle, shivering and shaking, producing saliva or mucus whether viscous or loose, sweating, pain on one part of the body and then an immediate relief, feeling of heat in any part of the body and then it disappears abruptly, a soothing cooling wind sweeps around the affected part of the possessed, having a short call (urinating). NB: if the possessed requests to go for the short call take care it may be the demons are seeking for a more complicated way to protect themselves from further torture by the exorcist, hence, confusing you with their new found out tactics. If it happens, you are still in authority—just pray for the victim and for the destruction of any schemes the demons are planning. Two things will take place; either the short call will end, thereby or the victim will go to relieve himself or herself and the demons are flushed out. Other ways demons leave the body are sighing, signs or marks on the skin which quickly or eventually disappear, destroying or burning any items the victim has yet demons claim as theirs. Invading their stronghold leaves them unlikely to claim ownership, thus leaving immediately. The other is quietly—there is no reaction and then, last but not least, the person will tell out if he or she experienced things out through his or her

mouth or through nose or ears. The above points it is noted that when any of the above signs is manifested then a relief follows and the person is refreshed.

Misunderstanding of the Deliverance Ministry

As good as the deliverance ministry is, there are various misunderstandings from within and without the church. Below are the various misunderstandings I shared with members:-

1. While some people were prayed for once and fully delivered others were prayed for once and it didn't work. Many wonder why. This brings a lot of distrust and many are hesitant to embark on consistent prayers. Others regard it as a tedious exercise and a waste of time. While they anticipate for an instant miracle of deliverance and it turns out the opposite, some prefer seeking for instant miracles. Thus, people of God need to know that first, deliverance service calls for patience, understanding and total dependence from God. Second, deliverance is not the work of the one casting out the demons. It takes the hand of the sovereign God for the miracle to happen. Third, each case depends on several factors like for how long it has been and the magnitude of the case and whether the victim is ready to believe in the power of God or not. So if they come expecting an instant miracle of healing and it does not work, some feel disappointed and discouraged. They do not depend on prayer anymore, and if they have to seek for prayer, they go to those called 'miracle performers.' Little they do not understand that it takes the whole heaven to deliver a person not in the way they want but as God has designed and in His appointed time.
2. Some people are too hasty in casting out a demon not even knowing why it is there. Besides they don't care dealing with the legal right and the demons

entry point. Casting out demons does not depend on our emotions or personal philosophy. It requires a lot of power and wisdom from heaven. Let those who cast out demons take note that the battle calls for a thorough history about the case which will now lead you to the reason why the demon(s) is there. Too you will be exposed to know their entry points which you can ask God to block. It is therefore advisable to study the case with soberness and thoroughness to be knowledgeable on the best approaches to apply when handling the problem. Handling the case with hastiness may cause confusion and the demons can take advantage over the one casting them out. So three things are very important to take note of and these are (i) establish the nature of the case, (ii) Know why the demon(s) is there and (iii) discover their entry points where possible. This is done through thorough investigation of the case.

3. We are dealing with the invisible world and we cannot see with our naked eyes battle that is taking place. It sounds weird and very scaring when the possessed share their experience on what they literally see and experience during deliverance service. To the strangers, they take this as unreal and treat the possessed as part of the spiritual world. The problem does not just end there; some even wonder what kind of prayer that exposes captives into such strange experiences. And so many questions linger deep in the minds of those who do not understand fully what true deliverance entails. People should not be scared when they hear such testimonies but rather pray for the victim to be fully detached from the spiritual world. They should also understand that during deliverance service some of those possessed are exposed to the battlefield where the real war takes place. At this time they are able to see strange creatures and very terrifying fierce episodes. As a result they may

speak of unimaginable things that are scaring and fearful at hearing. Those delivered may narrate about various scenarios they have visited and how strangely they would swiftly reach those places. If delivered you will hear them say that the angel of the Lord came and he rescued them. People should therefore take note and understand that the possessed see funny creatures and very traumatizing experiences, things which after deliverance a person is fully recovered and are never associated with the spiritual world and its happenings any other time.

