

HELLO PROFESSOR

The name of my Interviewee is Bainito Chitu: The first name of my Interviewee is Baptism which is from the Bible Romans 16:5 Which spelt Epenetus: This name was given to my interviewee after he was baptized as youth demonstrated the desire of the parents who wanted him to grow and have the quality of Epenetus of the Bible. The second Name CHITU means market, in his ethnic group language. He was named after his grandfather who was born in Market Place.

Bainito Chitu comes from Western Region of Kenya which is predominantly occupied by the Luhya tribe. The Luhya tribe is the third Largest in Kenya. The tribe is made of several sub-tribes, and the sub tribes which he comes from is called Maragoli which occupies the central region of Luhya land. It is in the Maragoli where the missionaries to Western Region first settled. Therefore the place is dominated by Christian. There are several Institution connected with missionaries in this area as a testimony, Kaimosi High School, Lugulu Girls High School, Mukumu Mission Hospital. Presently the area falls under Vihiga County.

The Language which he can speak fluently are Kimaragoli, which is local ethnic group language, Kiswahili which is our National Language and English which is Kenya Official language.

According to Mr. Chilu, he is able to understand Kikuyu though he is not able to speak the language well, but he is learning. He also can understand Kisii Language which has proved difficult for him to speak.

The majority tribe group in our Church is Kikuyu. The group consists of 90% of all members of the Church with Minority as Luhya, Kamba, Luos and Kisii.

The cultural difference cannot be ruled in Church and sometimes with such big percentage of one dominate group, some can feel out of place or uncomfortable. Two areas made him uncomfortable; the use of mother tongue, at first I didn't understand what people were saying especially in mid week fellowship in the village. The preacher could speak and then ask me to Pray for the word. I wondered how to Pray. The other area of discomfort was the way people prepared their food. In my culture the food is prepared without soup but here the people felt everyone had to be served food with soup, it made me quite uncomfortable because I didn't take soup.

Different denomination do things differently in their worships and having come from Western Kenya where singing and dancing was the major expression of worship, it was surprising to see how people were discouraged from dancing for the Lord. As stated earlier language was a great barrier for most of the things in the Church were communicated in Kikuyu, I thought this was mainly contributed by the age bracket in Church, where most leader were elderly but I realized also in conducting their own business they could communicate in Kiswahili.

Time management presented another difficulty, it was amazing to hear people declare if you want people to keep time you should give them one or two hours allowance, it seemed time keeping was not important, the important thing was the event.

Change is gradual sometimes because the main issue is the people who can manage the change. The Church is changing because we have new crop of leaders who understand the need to accommodate people, today there is obvious change where people from all tribal groupings, cultural, Socio economic are welcomed in the Church. In order for the Church to be more welcoming to people of all nations ethnic/cultural, socio economic background we need to carry out seminar, where issues of cross cultural communication will be discussed. These forums will enrich majority of the leaders who should also understand the mandate and the mission of the Church in going out to the World and making disciples of all Nation for Christ.

Our communication is very important, it will bring people of different background close to us or it can create gap that we might not be able to bridge. Communication is not only verbal but it's in the way we dress and use our time e.t.c . I have learnt that in order for the Church to fulfill its mission. It is very important we understand other people and accommodate them, understand that our culture is not better than theirs.