

The Contributions of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria to the Educational Development of Akwa Ibom State, 1936-2021

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Abstract

Right from the advent of the Lutheran Church in 1936 to date, the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ has always gone hand in hand with the establishment of schools. However, despite the enormous contributions of the Lutherans to the educational development of Akwa Ibom State, her role has not been given due attention in the earlier history of education in Akwa Ibom State. Apart from this, some vital issues relating to the training of personnel, church-community and Church-State relationship in the establishment and funding of Lutheran schools in Akwa Ibom State were hardly mentioned. Hence, the problem of this study emanates from the inadequate assessment or evaluation of several aspects of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria's involvement in the educational development of Akwa Ibom State. In an attempt to examine these problems, some questions are necessary for the effective investigation of the subject matter. Such questions include: Why did the Lutheran Church of Nigeria establish schools in Akwa Ibom? How many schools have the Lutheran Church of Nigeria in Akwa Ibom State? What factors militated against or facilitated and galvanized the development of schools by the Lutheran Church of Nigeria in Akwa Ibom State? What are the contributions of Lutheran Schools to the educational development of Akwa Ibom State between 1936 and 2011? These among many other questions are the main crux that this study seeks to address through the historical research survey approach.

Keywords: Christianity, Education, Development, Mission, Church.

Introduction

Education has been one of the most potent factors in the social, political, cultural and religious developments of any society. The Lutheran Church of Nigeria considered Christian education very important right from its inception in Nigeria in 1936. In pursuance of her guiding philosophy: "The soul of Education is the Education of the soul", the Church sought early to establish congregations with schools (Etuk, 2011, p. 78). Thus, Volz (1961, p. 51) rightly opined that as soon as new preaching stations were opened, efforts were made to establish schools as well. However, owing to the establishment of several schools by the Lutheran Church in Nigeria, especially in Akwa Ibom State, the burden of assessing or evaluating the educational endeavours of the Lutheran schools in the development of Akwa Ibom State has been of immense concern to many individuals, especially those who benefited from Lutheran education and the general public. For instance, scholars such as Akpan, Inyang, and Effiok-Abasi (2010, pp. 12-15) in their work entitled *Lutheran High School, Obot Idim (Essay in celebration)* have attempted to discover the place of their alma

mater in human capital development and nation-building. Also, modern scholars, such as Omotoye (1998), Ayandele (1966), Onwubiko (1984), Crampton (1979) and many others in their various contributions have examined Christianity and educational development in different parts of Nigeria, but their studies did not cover the contributions of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria and her educational development in Akwa Ibom State.

Again, it has been observed with dismay that several existing histories of Education in Akwa Ibom State do not accord the Lutheran Church of Nigeria its proper place based on the role it played in educational development. This is contrary to Uko's (1986, p. 16) assertion that "the Lutheran Church of Nigeria was one of the foremost Christian missions to adopt the school system as its chief strategy of evangelizing the people of Akwa Ibom State." Based on the above observations, this paper seeks to investigate the contributions of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria to the educational development of Akwa Ibom State from 1936-2011. This study is worth pursuing because it brings together the fragmented vital historical facts of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria in Akwa Ibom State that existed in oral form before it becomes too late. After all, many pioneer members and ministers of the Church have died and those remaining are becoming weaker each with passing day. The findings of this work have added substantially to the body of knowledge on Nigerian Church history.

Christian Missionaries and Education in Akwa Ibom State Before 1936

The History of Christian Missionaries and educational development in Akwa Ibom State dates back to 1846 when the Rev. Hope Waddell who was sent by the United Presbyterian Church arrived in Calabar and took up residence. Onah (2008, p. 33) observed that two schools were established that same year in Duke and Creek Towns. This was because the missionaries were interested in educating the common people and therefore considered education as part and parcel of their mission work. With the arrival of Mary Mitchell Slessor in 1876, the church made a tremendous impact in the establishment of congregations and schools in Cross River State including areas that make up the present Akwa Ibom State. As such, several primary and post-primary schools were established in various locations of Akwa Ibom State. These include Presbyterian Primary School Enwe, Uyo, Presbyterian Primary School Ibiono Emero, Presbyterian Senior Science School Ididep, and Presbyterian Primary School Adiadia among many others.

As rightly opined by Ukpana (1999, p. 8), on October 6, 1887, Pastor Samuel Alexander Bill of Belfast, Northern Ireland who was an Irish Christian missionary arrived in Calabar following the appeal letter written by the Ibeno Chiefs requesting for a missionary. Pastor Samuel Bill was raised in Ballymacarrett Presbyterian Church, east Belfast. He was later joined by his bosom friend, Archibald Bailie in 1888. With the establishment of its headquarters in Ibeno, Qua Iboe Church has staked out several churches and schools in Akwa Ibom State. This is because Qua Iboe Church realized early enough the importance of providing formal education for the people to whom the word of God was preached. Thus, the following schools were established in Akwa Ibom State by Qua Church: Etinan Institute in 1915, Qua Iboe Primary School Ishiet Erong, Qua Iboe Church Primary School Etinan, Qua Iboe Church Primary School Ikot Oku Nsit and many others.