4. Some members argue that they do not believe in demons. Other members do not want to read or know anything to do with demonic forces. Because of lack of the belief in the existence of demons, some members do not therefore see the need for the deliverance ministry. They believe that deliverance ministry is for those who believe in the existence of demons. That is why you will hear them say that demons are with those who entertain them. There are other members who do not want to be associated with reading any literature that discuss demons. They do not even wish to know anything about demons. Reason being, they have nothing to do with demons. Therefore they consider the ministry as wastage of time and energy. They consider reading other literature and knowing about other spiritual things but rather not anything to do with demons. Thus deliverance ministry does not measure any value to those who do not believe in demon's existence and have no interest to read or know anything about them. Yet they do not know Satan and his agents take advantage of their ignorance.
5. Why is the process to cast out demons so long? Why doesn't a miracle happen thereby then? These are some of the questions that arise from those members

who witness some deliverance sessions. It is true that casting out demons can take long or less time in one service depending on the case at hand. Taking long time creates doubt and disbelief, hence questioning the authenticity of deliverance ministry. Some members believe that if deliverance is God's working, it ought to be instant without consuming much time and without exhaustion. They do not know that in our feebleness God considers to use us as instruments that are weak but empowered by the blood of Jesus Christ to accomplish His mission of saving human race. Let us learn that true deliverance takes place in God's appointed time and not by any human effort. All we need is faith as small as the mustard seed and wait upon the Lord to ensure a purposeful deliverance ministry in the lives of those suffering.

6. Many, who their possessed were delivered, wonder why the problem recurs and yet the captive was prayed for and all the demons flushed out. There are times when demons re-enter an individual just to create havoc in his or her life. Many people fail to understand why the re-entry occurs. Sometime it happens that a captive is delivered and suddenly demons re-enter immediately or after a day, or month or after a year and so forth. When people fail to grasp the concept why demons are returning to the person, they tend to doubt the viability of deliverance ministry and the power of prayer thereof. They doubt and question the relevancy of the deliverance service in our society today. There is need for God's people to understand that God can ensure full deliverance of an individual. However, depending on various aspects there may be a re-entry. First, members should know demons can re-enter if their entry points were not completely destroyed. Second, they can re-enter if they have a legal right/sin that they can cling on and claim ownership. Third, a re-

entry may also recur if their stronghold was not invaded and destroyed.

Fourth, God might have delivered the person long ago, but God Himself is using the delivered to deliver others that are possessed elsewhere. The above points may result to a re-entry of demons in a person.

7. Some members mistakenly tend to think that those who cast out demons are the ones having evil forces. They treat deliverance ministry as not authentic. Just like the times of Christ Jesus, people did not identify where His powers came from, so it is today. Mathew 9:34 the Pharisees referring to Jesus say, “It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons.” If people mistakenly nicknamed Christ and did not recognize His powers as emanating from the father, then what about today? Our generation is not different either. There are people who do not trust that God is using His people (believers) to cast out demons. The truth is no other power God’s people can depend upon except the power that comes from God. Let God’s people seek power from heaven and allow the Holy Spirit to use them and then by the blood of Christ demons are driven out. As a matter of fact, the Pharisees failed to understand that Christ did not drive demons by what they regarded as “Beelzebub, the prince of demons,…” Mathew 12:24. Equally important some people in our contemporary society cling to the idea that those who cast out demons use superstitious powers. While this may be so because we are living in a perilous world, nonetheless, Christ makes it clear in Mathew 12:26 “If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?” False exorcists, their work cannot stand the test of time. Our responsibility, therefore as Christians is to study, investigate and establish if those casting out demons are genuine and sincere in heart in their deliverance ministry before we talk ill.

8. It is so amazing that some members don't trust that God can use them in the deliverance ministry. Some consider themselves inadequate, sinful and not knowledgeable while others are just not willing and not ready to be used of God. Others are oblivious. The fact of the matter is that, Satan schemes to control mankind to accomplish his will. We are told in a Collegiate Quarterly that Satan does this in two ways namely: "demonic suggestion and demonic possession." "As he had with Eve, Satan suggested the thought, and Peter accepted, accomplishing the devil's will." (Genesis 3:6, Mathew 16:22-23) "..., with every demonic suggestion we accept, we become more controlled by the demon and less capable of exercising our will against his suggestions."¹ As children of God, our Lord desires we abstain and shun away all evil suggestions by the devil which in the long run may land us into demonic possession. "Judas repeatedly accepted this demonic suggestion to betray Jesus (John 13:2). And finally, having become a slave of Satan, he was a candidate for demonic possession, and Satan entered into him (verse 27, NIV)."²

¹ Lyndelle Brower Chiomenti and Ricardo Bacchus., eds., *Growing in Christ* (Silver Spring, MD: General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, October-December, 2012), 58-59.

²*Ibid*, 59.

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