Spirit media: charismatics, traditionalists, and mediation practices in Ghana

de Witte, M.

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: http://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.
List of images

Unless mentioned otherwise, photographs were taken by the author.

Introduction

0.1 Map of Central Accra. 3
0.2 View over Jamestown, Central Accra (photographer unknown). 4
0.3 Nkrumah Circle, Accra (photographer unknown). 5
0.4 Billboard advertising a Christian convention by pastor Matthew Ashimolowo. 6
0.5 Bus shelter advertising Christian TV broadcast *Power in His Presence*. 7
0.6 ‘It’s in Jesus’ Enterprise. 8
0.7 ‘Born Again’ hand cart. 11
0.8 ‘Gye Nyame’ (Only God) electricals. 12
0.9 ‘The Holy Ghost’ Chemical seller. 13
0.10a Bus shelter advertising the Action Chapel International. 14
0.10b Bus shelter advertising the Action Chapel International. 15
0.11 Christ Temple, International Central Gospel Church, Abossey Okay, Accra. 16
0.12 Rev. Dr. Mensa Otabil (photo: AltarMedia). 16
0.13 Afrikania Mission Headquarters, Sakaman, Accra. 17
0.14 Osofo Komfo Kofi Amoever (photographer unknown). 18

Chapter 1

1.1 Banner announcing a Christian convention. 42
1.2 Posters advertising a Christian crusade and revival meeting. 43
1.3 Banner advertising a Christian radio broadcast. 48
1.4 Bus shelter advertising a Christian radio broadcast. 54
1.5 Front cover of *Radio & TV Review*. 58
1.6 Front cover of *TV & Radio Guide*. 63
1.7 Flyer advertising a gospel festival. 72
1.8 Ticket for concert by gospel star Cindy Thompson in ICGC’s Christ Temple. 73
1.9 Details taken from a poster-calendar entitled *Suro Nnipa* (Fear Man). 74

Chapter 2

2.1 Painted portrait of Otabil on display at Oman Art workshop in Dansoman. 86
2.2 Official portrait of Mensa Otambil (photo: AltarMedia). 86
2.3 Christ Temple, headquarters of the International Central Gospel Church. 86
2.4 ICGC bumper sticker. 89
2.5 Part of a flyer advertising the ICGC Greater Works conference 2002. 90
2.6 Photo of Otambil participating in the ICGC Life Walk published on the back page of the *Daily Graphic* of 15 March 2005 (photo: Daily Graphic). 92
2.7 Official portrait of Mensa Otabil by AltarMedia. 94
2.8 Official portrait of Mensa Otabil and his wife by AltarMedia. 94
2.9 *Living Word* video cassette jacket. 95
2.10 *Living Word* VCD label. 95
2.11 ICGC bookmark 2002. 95
2.12 ICGC bookmark 2005. 95
2.13 AltarMedia website (2006). 96
2.14 Website of the International Central Gospel Church. 96
2.15 Christ Temple office decorations. 100
2.16 Mensa Otabil posing in his office. 101
2.18 Front cover of Otabil’s book *Buy the Future* (2002). 106

Chapter 3

3.1 Christ Temple building and premises. 129
3.2 Advertising Christianity and advertising education. 131
3.3 Fence between Christ Temple compound and Odaw drain. 131
3.4 Flag poles in front of the Christ Temple. 132
3.5 Main entrance to the Christ Temple decorated for the occasion of the Come Fly with the Eagles conference 2003. 132
3.6 Aerial photo of Christ Temple and surroundings. 134
3.7 Wasteland to the east of the Christ Temple. 134
3.8 ‘Sodom and Gomorrah,’ Accra (photographer unknown). 135
3.9 Photographs on display at a photographer’s board at the Christ Temple. 135
3.10 Mr. & Mrs. Nyaku posing at the Christ Temple compound. 136
3.11 Preparation of outside seating and screens before service starts. 136
3.12 Christ Temple Praise & Worship Team performing on stage. 137
3.13 Flyer advertising the Greater Works Conference 2002. 144
3.14 Offering envelope Greater Works Conference 2002. 146
3.15 Newcomers reception at the Christ Temple multi-purpose hall. 152
3.16 Visitor’s form handed out to ICGC newcomers. 153
3.17 ICGC First Fruit envelope. 153
3.18 Wedding at the Christ Temple. 162
3.19 Wedding card of ICGC members George Atsu and Millicent Agbenohevi. 162

Chapter 4

4.1 AltarMedia logo on website banner (2005). 175
4.2 Bright at work behind his desk. 176
4.3 Duncan busy at tape duplication in the new AltarMedia studio. 177
4.4 *Living Word* audio cassette case, front and inside. 178
4.5 *Living Word* video cassette case. 178
4.6 *Living Word* audio cassette carton. 178
4.7 *Living Word* audio and video CDs. 180
4.8  *Living Word* audio cassettes on display in the AltarMedia Bookshop. 181
4.9  *Living Word* tapes order form. 181
4.10 AltarMedia crew member at work during the Destiny Summit 2002. 182
4.11 Series of video stills captured from *Living Word* video tape. 184
4.12 AltarMedia stand at the Christ Temple premises. 187
4.13 AltarMedia stand at the Christ Temple premises. 188
4.14 Promotional banner for *Living Word* tapes. 190
4.15 Promotional flyer for *Living Word* tapes, front and back. 192
4.16 Promotional flyer for *Living Word* tapes. 194
4.17 *Living Word* tape gift pack. 199
4.18 AltarMedia website (2005). 200
4.20 Video cassette by Dag Heward-Mills, front and back. 205
4.21 Front cover of Dag Heward-Mills’ book *Catch the Anointing*. 207