According to Famihisi (1992, p. 11), the year 1842 marked the beginning of Methodist missionary activities in Nigeria. It was in the same year that the Wesleyan Methodist Society first landed in Badagry, Lagos in December that year and pioneered the missionary work there with Rev. Thomas Birch Freeman as their leader. Similarly, Duke (2007, p. 22) recorded that the Primitive Methodist Mission came to South Eastern Nigeria in 1893 and established a station at Archibong and James Towns in Cross River State. Their work started to flourish as they won new converts with the Rev. Robert Fairly and Ben

Showell leading the team. Soon after in March 1896, new stations were established in Oron in Akwa Ibom State and later spread to Imo, Rivers and different parts of the country.

The year 1907 marked the beginning of the Primitive Methodist Mission and her educational programs in Adiaha in Akwa Ibom State and its environs. The following schools were established by Methodist Church in Akwa Ibom State: Methodist School Adiaha in 1907, Methodist School Obot Obom in 1912, Methodist Central School Etoi in 1933, and Methodist School Ikot Ubok Udom in 1937. In 1938, Methodist School, Itiam Etoi was founded. Methodist School, Odot was established in 1944, Methodist School, Ikot Akpan Ika was established in 1947, Methodist School, Ikot Nkim in 1949, Methodist School, Ikot Akpa Etok in 1951, while the Elementary Teacher Training Centre (ETTC) was established in Ibiaku Issiet in 1957 to train teachers. It is pertinent here to note that the planting of the Methodist Church went side by side with the establishment of schools because the church realized early that it would be easier to spread the Gospel to a literate population than to an illiterate one. As such the Church sought early to establish congregations with schools. As rightly opined by Onwubiko (1984, pp.258 - 272) the Catholic Church first entered Eastern Nigeria in the year 1885. This took place on December 5, 1885 when the pioneer Holy Ghost Fathers – Father Joseph Lutz and his band of three, Fr. Joseph Horne and two Brothers, Hermas and John Gotto arrived in Onitsha with the task of evangelizing the people.

The first step towards the realization of their objective was to win the people's acceptance of themselves and Roman Catholicism in the Area where the C.M.S had been actively established since 1857. However, the year 1885 marked the beginning of the Catholic Church in Eastern Nigeria including Akwa Ibom State. Apart from the establishment of several churches, the Catholic missionaries regarded the opening of schools as an essential tool for the work of evangelization. In this regard, the following schools were established in Akwa Ibom State: Cornelia Connelly College, Uyo in 1944, Holy Family College Abak, 1942, St. Columbanus Secondary, Ikwen in 1954, Christ the King Primary School, Uyo and Adiaha Obong Secondary School, Eniong Offot, Uyo among many others. The above study revealed the contributions of other denominational agencies such as the Presbyterian, Qua Iboe, Methodist and Catholic Churches which worked in Akwa Ibom State before the coming of the Lutheran Church to Nigeria in 1936.

History of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria in Akwa Ibom State

The Lutheran Church of Nigeria started in 1936 in the rural Ibesikpo clan of Akwa Ibom State with the Late Rev. Dr Jonathan Udo Ekong as the pioneering father. The history of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria (LCN) has it that up to 1928; Qua Iboe Church was the main Christian Church in Eket, Etinan, and Ibesikpo areas of Akwa Ibom State. However, precisely on 9th May 1928, sixteen congregations seceded from the Qua Iboe Church and sent Jonathan Udo Ekong to the United States of America to bring a church that would establish schools for their children. Jonathan Udo Ekong therefore, travelled to the U.S. A and established contact with the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church (Uko, 1986, p. 19). Sequel to this contract, in 1935, the first group of American Lutheran Missionaries arrived at Ibesikpo, and on April 24, 1936, Rev. Dr and Mrs Nau arrived and took up residence in the area (Rayan, 1987, p. 19). As a missionary himself, Volz (1961, p. 12) rightly reported that, while Rev. Dr Nau was at work in Nigeria, the missionary Board was busy recruiting his successors. In this regard, early in the year 1937, Rev. Vernon Koeperss, Pastor William Schweppes and Miss Helen Kluck were commissioned as the first (LCN) synodical conference missionaries to Nigeria. They were later joined in 1938 by the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Udo Ekong who had been trained by the Lutheran seminary in the United States of America. Thus, 24th April 1936 became the official date of birth of the Lutheran Church in Nigeria (LCN). Starting with the sixteen congregations under the supervision of Rev. Dr Nau, the church has grown to several congregations within and outside Akwa Ibom State. As rightly

opined by Amamkpa (1979, p. 34), “The first concern of the missionary was to the spiritual needs of the Ibesikpo congregations which had appealed for Lutheran help”.

