

## Press Reports on the Activities of the Pentecostal Churches in Nigeria: May 1999

The church as a social institution is supposed to continually promote civilized norms and values in every society. But recent studies reveal that most teachings and sermons in Nigerian churches no longer have positive influence on the lives of many Christians. These occurrences tend to make the public doubt the moral integrity of the Nigerian churches, especially the Pentecostal churches. This paper, therefore, examines the effort the Nigerian press, the Watch-dog of the society, has made so far in providing direction to the Pentecostal churches. To this end, The Guardian, Vanguard, Punch and The Nigerian Tribune issues published between May, 1999 and May, 2002, were content analyzed with a view to determining the volume of coverage they gave to Pentecostal activities, as well as the issues that were actually reported. A total of 256 news items were reported by the four dailies: The Guardian, Vanguard, Punch and The Nigerian Tribune on Pentecostal activities. It was based on these data that the various research questions were answered. Findings from the 3 Tables show that the Nigerian newspapers did not give sufficient coverage to the Pentecostals, similar to the attention it gave to other socio-economic and political issues. On the second research question on the degree of prominence, it was also discovered from the data in Tables IV, V and VI that the prominence the press gave to the Pentecostals was low in terms of the prominence it gave to other issues reported. Table VII however, indicates that the Pentecostals were favourably reported. However, Table VIII disclosed that the press reported mainly on the activities of some of the Pentecostal pastors, including the major crises within and among Pentecostal churches without necessarily suggesting ways of resolving such conflicts.