Chapter 5

5.1 Ordination of Afrikania priests at the Mission Headquarters (March 2002). 219
5.2 Afrikania Mission signboard along Winneba Road, Accra. 219
5.3 New Afrikania priest posing with the author in front of Afrikania fence wall. 220
5.4 Osofo Adzovi and Osofo Komla Matrevi after the ‘initiation rituals.’ 220
5.5 Newly ordained Afrikania priests and priestesses posing for a photo session. 220
5.6 Scenes from the ordination of Afrikania priests and priestesses. 222
5.7 Hunua Akakpo reading from the Divine Acts during an Afrikania Sunday service. 224
5.8 Members of the Afrikania Mission during a Sunday service. 224
5.10 Front cover of *The Origin of the Bible* (Ameve 2002). 239
5.11 Funeral brochure Osofo Komfo Kofi Ameve, front and back. 240
5.12 Details of memorial cloth depicting the Afrikania Mission’s ‘Great Ancestors’ Osofo Komfo Damuah and Osofo Komfo Kofi Ameve. 242
5.13 The ‘third servant of the Afrikania Mission,’ Osofo Komfo Atsu Kove. 245
5.14 Scenes from the inauguration of the Afrikania Mission Headquarters (March 2002). 252

Chapter 6

6.1 Afrikania priest preaching at a Ga priestess’s funeral. 266
6.2 Afrikania priest preaching at a Ga priestess’s funeral. 266
6.3 Afrikania performance at a Ga priestess’s funeral. 267
6.4 Afrikania performance at a Ga priestess’s funeral. 267
6.5 Osofo Boakye performing rituals on the priestess’s dead body. 268
6.6 Ga priestesses dancing at the funeral. 271
6.7 Ga priestesses dancing at the funeral. 272
6.8 Ga priestess. 274
6.9 Afrikania Mission membership card. 276
6.10 ‘Binding charm’ and ‘mouth power.’ 280
6.11 Spiritual consultation given by Osofo Fiakpui (right) and Torgbe Kortor. 285
6.12 Offerings to the spirits placed under the Afrikania signboard at the crossroads. 286
6.13 Offerings to the spirits placed under the Afrikania signboard at the crossroads 287
6.14 Priestess possessed by a spirit during the ‘Night Vigil’ at the Afrikania Mission Headquarters. 295

Chapter 7

7.1 Demolished fence wall of the Lighthouse Chapel, Korle-Bu, Accra. 305
7.2 Lighthouse Chapel Headquarters, Korle-Bu, Accra. 305
7.3 Detail of the Afrikania Mission signboard. 311
7.4 The Afrikania Mission signboard after it was demolished. 311
7.5, 7.6 Illustrations with web article ‘Punctured Hope Reveals the Agony of Trokosi Through the Eyes of an Irrepressible Survivor’ by Jane Delson. 312
7.7 DVD cover ‘Slaves to the Gods: The Trokosi of Western Africa’ by International Needs. 314
7.8 ‘About the System of Child Slavery Known as Trokosi or Ritual Servitude,’ ‘before-after’ story published on the website of Every Child Ministries. 315
7.9 Portrait of Juliana Dogbadzi by Eddie Adams (Cuomo and Adams 2000). 316
7.10 Portrait of Juliana Dogbadzi by Eddie Adams (Cuomo and Adams 2000). 317

Chapter 8

8.1 Video shot of Osofo Ameve and Osofo Boakye conversing with Okomfo Boadi Bakan at the Berekusu shrine in Accra. 333
8.2 Video shot of offering scene at the Apertor Eku shrine, Dagbamete. 335
8.3 Video shot of libation scene at the Afrikania Mission Headquarters. 336
8.4 Video shot of the Afrikania priests ordination ceremony. 337
8.5 TV3 crew at work filming an Afrikania Sunday service (photo: Richard Nyaku). 338
8.6 TV3 crew at work filming an Afrikania Sunday service (photo: Richard Nyaku). 338
8.7 TV3 crew interviewing Hunua Akakpo on camera (photo: Richard Nyaku). 339
8.8 Front page of The Gossip of November 2002. 343
8.9 Part of poster-calendar titled ‘Beckley’s Juju: Seeing is Believing.’ 344
8.10 Detail of poster-calendar titled ‘Beckley’s Juju: Seeing is Believing.’ 346
8.11 Front page of Love & Life of 5 – 11 May 2002. 347
8.12 Front page of the Chronicle on Saturday of 8 February 2003. 348
8.13 Brekete shrine, Accra. 351
8.14 Afrikania members posing in their shrine (brekete) in Accra. 351