At the same time, plans for outreach into other areas were discussed. Meetings were held with the elders. As a result of the meetings, many congregations were opened throughout Akwa Ibom State. With her humble beginning, the church has grown from strength to strength throughout her period of existence in Akwa Ibom State through the help of the Holy Spirit and the indefatigable efforts of the missionaries, indigenous ministers and lay workers (Uko, 1986, p. 21). Concerning the pattern of growth, Etuk (2011, p.72) noted that people first heard about the Lutheran Church from their friends, relations, neighbours, business partners and co-villagers. These people might have been teachers, chiefs, and schoolchildren. For instance, in Afaha Iman, it was a soldier, Mr Egbo, who had come into contact with Lutheranism while serving in India. Also, people who heard about the good works of the Lutheran Church in other places made further enquiries and invited a church leader or missionary to visit their villages or clans and establish churches and schools for their people. Furthermore, the pattern of day-to-day activities was anchored by the missionaries and indigenous Pastors who concentrated on organizing instructional classes and preparing useful catechetical materials, sermons and translations of Christian literature. Also, an interview with Rev. B. E. Obot reveals that village chiefs, teachers, and workers were also instruments in the growth and development of the Lutheran church in the area especially in the provision of human resources.

In obedience to Jesus’ injunction to his disciples to make disciples to all nations, the Lutheran Church in the Ibesikpo clan started spreading, having fully established her presence in the Ibesikpo community to all the four (4) select zones of Akwa Ibom State and beyond. The history of the Lutheran Church has it that one of the first groups from outside Ibesikpo to join the Church was a congregation at Akai Ubium in the present Nsit Ubium Local Government Area (Volz, 1961, p.30). The people of Akai Ubium got to know about the Church through two bicycle repairers from Ibesikpo who were working in that village. Their first service was conducted in 1937 by N. E. Udo, A.U. Akpan, and F. M. Udo (Uko, 1986, p.54). Lutheran Missionaries, Rev. Dr Jonathan Udo Ekong and other believers joined in spreading the Lutheran faith throughout Uyo Senatorial Diocese. The record shows that in 1936, only sixteen congregations were served by the first missionary, Dr Henry Nau (Uko, 1986, p.16). In 1961, the church had grown to one hundred and ninety-six (196) congregations within and outside Akwa Ibom State. As of August 2011, the Lutheran Church with her humble beginning has staked out 139 congregations, 17 districts, and 2 circuits in four (4) different zones of Akwa Ibom State selected for this study (Records of Lutheran Congregations, Synod Office, Obot Idim).

The Educational Agenda of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria

The coming of the Lutheran mission to Nigeria in 1936 was a monumental pivot in the educational development of Nigeria. As earlier mentioned, the quest which caused the people of Ibesikpo to send Jonathan Udo Ekong to the United States was a quest for him to select a church that would teach them the pure word of God, and also to build schools to train their children. According to Akpan (2010, p. 3), the policy of the Lutheran Mission in Nigeria was not only to project a spiritual crusade for the conversion of indigenes to the Christian faith but also to harbour a functional educational agenda geared towards the development of the people’s academic potentials, possibly to aid a speedy institutionalization of the Christian theology of the Lutheran extraction. Akpan further remarks that the early missionaries of the Lutheran mission sent to Nigeria in pursuance of the spiritual cum educational development agenda also possessed teaching and administration credentials, which fully equipped them for the pioneering initiative in the establishment and administration of educational institutions.

Inyang and Efiok (2000, p. 8) in their contributions posit that the multi-dimensional agenda of the Lutheran mission was captured in Dr Henry Nau's proposal to the missionary Board which stated thus: "Besides the work in the churches, there are ever-more pressing needs of schools and work of training teachers, catechists, evangelists and future pastors". In this regard, the early Lutheran missionaries worked tirelessly to plant congregations with schools in different parts of the country. Primary schools such as Boecler Memorial School, Nung Oku were established, Lutheran Teachers College at Ibakachi was also established for the training of teachers, and the Lutheran Seminary (now Jonathan Ekong Lutheran Seminary) was established for the training of Priests and preachers for the mission, while the renowned and Prestigious Lutheran High School at Obot Idim and Ikot Obong Edong respectively were for the training of the laity. As of today, three more secondary schools have been established, namely in Eket, Utu and Nto Obo respectively. These were established purely as Christian post-primary schools meant for the development of human resources for the mission and the Nigerian nation.

Etuk (2011, p. 77) rightly argued that the education the Lutheran mission brought did not aim merely at making people being able to read the Bible, but also to inculcate sound education, which in turn resulted in human development. Etuk further pointed out that although that was in itself very important and crucial to the making of good Christian populations and citizens; the Church fully recognized the fact that there could be no enlightenment, no development of any kind, and no progress without education. To get the people to learn better hygiene, better forms of agriculture, and to seek higher standards of living, all required education.

