Media Statement: World Mission Society Church of God

World Mission Society (Church of God) verify the rumor is false

The World Mission Society Church of God is not involved in a sex trafficking syndicate. Students reported on Stellenbosch University’s (SU) Matie Media site, that they had been approached by a Christian organization to talk about “God the Mother” and to encourage them to join their organization.

The weekend newspaper report also had students saying they were surrounded by church members who were persistent to get information

Nkanyezi Mdatyulwa, spokesperson for the Church in the Bellville, said “the report in a weekend newspaper, which does not name of the church, rather refer to an article published in the Stellenbosch university article, which does have the church name, has damaged the reputation of the Church. He said the church carry out a number of volunteer activities and bible studies in and around the universities including the University of Western Cape (UWC), Cape Peninsula University of Technology’s (Bellville, District Six and Mowbray campuses) and the University of Cape Town.

Our Organization does not surround students and force them to give their information. When we approach students, we always say who we are and where we are from and then introduce our beliefs. If they listen and are interested, we exchange contact details and we ask them where they want to meet and we also tell them where our office is.

This rumor has emotionally devastated our university members and they feel that their freedom of religion has been infringed upon.”

UWC student and member of the World Mission Society says “we are viewed as a dangerous organization by our peers and we have become victims of hate speech and defamation. She added we are simply students who are very passionate and proactive in carrying out activities that will positively impact our society”.

SU spokesperson, Martin Viljoen, said the university was aware of articles in student media and social media posts doing the rounds of suspected sex-trafficking associated with a religious grouping called the World Mission Society Church of God which is known for advocating the idea of “God the Mother”.

“Allegations that the group is associated with human trafficking seem to be around for a good number of years especially in America, but as far as can be determined such allegations lack credibility and seems to be fake news” said Mr. Viljoen.

He said there has been no complaints laid at SU structures of any abductions or reports of sex-trafficking though he has cautioned students to take the necessary safety precautions as human trafficking is a reality in many parts of the world.

Student at the Stellenbosch University said we have been having bible studies on campus, however since this rumor came out it has disturbed our efforts of registering to be affiliated with the university as many potential members do not want anything to do with us and what is also happening now is that many students when they find out that she is from World Mission Society they distant themselves from her.

Hawks spokesperson Captain Philani Nkwalase said they have no records of an incident of human trafficking involving the SU students and the church.

Provincial police spokesperson, Captain FC van Wyk also said there was no record on the matter.

UWC Student Development and Support Manager: Student Governance, Wandisile Mdepa said he is aware that the church group did campus clean-ups and bible studies and was very surprised that after being around in UWC for so many years many students can believe this rumor, the World Mission Society has been affiliated with UWC since 2016.

The church, which was formed in South Korea over 55 years ago, has over three million members, with over 7 500 churches in 175 countries. It has been in South Africa since 2004

ASEZ is the World Mission Society Church of God University Volunteer Group active in 175 countries. ASEZ means ‘Save the Earth from A to Z’. ASEZ was formed to save the earth’s environment which is perishing and help our neighbours in the whole world who face severe danger. They do their activities wholeheartedly based on the sincere faith and love for God and many national government and organizations help and support the ASEZ activities.

Last year by the invitation of the President of Brazil, ASEZ members participated in an event for ‘Day of National Volunteers’ at the palace of the president. They were chosen to deliver a speech in the Head-Quarters of the United Nations for the International Day for Tolerance organized by the United Nation.

ASEZ has received U.S President’s Gold Medal for Volunteer Services and a Gold Medal for the Green Apple Award – International.

The World Mission Society Church of God has received numerous prestigious awards including the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service conferred by Queen Elizabeth II in 2016, the U.S. President’s Volunteer Service Award, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2017, and 2018. Presidential Awards from three Korean Governments: Presidential Group Citation-2015, Medal of Merit-2004 Presidential Citation-2003

So far, our church members all across the country have helped our neighbours and communities with one mind despite their busy lives. All this could be possible because at the center of all our activities, there were the teachings of God who has shown us the examples of giving love and serving others. We as the World Mission Society will continue to give our helping hand to the best of our ability.