The Lutheran Church and the Establishment of Schools in Akwa Ibom State

As rightly opined by Amamkpa (1979, p. 32), there was an unusual clamour for education in almost every part of the country. It was the same in Ibesikpo that its leaders became awakened to the need for education and turned to the missions. Uko (1986, p. 83) reported that their petition to Qua Iboe Mission for central schools in 1927 was part of this movement for education. Although their request was granted, the central school did not open at Obot Idim in 1929, instead, it was embedded at Obot Idim Nsit in the present Nsit Ubium Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. As a result of this, on 10th December 1930, the sixteen congregations seceded from the Qua Iboe Church to form Ibesikpo United Church under the leadership of Mr

Etim Udo. According to Etuk (1999, p. 18), "The first great step taken by Qua Iboe's mission was to close the only standard six schools in the clan. All infants Qua Iboe Church schools in the clan were also closed." In this regard, the sixteen congregations had no option but to wait for their son Jonathan Udo Ekong who had been sent to U.the S.A in 1928 to bring a church that would establish schools for their children. Their dream became a reality in 1936 with the arrival of the Lutheran Church in Nigeria. Hence, when the Lutheran Church came, they came with both the gospel and education as the factors for the evangelization of the people. Thus, one can say without fear of contradiction that what made the Ibesikpo Christians break away from the Qua Iboe Church was a lack of education. Using as a motto for its schools the expression "The soul of education is the Education of the soul" (Akpan, 2000, p. 8), schools were established as soon as new congregations were opened. Therefore, the Lutheran Mission Agency like, other churches did a lot by providing education for people in their various areas of operation. There are altogether sixty-seven (67) Lutheran schools in four select zones of Akwa Ibom State chosen for this study. These include three (3) Nursery schools, fifty-eight (58) primary and three (3) Lutheran secondary schools. There is also one (1) Lutheran seminary and two teacher training schools in the select zones of Akwa Ibom State.

Table 1: Lutheran Primary Schools in Nung Udoe Diocese

No	Name of School	Location	Date	Population
1.	St. Peter's Lutheran Primary School.	Ikot Obio dongo	1937	195
2.	St. John Lutheran Primary School.	Aba Ukpo	1942	87
3.	Lutheran Primary School.	Nung Ukana	1939	421
4.	Lutheran Primary School	Ikot Obio Offong	1937	244
5.	St. John's Primary School	Afaha Udoeyop	1939	314
6.	Lutheran Primary School	Afaha Ikot Owop	1948	312
7.	Lutheran Primary School	Itoko	1952	97
8.	Lutheran Primary School	Obo Etok	1944	122
9.	Lutheran Primary School	Edem Ibiok	1953	97
10.	Lutheran Primary School	Ikot Ekwere	1949	230
11.	Lutheran Primary School	Afaha Ikot Edem Udo	1945	231
12.	Calvary Lutheran Primary School	Ikot Abasi	1952	93
13.	Lutheran Primary School	Ikot Oduot	1939	112
14.	Lutheran Primary School	Ikot Akpa Etok	1948	94
15.	Lutheran Primary School	Ikot Apa Oso	1948	83
16.	Lutheran Primary School	Ikot Essien	1950	122
17.	Lutheran Primary School	Ikot Eto	1952	105
18.	Lutheran Primary School	Ikot Ide Akpakpan	1954	100
19.	Lutheran Primary School	Ikot Mbride	1954	95
20.	Lutheran Primary School	Mbierebe Akpawat	1956	219
21.	Lutheran Primary School	Mbikpong Atai	1954	435
22.	Lutheran Primary School	Nung Udoe	1937	307
23.	Lutheran Primary School	Okop Nduaeorong	1954	138

Source: Lutheran Church of Nigeria Synod Office, Obot Idim Ibesikpo

Table 2: Lutheran Primary Schools in Akwa Ibom Central Diocese

No	Name of School	Location	Date	Population
1.	Lutheran Primary School	Iwok Nsit	1958	165
2.	Lutheran Primary School	Ibakang	1959	350
3.	Lutheran Primary School	Obot Ndiya	1940	162
4.	Lutheran Primary School	Ikot Akpafuk	1949	284
5.	Lutheran Primary School	Afaha Offiong	1937	320
6.	Lutheran Primary School	Ikot Ebre	1945	320
7.	Lutheran Primary School	Ikot Nya	1952	210
8.	Lutheran Primary School	Mbiaso	1938	10
9.	Lutheran Primary School	Ikot Ekan	1948	152
10.	Lutheran Primary School	Ikot Udobia	1955	136
11.	Lutheran Primary School	Ikot Inyang	1943	210
12.	Lutheran Primary School	Ikot Abasi Onion	1945	231

13.	Lutheran Primary School	Efa	1945	115
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Source: Lutheran Church of Nigeria Synod Office, Obot Idim Ibesikpo

Table 3: Lutheran Primary Schools in Afaha Ibesikpo Diocese

No	Name of School	Location	Date	Population
1.	Lutheran Primary School	Obot Idim	1936	233
2.	Lutheran Primary School	Afaha Etok	1937	419
3.	Lutheran Primary School	Ikot Oduot	1937	350
4.	Lutheran Primary School	Ikot Okubo	1937	250
5.	Lutheran Primary School	Ikot Osom	1939	350
6.	Lutheran Primary School	Ikot Udo Ekop	1942	138
7.	Lutheran Primary School	Nung Oku	1945	75
8.	Lutheran Primary School	Afaha Atia	1945	103
9.	Lutheran Primary School	Ikot Iko	1943	114
10.	Lutheran Primary School	Mbikpong Ikot Edim	1937	100

Source: Lutheran Church of Nigeria Synod Office, Obot Idim Ibesikpo

Table 4: Post-Primary Schools

S/N	Institutions	Year of Establishments	Enrolments
1.	LHS Obot Idim	1950	28
2.	LHS Ikot Obong Edong	1962	26
3.	LHS Ibakachi	1951	24
4.	LHS Uquo	2011	30
5.	LHS Atai Ntobo	2011	32

Source: Lutheran Church of Nigeria Synod Office, Obot Idim Ibesikpo.

The Contributions of Lutheran Schools to the Development of Akwa Ibom State

The Lutheran educational programme has contributed greatly to the creation of new social order in Akwa Ibom State and also helped in the development of various communities in the State. For instance, there are many ex-students of Lutheran schools who serve as community leaders in the State. As community leaders, they must in one way or the other contribute to development and service. Those who distinguished themselves in this angle include Chief Walter Ubom, the village head of Ikot Obio Offong Ibesikpo, Chief Edet Umanah, the village head of Nung Ukana, Chief Okon Akpan Udo Oku, the village head of Aba Ukpo Ibesikpo, Chief (Barrister) Ita Bassey Etuk village head of Nung Udoe and Paramount ruler of Ibesikpo Asutan Local Government Area. Chief Maurice E. Akpan village, head of Ediene Ikot Obio Imo and Chief Effiong Udo village head of Ediene Imo II. These village heads and other ex-students who are community leaders have made immense contributions towards the construction of local roads, the building of community halls, the provision of pipe-borne water and the settling of disputes between people in their different communities. This confirms Etuk's (2010, p.5) assertion that when individuals are guided by personal values, they bring such values to bear on the life of their communities and societies. It also proves that Lutheran education has in one way or the other helped in the socialization of people of Akwa Ibom State and also in the promotion of social solidarity.

Furthermore, many ex-students of Lutheran schools have contributed significantly to human capital development through the award of scholarships to students in their various communities. For instance, Dr. Emaeyak Ukpong, a one-time local government chairman of Ibesikpo Asutan has contributed to the award of scholarships to many Ibesikpo indigenes.

His gesture has added substantially to human capital development in Ibesikpo Asutan Local Government Area (Inyang, 2012, p.55). Others include Ambassador Etim Okpoyo who was a one-time Deputy Governor of Akwa Ibom State. Okpoyo, apart from contributing to the development of his community, has also awarded scholarships to many students from his community (Akpan, 2010, p.34)

Another ex-student of a Lutheran school in this angle is Elder (Obong) E. P. AkpanInyang, a one-time Permanent Secretary in Cross River State civil service, a former commissioner of Education of Akwa Ibom State and the immediate past chairman of Akwa Ibom State Civil Service Commission. Elder (Obong) Akpan-Inyang has contributed to the education of many youths in Akwa Ibom State through the award of university scholarships (Inyang, 2010, p.88). Elder E. H. Akpan is another ex-student of a Lutheran school in this category who has made innumerable contributions to education by the award of scholarships to university students from his community. He also gives an award year to the best student of Systematic Theology in the Jonathan Ekong Memorial Lutheran Seminary, Obot Idim Ibesikpo (Inyang, 2012, p.89). Another ex-student of a Lutheran school who contributed to the award of scholarship is Elder Emmanuel Jacob. Elder Jacob is a senior Accountant serving in the Akwa Ibom State Government Office of the Deputy Governor. He has sponsored many students of Jonathan Ekong Memorial Lutheran Seminary and also makes awards to the best history student of the same Lutheran Seminary (Akpan, 2010, p.21). Moreover, Lutheran schools are among the key contributors to the political development of Akwa Ibom State. For instance, Engr. Etim Okpoyo, an Ex-student of a Lutheran school was the first Civilian Deputy Governor of Akwa Ibom State, co-piloting the state administration with Obong Akpan Isemin (1992/93). When Chief Olusegun Obasanjo took up the mantle of leadership as the Civilian President of Nigeria (1999-2007). Okpoyo again came into the limelight as Nigeria's Ambassador to Italy (Akpan and Inyang, 2010, 16).

Products of Lutheran schools have flooded the various strata of educational institutions in Akwa Ibom State as policy-makers, school administrators, lecturers, and teachers. Top among the school administrators/professionals /lecturers, research fellows, and teachers are Rev. Prof. Udo Etuk (former Acting Vice-Chancellor, University of Uyo and former Dean Postgraduate School of the same University), Prof. Ekong Ekong (former Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Uyo), Prof. Grace Mbipom (University of Calabar), Prof. Nkanta Frank Ekanem (Akwa Ibom State University), Prof. Otoabasi Akpan (Akwa Ibom State University), Late Prof. Nse Ekpo (first graduate of Nuclear Physics in Nigeria), Prof. Etim N. E. Udoh (Secretary to Akwa Ibom State Government 1993-1994), Prof. Blessing Etuk (U.S.A), Prof. Emmanuel U. Akpan (Canada), Prof. Gregory Ubom (University of Jos), Prof. Sunday Moffat Akpan (University of Uyo Teaching Hospital), Iniabasi Ubong (Registrar, Akwa Ibom State College of Education Afaha Nsit), Dr Idara Akpabio and Mr John Ededet Udo (Former Registrar University of Uyo) among many others (Akpan and Inyang, 2010, p.32).

Apart from this, ex-students of Lutheran schools have also dominated positions as principals, headmasters/headmistresses, and classroom teachers in various schools in Akwa Ibom State. They included Rev. Offiong Idiong, (the first ex-student to head his Alma mater as principal), Mr Umondia Umondia, Mr Nsidibe Ekong, Mrs Grace Idiong, Elder Peter Akpan Obot, Prince Ntok Ekanem Ntok, Elder Edem James Inim, Edem Oko Udo Udo, Mr. Ubong Akpan, Mrs Efiowan C. Umo (retired principal), Obong Ubong Akpan (Principal Ibesikpo Secondary Commercial School Nung Udoo), Elder E. E. Usoro (Supervisor of Schools), Ndarake Udo Mbon (School Principal), Mr Celestine Okon Inyang (Principal of School), May Usoro (School Principal) and Mr. Ndaraka Peter Usanga. Others include Elder U. P. Akpan (A retired Headmaster), Mr Essien Obot (A retired Headmaster), Mrs Mary Archibong (Headmistress), Princes Etop Stephen, Mr Unwana Bassey Edet (Primary School Teacher, Ikot Ide Akpakpan), Mrs Charity Ntok Ekanem (Headmistress, Lutheran Primary

School Ukpom Ita /Ekpene Obom), Mrs Theresa Usoro (Education Secretary, Local Education Board) and many others (Akpan and Inyang, 2010, p.33).

In the mass media, which is a powerful force for social change in any given society, products of Lutheran Schools are not found wanting. Living in a society which depends mostly on technology for news, entertainment and education, the mass media is one of the greatest influential factors in the opinions and viewpoints of the people of Akwa Ibom State, especially the younger generation. Example of media influence includes magazine, internet, television, books and radio. All these sources help to shape the beliefs of what social life should be in the mind of the people of Akwa Ibom State. In this sector, ex-students of Lutheran Schools have distinguished themselves as broadcasters, producers, presenters, journalists, prolific writers, and information officers. They have enlightened the people of Akwa Ibom State, educated them about their rights and sensitized the people on their moral and social obligations. Through this medium, people have gained knowledge and insight into what is going on in society (Esuh and Ogaraku, 2013, p.16). Those who have made this happen in Akwa Ibom State include among many others: Aniekan Umanah (Information Commissioner, Akwa Ibom State); Mrs Mercy Otu (former General Manager, Akwa Ibom State Broadcasting Corporation (AKBC)); Godfrey Essien (Former Director of Information); Dr Ubong Nda (Foremost Broadcaster, author and Theatre Arts lecturer, Uniuyo) Ofonime Inyang (Theatre Arts Lecturer, Prolific Writer and former State Chairman Association of Nigerian Authors). Prof. Uwemedimo Atakpo (Playwright), and Dr Martin Akpan (Prolific Writer and poet) (Interview with John, 2014).

The judiciary arm of government in Akwa Ibom State has gained maximally from the rich human resource development mechanism of Lutheran Schools. Many ex-students of Lutheran schools who fall into this very category have become interpreters of laws which are the prime function of the judiciary. They have also acted as guardians of the constitution of the Federation. They protect the fundamental rights of the people by protecting their rights from being violated and performing supervisory functions in the state. The following are among the ex-students of Lutheran schools who stand tall in this area: Hon. Justice Edet Robert Nkop and Justice Effiong David Idiong, both ex-students of Lutheran Schools, served as state Chief Judges in quick succession. For more than a decade (1994-2007), the two bestrode the 'landscape' of the state like a colossus and during this period, the state judiciary witnessed an unprecedented human and infrastructural development (Akpan and Inyang, 2010, p.16). Others who have made it to the bench are Hon. Justice Joe Ekanem (Justice, Court of Appeal) and Chief Magistrate Winifred Iniobong Akpabio Effiong Presiding at Chief Magistrate Court 2, Ikot Ekpene. Others are Chief Mike Akpabio who was the State Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice in 1997, Edidem Barr Ita Bassey Etuk, Paramount Ruler of Ibesikpo Asutan L.GA; Barr. Francis Ekanem, former Chairman, Nigeria Bar Association, Uyo branch (Akpan, 2010, p.16). Others include Barr Friday Okon (former Legal Adviser, Ibesikpo Asutan Local Government Area); Barr. Francis Effanga (a Lagos-based Attorney and a one-time president of the Lutheran High School Old Students Association; Barr Kingsley Waite (Inyang, 2012, p. 82).

Products of Lutheran schools have also contributed monumentally to the economic sector of Akwa Ibom State. This is not surprising because many ex-students of Lutheran extraction have contributed to the economic development of Akwa Ibom State through their private business ventures. For instance, an interview with Daniel Inyang reveals that retired Air Marshall Nsikak Eduok is in business, being a proud owner of a cattle large farm in his village at Mbak Ekpe. He also owned a cattle farm at Owot Uta Ibesikpo. He owns a piggery farm at Mbak Ekpe and Owot Uta. As a result of this farm business, Retired Air Marshall Nsikak Eduok has employed several workers and developed modern husbandry in the state to a very high level. He contributes to the production of beef, broilers and eggs. He also

owns a palm oil plantation. This is strong evidence of the economic influence of the Lutheran schools in the development of Akwa Ibom State.

Obong (Barrister) Ita Bassey Etuk, Clan Head and Paramount Ruler of Ibesikpo Asutan Local Government Area, a product of Lutheran schools has developed and owned about 50 hectares of oil palm plantation at Nung Udoe, Mbierebe Akpawut and Ikot Ide villages. He employs many workers in the plantation business, thereby creating employment for many people. Another ex-student of Lutheran schools that has distinguished himself in this category is Mr O. E. Inyang alias Jumbo. Mr O. E. Inyang is a petroleum dealer. He also owned chains of buildings and businesses in Uyo, the state capital of Akwa Ibom State. Mr Inyang is also a proud owner of over twenty (20) hectares of oil palm plantation at Ikot Ide Akpakpan in the Ibesikpo Asutan Local Government Area. His petroleum business and oil palm plantation have generated employment for teeming youths in the area and also added substantially to the development of Akwa Ibom State. Others include Mr Ime Inyang of Akwa Ibom Agricultural Development Enterprise (AKADEP) who owns a poultry farm in his village. He has employed several workers and developed a high level of animal husbandry (Akpan and Inyang, 2010, p. 44). Many industries in Akwa Ibom State also parade top-business men and women who drank from the fountain of Lutheran Schools. Some of them include Elder (Obong) E. O. Eno an ex-student of Lutheran Schools. Obong Eno who rose to the rank of Administrative Manager in Exxon Mobil Nigeria Plc has contributed tremendously to the development of Akwa Ibom State.

After he retired from Exxon Mobil Nigeria Plc, he went into petroleum marketing. He owns a petrol station and is also appointed a distributor of Shell and Mobil Oil. He has employed a good number of people in his business (Inyang, 2012, p.134). Elder Ufford Ibanga who is the General Manager of Total Oil Plc is an ex-student of Lutheran Schools. As a philanthropist who drank from the foundation of Lutheran School, he has dug a borehole for his community and also contributed to the award of scholarships to many university students in his community. Another ex-student of Lutheran Schools that has gone into the industry is Dr Uwem Ite. Dr Uwem Ite is a manager at Shell Petroleum Development Company Plc. He has supported and empowered many youths in his community. He has supported his church (Lutheran Church of Nigeria) by donating computers for the church to open a cybercafé (Akpan, 2000, p. 56).

In the medical field, the products of Lutheran Schools are not found wanting. They have made enormous influence in this sector through their private hospital and clinics. They have also contributed to the economic growth and development of Akwa Ibom State. Among those that have made an impact in the field of medicine are: several medical personnel. As rightly opined by Akpan (2010, p. 17) Dr. Ime Joseph Udo is the first product of Lutheran High School Obot Idim to have qualified as a Medical Doctor. Inyang (2013, p. 136) also records that Dr Ime Udo is the Chief Medical Superintendent of St. Luke Hospital, Anua in Uyo. Dr Udo also owns and runs his private clinic (City Clinic and Infirmary). He is known to be one of the successful medical consultants who specialize in the treatment of diabetes, hypertension and rheumatism. Dr Udo who had his humble beginning from a Lutheran School has made a lot of contributions to the economic development of Akwa Ibom State in particular and the nation in general. His clinic has offered employment to a large number of people in Akwa Ibom State (Akpan and Inyang, 2010, p. 19). Another ex-student of Lutheran Schools who has contributed to the economic development of Akwa Ibom State is Dr. Martin Akpan who owns Gateway Clinic by Okon Essien Street in Uyo. Martin Akpan who is a member of the 1976 graduating class and a distinguished old student of Lutheran High School Obot Idim, is an anti-Aids Campaigner and the President Intentional Society of Doctors in Literature (ISDL). Dr Akpan has not only made an impact in the area of health care delivery but has also employed many people as many staff are serving in his clinic.

In the field of engineering, building and construction, the products of Lutheran Schools have contributed an impressive array of human resources to the economic development of Akwa Ibom State. Some of them include Engineer (Obong) A. S. Udofia, an ex-student of Lutheran High School, Obot Idim Ibesikpo, who had excelled in the area of Engineering. Obong Udofia who is a retired engineer at Shell Petroleum Development Company Plc is the Chairman, "Decision Engineering Company." Inyang (2013, p. 135) in recognition of the effort and contribution of the Desicon engineering company write thus:

Desicon has done so much in society under the leadership of Akanimo Udofia. It has assisted the host communities where it operates in the areas of education, infrastructure sports and economic development. The company is committed to various other people's-oriented projects. It has continued to sink boreholes, build roads and also support an education fund.

Another ex-student of Lutheran Schools in this category who has contributed to the development of Akwa Ibom State is Engr. Billy Etuk. He is the Chief Executive Officer of Technopak Ltd. He has touched many lives in its area of operation by providing infrastructure and manpower development. Other ex-students of Lutheran Schools in this area include Engr. Ebong Okon, a former Commissioner in the state who is credited with the pioneering role in boat-building in Nigeria; Engr. Sunday W. Ibok, (former Executive Director of Engineering Service (NTA Abuja); Engr. Dr Maurice Ebong (Powercom Engineering); Engr. Bassey Ekanem (Chief Executive Officer Basse Engineering); Engr Antigha Ekaluo, Arc. Imowo Sampson, Engr. Imo Ekpo (Vice President, International Commission on Large Dams), Engr. Okon Akpanekong and Joseph Etuk (Estate Valuer) (Akpan and Inyang, 2010, p. 21).

Lutheran schools have contributed immensely to the religious development of Akwa State. The result of these findings corroborates the assertion of (Akpan and Inyang, 2010, p. 17), who stated that Lutheran schools are not in short supply of Nigerians who enjoy a near-exclusive preserve of being addressed as "My Lord spiritual and temporal". This is true because several ex-students of Lutheran schools are church founders, Pastors, Prophets, and Evangelists while others are royal fathers. The findings also show that in the traditional realm, many ex-students of Lutheran schools have contributed greatly to the promotion and preservation of the rich Ibibio cultural heritage in their various communities. Interestingly, one man that has worked tirelessly in this capacity is His Royal Majesty, Edidem Barr. Ita Bassey Etuk (Paramount Ruler of Ibesikpo Asustan, Akwa Ibom State). That Edidem Ita Etuk has served as village head to clan head and from clan head to paramount ruler of Ibesikpo, Asutan for many years now speaks volumes of his competence and excellent spirit, which stems from his early nurture in Lutheran school. Others include Chief Edet Etim Ekanem (Village Head, Mbierebe Akpawat), Chief Walter Ubom (Village head, Ikot Obio Offong), Chief Edet Umanah (Village Head, Nung Ukana Ibesikpo) and Chief Maurice E. Akpan (Village Head of Ediene Ikot Obio Imo) (Interview with Chief Etuk, 2012). These and many other ex-students of Lutheran schools have helped in promoting moral practices and waging war against social vices, which hinder the development of society.

Many ex-students of Lutheran Schools have also helped in the spreading and teaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. These ex-students of Lutheran Schools have adapted to some radical cultural, social and technological changes, while certainly remaining rooted in relevance in these exceptional times. They have got the very tools the end-time church needs in preparation for transiting into the great final end-time harvest of the earth, such tools include publications and the media. Such ex-students include Rev. Dr Ini Okpon, Evangelist Cyril Bassey, Rev. Prof. Udo Etuik, Rev. Leo Akpan, Pastor (Mrs) Anthonia Ekoi and a lot of others.

Conclusion

This work made a critical assessment of the contributions of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria to the educational development of Akwa Ibom State (1936 -2011). The study has examined the advent, growth and spread of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria between 1936 and 2011. It was discovered that the Lutheran Church with its humble beginning in 1936 has staked out one hundred and seventeen (117) congregations and sixty-seven (67) primary, secondary and theological schools in four zones selected for this study. The work notes that although the Lutheran Church of Nigeria has established a good number of schools in Akwa Ibom State, her schools are also facing many problems like indiscipline, immoral habits, and falling standard of education. While post-primary schools established by the Lutherans are not enough to impact the life of the people of Akwa Ibom State.

However, despite these problems, Lutheran schools are the key contributors to the development of Akwa Ibom State, having produced men and women of consequence in all spheres of human endeavour. One of her premier secondary schools, Lutheran High School, Obot Idim founded in 1950, has trained thousands of young men and women now playing significant roles in nation-building. Indeed, the vision of the founding fathers of the church and their guiding philosophy which was: "The soul of education is the education of the soul" has become an indisputable colossus in human capital development of Akwa Ibom State in particular and the entire nation in general. In this regard, the result of the achievement of Lutheran schools is enviable; the positive contributions made to the educational development of Akwa Ibom State are enormous and her impact on human resource development is immeasurable.

Based on the findings in this study, the following recommendations are put forward: These recommendations are useful to the government as well as the Lutheran Church of Nigeria in Akwa Ibom State and Nigeria:

1. The Lutheran Church of Nigeria should embark on the establishment of more schools, especially secondary schools, universities and other tertiary institutions in Akwa Ibom State and other parts of the country.
2. Since nation-building is hinged on education, educational policies and institutions should be taken much more seriously by the Church and government. As such a good chunk of educational curriculum should be devoted consciously to the building of character and personal values right from the earlier ages. The details of the curriculum and the selection and equipment of teachers must be left to professionals to work out.
3. The Lutheran Schools Management Board (LSMB) should work hand in hand with the old students to bring back all the Lutheran schools in Akwa Ibom State to their past glory.
4. The Church should continue to persuade the government to hand over all the Lutheran schools it had taken over.

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